

The Full Monty - Press BIOS (100 word MAX)

### CAST

**Adam Daniel Koren** (*Malcolm*) has been performing all his life; making his public stage debut at the age of 6 in The Montreal Children's Theatre production of *Cinderella* as Prince Charming. Since then he has accumulated a number of credits in both theatre and film. Favorite credits include (St. Georges: *7 Stories*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Music Man*; Segal: *Lies My Father Told Me*, *A Doll House*). In his rare spare time he enjoys directing and writing screenplays. He would like to thank: Mummy, Abba, Lianne, and Sophie, as well as his extended family – including his friends for all their love and support.

**Catherine Marmen** (*Vicki*) was enrolled in Quebec High School's Musical Theatre program (Maria, *West Side Story*; *Cinderella*, *Into the Woods*) and studied classical singing in Cégep Sainte-Foy. Awarded a B.A. in Social Sciences (Sexology), her understanding of personality, behavior and psychology has been valuable in character development. A fluently bilingual performer, she also performs in Yiddish with the Segal Centre's Dora Wasserman Theatre (*Taybl* in *Tales From Odessa*, *On Second Avenue*). She is recognized for her wide vocal range and versatility. Selected musical theatre credits include Adrianna in *The Virgin Courtesan* (Musical Theatre Montreal), *A Christmas Carol* (Rialto Theatre), and *Daisy and the Wonder Weeds* (CETM).

**Chantal Bellavance** (*Susan*) studied pop singing at Uqam in Montreal and acting at the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York. You may have seen her on stage in musicals, such as *Southpark*, *shorter, smaller and definitely cut*, a CETM production presented at La maison de la culture Frontenac, or in plays, such as *Histoires étranges qui nous sont arrivées*, a Fringe production presented at Le Petit Campus last summer. Chantal also appeared on numerous TV shows (*Trauma*, *Toute la vérité*, *Adam & Ève*, *Trente vies*) and is conducting her own singer-song-writing project. Being used to super-multi-art-tasking, acting, dancing and singing in musicals seemed like the right fit to her.

**Dave Handelman** (*Harold*) studied acting in the 90's but did not have the focus for it until recently. Dave lived in Vancouver for three years before returning to Montreal and the stage and has brought with him a West Coast flavor with an East Coast sensibility... whatever that means. He has been fortunate enough to have been involved with Coracole Productions' *Phantom of the Opera/Love Never Dies* mega show, The Segal Centre's *Tales from Odessa* and now has the privilege to act with Beautiful City Theater at the Centaur... Dave is sincerely looking forward to going the Full Monty!

**Irina Ghitulescu** (*Pam*) graduated from the Dawson College Professional Theatre Program in 2010. Past credits include Lady Macbeth in *Her Infinite Variety*, Dian Black in George F. Walker's dark comedy *Escape from Happiness*, Weird Sister in last year's Montreal Shakespeare Theatre Company's production of *Macbeth* and a personal favourite, Elizabeth Proctor in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. Aside from acting, Irina nourishes a keen interest in

cinema, singing, travelling and yoga. She is delighted to join the ranks of the talented ensemble of the Beautiful City Theatre in their lively production of *The Full Monty*.

**Jamie Mayers** (*Nathan*) was born and raised in Montreal and is a student at St. George's High School. His acting career began at the age of 5 years old and he is a member of ACTRA. Jamie has appeared in films, on television, radio and on the stage. He has participated in a number of workshops in Montreal and New York City and for the past 3 summers, Jamie has attended Stagedoor Manor, a performing arts training centre in New York. Some of his stage roles have included: young David in *Lies My Father Told Me*, Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Poor Baby in *Whistle Down the Wind*, Gavroche in *Les Miserables* and Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls*. When he is not acting he enjoys playing drums in his Jazz band at school and singing in the Glee Club.

**Jason Cola** (*Ted / Keno*) was always interested in the arts. He performed in musicals and theatre throughout elementary, high-school, and college. He studied the Meisner Technique with Jacklyn McIntock in Montreal and continued his studies abroad at the Neighborhood Playhouse in NYC. He then moved to LA where he studied under Tony-Award winning actor Kent Klineman. He performed in theatre and film in NYC and LA and is now proud to be back home and part of this production of *The Full Monty* by the wonderful and amazing Beautiful City Theatre. He hopes you all have a wonderful evening and enjoy the show.

**Justin Johnson** (*Horse*) is a recent graduate of Dawson College's Professional Theatre program and is very excited to be performing in BCT's upcoming production of *The Full Monty*. Some of his past credits include "Puck" and "Duke Theseus" in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, "Duke Solinus" in *A Comedy of Errors*, "Ian" from *A Chorus of Disapproval* and "Mr. Henderson" in *You Can't Take it With You*. Finally taking the first steps in the world of Professional Theatre beyond school, Justin is luckily immersing himself in much of the art scene Montreal has to offer and is grateful for this opportunity.

**Lanisa Dawn** (*Joanie*) attended the summer conservatory at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City, training in film acting, voice production, and musical theatre. She also spent two years in Dawson College's Professional Theatre Program in Montreal. Theatre credits include: "Ghost of Christmas Past" in *A Christmas Carol* (Rialto Theatre 2012), "Cindy" in the Québec tour production of (Segal Centre for Performing Arts 2012), "Phantom" in *A Rocky Horror Show* (Rialto Theatre 2011), "Emma" in *A Christmas Carol* (Rialto Theatre 2010). Lanisa is also lead singer of a pop/rock/jazz fusion band called The Musicanix.

**Leslie Bronstein** (*Molly*) believes that it is important to do some form of creative expression throughout life. She received her BFA in performance in 1988 and a Masters in Drama Therapy in 2007 from Concordia University. She has been a member of the Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre of Montreal for over 30 years and recently completed *Tales of Odessa*. Leslie is a certified yoga teacher and sings with Harmonia woman's choir. When she is not performing, you will find Leslie hiking, biking, practicing her favorite moves at the yoga studio or enjoying time with her family and friends.

**Marc-André Poulin (Dave)**. A graduate from the McGill University Vocal Performance program, Marc-André Poulin has been active in various forms of performing arts, including: opera, recital, theatre and musical theatre. Previous musical theatre productions have included *Still in the Mood* (Hudson Music Club), *Tales from Odessa*, *On Second Avenue* (both with the Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre), *Lies My Father Told Me* (Segal Center for the Performing Arts), *The Brain from Planet X* (CETM New Wave Festival) as well as the hit production of *Reefer Madness: The Musical* (Processed Theatre). He is thrilled to play the role of Dave, who is beautiful inside and out.

**Melissa Toussaint (Estelle)**. This is Melissa's first musical production and she is very EXCITED to be making her debut on the prestigious Centaur stage. Melissa enjoys singing and has found the challenge of a live show exhilarating. She would like to thank Beautiful City Theatre for welcoming her to the Montreal theatre family and is truly grateful for the opportunity to work with such seasoned thespians and crew. This experience has been the best homecoming present a girl could ask for!

**Mike Melino (Ethan)** received Classical and Jazz voice training at Vanier College. Stage experiences include: Festival International De Jazz De Montréal, Blok Note Big Band, Costa Marina Cruise Ship, and many musical revues. Theater experiences include: *Dracula* (Camp Broadway); *The Brain From Planet X*, *South Park* (CETM); *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Processed Theater); *The Wild Party* (In Your Face Entertainment); *To Be* (Persephone Productions); *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *42nd Street*, *Oklahoma!*, *In The Mood* (HMC); *Noises Off* (The Rural Arts & Kevin Kibbey); *A Christmas Carol* (Rialto Theater) as well as *Guys And Dolls* (Segal Center). You can follow Mike on Facebook and Twitter.

**Stephanie Zidel (Georgie)** is a Montreal native, completing her degree in theatre studies from McGill University. Earlier this fall, she directed an English production of Michel Tremblay's *Les Belles Soeurs* for McGill's Players' Theatre. Recent credits include Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (dir. Sean Carney, McGill Mainstage) and chorus in *The Life of Timon of Athens* (dir. Michael Ruderman, TNC). She is currently participating as an actor in Black Theatre Workshop's artist mentorship program. She is honored to be part of the Beautiful City Theatre community.

**Tadzeo Horner-Chbib (Jerry)** or Taz (which is just plain easier) has been acting since the age of 6 and been doing musicals since he was 18. A son of a local independent film director/producer and brother of another up and coming director extraordinaire, he is also the creator, writer and producer of "The Fool Comic" and interactive multimedia role playing story/game, which will allow you to change the course of the overall story by your interaction with it. He is also a local Montreal actor, who graduated from the Dome Theater Program at Dawson College.

**Yvette Rambour (Jeanette)** has performed in over 20 productions across the country. Her credits include *On Second Avenue* at the Segal Centre (2012) and serving as Master of Ceremonies of the Otakuton Festival to over 3,000 participants at the Palais de Congrès de

Montréal (2012). In 2006, she wrote her own one-woman show, *Fresh off the Boat*, and performed it at Théâtre d'aujourd'hui. In her professional time Yvette manages MULTIPLY Inc. a company empowering non-profits she founded in 2004 ([www.multiply.ca](http://www.multiply.ca)). In 2012, she was honoured with the first "Business Diversity" award offered by the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles.

## CREATIVE TEAM

**Natalie Gershtein** (*Producer*) is working towards her M.F.A in Theatre Management & Producing at Columbia University. In New York, Natalie has worked with 101 Productions (for the Broadway openings of *Annie* and *The Heiress*); Snug Harbor Productions during their Off-Broadway opening of *Emotional Creature*, Eve Ensler's new play (writer of *The Vagina Monologues*); Lincoln Center Festival as the Immigration Assistant; and Ars Nova Theater. Select Montreal directing credits include *Twelve Angry Men*, *Ashes to Ashes*, *A Dream Play* (Co-directed with Myrna Wyatt Selkirk), and *Songs for a New World*. Natalie is currently working on the Under the Radar Festival at The Public Theater.

**Calli Armstrong** (*Director*) is the co-founder and artistic director of Beautiful City Theatre. A director, actor, and drama therapist, Calli has worked with a number of theatre groups and not-for-profit organizations using theatre to build community (e.g. Centre for the Arts and Human Development, Montreal Playback Theatre, Third Space Playback). In addition to working with Beautiful City Theatre, Calli is presently an adjunct professor completing a postdoctoral fellowship in Concordia University's Creative Arts Therapies department.

**Todd Hirtle** (*Production Manager*) has worked in all aspects of theatre from production, sound and lights, to director or cast member. He graduated from McGill engineering with a minor in arts and worked in aerospace before becoming a high school math and science teacher, where he helps in nearly every theatrical production. Graced with a persistent good humor and patience, Todd finds a way to transmit all his energy into the projects he undertakes. He is committed to the mandates and values that are at the heart of BCT.

**Joy Kertland** (*Music Director*) is a professional vocal coach, with a mission to excite audiences by teaching performers the art of vibrant and authentic storytelling through the application of healthy approaches to vocal technique and vocal performance. Co-founder, Musical Director, and Consultant for WISTA, Music Director of the Greater Montreal Chorus for 10 years, Vocal Director for Becket Players and other community based projects, and an active vocal performance coach for several private students in the Montreal area. Trained in Life Coaching, and Human Resources Management, Joy is passionately working towards achieving her Associate Certified Coach credentials with the International Coaching Federation.

**Sean Mayes** (*Orchestra Leader/Keyboards*) is active as an educator, musical director, pianist and organist in both Montreal, and his hometown of Toronto. Sean currently teaches instrumental and vocal music in the Montreal area. In addition, he is continuously active in the

realm of musical theatre as a sought out educator and musical director. Selected credits include *West Side Story*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Company*, [title of show], Toronto premiere of *Curtains*, and *Bye Bye Birdie* in Toronto at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Sean also teaches vocal music and musical theatre at the Randolph Academy School of Performing Arts' in Toronto during the summer.

**Chloé Fortier** (*Lighting Designer*) has worked in many theatres and music venues as a technician and light designer, including on the UdeM musicals *Jekyll and Hyde* and *The Lion King*, with the choreographer Nika Stein on the dance show *autour d'eau* for Ingrid St-Pierre, Mike Ward, The Black Keys and many more. She also worked as a head tech at the Cabaret LaTulipe and the National. She is really excited to work this year again with Calli and Beautiful City Theatre. The Full Monty is an occasion to explore the atmosphere of the industrial Buffalo and bring it in the inspiring theatre that is the Centaur.

**Elyse Malo** (*Set Designer*) has recently graduated from John Abbott College's Professional Theatre Design program where she had the opportunity to explore both set and costume design. During her studies, she designed costumes for George Orwell's *1984*, and the set for Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Over the summer, she did both the set and costume design for Jac'n'Burgh's production of *Under Milk Wood* by Dylan Thomas which was brought overseas to be part of the Edinburgh Fringe festival. She is now looking forward to her upcoming productions with both Beautiful City Theatre and Persephone Productions.

**Rachel Lebowitz** (*Stage Manager*). Born and raised in Los Angeles, Rachel is a recent McGill graduate pursuing a career in stage management. She has worked in New York City, on productions including Abingdon Theatre Company's *Bay Ridge One-Act Festival*, Abingdon Theatre Company's *Highlights of the Benefit Challenge Series*, and José Rivera's *Brainpeople* (Wizard Oil Productions), as well as on a reading of Carson Kreitzer's *Lasso of Truth* (New Dramatists). Recent Montreal productions include *Memoria* (Players' Theatre) and *Godspell* (BCT), for which she acted as both ASM and Community Outreach Assistant. Rachel could not be happier to be working with BCT once again.

**Natalie Bartosek** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) has always loved drama, music and musical theatre. She was born and raised in Ottawa where she attended Canterbury Arts High School for the vocal program. Upon moving to Montreal on a whim 5 years ago, she signed up with an agency and has since enjoyed being an extra in various films, the most recent being *White House Down*. This past fall, she was lucky enough to be hired as Spotlight Operator for Persephone Productions' musical *Spring Awakening*, and she is very grateful that that experience has led her to this one.