

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GET READY FOR ME, LOVE: *FUNNY GIRL* BRINGS HEART, HUMOUR AND CHUTZPAH TO THE SHAW

- Rags-to-riches story of the legendary Fanny Brice starts previews April 24-

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (April 23, 2026) – Beloved musical comedy [Funny Girl](#) takes to The Shaw's Festival Theatre stage beginning April 24. Directed by **Eda Holmes**, the production celebrates the indomitable vaudeville star Fanny Brice and is underscored by enduring songs like "Don't Rain on My Parade", "People", "I'm the Greatest Star" and "You Are My Man".

Despite her mother's (**Patty Jamieson**) showbiz misgivings, Fanny Brice (**Sara Farb**) was born to be a star. Following a successful run with the Ziegfeld Follies, Fanny marries the handsome but troubled gambler, Nick Arnstein (**Qasim Khan**). As Fanny's star continues to rise, a shady business deal threatens everything she and Nick have built together. But even at risk of losing everything, Fanny confronts life's setbacks head-on, determined that nobody, no nobody, is gonna rain on her parade.

[The Shaw's](#) production of *Funny Girl* also features the talents of **Matt Alfano, Damien Atkins, Alana Bridgewater, Cassandra Consiglio, Janelle Cooper, Camille Eanga-Selenge, Amariah Faulkner, Sharry Flett, Élodie Gillett, Daniel Greenberg, Jeff Irving, Jaden Kim, Graeme Kitagawa, Lawrence Libor, Allison McCaughey, Madelyn Miyashita, Cheryl Mullings, Jade Repeta, Travis Seetoo, Jeremiah Sparks, Éamon Stocks, Mikayla Stradiotto, Gabriella Sundar Singh, Taurian Teelucksingh, Jacqueline Thair and Shawn Wright.**

The team creating the 1920s world of *Funny Girl* includes musical director **Paul Sportelli**, leading the 14 musicians in the Shaw Orchestra, set and costume designer **James Lavoie**, award-winning lighting designer **Sonoyo Nishikawa**, sound designers **Corey Macfadyen** and **Kaitlyn MacKinnon**, and features the inventive choreography of **Parker Esse**. The production team includes stage manager **Dora Tomassi** and assistant stage managers **Annie McWhinnie** and **Sang-Sang Lee**.

Funny Girl runs at the [Festival Theatre](#) (10 Queen's Parade) from April 24 to October 3. The recommended audience is 10+ and the running time is approximately 2 hours and 35 minutes, including one intermission. Available to Review performances begin May 21.

Funny Girl is sponsored by **BMO Financial Group, DeRoy Testamentary Foundation, The William & Nona Heaslip Foundation** and supported by **Diane King**. Music Director Paul Sportelli is supported by **David and Amy Fulton**. Hotel Partner: **Vintage Hotels**.

Cast

Matt Alfano

Damien Atkins

Alana Bridgewater

Cassandra Consiglio

Janelle Cooper

Camille Eanga-Selenge

Sara Farb

Amariah Faulkner

Eddie Ryan

Florenz Ziegfeld Jr.

Mrs. Meeker

Swing

Mrs. Strakosh

Ensemble

Fanny Brice

Swing

Sharry Flett
Élodie Gillett
Daniel Greenberg
Jeff Irving
Patty Jamieson
Qasim Khan
Jaden Kim
Graeme Kitagawa
Lawrence Libor
Allison McCaughey
Madelyn Miyashita
Cheryl Mullings
Jade Repeta
Travis Seetoo
Jeremiah Sparks
Éamon Stocks
Mikayla Stradiotto
Gabriella Sundar Singh
Taurian Teelucksingh
Jacqueline Thair
Shawn Wright

Mrs. O'Malley
Ensemble
Swing
Ensemble
Mrs. Brice
Nick Arnstein
Ensemble
Ensemble
Ensemble
Ensemble
Emma/Mrs. Nadler
Ensemble
Ensemble
Ensemble
Swing
Ensemble
Ensemble
Tenor
Jenny/Ensemble
Tom Keeney

Creative & Production

Eda Holmes
Paul Sportelli
Parker Esse
James Lavoie
Sonoyo Nishikawa
Corey Macfadyen
Kaitlyn MacKinnon
Dora Tomassi
Annie McWhinnie
Sang-Sang Lee
Paul Sportelli
Ryan deSouza
David Atkinson
Michael Lerner
Alexa Belgrave
Graeme Kitagawa
Jeffrey Simlett

Director
Music Director
Choreographer
Set and Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Co-Sound Designer
Co-Sound Designer
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Orchestral Adaptation
Associate Conductor / Rehearsal Pianist
Keyboard Programmer
Music Engraving
Metcalf Foundation Music Intern
Dance Captain
Voice and Dialect Coach

About *Funny Girl*

Music by **Jule Styne** and lyrics by **Bob Merrill**
Book by **Isobel Lennart** from an original story by **Miss Lennart**
Produced for the Broadway Stage by **Ray Stark**
New York Production Supervised by **Jerome Robbins**
Original Production Directed by **Garson Kanin**

Funny Girl is presented by arrangement with [Concord Theatricals](#) on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC.

The Shaw Festival's 2026 season runs through to December 23, with a playbill featuring [*Funny Girl*](#), [*One for the Pot*](#), [*Amadeus*](#), [*Sleuth*](#), [*Jeeves & Wooster in Perfect Nonsense*](#), [*A New Work in Progress*](#), [*The Wind in the Willows*](#), [*Heartbreak House*](#) and [*Ohio State Murders*](#). Additional programming includes [*Coffee Concerts*](#), [*Speakeasies*](#), [*What's In Your Songbook*](#), [*Gospel Choir*](#) and [*Pop-Up Patios*](#).

Two-show [Toronto-Niagara Shaw Express](#) days are now available for the 2026 season. Ride to Niagara-on-the-Lake in time for the matinee and return home after the evening performance. Please see the season calendar for the full Shaw Express schedule. Luxury buses are standard size wheelchair accessible, offer free Wi-Fi and have an on-board host. The fare is \$39 return per person. Ticket to a 2026 performance is required, and advance arrangements must be made with the Box Office. Schedule is subject to change. Please confirm dates and times with the Shaw Festival Box Office. For more information – or to purchase tickets or reserve a seat on the Toronto-Niagara Shaw Express – contact the Shaw Festival Box Office at 1-800-511-SHAW or visit shawfest.com.

The Festival's accessibility protocols and policies can be found on shawfest.com/accessibility.

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The Shaw Festival wishes to acknowledge and honour the land upon which its patrons and company members gather as the historic and traditional territory of First Nations peoples. Recognition and thanks are extended to the Neutral Nation, the Mississauga and the Haudenosaunee for their stewardship of these lands over millennia.

About the Shaw Festival

Inspired by the spirit of [Bernard Shaw](#), the Shaw Festival creates unforgettable theatrical encounters. The Shaw is a place where people who are curious about the world gather to share the unique experience of live theatre and to create a deeper human connection with the artists, the beauty and abundance of Niagara and with each other. For more information, visit shawfest.com.

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