



Stumptown Orange

THE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI CLUB  
OF GREATER PORTLAND, OREGON

# COME FROM AWAY

FEBRUARY 26, 2019



Going to the theater is fun ... but occasionally it can be work. That was the case on Feb. 26 when about a dozen Stumptowners attended opening night of *Come From Away* at Keller Auditorium. Opening night offered both privileges and drawbacks. Among the opening night problems were scenery trucks caught in snow on their way from Las Vegas, which prompted a late decision to delay curtain time by an hour. Then sound issues in Keller Auditorium delayed things almost another 30 minutes. When the band finally struck up the first tune near 9:00pm there was certainly a sigh of relief from the audience.

But then the show, not its logistics, took center stage and won the crowd over. The show – about Gander, a small Newfoundland town on 9/11, and how it welcomed 7,000 accidental tourists – was poignant, funny and tuneful.

After the show ended, another event specific to opening night occurred: an audience “chat back” with a producer of the show (below, left), cast members and even former Mayor Derm Flynn (right) of one of the Newfoundland communities which stepped up to help the stranded airline passengers on that fateful day. As luck would have it, two members of the chat back audience were among those actually stranded at Gander on 9/11, so we heard their stories as well as the comments of those involved with the show. It was an interesting way to end a long but fun evening of theater ... before heading out into the snow!



Our own **Lynda Bersani '78** (below, second from right) and her friend and fellow Canadian Gloria Krahn got a chance to stand with some Mounties before the show. And **Howard Groopman '72** (right) was also among the Stumptowners who joined in the fun. Thanks to everyone who endured the delays and dealt with the snowy ride home to join us at Keller Auditorium.

