

Time, love and loss in Penobscot Theatre’s “The Last Five Years”

BY EMILY BURNHAM
OF THE WEEKLY STAFF

The two characters that make up the whole of the story of “The Last Five Years,” Jason Robert Brown’s popular contemporary musical, interconnect like the intricate gears in a pocket watch. As budding writer Jamie finds himself rising up, rejoicing over new love, struggling actress Cathy plunges down into despair. And in the middle, they meet, before reversing their roles.

That’s the joy — and the challenge — of realizing the complicated, beautiful love story at the center of “The Last Five Years,” which Penobscot Theatre Company will stage March 10 through March 27 at the Bangor Opera House.

Jamie and Cathy, played by PTC standbys Dominick Varney and Brianne Beck, have appeared in many shows together, from “The Rocky Horror Show” to

“Boeing Boeing.” They also happen to be close friends in real life, so the trust and comfort they have with each other onstage is easily had. “It’s fun to feel something as Jamie, and then see Brianne having the same feelings later on the show with the same intensity and excitement,” said Varney. “The moment where these two characters see each other in the show for the first time, there’s just such a sense of safety for the two of us. We feel so comfortable with each other.”

Director Michele Colvin, who has directed splashier, more upbeat shows with PTC including “The Wizard of Oz” and “Ring of Fire,” has trained her focus on the two moving particles at the center of the show. She puts Jamie and Cathy on a set, designed by Tricia Hobbs, that references the divergent timelines of the two characters with looming, ghostly watch gears and

spare, hanging Edison lamps, lit by Scout Hough.

“As a choreographer, it’s movement that I’m really drawn to,” said Colvin. “And there’s so much movement in this show. Jamie and Cathy are constantly moving, each in a different direction. I think movement is inherent in every part of this show.”

The show is almost entirely music, with very little dialogue in between songs. It’s a major workout for both performers, who carry the whole show on their backs, and for music director Ben McNaboe, who is making his PTC main stage debut. It’s also a workout for the audience, who live through every twist and turn Jamie and Cathy’s relationship takes. A film version, starring fellow Maine actress Anna Kendrick as Cathy, was released in 2015, boosting the little musical’s profile and garnering it a new legion of young fans.

“The beautiful thing



XXX/THE WEEKLY

Dominick Varney and Brianne Beck star in Penobscot Theatre’s “The Last Five Years.”

about this show, however, is that I think anyone that’s ever been in love and anyone that’s ever had their heart broken can empathize with it,” said Varney.

“You’ll know what it feels like to really fly high, and also to be crushed. It’s really powerful.”

“The Last Five Years” is set for March 10-13, March

16-20 and March 23-27 at the Bangor Opera House. For tickets, visit penobscottheatre.org, call 942-3333 or visit the Bangor Opera House box office.

Developer purchases Brewer’s old police station

Someone interested in opening a new restaurant and retail shop on the South Main Street lot where the city’s old public safety building once stood has purchased the vacant parcel.

“The economic development office has been working on a development project for this site and has found a business desiring to construct a building for a new retail and restaurant business,” the Brewer City Council order authorizing the sale states.

The land that was home to the police and fire departments between 1958 and 2008 was purchased for \$23,000 by WOLO Inc., the order states.

D’arcy Main-Boyington, the city’s economic development director, said after the meeting that she was not yet able to unveil the business planned, but said the development is great news for the city.

Mason’s Brewery, another new restaurant and gathering place about a block

away at 15 Hardy St., got its local malt, spirituous and vinous licenses and an amusement license during Monday’s council meeting, which enables it to have live music at indoor events in the restaurant.

The 20-barrel brewhouse, which is still under construction, is scheduled to open at the end of April.

Mason’s is located at the former Brewer Public Works garage, which was built in 1952 and removed in early 2004.

During the meeting, councilors also:

– Recognized third grade teacher Cherrie MacInnes and her class at Brewer Community School for winning a national writing contest with their children’s book “Classroom Pets.” The book recently was illustrated and Kathy Kinney – who stars as a Web-based character known as Mrs. P and also is known for her role as Mimi on “The Drew Carey Show” – posted a video of her reading the book recently on YouTube. Several students were in attendance at the meeting and had their picture taken with the council.

– Honored Bruce “Pretty Boy” Boyington, a Brewer mixed martial arts fighter, who this year was honored as the most improved and breakthrough fighter of the year by the New England MMA and on Feb. 6 earned a New England Fights lightweight title.

– Recognized the partnership between Brewer School Department and Penobscot Community Health Care, who a decade ago opened the area’s first school-based health care clinic.

– Purchased a sweep cleaner for \$171,500 to replace a 2001 one that will be traded in for \$25,000.

– Agreed to allow Tracey Marceron, owner of Next Generation Theater and Between Friends, to use to landfill for demolition debris from 53 Center St. at no charge.

– Authorized repaving a portion of Parkway South at a cost of \$90,000 for the city, and heard from City Manager Steve Bost that the state is repaving Interstate 395 between Odlin Road and Route 1A this summer.

WE'RE HIRING!

Work at McDonalds and Earn Your College Degree
\$100 sign-on bonus



Make your goals a reality!

We're passionate about helping employees succeed and advance. Our tuition assistance program reimburses for eligible courses related to your current (or future) job, or toward a business degree.

For more information check out www.mcdonalds.com/collegecreditconnection

Our local business is family-owned by Marty and Gary Eckmann.

525 Wilson Street, Brewer
mylocalmcds.com/2787
207.989.6466
Text APPLY02787 to 36453

1105 Union Street, Bangor
mylocalmcds.com/25697
207.262.9777
Text APPLY34252 to 36453

441 Main Street, Bangor
mylocalmcds.com/34252
207.942.5507
Text APPLY25697 to 36453



Winter White Sale



Insulated Patio Panels

Available in:
Pole Tops, Pinch Pleats,
Grommet Tops &
Self-Pleat Panels

Our Price
\$35.99 to 139.99



9 Piece Complete Bed Sets

Sheets included with ALL sets
Full ~ Queen ~ King
Assorted Patterns
Compare \$140.00 to 170.00

Our Price
\$99.88 all sizes



Duchess Valances

Width: 100"
Length: 30"

Assorted Patterns & Colors
Regular \$44.99 to 79.99

NOW
\$41.88 to 74.88



"Linen" Blackout Cordless Roman Shades

Widths: 27 to 72"
Lengths: 63 & 72"
Aqua Grey ~ Cocoa Ivory ~ Linen

Our Price
\$79.99 to 199.99



"New Castle" Lined Grommet Top Panels

Lengths: 63 & 84"
Width: 52"
plus 106" x 84" Patio Panel

Grey ~ Natural Toffee ~ White
Regular \$31.99 to 79.99

NOW
\$27.88 to 69.88



IN OUR CUSTOM GALLERY

20% OFF*

on
Parkland Wood Blinds
by Hunter Douglas
*Mfg. List

We Honor All Competitors' Coupons*

*Some restrictions apply



We specialize in custom design consultations at your home or in-store.

Shop At Home Sales Advice • Measurements
Call 1-888-281-8944

SO. PORTLAND • 773-9635
175 WESTERN AVENUE
MON-SAT 9:30AM-7PM • SUN 11AM-5PM

BANGOR • 947-8100
102 HASKELL ROAD
MON-SAT 9:30AM-7PM • SUN 11AM-5PM

WATERVILLE • 872-5634
251 KENNEDY MEMORIAL DR.
MON-SAT 9:30AM-6PM • SUN 11AM-5PM

www.curtainshopofmaine.com

Sale prices good
March 13 - 19, 2016

HOW TO REACH US 207-990-8000 or 1-800-432-7964

TheWeekly

Published Thursdays by
Bangor Publishing Company
1 Merchants Plaza, Bangor, Maine 04401

EDITORIAL

weekly@bangordailynews.com

Aimee Thibodeau, Editor 990-8130

Emily Burnham, Staff Writer 990-8270

Fax 1-207-941-0885

Editorial deadline is one week before publication date

ADVERTISING

advertising@bangordailynews.com

Todd McLeod, Client Advocate Manager 990-8105

Fax 1-207-941-0885

Advertising notice: The Weekly reserves the right to edit or reject any and all advertising. The Weekly assumes no liability for any printing error in advertising, other than to publish a correction of that portion which was in error.