



# "THRILLS WITH ELECTRIFYING ENERGY"

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present

## VOCAL PEOPLE

**BROADWAY SENSATION IS BACK!**

**Thurs. Oct. 2 & Fri. Oct. 3, 8 pm**

**ROBERT CREW**

FREELANCE ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

They are eight, friendly aliens who have crash-landed on Earth while searching for music. Androgynous and dressed from head to toe in white, their bright red lips and black eyebrows provide vivid splashes of colour.

Meet the Voca People who come from the planet Voca "somewhere behind the sun" and are now on a mission to provide 90 minutes of energetic and sparkling vocal entertainment for those fortunate enough to see them. This dazzling show has been touring the world since 2009 and will touch down at Flato Markham Theatre on Thurs. Oct. 2 and Fri. Oct. 3.

The singing is A Capella and is combined with beat box (the art of using the voice to replicate a wide variety of instruments and other sounds.) The result: an eclectic mix of music and sound delivered by bouncy, engaging performers with names such as Beat On, Scratcher and Soprana. You will likely hear the hit songs of The Beatles, Queen, Lady Gaga and Michael Jackson, to name but a few.

The Voca People were hatched in the fertile mind of Israeli comedian/writer Lior Kalfon who drafted composer Shai Fishman, a fellow Israeli now based in Los Angeles, help create the show and to do the musical arrangements.

"The way that we got famous is that we had one medley of 35 songs which we call 'The History of Music' that we uploaded to *YouTube* because I wanted to see if the concept would hold water," says Fishman in a phone interview. The video had more than 15 million hits in less than a year. "The number of views and reactions to that video gave us all the answers we needed."

People buy into the show's sci-fi framework very quickly, he says. "The alien concept is working really well for us. We decided to not have them speak English and see how much we could communicate using only music. And that is the main purpose of the show."

Surprisingly, the Voca People have never had an extended run in downtown Toronto and the Markham engagement is one of only two stops in Canada (the other is in St. Catharines). And that is very much in line with the strategy that Eric Lariviere, General Manager, has laid out for the theatre.

"It is important for this community to have access to such wonderful artists close to home" Lariviere says. The intimacy of the 500-seat theatre makes the experience even more special. "It is like having Randy Bachman or a big ballet in your living room."

There are two mainstream programs for the 2014-15 season. One is the *Diamond Series* - big productions and big ticket items. The second is *Discovery*, a mix of educational and outreach initiatives.

Plus...the season leads into the 2015 Pan Am Games of which Markham is an official city. "We have decided to incorporate the theme of The Americas throughout the season," Lariviere explains. "We have tried to capture as many regions, styles and genres of the Americas as possible, with folk music, Canadian artists, traditional music from Quebec, Klezmer music, the tango, and so on."

Flato Markham Theatre offers the most flexible pricing options in the GTA, including an exclusive 4-Pack at \$150 for Voca People.

*Robert Crew is a freelance arts and entertainment writer whose work appears regularly in the Toronto Star, where he worked for 32 years.*

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