

BUZZ EXTRA

JERSEY BOYS

The story of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons

June 22-July 17
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FEATURED ARTICLES

SPOTLIGHT

OH WHAT A NIGHT YOU'LL HAVE

It's not "just too good to be true."

JERSEY BOYS rocks and rolls into PlayhouseSquare as part of the U.S. Bank Star Performance Series June 22-July 17.

"They wrote *that* one, too? Aside from being a Garden State trove of earthy delights, **JERSEY BOYS** is a rock-and-roll jolt of history, a smashing serenade of the muscular harmonies of one of the more remarkable sensations of the '60s. The Four Seasons in bloom." *The Washington Post*

"In an age when many throwaway pop singers prop up their music with spectacle or scandal, **JERSEY BOYS** reminds us



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Frankie Valli & The 4 Seasons



Photo Credit: (l to r) Quinn VanAntwerp, Joseph Leo Bwarie, Matt Bailey, Steve Gouveia and the Company of JERSEY BOYS Photo by: Joan Marcus

why certain songs will still be bringing us joy for years to come." *Go Memphis*

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Have you ever listened to the Four Seasons?

Yes

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ArtsEducation@PlayhouseSquare.org




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Left to Right: Steve Gouveia, Joseph Leo Bwarie, Quinn VanAntwerp and Matt Bailey

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"In an age when many throwaway pop singers prop up their music with spectacle or scandal, JERSEY BOYS reminds us why certain songs will still be bringing us joy for years to come." *Go Memphis*

"JERSEY BOYS, the musical about Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, is surprisingly satisfying. You got a problem with that?" *New York Magazine*

Awards

JERSEY BOYS has run for more than 2200 performances since 2005 and is still going strong on Broadway.

It has received four Tony awards, including Best Musical, and many others awards including: a Theatre World, two Drama Desk, three Outer Critics Circle, a Drama League, a Grammy, four What's On Stage, one of London's Olivier, two of Toronto's Dora, and three of Australia's Helpmann. According to *The New York Times*, "the crowd goes wild" for these JERSEY BOYS.

JERSEY BOYS has played all over the USA. It has also played in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia; London and Toronto. This global presence of the show is proof of the popularity of the music of the Four Seasons. JERSEY BOYS has fans all over **Vote Now**d.

Synopsis

JERSEY BOYS is the story of four young men from a working class neighborhood in the Garden State.

Calling themselves the Four Seasons, the show chronicles how these boys

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became one of the most popular music groups of all time.

Overcoming adversity in the shape of the mob, loan sharks, racism, machismo, gender, robberies, debt, jail, drugs, divorce and \$150,000, these boys from New Jersey discovered how to "Walk Like A Man" as they sold 175,000,000 records before they were 30 years old.

The music of these Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees continues to be played on stations across the nation, a testament to the continued popularity of the JERSEY BOYS.

Little did they know when they started in New Jersey..."what the future would be."

Did You Know?

JERSEY BOYS has raised money to support children and education in:

- London: a gala event to raise money for the Entertainment Artistes' Benevolent Fund
- Chicago: raised more than \$200,000 for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights Aids
- London: raised more than £60,000 for Children in Need
- New York & Chicago: raised more than \$40,000 for the New York and Chicago Public Schools with VH1 Save the Music Foundation

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TWO BOBS

Bob Gaudio and Bob Crewe are the powerhouse team that wrote and produced many of the hits for Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

In 1958, the Four Seasons were called the Four Lovers and worked with producer Bob Crewe doing back-up vocals for some of Crewe's other music groups.

That same year, the Lovers met Bob Gaudio while performing on the same stage in Baltimore.

A New Name

Also in that same year, the Lovers had an unsuccessful audition at the Four Seasons Bowling Alley in Union Township, NJ. According to Gaudio, "We figured we'll come out of this with something. So we took the name of the bowling alley. It was called the Four Seasons."

Sherry

Crewe recalled in later years, "My mother and father lived in Ocean Beach,



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New Jersey, and I went to see The Seasons [perform] at this dive in Point Pleasant. Frankie did a thing that night that blew me away. He put a bandana over his head, took two maracas and stuck them under his coat [for breasts], and began singing 'I Can't Give You Anything But Love' like [1940s cabaret singer] Nellie Lutcher, with that high voice. I said to Bob [Gaudio], 'Go write a song for Frankie with that *chichi* voice, and jump it an octave.'"

Quoted on his website, Frankie Valli said, "Many R&B groups had used falsetto as part of their background harmonies, but we were different because we put the falsetto out front and made it the lead."

"Sherry" was born. Dick Clark booked the Four Seasons on *American Bandstand* in 1962 and the song went to the top of Billboard's Hot 100 list.

That was just the beginning of a new sound. The hits kept coming.

Hit Songs

- "Big Girls Don't Cry"
- "Walk Like a Man"
- "Dawn"
- "Rag Doll"
- "Ronnie"
- "Save It For Me"
- "Big Man In Town"
- "Bye Bye Baby"
- "Silence is Golden"
- "Girl Come Running"
- "Beggin'"
- "Candy Girl"

Without the Falsetto

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Then in 1965, the team started creating hit songs for Valli that did not use the famous falsetto.

"The Proud One"

"To Give"

And the song inspired by sunrise over New York City's Central Park..."Can't Take My Eyes Off Of You"

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Two Bobs

Bob Gaudio and Bob Crewe are one of the most successful song writing/producing teams in the history of pop music. They created a new sound, which continues to this day.

About Falsetto

The word “falsetto” comes from the Latin meaning “false voice.” It was popular and often used in music during the Middle Ages in Italy.

According to the *Merriman-Webster Dictionary*, a falsetto voice (like the voice Frankie Valli uses in many of his hit songs) is “an artificially high voice; especially an artificially produced singing voice that overlaps and extends above the range of the full voice especially of a tenor.”

Put differently, it is when a person sings in a voice that is eight whole notes (an octave) higher than their usual vocal range. A vocal range is how low to how high someone usually sings. This means that a falsetto is basically a vocal range which is an octave higher than the normal range that any one person would sing. In other words...the person sings way high. It also occurs when a man imitates a woman’s voice. There is controversy as to if women can sing in falsetto or not. Consequently, most of the famous falsetto singers are men.

Famous Falsetto Male Singers:

Ron Isley of *The Isley Brothers*

Eddie Kendricks of *The Temptations*

Phillip Bailey of *Earth, Wind and Fire*

Freddie Mercury of *Queen*

Steve Perry of *Journey*

Prince

The Stylistics

Michael Jackson

Roger Hodgson of *Supertramp*

Rob Halford of *Judas Priest*

Bee Gees

Listen to some of these [falsetto singers](#).

How to **sing falsetto**.

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EVERYONE KNOWS THESE LYRICS...OR DO THEY?

The lyrics in the songs of the Four Seasons have been radio classics for 40 years. You know the tune, but do you know the lyrics and what the songs are really all about? Take this quiz and find out how much you know.



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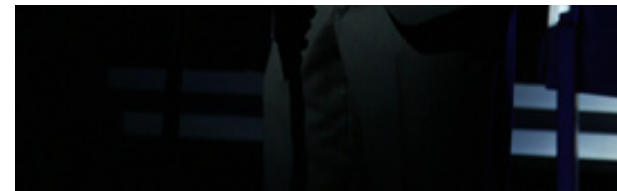
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True or False

1. Ces Soirées La is "Oh What a Night" sung in French and the time period of the song is December, 1963.
2. Sherry is asked to come out with her red dress on.
3. Big Girls do cry.
4. No woman's worth crawling on the Earth, so walk like a man, my son.
5. The Angels were the opening act for the Four Seasons. They were a girl group who claim, "my boyfriend's back, he's gonna save my reputation."
6. The song "Oh What a Night" is about a member of the group's sexual encounter with a groupie.
7. "My Eyes Adored You" is about two school-age children who grow up and fall in love.
8. "Dawn" should stay with her rich boyfriend because he will be good to her.
9. Easy come and easy go.
10. I'd marry you now if you were free, but bye, bye, baby, goodbye.
11. If our true love has died, just go on and be his bride.
12. Your daddy and momma don't mind if we have another dance.
13. Should she stay just a little bit longer?

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14. Is there a lot of love between us, and should we hang on to what we've got?

15. Was she just a passing fling and not a permanent thing?

16. Should Marianne understand?

17. Are you just too good to be true?

18. Can he not take his eyes off of you?

19. Is he working his way back to you with a burning love inside?

20. "Fallen Angel" is really about a man who is forgiving his lover for betraying him, not about Valli's daughter who overdosed on drugs.

20. My folks say that she's no good because she is poor, a "Rag Doll."

21. When you need a smile to help the shadows drift away, come to me, pretty baby.

How did you do?

Answers to all questions are true!

For the complete [lyrics](http://www.allmusicals.com/j/jerseyboys.htm) to JERSEY BOYS go to: [allmusicals.com/j/jerseyboys.htm](http://www.allmusicals.com/j/jerseyboys.htm)

Joseph Leo Bwarie

Photo: Joan Marcus

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TALKING WITH QUINN VANANTWERP (BOB GAUDIO)



Left to Right: Joseph Leo Bwarie and Quinn VanAntwerp

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Photo: Joan Marcus

Buzz Extra spoke with **Quinn VanAntwerp**, one of the stars of JERSEY BOYS. Named one of Toronto's most eligible bachelors and recipient of a Dora Award nomination for his performance as Bob Gaudio in JERSEY BOYS, VanAntwerp has performed all over North America.

EXTRA: How did you get started in musical theater?

VANANTWERP: I was born into it. My mother runs a school for performing arts in Ukiah, California, my hometown. My aunt is a singer and another aunt is a director, so it's kind of a family business. I went to school at UCLA Irvine for musical theater. Then I moved to New York and immediately got this job.

EXTRA: You mean you came to New York and got this job right away?

VANANTWERP: I left for JERSEY BOYS six months to the day that I moved to New York City and I've been doing this show for three years. I've been very lucky.

EXTRA: You did JERSEY BOYS in Toronto, right?

VANANTWERP: I was in Toronto for two years and have been doing it on the road for about nine months. Some people have been with the show four years or six years. When you find a show that is this fun, you stay with it for a while.

EXTRA: Did you audition?

VANANTWERP: Because the vocals are so specific, I auditioned 13 times. Some people auditioned 16-18 **Vote Now**

EXTRA: What happens during the audition process?

VANANTWERP: They keep calling you back in to make sure you can do it. Usually there are seven auditions per round. One day you come in and do your own songs for the casting director. Then they call you back and you do it again, so they can work with you. Then you do a dance call. Then

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they prep you for the big audition, where they bring you in and put you in front of a panel of about 20 people. I was a last minute replacement in Toronto.

EXTRA: When did you first hear the music of the Four Seasons?

VANANTWERP: My father is a big Four Seasons fan, so that is probably why I know the music so well. It is pretty amazing that "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," and "Walk Like a Man," is one sound of the Four Seasons, while "Begging" and "Can't Take My Eyes Off Of You" feels like it should be a different group.

I don't think I put it all together that it was the same group until I got cast in the show. The show spans 40 years. They were the only American group that competed with the Beatles and the Rolling Stones on the charts.

It's also amazing that our generation doesn't realize how much they know this music. While it is music of the 60s and 70s, it is around so much. That speaks to how good this music is.

EXTRA: Any fun JERSEY BOYS stories?

VANANTWERP: In Toronto during "Oh What A Night," I run on this bridge and they had just re-rubbered my shoes. I slipped and almost fell off the bridge and in doing so, broke my hand. Slipped, got up, sang the rest of the song, finished the act, finished the show, then went to the hospital and I had to do the show in a cast for two weeks. That's kind of a fun story.

EXTRA: Oh my goodness!

VANANTWERP: But my favorite JERSEY BOYS moment is that because I joined the cast right when previews started--I rehearsed by myself in a studio in New York and joined them (in Toronto). I rehearsed with the swings but not the guys. My first moment in the show is when I meet the other guys, because I am the last one to join. They audition me, I sit down at the piano and we play the song and it is the first time we sing together. So, that night, when I went on stage, we hadn't sung together, the four of us, so when I sat down at the piano, it was real. The first time we made that sound when it was all about the music, it was the best. That is my

favorite moment, when it all first worked.

EXTRA: Did you ever meet the real Bob Gaudio?

VANANTWERP: I have. He is still very much in charge of the group and is very involved in the show. He comes to see the show from time to time. It's fun to play him, in front of him. Bob is the most fun show guy you'd ever meet. You meet Bob a couple of times and hear so many stories.

EXTRA: How did you research your role?

VANANTWERP: They have what they call the Research Bible. Every company has one. A huge binder that has every article, music, or clipping and bio you could ask for. All these characters are real people, so you can do infinite amounts of research. Part of the packet has all the Ed Sullivan shows and they give you a CD of all the original recordings, so you can hear the original music.

EXTRA: Do you have anything in common with Bob? Do you relate to him?

VANANTWERP: I relate to how driven young Bob is. He is incredible and I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to play him because I learn a lot every day by doing it, being business savvy at such an early age...the politics and business side of the music industry.

EXTRA: What are the perks of being a Jersey boy?

VANANTWERP: We get to travel to great cities. I'm actually very excited to come to Cleveland, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame...I've heard it's really fun.

EXTRA: How long do you plan to stay with the show?

VANANTWERP: We'll see where life takes me, but I have no plans to leave.

EXTRA: Anything else Cleveland should know?

VANANTWERP: Get your tickets for the first week, because you will like it

so much that you will want to come back!

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THE FOUR SEASONS ARE EVERYWHERE

Quinn VanAntwerp, who portrays Bob Gaudio in the National Tour of JERSEY BOYS, explained to Buzz Extra about the lasting quality of the Four Seasons, "their music is everywhere. It's in commercials; it's in elevators. It's amazing how many songs a young audience knows, even if they don't know it's the Four Seasons. While it is music of the 60s and 70s, it is around so much. That speaks to how good this music is."



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Inspiration

The music of the Four Seasons has inspired and been recorded by many musicians. The songs have been sung by Frank Sinatra, Nancy Wilson, Lauryn Hill, Lady Antebellum, Heath Ledger, Barry Manilow, Clay Aiken, Gloria Gaynor, Bobby Darin, the Supremes and the cast of *High School Musical*.

Billy Joel said, "I wrote 'Uptown Girl' as the flip side to the story of 'Rag Doll.'"

The Beach Boys' Brian Wilson declared, "In the early '60s the Four Seasons were my favorite group. I thought they were fantastic. The voice blend was fantastic. The competition helped me to get cracking. It inspired me, because they made good music. I went to the piano thinking I could top their music."

Commercials

The music of the Four Season has been used in TV commercials for products such as **Beech-Nut Gum**, Spearmint Gum and **Carlsberg Beer**.

Feature Films

The music of the Four Seasons can be found in feature films like:

- The Deer Hunter
- Dirty Dancing
- Mrs. Doubtfire
- Conspiracy Theory
- Bridget Jones' Diary
- Son of the Mask
- Heart and Souls
- Hudson Hawk

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- The Fabulous Baker Boys
- Mermaids
- Love, Actually
- Step It Up 3D
- Old Dogs
- 10 Things I Hate About You
- Drop Dead Gorgeous

Television

And on the small screen, the following shows have used the group's music:

- The Sopranos
- Entourage
- Huckabee
- Dancing with the Stars
- The Muppet Show
- The Benny Hill Show
- Mystery Science Theater 3000

With the popularity of the music of the Four Seasons, JERSEY BOYS continues to sell out shows all over the world; the producers are in negotiations to bring the show to Singapore, China and Dubai.

Front: Joseph Leo Bwarie, Behind, Left to Right: Miles Aubrey and Matt Bailey

Photo: Joan Marcus

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performances of JERSEY BOYS (June 22-28 ONLY, except the June 24 2 p.m. performance) in the Idea Center® at PlayhouseSquare.

The Idea Center is located just two doors west of the Allen Theatre at 1375 Euclid Avenue. You can enter the Idea Center quickly from the PlayhouseSquare parking garage by taking the elevator or stairs to Level 1. Exit through the red doors and cross at the crosswalk which will lead you directly into the rear entrance of the building. You also may enter the Idea Center from Euclid Avenue.

Can't make it to the Pre-Show Talk? Listen live on opening night (June 22) at 7 p.m. on WCLV 104.9 FM or watch live on wclv.com. The video will be available for viewing after opening night at playhousesquare.org/broadwaybuzz.

Catch our Post-Show Chats with the Cast following the Thursday evening performance on June 23 or the Tuesday evening performance on July 12.

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- » [Les Miserables, April 5 - 17, 2011](#)
- » [Shrek the Musical, March 1 - 13, 2011](#)
- » [South Pacific, February 1 - 13, 2011](#)
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