

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Cast and Creative Team Announced for ACT  
Contemporary Theatre & The 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theatre's  
Co-Production of Acclaimed Musical**

# ***THE LAST FIVE YEARS***

*The award-winning musical written by Jason Robert Brown and directed by Shermona Mitchell features a live orchestra and two alternating casts. Playing February 8 – March 16; tickets on sale now at [acttheatre.org](http://acttheatre.org).*



**SEATTLE, WA (January 7, 2025)** — ACT Contemporary Theatre and The 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theatre announced today the cast and creative team of their 12th co-production: ***The Last Five Years*** written and composed by **Jason Robert Brown** and directed by **Shermona Mitchell**. This Drama-Desk winning musical of joy and heartbreak features two alternating casts and begins February 8 in ACT's Allen Theatre and plays through March 16.

Originally premiering in 2001, Jason Robert Brown's intimate and moving two-person musical follows the rise and fall of a romance between Jamie, a budding novelist, and Cathy, an aspiring actress. Told from their individual perspectives over the course of their five-year relationship, the emotionally resonant *The Last Five Years* features an unforgettable score amidst the complexity of love and heartbreak.

“Partnering with ACT Contemporary Theatre to present Jason Robert Brown’s *The Last Five Years* is an exciting opportunity to showcase the best of Seattle’s theatre community,” said **The 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theatre Executive Producer Bill Berry**. “This musical is a masterful and heartfelt exploration of relationships and through this collaboration, we’re able to create an experience that is both intimate and impactful. We’re delighted to bring this unique production to life and share its emotional journey with our audiences.”

“This show is for anyone who has ever ruminated over a lost relationship, for those who have felt the bittersweet ache of endings, and for those who still hold hope for new beginnings,” said **Director Shermona Mitchell**. “I’m delighted to work with these four actors, giving us two casts that amplify the universality of this story while celebrating the individuality each actor brings to these roles. Their unique interpretations create a layered and deeply resonant experience, inviting audiences to see themselves in the characters’ triumphs and struggles.”

“The intimacy and emotional impact of *The Last Five Years* makes it perfect for ACT’s partnership with The 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theatre,” said **ACT Contemporary Theatre Interim Producing Artistic Director Elisabeth Farwell-Moreland**. “Jason Robert Brown’s timeless storytelling about relationships, connection, growing together and apart, and how we define love is incredibly relevant today as we each look back on our own last five years since we first learned the term social distancing. ‘Are we the same people we were five years ago?’”

Co-produced by ACT Contemporary Theatre and The 5th Avenue Theatre, *The Last Five Years* plays at ACT Contemporary Theatre February 8 – March 16, with Press Night on Thursday, February 13. A full list of events can be found below and at [acttheatre.org](http://acttheatre.org).

## MEET THE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM



The two-person, alternating cast includes (from left to right above): **Coleman Cummings** (The 5<sup>th</sup>: *The Little Mermaid*); **Keola Holt** (The 5<sup>th</sup>: *Mary Poppins*); **Cassi Q Kohl** (ACT: *POTUS*); and **Jeffrey Wallace** (Village Theatre: *Once on This Island*).

The cast schedule may be found here at [acttheatre.org](http://acttheatre.org).

The creative team includes **Shermona Mitchell** (Director/Choreographer); **Brodrick Ryans** (Associate Director/Casting Director); **R.J. Tancioco** (Music Director); **Michael Nutting** (Associate Music Director); **Jasmine Lomax** (Intimacy Director); **Julia Welch** (Scenic Designer); **Taya Pyne** (Costume Designer); **Andrew D. Smith** (Lighting Designer); **Haley Parcher** (Sound Designer); **Kurt Conway** (Associate Sound Designer); **Jeffrey K Hanson** (Stage Manager); **Isabella Marziello** (Assistant Stage Manager); and **Olivia Spreen** (Production Assistant).

Orchestra: **R.J. Tancioco** (Piano Conductor); **Olivia Hamilton** (Bass); **Grant Olson** (Cello 1); **Virginia Dziekonski** (Cello 2); **Anthony Pooley** (Guitar); and **Kimmie Harrenstein** (Violin).



#### **ABOUT SHERMONA MITCHELL (Director)**

Shermona Mitchell is an accomplished actor, director, and adaptor whose artistic journey has taken them from Kentucky to Seattle and beyond. For over two decades, she has brought compelling stories to life on stages across the Pacific Northwest, nationally in Washington, Oregon, and Pennsylvania, and internationally in Canada and Turkmenistan. Their work has been featured and celebrated at theatres such as The 5th Avenue Theatre, ACT, Intiman Theatre, Sound Theatre Company, Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle Public Theater, and more. As a Co-Artistic Director of Sound Theatre Company, Shermona is committed to creating spaces where diverse stories and perspectives take center stage, championing a vision of theatre that is vibrant, inclusive, and transformative.



#### **ABOUT JASON ROBERT BROWN (Writer/Composer)**

Jason Robert Brown is the ultimate multi-hyphenate - an equally skilled composer, lyricist, conductor, arranger, orchestrator, director, and performer - best known for his dazzling scores to several of the most renowned musicals of our time, including the generation-defining *The Last Five Years*, his debut song cycle *Songs for a New World*, and the seminal *Parade*, for which he won the 1999 Tony Award for Best Score.

Brown has been hailed as "one of Broadway's smartest and most sophisticated songwriters since Stephen Sondheim" (Philadelphia Inquirer), and his "extraordinary, jubilant theater music" (Chicago Tribune) has been heard all over the world, whether in one of the hundreds of productions of his musicals every year or in his own incendiary live performances. The New York Times refers to Jason as "a leading member of a new generation of composers who embody high hopes for the American musical."

Jason's score for *The Bridges of Madison County*, a musical adapted with Marsha Norman from the bestselling novel, received two Tony Awards (for Best Score and Orchestrations). *Honeymoon In Vegas*, based on Andrew Bergman's film, opened on Broadway in 2015 following a triumphant production at Paper Mill Playhouse. A film version of his epochal Off-Broadway musical *The Last Five Years* was released in 2015, starring Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan and directed by Richard LaGravenese. His major musicals as composer and lyricist include: *13*, written with Robert Horn and Dan Elish, which opened on Broadway in 2008 and was subsequently directed by the composer for its West End premiere in 2012 and *The Last Five Years*, which was cited as one of Time Magazine's 10 Best of 2001 and won Drama Desk Awards for Best Music and Best Lyrics.

#### **FOR EDITORS/PRODUCERS:**

##### **WHAT:**

##### ***The Last Five Years***

Written & Composed by Jason Robert Brown

Directed by Shermona Mitchell

The winner of two Drama Desk Awards, this modern musical takes a devastatingly honest look at Cathy and Jamie and their journey of falling in and out of love over five years. Through clever storytelling and sharp lyrics – Cathy's songs start at the end of the relationship, while Jamie begins at the start of their love affair – Jason Robert Brown's cult favorite is a raw and intimate window into two perspectives of one relationship. This acclaimed musical is an unforgettable chronicle through the joy and ache of love.

Originally produced for the New York Stage by Arielle Tepper and Marty Bell. Originally produced by Northlight Theatre (Chicago, IL). *The Last Five Years* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by [MTI](#).

[Show Details >>](#)

[Ticket info >>](#)

##### **WHEN:**

**February 8 – March 16, 2025**

Evening performance times are at 7:00 p.m (Tues, Wed, Sun), 7:30 p.m. (Thurs, Fri, Sat) and matinees are at 2 p.m. A full performance schedule can be [found here](#).

### Key Dates:

- **First Preview:** Saturday, February 8 at 7:30 p.m. [Tickets >>](#)
- **Industry Night:** Tuesday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m.
  - Theatre industry professionals receive \$25 tickets. [Get Industry Night tickets here >>](#)
- **Press Night:** Thursday, February 13 at 7:30 p.m.
  - [Get Press Night tickets here >>](#)
- **Opening Nights:** Thursday, February 13 at 7:30 p.m. [Get tickets here >>](#) and Friday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m. [Get tickets here >>](#)
- **ASL (American Sign Language) Interpreted & Audio-Described Performance:** Sunday, March 9 at 2:00 p.m.
  - Special seating is reserved for patrons requesting live ASL interpretation of the spoken English performance. Seats are held for patrons during select performances to guarantee optimal viewing of both the interpreters and the stage. [Get ASL tickets here >>](#)
  - Complimentary audio description is available for patrons who are blind, who have low vision, or who may benefit from having the unspoken action of a play narrated for any reason. See any front-of-house team member before the performance to receive your headset. [Get audio-described tickets here >>](#)
- **Global Majority Night:** Wednesday, March 12 at 5:30 p.m. [More info here >>](#)

### WHERE:

**ACT Contemporary Theatre's Allen Theatre**, located at 700 Union Street in Downtown Seattle.

### TICKETS:

Tickets start with Pay What You Choose to all performances. ACT and The 5th Avenue Theatre are proud to offer a range of ticket prices and discounts in our goal to make theatre affordable for everyone.

To purchase tickets, visit [acttheatre.org](http://acttheatre.org)

### PRESS ROOM:

For available pre-production images and headshots, [please visit our Press Room online >>](#)

## CONNECT ON SOCIAL:

[acttheatre.org](http://acttheatre.org)

Facebook - [/ACTtheatreSeattle](https://www.facebook.com/ACTtheatreSeattle)

Instagram - [@ACTtheatre](https://www.instagram.com/ACTtheatre)

TikTok - [@acttheatreseattle](https://www.tiktok.com/@acttheatreseattle)

LinkedIn - [/act-theatre](https://www.linkedin.com/company/act-theatre)

[5thavenue.org](http://5thavenue.org)

Facebook - [/5thave](https://www.facebook.com/5thave)

Instagram - [@the5thavenuetheatre](https://www.instagram.com/the5thavenuetheatre)

TikTok - [@the5thavenuetheatre](https://www.tiktok.com/@the5thavenuetheatre)

LinkedIn - [/5th-avenue-theatre](https://www.linkedin.com/company/5th-avenue-theatre)

Theatre & show tags: #ACTTheatre #ACTTheatreSeattle #TheLastFiveYears  
#L5YSeattle #the5thavenuetheatre

## ABOUT ACT CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

Steadfast in its dedication to producing work that sparks an authentic curiosity about the human condition, ACT produces bold, audacious works of contemporary theatre from its home in Seattle. Over the last 58 years, ACT remains the voice of contemporary theatre in the Pacific Northwest, presenting necessary and relevant works on current themes and producing more than 300 plays and musicals, including 48 world premieres.

Currently led by Interim Producing Artistic Director [Elisabeth Farwell-Moreland](#), ACT nurtures theatre-makers of the next generation, with a mission to be a contemporary theatre where artistic ambition and civic engagement unite.

ACT is here to challenge how stories are told. For more information on ACT Contemporary Theatre please visit [acttheatre.org](http://acttheatre.org).

*Thank you to ACT Contemporary Theatre's Season and Theatre Sponsors: 4Culture, ArtsFund, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, The Shubert Foundation, Nesholm Family Foundation, ArtsWA, Bowery Valuation, The Grousemont Foundation, NBBJ, and Katharyn Alvord Gerlich.*

## ABOUT THE 5<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE THEATRE

The 5th Avenue Theatre is one of America's leading musical theater companies. We enrich the community we love with the art form we love—giving the Pacific Northwest a front-row seat to original powerhouse productions that go on to light up marquees and audiences all the way to Broadway. From the page to the stage, we bring passion and epic scale to every musical we create with big talent and bigger-than-life productions.

As a nonprofit theater company and one of our region's largest performing arts employers, we spread the joy of great musicals with people of all ages across our region and state. Each year, we reach 30,000 young people through our nationally acclaimed education programs. Programs designed to develop new musicals ensure that the next generation of great musicals will be there to tell the stories that captivate tomorrow's audiences. On the national stage, we are a leading voice for the power of this art form to lift the human spirit.

For more information about The 5th Avenue Theatre, its season and its programs, please visit [5thavenue.org](http://5thavenue.org).

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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