

*Teacher Resource  
Guide*

# JERSEY BOYS



The Story of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons

Book by Marshall Brickman

& Rick Elice

Music by Bob Gaudio

Lyrics by Bob Crewe

September 5–October 20, 2024

Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage

This production is generously sponsored by

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# **PRE-ATTENDENCE RESOURCES**

**In the following pages,  
you will find resources  
that may be helpful prior  
to attending the show**

# WELCOME

This guide was created for teachers and students. It contains an overview of the play's story as well as informative resources and activities for teachers and students. The guide aims to provide background knowledge and critical perspectives on the play that will yield fruitful discussion and foster an understanding and appreciation of theatre arts.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for the guide, please contact our Education & Community Engagement Coordinator, Mikenzie Page at [mpage@artsclub.com](mailto:mpage@artsclub.com).

This study guide was written by Chantal Gallant, River Ironeagle-Mindel, and Mikenzie Page.

Content advisory system designed by Stella Jack-Rennie

## ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB

The Arts Club of Vancouver was founded in 1958 as a private club for artists, musicians, and actors. It became the Arts Club Theatre in 1964 when the company opened its first stage in a converted gospel hall at Seymour and Davie Streets. Now in its 61st season of producing professional live theatre in Vancouver, the Arts Club Theatre Company is a non-profit charitable organization that operates three theatres: the Granville Island Stage, the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, and the Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre. Its popular productions range from musicals and contemporary comedies to new works and classics.

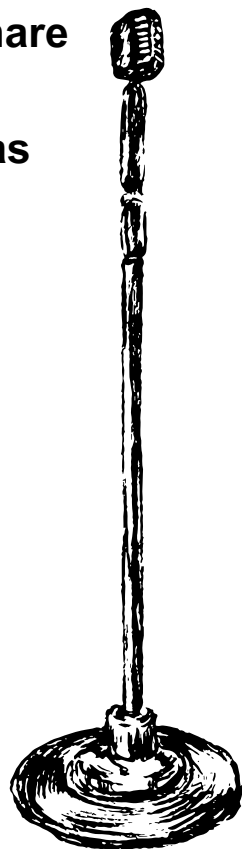
Learn more about the Arts Club Theatre Company at [artsclub.com](http://artsclub.com).



# ĆƏSNAʔƏM: THE STORY OF THIS LAND

The Stanley theatre stands on the ancestral territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nation, and the former city of ćəsnaʔəm, which was located at the mouth of the Fraser River. The city of ćəsnaʔəm is an important historical site for Musqueam. It symbolizes the nation's resilience and its connection to the land. We honour the history of this land as a step towards recognition and respect to the Musqueam people. Just as Musqueam was named for the blooming flower məθkʷəy̓, we hope to grow our connection with the land and its people.

The Arts Club Theatre Company would like to acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations, the original stewards of this land on which we operate. We would like to ask those visiting or living here to share their thanks by supporting local Indigenous artists and communities. Acknowledging is always a start to supporting; as we step forward, we wish to be better partners, healers, and helpers to our Indigenous neighbours.



# ABOUT THE STANLEY INDUSTRIAL ALLIANCE STAGE



The legendary Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage is a art deco theatre that originally opened in 1931 as a cinema and Vaudeville House. Now beautifully updated, this 620-seat theatre has been home to musicals such as *My Fair Lady*, *Swing*, and *Sweeney Todd*, revitalized classics such as *Hamlet*, and comedies ranging from *Easy Money* to *Art*. The restoration of the venue received a 1999 City of Vancouver Heritage Award.



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Through reflecting on the musical, and engaging in related activities, students will:

- Explore and respond to the spectacular music of the Four Seasons
- Think critically about fame and how the desire for success can impact personal relationships, sense of self, and well-being
- Explore how design elements enhance theatrical storytelling
- Reflect on the resiliency needed to be an artist
- Be encouraged to follow their personal dreams/goals

## CONNECTIONS TO BC CURRICULUM

### Arts Education 8

#### Big Ideas

- Individual and collective expression can be achieved through the arts.

#### Curricular Competencies

- Take creative risks to express feelings, ideas, and experiences
- Respond to works of art using one's knowledge of the world

### Drama Grade 9

#### Big Ideas

- Drama provides opportunities to gain insight into perspectives and experiences of people from a variety of times, places, and cultures

#### Curricular Competencies

- Explore relationships between identity, place, culture, society, and belonging through dramatic experiences
- Take creative risks to experience and express thoughts, emotions, and meaning

### Drama Grade 10

#### Big Ideas

- Drama communicates ideas emotions, and perspectives through movement, sound, imagery, and language

#### Curricular Competencies

- Reflect on dramatic works and make connections with personal experiences
- Improvise and take creative risks to express meaning

### Drama Grade 11 / 12

#### Big Ideas

- Drama offers dynamic ways to explore and share identity and a sense of belonging.
- Growth as an artist requires perseverance, resilience and reflection

#### Curricular Competencies

- Reflect on dramatic works and make connections with personal experiences
- Improvise and take creative risks using imagination, exploration, and inquiry

### Musical Theatre 10/11/12

#### Big Ideas

- Growth as an artist requires perseverance, resilience, and reflection. Ideas and beliefs are conveyed through musical theatre production

#### Curricular Competencies

- Reflect on dramatic experiences (aesthetic experiences) and how they relate to a specific place, time, and context
- Take creative risks to express ideas, meaning, and emotions

### Music 9

#### Big Ideas

- Music provides opportunities to gain insight into perspective and experiences of people from a variety of times, places, and cultures.

#### Curricular Competencies

- Analyze and document musical experiences to enhance learning

### Contemporary Music 10

#### Big Ideas

- Growth as a musician requires perseverance, resilience, and reflection

#### Curricular Competencies

- Explore music that reflects personal voice, story and values

### Creative Writing 10

#### Big Idea

- The exploration of text and story deepens our understanding of diverse, complex ideas about identity, others and the world.

#### Curricular Competencies

- Respond to text in personal, creative, and critical ways



# SHOW INFORMATION

**Genre** Jukebox Musical  
**Show Dates** Sept 5—Oct 20 2024  
**Age Range** Recommended for grades 8—12  
**Venue** Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage

## CONTENT ADVISORY

This production contains strong language and gun-shot sound effects. It may contain water-based fog and haze and flashing lights. Please contact our box office for more information

### Strong language:



Frequent strong language. Described as “authentic, offensive, New Jersey vocabulary”.

### Violence:



Gun pulled on stage, tussles/fights, violence towards women (TV slap).

### Gambling:



Characters struggle with gambling addiction.

### Sexual content:



Sexualized language, innuendos, sexualized comments, outdated language towards women.

### Racialized language:



Outdated + racialized language used, e.g. “colored”.

### Alcohol/Drugs:



Various substances mentioned or seen on stage such as alcohol, joints, and cigarettes. A death due to overdose (actual death not seen on stage). Various characters struggle with addiction throughout the musical.



# ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM



## MARSHALL BRICKMAN — BOOK

Marshall Brickman was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He wrote the book for *Jersey Boys* with Rick Elice, landing them a Tony nomination for Best Book of a Musical. Other writing credits for film and stage include; *Annie Hall*, *Sleeper*, *Manhattan*, *The Manhattan Project*, and *The Addams Family* (musical 2010).



## RICK ELICE - BOOK

Rick Elice is writer and former stage actor. Tony award nominations include Best Book of a Musical: *Jersey Boys*, Best Play and Best Original Score Written for the Theatre: *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and Best Book of a Musical: *Water for Elephants*.

## BOB GAUDIO - MUSIC AND LYRICS

Bob Gaudio is a prolific songwriter and music producer from New Jersey. Over his substantial career, he worked with artists like Diana Ross and Barbra Streisand. Most notably, Gaudio was an original member of The Four Seasons, writing the hit songs “Sherry,” “Big Girls Don’t Cry,” and “Can’t Take My Eyes Off You,” to name a few. Gaudio, along with the other members of The Four Seasons, were inducted to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990. Beyond *Jersey Boys*, Gaudio produced music for *Little Shop of Horrors* (1986) and Neil Diamond’s *The Jazz Singer*.



## BOB CREWE — MUSIC AND LYRICS

Also from New Jersey, Bob Crewe co-wrote many of The Four Seasons’ successful songs, like “Silhouettes” and “Walk Like A Man.” Later, he continued to work in the music industry, starting several record labels. Crewe also started The Bob Crewe Foundation, which was “established in the spirit of giving back to the arts and improving lives in the LGBTQ community.”

# ACT I



## SPRING

The musical opens with the song “Ces Soirées-Là,” transitioning into “Silhouettes,” sung by group members Tommy DeVito, Nick DeVito and Nick Massi. Tommy addresses the audience, claiming they “put Jersey on the map.” He says that their international success all started with him, Tommy DeVito, in Belleville, New Jersey.

Tommy recounts the neighbourhood of his youth. If you wanted to get out you have three options; join the army, get mobbed up, or become a star. The story shifts back in time. Tommy discovers Frankie, a kid who “sings like an angel.” Tommy, Nick, Nick DeVito sing “You’re the Apple of My Eye,” and introduce Frankie Castelluccio. Frankie sings “I Can’t Give You Anything But Love.” Girls love him. Tommy acknowledges Frankie’s potential and takes up the mission to teach him. Tommy gives Frankie a lesson on women, and they get into a mock tussle, ending with Frankie pouting.

Tommy encourages Frankie to help him and his brother, Nick, rob a jewelry store. Frankie gets roped in. The guys sing, “Earth Angel,” ending with them in jail. Frankie finds himself in court, and the judge lets him off with a warning since he’s only sixteen, and Tommy says he conned Frankie into it. Tommy gets six months in jail. Before getting locked up, Tommy tells Nick Massi to take care of Frankie.

Massi, his date, and Frankie break into a church. They sing “A Sunday Kind of Love.” A cop finds them, and Nick is sent to jail. Tommy gets out and Nick Massi goes in, joining Tommy’s brother Nick DeVito.

Now out of jail, Tommy decides to officially bring Frankie into the group, considering that the rest of his band mates are locked up. Tommy introduces Frankie to Mary Delgado. Frankie takes Mary on a date, and she convinces him to change the spelling of his stage name to V-A-L-L-I. Mary kisses Frankie. Tommy says that Mary and Frankie get married.

One night, Frankie takes a drive with a couple of friends to buy some jewelry for his anniversary, but they take him to a different spot. An argument ensues with one of the guys, Donnie, shooting another guy, Stosh, at point blank range. Frankie, horrified, runs away. Once Frankie is gone, Stosh comes back to life, revealing that they had set it up.



# SYNOPSIS

Frankie comes to Tommy, saying that Donnie is demanding \$25,000 to get rid of the body and to get rid of the car. Tommy warns Frankie that it's a scam. He says that he'll take care of it and Frankie should go home. Tommy calls Gyp Decarlo, New Jersey's mob boss. Gyp takes care of the situation. For payment, Gyp asks Frankie to sing "My Mother's Eyes." Frankie does, and Gyp is pleased, saying that if Frankie ever has a problem, to reach out to him.

Nick Massi gets out of prison, and Tommy starts looking for a fourth member to add to their trio. Tommy brings on Hank Majewski. Tommy keeps changing the name of the band but seems set on keeping them as The Four Lovers.

They sing "I Go Ape" on tour, traveling through the US. They sing in a Nevada club, but the audience is sparse and doesn't seem impressed. Hank gets into an argument with Tommy and leaves the band. Frankie says that he wants to go back to barber school, and Nick thinks it's time that he starts his own group. Tommy tries to keep them in the band, saying they just got to refine and find a fourth guy, no problem.

Tommy addresses the audience, admitting he's out of ideas, they have no gigs booked.

Outside a bowling alley, Joe Pesci, a 17-year-old kid, runs up to Tommy claiming that he has a guy to be their fourth member. Joe introduces Tommy to Bob Gaudio. Tommy is intrigued considering Gaudio can play, sing, and write music.

## SUMMER

Gaudio's song "Short Shorts" plays, and Bob Gaudio takes the stage. He says that although Tommy claims to have saved him, he had already made a hit song all on his own. Joey convinces Bob Gaudio to join. The group

Gaudio comes to meet the band and see them sing, "I'm in the Mood/ Moody's mood," and is captivated by Frankie's voice. Bob jumps on the piano and plays a new song "Cry For Me." The waitresses at the venue and the band members are impressed. Tommy says he will give Bob a try. Bob and Tommy shake on it.

Bob wants to negotiate a four-way split. Frankie and Tommy get into an argument over this, with Frankie threatening to leave if Tommy doesn't agree. Tommy finally concedes, giving Frankie a smack on the head, and telling him to give Bob a haircut. Bob is now officially part of band, now called The Lovers.



## SYNOPSIS

Bob and Frankie go to The Brill Building on Broadway, which Bob says is “The Centre of the music world.” Frankie gets a bunch of nos from different publishers. They run into Bob Crewe, a producer who knows Frankie. Frankie introduces Crewe to Gaudio. Crewe, a producer, listens to their songs. He offers them a personal services contract, meaning they sing backup for his other artists. If Gaudio and Frankie can bring him four songs, he’ll record them.

Fast forward a year, the boys are still singing backup, without a single recording of their own. Gaudio confronts Crewe and gives him an ultimatum: give them a date to record four songs for them, like he promised, or they will go down the hall to someone else. Crewe doesn’t agree to record their songs.

They boys are back to working odd jobs to make money but can’t get any gigs or recording contracts. They argue about the name of the band; The Topix, The Romans, The Lovers. Gaudio sees a flashing sign reading “FOUR SEASONS.” He tells Tommy that it’s a sign.

Gaudio is encouraged by the new name and writes four new songs in two days. He then brings them to Crewe. Crewe likes them and wants to record but says he has no money. He needs \$3500 to make it happen.

Tommy makes a deal with Norman Waxman, a loan shark. Norm gives tommy \$5,000, and warns Tommy about his total loan debt, now at \$16,000. Tommy brings the money to the guys, lying about where he got it. Crewe gives them a date and a time to record.

It’s the day of the recording and Bob is late. Bob says that on his way to meet the boys, the song “Sherry” pops into his head. He finally meets up with the band. They sing it to Crewe over the phone. He likes it. They record it on a Sunday afternoon, and Bob says that then the “whole world exploded.”

A radio announcer introduces the record, and shares that the band, The Four Seasons, will be performing that Saturday on American Bandstand. The scene shifts to the American Bandstand TV studio, and the boys sing “Sherry.” Gaudio shares their success; in three weeks they sell over a million records.



# SYNOPSIS

The boys sing “Big Girls Don’t Cry.” Gaudio got the idea for the song when he was watching a John Payne Western. In the movie, Payne smacks Rhonda across the mouth and asks her what she thinks of that. Her response is, “big girls don’t cry.” From there, the song was born.

The Four Seasons are back in the studio and are debating a new song, “Walk Like a Man.” Tommy isn’t sold on it, but they record it, singing “Walk Like a Man.” This gives them three hits in a row. Gaudio tries to get Frankie to make a partnership, saying that they would record outside of the group as well, and split everything in half. Frankie shakes on it, but says they need to be transparent with the group.

Gaudio sings, “December ’63 (Oh What a Night).” He tells the audience that they had their first cross-country tour, and the label sent them over some girls...the scene shifts to Christmas time. The boys and some “skimpily clad girls” are in a hotel suite with them. Gaudio goes off with one of the girls, implying that this night is the night that inspires the song.

Gaudio says that he now has anything he could want, with several hit songs and a new car. They go on tour with a girl’s group, The Angels. The girls sing “My Boyfriend’s Back.” In the car, Nick bugs Tommy about some money he took out of one of their accounts. Tommy brushes it off. Gaudio says that you have your real family, and your road family, which have different rules.

Frankie is at Mary’s house. Mary is drinking and confronts Frankie about his lack of connection to his kids and family. Frankie defends himself, saying he is providing for the family, but Mary doesn’t relent. She calls him a “dump wop from Jersey, who never graduated high school.” Frankie watches her walk away. Gaudio says that when Frankie and Mary split, Frankie claimed it was for the best, but no one really believed him. Frankie sings “My Eyes Adored You,” a song about a love left behind.

The boys sing “Dawn” and Gaudio shares how they weren’t as massive as the Beatles, a popular band at the same time, and that their fans weren’t flower hippies. Their fans were regular people who worked in the factories, were shipped overseas, or worked at diners or flipped burgers. Norman Waxman confronts Frankie, saying Tommy owes him a lot of money, \$150,000. The boys sing “Walk Like A Man,” as Tommy is confronted by his bandmates.

**END OF ACT 1**

# ACT 2



FALL

The second act opens with “Big Man in Town,” and Nick now addresses the audience. Although Gaudio would say the news of the \$150,000 started trouble with the group, Nick said it started much earlier. The story shifts to the Ohio State Fair after the end of a concert. An officer approaches Tommy and confronts him about an unpaid bill at The Holiday Inn, \$150. Tommy offers him the cash on the spot, but the officer declines. The boys are taken to the station to wait to be before the Judge, after the weekend.

Tommy, Bob Gaudio, Nick and Frankie are all in jail. Nicks says Gaudio never forgave Tommy for that weekend.

Tommy and Nick meet in an accountant’s office. Tommy tries to pull money from an account, despite his accountant’s warnings. Nick contemplates starting his own group.

Frankie meets Lorraine, a reporter, during an interview. They flirt, and Frankie tells her about the times he did B and E’s (breaking and entering), and about his mom, still set on staying in her old neighbourhood in New Jersey. He tells her about his daughter, Francine. They share a meaningful moment.

Lorraine interviews Tommy, and he hits on her. Frankie is enraged when Lorraine tells him. He doesn’t confront Tommy, but he fully freezes him out, looking through Tommy “like he didn’t exist.” Nick shares how this gutted Tommy, and the loss of Frankie’s respect spins Tommy into more gambling, digging him into deeper and deeper debt.

At the Sea Breeze Club, Frankie approaches Gyp DeCarlo, and asks if he can help out with Tommy’s \$150,000 debt. The boys sing “Beggin,” and the scene shifts into Gyp DeCarlo’s basement. Norm Waxman and the boys sit with Gyp at a table. Norm shares Tommy’s debt is now \$162,000. Nick loses it on Tommy, releasing frustration over Tommy’s laziness, unreasonable use of towels, sharing and an instance of him “pissing” in the sink. Ten years of dealing with Tommy’s annoyances, Nick is fed up. Gyp and Norm go for a walk, leaving Tommy and Nick to hash things out. Frankie then explodes on Tommy as well, saying he has never cared about the group, never wants to rehearse, he drives Nick to drink and is unfairly harsh to Bob. He says Tommy isn’t a true friend and that “part of me would really like to see you hurt.” Tommy lunges for Frankie, but Bob and Frankie split them up. Gyp and Norm come back. Frankie says to Norm that they will pay back everything that they owe him, and that the group, not just Tommy, takes on the debt. Norm says that it’s not enough and that the group needs to move to Vegas, so they can keep an eye on them until the debt is paid off. Bob says they should buy Tommy out. Frankie agrees, and they take on the loan and taxes.



# SYNOPSIS

The boys sing “Stay.” Nick says he wants to go home and quit the band, despite being the middle of a tour. Nick shares his failings as a father to the audience, and that when you sell a million records, it’s hard to handle.

Frankie and Bob sing “Let’s Hang On.”

## WINTER

Frankie addresses the audience. He shares his fondness for Nick, and how although he had what it took to achieve greatness, Nick decided to just walk away. Frankie could never really figure it out. He sings “Don’t Worry ‘Bout Me” in a recording studio. Bob says that he and Frankie need to find another two guys and start paying off the debt. Joe Long and Charlie Calello, enter as the new seasons, and they all sing “Don’t Worry Bout Me.” Bob says that Frankie should just go solo. Frankie doesn’t want to but agrees with a handshake.

At Mary’s house, Frankie and Mary meet about their daughter, Francine who is missing. Mary blames Frankie, saying that Francine needs her father to be around. The phone rings, and Frankie gets it. It’s Francine. He scolds her for worrying them, and Francine turns it on Frankie, saying that he’s been an absent father and she only wants to talk to her mom. Frankie rebukes her, causing her to hang up. “Bye, Bye, Baby” is played, and Frankie shares that Francine disappeared again, for two days with no calls.

Lorraine tells Frankie that she can’t be with him anymore. She criticizes him for being absent and taking on Tommy’s debts.

Frankie, Joe and Charlie sing “C’m on Marianne.” The label likes it but isn’t sure about the other song Gaudio wrote. Gaudio goes to the radio station directly to get it on the air. Marrienne does well, but the other song isn’t being played. Gaudio pushes Crewe to get it on the radio, but Crewe tells Gaudio the best way is to get the radio program director in the crowd during a live show so he can see how the crowds love it. The radios get flooded with requests for the song, revealed to be “Can’t Take My Eyes Off Of You.” After playing that hit song, the boys launch into “Workin My Way Back To You” officially as Frankie and the Four Seasons.

Frankie gets a phone call. It’s about Francine. She has died. Frankie stands on stage as a nurse passes him Francine’s personal items. Frankie talks to a priest, sharing she was only twenty-two. It’s implied that it was a drug overdose. While he processes her death, he sings “Fallen Angel.”



# SYNOPSIS

Time fast forwards to Crewe on stage saying that it's been 20 years since the group performed together. The boys, the original Four Seasons, Bob, Tommy, Nick and Frankie perform "Rag Doll." The boys catch up. Tommy is still in Vegas, Frankie has a new family with three boys. The boys are being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and Tommy exclaims that because it's from the people, it's the best award they could ever have receive. They jump back into the song.

The show closes with each of the Four Seasons reflecting in monologue. Tommy, says he now works for Joe Pesci. He says that people remember things as they want to but, in the end, he is the one that brought Frankie into the group for the first time, he put Gaudio in the band and he held it all together. He remarks how he is still important in his old neighbourhood.

Bob, in contrast says that he doesn't care about the old neighbourhood. He is currently in Nashville, enjoying time on his boat. He is still partners with Frankie. He shares how he was never comfortable in the spotlight, and he is happier with a quiet, peaceful life...although none of it would have happened without him.

Nick reveals that he didn't quit because of Tommy or the bad food, but because he just wanted to go home. He reflects that it may have been an ego thing, never being #1 in the group. Feeling like he was extra, he thought it was better to be with his kids.

Frankie shares that Nick died on Christmas Eve, 2000. He says that the high point of it all wasn't the Hall of Fame or selling the records. For him it was the "the first time we made that sound—our sound—when everything dropped away and all there was, was the music—that was the best." He closes, sharing that's why he is still singing, "chasing the music. Trying to get home."

They all sing "Who Loves You?" ending with the four of them in a final spotlight. For the final song, everyone comes out to sing "Oh What A Night!"

**End of Musical.**



# CHARACTERS

**FRANKIE VALLI:**

Lead vocalist for The Four Seasons. Father to Francine. Known for his impressive vocal range.

**TOMMY DEVITO:**

Guitarist of The Four Seasons. Founding member of the group. Struggles to manage the band and eventually gets into large debt.

**NICK MASSI:**

Bassist and arranger for The Four Seasons.

**BOB GAUDIO:**

Songwriter and keyboardist for The Four Seasons.

**BOB CREWE:**

Producer and composer for The Four Seasons.

**NICK DEVITO:**

Tommy's brother. Originally in a group with Tommy, and Nick Massi.

**GYP DECARLO:**

Mob boss, helps Tommy out when he gets himself into debt trouble.

**JOE "JOEY" PESCI:**

Teenager from Jersey, who works at the bowling alley. Recommends Gaudio to the other members.

**MARY DELGADO:**

First wife of Frankie Valli, mother to Francine.

**LORRAINE:**

A reporter, interviewing the band members. Later dates Frankie.

**NORM WAXMAN:**

Tommy's loan shark.

**FRANCINE VALLI:**

Frankie and Mary's daughter.

**ENSEMBLE:**

Various characters



# CONTEXT: THE FOUR SEASONS

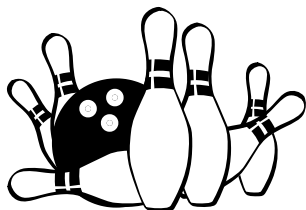
The Four Seasons were an iconic American vocal quartet beginning in 1960, Newark, New Jersey. Best remembered for Frankie Valli's falsetto, The Four Seasons were among the best-selling musical artists of the early to mid 1960s. Original members include Frankie Valli (lead vocalist), Tommy DeVito (baritone/guitar), Bob Gaudio (lead guitar/ music & lyrics), and Nick Massi (bass guitar).



Evolving from a vocal group featuring Valli and DeVito, Nick Massi joined while the group was still known as The Four Lovers. Performing in clubs and lounges throughout the late 50s and recording on music labels under different names, the group was completed by 16-year-old Bob Gaudio in 1959.

By 1960, the group was officially renamed the Four Seasons after a failed audition for a New Jersey bowling establishment by the same name. From here, the band hit their turning point and based on a handshake agreement between Gaudio and Valli, the Four Seasons Partnership was born.

Releasing their first album in 1962, which featured the hit song "Sherry", the band skyrocketed to fame with their Italian American doo-wop harmony-based style. Eventually, Nick Massi left the band in 1965, and the original group disbanded during the early 70s, though various iterations and combinations of the band followed. The Four Seasons were eventually inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1990 and later the New Jersey Hall of Fame in 2017.



*"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."*

*-Bob Gaudio*



## CONTEXT: THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS

Frankie Valli was born Francesco Stephen Castelluccio (b. May 3, 1934) to an Italian family in Newark, New Jersey. Valli grew up the eldest of three brothers and was raised in a public housing project in New Jersey. At age seven, Valli saw Frank Sinatra perform and decided then and there to become a singer.

In the early years of his career, Valli worked as a barber until he was able to support himself with his music and the Four Seasons. He married his first wife, Mary Mandel, in 1954 and adopted her child, Celia, from a previous relationship before going on to have two more children, Antonia and Francine, together.

When the Four Seasons skyrocketed to fame in the 1960s, Frankie became an overnight sensation for his iconic falsetto. He continued to perform throughout the 60s and 70s, eventually separating from his first wife in 1971. The Four Seasons eventually broke up in 1977 and Frankie continued with his solo career.

In 1980, Valli experienced the loss of two of his daughters in the span of a few months. Celia died by falling off a fire escape while Francine died by an accidental drug overdose. Valli quoted as saying “It was a very tough period for me. You would think that as time went by it would get easier, but it doesn’t. You should never lose a child.”

Frankie Valli has been married four times and is the father to six children from his relationships. In 1990, Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and in 2017, the New Jersey Hall of Fame. In October 2023, Valli said this would be his farewell tour, ending the group’s 64 year run with his retirement.

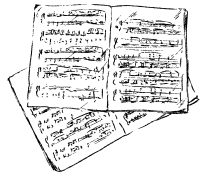


**FRANKIE VALLI**

## TOMMY DEVITO



Gaetano “Tommy” DeVito (b. June 19, 1928 — d. Sept 21, 2020) was born in Belleville, New Jersey, the youngest of nine children. At age eight, DeVito taught himself to play the guitar listening to country music and by age twelve, he was playing for tips in neighborhood bars. DeVito quit school after eighth grade and describes himself as a “...menace to everybody.” In an interview with the Las Vegas Review Journal, he talks about being locked up in his youth “in six or seven jails” even going to prison once, although this fact was kept from the public to protect the group’s image and reputation.



## CONTEXT: THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS

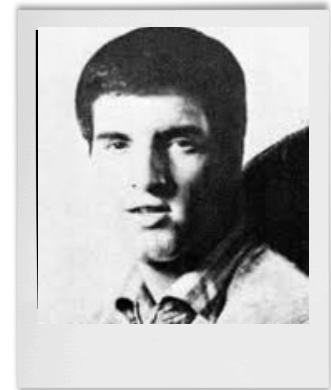
The band initially began as backup for producer Bob Crewe and during this time adopted the name, The Four Seasons. Eventually the group rose to fame and DeVito left the group in 1970, initially stating he “had had it up to here with the travelling and changing clothes.” It was later revealed he had a gambling problem and had significant debt. DeVito sold his rights to the Four Seasons’ materials, name, and touring act to Gaudio and Valli.

Between 1970 and the group’s induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990, times were difficult for DeVito who had moved to Las Vegas. After settling his debts and a divorce, he worked dealing cards, cleaning houses, and odd jobs to stay afloat. DeVito spoke about how he learned from this experience in a 2009 interview with the Las Vegas Review Journal, stating “You can always learn, no matter how old you are. And I learned pretty fast.”

DeVito eventually remarried and attended opening night of *Jersey Boys*, alongside Gaudio and Valli. He died September 21, 2020 in Las Vegas at the age of 92 after contracting COVID-19 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

### BOB GAUDIO

Robert “Bob” John Gaudio (b. November 17, 1942) is an American songwriter, singer, musician, and producer, best known for being a member of the Four Seasons. Unlike the other members of the group, Gaudio was born in the Bronx, New York. The family moved to a suburb in New Jersey when Gaudio was 12, due to him getting in trouble with some local gangs. However, Gaudio grew up in a more comfortable, middle-class environment than the other members of the Four Seasons.



He began playing the keyboard at a young age and rose to fame at age 15 as a member of the Royal Teens, dropping out of high school to tour with the group. He co-wrote the music hit “Short Shorts” and while promoting the single in 1958, met Valli and the group. He ceased touring with the Royal Teens and joined the band one year later.

The group kept busy with session work and performances at clubs and lounges. In 1962, Gaudio wrote “Sherry”, the Seasons’ first No.1 hit. He continued to write a string of subsequent successful songs for the Four Seasons, with producer Bob Crewe assisting with lyrics.

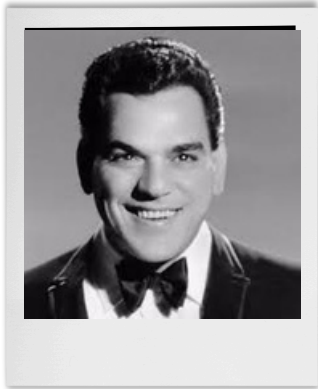
In 1970, Gaudio stopped performing, stating the limelight had always made him “uncomfortable”. He turned his focus to producing and songwriting, while making what would become an infamous 50-50 handshake deal, with Frankie Valli, that still survives five decades later.

Gaudio is considered to be instrumental in the creation of *Jersey Boys*, however he points out that while “he may have had an idea for a show, others brought it to fruition.” He does acknowledge that while few people get to watch an actor portray them onstage, “it is a little awkward.” Gaudio eventually retired to Nashville, Tennessee after a long career working with artists such as Frank Sinatra, Michael Jackson, Barry Manilow, Diana Ross, Neil Diamond, and many more. Valli and Gaudio remain close friends to this day.



## CONTEXT: THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS

### NICK MASSI



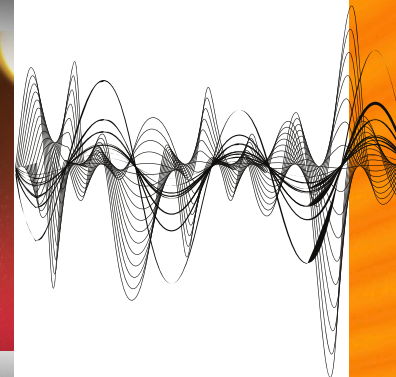
Nicholas E. Macioci (b. September 19, 1927 – December 24, 2000) was an American bass guitarist, bass vocalist, and songwriter. He is best known for his work in the Four Seasons, under the stage name, Nick Massi.

Massi was born in Newark, New Jersey and started his music career learning to play the bass fiddle. In a neighborhood where most boys either joined the mob or the military, Massi joined the US Army. After finishing his service, Massi decided to pursue a career in music.

Before joining the group, Nick Massi married his high school sweetheart, with whom he would have three children with, which would be a factor in his later departure from the Four Seasons. He joined the group as the Four Lovers in 1958, where he would meet DeVito and Valli. Valli credits Massi as one of his most influential mentors in the music business.

Massi was responsible for most of the group's vocal arrangements and is credited with taking a more scientific, "open harmony" approach to arrangements that differed from doo-wop music before. However, he left the group in 1965, tired of the touring lifestyle and infighting in the group but also due to a desire to have a solo career. He was temporarily replaced by Charles Calello, who was then replaced by Joe Long.

Massi continued to work as a producer, vocal coach, and audio engineer, focusing on local New Jersey talent. Massi and his wife remained married and lived in West Orange, New Jersey until his death. He was aware of plans to make Jersey Boys and gave his approval, with his widow describing it as her "favorite musical". Massi died of liver cancer (allegedly brought on by alcoholism and mental health struggles) on December 24, 2000. He was posthumously recognized into the New Jersey Hall of Fame in 2017, alongside DeVito, Valli, Gaudio, and Joe Long.



# CONTEXT: THE FIRST WARD

Now called Seventh Avenue, the First Ward was a neighborhood in the city of Newark, New Jersey once known as Newark's Little Italy. In its prime, this community had a population of 30,000 over an area of less than a square mile.

Considered to be the 'quintessential' Italian neighborhood, the First Ward was filled with Italian social clubs, markets, grocers, bakeries, and businesses. The neighborhood came to life with lights, music, and fireworks during its religious celebrations and feasts dedicated to patron saints from Italy. These celebrations often took place around St. Lucy's Church which remains a landmark for those who would soon be displaced from the neighborhood.

In 1953, the working class and Italian-American neighborhood were subject to urban renewal efforts by developers and the city government, which was also the beginning of redlining (a discriminatory practice in which financial services are withheld from neighborhoods that have significant numbers of racial and ethnic minorities) practices in this area. The residents of the neighborhood were scattered, and crime rates grew. Although the area has been rebuilding since, the Italian community and many of its businesses never recovered. While there is a large gap in historical records regarding the First Ward, many people, such as author Michael Immerso, are working to remember the vibrant community that created and raised musical icons like the Four Seasons.

"Realizing this gap in the historical record, Immerso decided he would write a history of the First Ward that would encompass more than just his family's memories. He reached out to the community requesting photographs, stories and documents, and partnered with the Newark Public Library to create an archive to hold these priceless materials.

The response Immerso received to the request for information on the First Ward was overwhelming. He received over 60,000 photographs, selected 500 to place in the Newark Library's archive, and used 160 of those to visually tell the history of the neighborhood in his book. The photographs are captivating and communicate volumes about the lives of the Italian immigrants, their families, their businesses, and their culture."

—Pamela Dorazio Dean, *La Nostra Voce on Newark's Little Italy: The Vanished First Ward*



# CONTEXT: FAMILIAR FACES

## THE ANGELS



The Angels were an American girl group, originating from New Jersey. They are best known for their 1963 hit, "My Boyfriend's Back".

## Angelo "Gyp" DeCarlo



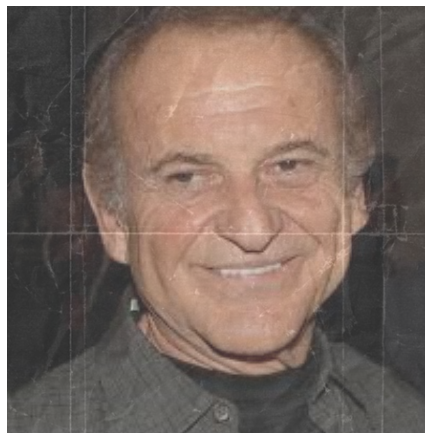
Angelo DeCarlo (b.1902 – d.1973) was an American mobster and member of the New York Genovese crime family. DeCarlo was the subject of a two-year federal investigation, and his subsequent conviction revealed the corruption among New Jersey public officials and tied Frank Sinatra to organized crime.

## THE ROYAL TEENS



THE ROYAL TEENS WERE AN AMERICAN ROCK AND ROLL BAND. THEY WERE FORMED IN NEW JERSEY. BOB GAUDIO WAS AN ORIGINAL MEMBER.

## Joe Pesci



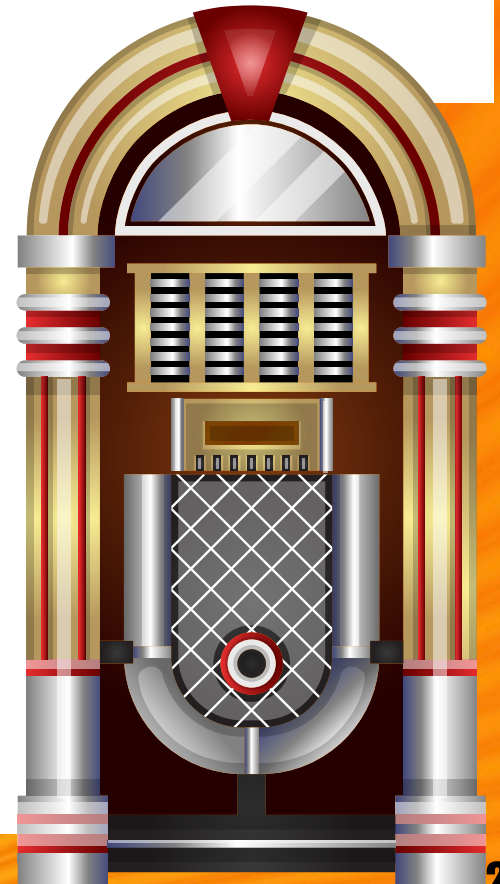
Joe Pesci is an American actor, best known for his roles as tough and violent characters. Joe Pesci introduced Gaudio to DeVito and Valli. Pesci and DeVito remained friends for the rest of DeVito's life. During the 1970's when DeVito was struggling, Pesci added the musician to his payroll and even offered him cameo roles in some films.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS- PRE SHOW

1. Have you every seen a musical before? How would you describe a musical?
2. If you could be famous for anything, what would it be? What are some positives and negatives that come with fame or great success?
3. Do you know what a jukebox is? What might a Jukebox\* musical include?

*\*Jukebox Musical: A musical which includes popular songs from an existing artist/group or genre of music. Mamma Mia is another example of a jukebox musical.*

4. *Jersey Boys* begins in the 1960s. How do you think life was different in the 1960s then it is today?







# **POST-ATTENDENCE RESOURCES**

**In the following pages,  
you will find resources  
that may be helpful before  
attending the show**



# **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS- POST SHOW**

- 1. What song or scene stood out to you from the musical?**
- 2. What did you notice about the design elements in the show (costumes, set, lighting, hair, makeup)?**
- 3. Do you think musicians today face the same challenges as the band members of the Four Seasons?**
- 4. The characters in the musical often use a song to communicate a specific emotion or experience. What can music/song do, that spoken text cannot?**
- 5. Tommy has a lot of pride in his neighbourhood in Jersey. What are the best parts about your own neighbourhood?**
- 6. The musical ends sharing different perspectives from the band members (Frankie, Tommy, Nick, and Bob). Was there one perspective you felt was more accurate?**
- 7. Compare the Four Seasons music style and choreography to music groups today (K-Pop groups for example). Differences? Similarities?**



# ACTIVITY #1

## 1960s Tableau Photo album



Drama / Musical Theatre - Any Grade

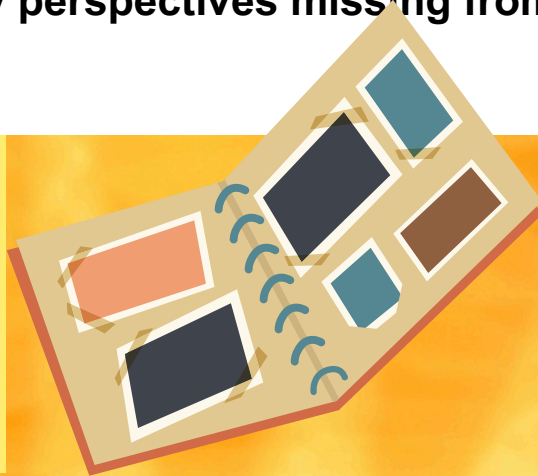
**Tableau:** A live “frozen picture” created by the actors freezing in a specific physical stance and facial expression.

Project the attached archival images or have them printed out. Get Students in small groups recreate the images, one at a time, in tableau. They will use only their bodies to transform into the people/objects/animal or natural elements that they see.

**Level up – Bring the tableau to life.** Ask the students to freeze in a tableau, prompted by one of the photos. Ask students to say a sentence that come to mind as their object/animal/person. Start by getting them to share out loud all at once, then teacher walks around and gently tap students on the shoulder (or call their name) to share out individually.

**Level up – Create a scene (2 minutes max),** inspired by one of the photographs. The scene must start and end in tableau.

- **Ask After:** From looking and improvising out of the photos, what are you curious about with life in the 1960s?
- **Ask After:** Were any perspectives missing from the photos?



# ACTIVITY #1 1960s Tableau Photo album



**FRANKIE VALLI AND THE FOUR SEASONS ALBUM COVER.**

**JERSEY BOYS POSTER  
ARTS CLUB THEATRE COMPANY**



# ACTIVITY #1 1960s Tableau Photo album

## 1960S STREET PHOTOGRAPHY #2. VANCOUVER

View of West Cordova Street from Carrall Street ca. 1960  
[City of Vancouver archives](#)



## THE FOUR SEASONS



# ACTIVITY #2 – JUKEBOX LIP SYNC BATTLE

Drama / Music / Musical Theatre

TASK: In small groups, students will create a short Lip Sync!

## WATCH

- A video of Frank Valli and The Four Seasons performing  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jVUk\\_iPZyc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jVUk_iPZyc)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pWBnodrR1M>
- A video of BTS (or another more recent music group) performing  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xl95nHzaJs>
- Lip Sync Battle, Zendaya 24 K Magic  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9PLIZwhbtc>



Divide students into groups of 4—5. Give each group a song from the musical. Using this excerpt from the song, they must create a lip sync performance for approximately 1 minute. They should focus on:

- Big facial expressions/ lip syncing
- Adding SYNCHRONIZED movement
- Range of use of space/levels
- Have fun and entertain!!

(Optional: Students use mics/hairbrushes to sing into. Level up: add costumes and lights to make it a fun spectacle.)



# **BEGGIN'**

**Mmmm...Put your lovin' hand out, baby...  
..I'm Beggin'...**

**(Group) & Frankie**

**(Beggin'!), Beggin' You, put your lovin' hand out, baby!(baby!)  
(Beggin'!), Beggin' You, put your lovin' hand out, baby!(baby!)**

**Frankie-**

**Ridin' high when I was king  
Playnin' it hard and fast cause I had everything  
Walked away, and warned me then  
That easy come and easy go and it would end**

**(Group)**

**I need you to understand  
That I'm trying so hard to be your man  
The kind of man you'd want in the end  
Only then can I begin to live again**

**(Group) & Frankie**

**(Beggin'!), Beggin' You, wont you give your hand out, baby?(baby!)  
(Beggin'!), Beggin' You, put your lovin' hands out, baby!(baby!)**





# **BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY**

**Big girls don't cry  
Big girls don't cry**

**Big girls don't cry-yi-yi (they don't cry)  
Big girls don't cry (who said they don't cry?)  
My girl said goodbye-yi-yi (my oh my)  
My girl didn't cry (I wonder why)**

**(Silly boy) told my girl we had to break up  
(Silly boy) hoped that she would call my bluff  
(Silly boy) then she said to my surprise  
?Big girls don't cry?**

**Big girls don't cry-yi-yi (they don't cry)  
Big girls don't cry (who said they don't cry?)**

**(Maybe) I was cru-u-uel (I was cruel)  
Baby I'm a fool (I'm such a fool)**

**(Silly girl) Shame on you? Your mama said  
(Silly girl) Shame on you, you're cryin in bed?  
(Silly girl) Shame on you, you told me lies? Big girls do cry)**





# **CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF OF YOU**

**You're just too good to be true  
Can't take my eyes off of you  
You'd be like heaven to touch  
I wanna hold you so much**

**At long last love has arrived  
And I thank God I'm alive  
You're just too good to be true  
Can't take my eyes off of you**

**Pardon the way that I stare  
There's nothing else to compare  
The sight of you leaves me weak  
There are no words left to speak  
So if you feel like I feel  
Please let me know that it's real  
You're just too good to be true  
Can't take my eyes off of you**

**I love you baby and if it's quite all right  
I need you baby to warm the lonely nights  
I love you baby, trust in me when I say  
Oh pretty baby, don't bring me down I pray**

**Oh pretty baby, now that I've found you stay  
And let me love you baby, let me love you**



# **CRY FOR ME**

I cried for you  
Now cry for me  
No, no i don't love you anymore  
Cry for me



Well, you had your fun  
(don't go baby)  
With someone new  
(don't go baby)  
Girl, now you want me to take you back  
(don't go baby)  
We're all through

Cuz now i'm leavin'  
(Ah, ah)  
No, no make believin'  
(Ah, ah)  
You made a fool o' me  
(Ah, ah, ah)  
So now i'm leavin' you  
(A-ahhh)

Love you so  
(don't go baby-ay)  
Much more than you'll ever know  
(don't go baby-ay)  
But you just cheated and you lied  
(don't go baby-ay)  
G'won and cry for me



# **WALK LIKE A MAN**



**Oh how you tried to cut me down to size  
Telling dirty lies to my friends  
But my own father said give her up don't bother  
The world isn't coming to an end**

**(he said just) Walk like a man  
Talk like a man  
Walk like a man my son  
No woman's worth  
Crawling on the earth  
Just walk like a man my son**

**Good-bye baby I dont mean maybe  
I'm gonna get along somehow  
Soon you'll be cryin on account of all your lyin  
Oh yeah just look who's laughing now**

**(I'm gonna) walk like a man  
Fast as I can  
Walk like a man from you  
I'll tell the world to forget about it girl  
And walk like a man from you**



# **BIG MAN IN TOWN**



**Big man in town...**

**Each day as I grow older,  
The nights are getting colder.  
Some day the sun will shine on me.  
Money, I don't have any:  
I'm down to my last penny,  
But, darling, don't cry over me:**

**I'll be a big man in town (honest, honey)  
I'll be a big man in town (promise, darling)  
I'll be a big man in town, just you wait and see:  
You'll be proud of me.**

**They think that I'm a rover,  
But my roving days are over.  
Someday your folks will welcome me.  
I went away a small man,  
But I'll come home a tall man.  
Then what a pretty bride you'll be.**

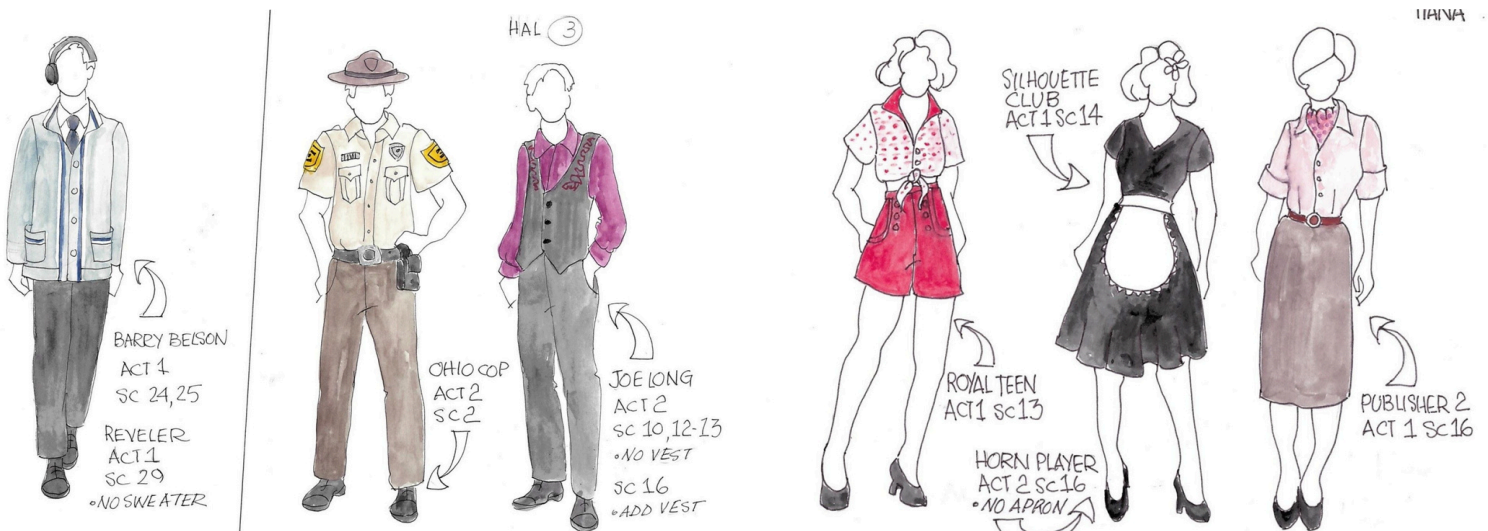


# Activity #3 – Costume Design

Drama / Musical Theatre - Any Grade

- Ask Before: Why do you think the playwright choose to break up the play into four sections Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter?
- Ask Before: Were these shifts in seasons communicated in the design or tone of scenes?

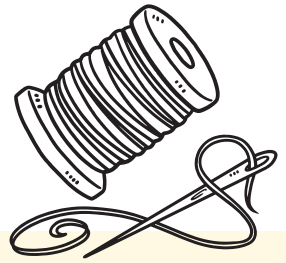
**TASK:** You are now a Broadway Costume Designer! In small groups, create a theatrical Jersey Boys Suit design. It must be inspired by **ONE** of the following Seasons: **SPRING, SUMMER, FALL, WINTER.**



## DESIGN CREDITS

**Barbara Clayden** Costume Designer  
**Sarah Sosick** Assistant Costume Designer

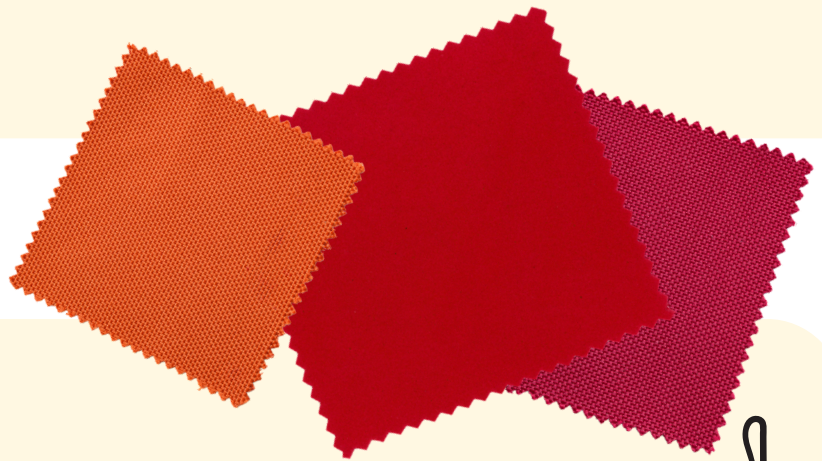
# Activity #3 – Costume Design



**STEP ONE: Choose the Season**

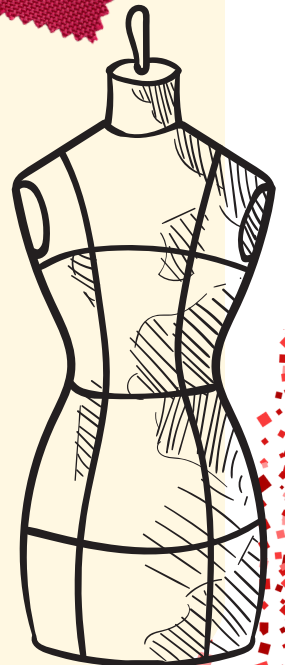
**STEP TWO: Brainstorm (Colours, textures, materials, function). Create a vision/mood board/collage. This can be done on a PowerPoint slide, Canva or on a piece of paper, creating a collage with cut outs from magazines/old books.**

**STEP THREE: Using the template provided, create the design mock up. Colour with pencil crayons, felts or use paints. Another option is to collage using other paper/printed photos.**



**To consider while designing:**

- **Consider the colour palette associated with your seasons. What do you see outside in your neighbourhood/city during this season?**
- **Consider the style of the jacket and pants. Use the template provided, but you can add length, height, wide, etc. (more advanced classes can design an outline themselves)**
- **How will you make your design theatrical, so it is captivating to the audience member in the back row? (Sparkle, texture, dimension)**



# Costume Design

Name:



## **Activity #3 – Costume Design**

### **Debrief:**

- **Ask After:** What surprised you about the design process?
- **Ask After:** How did the season inform your design choices?
- **Ask After:** What did you want to communicate through the design?



## Activity #4

### Letter from the Future (Dream Big)!



**Task:** Write a letter from the future, as your future self, pretending to write to yourself today. The scenario? You accomplished your biggest dream! This letter is to give yourself some advice, and encouragement on how you did it. Include: what dream you accomplished, how you did it (the little steps, goals), how you kept yourself going on the hard days, the values stuck to, and who supported you along the way.

**Example dreams:** Write and produce a play, become an actor in a TV show, become a doctor and cure a specific illness, build your own house, become a pro basketball player, compete in the Olympics, start your own business, travel to a specific country, learn a new language.

- Before Ask: What were the dreams of the band members? Did they accomplish these dreams?
- Before Ask: What do you think it takes to be a successful artist?
- Before Ask: Did the Four Seasons get support from those around them?



1) What is a dream I have? In 15 years, I want to accomplish...Think big! Be bold!

# Brainstorm Your Letter

2) How will I accomplish this? What are the little goals I need to accomplish to get to the big goals. (Habits, small steps)

4) What are my personal values that I will stick to during this journey?

3) How will I be resilient even when it's hard?

5) What community will I seek support from when I need it (family, friends, team, teacher)

6) What is life like in the future? (be creative, tell them about life/culture/inventions)

# The Letter!

(Use your brainstorm planning sheet as a guide)

Dear Self,

I'm writing to you from the future, to tell you congratulations! You did it. You accomplished your dream of \_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

## **Activity #4 – Letter From The Future**

### **Debrief:**

- **After Ask: What was it like to write this from the perspective of your future self?**
- **After Ask: Why do you think some people are scared to pursue their dreams?**

# RESOURCES

BC curriculum: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum>

About Frankie Valli: <https://frankievallifourseasons.com/bio/>

About the Four Seasons: <https://www.edsullivan.com/artists/the-four-seasons/>

Original Broadway Jersey Boys Cast Recording:

<https://open.spotify.com/album/5sCVURwZOOd13unG0uJmNX?si=TLQRpzIMRhqA-BiAYgPlww>

More About the Four Seasons: <https://www.last.fm/music/The+Four+Seasons/+wiki>

Jersey Boys New York Production: <https://jerseyboysinfo.com/newyork/video>

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