

Interviews with the cast of *YANK!*



NAME: Jeffrey Denman

ROLE IN *YANK!*: "Artie" and the Choreographer

HOMETOWN: Buffalo, NY

FAVORITE MUSICAL: Usually, the one that I'm working on. I mean that seriously. The canon of material we get to work with when you think of the history of the American Musical is astounding. Pieces written by some of the greatest writers and composers of the 20th

Century are what we get to play with. It's hard not to fall in love with the piece you're working on. I think I kind of have to if I'm going to do my job to the best of my ability.

FAVORITE 1940s STANDARD: I can only pick one? Are you kidding me? No fair. Let me see.....nope, can't do it. I'll narrow it down to three: 1. **Polka Dots and Moonbeams** (Van Heusen and Burke) because it's the song my parents met and first danced to - granted, they danced to it in the late sixties but it was written in the 40's. 2. **I Thought About You** (Van Heusen and Mercer) because, in my book it has one of the best all time lyrics ever: "I peeked through the crack/and looked at the track/the one going back to you/and what did I do?/I thought about you." 3. **Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye** (Porter): one of the most beautiful songs ever written.

DO YOU OWN A DIARY OR JOURNAL? (if so, what do you keep in it?): I wrote a book called *A YEAR WITH THE PRODUCERS* about my time going from the closing company of *Cats* to the Original Company of *The Producers*. It was based on a journal that I was keeping at the time. I haven't written in my journal in a while.

FAVORITE PART ABOUT PERFORMING IN *YANK!*: Being part of a brand new musical that feels both classic and contemporary. Very tough to find the blend of those two elements. I think the Zellnik brothers have done an amazing job of writing a show that achieves that balance.

NAME: Zak Edwards

ROLE IN *YANK!*: Melanie and others

HOMETOWN: Aurora, Colorado, just southeast of Denver.

FAVORITE MUSICAL: It's gotta be *Ragtime* (not to give Bobby an even bigger head...kidding Bobby!). It's hopeful, heartbreaking, funny, and has one of the best scores in musical theatre.

FAVORITE 1940s STANDARD: It's 1939, but I love "All the Things You Are" by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II. Kern's music is somehow both simple and grand, and Hammerstein's lyrics are heart-achingly romantic.

DO YOU OWN A DIARY OR JOURNAL? (if so, what do you keep in it?): I've never kept a calendar, let alone a journal. I also have a terrible memory, so that could turn out to be a problem...

FAVORITE PART ABOUT PERFORMING IN *YANK!*: The best thing for me is that everyone involved is so excited about this show. There's a buzzing energy in rehearsal that makes this show completely thrilling!



NAME: David Perlman

ROLE IN *YANK!*: Vittorio Rotelli

HOMETOWN: Closter, NJ

FAVORITE MUSICAL: *Into the Woods*. Partly, it's sentimental for me because it's the first Broadway musical that I remember seeing live, and the cast recording was also the first CD that I ever owned! But the show really holds up as one of my

favorites. I think the storytelling is so smart. I love that it is a musical that is so consistently laugh-out-loud funny, but also explores the more raw elements of humanity.

FAVORITE 1940s STANDARD: Oy. "My Romance" is my favorite. Simple and beautiful. It was written in 1935, but can it still count, please?

DO YOU OWN A DIARY OR JOURNAL? (if so, what do you keep in it?): Yes, I do. I actually write in my journal quite a bit. It helps me think things through, and I also like to give my memory a back-up when I experience something special and don't want to forget the feeling.

FAVORITE PART ABOUT PERFORMING IN *YANK!*: There are so many! The people involved are so insanely talented and also such warm, wonderful people who are excited about the project! But my favorite thing about performing in *Yank!* is that it is a production and show about which I am truly proud to be taking part. So often I've performed in shows that I thought were good or less than good and would tell people to come see it if they want to support me... but that they can skip it if they'd like. This show is so special, and this production is shaping up to be so dizzyingly incredible that I am telling everyone that they must come see it! That is my favorite part: that I truly love this show.

YANK! A WWII Love Story

Begins February 16 at the York Theatre Company

www.yorktheatre.org • www.yankthemusical.com