



Come From Away to Mark GMG Productions' First Filipino-Led Production

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Manila – The remarkable true story that has touched the hearts of audiences worldwide is finally opening in Manila. GMG Productions and Stages have confirmed today that they will be staging their own fresh take on the multi-award-winning hit musical, *Come From Away*. Showcasing a new creative vision for the production and the talents of a Filipino-led cast and creatives, this production is a milestone in GMG Production's dedication to celebrating and elevating the Philippine theatre industry. *Come From Away* will be staged at the Samsung Performing Arts Theater (S-PAT) for a strictly limited season from June 6 to 29, 2025.

"With Come From Away, GMG Productions is proud to embark on this exciting new chapter, working with a Filipino-led cast and crew for the first time," shares **Carlos Candal**, CEO of GMG Productions. *"This production is a celebration of the incredible talent in the Philippines, and we cannot wait to share this powerful story with audiences."*

Audie Gemora founder of Stages Productions adds *"I along with Butch Jimenez and Jaeger Tanco have had the privilege to work with GMG in the past. We're thrilled to reveal that Stages will be co-producing Come From Away with GMG. Our collective desire has always been to produce a show championing Filipino talent with them. We all believe this is the perfect show to do just that!"*

A Musical That Inspires in Challenging Times

Set in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, *Come From Away* tells the remarkable true story of 7,000 airline passengers unexpectedly grounded in Gander, Newfoundland. The extraordinary generosity of the town's residents highlights the power of kindness and unity in times of crisis. Premiering on Broadway in 2017, the musical garnered widespread acclaim for its heartfelt storytelling, powerful music, and its portrayal of the human spirit. The Chicago Tribune called it *"a show you should see right now, for the benefit of your own spirit,"* while Time Out described it as *"a totally, soul-feedingly wonderful musical."* The Daily Beast hailed the show as *"a celebration of the best of humankind and an uplifting piece of art for our times."*

Come From Away has received well-deserved recognition in the industry, including winning the Tony Award for Best Direction and being nominated for Best Musical. It has also won multiple Olivier Awards, including Best New Musical, Best Theatre Choreography, Best Sound Design, Outstanding Achievement in Music, and the Drama Desk Awards for Outstanding Musical and Outstanding Book of a Musical.

"This show offers more than just a night at the theatre; it's an inspiring celebration of humanity and people coming together," says Candal. *"It's a story that Manila audiences will not only relate to but will also find profoundly uplifting, especially in today's unpredictable times."*

A Legendary Ensemble and Visionary Creatives



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Come From Away brings together an all-star cast of Philippine theatre legends, whose collective achievements have left a mark on the local and international stages. The cast of 15 performers includes Cathy Azanza-Dy, Caisa Borromeo, Garrett Bolden, Mikkie Bradshaw-Volante, Becca Coates, Steven Cadd, Mayen Cadd, Rycharde Everley, Topper Fabregas, Sheila Francisco, Carla Guevara Laforteza, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Gian Magdangal, George Schulze, and Chino Veguillas.

"Come From Away is the perfect vehicle to showcase home-grown talent as the musical requires versatile actors to play different characters," says Gemora. "Let me tell you, we have assembled the best of the best Philippine theater has to offer. The energy surrounding this production is through the roof! This is going to be epic."

Michael Williams is set to direct *Come From Away*, with Rony Fortich as musical director. *"This show is a testament to the power of community—how kindness, resilience, and human connection bring hope even in the darkest times. I'm thrilled to work with some of the most talented artists in Philippine theater to bring our passion and storytelling to this incredible production,"* says Williams.

They are joined by Delphine Buencamino (Choreography), Harry Tabner (Lighting Designer), Luke Swaffield (Sound Designer), Kayla Teodoro (Production Designer), Myrene Santos (Hair and Makeup Designer), Hershee Tatiado (Costume Designer), and Joel Goldes the dialect coach from the original Broadway production of *Come From Away*. Together, this world-class creative team blends Filipino and West End talents, staying true to the show's spirit while highlighting Filipino artistry.

Be Part of the Journey

Come From Away will run from June 6 to 29 at the Samsung Performing Arts Theater (S-PAT), with tickets officially available on February 22 through TicketWorld, starting at PHP900. Theatre fans can also enjoy early access through UnionBank of the Philippines, GMG Productions' official 2025 season bank sponsor and pre-sale partner, or join the GMG *Come From Away* waitlist at www.gmg-productions.com. The pre-sale period runs from February 18 to 21.

Stay updated on upcoming productions by visiting www.gmg-productions.com or following @gmg.productions on social media.

**Come From Away is presented through a special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI), New York, NU, USA. All authorized performance materials are supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com*



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About the Show

Come From Away is the remarkable true story of 7,000 airline passengers stranded in Gander, Newfoundland, in the wake of 9/11. As fear and uncertainty gripped the world, the people of Gander opened their homes, offering warmth, generosity, and hope to strangers from all walks of life. Winner of multiple Tony, Olivier, and Drama Desk Awards, this critically acclaimed musical is a testament to the power of empathy and the connections that unite humanity in times of crisis.

Come From Away features a book, music, and lyrics by Irene Sankoff and David Hein. The Manila production is directed by Michael Williams, with musical direction by Rony Fortich. Choreography by Delphine Buencamino, lighting design by Harry Tabner, sound design by Luke Swaffield, production design by Kayla Teodoro. Hair and makeup design by Myrene Santos, costume design by Hershee Tatiado, and dialect coaching by Joel Goldes

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MANILA

Samsung Performing Arts Theater (S-PAT)
Hippodromo St, Circuit Makati, Makati,
Playing from June 2025

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ABOUT GMG PRODUCTIONS

GMG Productions (GMGP), headquartered in Manila, is recognized globally as a leading name in the Asia Pacific's theatrical landscape. With a legacy spanning over 15 years, the GMGP team has consistently elevated Manila's entertainment scene, presenting iconic productions such as Andrew Lloyd Webber's CATS, Royal Shakespeare Company's MATILDA the Musical, and The Phantom of the Opera alongside crowd-favorite productions like The Sound of Music, We Will Rock You in Manila and Singapore, and an Australian/ New Zealand tour of Madagascar the Musical.

In 2023, GMGP made history by hosting the Asian Premiere of the Tony®, Grammy®, Olivier, and Pulitzer Prize-winning musical, HAMILTON, in Manila, staying true to their commitment to bringing world-class theatrical experiences to the Filipino audience. With a diverse portfolio and partnerships with Broadway and West End giants, GMGP remains a driving force in the world of live entertainment. Most recently, GMGP served as the local presenter of Cameron Mackintosh's new production of Miss Saigon and the Tony® award winner, SIX the Musical. *Follow GMG Productions at @gmg.productions.*

ABOUT STAGES

Lean, mean and tight-knit. Music, theater and advertising are our roots. Entertainment is our gist. As an elite group of artists, communicators, production experts and strategic thinkers, we are sought after for our ability to build content, which will either be featured onstage or posted online - occasionally, both. Over the 20-or-so years that we've been in business, we've crossed seas, we've crossed platforms, we've grown 4 brands to respond to a range of demands.



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