

**The Cayman Drama Society  
Presents:**



**THE HEAVENLY MUSICAL HIT!**

Performances:

September 26 - October 26, 1997

(No Shows Oct. 10, 11, 12)

Showtime: 7:30

**At The Prospect Playhouse**

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Wish the Cayman Drama Society every success  
with their production of

**"FOREVER PLAID"**

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
to Cast and Crew!

# Forever Plaid

Written and Originally Directed and Choreographed by

**Stuart Ross**

Musical Continuity Supervision and Arrangements by

**James Raitt**

Originally Produced by

**Gene Wolsk**

**"FOREVER PLAID"**

is presented through special arrangement with  
and all authorized materials are supplied by

**Music Theatre International**

**421 West 54th Street**

**New York, NY 10019**

### Cast

JINX.....	Jeff Bennett
SPARKY.....	Kevin Redfern
FRANKIE.....	Neil Rooney
SMUDGE.....	Keith Nixon

### Musicians

Piano.....	Chris Bowring
Bass.....	John Shillito

### Musical Numbers

1. Chant: Deus ex Plaid
2. Three Coins In The Fountain
3. Gotta Be This Or That
4. Undecided
5. Moments To Remember
6. Crazy 'Bout Ya Baby
7. Perfidia
8. Cry
9. Sixteen Tons/Chain Gang
10. The Catering Drill/She Loves You
11. The Golden Cardigan
12. Catch A Falling Star
13. Caribbean Plaid
14. Heart and Soul
15. Mercury
16. Lady Of Spain
17. Scotland The Brave
18. Shangri-La/Rags To Riches
19. Love Is A Many Splendored Thing

( **Please Note:** This show is performed in one act. There is no intermission.)

## Author's Note

When most of us think of the 1950s, we think of rock 'n' roll, greasers, hot rods, Elvis, Annette, Fabian, DA, haircuts and teenage rebellion. But there was a flip side to this era - the side of harmony, innocence and the sincerity of dreams. It is the side that has been lost in the shuffle of progress. It was a time when most parents and kids listened and danced to the same music; when families partook of the ritual of gathering in front of the TV to watch their favorite variety shows, like Ed Sullivan or Perry Como. It was a time when every family worked to fulfill the American Dream.

It was a period when four-part guy groups harmonized their way across the airwaves, jukeboxes and hi-fis of the country. Throughout the land they would stand at a quartet of microphones, crooning a multitude of chaperoned prom-goers into dreamy romance.

They wore dinner jackets and bow ties (or perhaps cardigans and white bucks). Each move was drilled to precision. Each vocal arrangement soared to stratospheric heights of harmony. This sound crested just before rock 'n' roll stole the heartbeat of music around the globe.

During this time, guys across the country banded together to sing in the basement for fun. If things worked out they might be hired to sing at weddings, conventions, proms and country club socials. Inspired by the success of the recording stars, they made plans to zoom into careers of fame and fortune. But the musical taste of the USA was changing, and the country would not stop to listen to their dreams.

This is the story of such a group - FOREVER PLAID.

Once upon a time, there were four guys (Sparky, Smudge, Jinx and Frankie) who loved to sing. They all met in high school, when they joined the audiovisual club (1956). Discovering they shared an affection for music and entertaining, they got together and dreamed of becoming like their idols - The Four Aces, The Four Lads, The Four Freshmen, The Hi-Los and the Crew Cuts. They rehearsed in the basement of Smudge's family's plumbing supply company. It was here they became Forever Plaid - a name that connects the continuation of the traditional values of family, home and harmony. Although rock 'n' roll was racing down the fast lane like a candy apple "vette", they believed in their music. As their sound developed, they sang at family gatherings, fund-raisers, and eventually graduated to supermarket openings and proms. They had little time for romance or leisure for they supported their fantasy by holding down day jobs - Frankie was in dental supplies, Smudge was in bathroom fixtures, Jinx was in auto parts and Sparky was in better dresses. They devoted themselves to singing at nights and on weekends. Then, finally, they landed their first big gig at the Airport Hilton cocktail bar - The Fusel Lounge.

### February 9, 1964

En route to pick up their custom-made plaid tuxedos, they were slammed broadside by a school bus filled with eager Catholic teens. The teens were on their way to witness the Beatles make their US television debut on the Ed Sullivan Show and miraculously escaped uninjured. The members of Forever Plaid were killed instantly. It is at that moment, when their careers and lives ended, that the story of *FOREVER PLAID* begins.

Through the Power of Harmony and the Expanding Holes in the Ozone layer, in conjunction with the positions of the planets and all that astrotechnical stuff, they are allowed to come back to perform the show they never got to do in life.

And having completed their mission of Harmony, our men in plaid must return to the cosmos. Although they may be gone, through this production their dreams live on forever.

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## The Evolution of Forever Plaid On Grand Cayman

To those of you who have never seen a production of Forever Plaid we bid you welcome. We hope you will enjoy this one act musical enough to return; or at least encourage other "Plaid Virgins" to see the show. To those "Plaid Veterans" who have seen the show in New York, Las Vegas (where it has been playing for several years) or in your hometown, we also wish you welcome and dare you to compare the talent before you this evening.

The idea of staging Forever Plaid in Grand Cayman was borne to Neil Rooney (Frankie) during the winter of 1996. Having immensely enjoyed the production in Vancouver, Canada several years earlier and aware of the generosity and enthusiasm of the Cayman Drama Society, Neil knew that staging this delightful show at the Prospect Playhouse was feasible. So on a Saturday evening filled with pizza and wine he proposed the idea to Kevin Redfern and his wife Lynda. A deal was made; the wives would produce and the men would reproduce (the musical that is). Since four male voices were required for the show, the hunt was on for two more able and willing men.

In the meantime, Jeff Bennett, a recent arrival to Grand Cayman, was in the CDS production of Faulty Towers. Ironically, he had already performed in two different productions of Forever Plaid in South Carolina and conveyed his desire to do the show again to Colin Wilson. Colin, knowing about Neil's similar passion to do the show, put the two in touch and the result was three out of four roles cast. Jeff's wife Jodi, tired of living the life of a theater widow and knowing the show rather well, eagerly volunteered for the role of director.

Auditions for the fourth role were advertised in the paper but there was little response. Luckily, it was through word of mouth that we finally got our man. Keith Nixon, known to many as "Biff the Wonder Boy" on the Z99 morning show, heard about our dilemma and agreed to join the cast, thus completing this quartet of well experienced actors and singers.

The multi-talented Chris Bowring was our unanimous choice as musical director for this complex production and Linda Rayner, who has graced the Prospect stage herself, was thankfully available to choreograph the show. As luck would have it, Peter Phillips was also available to share his invaluable experience and expertise as stage manager, set designer and set builder.

We feel that we have assembled an extremely talented team and are confident that the debut of "Forever Plaid" in Grand Cayman will be a successful one. Once again welcome, thank you for your patronage and we hope that you all enjoy the show!

Kelly Rooney

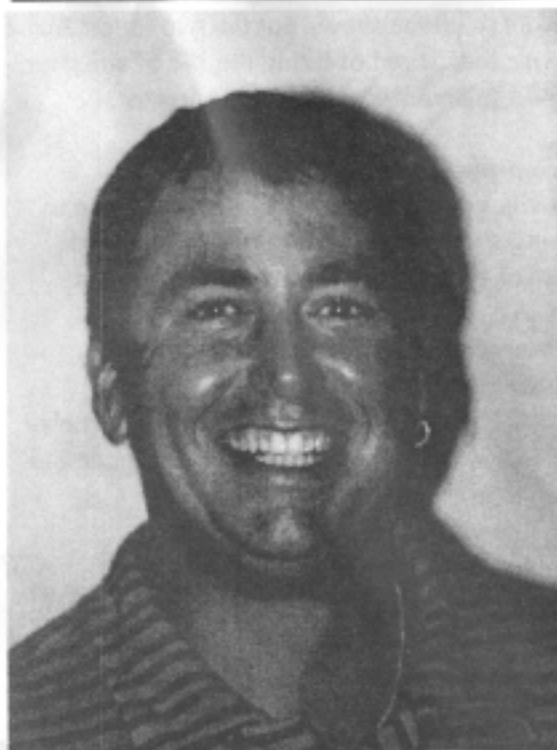


### **Jeff Bennett - "Jinx"**

Making his third appearance on the Prospect stage in just 6 months on Cayman, "Forever Plaid" holds a familiar place in Jeff's heart (and soul), having performed the show twice before on two different stages.

Tonight, playing the part of Jinx, Jeff brings the experience of playing Sparky at the Greenville (SC) Little Theater and Frankie at Centre Stage South Carolina! Other credits include Mr. Hamilton in "Fawly Towers - Waldorf Salad" and "The Yank with Talent" in the "Olde Tyme Music Hall" at Prospect, "Damn Yankees" and "South Pacific" at Greenville (SC) Little Theater, "L'il Abner", "Jacques Brel...", "Into the Woods", and "Company" at Centre Stage South Carolina! (Greenville), and "Into the Woods" and "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" at Angelo Civic Theater (San Angelo, TX).

Jeff produces commercials and videos for CITN, sleeps with the play's director (his wife Jodi, and a baby on the way!), and lives with their 3 cats.



### **Kevin Redfern - "Sparky"**

Kevin hails from Canada and has been singing most of his life. It was during Jr. High School that he was bitten by the theater bug and he hasn't looked back. Kevin performed the role of Sir Lancelot in last year's CDS production of "Camelot". Other favorite roles include Curly in "Oklahoma!", John Proctor in "The Crucible", and Lucentio in "Kiss Me Kate". He has also performed in "Fiddler On The Roof", "Jesus Christ Superstar", "Godspell" and "A Chorus Line". Other highlights include singing in the chorus of the Calgary Opera and in the Opening Ceremonies of the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary.

Kevin is grateful for CDS and the opportunity it gives him to pursue his love for singing and theater. He looks forward to many more productions both as a performer and audience member and hopes that you have as much fun during the show as he does! Many thanks to "The Team" for their dedication and hard work!





### **Neil Rooney - "Frankie"**

Raised in Western Canada, Neil was involved for many years in both professional and university theater, including productions of "Oklahoma!" with The Rainbow Stage and "Once Upon A Mattress" with Sun Dog Productions. Neil has also performed in many children's theater productions and gained invaluable experience working in "Improv" Theater. After studying music for two years at Grant McEwan College in Edmonton, Neil embarked on a singing career, working with Loreena McKennit, KD Lang and many others.

This is Neil's second production with CDS. He appeared as King Arthur in last year's staging of "Camelot". By day, Neil heads up the sales team at Cayman Imports Ltd.



### **Keith Nixon - "Smudge"**

This is Keith's first production in Cayman but he has been acting in the US both professionally and in community theater for over 22 years. He has appeared in musicals, comedies, dramas and more from coast to coast. He has played Miles Gloriosus in A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum, Tevya in Fiddler On The Roof as well as roles in Grease, Godspell, Carnival, West Side Story, Jesus Christ Superstar and 1776.

Locally, you might have heard Keith on Z99's morning show as "Biff the Wonder Boy". He has been involved in radio, on and off, for many years both as an on-air personality and as the voice behind many local and national commercials. Keith has been enjoying the people and climate of Cayman for nearly two years and as a native of Ohio, says he's shoveled enough snow to last two lifetimes! "Tropical is the only way to go!"



### Chris Bowring - "Himself"

Chris has been involved with the CDS since 1981 when he first ventured onto the stage as a village child in "Jack in the Beanstalk". Since then, although he has had a few dramatic parts, such as Mayhew in Agatha Christie's "Witness to the Prosecution", most of his time has been spent in the orchestra pit as musical director of various pantomimes and recently, he has joined Katie Moore as a pianist in popular Olde Tyme Music Hall productions. He was also musical director for the Cayman National Theatre production of "Treasure Island". In his spare time, Chris works for Deloitte & Touche!

#### From the Musical Director...

When Neil Rooney first spoke to me about being the Musical Director for the show, I must confess that I knew very little about "*Forever Plaid*". However, once I had heard the wonderful arrangements of some of the classic songs of the 50's on the sound track, I realized what a great challenge it would be, not only to work out the complicated harmonies for the singers, but also to master the musical score myself.

We were extremely fortunate to find 4 talented singers, who not only looked good together, but more importantly from my point of view, sounded great together. Our first challenge was to overcome the English/North American language barrier and understand that when I said to hold a note for 3 bars, I was NOT referring to a pub crawl up the West Bay Road and that a crochet is not a knitting term!

Jeff Bennett, who has appeared in this show twice previously, each time taking a different part, told me that the last time he was in *Plaid*, they rehearsed every night for many months! We have had approximately 3 months together and despite our diverse working schedules, have managed 4 or 5 rehearsals a week. The result is a real credit to the cast, who in addition to the formal rehearsals, spent many hours working from tapes that I had made of their individual parts.

I now invite you to allow yourselves to be transported back to the 1950's and enjoy the sounds of Cayman's "*Forever Plaid*".

Chris Bowring

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### Director's Note

Talk about De Ja Vu! When Jeff (Jinx) told me he was going to do Forever Plaid again, I was surprised to say the least. I thought for sure doing this show as two different characters at two different theatres would be enough to last a lifetime. I was wrong. However, if he was going to do this show, I was going to be involved somehow. I had been a theatre widow long enough. So, since I can't sing, dance, or act, and I'm not physically right for any of the characters, I volunteered to direct. It seemed natural enough - I tell Jeff where to go and what to do at home, so I figured it wouldn't be much different on a stage. I have to admit I was a bit nervous about the choreography. Remember, I can't dance...thankfully Linda Rayner stepped in with her amazing talent and, well, see for yourself. The result of this teamwork is a fantastic show.

Many thanks to "The Plaids" for inviting me to be a part of this production. I have been involved with theatre on some level since high school and have never had the pleasure of being involved with a group so passionate about a show. It has been a joy to share in this "Plaid" experience with such a talented group of people. Thanks also to Chris Bowring for all of his many hours of hard work and dedication. Many more thanks to Lynda Redfern and Kelly Rooney (Co-Producers) for keeping us organized, publicized and on schedule. I also must thank my dear friend Jennifer Timmerman who was roped into being props mistress; an enormous undertaking to say the least! You'll understand my gratitude after seeing the Ed Sullivan number! There is an amazing amount of talent both on stage, and behind the curtains. So, sit back and enjoy the show!

Jodi Bennett



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# Production



**Producer:**  
Lynda Redfern



**Producer:**  
Kelly Rooney



**Director:**  
Jodi Bennett



**Musical Director:**  
Chris Bowring



**Choreographer:**  
Linda Rayner



**Stage Manager:**  
Peter Phillips



**Props:**  
Jennifer  
Timmerman



**Front of House:**  
Julie Troman

Set Construction/ Lighting Design .....	Peter Phillips
Set Painting, Decorations, .....	Sandra Mersinger, Penny Phillips, Peter Webster
Signs & Lots of Other Stuff .....	and The Cast & Crew
Lights.....	John & Regina Oliver
Sound.....	Neil Glasson
Box Office .....	Omeria Gordon/ Phillips Electrical
Program .....	Kevin Redfern & Kelly Rooney
Poster.....	Kevin Redfern

## Dedication

FOREVER PLAID is dedicated to the "good guys" -

To the guys who carried an extra handkerchief -

To the guys who saved their allowances to give their parents an extra special night on the town for their anniversary -

To the guys who wheeled the projector carts for the Driver Education films -

To the guys who didn't go beyond first base, and if, by some miracle, they did, they didn't tell anyone.

**We salute you!**

## Extra Special Thanks to:

Peter & Penny Phillips

Chris & Kate Bowring

David Cubbin

Kris Greenough

Mike Pilling

Martin Wicks

Debbie Nightingale

Sue Callahan

Sandra Mersinger

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