

# BIOGRAPHY

Marcus Nance has captivated audiences across Canada and the United States with his magnetic stage presence and lustrous bass-baritone voice. Vocalist and actor, he is equally at home in theatre, film, opera, concert oratorio, recital and cabaret while setting the highest standards in each, vocally and theatrically. A musical being to the core, Marcus Nance is one of the most versatile and spellbinding artists of our time, commanding the stage with his magnetic physique and sensitive interpretation. The Toronto Star described him as “a major talent” while Academy Award Nominated film director Atom Egoyan speaks of him as “an absolutely brilliant actor”.

Marcus Nance garnered international attention as Malcolm in the world premiere of Atom Egoyan’s **Elsewhereless** with Tapestry New Opera Works. His vivid and moving performance earned him a Dora Mavor Moore Award nomination for Most Outstanding Male Performer in a Musical. Other awards include a Metropolitan Opera National Council (Regional) Award, a National Opera Association Vocal Competition Award and a Tyrone Guthrie Study Award from the Stratford Shakespeare Festival.

Shortly after his success in **Elsewhereless** Marcus moved seamlessly into the role of the charismatic preacher Moses in yet another world premiere of The Queen of Puddings Music Theatre Company’s **Beatrice Chancy** by George Elliot Clarke and James Rolfe. His performance was later filmed for BRAVO and CBC television.

More recently, Marcus Nance mesmerized audiences with his creative portrayal of Queequeg in Morris Panych’s adaptation of Melville’s **Moby Dick**, commissioned and premiered by the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. He was also seen there as Olin Brit in **The Music Man**, as the commanding revivalist preacher the Rt. Rev. J.D. Montgomery in Gershwin’s **My One and Only** and in the lush choral ensemble of the deep American South woven into Susan H. Schulman’s production of **To Kill a Mockingbird**. For the Western Canada Theatre in Kamloops, British Columbia and the Grand Theatre in London, Ontario he moved audiences with his powerful and emotional portrayal of the Beast in **Beauty and the Beast** and in the title role of **The Mikado** for Drayton Entertainment.

New York audiences have seen Marcus on Broadway in **Baz Luhrman’s** production of **La Boheme**, in New York City Centre ENCORES! productions of **Kismet** and **Of Thee I Sing** and as Alidoro in **Cenerentola** with New York City Opera.

For the Shaw Festival of Canada, Marcus Nance has appeared as Dr. Hazlett and Reporter in **Floyd Collins**, as Mike and Earnest in **Pal Joey** and Pompey in **Bloomer Girl**. He performed with Louise Pitre and Billy Ray Cyrus in **Annie Get Your Gun** at Massy Hall, Toronto, with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra as Porgy in excerpts from **Porgy and**

**Bess**, with Tacoma Opera as Sparafucile in **Rigoletto**, with Hawaii Opera Theatre as Haly in **L'Italiana in Algeri**, with Monterey Opera Association as Basilio in **The Barber of Seville**, with Chicago Opera Theatre as Compere in **Four Saints in Three Acts** and at the Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts in **Show Boat**.

Marcus has performed other leading roles with Santa Fe Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Pacific Opera Victoria, Chautauqua Opera, Vancouver New Music, The National Arts Centre, Shreveport Opera, Ash-Lawn-Highland Summer Festival, Mississauga Opera, Eastern Front Theatre, Edmonton Opera, Natchez Opera Festival, and has sung in concert and oratorio with Orchestra London, Victoria Symphony, North York Symphony, Illinois Oratorio Society, the National Academy Orchestra, Chautauqua Symphony, Fairbanks Festival Orchestra, Windsor Symphony, the Monterey Bay Symphony and the National Arts Centre Orchestra.

Expanding further his creativity and artistic horizons, Marcus Nance made his film debut as the Singing Accountant in Mel Brooke's feature film **The Producers** starring Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick. He has also moved into cabaret and jazz with appearances at the Toronto Jazz Festival, Ottawa's Impressions in Jazz, Sharron's Party and Acting Upstage. Recently he has been starring in and hosting **Divos and Divas with Marcus Nance** at Statlers Piano Lounge in Toronto performing with guest stars such as Tony Award Nominee Louise Pitre, David Rogers of Phantom of the Opera fame and the incomparable opera Diva Measha Bruggergosman. And, if you look closely, you might also catch this versatile and talented artist in publicity for the Bay, Sears, Tip Top Tailors, Zellers, Canadian Tire, Foot Locker, Toyota or on the runways of Toronto Fashion Week.