# Belfast Actor Mark Dugdale Stars in 'Come From Away' Musical Depicting Human Kindness Amidst 9/11 Tragedy



### Mark Dugdale Brings "Come From Away" to Belfast

Mark Dugdale, a Belfast-born actor, is performing in the critically acclaimed musical "Come From Away," which opens in Belfast tomorrow as part of its new Britain and Ireland tour. The show is based on the real experiences of 7,000 air passengers who were stranded in the small town of Gander, Newfoundland, following the 9/11 attacks.

Dugdale, originally from Andersonstown, previously performed in the West End production of the musical. He highlights that many audience members who experienced being stranded during 9/11 have approached him to share their stories. This includes a man from Belfast who watched the show in Leeds and a former Aer Lingus crew member who attended in Dublin.

The Gander community's extraordinary response during the crisis—providing shelter, food, and comfort—was captured by Canadian writers Irene Sankoff and David Hein. This narrative has been shared globally, seeing productions in Canada, Broadway, Dublin, and London. Dugdale emphasizes the relatable nature of the musical, saying that Belfast audiences, known for their good nature, will appreciate the story's human kindness.

"Come From Away" features twelve cast members who share the limelight and take on multiple roles. Dugdale's primary character is Kevin, a passenger inspired by the warmth of Gander's residents, leading him to establish a charity called "9/11 Pay It Forward." The show runs without an interval to maintain the momentum and urgency of the real-life events.

"Come From Away" is playing at the Grand Opera House in Belfast from June 25 to June 29.