



# **TOP GUN!**

## **THE MUSICAL**

## **CAST AND CREW BIOGRAPHIES**

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### **Dmitry Chepovetsky**

#### **MAVERICK**

Dmitry has worked in theatres across Canada and has appeared in television episodics, independents, pilots and feature films. Select stage credits include: *Remnants* (2004 Dora Award - Best Production, Tarragon Theatre), *Top Gun! The Musical* (Dora Award nominated - Best Performance, Factory Theatre), *Zadie's Shoes* (Alberta Theatre Projects), *The Danish Play* (Nightwood Theatre), David in *Unidentified Human Remains...* (Vancouver Fringe 2001), *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well...* (Prairie Theatre Exchange), *Major Barbara* (Neptune Theatre), Picasso in the Canadian premiere of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Manitoba Theatre Centre / National Arts Centre), *Orphan Muses* (Touchstone), and Brad in *The Rocky Horror Show* (Kaleidoscope). Select film/TV credits include: *K-19: The Widowmaker* (with Harrison Ford and Liam Neeson), *Master Spy: The Robert Hanssen Story* (William Hurt and Mary-Louise Parker), *Chain of Fools* (Steve Zahn), *Blue Murder*, *Stargate*, and *The X-Files*. He has created and produced his one-man show *FETCH!* with Liesl Lafferty and collaborated as writer/performer/producer on *Bloodline* with Foursight Theatre in England. Dmitry can also be seen as Bob Melnikov in Shaftesbury Films' new series *ReGenesis*, coming to The Movie Network/ Movie Central in October.

### **David Collins**

#### **THE GENERAL**

David is a Dora-nominated actor, who has performed extensively throughout Canada on stage and in film, television and radio. Most recently he was featured in *El Paso* (Factory Theatre), Orsino in *Twelfth Night* (CanStage), and the Mirvish Productions remount of Djanet Sears' *The Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God*.

David can be seen in upcoming episodes of *Odyssey 5*, *Doc*, *Soul Food* and the feature film *Owning Mahoney*.

## Steven Gallagher

### ICEMAN

Steven just finished the successful run of the Canadian Premiere of *Urinetown*, directed by Tony winner John Rando. He has been involved with *Top Gun! The Musical* since its inception at the Toronto Fringe Festival and again for the remount in Toronto in 2003. Most recently in New York, he performed a new musical version of *The Nightingale and the Rose* by composer Neil Bartram and writer Brian Hill at the Broadway Institute. He was a member of the original Vancouver company of *Forever Plaid* and played Sparky in the Canadian National Tour of that show. Other recent roles include Phil in *Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh* at the Jewish Theater of New England and Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He has been seen on *Queer as Folk* and Showtime's *The Big Dance*. He is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York.

## Sharon Heldt

### CHARLIE

Sharon is thrilled to be a part of the *Top Gun! The Musical* cast for the inaugural NYC Musical Theatre Festival. She has just come off the hit Toronto Fringe musical, *Sleepless*, the second collaboration between the *TG!TM* creators Denis McGrath and Scott White. Selected credits include *Wrong For Each Other* (Cambridge Theatre), *Chapter Two* (Port Mansion Theatre), *Mono* (Buddies in Bad Times Theatre), *U.I. Or Die* (Factory Studio), *Emerald City* (Manitoba Theatre Centre), the bittergirls' *Flush* (Factory Theatre), *Twelfth Night* directed by the infamous William Hutt (Banff, Alberta), and two seasons at the Stratford Festival, which included *Richard III*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Troilus And Cressida*, *My Fair Lady* and *Cabaret*. Sharon has also tackled Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* (Annex Theatre), playing opposite her husband, Adam Large. Selected musical theatre credits from Toronto include: *Gypsy*, *Evita*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Oklahoma*, *Best Little Whorehouse In Texas* and *Pal Joey*, which toured to the Grand Theatre (London) and National Arts Centre (Ottawa).

Selected film and television include *Queer As Folk* (Bravo), *I 800 MISSING* (Showtime), *King Of The Volcano* (HBO), *Rememberance* (NBC), *Phunkee Zee* (YTV), *More Tears* (CBC), *Borrowed Hearts* (CBS), *Code Named Eternity* and *Avenging Angelo* (both Warner Brothers).

## **Alison Lawrence**

### **WENDY**

Alison Lawrence is an actor, writer and director who has been flying with *Top Gun! The Musical* since its maiden flight at the 2002 Toronto Fringe. Her play *bittergirl*, co-written with and co-starring Annabel Griffiths and Mary Francis Moore, has played to sold-out houses in Toronto, London, England and throughout Ontario. The book version of *bittergirl* is to be published by Penguin Canada for Valentine's 2005 and the *bittergirls* are currently in development for the television series *Get Over It*.

## **Brett McCaig**

### **BILLY PALMER**

Brett McCaig is delighted to be joining the *Top Gun* crew, especially here in NYC where he was last seen graduating from AMDA. He just debuted a new musical satire, co-wrote with his wife, called *Waiting for Trudeau: The Return of the King*. He spent the early part of this summer playing Max in *Race Day* a new musical by Norm Foster and has recently been seen on tour playing the King himself, the Pharaoh, in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* with Drayton Entertainment. Some favourite roles include Hysterium in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, The Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*, Kirk in *Dads! The Musical*, Flute in *A Midsummer's Night's Dream*, Ebenezer in *A Christmas Carol*, and just about everybody in *The Compleat Wrks of Wm Shkspr (Abridged)*, to name a few. But his favourite roles are husband to his lovely wife Racheal and dad to Molly. Next up: George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life* for the Grand Theatre in London.

## **Racheal McCaig**

### **GOOSE**

Racheal is thrilled to be stepping back into her flight suit. Since creating the role of Goose in the Dora-nominated *Top Gun! The Musical*, Racheal has gone on to have a baby, create the role of Leslie in *Home and Away* for Theatre Orangeville, co-produce *Upstairs at Bluma's*, a cabaret series at the Bluma Appel Theatre, and create the role of Nurse Bridget in *Sleepless*, a new musical from the creators of *TG!TM*. Some of her favourite roles include Philia in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, The Narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Woman 1 in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, wife to the fabulous actor Brett McCaig, and mom to beautiful Molly. Racheal, an alumna of the American Academy of Dramatic Art, is also a singer-songwriter and can be found playing in clubs around Toronto, London and Miami.

## Denis McGrath

### Book and Lyrics

Denis was born in New York City, where his first-ever address was on Broadway (up in Riverdale, but still...). He now lives and works in Toronto, where he writes for television, film, and theatre. Credits include many Canadian documentary, drama, and comedy series you've never heard of, and the one act plays *American Without Tears*, *Press'd* and *Shooter*. In 2000, Denis produced and wrote a short film based on *Shooter*, which placed third in the Houston Film Festival, and aired nationally on Canadian TV. He recently returned from South Africa, where he was writing the internationally syndicated sci-fi show *Charlie Jade*, which will premiere in 2005. *Top Gun! The Musical* has been produced commercially in Toronto, where it was nominated for two Toronto theatre Dora Mavor Moore Awards, and in Houston, Texas. Denis and Scott White's follow up show, *Sleepless*, premiered to enthusiastic crowds at the 2004 Toronto Fringe Festival. Denis is a graduate of Norman Jewison's Canadian Film Centre, and a part time professor at Toronto's Ryerson University. He's thrilled to be bringing *TG!TM* – a little show that could – to New York.

## Scott White

### Composer, Musical Director

Scott has written hundreds of songs for theatre, film and television including three full-length musicals. *Top Gun! The Musical* was Scott's first collaboration with writer Denis McGrath., and their work was rewarded with a Dora Mavor Moore Award nomination (Best New Musical). Their latest show, *Sleepless*, showcased in July at the Tarragon Theatre in Toronto. Scott's other credits include *The Dance of the Dead*, which premiered in Toronto at the Berkeley Street Theatre in January of 2002. Favorite musical direction credits include productions of *The Pirates of Penzance* (St. Lawrence Stage Co.), *Cabaret*, and *I Love You, You're Perfect Now Change* (both for the Sudbury Theatre Centre) and numerous shows with *The Second City* in exotic locales such as New Orleans and Singapore. Scott is also an actor whose credits include leading roles in musicals such as *The Eddie Cantor Story*, *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* and one of only two actors to have ever played both roles in the international smash hit *2 Pianos 4 Hands*.

Upcoming projects include development of his newest piece *Choralocity!* (an a cappella jazz clown musical) that will premiere in Toronto in 2007. For more information on Scott White, please visit <http://www.geocities.com/scottwhite40>.

## Colin Viebrock

### Director

*TG!TM* marks Colin's third collaboration with Denis McGrath, having directed the initial Fringe run and remount of *Top Gun! The Musical*, *Shooter*, and the SummerWorks and Tarragon Theatre remount of *Press'd*. Other credits include Slawomir Mrozek's *Out at Sea* and *The Party*, Kim Orton's *Raven* and *The Savage Lily*, and his own play, *Time and Again*. He has worked and studied with (among others) Ken Gass, Steven Bush, Herbert Olschok, and Theatre Smith-Gilmour. Colin also produced the SummerWorks Theatre Festival for two glorious seasons last century.

Recently, he spends most of his time with his new daughter, Natalie, and is thrilled that his first ever trip to NYC is to direct a musical on Broadway (or nearby, at least).

## Derrick Chua

### Producer

Derrick is an entertainment lawyer and independent film and theatre producer whose most recent theatrical ventures include two new musicals: *Sleepless: A New Musical*, and *Waiting For Trudeau: The Return of the King*. Other recent shows he has produced include *This Is Our Youth*, directed by Woody Harrelson (macIDeas), the Dora-nominated productions *The Laramie Project* (Studio 180), *(nod)* (Theatre Gargantua), *Miss Orient(ed)* (Carlos Bulosan Theatre), *Snappy Tales* (Theatre Non Nobis), *The Teenage Girl Diaries* (The Great Hailey), and the Dora Award winning *Poochwater* (Poochwater Collective) being remounted at Theatre Passe Muraille Mainspace in February 2005. Derrick can be contacted at [dchua@pathcom.com](mailto:dchua@pathcom.com).

## Shauna Japp

### Stage Manager

Shauna is thrilled to stage manage *TG!TM* for the third time. Her other recent credits include *fusion* (DNA Theatre), *bittergirl* (bittergirl co-op), *Much Ado About Nothing* (National Arts Centre), *Poochwater* (Poochwater Collective), *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*, *Anything Goes*, *Evita*, *It Runs In The Family*, *Forever Plaid* (Drayton Entertainment), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Compleat Wrks of Wm Shkspr (Abridged)* and *Mass Appeal* (St. Lawrence Stage Company).