



# CHARLIE: A Hockey Story

Written and performed by Jim Sands

***“If you’re too tired to skate, I always say, then you can still crawl.  
And crawling back is better than not coming back at all.” (Charlie Sands)***

Hockey, Shakespeare and the magic of the puck unite in this solo theatrical presentation! Jim Sands’ solo show **CHARLIE: A Hockey Story** is coming to the 2013 Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival this summer (June 17 -28). Using music and storytelling, Jim weaves a tale about his love of Shakespeare, his father’s love of hockey, and the important lesson in forgiveness he learned while exploring the hockey career of an uncle he never met -- Charlie Sands, a smooth skating right-winger who played in the NHL during the ‘30s and ‘40s.

**CHARLIE: A Hockey Story** is playing at Red River College (Venue #11), 160 Princess Street. For ticket information see: <http://www.winnipegfringe.com/2013-Festival/Tickets---Passes.aspx>.

Jim tells the story of growing up on the Canadian prairies and how his love of the theatre and the arts conflicted with his father’s love of hockey. Learning the hidden story of his uncle’s hockey career helped teach him an important lesson in forgiveness.

Over twelve NHL seasons from 1933-43, Charlie Sands played at Right Wing and Centre for the Leafs, Bruins and Canadiens. Along the way Charlie met many of hockey’s greatest legends including Foster Hewitt, King Clancy, Eddie Shore and Ace Bailey. Jim started investigating the hockey career of his uncle nearly 15 years ago, collecting hundreds of newspaper clippings, articles and books about hockey during the years his uncle played. Jim used the material as the basis for this solo show, which debuted at the Vancouver International Fringe Festival in 2011. “Although there is a lot written about hockey, we rarely get a chance to hear about the players who devoted their lives to the game, but didn’t become superstar,” Jim Sands says.

The play includes original songs, stories and characters and focuses on the early years of Charlie’s career, when he played for the Toronto Maple Leafs during two tumultuous seasons. “It’s the only place in the universe where you’ll see the Maple Leafs in the Stanley Cup finals,” Sands says. “It’s also a play that explores my own passions for literature and the arts and how they relate to my uncle’s story.”

**“It’s a wonderful story filled with the ghosts of the NHL’s bygone days. There’s Ace Bailey, King Clancy, Conn Smythe and even a bona fide evil villain in the figure of the legendary Eddie Shore, the meanest, toughest defenceman to patrol a blue line back in the ‘30s. . . . Sands is a gregarious and engaging storyteller who manages to resurrect those legends beautifully.”**

(Stephen Hunt, Calgary Herald)

Jim Sands is an East Vancouver based storyteller, actor, songwriter, musician and occasional clown who has performed both as a solo artist and with a variety of musical groups.

More information is available via Jim’s website at [www.jim-sands.ca](http://www.jim-sands.ca). Photos available via the Media tab.

**Winnipeg Fringe Venue:** Red River College (Venue #11), 160 Princess Street

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Jim Sands ([jim@jim-sands.ca](mailto:jim@jim-sands.ca))

Email: [jim@jim-sands.ca](mailto:jim@jim-sands.ca)

Web: [www.jim-sands.ca](http://www.jim-sands.ca)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/charlieahockeystory](http://www.facebook.com/charlieahockeystory)

Twitter: @charliefringe

**WINNIPEG FRINGE MEDIA CONTACT:** Teri Stevens | 204-934-0302 | [publicist@mtc.mb.ca](mailto:publicist@mtc.mb.ca)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: WINNIPEG (June 17, 2013)

**Performances:** Tuesday, August 28 (5:15 pm), Wednesday, August 29 (5:30 pm), Thursday, August 30 (7:15 pm), Friday, August 31 (9:15 pm), Saturday, September 1 (3:30 pm), Sunday, September 2 (2:15 pm)



# CHARLIE: A Hockey Story

Written and performed by Jim Sands

## A SUMMARY OF REVIEWS AND COMMENTS

- “This is an honest, heartfelt and well-crafted show. Take your folks!” 4 STARS. [Douglas Hoyer, Vue Weekly, Edmonton] <http://bit.ly/11uTJuN>
- “Sands is a gregarious and engaging storyteller who manages to resurrect those legends beautifully.” [Stephen Hunt, Calgary Herald] <http://bit.ly/Nk5L30>
- “Whether you are a fan or not, Charlie: A Hockey Story is about much more than hockey.” [Meara Tubman-Broeren, Mooney on Theatre, Toronto] <http://bit.ly/NTzx3G>
- “Charlie's legend is well-served by his nephew's gentle patter about the glory days of the NHL.” [Peter Birnie, Vancouver Sun] <http://bit.ly/LMEkTA>
- “A human story about relationships and perseverance and family and mistakes and triumphs.” [Danielle Benzon, Plank Magazine, Vancouver] <http://bit.ly/oN4duW>
- “Sometimes you don't want fine dining, you want chili and toast in a big comfy red chair and someone to tell you a great story, just like this one.” [Laurie Bursch, Theatre in London.ca] <http://bit.ly/NwnWD0>
- “Blood and guts, yes, but there's heart and soul too.” [Chris McDonnell, Theatre in London.ca] <http://bit.ly/NHRN9Y>
- “I enjoyed the way you included the audience to tell your story of the game of hockey's role in your family life, with a dash of music and Shakespeare tossed in. A recipe for a good time at the theatre!” [Richard Seredynski, Audience Comment]
- “Deep within the pores of this utterly human, warm and humorous performance, Charlie: A Hockey Story captures the soul of our nation.” [John Sbragia, Audience Comment]
- VIDEO: Hamilton Fringe: Vancouver Artist Weaves Theatre and Hockey [CBC Hamilton] <http://bit.ly/Msiupy>
- VIDEO: Saturday Night, from Charlie: A Hockey Story [Everyday Music] <http://everydaymusic.ca/?p=1266>

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Jim Sands ([jim@jim-sands.ca](mailto:jim@jim-sands.ca))

Email: [jim@jim-sands.ca](mailto:jim@jim-sands.ca)

Web: [www.jim-sands.ca](http://www.jim-sands.ca)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/charlieahockeystory](http://www.facebook.com/charlieahockeystory)

Twitter: @charliefringe

**WINNIPEG FRINGE MEDIA CONTACT:** Teri Stevens | 204-934-0302 | [publicist@mtc.mb.ca](mailto:publicist@mtc.mb.ca)



# CHARLIE: A Hockey Story

Written and performed by Jim Sands

## CREATIVE TEAM

**Jim Sands** Playwright & Performer

**Wong Wing-Siu** Story development and coaching

**Thomas Jones** Director

ADVISORY: CONTAINS GRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS OF VIOLENCE.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Jim Sands ([jim@jim-sands.ca](mailto:jim@jim-sands.ca))

**Email:** [jim@jim-sands.ca](mailto:jim@jim-sands.ca)

**Web:** [www.jim-sands.ca](http://www.jim-sands.ca)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/charlieahockeystory](http://www.facebook.com/charlieahockeystory)

**Twitter:** @charliefringe

**WINNIPEG FRINGE MEDIA CONTACT:** Teri Stevens | 204-934-0302 | [publicist@mtc.mb.ca](mailto:publicist@mtc.mb.ca)



# CHARLIE: A Hockey Story

Written and performed by Jim Sands

## BIOS

### Jim Sands - Playwright & Performer

Jim Sands is an East Vancouver based storyteller, actor, songwriter, musician and occasional clown who has performed both as a solo artist and with a variety of musical groups. He has appeared in plays and special events organized by Vancouver Moving Theatre, Community Arts Workshop, Hollywood Kidz, and the Vancouver International Fringe Festival.

### MUSICIAN & SONGWRITER

**Deaf Dogs** (2009-present) – A trio that combines original and traditional music with storytelling and poetry. One notable performance was as part of event Stories of Music, Music of Stories at the Heart of a City Festival (2010). The Shadow Project (2005-7, Vancouver Moving Theatre) – Musician for the development and premiere of a shadow play about addictions and recovery.

**In the Heart of a City** (2004, Vancouver Moving Theatre) – Musician (guitar, dulcimer, percussion) in this Downtown Eastside Community Play, involving over 100 community-based performers and support workers.

**Talking Freds** (1984-88) – A musical duo performing skits and original compositions.

### STORYTELLER, ACTOR & CLOWN

**Charlie: A Hockey Story** (2011-present) – Vancouver Fringe Festival, London Fringe Festival, ongoing.

**Charlie: A Hockey Story** (2011, BC Buds, Firehall Arts Centre) – Workshop version (new theatre showcase)

**We are the People** (2011, Vancouver Moving Theatre) - Reprised my original song, Hansel's Lament, from The Downtown Eastside Romeo and Juliet and performed as part of the choir.

**A Savage Birthday** (2010, Savage Cream Puff Productions) – Reprised the role of Hansel in this 2010 Vancouver International Fringe Festival production at Havana Theatre.

**The Minotaur Dreams: The Downtown Eastside Labyrinth Project** (2010, Vancouver Moving Theatre) – Music, acting, puppets in this promenade-style production of an ancient Greek tale.

**Downtown Eastside Musical Showcase: Thirty Songs from Seven Productions** (2009, Vancouver Moving Theatre) – Reprised original song, Hansel's Lament, and performed as part of the choir.

**After Homelessness** (2009, Headlines Theatre) – A week-long community workshop initiating the creative process for this production on the topic of homelessness.

**Little (Famous and Beautiful) Red Riding Hood** (2009, Paul Mercs Productions) – Played Hansel in this original production written by Gina Bastone staged at Kitsilano's Hollywood Theatre.

**Hansel and Gretel Meet the Trolls of Tatlow Park** (2009, Paul Mercs Productions) – Performed as Hansel in this original production written by Gina Bastone staged at Kitsilano's Hollywood Theatre.

**Alice in Wonderland Festival** (2009, Community Arts Workshop) – Performed as the King of Hearts at this festival at Trout Lake Park, Vancouver.

**A Downtown Eastside Romeo and Juliet** (2007-08, Vancouver Moving Theatre) – Performed music and several roles (Lord Capulet, the Developer, and Hansel - a four-year old clown) in this play, written and directed by Gina Bastone.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Jim Sands ([jim@jim-sands.ca](mailto:jim@jim-sands.ca))

Email: [jim@jim-sands.ca](mailto:jim@jim-sands.ca)

Web: [www.jim-sands.ca](http://www.jim-sands.ca)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/charlieahockeystory](http://www.facebook.com/charlieahockeystory)

Twitter: @charliefringe

**WINNIPEG FRINGE MEDIA CONTACT:** Teri Stevens | 204-934-0302 | [publicist@mtc.mb.ca](mailto:publicist@mtc.mb.ca)



# CHARLIE: A Hockey Story

Written and performed by Jim Sands

## BIOS – COLLABORATORS

### **Wong Wing-Siu**

#### **Story development and coaching**

A long-time resident of Vancouver, British Columbia, Wing-Siu has been performing and teaching storytelling in the classroom and in the community for over 23 years. He was an artist-in-residence last year at Carnegie Community Centre where he taught writing and storytelling. He and his band the Deaf Dogs were featured performers in the Heart of the City festival 2010.

He has also been a featured performer at the Write-On-Bowen Festival 2010 and the Vancouver International Storytelling Festival 1995 & 2009. He taught story-writing and storytelling in his elementary school classroom for over 10 years. His greatest joys and triumphs have been teaching storytelling to ESL students who have flourished using this oral tradition. Wing-Siu is currently teaching writing and storytelling to adults and works with individuals as a storytelling coach.

### **Thomas Jones**

#### **Director**

Born in Middletown, Connecticut, Thomas moved from Philadelphia to Vancouver BC at the age of 11 where he has been based there ever since. He has a big interest in creating and collaborating on new works - over 30 original productions so far. As a performer Thomas had the good fortune to collaborate with some of Vancouver's most innovative theatre companies, Electric Company, The Only Animal and Boca del Lupo. For Boca he had the pleasure of chasing princesses around Stanley Park as the lead in The Shoes That Were Danced to Pieces.

Thomas loves to try new things and has worked in many different styles. He's performed and created Mask, Puppetry, Kabuki, Improv, Clown and Bouffon shows, and he's performed in venues as varied as snowy fields (Caravan Farm Theatre) and opera houses (Madama Butterfly, Kabuki-style). Besides performing, Thomas has worked as a coordinator, stage manager, house manager and technician on dozens of festivals. He loves events because they bring people together.

Thomas has written and performed Woody Sed, a solo show about Woody Guthrie. Woody Sed gives Thomas the opportunity to inhabit 25 characters drawn from Woody's life, to play guitar, sing his songs, and connect directly with the audience.

**MEDIA CONTACT: Jim Sands ([jim@jim-sands.ca](mailto:jim@jim-sands.ca))**

**Email: [jim@jim-sands.ca](mailto:jim@jim-sands.ca)**

**Web: [www.jim-sands.ca](http://www.jim-sands.ca)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/charlieahockeystory](http://www.facebook.com/charlieahockeystory)**

**Twitter: @charliefringe**

**WINNIPEG FRINGE MEDIA CONTACT: Teri Stevens | 204-934-0302 | [publicist@mtc.mb.ca](mailto:publicist@mtc.mb.ca)**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: WINNIPEG (June 17, 2013)



# CHARLIE: A Hockey Story

Written and performed by Jim Sands

## PHOTOS:

Hi resolution photos available via link beneath each image. All photos of Jim Sands. More at: <http://jim-sands.ca/Media.php>



Photo Credit: Pink Monkey Studios



<http://bit.ly/11kNFs2>

Photo Credit: Pink Monkey Studios



<http://bit.ly/14fHXGB>

Photo Credit: Pink Monkey Studios



<http://bit.ly/11uRbg3>

Graphic: Working Desig



CHARLIE: A Hockey Story

<http://db.tt/IDSFfDRr> / Photo Credit: Pink Monkey Studios

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Jim Sands ([jim@jim-sands.ca](mailto:jim@jim-sands.ca))

Email: [jim@jim-sands.ca](mailto:jim@jim-sands.ca)

Web: [www.jim-sands.ca](http://www.jim-sands.ca)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/charlieahockeystory](http://www.facebook.com/charlieahockeystory)

Twitter: @charliefringe

**WINNIPEG FRINGE MEDIA CONTACT:** Teri Stevens | 204-934-0302 | [publicist@mtc.mb.ca](mailto:publicist@mtc.mb.ca)



# CHARLIE: A Hockey Story

Written and performed by Jim Sands

## CHARLIE SANDS HOCKEY TRIVIA

*"You may be behind and you may be exhausted and you may feel discouraged, but you should keep plugging all the way." (Charlie Sands)*

- 1) **Which of these now-retired sweaters did Charlie Sands wear regularly during his NHL career?**
- #4 – Boston Bruins (last worn by Bobbie Orr)
  - #9 – Montreal Canadiens (last worn by Maurice Richard)
  - Both of the above.
  - None of the above

**ANSWER: c. – Both of the above.** Charlie Sands wore #4 for most of his career with the Boston Bruins (1934 – 39) and #9 for most of his career with the Montreal Canadiens (1939-43). When Charlie was loaned to the New York Rangers in 1943 Montreal coach Dick Irvin famously asked Richard how much his recently born child weighed. When Richard answered "9 pounds," Irvin said, "That's going to be your new number."

- 2) **During a barnstorming tour of Canada in 1934, Charlie Sands played NHL exhibition games in which of the following Canadian cities and towns?**
- Winnipeg, MA
  - Calgary, AB
  - Trail, BC
  - Vancouver, BC
  - All of the above

**ANSWER: e. – All of the above.** The Toronto Maple Leafs and Detroit Red Wings toured across Canada shortly after the Red Wings won the 1934 Stanley Cup. Interest in the NHL was high across Canada ever since Foster Hewitt's Saturday night radio broadcasts from Maple Leaf Gardens had begun in 1932. Detroit and Toronto played a series of exhibition games in artificial ice arenas including Trail, BC. In Vancouver, the series took place in a sold-out Denman Street Arena located near where the present-day Bayshore Inn is located. The arena burned to the ground in 1936.

- 3) **Which of the following original six sweaters did Charlie Sands NOT wear during his 12-season NHL career?**
- Toronto Maple Leafs
  - Detroit Red Wings
  - Boston Bruins
  - Montreal Canadiens
  - New York Rangers
  - Chicago Blackhawks

**ANSWER: f. – Chicago Blackhawks.** Charlie was first signed by the Toronto Maple Leafs and played for them for a portion of the 1932-33 season and all of the 1933-34 season. Following that season, he was loaned

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Jim Sands ([jim@jim-sands.ca](mailto:jim@jim-sands.ca))

**Email:** [jim@jim-sands.ca](mailto:jim@jim-sands.ca)

**Web:** [www.jim-sands.ca](http://www.jim-sands.ca)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/charlieahockeystory](http://www.facebook.com/charlieahockeystory)

**Twitter:** @charliefringe

**WINNIPEG FRINGE MEDIA CONTACT:** Teri Stevens | 204-934-0302 | [publicist@mtc.mb.ca](mailto:publicist@mtc.mb.ca)

to the Detroit Red Wings for the series of post-season exhibition games the two teams played across Canada. He continued with Boston Bruins (1934-1939), the Montreal Canadiens (1939-1943) and played with the New York Rangers for part of the 1943-44 season.

- 4) **How many penalty minutes did Charlie Sands serve during the 34 NHL playoff games he played in during his career?**
- 4
  - 32
  - 64
  - 100

**ANSWER: a. – 4 penalty minutes in 34 NHL playoff games.** Charlie Sands was one of the LEAST penalized players of his era. His first playoff penalty came on April 3, 1933 during the first overtime period of the final game of the division final between Toronto and Boston (the game that eventually became the longest NHL game played to that point). It was reported that the crowd booed the ref because it was not seen as a fair penalty. Charlie's only other NHL playoff penalty came nine seasons later in 1942 when he was penalized with the Montreal Canadiens during the third period of the second game of a first-round series against the Detroit Red Wings. In those nine seasons, Charlie played a remarkable 24 consecutive NHL playoff games without incurring a single penalty.

- 5) **Which of the following was NOT a nickname for Boston Bruins Defenseman Eddie Shore?**
- The Edmonton Express
  - The Assiniboine Assassin
  - Eddie "Blood and Guts" Shore
  - The Alberta Wheat King
  - Mr. Hockey
  - All of the above were used as nicknames for Eddie Shore.

**ANSWER: f. – All of the above were Eddie Shore nicknames.** Eddie Shore was one of the most colourful characters ever to play the game of hockey. He had so many nicknames simply because he was written about so often by the sports writers of the day. Shore's sometime nickname "Mr. Hockey" later became the famous moniker of Gordie Howe.

- 6) **What was the assessment of Maurice Richard by the Montreal Canadiens coaching staff at the end of his first season in 1942?**
- He would be a future super-star
  - He would make the team, but would never be more than a third line player
  - He was a great skater, but had no future in hockey because his bones were too brittle
  - None of the above

**ANSWER: c. – He had no future in hockey.** After Richard was lost for the season due to a broken ankle it was assumed that this promising prospect would never be able to make it in the NHL because he was too prone to injury.

**MEDIA CONTACT: Jim Sands ([jim@jim-sands.ca](mailto:jim@jim-sands.ca))**

**Email: [jim@jim-sands.ca](mailto:jim@jim-sands.ca)**

**Web: [www.jim-sands.ca](http://www.jim-sands.ca)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/charlieahockeystory](http://www.facebook.com/charlieahockeystory)**

**Twitter: @charliefringe**

**WINNIPEG FRINGE MEDIA CONTACT: Teri Stevens | 204-934-0302 | [publicist@mtc.mb.ca](mailto:publicist@mtc.mb.ca)**

7) **What is Charlie Sands' Goal Against Average?**

- a. 12.00
- b. 2.00
- c. .986
- d. This is a trick question. Charlie was a forward and Goals Against Average is a statistic for goaltenders.

**ANSWER: a. – 12.00.** During a grueling road trip with the Montreal Canadiens in the 1939-40 season, Goalie Wilf Cude complained of a sore shoulder. Since NHL teams in that era did not carry back-up goalies, Charlie volunteered to take his place towards the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> period. He had 5 goals scored against him by the Chicago Blackhawks in just over one period of hockey in a 10-1 Chicago victory. The Chicago Daily Tribune (Feb. 23, 1940) noted, "It was apparent that as a goaltender, Sands was a great forward..."

8) **Three of the following plays by William Shakespeare are quoted from in *Charlie: A Hockey Story*. Only one was once performed in a hockey arena with a hockey theme. Which one was it?**

- a. Romeo and Juliet
- b. Henry V
- c. Midsummer Night's Dream
- d. Comedy of Errors

**ANSWER: b - Henry V.** In 2000, Canadian director Ken Hudson presented his *King #5 Henry* in an ice hockey arena complete with players in full gear depicting the battle of Agincourt. "In Canada, hockey is Shakespeare," says Hudson. Comedy of Errors is the only play above not quoted from in *Charlie: A Hockey Story*.

9) **Speaking of William Shakespeare, which of the following actors were known associates of the great bard?**

- a. Richard Burbage
- b. William Kempe
- c. James Sands
- d. All of the above

**ANSWER: d. – All of the above.** Richard Burbage was the member of Shakespeare's troupe who first played the lead roles in Hamlet, Othello, Richard III and King Lear among others. Will Kempe was a comedian and Morris dancer who is believed to have originated the roles of Falstaff (King Henry IV, King Henry V), Bottom (Midsummer Night's Dream), and Dogberry (Much Ado about Nothing). Little is know about James Sands who was a boy player and apprentice with the King's Men (one of Shakespeare's performing troupes) in the early 1600s.

10) **Which of these auspicious events occurred on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011?**

- a. Star Trek celebrates the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its first broadcast
- b. Jim Sands celebrates his birthday
- c. *Charlie: A Hockey Story* opens at the Vancouver International Fringe Festival.
- d. All of the above.

**ANSWER: d. – All of the above.** Jim Sands was born September 8, 1956. Star Trek made its television debut on September 8, 1966. And *Charlie: A Hockey Story* opened at Havana Theatre (Vancouver, BC) on September 8, 2011.

**MEDIA CONTACT: Jim Sands** ([jim@jim-sands.ca](mailto:jim@jim-sands.ca))

Email: [jim@jim-sands.ca](mailto:jim@jim-sands.ca)

Web: [www.jim-sands.ca](http://www.jim-sands.ca)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/charlieahockeystory](http://www.facebook.com/charlieahockeystory)

Twitter: @charliefringe

**WINNIPEG FRINGE MEDIA CONTACT:** Teri Stevens | 204-934-0302 | [publicist@mtc.mb.ca](mailto:publicist@mtc.mb.ca)