

Behind the Scenes with Geoffrey Whynot, Director for *A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline*

A special event performance has been added to the 10|11 Season – *A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline*, running June 7 to 26. Tickets have been selling beyond expectation - so well, in fact, that the performance dates have been twice extended to meet demand.

The live musical follows the life of Patsy Cline, legendary country and western music sensation, as she climbs to stardom from small town Virginia to Carnegie Hall.

Director Geoffrey Whynot was excited to talk to us about the project, giving us a behind the scenes glimpse at the creation of an exceptional concert experience in a theatre-in-the-round....

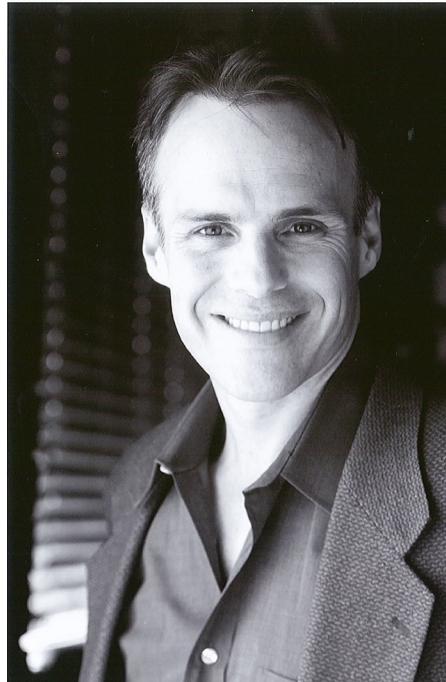
On finding Patsy

While researching the project, Whynot selected specific traits he thought would make an actor ideal for the lead role.

"We needed someone that could believably play (age) thirty and under, with great poise and stillness because she didn't move very much for her TV spots. "

Whynot also discovered that although Patsy Cline is considered a country music star, her voice and talent really transcend a specific genre. He needed to find a singer with a deeper voice that could capture her unique style.

There were hundreds of submissions to audition for the role, but Amy Sellors, a Toronto-based actor, had "the full package" according to Whynot. Sellors



has been in a variety of shows, from two seasons with the Stratford Shakespeare Festival to Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors* at the Red Barn Theatre.

Whynot is also excited to reconnect with actor Duncan Fisher (Little Big Man), a Globe Theatre Conservatory graduate and an accomplished Regina actor who was on cast with Whynot in *A Christmas Carol* in 2007.

On the performance

With a band of live Saskatchewan musicians working under musical director Craig Salkeld, the play will provide a wonderful opportunity to blend theatre and music into a magical evening that audiences of all ages will enjoy. *A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline* is one of only two shows sanctioned by the Patsy

Cline estate – it stays true to life as a tribute to her spirit and a celebration of the music of her life.

On working in a theatre-in-the-round

Whynot is a gifted director who has worked in theatre for almost twenty-five years. He's no stranger to Globe Theatre, having directed over a dozen shows since 2003 and participating as an instructor in two seasons of the Globe Conservatory program. *A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline* is his first concert style musical in Globe Theatre's unique set up.

"Working in a theatre-in-the-round is not a challenge - it's an advantage. The actors are allowed to play in all directions. They're usually dictated by the space, but it's really an opportunity," said Whynot. "The trick will be to give everyone a personal experience while allowing the actors to be in the reality of a concert situation."

On working with Globe Theatre

"It's an awesome experience all around. When I meet someone, I tell them I 'wish Globe Theatre' on them. It's unusual for me that a whole organization is about putting on the show – all about the art. Not just actors or designers, but everyone from administration to the board." §

A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline runs from June 7 - 26, 2011.