

Toronto Is Assured a *White Christmas* in Late 2007

By [Kenneth Jones](#)

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The splashy [Walter Bobbie](#) production of *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* will make its Canadian debut in November at Toronto's Hummingbird Centre for the Performing Arts.

Dan Brambilla, the CEO of The Hummingbird Centre, told Playbill.com, "I am delighted to be bringing this fantastic, first-class stage production to Toronto. Watching the movie, 'White Christmas,' has become a tradition for Canadians, which is why we are confident that our seven-week run will sell-out quickly. This past season the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* attracted audiences from Toronto as well as from the entire [region]. We anticipate that *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* will be another strong tourist attraction."

Specific dates have not been announced for the commercial production, which, like stagings in San Francisco, Detroit, Los Angeles, Boston and Minneapolis, will be produced by The Producing Office, Paul Blake, Dan Markley and Sonny Everett in association with Paramount Pictures.

A cast recording of the new stage property was released by Ghostlight Records.

Drawn from the musical motion picture that has songs by Irving Berlin, *White Christmas* has a libretto by Paul Blake and David Ives, with choreography by Randy Skinner (*42nd Street*).

Casting will be announced in the coming months. The Toronto Star reported that the cast would include Canadian performers. At least one veteran of Bobbie's *White Christmas* has roots in Ontario: Broadway vet Graham Rowat, raised in Peterborough, Ontario, starred in the Bing Crosby role of Bob Wallace in the show's engagements in Detroit (2006) and San Francisco (2005). He snagged rave reviews for his Feb. 5 turn in the starry Los Angeles concert version of *Baby*, opposite Alice Ripley.

For more information about the Hummingbird Centre for the Performing Arts, www.hummingbirdcentre.com.



Toronto will have a *White Christmas*.