

**COME
FROM
AWAY**

Audition pack & guide

11th - 14th November 2026

The Corn Exchange - King's Lynn

NODA

The
KING'S LYNN
PLAYERS*

“Here – on the edge of the Atlantic on an island in between there and here!”

Welcome to the King’s Lynn Players Audition Guide for Come From Away.

This guide should provide you with all you need to know about the show which will be performed from week commencing 9 th November 2026 at the King’s Lynn Corn Exchange. The King’s Lynn Players are excited to be back at this venue following the huge success of Titanic The Musical last year.

Everyone can remember where they were and when they first heard the tragic news coming out of the US on September 11 th 2001, all eyes were on New York. But, have you ever thought about what was happening around the world on the same day, and following days. Since 2013, Come From Away has told how strangers turned into friends and tells the story of real people who, in the wake of one of the darkest days in history, showed humanity at it’s best.

Come From Away tells the story of when seven thousand people from across America and around the world landed on the doorstep of Gander, Newfoundland, and the people of Gander ‘put the kettle on’. When 38 planes were diverted to a small Canadian community on September 11 th 2001, the town’s population doubled in an instant. While the world witnessed the worst acts of humankind, the stranded passengers had their faith in humanity restored by the spirited people who comforted those who had ‘come from away’.

This is a powerful, fast paced and moving piece of musical theatre and tells the story of real people and how their lives were changed forever within the space of just a few days. We plan to present this piece with a larger cast. The ‘book’ makes provision for lots of doubling up of characters, which we will be doing, but we intend to present this with a cast of around 30. You should be aware that every single person cast in this production will have ‘a lot’ to do and should be available for most, if not all, rehearsals, and be prepared to be on stage for a significant amount of time. Principal characters will be required to be on stage for the majority of the show and to be involved in intricate scene changes as, in the main, this is done by the cast. The passengers who arrived in Gander were scared, angry, hungry, lonely and heartsick – many directly affected by events no one could fully grasp. To those on the ground the response was obvious. As Mayor Claude Elliott said on the 10th anniversary “They weren’t asked to do it, they weren’t told to do it, they wanted to do it.” For five days they bravely fed, sheltered and comforted strangers. This is what has to come across and is the story the actors will need to portray.

Time and place: September 2001 through 2011.
Central Newfoundland, 38 planes, New York, Texas, California, England and other locations.

We are planning to run the show from start to finish with no interval.

Christina Attridge
Director



About King’s Lynn Players

King’s Lynn Players started in 1944 originally for providing war time entertainment in King’s Lynn and the surrounding areas with the profits going to war based charities.

Since then we have performed over 200 shows ranging from plays and musicals to youth performances and pantomimes.

We always strive for greatness and professionalism on stage and off stage, and can’t wait to show you more!



About the director

Christina has been involved with the Kings Lynn Players for 42 years and has choreographed, performed in and directed various productions, having first ‘tread the boards’ with them at the age of 12.

She is delighted to be returning to King’s Lynn Corn Exchange in a directorial role having last directed a musical for the Players at the Corn Exchange back in 1999 (Me and My Girl). More recently she has played various roles in musical theatre productions and plays with her favourites being Annie in “Calendar Girls the musical”, Mother Superior in “Sister Act” and Mrs Johnstone in “Blood Brothers”.

‘I am bursting with excitement to get started on Come From Away, having had an opportunity to see it a few years ago and it becoming one of my firm favourites, it is not lost on me how lucky I am to be at the helm and with such an experienced production/creative team by my side’

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Audition Overview

Please read all information carefully

Audition Date and Venue

Auditions will be held at
Gaywood Primary School
on the **17th May**.

Registration begins at 9:30 ready for a prompt start at 10:00.

We ask everyone wear comfortable clothing throughout their audition and please be aware there is a movement workshop in the morning.

Audition must haves:

- Water bottle
- Audition material
- Light snacks
- Diary dates of pre-existing commitments

Cast Announcement

All those that have auditioned will be notified of the outcome of their audition as soon as possible via the telephone number or email address provided.

The full cast announcement will be on our Facebook Page the day after all the auditions are completed.

King's Lynn Player Membership & Show Levy

Membership Fee -

£25.00 (£10.00 under 18s)
Production Show Levy - £25.00
Total Cost £50.00 (£35.00 under 18s).

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Audition Information

•Details of the **audition** pieces will be given out at the readings. **All** those auditioning will be required to perform the Ensemble piece. If you have a genuine reason for not being able to audition on the planned dates, the KLP's Audition Protocol states that an audition slot needs to be offered on an alternative date prior to the main auditions. Times will be provided once we know the demand.

•Auditions for named people are open to everyone aged **12 and over** (on the week of the show).

•Use your audition to show the **Auditioning Committee what you can do**. They will be looking for vocal quality, strength and range, and the ability to sing in harmony as well as acting and movement/dancing ability dependent upon the role. Audition pieces should be **well prepared**, and we would encourage you to attend at least one audition workshop. We have scheduled **three workshops** to provide as much opportunity as possible for you to perform your best at the audition.

•**All those aged 16 and under** (including those that are still in their GCSE year in 2025) will be subject to either a Performance Licence or Body of Persons Application dependent upon other performances that children have taken part in within a set period of time. We will take advice from Norfolk County Council in this regard.

•If you are successful, **you will need to join the KLP** to take part and pay a production show levy which helps to cover the cost of script hire, insurance, and rehearsal space.

•**No** roles have been pre-cast. We have an **Equal Opportunities Policy**, and we will not discriminate or in any way treat anyone less favourably. We acknowledge that some casting decisions are based on the requirements of the Come From Away script, and we will work with everyone if necessary to achieve equality of opportunity, wherever possible.

•Rehearsals will be on **Mondays and Wednesdays** – there will be some **Sundays** nearer the show and details will be set out in the **Rehearsal Schedule**. Cast are required to commit to all rehearsals. Please provide us with any dates you are not available during the rehearsal process in the space provided on the audition form which will be given out on audition day.

We expect the cast and production team to approach rehearsals in a professional manner and to give Come From Away their full commitment. Once cast, we will ask you to sign up to our Code of Conduct for rehearsals and production.

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Production Information

Production Team

Director - Christina Attridge
Musical Director - Samantha Ashby
Choreographer - Bryony Woodhouse
Producer - Sharon Fox



All cast and production team must adhere to our **Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct** at all times.

No photos or videos of rehearsals, costumes, props, or choreography are to be published (particularly on social media) without the express consent of the King's Lynn Players Committee or the production team. We reserve the right to take photographs of cast members for casting, costumes, make up, publicity and program purposes and these may be used in any form of media.

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Performance Dates

Wednesday 11th November to
Saturday 14th November 2026

Nightly at 7.30pm – Matinee on
Saturday at 2.30pm

Wednesday 11th November - 19:30

Thursday 12th November - 19:30

Friday 13th November - 19:30

Saturday 14th November - 14:30

Saturday 14th November - 19:30

Full cast will be required for
additional dates during show
week.

Please keep the 8th, 9th & 10th
November free as these will be
key get in dates, tech run & dress
run.

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Come From Away

The story

On the morning of September 11 2001, the townspeople of Gander describe life in Newfoundland and how they learn of the September 11 th attacks on the radio (Welcome to the Rock). Claude, the mayor of Gander, is informed of the attacks by Janice, a new reporter in town, while at a local Tim Hortons. The town receives the news that the US airspace has been closed, causing US-bound flights to be diverted across Canada, including 38 to Gander International Airport (38 Planes). This nearly doubles the population of Gander, and the townspeople make preparations to care for the 7,000 stranded passengers. Beulah and Annette, two schoolteachers, prepare the local school to take in passengers, while Janice asks for the community to provide resources (Blankets and Bedding). It is not lost on the islanders that the planes are being diverted to Gander because this is a small population meaning they risk less lives if something goes wrong. At the time all aircraft were being treated as bomb threats. For hours, the plane passengers are forbidden from leaving the planes, and are without information about the attacks. They express frustration and fear at being stranded.

A Gander SPCA worker, Bonnie, goes into the plane holds to search for animals on the planes, and Claude reaches an agreement with Garth, a union leader, to pause the bus driver's strike and transport passengers (28 Hours/Wherever We Are). The passengers are eventually transported to Gander and surrounding towns for shelter (Darkness and Trees). A Muslim passenger, Ali, is temporarily detained. The local bus drivers take passengers to the towns and explain the culture of Newfoundland while navigating language barriers with international passengers (On the Bus/Darkness and Trees (reprise)). The passengers learn why they were grounded and watch replays of the attacks on television (Lead Us Out of the Night). They attempt to contact their families (Phoning Home) and experience disorientation and stress at their situation (Costume Party).

The town tries to manage food, sanitation, and other necessities for the guests. Some of the passengers try to get home, but are informed by Oz, the constable of Gander, that travel to the US takes several days. Nick, a British passenger, and Diane, a Texan, go for a walk with a gay couple from Los Angeles, both named Kevin. Bonnie and her husband Doug discover two bonobo chimpanzees in the hold of a plane. An American, Bob, is asked to take grills from backyards to set up for a community cookout; he fears he will be shot for stealing, but he finds everyone is friendly and willing to help. Hannah, the mother of a New York firefighter, bonds with Beulah and worries about her son (I Am Here). Many of the passengers go to a local Catholic church or other spaces around town to pray (Prayer). Ethnic and national tensions erupt among the passengers and townsfolk (On the Edge). To alleviate this, the passengers are invited to a local bar and some are initiated as honorary Newfoundlanders (Heave Away/Screech In).

One pilot who has been diverted, Beverley, reflects on her experience as the first female captain for American Airlines (Me and the Sky). The planes prepare to leave, and Ali is subjected to a strip search prior to leaving on suspicion he may be a terrorist. When flights are delayed, Nick and Diane go for a walk around the town and realize they will miss each other when they leave Gander (The Dover Fault/Stop the World). When the planes are cleared for takeoff, the passengers 'express happiness at returning to the US, and set up a donation fund for the people of Gander (38 Planes(reprise)Somewhere in the Middle of Nowhere).

After the events of the last five days, both the townspeople and passengers experience loneliness and fear about the state of the world; Kevin and Kevin's relationship has fallen apart due to the stress of the crisis, and Hannah is devastated to learn her son has died (Something's Missing).

Ten years after the attacks, the townspeople and the passengers reunite in Gander (including Diane and Nick, who have since married) and celebrate the relationships formed while the passengers were stranded (Ten Years Later/Finale).

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Meet the Characters

CHARACTERS – Principals (all solo singing parts)

Although the 'book' as written caters for there to be a small cast (12) with all the actors taking on various rolls (this is done by a numbered tracking system), as we are a society lucky enough to have many people wanting to be involved in our productions and people of outstanding talent we are proposing to present this piece with a large cast. The main characters such as Beverley (who sometimes doubles up as Annette) will be two separate actors as opposed to one playing both parts. That being said, there will be lots of 'doubling up' of characters throughout.

The principal parts will be announced following auditions in the usual way and the remaining cast (ensemble, dancers and named characters) will be decided during early rehearsals.

All character ages are 'playing' ages and should, therefore, be used as a guide.

Annette

A schoolteacher at Gander Academy with an active fantasy life.
(40's – 60's)

Beulah Davies

The head of Gander Legion, with a firefighter son, who walks Hannah to her Church and prays with her. Bubbly with elements of comedy.
(40's – 60's)

Claude Elliott

The gregarious and well-liked Mayor of Gander, Newfoundland, Claude loves his work, the townspeople and his daily traditions, but he's never had to deal with a crisis of this magnitude before.
(40's – 60's)

Oz Fudge

The quirky constable in the two-person Gander police force. When the town's population suddenly doubles, Oz helps out in unexpected ways.
(30's – 50's)

Janice Mosher

An eager new local TV reporter, Janice is thrown into the deep end on her first day. Initially naïve about the world, Janice must face the pain and confusion around her. She has quite the character arc.
(20 yrs)

Bonnie Harris

A no-nonsense mother of three, Bonnie is the head of the Gander area SPCA. When she discovers animals are trapped on the planes, she stops at nothing to ensure their safety - but in frustration, she often lashes out at those around her.
(40's – 60's)

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Kevin Tuerff

The head of an environmental energy company in Los Angeles, Kevin was on vacation with his boyfriend (and secretary, also named Kevin), when they are stranded in Gander.

Inspired by the town's generosity, Kevin creates the Pay It Forward Foundation.
(30's – 50's)

Nick

An English oil engineer who is focused on his work, Nick's life is turned upside down when he falls for Diane.
(50's)

Ali

An Egyptian man travelling to America who experiences isolation and islamophobia but who finds a connection to Beulah. The character is an amalgamation of at least fivedifferent Muslim passengers, including chef Vikram Garg.
(30's – 50's)

Captain Beverley Bass

The first female captain for American Airlines Pilot, Beverley Bass has always loved flying, when her world suddenly changes.

Her specific personal history is central to the show.
(50's)

Hannah O'Rourke

The mother of a firefighter in Manhattan, Hannah waits for news about her son and is comforted by Beulah.
(40's – 60's)

Diane

A traditional divorcee from Texas, who is terrified that her son may have been flying at the time of the attacks. When she finds out that he's safe, she's given a new lease on life and discovers a wilder, more carefree side of herself.
(50's)

Bob

A hardened New Yorker, Bob is suspicious of where he's landed, fearing that it's World War 3, that someone is going to shoot him and steal his wallet – but instead, he ends up losing his New York jadedness.
(20's – 40's)

Kevin J

Kevin's boyfriend and secretary. Sarcastic and unhappy, he wants to leave as soon as possible.
(30's – 50's)

Ensemble

(various, some solo singing parts and lyrical and jazz/contemporary dancers)

Garth

Margie

Crystal

Dwight

Bob

Captain Bristol/Muhumuza

Martha

Texan

Joe

Delores

President Bush

Cardiologists

Mr Michaels/Rabbi

Terry and Mickey (bus drivers)

Britney

Derm

Eddie

Robin

Locals

Passengers

Police

Flight Attendants (dancers) M/F

Dover Fault (dancers) M/F

Children (passenger/Islanders) ages 9 – 12

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Workshops and Key dates

The first get together, at which we will provide further details about the show and the workshops, will take place at **London Road Methodist Church**.

Auditions will take place at **Gaywood Primary School**.

FIRST GET TOGETHER:

Wednesday 6th May 2026 starting at 19:30

WORKSHOPS:

Monday 11th May 2026 starting at 19:30

Wednesday 13th May 2026 starting at 19:30

Thursday 14th May 2026 starting at 19:30

AUDITIONS: Sunday 17th May 2026 at 10:00am

Rehearsals will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays with some Sundays leading up to the show.

There may be dance calls on additional days to be agreed with those cast in the dancer roles and the creative team.

Please note we will take account of those who may be studying for/taking GCSEs/A Levels etc when we design the final rehearsal schedule.

All you need to know, key dates, a synopsis of the show, the characters and the details of how The King's Lynn Players operate, are included in this Guide. Please, however, do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any additional queries.

Contact Details:
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