

Sharjah Performing Arts Academy's

production of



WORKING

A MUSICAL

From the book by **Studs Terkel** Adapted by **Stephen Schwartz** and **Nina Faso**
Localized format conceived by **Daniel C. Levine** for ACT of CT

Songs by **Craig Carnella** • **Micki Grant** • **Lin-Manuel Miranda** • **Mary Rodgers** • **Susan Birkenhead** • **Stephen Schwartz** • **James Taylor**

Orchestrations by **Alex Lacamoire**

'Working' explores the daily lives of ordinary people through a series of engaging stories, showcasing the joys, struggles, and triumphs of the working class. Prepare to be enthralled by the powerful songs, heartfelt performances, and thought-provoking narratives that will resonate with audiences from all backgrounds. Whether you're a fan of musicals or simply looking for a memorable evening out, this event promises to captivate and inspire.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Welcome to our production of 'Working', here at Sharjah Performing Arts Academy, a captivating and insightful exploration of the lives of everyday workers. We are thrilled to bring this timeless and relevant piece of theatre to Sharjah. 'Working' is based on the book of the same title by Chicago journalist Studs Terkel, (published in 1974), a collection of documented stories and voices of the working class, a segment of society often overlooked but undeniably essential.

At its core, 'Working' is about people - people from all walks of life who find meaning, purpose, and identity in their jobs. These are stories that resonate with each of us, as we all have our own experiences of labour, dreams, challenges and aspirations. Through the eyes of these individuals, we explore the universal themes of ambition, pride, frustration, and the pursuit of our life dreams.

For this production we are sharing stories from Studs Terkel's book, as well as newly-minted stories from the UAE and MENA region, uniquely created for our production here at SPAA. We are thrilled to include these fresh voices alongside the original stories, and although times may have changed since the 1970's, there shared themes in both the old and the new.

In creating this production at SPAA, I also wanted celebrate the theatre makers creating this experience, both onstage and behind the scenes. With that in mind, sometimes we're bringing the backstage onstage for this production, to shine a light on some activities that usually happen offstage.

'Working' is not just a musical; it's a mirror that reflects the stories of people who build and sustain society, reminding us that each person's job is a piece of the mosaic that makes up our societies. It prompts us to listen, and reflect on our own roles and the roles of those around us, appreciating the value of every occupation, no matter how humble or grand.

On behalf of the whole team, we hope you enjoy this production of 'Working' as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to life. Let these stories inspire you, and may they serve as a reminder of the hearts and souls shining within the people who labour every day to build a better future.

Thank you for joining us here at SPAA, and here's to the power of work and the beauty of human stories.

Heather Davies
Programme Leader - Postgraduate Studies

SONG CREDITS

“All the Livelong Day” Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz (with acknowledgments to Walt Whitman)

“Delivery” Music and Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda

“Nobody Tells Me How” Lyrics by Susan Birkenhead, Music by Mary Rodgers

“Brother Trucker” Music and Lyrics by James Taylor

“Just a Housewife” Music and Lyrics by Craig Carnelia

“Un Mejor Dia Vendra” Music by James Taylor, Spanish lyrics by Graciela Daniele and Matt Landers

“Millwork” Music and Lyrics by James Taylor

“Lovin’ Al” Music and lyrics by Micki Grant

“The Mason” Music and Lyrics by Craig Carnelia

“It’s An Art” Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

“Joe” Music and Lyrics by Craig Carnelia

“A Very Good Day” Music and Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda

“Cleanin’ Women” Music and Lyrics by Micki Grant

“Fathers and Sons” Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

“If I Could’ve Been” Music and Lyrics by Micki Grant

“Something to Point To” Music and Lyrics by Craig Carnelia

ORDER OF SCENES AND SONGS

Song: All The Livelong Day	Full Company
Monologue	Mike Dillard, Iron Worker
Monologue	Amada McKenny, Project Manager
Song: Delivery	Freddy Gomez, Fast Food Worker, and Ensemble
Monologue	Rex Winship, Hedge Fund Manager
Monologue	Marya ElShami, Teacher
Song: Nobody Tells Me How	Rose Hoffmann, Teacher
Monologue	Anna, Flight Attendant
Song: Brother Trucker	Frank Decker, Trucker, and Ensemble
Scene: The Phone Workers	Aziz and Sharon
Scene and Song: Just a Housewife	Kate Ruston, Housewife and Housewives
Monologue	UPS Delivery Person, Quincy
Scene: Not a Housewife	Noor and Candy
Song and Scene: Un Mejor Dia Vendra	Migrant Farmworkers: Emilio, Juana, and Guillermina
Song: Millwork	Grace Clements, Factory Worker
Monologue	Community Worker
Song	Lovin' Al: Al Calinda, Parking Lot Attendant
Monologue and Song: The Mason	Anthony Coelho, Mason, and Singer
Monologue and Song: It's an Art	Delores Dante, Waitress, and Working Ensemble
Scene and Song: Joe	Joe Zutty, Retired
Song: A Very Good Day	Jairo Trujillo, Caregiver & Theresa Bautista, Nanny
Scene: Fireman	Tom Patrick, Fireman
Scene and Song: Cleanin' Women	Maggie Holmes and friends, Domestic Workers
Monologue	Ralph Werner, student
Monologue	Zee, Gen Zee
Song: Fathers and Sons	Inspired by the chapter in Working, "Fathers and Sons"
Song: If I Could Have Been	Full Company
Song: Something to Point To	Full Company

CREATIVES

Director Heather Davies
Musical Director Chris Santillán
Choreographer Clairra Vaughan
Set Designer Ola Klos
Costume Designer Andrea Forde
Lighting Design Supervisor Daryl Bowen

BAND

Conductor/Keyboard Chris Santillán
Guitar Dima Tsoy
Bass Janis Bukowski
Drums/Percussion Andrey Stepanov



CAST

Adel Zee

Andrew William

Mohammed Aldashti

Rami Farha

Ali Ballout

Yosra Ait Kebrone

Nardine Reda

Laila Ashraf

Alia Khaled

Stacia Rae

Kirolous Michael

Hanah Afifi

Rabee' Alshrouf

Ahmed Bakr

Aly Deyde

Aziz Boujaha

Haneen Zawahra

Huda Abul Naga

Iman Elbesheer

Karim Elanani

Keenan McFadzean

Mohammed Masharqa

Ryan Durand

Sara Asil

Sultan Alkhail



PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

Production Manager Andreas Ehrenberger
Assistant Production Manager Mariam Azar
Mariam Hassan

STAGE MANAGEMENT

Stage Manager Nora Saeed
Deputy Stage Manager Nadiah Tejani
Assistant Stage Manager Ali Hamed Alameri
Enas Ezzat

SCENIC ART

Scenic Artist Mariam Mahmoud
Dina Moursy
Suilynez Quinones Reyes

CONSTRUCTION TEAM

Construction Assistant Mohammed Alrawashda
Mohammed Alkhateb

SOUND TEAM

FOH Mixing Engineer Claire Carroll
Stage Monitor Engineer Febin Thomas
Sound FOH Assistant Majid Al Maeni
Sound Monitor Assistant Bahr Farha
Sound Stage Technician Ibrahim Alaawaj
Stage Sound Technician Sooraj Nair
Vineeth Haridas



LIGHTING TEAM

Lighting (programmer) Moataz Sherif
Lighting (system) Youmna Aboeella

VIDEO TEAM

Video Ahmed Abdelalim
Salma Lakhrouti

COSTUME TEAM

Costume Design Assistant Nadah Agwa
Wardrobe Supervisor Mahrdekar Omran
Wardrobe Assistant Inass Redouane
Sarah Elbatrawy

STAFF SUPPORT

Programme Leader - Musical Theatre Paul Spicer
Programme Leader - Acting Benedict Ayrton
Programme Leader - Production Arts Simon Marsden
Stage Management Tutor Altan Reyman
Associate Programme Leader - Production Arts Candeta Bishop
Scenic Construction Tutor Junaid Chaudhary
Sound Tutor Diego Biagioni
Lead Tutor - Technical Theatre Lighting Nick Wheeler
Video Technician Jackson Lopez
Lighting Technician Sheila Faasen
General Stage Technician Sbin Babu
Front of House Manager Saif Khalid
Usman Bashir
Marketing Team Shivanchali Gnamam
Raneem Qawasmeh
Badr Al Slaiby
Reham Mohammed





SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to our students and their fathers for being a part of the song 'Fathers and Sons' where a special tribute celebrated the special bond between a parent and their child. Your presence and shared photos made this event truly memorable. Here's to the enduring power of family and community.

And thank you to everyone who has supported the development of this production, including the local individuals we've interviewed, everyone here at SPAA, and our extended community in Sharjah and the UAE. We are incredibly grateful for your support.

SHARJAH PERFORMING
ACADEMY ARTS
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Your Future.**

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