

spot light

BET YOUR BOTTOM DOLLAR, IT'S A FAB-U-LOUS NEW SEASON

SPRING 2023 - SPRING 2024



Carlos Acosta

AND KIT HOLDER
TALK ALL THINGS
BRB2



Matthew Bourne

ON BRINGING HIS
COMPANY TO
WOLVERHAMPTON
FOR THE FIRST TIME



Judi Love

COMEDIENNE JUDI
LOVE WITH HER
BRAND NEW TOUR

Main Image: Craig Revel Horwood as himself and Miss Hannigan



Adrian Jackson
CEO & Artistic
Director

A warm welcome to another issue of **Spotlight** and perhaps our most exciting season to date!

Off the back of our hugely successful, record-breaking, pantomime *Aladdin*, work has already started creating a magical new production of **SNOW WHITE**, which has had its initial run extended due to phenomenal demand!

This year's production will feature a sparkling new set and costumes, designed and created especially for Wolverhampton. The script will be written by the duo behind all the fun and laughter you've come to expect of a Grand Theatre panto, **Ian Adams** and **Tam Ryan**, who return for a third consecutive season together and for Ian's seventh Wolverhampton pantomime! *CBeebies* **Evie Pickerill** joins the exciting line-up to bring the magic for our youngest theatregoers. And with further casting to be announced, book now for the best seats in panto land!

We are delighted to welcome **Matthew Bourne's New Adventures** company to the Grand Theatre later this year for their Wolverhampton debut. Sir Matthew Bourne OBE is widely hailed as the UK's most popular and successful choreographer and director. Since 1986, he has been creating and directing dance for musicals, theatre and film. His production of **ROMEO AND JULIET** is a masterful re-telling of an ageless tale of teenage discovery and the madness of first love – it will be an unmissable part of our autumn season in October.

We extend our relationship with the National Theatre this season with two hugely exciting productions, **SUCKER PUNCH** and **THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE**. We also further our work with **Birmingham Royal Ballet** as we play host to **Carlos Acosta's** new company, **BRB2**, showcasing dancers fresh from ballet schools around the world as they transition into permanent positions with BRB and other renowned companies around the world.

We continue our fantastic outreach work this season, working within schools as part of our **Speak Up** project with the National Theatre, encouraging creativity amongst hundreds of students in a variety of artistic styles. We are also working towards launching a new school tour which will feature integrated British Sign Language in the near future, furthering our commitment to making the Grand Theatre even more accessible to everyone. We are delighted to offer relaxed performances of **THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL** and **THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE**, extending the provision for our relaxed performance audiences beyond the realms of pantomime!

As we head into an exciting summer, on behalf of the entire team at the Grand Theatre, I thank you for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming you back to take a seat very soon.

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Booking

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TICKET PRICE,
INCLUDING ALL FEES!**

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Secure My Booking costs just £1.95 per ticket and can be added when you purchase, so don't delay and book today!

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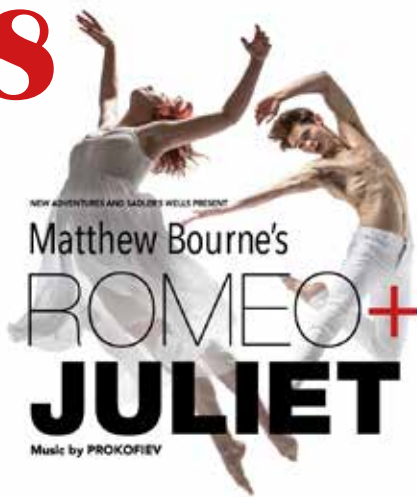
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TUE 28 MAR - SAT 1 APR
THE BEST EXOTIC
MARIGOLD HOTEL

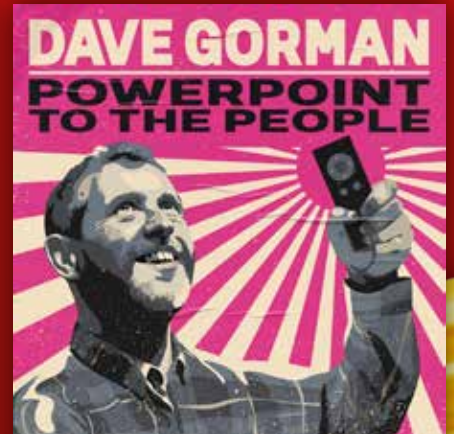


SUN 02 APR
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UGLY DUCKLING

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grandtheatre.co.uk
or call the box office
on 01902 42 92 12



TUE 4 APR
RUMOURS OF
FLEETWOOD MAC



WED 5 APR
DAVE GORMAN -
POWERPOINT TO THE PEOPLE

CHANCE TO BOOK



THU 6 APR
DREAMBOYS



FRI 7 APR
THE CARPENTERS
SONGBOOK



SAT 8 APR
SING-A-LONG-A ENCANTO



THU 13 APR
MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL 2



SAT 15 APR
ELLEN KENT'S LA BOHÈME
PERFORMED BY THE UKRAINIAN
OPERA & BALLET THEATRE KYIV



SUN 7 MAY
RAT PACK - SWINGIN'
AT THE SANDS

HOSPITALITY



Enhance your booth experience with our **Grand Grazing Platter**.

From **£16.50** per person

Be our guest, relax and unwind with VIP hospitality.

Add a touch of elegance to your visit with an exclusive booth and personal waiter service. A sure way to make your Grand Theatre experience truly memorable. You and up to 5 guests can enjoy your own private space pre-show and during the interval with packages designed to suit everyone.

SILVER* PACKAGE

For up to six people and includes the following: hot or soft drink, bar snacks, show programme*, waiter service & complimentary cloakroom.

GOLD* PACKAGE

For up to six people and includes the following: bottle of wine, bar snacks, show programme*, waiter service & complimentary cloakroom.

PLATINUM* PACKAGE

For up to six people and includes the following: a bottle of Prosecco, chocolates, bar snacks, show programme*, waiter service & complimentary cloakroom.

PRICES START FROM £50

*show programme not available on all shows

Book your VIP booth experience online at grandtheatre.co.uk or call the Box Office on 01902 42 92 12

Booths must be booked 48 hours in advance of the performance. Grazing platters must be booked five days in advance of the performance. Vegetarian and vegan options available upon request. Items may vary subject to availability. Information on allergens available upon request.

"I highly recommend treating yourself to this experience, it's worth every penny"

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OR scan below for direct download.



WOLVERHAMPTON
GRAND
THEATRE

THERE'S A NEW STAR IN TOWN!
PUSSYCAT DOLL
MELODY THORNTON



THE
BODYGUARD™
THE MUSICAL

The Bodyguard

Tuesday 9 - Saturday 13 May '23

Tuesday – Saturday at 7:30pm

Wednesday & Saturday at 2:30pm

The international, award-winning smash-hit musical **THE BODYGUARD** is back! Starring *Pussycat Doll*, and multi-platinum Grammy nominated **Melody Thornton*** as Rachel Marron and **Ayden Callaghan** (*Emmerdale*, *Hollyoaks*) as Frank Farmer. Former Secret Service agent turned bodyguard, Frank Farmer,

is hired to protect superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker. Each expects to be in charge – what they don't expect is to fall in love.

A 'BRILLIANT!' (The Times), breathtakingly romantic thriller, **THE BODYGUARD** features a whole host of irresistible classics including *Queen of the Night*, *So Emotional*, *One Moment in Time*, *Saving All My Love*, *Run to You*, *I Have Nothing*, *Greatest Love Of All*, *Million Dollar Bill*, *I Wanna Dance With Somebody* and one of the greatest hit songs of all time - *I Will Always Love You*.

'You go in humming the tunes, you come out whooping them!'
The Independent

DISCLAIMER: *Melody Thornton will perform the role of Rachel Marron at all evening performances only. Cast and performance schedule subject to change without notice.

Tickets from £20*



BSL
Interpreted



Audio
Described



The Sensational 60s Experience

Sunday 14 May '23 - 7.30pm

Join us for the musical phenomenon of 2023 with this festival of nostalgia. The show with the definite feelgood factor will transport you back to that magical decade that was the 1960s.

Whether you come to relive your childhood memories or you just simply want to see what your parents have been raving about for all these years, this is the show to see.

Starring **Dozy Beaky Mick & Tich**, **Mike d'Abo** (former lead singer with *Manfred Mann*), **The Fortunes**, **Steve Ellis** (the voice of *Love Affair*), **The Swinging Blue Jeans** and **Vanity Fare**.

Full of timeless classics including *The Legend Of Xanadu*, *Mighty Quinn*, *Storm In A Teacup*, *Everlasting Love*, *Hippy Hippy Shake*, and *Hitchin' A Ride*.

Step back in time to when pop music was at its very best.

Tickets from £20*



STAGERIGHT PROMOTIONS PROUDLY PRESENTS
60TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR 1963 - 2023



DOZY BEAKY MICK & TICH
THE FORTUNES
MIKE D'ABO FORMER LEAD SINGER
WITH **MANFRED MANN**
STEVE ELLIS THE VOICE OF
LOVE AFFAIR
THE SWINGING BLUE JEANS
& **VANITY FARE**

Sir Jack's History Boys

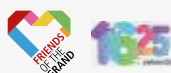
Monday 22 May '23 - 7.30pm

It's been 20 years since the mighty wanderers made a triumphant return to the Premier League led by manager Dave Jones. The promotion ended a 19-year absence from the top level of English football a dream come true for owner Sir Jack Hayward.

Sky Sports presenter **Johnny Phillips** will be joined live on stage by former Wolves Goalkeeper **Matt Murray** to reminisce on the iconic season with **Mark Kennedy**, **Nathan Blake** and **Kenny Miller**.

VIP package available, contact Box Office for details.

Tickets from £20*



The Children's Theatre Partnership and Royal & Derngate, Northampton present



'MUSICAL MASH-UP OF DICKENS AND BEATBOX IS THE PERFECT COMBO'

WHATSONSTAGE



MICHAEL ROSEN'S
**UNEXPECTED
TWIST**

AN OLIVER TWISTED TALE

BY ROY WILLIAMS

Unexpected Twist

Tuesday 16 – Saturday 20 May '23

Tuesday, Friday & Saturday at 7pm

Wednesday & Thursday at 10.30am & 2pm, Saturday at 2pm

UNEXPECTED TWIST is the re-telling of the Charles Dickens classic, *Oliver Twist*, by one of the best-loved figures in the children's book world, **Michael Rosen**. Combining two stories in one; Rosen's story and the Dickens classic that inspired it. Two stories that twist together, unexpectedly!

Shona and her class are studying the book, *Oliver Twist*. She's the new girl in school and is finding it hard to stay out of trouble – much like Oliver himself! When she's given a new phone by a stranger, she begins to suspect there's something unusual about the new boys she's met.

Michael Rosen is the English children's novelist, poet, and the author of 140 books. He served as Children's Laureate from June 2007 to June 2009. He has been a TV presenter and a political columnist, and his books include *Carrying the Elephant: A Memoir of Love and Loss* and *Uncle Billy Being Silly*.

This thrilling production is brought to vivid life by **The Children's Theatre Partnership**, whose shows have included *Animal Farm*, *Holes* and *The Jungle Book*. Directed by James Dacre (2020 Olivier Award nominated *Our Lady of Kibeho*), Rosen's novel is adapted for the stage by BAFTA award winning playwright Roy Williams with original music by rising R&B star Yaya Bey and BAC Beatbox Academy's Conrad Murray.

★★★★ 'Bold reimagining of Oliver Twist reinvigorates the timeless story for a young, contemporary audience.' (*The Stage*)

★★★★★ 'I would watch it again and would recommend this to my friends.' (*Sardines Magazine*)

★★★★ 'Innovative and bold and an incredibly important piece of theatre not to be missed.' (*A Small Mind at the Theatre*)

★★★★ 'It's Hamilton on a local scene and is not to be missed and dare I say more relevant and better!' (*Revolution Radio*)



Age Guidance: 9+

The story explores the modern parallel of the child exploitation featured in *Oliver Twist*, replacing pickpocketing with County Lines.

**Tickets
from £9.75***



Conrad Murray,
Musical Director
& Yaya Bey,
Music Creator

OLIVER TWISTED TO A NEW BEAT

The stage adaptation of Michael Rosen's *Unexpected Twist* introduces hip-hop, grime and beatboxing to the modern take on the Charles Dickens classic, *Oliver Twist*. Rosen, as well as Yaya Bey and Conrad Murray, who wrote the music for the show, explain how the modernisation of the story works well for young audiences.

How does it feel having your story transformed into a play with music?

Rosen: It's a complete and utter thrill that this is happening and it's very exciting.

What was the original inspiration for your book?

Rosen: I was talking to the publishers about the idea that Charles Dickens' stories often have a fantastic appeal on film, but they're sometimes quite hard for kids to lift off the page. I was thinking, 'is there some way of doing a kind of halfway house, like a modernisation in book form, so that kids doing *Oliver Twist* at school could have the chance to get a handle on the Dickens story via a modern analogy?'. It felt timely in a number of ways, including the exploitation of young people. I think I pulled punches to a certain extent in terms of the types of exploitations that go on - county lines and that sort of thing. Things like that that are happening all over the country, are very Dickensian and very close to his original story.

What lead to your involvement in *Unexpected Twist*?

Murray: James [Dacre, the director] called me because he'd heard of the work I'd done on *Crongton Knights* with Pilot, which was a young adult book that we turned into a show with music featuring hip-hop, beatbox, grime and spoken word. He told me about this project, and I thought it sounded really exciting.

Both the book and the play perfectly capture the way young people speak. Was that important to you?

Rosen: Absolutely. [Laughs] I was trying to capture that, but I didn't manage it nearly as well as the playwright, Roy Williams, has done. It's brilliant and all the better for it.

How would you describe the styles of music in the show?

Murray: You'd call it beatbox but we're

recreating genres, so it's drill, R&B, hip-hop, pop and soul. That's the mash-up and it's quite modern.

What do you see as the importance of plays with music like this one for young audiences?

Bey: Music always helps to put a story across. Music is inviting and it makes things more approachable for people, especially in a play like this which is aimed at youth. Including music in the show makes it more relatable and it hooks that young audience in.

Conrad: Young people will recognise the characters and the slang, and while a lot of older plays have a middle-class worldview this is very representative - with black, white and Asian characters on stage that kids will relate to. It's very mixed, with cultural references that will really resonate wherever you are in the country.

Will young people see themselves reflected on stage in *Unexpected Twist*?

Rosen: Definitely. It's that thing of even if you yourself are not that person on stage and don't identify with them directly, you may feel there's somebody down the road who is like them. And for adults in the audience, they'll certainly learn from seeing how the kids engage with each other in the classroom and the way the teacher, Miss Cavani, is juggling all the characters and doing a wonderful job of negotiating her way through the curriculum as the kids spark off each other.

What's the importance of *Unexpected Twist* for young people?

Murray: I feel like we can push young audiences, which is what the play does. They are exposed to so much stuff now through TikTok and Instagram so you can take them a bit further. It can still be beautiful, and it can still be escapism, but we shouldn't patronise young audiences. This kind of theatre is in many ways the hardest to make because they're a tough audience and they see through things. That's why Roy Williams' script is so good, because his street language feels real and always up-to-date.

Bey: *Oliver Twist* has always existed but now there's *Unexpected Twist* as a new, contemporary way to examine the subject.



WEST END & BROADWAY SMASH HIT

2023 FAREWELL TOUR

ROCK OF AGES

FEATURING 80'S HITS INCLUDING
DON'T STOP BELIEVIN' · THE FINAL COUNTDOWN · HERE I GO AGAIN
NOTHIN' BUT A GOOD TIME · I WANT TO KNOW WHAT LOVE IS
I WANNA ROCK · WE'RE NOT GONNA TAKE IT · WE BUILT THIS CITY AND MANY MORE...

Rock Of Ages

Tuesday 23 - Saturday 27 May '23

Tuesday - Friday at 7:30pm

Saturday at 4pm and 8pm

IT'S THE FINAL COUNTDOWN!

Join the West End and Broadway smash-hit musical **ROCK OF AGES** on their farewell tour.

After many long months rockin' out across the UK it's finally time for the guitars, the wigs, the bourbon, the eyeliner and the Fogmaster 5000 to get packed away and sent back to the 80's.

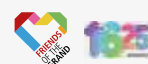
It won't be goodbye forever BUT we ask one more time - please, *Don't Stop Believin'* because when you just *Can't Fight That Feeling* anymore and you really *Wanna Rock* and *Feel The Noize* one last time, you know what do to...

Book your tickets now and LET'S GET READY TO ROCK!

'HIGH ENERGY FEEL-GOOD NOSTALGIA THAT WILL PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE.' Sunday Express

Tickets from £19.50*

Age Guidance: 12+



Dragons & Mythical Beasts

Sunday 28 - Tuesday 30 May '23

Sunday - Tuesday at 2pm
Tuesday at 11am

Calling all brave heroes! Enter into a magical world of myths and legends in this fantastical new show for all the family.

Unveil a myriad of dark secrets and come face to face with some of the most magnificent monsters and terrifying beasts ever to walk the earth. Discover the colossal Stone Troll, the mysterious Indrik and Japanese Baku; the Tooth Fairy (not as sweet as you'd think), an adorable Unicorn and majestic Griffin. Take your place among legendary heroes, just don't wake the Dragon...

This award-winning show is back on tour direct from the West End, from the creators of the international smash hit *Dinosaur World Live*, who bring spectacular puppets to life.

Don't miss this brand-new spell-binding adventure, live on stage!

★★★★

'Comical, spellbinding show!' The Guardian

★★★★

'Mind-blowing puppet monsters!' Time Out

2022 Olivier Award Nominee - 'Best Family Entertainment'

2022 Entertainment Now Edinburgh

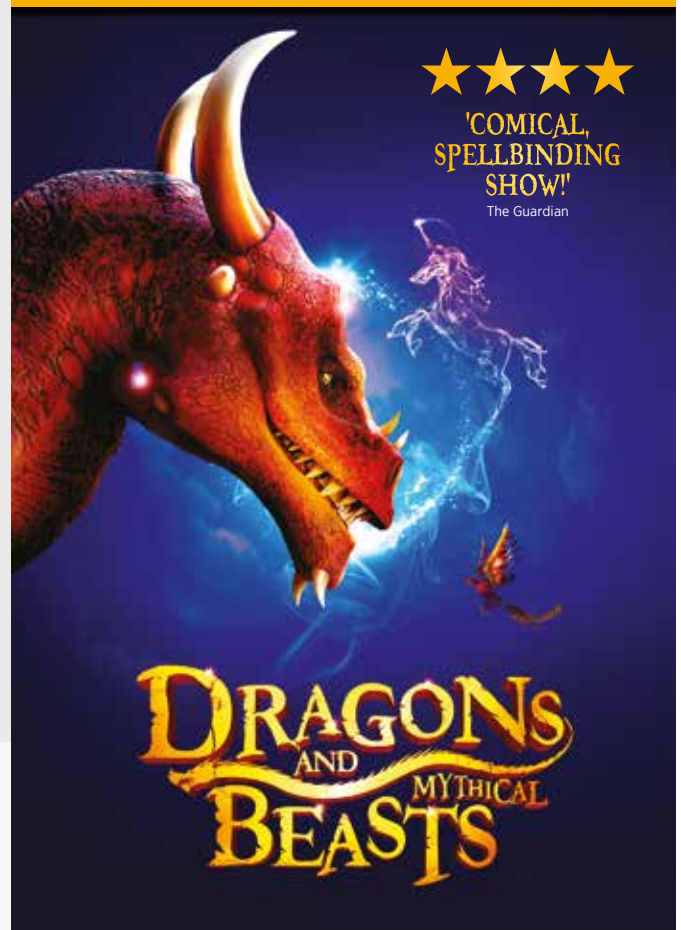
Fringe Festival Award Winner - 'Best Show For Kids'



Tickets from £10.50*

Age Guidance: 3+

A MAGICAL ADVENTURE DIRECT FROM THE WEST END!



Luther Live

Wednesday 31 May '23 - 7.30pm

The world's premier show in celebration of 'The Velvet Voice'.

Experience all the hits from his amazing career, culminating over 40 million album sales and eight Grammy awards including many of the greatest dance anthems and love songs ever written, fronted by international Luther Vandross tribute **Harry Cambridge** and his 10-piece band.

Never Too Much, Here and Now, Give Me the Reason, I Really Didn't Mean It, Stop to Love, So Amazing, The Best Things in Life Are Free, Always and Forever, Endless Love, Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now, Your Secret Love, Shine, The Closer I Get To You and many more.

Tickets from £19.50*



Shania: 25 Live Come On Over

Thursday 1 June '23 - 7.30pm

The world's premier show in celebration of the biggest selling Country album of all time. The 25th anniversary tour features the sensational **Liza Rebecca Walsh** (Shania), an amazing live band with incredible vocals, performing for the first time ever the whole album *Come On Over* in its entirety plus other *Shania* hits and the music of *Glen Campbell*, *John Denver*, *Dr Hook*, *The Bellamy Brothers*, *Dolly Parton* and *Johnny Cash*. Relive all the greatest country songs in one night you will never forget.

Tickets from £19.50*



Do You Believe In Ghosts?

Friday 2 June '23 - 7.30pm

An experiential ghost story, unlike anything you have ever experienced before. Welcome to a haunting night at the theatre. Are you feeling brave?

If you are, join us, and we will tell you all the secrets of what goes on when the theatre goes dark. When the only thing to guide you is the Ghost Light.

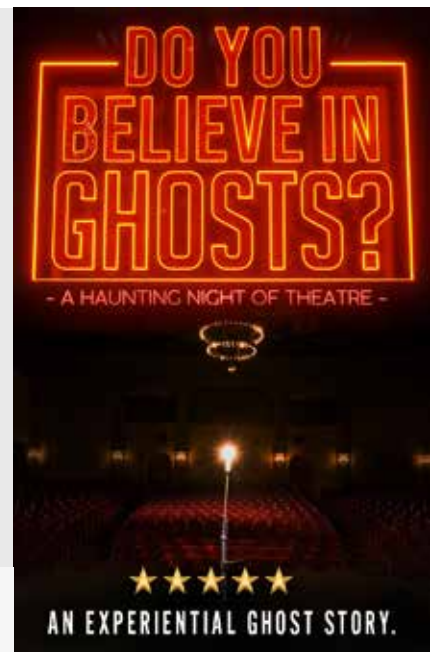
Follow the rules: keep your hands inside the car (so to speak) and you will be safe, as we tell the tales that every theatre has to tell.

We will raise the hairs on your arms and send chills down the back of your neck...

Join us for a dark night. Dare you!

Tickets from £15*

Age Guidance: 18+



Tim Vine: Breeeep!

Saturday 3 June '23 - 7.30pm

It's **Tim Vine** and he's back with a brand new stand-up show! Come and enjoy a mountain of nonsense, daft one-liners, joyful songs, wobbly props and ridiculous humour (plus utter drivle). Witness the stupidity. Then leave. Switched on the Christmas lights in Cheam two years on the run. All tickets non-refundable.

'Is there a more ludicrous comedian in Britain?' (The Times)

Tickets £26.75*

Age Guidance: 12+





Sister Act The Musical

Monday 5 - Saturday 10 June '23

Evenings at 7.30pm

Wednesday & Saturday matinee at 2.30pm

Brace yourselves sisters – the habit is coming to Wolverhampton!

Don't miss this eagerly anticipated 2023 Olivier Award-nominated production of the Broadway and UK smash hit musical **SISTER ACT**.

All of your prayers have been answered with a stunning cast, including TV and West End legend **Lesley Joseph**, West End sensation and *Hairspray* favourite **Lizzie Bea** and *Emmerdale* and *Waitress* star **Sandra Marvin** as Deloris, everyone's favourite nun on the run!

Disco diva Deloris' life takes a surprising turn when she witnesses a murder. Placed under protective custody she is hidden in the one place she shouldn't be found – a convent! Encouraged to help the struggling choir, she helps her fellow sisters find their true voices as she unexpectedly rediscovers her own.

Featuring original music by Tony® and 8-time Oscar® award-winner Alan Menken (Disney's *Aladdin*, *Enchanted*) and songs inspired by Motown, soul and disco, this heavenly musical is joyous and uplifting in equal measures. A musical sent from above, **SISTER ACT** is the brilliant, must-see show which raises the spirits and warms the soul time after time.

★★★★★ 'Hallelujah! A heavenly revival!' (*Independent*)



**Tickets
from £19.75***





**DON'T MISS
OUT ON YOUR
FAVOURITE
SHOWS AND YOUR**

FAVOURITE SEATS

Friends Of The Grand membership offers exclusive priority booking, insider news and special discounts.

IT'S TIME FOR THE SHOW TO BEGIN.

You've been to the kiosk, and you've got your favourite drink and a bag of Munchies. You're soaking up the atmosphere and you're excited. You've been looking forward to this all day.

What's even better is that you're in your favourite seats. And you've booked them for your next show and the next... and the next...

Because you're a Friend Of The Grand.

You get exclusive priority booking so you get to book "your" seats before the general public.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- **15% discount** on most performances*
- **10% Club membership**, giving you savings at selected local businesses
- **Access to Friends only social events**
- **Invitation to the Friends AGM** (with special guest speaker)
- **Entry to monthly prize draws**
- **All major updates and announcements** through exclusive e-newsletters

Through Friends Of The Grand (FOG) membership, you are also supporting our charitable work in the local community, including subsidising the Intro To Panto project.

1

single

- 1 discounted ticket per production*
- 1 invitation to Friends only events

£21 per year

2

standard

- 2 discounted tickets per production*
- 2 invitations to Friends only events

£30 per year

3

family

- 4 discounted ticket per production* (for family or friends)
- 4 invitations to Friends only events

£50 per year



“I’d been trying to get Jane McDonald tickets for 2 years...”

“The exact reason why I joined FOG was for Jane McDonald. She only comes to the Grand for one night, and for two years I missed out because I didn’t have priority booking. So, I thought “I’m not having this, I need to see Jane!”. I joined and I booked four tickets. It felt brilliant!

The priority booking is the best part for me because you get the seats that you want. I can’t go to a theatre or arena without having the best seats, so it’s fab. I’d definitely recommend FOG membership.”

Tracy Kumar
(Standard FOG member for 5 years)

“You’re scheduling things to look forward to”

“We’re a close-knit family and we LOVE the Grand. With FOG membership, we know what’s coming up so we can plan and book before anyone else. When that’s done, we don’t have to worry about it. We book a restaurant and make a night of it. The whole family talks about it beforehand. “What do you think it’s going to be like?” We’re having those discussions well before the show.

We wouldn’t be doing any of that if we weren’t a member and were booking last minute. We’d be wondering “who’s free?”, “can we get the seats together?”.

My standout memories are with my nephew and watching his face. It’s lovely to see him on awe of whatever’s happening on stage. We’re creating memories.”

Mandy Tanda (Family member for 1 year)

“You get so much more than discounts”

“I became a member because I come to the theatre so much. I think it’s good to give something back.

My favourites are musicals but because you get discount on tickets, you are more likely to have a punt on a show you’re not quite so sure about. “The Entertainer” with Shane Richie was like that. I had no expectations beforehand, but I came out thinking “WOW! That was really, really good”.

The best thing about membership is the trips - we went to see Phantom before lockdown. There’s a sense of camaraderie amongst all the Friends. It’s nice to be with likeminded people who enjoy the theatre as much as me.”

Claire Kimbley (Single member for 2 years)

“I’m really glad my dad got FOG membership. It’s such a nice theatre, why wouldn’t we support it?”

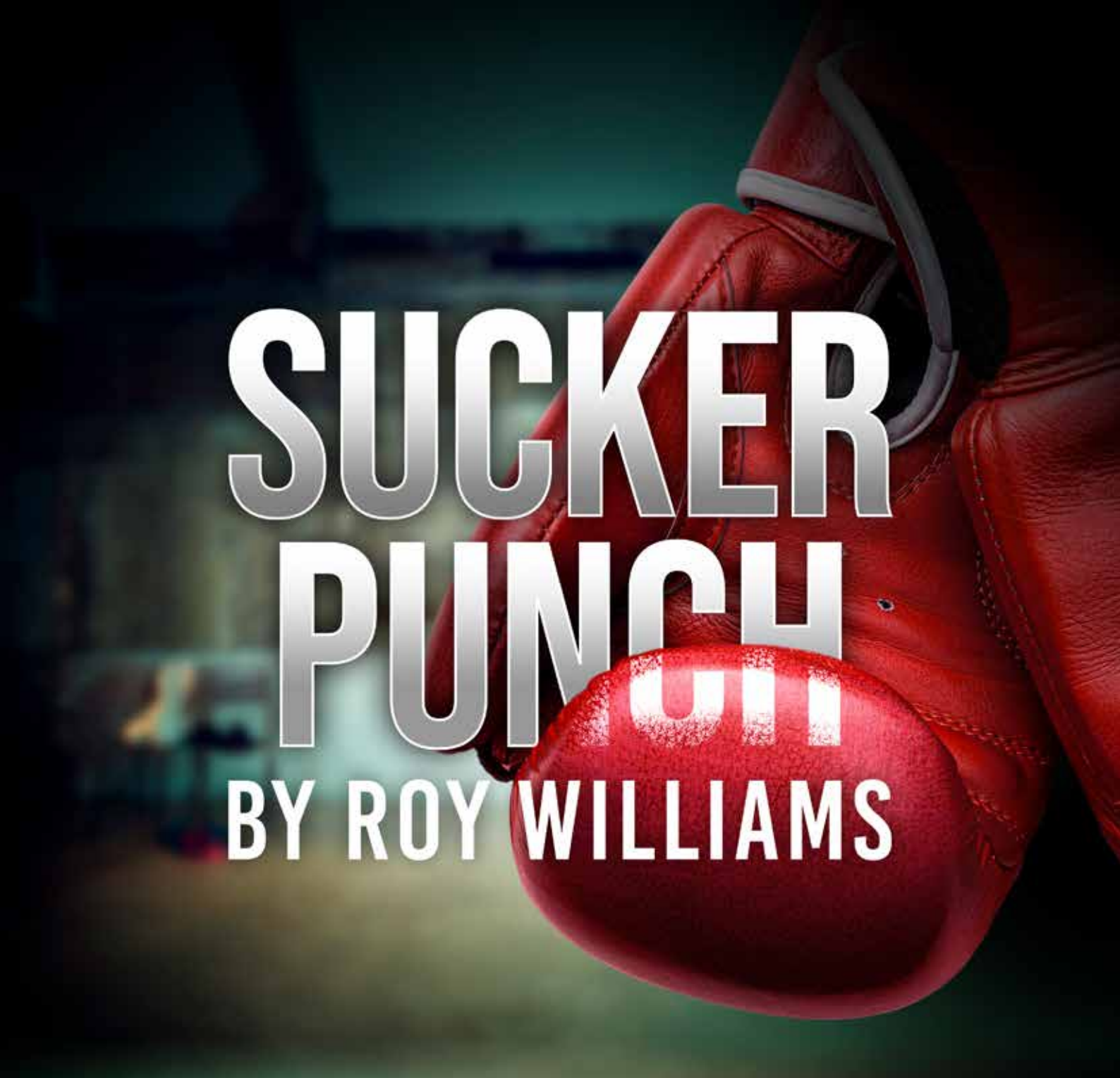
“I know the Grand very well. I’ve attended shows there all my life and I’ve been in a few amateur productions myself. My kids had been on stage there before me! With everything that was going on, I thought FOG membership was a good way to support the theatre. It’s such an important place for us.”

Carl Cook (Family member since the pandemic)

“I missed it so much during the pandemic! One thing I would not stop going on about was watching the shows. I used to love it and suddenly it just stopped. It felt like a piece of all of us was missing. It’s so fun that we can go back now. It’s really lovely going as a family because we’re all together.”

Isabella Cook, 15 (Carl’s daughter)

Join Friends Of The Grand today.
Visit [grandtheatre.co.uk/memberships/friends-of-the-grand](https://www.grandtheatre.co.uk/memberships/friends-of-the-grand)
or call the Box Office on
01902 42 92 12



SUCKER PUNCH

BY ROY WILLIAMS

Sucker Punch

Tuesday 13 – Saturday 17 June '23

Evenings at 7.30pm

Wednesday & Saturday matinee at 2.30pm

A Theatre Nation Partnerships production, produced by Queen's Theatre Hornchurch

'Packs a knockout punch' The Guardian

Two best mates, Leon and Troy, have spent their youth growing up in a boxing gym, figuring out a place in the world, vying for the approval of Charlie, their trainer.

Soon Leon and Becky, Charlie's daughter, are trying to keep a big secret. In a ruthless world. But there can only be one winner, and it's time everyone stepped into the ring to face up to who they really are...

This tender, bruising and funny play by leading British dramatist Roy Williams, brilliantly explores being young and black in the 80s. Winning the Alfred Fagon Award, The Writers Guild Award for Best Play and nominated for an Olivier for Best New Play, it first opened in a sell-out production at London's Royal Court.

A regional premiere of thrillingly staged event theatre, from an exciting partnership of theatres, touring nationally.

Tickets from £12.50*





ROY WILLIAMS
WRITER



NATHAN POWELL
DIRECTOR



CHRISTIAN ALIFOE
TROY



SHEM HAMILTON
LEON



JOHN ROGERS
TOMMY



WAYNE ROLLINS
SQUID



LIAM SMITH
CHARLIE



RAY STRASSER-KING
RAY



POPPY WINTER
BECKY

The Makings Of A Murderer

Wednesday 21 June '23 - 7.30pm

Investigating The UK's Most Notorious Serial Killers
Hosted by the Detective Who Brought Serial Killer Peter Tobin to Justice

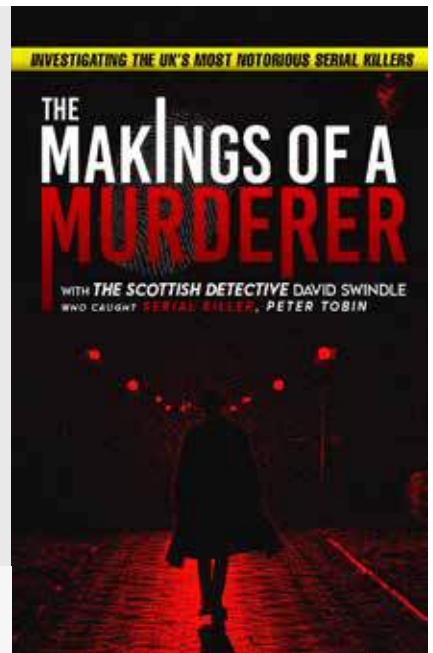
Join The Scottish Detective, **David Swindle**, for a chilling, thrilling, night at the theatre.
True crime fans, and those with a curious mind, can explore the cases, the circumstances and the detective's perspective on what really went on, the early warning signs and the clues behind **THE MAKINGS OF A MURDERER!**

With more than 34 years as a senior detective, David shares his unique insight into the minds of the murderers, the famous cases that were never solved, and how the murderer got away with it... from someone on the inside.

"Serial Killers are cunning, conniving, controlling, careful and – I hate to say it – clever," says David.

Tickets from £15*

Age Guidance: 18+ advised



RUSH - A Joyous Jamaican Journey

Thursday 22 June '23 - 7.30pm

June 22nd is the anniversary of the arrival of the SS Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks in 1948 and Rush Theatre Company return to The Grand Theatre with the incredible **RUSH - A JOYOUS JAMAICAN JOURNEY** to mark this historic day.

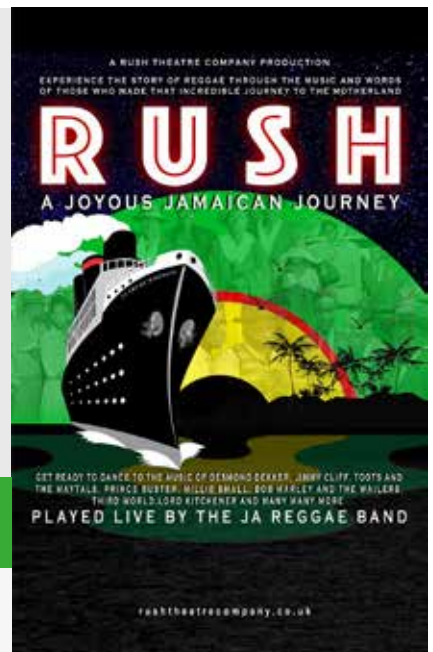
Dubbed 'unmissable' by Stage Talk Magazine, this show is powerful, informative uplifting, packed with humour and features ska, rock steady, calypso, gospel, lovers rock, dancehall and Reggae music played live by the amazing **JA Reggae Band**.

Join us as we tell the story of Reggae music and the Windrush Generation and hear how this music took the world by storm.

75th Anniversary of National Windrush Day

Tickets from £15*

Age Guidance: 12+



Cirque: The Greatest Show

Sunday 25 June '23 - 4pm

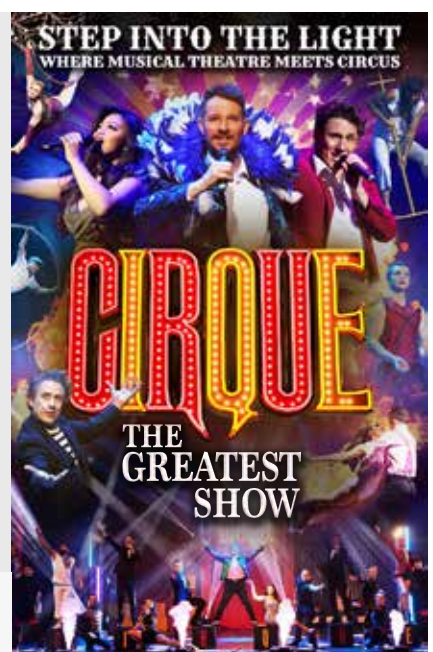
It's time to step into the light. Escape with us for a night like no other, where we take you into a world where the very best of musical theatre showstoppers meet jaw-dropping circus spectacular.

A world that explodes into colour as everyone's favourite West End and Broadway hits combine with breath-taking, amazing aerialists, incredible contortionists, and thrilling feats of agility and flair.

Let the music lift you on a truly wondrous journey bursting with kaleidoscopic colour. Stars of the West End combine with incredible circus performers as the biggest hits from your favourite theatre shows are brought to the stage in unique, spellbinding style.

Enter the extraordinary world of **CIRQUE**.

Tickets from £15*




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BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

BRB2 Carlos Acosta's Classical Selection

BRB2: Carlos Acosta's Classical Selection

Saturday 24 June '23 - 2.30pm & 7pm

Join the rising stars of **Birmingham Royal Ballet** on **BRB2's** inaugural tour.

Some of the very best young ballet graduates from around the world get their moment in the spotlight in this programme which includes sparkling classical highlights from Frederick Ashton's *Rhapsody* (Rachmaninov), created in 1981 for Mikhail

Baryshnikov and Lesley Collier, Carlos's own temperature-raising *Carmen* (Bizet), Bournonville's delightful *La Sylphide*, Petipa's explosive *Diana and Actaeon pas de deux*, and **Carlos's** own new interpretation of Fokine's *The Dying Swan* (Saint-Saens), featuring two dancers.

BRB2 is a brand-new company for dancers fresh from ballet schools around the world as they transition into permanent jobs with **BRB** and other companies. For this inaugural tour, the first five members of the company are joined by other talented young dancers from **BRB's** ranks.

Dancers photographed are Mason King and Frieda Kaden. Photography by Johan Persson.

Tickets from £10.50*



Carlos Acosta

& KIT HOLDER

Carlos Acosta & Kit Holder explain more about Birmingham Royal Ballet's brand new company, **BRB2**

Lunched in February, BRB2 sees Birmingham Royal Ballet at the vanguard of the dance world – encouraging and promoting the stars of the future. Featuring twelve recent graduates, BRB2 members train and perform alongside the current professional dancers while also developing their own touring programme. Birmingham Royal Ballet's new company of top-class young dancers, BRB2, will be bringing technical fireworks and breathtaking virtuosity – as well as some really beautiful dance and music - on their first tour this spring, says BRB2 artistic coordinator Kit Holder.

"BRB2 is a brand new initiative," says Kit Holder, BRB2's Artistic Coordinator. "Some of the best dance graduates from around the world come to us for a two year programme. They work with the main company and are in the corps de ballet of all the big productions so recently they were in *Coppélia*, *The Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake*. And on top of that work, they also rehearse and tour their own programme for BRB2.

Kit is looking forward to bringing the company to Wolverhampton.

"With Wolverhampton Grand Theatre it's a relatively new relationship for our company. Certainly, in my two and a bit decades with BRB we've only been once and that was pre-pandemic. The Grand is a lovely theatre and we're looking forward to picking up that relationship again. Our dedicated home audience in Birmingham will be able to see the show there too as it's not far. BRB is part of the wider region of the West Midlands, the local company

for Wolverhampton, and we're really glad to be going to them rather than audiences having to come to us all the time!"

Born in Cuba, Artistic Director, choreographer and dancer, **Carlos Acosta** trained at The National Ballet School of Havana and has danced professionally with many of the world's most prestigious companies. He is currently Director of the Birmingham Royal Ballet and added, "It is with great pleasure that I present my Classical Selection and introduce you to Birmingham Royal Ballet's rising stars in our exciting new company, **BRB2**."

"Since arriving at BRB, I have wanted to develop a young company. A company with its own artistic identity in which some of our finest young dancers would not only have the opportunity to take on lead roles of their own, but which would also provide a structure for brilliant young dancers graduating from ballet schools around the world to gain real-life experience with a touring ballet company. With the support of David and Mary Laing, The Kirby Laing Foundation and The Linbury Trust I am thrilled that we can bring this dream to life in 2023!"

"BRB has a strong track record in launching the careers of some of the world's most renowned dancers, who have developed their skills at BRB and then gone on to become global stars. BRB is proud that Darcey Bussell, Leanne Benjamin and Miyako Yoshida, amongst others, had their first professional jobs at Birmingham Royal Ballet. **BRB2** will help the company give opportunities to more of the brightest stars of the future."

Words with Kit Holder
by Diane Parkes.
Carlos Acosta (top)
photographed by Man
Yee Lee and Kit Holder
(bottom) photographed
by Johan Persson.

nickelodeon
THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL

UK PREMIERE TOUR



STARRING
DIVINA DE CAMPO
AS PLANKTON

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The SpongeBob Musical

Tuesday 27 June - Saturday 1 July '23

Evenings at 7pm

Wednesday matinee at 11am & Saturday matinee at 2pm

Who lives in a pineapple under the sea and became the hottest star on Broadway?
SpongeBob Squarepants!

When the citizens of Bikini Bottom discover that a volcano will soon erupt and destroy their humble home, SpongeBob and his friends must come together to save the fate of their undersea world!

Starring *Ru-Paul's Drag Race* legend **Divina De Campo**, **THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL** is written by Kyle Jarrow and conceived by Tina Landau and features a tidal wave of original songs by the world's most iconic rock and pop artists, including *Yolanda Adams*, *Steven Tyler and Joe Perry of Aerosmith*, *Sara Bareilles*, *Jonathan Coulton*, *Alex Ebert of Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros*, *The Flaming Lips*, *Lady A*, *Cyndi Lauper*, *John Legend*, *Panic! At the Disco*, *Plain White T's*, *They Might Be Giants* and *T.I.*, and songs by *David Bowie*, *Tom Kenny* and *Andy Paley*. Additional lyrics by *Jonathan Coulton*. Additional music by *Tom Kitt*.

THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL is a hilarious deep-sea pearl of a show that is set to make a splash with audiences young and old as the must-see musical of 2023.

Please note, the 11am performance on Wednesday 28 June is a relaxed performance.



Tickets
from £15*

Music From The Heart

Sunday 2 July '23 - 4pm

Revel in some of opera's most romantic and luscious melodies ever written.

Welsh National Opera Orchestra and conductor Matthew Kofi Waldren team up with tenor Trystan Llŷr Griffiths and soprano Nadine Benjamin in an electrifying programme which features a selection of magnificent arias, duets and orchestral numbers that capture the intensity of love, lust and heartache.

A labyrinth of emotions, experience the Overture to Verdi's *La forza del destino* and Gypsy Dance from Bizet's *Carmen* alongside highlights from *La traviata*, *Norma*, *Tosca*, *Eugene Onegin* and much more in a rich and sumptuous suite of music from the heart.

#WNOorchestra



Tickets from £17.75*



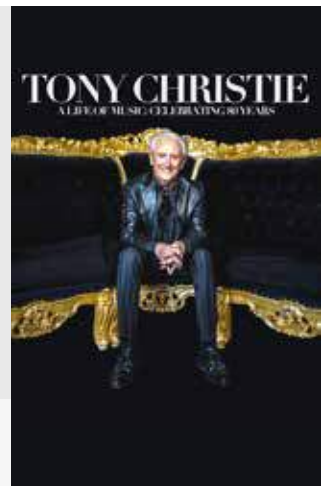
Tony Christie: A Life Of Music, Celebrating 80 Years

Saturday 8 July '23 - 2.30pm

The legendary crooner continues to entertain audiences around the world with incredible showmanship, an unmistakable powerful vocal that has captivated generation after generation and a set list that packs a punch.

From trademark megahit *Is This the Way to Amarillo* through to other classics including *Avenues & Alleyways*, *Walk Like a Panther*, *Las Vegas*, *I Did What I Did for Maria*, *Happy Birthday Baby* and many more. Tony will be performing a select handful of shows along with his band in commemoration of his milestone coming of age and a triumphant 50+ year career.

Tickets from £12.50*



80s Live

Tuesday 11 July '23 - 7.30pm

Get ready as we bring you the biggest 80s party show to tour the UK – **80S LIVE!**

We will make you feel shiny and new as we travel back in time to one of the most iconic eras of music for the night out you have been dreaming of – get into the groove as our live band, Electric Dreams, perform over two dozen chart topping anthems from *Wham!*, *The Weather Girls*, *Culture Club*, *Rick Astley*, *Madonna*, *Duran Duran*, *Soft Cell*, *The Human League*, *A-ha*, *Tears for Fears* and more.

With our sensational cast and live band, this is just what the doctor ordered.

This is **80S LIVE!**

Tickets from £15*



The Greatest Hits Of Motown - How Sweet It Is

Saturday 15 July '23 - 7.30pm

This stunning 100% live show combines first class music with the slickest choreography and an amazing band, to deliver truly outstanding performances for the best Motown experience you will ever have!

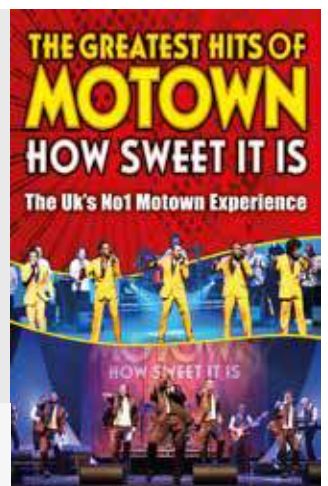
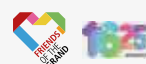
This show will have you *Dancing On The Ceiling*, with songs from legendary artistes such as *Lionel Richie*, *The Temptations*, *Stevie Wonder*, *The Four Tops*, *Smokey Robinson*, *Marvin Gaye*, *The Jackson Five*, *The Isley Brothers*, *Edwin Starr* and many more.

"They had the moves, the looks, the voices and every Motown Classic you could ask for" Jersey Evening News, Sarah Harding.

The **ULTIMATE** celebration of the sweet sound of Motown.

Let's Get Ready... to Go Loco, Down in Acapulco!

Tickets from £20*





Michael McIntyre: Work In Progress

Wednesday 12 - Friday 14 July '23 - 8pm

Join Michael as he tries out brand new material!

Tickets £31.75*

Age Guidance: **STRICTLY 14+** Likely to be swearing and adult content

Jools Holland

Sunday 23 July '23 - 7.30pm

As the UK's most popular pianist and bandleader, **Jools Holland OBE** has performed and recorded with some of the most talented musicians and songwriters in the world, including *Eric Clapton*, the late *George Harrison* and *Luther Vandross*, *Sting*, *BB King* and *Paul Weller*. Jools is respected not only as a performer, but also an authority on all music.

The 20-piece Rhythm & Blues Orchestra features, at its helm, former *Squeeze* drummer, **Gilson Lavis**. Lavis has been drumming with **Jools Holland** for over 25 years, since their *Squeeze* days, with special guests **Pauline Black & Gaps Hendrickson** from *The Selecter* and guest vocalists **Ruby Turner, Louise Marshall** and **Sumudu Jayatilaka**.

Jools Holland & his Rhythm & Blues Orchestra

Featuring **GILSON LAVIS**

with special guests

**PAULINE BLACK &
GAPS HENDRICKSON**

FROM THE SELECTER

and guest vocalists

**RUBY TURNER
LOUISE MARSHALL
& SUMUDU**



Tickets from £24.75*



'TAKE THAT'S FEEL GOOD SENSATION
REALLY IS BACK FOR GOOD'

THE SUN

THE OFFICIAL
TAKE THAT MUSICAL
**GREATEST
DAYS**



Greatest Days

Monday 17 - Saturday 22 July '23

Monday - Thursday evening at 7.30pm

Friday at 5pm & 8.30pm, Saturday at 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Relight *Your Fire* with this sensational new production of *Take That's* smash hit musical **GREATEST DAYS**.

GREATEST DAYS features more than 15 record-breaking *Take That* songs, alongside a heart-warming and hilarious story of love, loss and laughter from award-winning writer Tim Firth that will make your heart *Shine*.

The musical follows five boy band obsessed best friends in the 1990s, who reunite over 20 years later to see their heartthrobs one last time in what could be the *Greatest Days* of their lives.

GREATEST DAYS stars the award-winning **Kym Marsh**, who shot to stardom in noughties band *Hear'Say* and now best known for *Coronation Street*, *Waterloo Road* and as a presenter on the BBC's *Morning Live*.

Previously titled *The Band*, the show broke box office records and delighted audiences around the United Kingdom when it performed from 2017 – 2019.

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of *Take That's* first ever UK number 1 single *Pray* and coinciding with the summer 2023 release of the official movie of this smash hit musical – **GREATEST DAYS** is sure to be a night out at the theatre you will *Never Forget*.



**Tickets
from £19.50***



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MOMENTS WITH FIRST CALL

First Call is the perfect way for you and your child to visit Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

With our FREE membership, you can enjoy the biggest and best shows together with our special First Call member rates.

If you both love theatre and want to see more of it together then join First Call today. First call membership is open to all theatregoers aged 8-15.

For full details of all the features and benefits that First Call members enjoy visit grandtheatre.co.uk memberships



Two tickets for **£75***
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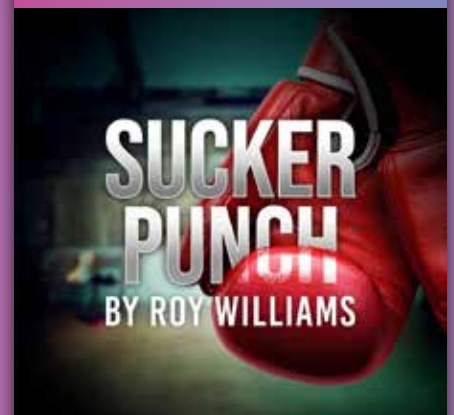
Two tickets for **£30***
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Two tickets for **£20***
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Two tickets for **£30***
Save up to £10



Two tickets for **£30***
Save up to £15.50



Two tickets for **£40***
Save up to £23



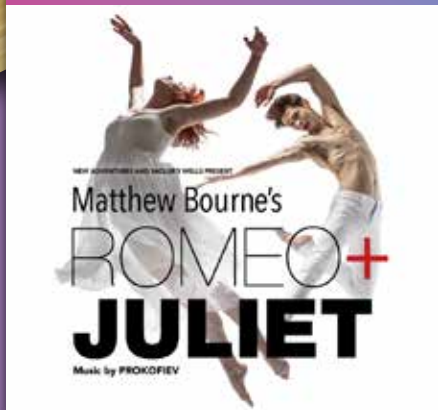
Two tickets for **£60***
Save up to £41



THE ORIGINAL. LIVE ON STAGE.

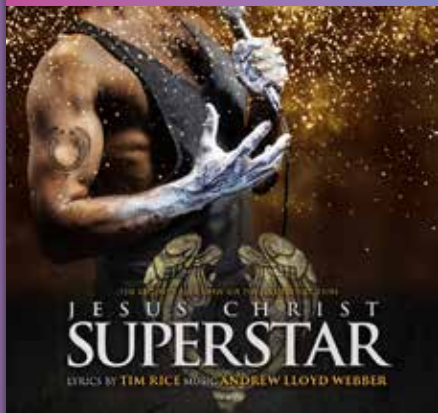
DAME SUSAN HILL'S
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
scripted by STEPHEN MALLATRAIT

Two tickets for **£49***
Save up to £14



Matthew Bourne's
ROMEO + JULIET
Music by PROKOFIEV

Two tickets for **£49***
Save up to £29



JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR
LYRICS BY TIM RICE MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

Two tickets for **£49***
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DIRECT FROM LONDON'S WEST END

2:22
A GHOST STORY
written by DANNY ROBINS
directed by MATTHEW DUNSTER & JARIL MARIE

'A CRACKING SUPERNATURAL THRILLER'

Two tickets for **£49***
Save up to £21



★★★★★
'Theatre at its best.'
The Academy of National Theatre's production
THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE

Two tickets for **£40***
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PETER PAN GOES WRONG

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THE HAPPIEST PART OF HUMAN LIFE!

Two tickets for **£40***
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EMBARKS ON ITS BIGGEST JOURNEY YET

'ONE OF THE MOST STUNNING SHOWS I HAVE EVER SEEN'
★★★★★
'EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS PRODUCTION IS AMAZING'
★★★★★
'IT WILL MAKE YOU BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF THEATRE'
★★★★★

LIFE OF PI
WINNER OF EVERY MAJOR PLAY AWARD INCLUDING 5 OLIVIER'S

Two tickets for **£49***
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CRAIG REVEL HORWOOD
AS MISS HANNIGAN

Annie

Two tickets for **£49***
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PRESENTS
JEN FLEMING'S
CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY ROBERT AL. SHERMAN AND ROBERT B. SHERMAN

Two tickets for **£30***
Save up to £16



★★★★★
'PUNCHY, FUNNY, FABULOUS'
EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT
JAMIE
THE HIT WEST END MUSICAL FOR TODAY

THE SELL-OUT PHENOMENON IS BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Two tickets for **£49***
Save up to £26



HAVE **YOU DUNNIT?**

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
The Mousetrap
70TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

Two tickets for **£49***
Save up to £6.50

Dementia-friendly THEATRE



Since 2019, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre has been working hard to enrich the lives of our customers living with dementia and their loved ones. We believe that live theatre should be accessible to all and our dementia-friendly theatrical Memory Cafés and events provide a safe and supportive space to make this possible.

We host three Memory Cafés throughout each month and reach up to 60 people per café. They are free to attend and include an hour of live entertainment, refreshments and the chance to meet people in a similar situation.

To benefit as many people as possible, we added a Memory Café tailored to the Black, African & Caribbean communities and these include Motown, Reggae, Gospel & Soul music.

Everyone is welcome to attend any of our cafés but we will continue to diversify their content to ensure we cater to as many people as possible.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **The Bluebird Belles:**
Thursday 30 & Friday 31 March
- **Sophie Clayton & Carl McGregor:**
Friday 14 April
- **Ian Adams & Julie Paton:**
Thursday 27 & Friday 28 April
- **Memory Café 4th Anniversary Event:**
Friday 23 June 2023 12pm – 5pm
The Mount Hotel, Wolverhampton.
Tickets £20 available to purchase from the Box Office.

"It's lovely to see how the musical numbers sparked some precious memories for the members of the audience - to see them smile and join in with the words was magical. My father had dementia for many years but always responded to music he loved."



Our Memory Cafés and Care Home tours wouldn't be possible without the generosity of our patrons & sponsors:



DIRECT FROM THE WEST END
**'THE MOST BRILLIANTLY EFFECTIVE
SPINE-CHILLER YOU WILL EVER ENCOUNTER'**
DAILY TELEGRAPH



SUSAN HILL'S
**THE WOMAN
IN BLACK**

ADAPTED BY **STEPHEN MALLATRATT**

The Woman In Black

Wednesday 6 - Saturday 9 September '23

Wednesday - Saturday at 7:30pm
Thursday & Saturday at 2:30pm

The legendary production of **Susan Hill's** chilling ghost story **THE WOMAN IN BLACK** returns to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre direct from London's West End, after an incredible 33 year run at the Fortune Theatre.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK brilliantly delivers atmosphere, illusion and horror! Experience the thrill and excitement of this critically-acclaimed international theatre event that has been seen by over 7 million people worldwide, and continues to delight and terrify audiences of all generations.

Obsessed with a curse that he believes has been cast over him and his family by the spectre of a Woman in Black, Arthur Kipps engages a sceptical young actor to help him tell his terrifying story and exorcise the fear that grips his soul.

'Guaranteed to chill the blood' *Evening Standard*
'A real thrill of horror' *Sunday Times*



BSL
Interpreted



Audio
Described



Age Guidance: 12+

**Tickets
from £15***

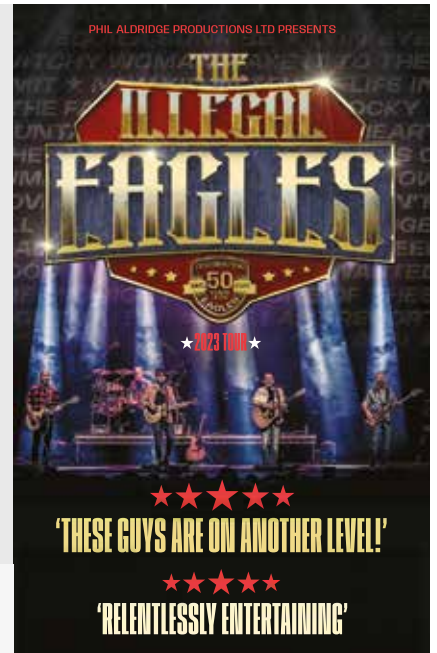
The Illegal Eagles

Sunday 10 September '23 - 7.30pm

Celebrating over 50 years since the formation of the legendary West Coast Country Rock band *Eagles* in 1971, **THE ILLEGAL EAGLES** make their return to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre with a brand new production, promising more of their trademark musical prowess, acute attention to detail in a fabulous feel-good night of live music!

This critically acclaimed show features the very best from the *Eagles* catalogue of classics including *Hotel California*, *Desperado*, *Take It Easy*, *New Kid In Town*, *Life In The Fast Lane* and many more.

Tickets from £15.50*



What's Love Got To Do With It?

Monday 11 September '23 - 7.30pm

After a fantastic sell out debut tour across the UK, *Tina Turner* fans will have the time of their lives as **WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?** is back for 2023 celebrating the music of this incredible rock and soul legend. Expect a night of high energy as this joyous show features all the hits including *Private Dancer*, *Proud Mary*, *Simply The Best* and more.

Tickets from £19.50*



Prince: The Ultimate Experience 1999

Tuesday 12 September '23 - 7.30pm

Brought to you by the producers of *The Greatest Love of All*, experience the genius, innovation and grandeur of the one and only *Prince* in this immersive stage show that pays tribute and reverence to one of the greatest musical pioneers of our time.

Dedicated live performances from talented multi-instrumentalist **Dale Ray** on vocals, guitar and piano, are a fitting commemoration in this world-class production that evokes the wondrous and quixotic realm of *Prince* - his music, his art, his vision.

Tickets from £15.75*



Northern Live

Saturday 23 September '23 - 7.30pm

Keeping the faith to the original sounds of the underground movement that started on the dance floors in the North and eventually swept the Nation including an 11-piece band with 4 lead vocalists performing over 30 original hits, expect to hear:

Dobie Gray - Out On The Floor, R Dean Taylor - There's A Ghost In My House, Frank Wilson - Do I Love You - Indeed I Do, Gloria Jones - Tainted Love, Al Wilson - The Snake, Yvonne Baker - You Didn't Say A Word, Jimmy Radcliffe - Long After Tonight Is Over, Garnet Mimms - Looking For You, Dean Parrish - I'm On My Way and many more.

Tickets from £19.75*

NORTHERN LIVE

MOTOWN MUSIC - BRITISH PASSION

'PHENOMENAL'

GROUND BRAKING... ★★★★★ BBC RADIO

...A MUSICAL HISTORY LESSON

★★★★★ THE STAGE

OUT ON THE FLOOR

THE SNAKE

THERE'S A GHOST

IN MY HOUSE

MOVE ON UP

WHAT

TIME WILL PASS YOU BY

THE NIGHT

TAINTED LOVE

DO I LOVE YOU,

INDEED I DO

And many, many more!



The Magic Of The Bee Gees

Wednesday 25 October '23 - 7.30pm

Whether you're a brother or whether you're a mother, when the feeling's gone and you can't go on, it's time to put on your dancing shoes, for the night out of the year you have been waiting for, as we celebrate the songs of music royalty, the Bee Gees.

With a brand-new show for 2022, complete with stunning light and video show, prepare to experience the distinct sound of one the greatest bands to have ever graced the stage in this unforgettable concert spectacular. Immerse yourself in the brothers' music through the 60s, 70s, and 80s – including hits they wrote for artists such as *Celine Dion, Diana Ross, and Dolly Parton.*

Join us for this breath-taking concert spectacular, taking you on a musical journey through all your favourite songs, including *Night Fever, Stayin' Alive, More Than a Woman, You Should Be Dancing, How Deep is Your Love* and many more!

This is a tribute show and is no way affiliated with any original artists/estates/management companies or similar shows.

Promoter reserves the right to alter the programme.

Tickets from £19*



You Win Again Tour



THE MAGIC OF THE
BEE GEES
GREATEST HITS CONCERT SHOW

FROM THE PRODUCERS OF **LOST in MUSIC**



The Bootleg Beatles

Sunday 1 October '23 - 7.30pm

From *Love Me Do* to *Let It Be*, from the Cavern to the Apple rooftop, from black and white to psychedelic technicolour, the world's Premier *Beatles* band returns to take you on a whistle-stop journey through the most vibrant revolutionary and divisive decade of all – the Swinging Sixties.

It's all here...the iconic mop tops and the Chelsea boots, the Sgt Pepper tunics and the Chesterfield suits. Each tiny vocal inflection and each witty Beatle quip, all meticulously studied on this Magical Mystery trip.

With a little help from their orchestral ensemble and featuring a special set to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the *Please Please Me* LP, this multi-media show is an absolute must-see for *Beatles* fans of all ages.



Tickets from £15*



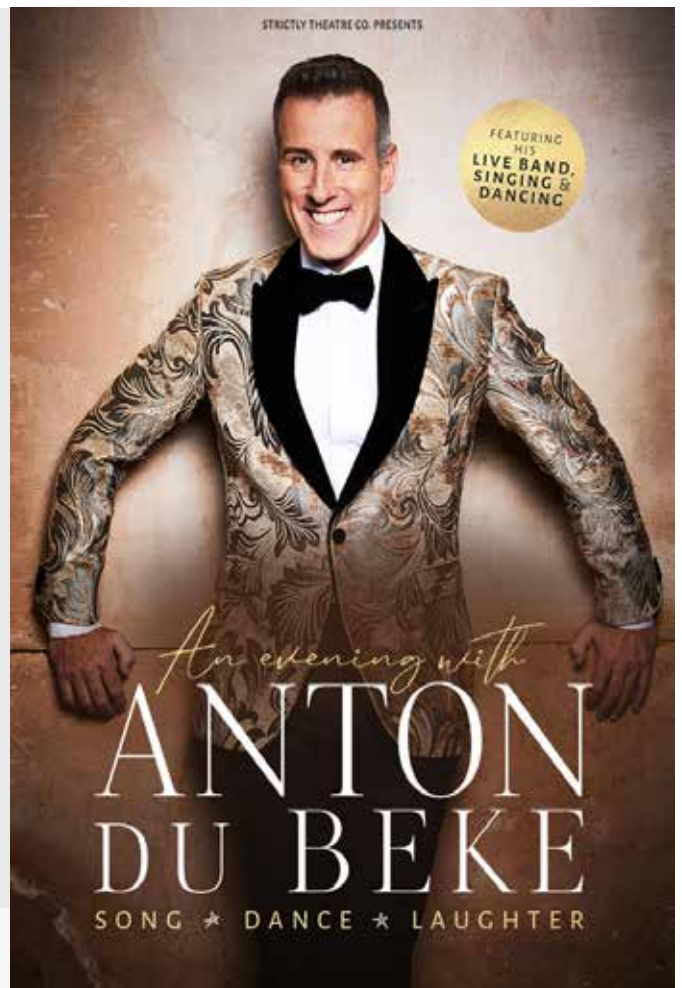
An Evening With Anton Du Beke

Monday 2 October '23 - 7.30pm

Strictly Come Dancing legend and judge, **Anton Du Beke**, takes to the stage with his show in 2023. With his live band, special guest singer **Lance Ellington** and his dancers, expect a fab-u-lous evening of song, dance and laughter.

Anton will be performing some of his favourite songs and dances that have inspired his career throughout his life. Expect behind the scenes stories from his time on *Strictly* that will have you laughing out loud.

Don't miss this special opportunity to get up close to the King of the ballroom in 2023.



Tickets from £25*
Age Guidance: 12+



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‘THEATRICAL MAGIC!’
A MESMERISING ADAPTATION OF
NEIL GAIMAN’S HIT NOVEL.’

Sunday Times



‘SHOWS LIKE THIS DON’T
COME ALONG VERY OFTEN.’

Time Out

The Ocean At The End Of The Lane

Tuesday 26 - Saturday 30 September ‘23

Evenings at 7.30pm

Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday matinee at 2.30pm

From the producers of *War Horse* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* comes the **National Theatre’s** major new stage adaptation of **THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE**.

This five-star spectacular from the imagination of best-selling author **Neil Gaiman** (*Coraline*, *Good Omens*, *The Sandman*) is a thrilling adventure of fantasy, myth and friendship, taking audiences on an epic journey to a childhood once forgotten.

Returning to his childhood home, a man finds himself standing

beside the pond of the old Sussex farmhouse where he used to play. He’s transported to his 12th birthday, when his remarkable friend Lettie claimed it wasn’t a pond, but an ocean – a place where everything is possible...

With spellbinding visual effects, a mesmerising storyline, and a stomping soundtrack, this is ‘theatre at its best’ (*Daily Telegraph*). Don’t miss this ‘knockout production’ (*Independent*), coming to Wolverhampton for one week only, direct from the West End.



BSL
Interpreted



Audio
Described



CAP
Captioned



Relaxed
Performance

Please note the 2.30pm performance on
Thursday 28 September is a relaxed performance

Tickets from £15*

Age Guidance: 12+ - This production contains some adult themes that some people may find distressing, including a depiction of suicide and scenes discussing suicide.





**'SPELLBINDING.
THE NATIONAL THEATRE
AT ITS VERY BEST.'**

Daily Telegraph



**THE OCEAN
AT THE END OF THE LANE**

based on the novel by
NEIL GAIMAN

adapted by
JOEL HORWOOD

directed by
KATY RUDD

**'In there,
everything is possible...'**

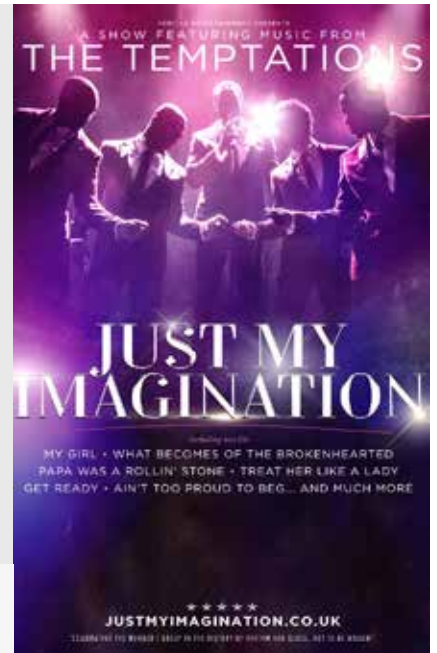
Just My Imagination

Thursday 5 October '23 - 7.30pm

JUST MY IMAGINATION is a celebration of the Motown legends, *The Temptations*, who's musical legacy spanned more than 50 years.

This original production draws from the "Classic Five" era and is inspired by the pace and energy of the hit Broadway show *Ain't Too Proud*.

Featuring a cast of dynamic West End performers, **JUST MY IMAGINATION** brings a fresh, exhilarating and incomparable night of sing-along, dance-along magic.



Tickets from £18.50*



The Greatest Love Of All

Friday 6 October '23 - 7.30pm

Belinda Davids - as seen on *Britain's Got Talent*, *Showtime at the Apollo* and winner of BBC's *Even Better Than the Real Thing* - returns to the UK with her acclaimed stage show.

Whitney's musical legacy is brought to life in this critically acclaimed tribute show described as "mind-blowingly spot on".

**Not associated with the Estate of Whitney Houston.*



Tickets from £19.50*



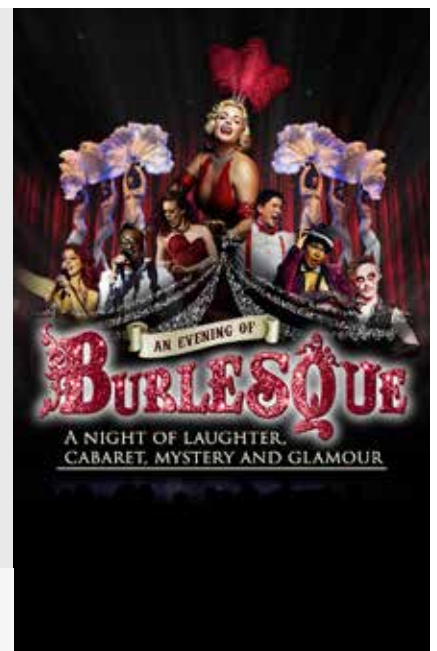
An Evening Of Burlesque

Saturday 7 October '23 - 7.30pm

A night of laughter, cabaret, mystery, and glamour!

The UK's longest running burlesque show is back – and it's bigger than ever. The ultimate variety show blends stylish cabaret, comedy, music, circus and burlesque featuring world-class entertainers and stars of the stage and screen in an extravaganza of glitz and glamour! Expect fun, feathers and fabulous costumes.

Content is subject to change



Tickets from £15*
Age Guidance: Strictly 18+



“ A FANTASTIC DAY OUT AT THE RACES
Worth a visit anytime of the year! ”

LADY WULFRUNA STAKES RACEDAY

The pinnacle of Wolverhampton's racing calendar, featuring the most prestigious and valuable race of the year.



KIDS
GO
FREE

EASTER FAMILY FUN DAY

Our Bank Holiday raceday has become a Wolverhampton family tradition, providing a bumper crowd, high-action racing, an abundance of free entertainment for kids and a lively atmosphere.

Ladies Evening

Renowned for sensational style and popular post-racing entertainment, Ladies Evening offers racegoers a chance to get the gang together for a fantastic night out, on a glorious summer's evening.



racing league

The innovative team racing competition comes to Wolverhampton in 2023, where 7 regional teams race for the championship title over 6 fixtures across the UK!

Boxing Day

A day at the races is the perfect Boxing Day activity, so much so that it has become one of the most popular fixtures in the calendar.



DON'T MISS OUT ON ALL OF THE ACTION AT OVER 70 RACEDAYS THIS YEAR!
Visit our website for more information wolverhampton-racecourse.co.uk

CRAIG REVEL HORWOOD

AS MISS HANNIGAN



Annie

Tuesday 10 - Saturday 14 October '23

Evenings at 7.30pm

Wednesday & Saturday matinee at 2.30pm

The smash-hit production of **ANNIE** is coming to Wolverhampton direct from London's West End. This 'glorious revival' (*The Times*) stars *Strictly Come Dancing* judge **Craig Revel Horwood** as the tyrannical Miss Hannigan!

Set in 1930s New York during The Great Depression, brave young Annie is forced to live a life of misery at Miss Hannigan's orphanage. Her luck soon changes when she's chosen to spend a fairytale Christmas with famous billionaire, Oliver Warbucks. Meanwhile, spiteful Miss Hannigan has other ideas and hatches a plan to spoil Annie's search for her true family...

With its Tony® award-winning book and score, including the unforgettable songs *It's The Hard-Knock Life*, *Easy Street*, *I Don't Need Anything But You* and *Tomorrow*, you can bet your bottom dollar that you'll love it!

Please note, Craig Revel Horwood will not be performing on Saturday 14 October.



**Tickets
from £19.75***

CRAIG

REVEL HORWOOD

talks to us about returning to the role of Miss Hannigan in Annie



What made you want to return to ANNIE, and what is so appealing about the role of Miss Hannigan?

I just love this character so much; I am deeply in love with her. I think she is absolutely fantastic and an extremely misunderstood woman. Playing her is like an actor's playground, she is a tyrant and a villain, and those are always the most fun characters to play. I couldn't believe that they wanted me to play Miss Hannigan at first, but I thought it would be great, and a real challenge for me. I play her for real – she's not a pantomime dame, there's no mucking about or breaking the fourth wall, she's a very real character in a beautifully written show.

Are there any particular challenges to playing Miss Hannigan?

Well, the challenges are that you need to be honest and real with it. Obviously, body language has a lot to do with that, how she speaks, and the accent of course – which I spent months perfecting. As ANNIE is set in 1930s New York, it's really nice to play a part who speaks differently than almost anyone does these days.

Audiences probably know you best as a judge on Strictly Come Dancing, do you enjoy performing and dancing on the stage as opposed to judging others?

Well, I grew up on musicals. I did *West Side Story* in Australia and then went into *Me and My Girl* and *La Cage Aux Folles*. I joined the famous *Lido de Paris* and the *Moulin Rouge* and then that led into being part of West End shows. The last musical I appeared in in the West End was *Crazy For You* which opened in 1993. I had a really fun year that year. I then left to become a director and choreographer, and subsequently a judge on *Strictly*. My first hoorah back onto the boards was when I was asked to do panto over ten years ago, and that reignited my passion for performing again really. When I was then asked to do *Annie* a few years ago I couldn't believe it, and I've not looked back since!

It's long been said never work with children or animals, but in ANNIE you do both! Are there any challenges that come with this or do they bring something extra to the show?

We have several sets of children on ANNIE, so they bring something really organic to the show. You'll never get the same show twice. You have to play it differently with each set of children and they are so talented and doing incredible work on the stage and are all fantastic young actors. They will come up with stuff and you've got to react to it live on stage which is a bit of a challenge!

What was your first experience of musical theatre?

The first show that I ever went to see was *Jesus Christ Superstar* in Sydney back in the 1970s. I just fell in love with theatre right there and then. I started training when I was 14, and when I saw *Cats* in London around the same time, I knew that was absolutely what I wanted to do, to train for and study for.

You're busy all year with Strictly, performing and often choreographing and directing shows as well. What do you like to do during any down time you get?

I like sleeping in my own bed and cooking in my own home. There's nothing better to pass the time – whether to test and make up some new recipes or really get stuck into cooking something. I love it, I could cook for days on end.

Have you ever been given a piece of advice, or some words of wisdom that have stuck with you?

My teacher used to say, "you need to be like a tiger and fearless", which is of course very apt for this industry. You must be prepared to fail, and as soon as you get used to that you start learning. Personally, I feel that listening to your inner voice is the most important thing, especially when making decisions in this industry. I don't often rule with my head; I rule with my heart.

Finally, what can audiences expect when they come to see you as Miss Hannigan in ANNIE?

Number one – entertainment, number two – a shock! Number three – some great singing, dancing and acting because we've got such a brilliantly talented cast, and of course all of the incredible songs that they know and love.

'I play her for real - she's not a pantomime dame, there's no mucking about or breaking the fourth wall, she's a very real character in a beautifully written show.'



GETTING SOCIAL

LAUNCHES, PRESS NIGHTS, EVENTS -
A LOOK BACK AT OUR LATEST SEASON.



Ian McKellen and John Bishop at the Mother Goose gala night



Edwin Ray and Tom Jackson-Greaves at the Strictly Ballroom press night



Curtain Call for Mother Goose



Ben Cajee and Zoe Birkett at the Aladdin press night



Alice Baker, Matt Kennedy, Hollie Nelson and Robert Knight at the Mamma Mia press night



Aladdin Press Night



Joe Pasquale at the Mamma Mia press night



Chay Wills and Jordan Anderton at The Cher Show press night



Aladdin Touch Tour



Debbie Kurup (Cher) at The Cher Show press night



Duane Gooden at the Aladdin press night



Ellie Simmonds at the Mother Goose gala night



Evie Pickerill prepares for the Snow White photoshoot



Henryk Firth and Georgia Lennon at the Mamma Mia press night



Aladdin Touch Tour



Sarah Earnshaw (Tanya), Sara Poyer (Donna) and Nicky Swift (Rosie) in Mamma Mia



Jaden Oshenye at the Mamma Mia press night



Mother Goose gala night



Dalton Wood and Blair Gibson at the opening night of Jersey Boys



Make Up Artist Megan Layland with Evie Pickerill at the Snow White photo shoot



Mamma Mia! press night



Mamma Mia! press night



Mayor Sandra Samuels, Tonia Daley Campbell and Karl Samuels at the press night for She's Royal



Christopher Foley at the Mamma Mia press night



Blair Gibson, Michael Pickering, Dalton Wood and Dan O'Brien from Jersey Boys



Kevin Clifton at the Strictly Ballroom press night



Rebecca Fuller and Gregory Piper at the Mother Goose gala night



Peter Pan press night



John Bishop, Adrian Jackson and Ian McKellen at the Mother Goose gala night



Post Show Q&A with the cast of Mother Goose



The cast of Sucker Punch at the touring theatre rehearsal event



Peter Pan press night



Aladdin Touch Tour



Robert Knight teaches BBC WM's Elise Evans the iconic Mamma Mia dance moves

NEW/ADVENTURES



'ELECTRIFYING. ONE OF MATTHEW BOURNE'S
SMARTEST, SEXIEST SHOWS
EVER'

DAILY TELEGRAPH

NEW ADVENTURES AND SADLER'S WELLS PRESENT

Matthew Bourne's

ROMEO +

JULIET

Music by PROKOFIEV



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Matthew Bourne's Romeo And Juliet

Tuesday 17 - Saturday 21 October '23

Evenings at 7.30pm

Thursday & Saturday matinee at 2.30pm

Matthew Bourne's **ROMEO AND JULIET** gives Shakespeare's timeless story of forbidden love a scintillating injection of raw passion and youthful vitality. Confined against their will by a society that seeks to divide, our two young lovers must follow their hearts as they risk everything to be together. A masterful re-telling of an ageless tale of teenage discovery and the madness of first love, **ROMEO AND JULIET** garnered universal critical acclaim when it premiered in 2019, and now returns to the *New Adventures* repertoire alongside the very best of Bourne's world renowned dance theatre productions.

Directed and choreographed by **Matthew Bourne**, collaborating with the **New Adventures** Artistic team; **Etta Murfitt** (Associate Artistic Director), **Lez Brotherston** (Set and Costume design), **Paule Constable** (Lighting Design), **Paul Groothuis** (Sound Design) and **Arielle Smith** (Associate Choreographer) with **Terry Davies'** thrillingly fresh orchestrations of **Prokofiev's** dynamic score.

Tickets from £19.50*

Age Guidance: 14+



THE GREATEST CROSSOVER OF ALL TIME?

What happens when Britain's greatest playwright and choreographer combine?

Sir Matthew Bourne OBE is widely hailed as the UK's most popular and successful choreographer and director. His company, New Adventures has become the most successful and busiest dance company in the UK and is a major exporter of British dance across the world. Now, for the first time, Wolverhampton is about to experience the magic of Matthew Bourne, who sat down with Scott Bird to talk about bringing one of his latest works, **ROMEO AND JULIET** to the Grand Theatre.

"It's very exciting that we're coming to a new theatre. It hasn't happened for quite a while, that we've performed somewhere new, so we're very much looking forward to Wolverhampton. We go to a lot of venues throughout the year and it's lovely to see an audience grow and grow when we return. We've got that trust around the country and it's been a while since we started a fresh journey with a theatre we haven't played before so it's exciting to get going in Wolverhampton."

Matthew Bourne's productions are often thought of as the perfect introduction to dance - not just a ballet nor a musical but the most unique hybrid of both. "I'd call it 'Dance Theatre', our work is closer to Musical Theatre in its scale and accessibility but it's storytelling without words. It's always spectacular to look at, we have a company of wonderful actor-dancers who are brilliant at conveying a story. Our work is always story and character lead, it's very helpful to an audience who aren't used to watching a dance narrative. When I make a piece, I always imagine I am a person in the audience who knows nothing about the story or where it came from and it's my job to take the audience on a spectacular journey. I take my job very seriously and it has resulted in the most wonderful trust from our audiences who may not necessarily book to see any other version of the story we're presenting."

Famous for his unique take on existing stories, it's all part of the adventure discovering a fresh perspective on well known characters and their journeys. "I think when we first started out there was a nervousness that it wasn't really *Swan Lake* or *The Nutcracker* but usually now my audiences are booking because they want to know what's unique about it. The creation of a new show is very much the part of the process I really enjoy - many of the shows I've done are very familiar stories and I take a look at them and ask a lot of questions, the what ifs... what if I change the period in which it's set, what if we change the sex of that character - what would it do to the story? Audiences always have something they can hang on to in these pieces because they already know the story quite well but then I play with that and it's always a lot of fun for all involved!"

Audiences at **ROMEO AND JULIET** will still experience Shakespeare's original love story and despite its timeless themes, it will speak to modern audiences in all new ways. "It's very much a Romeo and Juliet type of story, we do have all of the main characters and it builds towards the devastating conclusion but in quite a different way. It's set in an institution, it's mysterious as to why they're all there - it could be a prison, it could be a borstal, a school or a social experiment that the government are having... it feels like the young people have been dumped there but for what reason we don't know. Perhaps they're there for breaking the rules of society, for daring to show individuality but it's all part of the experience for the audience to decide for themselves."



'It hasn't happened for quite a while, that we've performed somewhere new, so we're very much looking forward to Wolverhampton.'



The Elvis World Tour

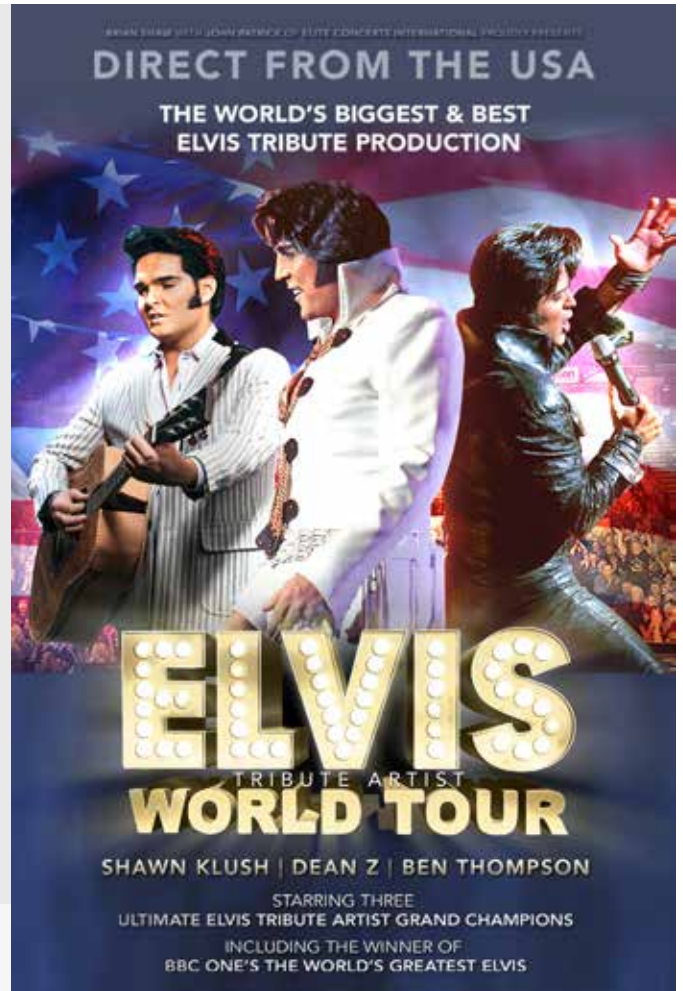
Sunday 8 October '23 - 7.30pm

Join us for the ultimate all American party night out, as the biggest and best Elvis show in the world, **THE ELVIS TRIBUTE WORLD TOUR** arrives direct from the USA!

Starring two *Ultimate Elvis Tribute* World Champions, including the winner of BBC's *The World's Greatest Elvis* **Shawn Klush**, along with fellow American – the incredible **Dean Z**.

So put on your *Blue Suede Shoes* and join the party!

VIP tickets available, contact Box Office for more information.



Tickets from £18*



Most Haunted: The Stage Show

Monday 23 October '23 - 7.30pm

The acclaimed world number one paranormal show. *Most Haunted* is the original and most successful worldwide paranormal investigation series ever made and premieres its spine-chilling theatre show in 2023/24.

Presented by **Yvette Fielding**, the first lady of the paranormal together with **Karl Beattie** and the *Most Haunted* team, you will be taken on the darkest, most terrifying journey of your life.

Theatre audiences will be shaking in their seats as **Yvette** and the team present *Most Haunted's* all-time top 10 scares, complete with unseen video footage from Haunted Castles, Manor Houses, Hospitals and Prisons.

MOST HAUNTED: THE STAGE SHOW will take the theatrical experience to a whole new level with audience members taken back to the Victorian age of séance and Ouija board and invited to conduct their very own ghostly investigation.



Tickets from £18.50*

Age Guidance: 14+

The Pundits

Tuesday 24 October '23 - 7.30pm

An evening with **Jeff Stelling, Paul Merson, Matt Le Tissier, Phil Thompson** and **Charlie Nicholas**.

Come and join football punditry royalty. Host – *Sky Sports'* **Jeff Stelling** – is joined by the ultimate panel of pundits: **Paul Merson, Matt Le Tissier, Phil Thompson** and **Charlie Nicholas**. The boys are really back in town!

Jaw-dropping revelations and hilarity ensue as the quintet with an opinion on absolutely everything, do what they do best – talk football...from players to managers and everything in between.

Anecdotal stories of the guests' colourful playing days on and off the field make this a dream night for any soccer fan. A Q&A features, enabling you to ask the lads whatever you want.

Make sure you don't miss out on what is sure to be the best football pundit show that you will see live this year.

VIP ticket available, contact Box Office for more information.

VIP - Premium seating within the auditorium, a drink on arrival, meet and greet with the lads and a professional picture. **£100***

Super VIP - Premium seating within the auditorium, a drink on arrival with some nibbles, free interval drink, meet and greet with the lads and a professional picture that will be autographed, and a signed piece of merchandise. **£200***

Tickets from £20*



MHM
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PRESENT

THE PUNDITS

T O U R

AN EVENING WITH SOCCER'S MOST FAMOUS PUNDITS

- ★ PAUL MERSON ★
- ★ MATT LE TISSIER ★
- ★ JEFF STELLING ★
- ★ PHIL THOMPSON ★
- ★ CHARLIE NICHOLAS ★

Frank Sinatra - The Retirement Concert

Sunday 29 October '23 - 3pm

Join **Richard Shelton** - widely acknowledged as the worlds leading dramatic interpreter of *Frank Sinatra* - in concert with the legendary Syd Lawrence Orchestra.

Featuring all the Sinatra classic songs and celebrating the greatest voice of the century in one memorable concert!

Originally from Wolverhampton but now living in LA, Richard has performed for HRH King Charles, *Sir Elton John*, with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra and BBC Big Band and was nominated 'Best Actor in a Leading Role' for his portrayal of *Frank Sinatra* in the hard hitting drama *Rat Pack Confidential* in London's West End.

His play, *Sinatra: RAW* has toured the UK and London, New York, Los Angeles and Australia to great critical acclaim.

Richard played series regular, Dr Adam Forsythe in *Emmerdale* and The Archbishop of Canterbury in *The Windsors* (C4). On US TV, Richard is known as Mr Benson in *House of Lies* and Arnaud in *Jane the Virgin*.

Richard's album, *An Englishman in Love in LA* was recorded at Capitol Studios, LA alongside Sinatra's band mates.

www.richardshelton.co.uk

Tickets from £17*



★★★★★
"Shelton as Sinatra is simply phenomenal"
Mike Young, BBC

★★★★★
"Remarkable - a MUST SEE!"
Donald Hutera, The Times

★★★★★
"He absolutely inhabits Ol' Blue Eyes' persona... right down to every mannerism, facial tic and spoken inflection, nailing Sinatra's distinctive phrasing and the rich timbre of his singing voice"
Adelaide Advertiser

Frank Sinatra
THE RETIREMENT CONCERT

starring
RICHARD SHELTON

with the
SYD LAWRENCE ORCHESTRA

www.richardshelton.co.uk

Tom Davis: Underdog

Thursday 26 October '23 - 8pm

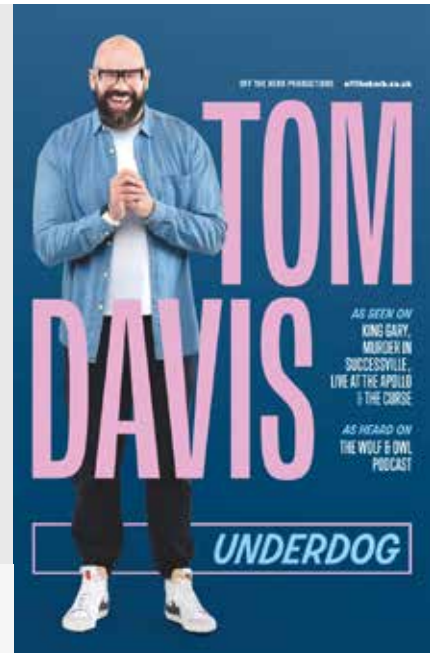
Sweet, sweet soul **Tom Davis** is best known for hit shows *King Gary*, *The Curse*, *Murder In Successville*, *Live At The Apollo* and his hugely popular podcast *Wolf and Owl* with Romesh Ranganathan.

Embarking on his biggest tour to date with his brand new show, **UNDERDOG**, Tom will be exploring life as the longshot. From leaving school with no qualifications to years working on building sites, all the way to the difficult road to fatherhood, acting in blockbuster films and yet still being told he's punching by a waiter.

Big **Tom Davis**' return to stand up should not be missed.

Tickets £22.75*

Age Guidance: STRICTLY 14+ Likely to be swearing and adult content



The One Like Judi Love

Friday 27 October '23 - 8pm

Bringing her fresh, unapologetic and charismatic real talk to theatres across the country, **THE ONE LIKE JUDI LOVE** hits theatres on her first official tour! Expect unrelenting and hilarious anecdotes from Judi's life!

'Not so much a comic, more a force of nature' – *Evening Standard*

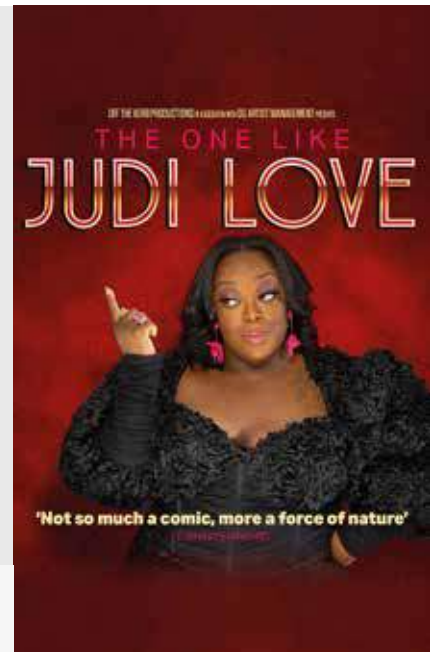
'Infeciously vivacious' – *Chortle*

'Laugh-out-loud moments' – *iNews*

Regular panellist on *Loose Women* and as seen on *Taskmaster*, *The Jonathan Ross Show*, *The Graham Norton Show*, *8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown* and *The Royal Variety Performance*.

Tickets £22.75*

Age Guidance: 14+ Likely to be swearing and adult content



Stewart Lee: Basic Lee

Sunday 28 January '24 - 7.30pm

Returning to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre after selling out in 2023!

After a decade of ground-breaking high concept shows involving overarched interlinked narratives, massive sets and enormous comedy props, Lee enters the post-pandemic era in streamlined solo stand-up mode.

One man, one microphone, and one microphone in the wings in case the one on stage breaks. Pure. Simple. Classic. Basic Lee.

'The world's greatest living stand-up' *Times*

★★★★ 'Basically, Basic Lee is better than most' - *The Telegraph*

★★★★ 'Basically, Basic Lee is very funny' *The Times*

★★★★★ 'Basically, back-to-basics Basic Lee is anything but' - *Mail on Sunday*

'It's brilliantly choreographed, razor-sharp and laugh-aloud hilarious, but anything but basic' - *Louder than War*

Tickets £28*

Age Guidance: 14+ - Likely to be swearing and adult content





'RIOTOUSLY FUNNY. AN ABSOLUTE MUST SEE'

Whatsonstage



THIS IS NOT A PANTOMIME

PETER PAN GOES WRONG



Peter Pan Goes Wrong

**Monday 30 October -
Saturday 4 November '23**

Evenings at 7.30pm
Wednesday & Saturday matinee at 2.30pm

Following their multi award-winning sell-out success with *The Play That Goes Wrong* and the BBC TV series *The Goes Wrong Show*, **Mischief** return with their riotous spin on a timeless classic, the West End smash hit **PETER PAN GOES WRONG**.

The members of the Cornley Drama Society are back on stage, battling technical hitches, flying mishaps and cast disputes as they attempt to present J.M Barrie's much-loved tale. But will they ever make it to Neverland?

Mischief's unique brand of hilarious, 'gut-busting' comedy (*New York Times*), has found universal appeal. Catch them in Wolverhampton and brace yourselves for an awfully big adventure!

★★★★★ 'A feast of sumptuous silliness' (*Radio Times*)

★★★★★ 'Ridiculously funny, I can't recommend it enough' (*Peter Kay*)

Tickets from £15.50*
Age Guidance: 8+



BSL Interpreted



Audio Described



BILSTON OPERATIC COMPANY

PRESENT



IAN FLEMING'S

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY **RICHARD M. SHERMAN AND ROBERT B. SHERMAN**

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Wednesday 8 - Saturday 11 November '23

Wednesday - Saturday at 7:30pm

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday at 2:30pm

Everyone's favourite flying car comes to life in the musical adaptation of the beloved family film.

Take a fantastic musical adventure with an out-of-this-world car that flies through the air and sails the seas. Based on the beloved 1968 film version of Ian Fleming's children's book, and featuring an unforgettable score by the Sherman Brothers (*Mary Poppins*), **CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG** is one family-friendly blockbuster that audiences will find "Truly Scrumptious".

An eccentric inventor, Caractacus Potts sets about restoring an old race car from a scrap heap with the help of his children Jeremy and Jemima. They soon discover the car has magical properties including the ability to float and take flight. Trouble occurs when the evil Baron Bomburst desires the magic car for himself. The family joins forces with Truly Scrumptious and batty Grandpa Potts.

This is an amateur performance.



**Tickets
from £12.50***



“A GORGEOUS,
THRILLING,
**HEAVENLY
MUSICAL.**”

THE GUARDIAN

“**HALLELUJAH!**”

AN ALMIGHTY
REVELATION.”

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

THE REGENT'S PARK OPEN AIR THEATRE PRODUCTION

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

LYRICS BY **TIM RICE** MUSIC BY **ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER**

Jesus Christ Superstar

Tuesday 14 - Saturday 18 November '23

Evenings at 7.30pm

Wednesday & Saturday matinee at 2.30pm

An album that inspired a **revolution**. A **revelation** that changed the world. A **reinvention** for this millennium.

Timothy Sheader (*Crazy for You, Into the Woods*) directs this mesmerizing new production of the iconic global phenomenon, **JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR** which comes to

Wolverhampton for one week only! Originally staged by London's Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, this reimagined production won the 2017 Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival, garnering unprecedented reviews and accolades.

Choreographed by **Drew McOnie** (*King Kong, Strictly Ballroom*), with music and lyrics by **Andrew Lloyd Webber** and **Tim Rice**, **JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR** is set against the backdrop of an extraordinary series of events during the final weeks in the life of Jesus Christ, as seen through the eyes of Judas. Reflecting the rock roots that defined a generation, the legendary score includes *I Don't Know How to Love Him, Gethsemane* and *Superstar*.

Don't miss your chance to see this “gorgeous, thrilling, heavenly musical.” – *The Guardian*

Tickets from £20*

Age Guidance: 10+



BSL
Interpreted



Audio
Described



WOLVERHAMPTON GRAND THEATRE

PRESENTS

CBEEBIES

TAM RYAN

EVIE PICKERILL

IAN ADAMS



SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER 2023
- SUNDAY 7 JANUARY 2024

WOLVERHAMPTON
GRAND
THEATRE

GRANDTHEATRE.CO.UK

#WOLVESGRANDPANTO



THE FAIREST PANTO OF THEM ALL!

Mirror, mirror, on the wall, don't miss the fairest pantomime of them all...we promise it will be a truly WICKED adventure!

Dynamic duo and regular pantomime favourites **Tam Ryan & Ian Adams** return the Grand stage, and are joined by *CBeebies'* **Evie Pickerill** who will bring the magic for our youngest theatregoers.

Join us as we look in the mirror, defeat the Evil Queen and follow Snow White & the prince on their journey to find true love's kiss in this ultimate fairy-tale family adventure.

Take a bite of panto delight with spectacular scenery and costumes, magical special effects, wicked humour and plenty of audience participation! **SNOW WHITE** promises to be a festive spectacular for all ages.

With further casting to be announced, book now for the best seats in panto land!

TICKETS FROM £16.50*

GOLD SHOWS

Group Discounts:

Parties of 50+: £2.50 off all ticket prices (excluding gold seats)

PURPLE SHOWS

Group Discounts:

Parties of 50+: £6 off all ticket prices
Parties of 100+: £7 off all ticket prices

RED SHOWS

General Concessions:

£6 off all ticket prices

Family Ticket:

4 tickets £94* (to include a minimum of 1 adult and 1 child)

Valid on all red performances from 2 - 15 Dec

Group Discounts:

Parties of 20+: £6 off all ticket prices
Parties of 50+: £7 off all ticket prices
Parties of 100+: £8 off all ticket prices

School Parties:

As Group Discounts plus 1 free supervising adult for every 10 students

GREEN SHOWS

General Concessions:

£5.50 off all tickets

Group Discounts:

Parties of 10+: £7.50 off all tickets

School Parties:

Dec: £13* plus 1 free supervising adult for every 10 students

FRIENDS OF THE GRAND

15% off all ticket prices at all performances on Sat 02, Sun 03, Tue 05, Wed 06, Thu 07, Fri 08, Tue 12, Wed 13, Thu 14 Dec 2023.

FIRST CALL

£40* for First Call member and accompanying adult on Sat 02, Sun 03, Tue 05, Wed 06, Thu 07, Fri 08, Tue 12, Wed 13, Thu 14 Dec 2023. Excludes gold seats.

PERFORMANCE TIMES & PRICES

SAT	02 nd	DEC 2023	2.30pm	7pm
SUN	03 rd	DEC 2023	1pm	5pm
MON	04 th	DEC 2023	NO PERFORMANCES	
TUE	05 th	DEC 2023	10.30am	2.30pm
WED	06 th	DEC 2023	2.30pm	7pm
THU	07 th	DEC 2023	2.30pm	7pm
FRI	08 th	DEC 2023	11am	6pm
SAT	09 th	DEC 2023	2.30pm	7pm
SUN	10 th	DEC 2023	1pm	5pm
MON	11 th	DEC 2023	NO PERFORMANCES	
TUE	12 th	DEC 2023	2.30pm	7pm
WED	13 th	DEC 2023	2.30pm	7pm
THU	14 th	DEC 2023	2.30pm	7pm
FRI	15 th	DEC 2023	11am	6pm
SAT	16 th	DEC 2023	11am	5pm
SUN	17 th	DEC 2023	11am	3pm
MON	18 th	DEC 2023	NO PERFORMANCES	
TUE	19 th	DEC 2023	2.30pm	7pm
WED	20 th	DEC 2023	2.30pm	7pm
THU	21 st	DEC 2023	2.30pm	7pm
FRI	22 nd	DEC 2023	2.30pm	7pm
SAT	23 rd	DEC 2023	2.30pm	7pm
SUN	24 th	DEC 2023	11am	3pm
MON	25 th	DEC 2023	NO PERFORMANCES	
TUE	26 th	DEC 2023	1pm	5pm
WED	27 th	DEC 2023	1pm	5pm
THU	28 th	DEC 2023	2.30pm	7pm
FRI	29 th	DEC 2023	2.30pm	7pm
SAT	30 th	DEC 2023	1pm	5pm
SUN	31 st	JAN 2024	11am	3pm
MON	01 st	JAN 2024	NO PERFORMANCES	
TUE	02 nd	JAN 2024	NO PERFORMANCES	
WED	03 rd	JAN 2024	2.30pm	7pm
THU	04 th	JAN 2024	2.30pm	7pm
FRI	05 th	JAN 2024	2.30pm	7pm
SAT	06 th	JAN 2024	1pm	5pm
SUN	07 th	JAN 2024	11am	3pm



BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETED PERFORMANCES

Thu 14 Dec at 2.30pm & 7pm and Sat 6 Jan at 1pm



AUDIO DESCRIBED PERFORMANCES

Thu 14 Dec at 2.30pm and Sat 6 Jan at 1pm



CAPTIONED PERFORMANCES

Wed 20 Dec at 7pm



RELAXED PERFORMANCES

Fri 15 Dec at 11am and Sat 16 Dec at 11am



Tam & Ian

on making magic and mayhem for Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre has a rich history of pantomime dating back to its opening year, 1894. Throughout all that time, the well-respected artform and firm family favourite is an integral piece of the season every year. Recently, the Grand Theatre has taken steps towards producing the pantomime in house and this year's production of **SNOW WHITE** is the first to begin with a completely blank page. Scott Bird sat down with returning pantomime favourites **Tam Ryan** and **Ian Adams** to discuss how their input this year begins right now...

For every theatre that stages a pantomime at Christmas, there is an audience expectation, a friendly familiarity but the excitement of the unexpected... "that's always the challenge" says Tam. "What we have to do is celebrate nostalgia and tradition but move pantomime forward. The Grand Theatre is very good at keeping panto relevant. When it's not reinvented and you rely too heavily on what worked before, it does the artform a disservice - that can be where the idea that panto is old fashioned comes from. The age-old comedy tricks will stand the test of time but the presentation of them and the writing of pantomime must

evolve. Excitingly for us this year, we've been given the pen..."

"This will be the fourteenth pantomime I've written" adds Ian. "Collaborating with Tam is very exciting for me. There are things that individually we both know so much more intensely than the other and can add to the mix, bringing together what we've written to make the perfect recipe".

Tam: "I was up until 2 o'clock writing the other morning... we needed a starting point..."

Ian: "You'd written half the show love..."

Tam: "But that's it, you see, it's easy to get carried away and Ian's experience of writing pantos compliments the gap in my knowledge. There will be a really strong story arc with comedy all the way through. We're such a good team, we allow each other breathing space and ultimately, we both allow the show to be king..."

Ian: "The show is always king. The production itself is the star and as a company we do all we can to contribute to its sparkle."

For pantomime to be at its best, it has to be unique to the town it plays and if possible, unique to the theatre it is in. The 'look' of a pantomime is just as



'I honestly don't think there's a better theatre for pantomime, or any other genre for that matter'

important as the content and therefore this year's Grand Theatre pantomime will feature a brand-new set, currently being designed and built as well as a whole new collection of costumes.

"There's a great deal of compromise that comes when you have to use someone else's ideas, set, costumes and script" Tam explains. "For this year's show, we've got a blank canvas and that's hugely exciting for us and for the people of Wolverhampton – if you're reading this now, this show is made for you and I can promise that it is going to be big, it's going to be spectacular and very seasonal... it's *Snow White*... the clue is in the title - it's going to be very Christmassy!"

Pantomime is a celebration of the town, its people, and the local cultures. The opportunity to really focus on Wolverhampton therefore, and to celebrate the Wulfrunian people and places is something both Tam and Ian are keen to bring to the forefront. The town of Wulfrunia, where our story is set this year, will feel very familiar as will some of the locations within the story.

Ian tells us "This is the first time in a very, very, long time that the Grand Theatre will have created a pantomime from scratch, without borrowing or using

something that's been used in another theatre before. It's very important that we do something people will not be able to see somewhere else. There are some very magical elements that haven't really been seen in pantomime before and particularly in a theatre such as the Grand, they will look pretty spectacular!"

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre is built for pantomime. The intimate three-tiered auditorium is shaped in such a way that even the furthest seats feel close to the action. Pantomime performers throughout the years have always commented on how special and unique it is to play the Grand. Jimmy Tarbuck, who is synonymous with audiences at the London Palladium made a guest appearance in the 2019 production of *Dick Whittington* and said at the time; "It's a pleasure to be in such a nice theatre as Wolverhampton Grand which I totally regard as a 'Baby Palladium' – it's the same shape. I've always said that the London Palladium is the best theatre in the world and Wolverhampton Grand is as close as you'll get."

Tam agrees, "This theatre is great for any comedian. I'm not saying this just to be sycophantic, that's a good word isn't it, but I honestly don't think

there's a better theatre for pantomime or any other genre for that matter... the way the Dress and Grand circles wrap around the stage and the intimacy it creates is magic. As performers, we thrive on the audience reaction and the better the reaction the better the show, atmosphere and momentum builds. It's a triumph of architecture to get 1,200 people in a building and for it still to feel so intimate, to feel like you're having a conversation with a person at the back of the Grand Circle... it's great! I can't wait to put what we're planning on stage. This is a pantomime for the Grand Theatre, for the people of Wolverhampton – and the surrounding areas – and it's going to be truly special. As we speak, 15,000 tickets have already been sold so I'd be quick if I were you... it's never too early to think about panto, as I guess we've just proved. We can't wait to see you there!"

EVIE Pickerill

Wolverhampton's Princess of Panto is back!

Evie Pickerill made her pantomime debut in our critically acclaimed production of *Cinderella* in 2021, a firm favourite with families, she's back home and centre stage again this Christmas, taking on the role of Snow White and reunited with Tam Ryan and Ian Adams, she's delighted to be home!

"It's so nice to be back! I was driving to the theatre for my photoshoot and I could have cried! It sounds so dramatic but it's just so nice to be home for Christmas and to be back in the show with **Tam** and **Ian**! I can't wait! I don't want to wish the year away but I'm already so excited for Christmas! I have the best memories from *Cinderella*. It was my first pantomime and I had the most magical time and I had someone that I knew in the audience for pretty much every show, an old teacher or school friend, it was just so lovely! It's like a big warm hug being here!"

"I've been coming to the Grand since I was about six years old, so to be back here is wonderful! I performed here when I was 16 and I remember thinking I need to come back here and perform professionally if I can and to say that I am for a second time is just mind blowing. I remember walking into my dressing room for the first time at *Cinderella*. I sat down, looked at myself in the mirror and cried, that I'd made it here... so many generations of my family have been in this theatre and to do it once was wonderful and now, I get a second bite of the apple..."

Despite her busy schedule, Evie found the time to come and watch last year's production of *Aladdin*...

"I just can't keep away! It's such a beautiful theatre, both to play and to look at, we're so lucky that it's still here and doing so well. I came to watch *Aladdin* last year and to be sat in the audience watching one of the Grand pantos, after so many years of seeing them as a child was so magical. The Grand pantos are incredible and now going into **SNOW WHITE** after seeing *Aladdin* makes me even more excited because I know what the audience will experience! Everyone behind the scenes and front of house make it so wonderful, it's a really lovely

environment to be in."

As a *CBeebies* presenter, Evie is a household name to families up and down the country. Her presenting job is so important to her and panto is an opportunity to extend the relationship with the young viewers.

"Panto is usually a child's first experience of theatre and panto is a massive responsibility to make sure they want to keep coming back again and again for life. I love *CBeebies*, I love that job and I care so much for our audience on *CBeebies* and I equally care about our audience at the panto. It's my job to make it as magical and as memorable as possible – it's a family show, you can be any age to enjoy a panto but especially the children, you just want them to enjoy it and feel like they can escape for two hours having belly-laughed and feeling really happy! I can't wait to return and make magic for the Christmas season again!"

'I've been coming to the Grand since I was about six years old, so to be back here is wonderful!'



Chambers Touring Proudly Presents

Sarah Millican

Late Bloomer

Tour 2023/4



Sarah Millican: Late Bloomer

Thursday 11 - Saturday 13 January '24
8pm

When **Sarah Millican** was a bairn, she wouldn't say boo to a goose. Quiet at school, not many friends, no boobs 'til she was 16. Now? NOW she is loud, with good friends, a cracking rack and goose boeing all over the shop.

In **LATE BLOOMER**, Sarah's brand-new stand-up show, she explores how one became the other.

Plus, lots of stuff about dinners and lady gardens. Come along, laugh at her, with her, beside her.

Tickets £34.25*

Age Guidance: 16+ Likely to be swearing and adult content

WOLVERHAMPTON
GRAND
THEATRE

Gen-G

INTRODUCING OUR BRAND NEW YOUTH AMBASSADORS, **GENERATION GRAND**

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre spent the summer of 2022 looking for young people to become Generation Grand, Gen-G for short, the youth representatives for the theatre. After a flood of applications, we would like to introduce the members!

The group is made up of thirteen passionate young people from the West Midlands aged between 8 and 21. Gen-G ambassadors will provide a vital youth voice and play a crucial part in helping to develop how young people engage with the theatre. The group offers great experience in arts management and event planning, as well as building teamwork skills and confidence.

The role of Gen-G is to ignite, excite, and inspire the young people



**8-25
year olds**



of Wolverhampton and the wider community to engage with the Grand Theatre. The cohort of peers are committed to the theatre's development and impact in Wolverhampton.

Since their formation, Gen-G members have attended regular meetings, offered their opinions on the direction of the group's future, and met with senior decision makers at the theatre. This has allowed them to contribute their thoughts about the theatre's programme of shows, and begin planning an event for First Call members.

Gen-G will meet monthly to watch, critique, and discuss performances, participate in workshops led by professional artists and share experiences designed to develop leadership skills. The theatre has

already benefitted from the enthusiasm and perspective offered by Gen-G, a group whose input will undoubtedly strengthen the relationship between the Grand and the next generation of theatregoers.

“ONE OF MY BIGGEST ASPIRATIONS IS TO SIMPLY BE ABLE TO LOOK BACK ON MY CAREER IN THE ARTS AND BE PROUD OF THE WORK I HAVE CREATED AND BEEN INVOLVED WITH, KNOWING THAT I HAVE BEEN PART OF SOMETHING THAT BRINGS JOY TO MANY PEOPLE”

- Gen-G member,
Beth



THE TIMES | FINANCIAL TIMES | THE INDEPENDENT | TIME OUT | DAILY EXPRESS



THE STAGE | WHATSONSTAGE | LONDON THEATRE | ATTITUDE

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE

THE HIT WEST END MUSICAL FOR TODAY

'PUNCHY, FUNNY, FABULOUS'

TIME OUT

Everybody's Talking About Jamie

Tuesday 23 - Saturday 27 January '24

Evenings at 7.30pm

Wednesday & Saturday matinee at 2.30pm

WINNER!

Best New Musical

Whats On Stage Awards, London

Following a record-breaking three-year West End residency, sold-out UK & Ireland Tour and Amazon studios award-winning film, the smash-hit and critically acclaimed musical **EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE** returns to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

Jamie New is sixteen and lives on a council estate in Sheffield. Jamie doesn't quite fit in. Jamie is terrified about the future. Jamie is going to be a sensation. Supported by his brilliant loving mum and surrounded by his friends, Jamie overcomes prejudice, beats the bullies and steps out of the darkness, into the spotlight. This 'Funny, outrageous, touching' (*Daily Telegraph*), musical sensation is to be experienced by all the family and not to be missed!

With an original score of catchy pop tunes that will 'blow the roof off the Theatre' (*Mail on Sunday*) by lead singer-songwriter of *The Feeling*, **Dan Gillespie Sells** and writer **Tom MacRae** (*Doctor Who*), this 'Sparkling coming-of-age musical' (*The Times*) will have everybody talking about Jamie for years to come.

Sixteen: the edge of possibility. Time to make your dreams come true.



**Tickets
from £15.50***

WOLVERHAMPTON
GRAND
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STAGES

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7-18 AUG '23

JOIN US FOR A
2 WEEK INTENSIVE
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songs and scenes from
4 amazing musicals

**EVERYBODY'S
TALKING ABOUT JAMIE**

**JESUS CHRIST
SUPERSTAR**

HAMILTON

ANNIE

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Work behind
the scenes with
industry experts!

To register your interest please
contact Lucy-Ellen Parker,
Speak Up & Audiences Manager
lucy.parker@grandtheatre.co.uk
or **01902 573320**

ACCESS A WORLD OF

Theatre

Here at Wolverhampton Grand, we believe that everyone should be able to enjoy the **magic of live theatre**. To make this possible we regularly schedule a range of accessible performances throughout our programme including BSL Interpreted, Captioned, Audio Described and Relaxed.

We had the pleasure of chatting to West End Theatre Interpreter, Donna Ruane from Theatresign. Donna has a passion for performing arts and has been a lead and co-tutor at Theatresign for over 10 years.

Q: Can you tell us what a British Sign Language Interpreted performance looks like and how it can benefit customers?

A: A BSL Interpreted performance looks exactly the same as a general performance but with the addition of a BSL interpreter who will interpret the whole show into Sign Language for Deaf, BSL using patrons. On occasion the interpreter may be incorporated into the performance and move with some of the action. We are usually dressed in keeping with the show for the comfort and enjoyment of the whole audience as it can aid those who do not need the service in being able to 'forget' our presence.

Q: How long have you been a BSL interpreter?

A: I qualified in 2000 and since then I have also qualified as an Assessor and independent verifier of the NVQ qualifications to become a BSL interpreter.

Q: What's the best part about your job?

A: The people! I feel so fortunate to be able to meet so many Deaf community members and their families around the UK and often stop for a chat after the show.

I see many returning faces and so every location I go to feels just a little bit like home. The shows are a joy to work on and over the years I have learned so much from the Actors/Directors/Choreographers and technical crews that it has made me a better Interpreter in this field, and a more empathetic professional to the roles that contribute to making theatre come alive for patrons.

Q: What's your favourite show to work on and why?

A: This is always a hard one as I am working on so many. I think that each show has its own challenges, whether that's in the lyrics, the language, the emotion or the pace – the joy comes from the faces I see, the tears, the laughter and the magic that patrons feel. It's a true honour to work in a domain where I can be reflective, expressive, creative and instantly see the impact on the audience.

Q: Do you have any advice for customers who may never have experienced a BSL interpreted performance before?

A: Come with an open mind. Choose seats that give you a good sightline to the

DID YOU KNOW?
We hold seats with 'best view' of the interpreter & captioning units. You can access these seats online by joining the access register or contacting a member of the team.



stage and the interpreter (many venues have these seats blocked out so that they are available to Deaf patrons). And most importantly, RELAX! We are here so that you can sit back and be entertained. We will reflect the actors and show their emotion and give you time to be able to see the action without losing the story.

Q: If you were to describe yourself as a character from a musical, who would it be & why?

A: This one has made me chuckle... I think Fiona from *Shrek*, she is funny, sassy, gentle, kind,

beautiful and ugly. Being an interpreter means that I get to bring the beauty and the ugliness of each character and each story to life, I have no time to be concerned about my looks or be embarrassed about the faces I pull – it's all about giving access, that's my priority.

For more information about our accessible services, please contact the Outreach Team by calling **01902 57 33 20** or email **access@grandtheatre.co.uk**

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THE TRUE VALUE OF A HEALTH CASH PLAN

Paycare

Health Cash Plans are often used to claim back money after routine appointments such as annual eye or dental check-ups. But there are so many other ways that a Plan can provide value to you as an individual, or to your employees if you're a company wanting to get the most back from investing in staff wellbeing.

It's a concept which is hundreds of years old yet its purpose is still extremely relevant today – especially at a time when wellbeing matters more than ever, and we're all reassessing both household and organisational budgets in light of the cost of living crisis.

Access to healthcare

We all know catching health issues early is crucial in lots of cases – and if we think beyond treatments and symptoms, it's even beneficial financially, too.

Knowing they can claim back some or all of the costs can encourage people to attend regular appointments, rather than extending the time between seeing a professional in order to save much-needed money.

Making full use of a Plan

While optical and dental treatments are among the most-claimed types of healthcare costs, a Plan offers much more than that – with a minimum of seven different types of appointment included (such as physiotherapy and chiropody) within every single plan as well as access to other essential

services such as 24/7 access to a GP – and children under 18 are also included within your plan.

A helping hand in tough financial times

Everyone signed up to our Plans also gets access to our Paycare Perks platform, which hosts a variety of offers on everything from luxuries like gym equipment and holidays to the necessities like utilities and the weekly food shop. This is a service which has become even more valuable to our Policyholders in recent times given the cost of living rises we've all been experiencing.

This means we can all continue having those experiences essential to our wellbeing – such as days out with family and friends – despite the current financial worries we all have. And it also enables continued access to (for example) gym memberships and sports gear so that physical wellness doesn't have to go by the wayside when making personal budget cuts.

Supporting mental and physical health with MyHelpline

Our telephone line – also known as an Employee Assistance Programme – offers round-the-clock confidential support for any Policyholder, as many times as they need. Where needed, the Policyholder may also be offered up to six structured counselling sessions too.

Visit www.paycare.org/about-paycare/blog for more details about the true value of a Health Cash Plan.



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DIRECT FROM
LONDON'S WEST END

2:22

A GHOST STORY

The Hit Play By
DANNY ROBINS

Directed by
MATTHEW DUNSTER
& ISABEL MARR

'A CRACKING
SUPERNATURAL THRILLER'

TIME OUT

2:22 A Ghost Story

Tuesday 20 - Saturday 24 February '24

Tuesday - Saturday 7:30pm

Wednesday & Saturday matinee 2:30pm

"THERE'S SOMETHING IN OUR HOUSE. I HEAR IT EVERY NIGHT, AT THE SAME TIME"

The new stage phenomenon that has taken the West End by storm now comes to Wolverhampton! Winner of Best New Play at the WhatsOnStage Awards, this edge-of-your-seat, supernatural thriller is written by **Danny Robins**, creator of the hit BBC podcasts *Uncanny* and *The Battersea Poltergeist*, and comes fresh from record-breaking seasons at four West End theatres with a host of acclaimed star performances (including among others Lily Allen, Cheryl, Stephanie Beatriz, Tom Felton, Jake Wood and James Buckley).

It's a brilliantly funny and adrenaline-filled night where secrets emerge and ghosts may or may not appear... What do you believe? And do you dare discover the truth?

★★★★ "A modern classic" *Sunday Times*

★★★★ "There's plenty of edge-of-your-seat tension and a surprising amount of laugh-out-loud moments!" *Daily Express*

★★★★ "A sensational event" *Evening Standard*



BSL
Interpreted



Audio
Described



Age Guidance: 12+

**Tickets
from £15***



‘EXHILARATING ENTERTAINMENT
FROM SIX KILLER QUEENS’

Daily Express

SIX



SIX

Tuesday 27 February - Sunday 3 March '24

Tuesday - Thursday at 8pm, Friday at 6pm & 8.30pm,
Saturday at 4pm & 8pm, Sunday at 2pm



BSL
Interpreted



Audio
Described

The crowning glory of Broadway, the West End and beyond, the international smash hit musical **SIX** makes its royal return to Wolverhampton, following its previous sell-out success!

Winner of the Tony Award for ‘Best Original Score’ and ‘Best Costume Design’, double winner of the WhatsOnStage Award for ‘Best West End Show’ and a Gold-Disk winning album, this sell-out Tudor take-off has ‘an incredibly strong and powerful message’ (*The Australian*) and is ‘pure entertainment’ (*New York Times*).

From Tudor Queens to Pop Princesses, the six wives of Henry VIII take to the mic to tell their tales, remixing five hundred years of historical heartbreak into an 80-minute celebration of 21st century girl power. These Queens may have green sleeves, but their lipstick is rebellious red.

Think you know the rhyme, think again...
Divorced. Beheaded. LIVE!

Tickets from £19*



Birthday's



For Mum



FIND OUT MORE



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For Loved One's



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MAKE A WISH

PANTO PROJECT 2022



For our most recent Community Panto Project, a combination of thirty community groups and schools, including Compton Care, African Caribbean Community Initiative, Breast Cancer Action Group Wolverhampton, Confederation of Bangladeshi Organisations, LGBTQ+ Fusion and St. Andrews CE Primary School, have worked on the Make A Wish project, based on the story of *Aladdin*.

Part of what makes Wolverhampton Grand Theatre's pantomime season so special is the bringing together of communities, families, and friends that it encourages. This is evident during the performances but extends beyond that in the form of the annual Community Panto Project. This historic initiative has added an extra touch of magic to panto each year by allowing local groups to combine their creative efforts and

produce an exhibition for display during the run.

The final creation, Aladdin's Grand Antique Shop, was enjoyed by thousands of visitors to the Grand Theatre during the Pantomime season of 22/23, who were able to take in the fabulous display which was situated in our stalls foyer. From antique fans to patchwork cushions, and all kinds of other trinkets and treasures, the intricate details of the larger exhibit are a beautiful display of creativity within the local community. Around 400 pieces of work are featured overall, the earliest of which were crafted in September 2022 during a two-hour textile workshop led by Pauline Fletcher from Heath House Studios, with whom the project is in collaboration with.

The designing, stitching, and assembling continued over the weeks, allowing for the impressive final piece, but also for moments of real connection amongst groups.

The Grand Theatre's Outreach

Manager for Creative Learning, James Collins, explains "One of the things that I love most about this project is seeing the moments of joy that it brings about. During the sessions you get to see a huge variety of ideas brought to life by all kinds of fantastic people, and the excitement that process brings is something I never grow tired of. To then see their work combined in one exhibition, and for the excitement to extend to the audiences who then get to see it, is just the kind of magic that we do this for."

Refugee and Migrant Centre ESOL teacher Victoria Nimmo agrees "The workshops gave the ESOL learners a chance to relax and be themselves. For those few hours they were able to switch off from the daily grind of life and be creative. They were truly surprised at what they made."

We were delighted to welcome participants of the project to watch our production of *Aladdin*, some of which had never been to a theatre before.



WITHOUT THE SUPPORT THAT WE RECEIVE FROM OUR SPONSORS AND PATRONS, WE COULDN'T GO AHEAD WITH PROJECTS SUCH AS THIS ONE. IF YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY PROJECTS, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW.



Below are a selection of quotes from those who visited from the Refugee and Migrant centres in Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton:

"I have never been inside a theatre so when I saw all the lights I was amazed. I had fun and loved every moment."

"My daughter was laughing all the time. Thank you for a great evening."

"I went with my wife and my two children. My daughter loved every moment and thought the dancers were the best."

This project was fully funded by Wolverhampton Grand Theatre as part of our charitable aims. We're proud to have been able to offer free craft sessions through Heath House Studios to participants from a significant number of local community groups.

For more information on this project or to enquire about how your group can become involved in future projects, please contact our Outreach Manager for Creative Learning, James Collins – jamesc@grandtheatre.co.uk

"Wolverhampton Grand Theatre has truly engaged with the community, giving people from many different backgrounds the chance to get creative and make something to be really proud of. Well done to all who joined in - it's been a pleasure working with you!"

- Pauline Fletcher

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre and Heath House Studios would like to say a huge thank you to the following groups involved in this amazing project:

Aaina Community Hub, African Caribbean Community Initiative, Wolverhampton Adult Carers Support Team, Age UK Wolverhampton,

Barnardo's, Bangladeshi Women's Association, Bangladeshi Women's Association Girl's Youth Group, Black Country Mental Health, Breast Cancer Support Group Wolverhampton, Brushstrokes Community Project Sandwell, Confederation of Bangladeshi Organisations, Compton Care, Dudley Explorer Scouts, Gatis Community Space & Youth Club, BeeHive LGBTQ+ Group, LGBTQ+ Fusion, Living Springs, Murray Hall Community Trust, Refugee and Migrant Centre Walsall, Refugee and Migrant Centre Wolverhampton, Sandwell Young Carers, Sgt. Pepper's Friends, Spurgeons Young Carers, St Andrews CE Primary School, The Way Youth Zone, Wolverhampton Creative Embroiderers, Yemeni Community Association Sandwell, Yemeni Community Association Cradley Heath.

David Walliams
**AWFUL
AUNTIE**
LIVE ON STAGE!



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Awful Auntie

Thursday 28 - Sunday 31 March '24
EASTER HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN!

Thursday - Saturday at 2.30pm & 6.30pm
Sunday at 11am & 3pm

When Stella sets off to visit London with her parents, she has no idea her life is in danger! When Stella wakes up three months later, only her Aunt Alberta can tell her what has happened. But not everything Alberta tells her turns out to be true and Stella quickly discovers she's in for the fight of her life against her very own awful Auntie!

Following their acclaimed productions of *Gangsta Granny*, *Billionaire Boy* and *Demon Dentist*, Birmingham Stage Company are proud to present a fabulous new production of David Walliams' amazing adventure story, featuring a very large owl, a very small ghost and a very awful Auntie!

"The Birmingham Stage Company's live shows of my books are always brilliant. I can't wait for the fun to begin again!"
David Walliams

Tickets from £12*



THE WEST END 'THEATRICAL PHENOMENON' (Telegraph)
EMBARKS ON ITS BIGGEST JOURNEY YET

'ONE OF THE MOST STUNNING
SHOWS I HAVE EVER SEEN'

Time Out



The Times



Sunday Times



Daily Mail



Mail on Sunday



The Guardian



The Observer



Daily Express



Sunday Express

'EVERYTHING ABOUT
THIS PRODUCTION
IS AMAZING'

The Observer

'IT WILL MAKE
YOU BELIEVE IN THE
POWER OF THEATRE'

Sunday Times

LIFE OF PI

WINNER OF EVERY MAJOR PLAY AWARD INCLUDING 5 OLIVIER

Life Of Pi

Monday 22 - Saturday 27 April '24

Evenings at 7.30pm

Wednesday & Saturday matinee at 2.30pm

Based on the best-selling book by Yann Martel, the five-star hit show comes to Wolverhampton.

Winner of five Olivier Awards, including Best New Play! After conquering the West End and Broadway, the five-star 'theatrical phenomenon' (Telegraph) embarks on its biggest adventure yet.

Jaw-dropping visuals and world-class puppetry combine in a unique and 'breath-taking' (The Times) theatrical event that is 'a wonder to behold' (Daily Mail).

After an epic storm in the Pacific Ocean, Pi is stranded on a lifeboat with four other survivors – a hyena, a zebra, an orangutan, and a Royal Bengal tiger.

Based on the global phenomenon and winner of the Man Booker Prize, selling over fifteen million copies worldwide, **LIFE OF PI** is the hugely popular story of an epic journey of endurance and hope. Don't miss the West End and Broadway spectacle on its first ever UK tour.

"It will make you believe in theatre. A triumph." (Sunday Times)

Tickets from £19.50*





SIXTEEN 25

A WORLD OF

THEATRE



AWAITS

Love Theatre? Aged 16 -25?
Join Sixteen25 for free, and enjoy exclusive benefits,
allowing you to see more of the theatre you love.



Priority booking, special events and potentially huge savings on show tickets... Sound good?

If you're aged 16 to 25, you can get these benefits by becoming a Sixteen25 member.

Our Sixteen25 youth membership scheme is free to join and offers priority booking when most new shows go on sale, so you can have your pick of the seats.

You can also enjoy 15% off your ticket for most of our shows when you book in advance. One of the best things about Sixteen25 membership is the unique access to standby tickets.

Standby tickets cost £10* and are available in person at the Box Office one hour before the show starts. You have the chance to buy the best available tickets, which could mean you're buying a top band ticket for a fraction of its original price.

As a Sixteen25 member, you will also receive invitations to exclusive

events, where you can meet other theatre lovers.

When The National Theatre's *Macbeth* visited, Sixteen25 members were invited to a free special evening with live music, a backstage tour, a chance to explore the set on stage and a meet and greet with cast. Members were also given complimentary tickets to watch the show.

Joining Sixteen25 is free, and easy. Simply register online at grandtheatre.co.uk/memberships, and your membership will be active immediately. Alternatively, you can register by phoning the Box Office on 01902 42 92 12.

So, what are you waiting for?
A world of theatre awaits...



Standby tickets are not available for every show. Standby ticket availability is announced on the Grand Theatre's Facebook page on the Wednesday before the show run starts.

If you really want to see a show and/or want to sit in a particular seat we always advise you to book your ticket as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Standby tickets can only be issued as e-tickets. E-tickets can be shown on your mobile device or printed at home ready to present when you arrive at the theatre.

Standby tickets are available to Sixteen25 members only and are not transferable. Our ticket scanning machines will recognise your standby discount and you may be asked to present photo ID to verify your name and age.

*A £4 booking fee applies to all purchases

Accessible PERFORMANCES

BSL Interpreted, Captioned, Audio Described, Relaxed and Dementia Friendly performances are among the services that are offered at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. For further information on our access services and facilities, visit grandtheatre.co.uk/access

Did you know we operate an Access Register scheme that provides discounted tickets for those who require additional support to access the theatre? Signing up to the scheme also means you can use the discount online and access 'best available' seats for those who require Audio Described, BSL Interpreted & Captioned performances.

Application forms can be downloaded from our website or to request a form please contact the Box Office on 01902 42 92 12 or email access@grandtheatre.co.uk.

Schools, Care Homes & other group bookings that require Outreach concessions can contact a member of the Outreach team on 01902 57 33 20 or via email - access@grandtheatre.co.uk.



BSL Interpreted



Audio Described



Captioned



Relaxed Performance



Dementia Friendly

The Bodyguard	Thursday 11 May - 7.30pm
The Bodyguard	Saturday 13 May - 2.30pm
Sister Act	Thursday 8 June - 7.30pm
Sister Act	Saturday 10 June - 2.30pm
The Spongebob Musical	Wednesday 28 June - 11am
The Woman in Black	Saturday 9 September - 2.30pm
The Ocean at the End of the Lane	Wednesday 27 September - 7.30pm
The Ocean at the End of the Lane	Thursday 28 September - 2.30pm
The Ocean at the End of the Lane	Saturday 30 September - 2.30pm
Annie	Thursday 12 October - 7.30pm
Annie	Saturday 14 October - 2.30pm
Matthew Bourne's Romeo and Juliet	Saturday 21 October - 2.30pm
Peter Pan Goes Wrong	Thursday 2 November - 7.30pm
Peter Pan Goes Wrong	Saturday 4 November - 2.30pm
Jesus Christ Superstar	Thursday 16 November - 7.30pm
Jesus Christ Superstar	Saturday 18 November - 2.30pm
Snow White	Thursday 14 December - 2.30pm
Snow White	Thursday 14 December - 7pm
Snow White	Friday 15 December - 11am
Snow White	Saturday 16 December - 11am
Snow White	Wednesday 20 December - 7pm
Snow White	Saturday 6 January - 1pm
Everybody's Talking About Jamie	Thursday 25 January - 7.30pm
Everybody's Talking About Jamie	Saturday 27 January - 2.30pm
2:22: A Ghost Story	Thursday 22 February - 7.30pm
2:22: A Ghost Story	Saturday 24 February - 2.30pm
SIX	Saturday 2 March - 4pm
Life of Pi	Saturday 27 April - 2.30pm

2024

Want to have

Our Active Access group meets quarterly to discuss accessibility in partnership with The Arena Theatre. Contact access@grandtheatre.co.uk to join the conversation!

Your say?



PUTTING YOUR BUSINESS IN THE

SPOTLIGHT



The Grand Theatre can help put your business in the spotlight.

With over 250,000 visitors per year we have a captive audience for you to promote your brand at one of Wolverhampton's most iconic venues.

Our Advertising, Sponsorship and Business Club Membership packages can be tailored to suit your requirements. Our Commercial & Events team is here to create a partnership that suits your objectives and budget. We offer a wealth of opportunities for businesses from all sectors.

Packages include premium show tickets, branding, marketing opportunities across

multiple digital and printed platforms, advertising opportunities, PR opportunities and staff engagement.

As a registered charity your membership can also fulfil corporate social responsibility objectives as it supports the Grand's ongoing work, enabling us to run projects for the community

We have private event space where you can host a meeting or event and entertain your guests with choices ranging from a relaxed buffet to an intimate private dinner, the Grand Theatre combines a range of corporate entertainment choices with the opportunity to enjoy some of the UK's best live theatre.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY:

"Working with the Grand Theatre enables us to give something back to the community in which we operate, which is a really important part of what we do at FBCMB."

**Laura Jones, Marketing Manager,
FBC Manby Bowdler**

"We have been members of the Business Club for three years and enjoy regular theatre trips with our staff and clients who appreciate the splendour and entertainment on our doorstep. We happily continue to support this great charity, as it's not only a great fun thing to do, but ensures its lifetime for future generations to enjoy."

**Debra Lawrence, Director,
Lawrence Cleaning Solutions**

"Wolverhampton Grand Theatre is a Jewel in the Crown for Wolverhampton and the Black Country - working with the team as a valued member of Black Country Chamber of Commerce is a privilege and delight."

The theatre is a fantastic asset to the night time economy in Wolverhampton and a great venue to use for business and corporate meetings, launches and promotions etc. Our Chamber has certainly made good use of the corporate facilities through being a member of their Business Club and we have met some fantastic people and businesses along the way."

**Gail Arnold, Head of Premium Membership,
Black Country Chamber of Commerce**

**OUR GRATEFUL
THANKS TO OUR CURRENT
GRAND THEATRE SPONSORS
AND BUSINESS CLUB MEMBERS**

SPONSORS



GRAND
EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



GRAND
PREMIER MEMBERS



GRAND CLUB MEMBERS



General Information



Public Transport

The theatre is a three minute walk from Wolverhampton Rail Station and three minutes from Wolverhampton St George's Metro Station. The main Bus Station is a minute away. West Midlands Cycle Hire scheme have bicycle docks at the bus station, where you are able to hire or dock a bike for your journey.

Car Parking

Convenient car parks are situated at Broad Street, Piper's Row, Fryer Street and the train station car park at the station. PLEASE NOTE: You may need to allow extra time for parking on Wolves home match dates.

Purchasing Tickets Online

Tickets can be purchased online 24 hours a day at grandtheatre.co.uk

By Telephone

Tickets can be purchased by telephone on 01902 42 92 12. Telephone lines are open Monday to Friday from 2pm to 6pm.

Saturday & Sunday opening times will vary depending upon performance start times. Please email feedback@grandtheatre.co.uk for more information.

All telephone calls are answered and placed in an automatic queuing system, which ensures your call is

dealt with in strict rotation. Please note, calls are recorded and may be used for training purposes.

In Person

On performance days, the Box Office will usually open 90 minutes prior to the performance start time for tickets sales and enquiries only. The Box Office is closed to in person counter sales on non-performance days. Please visit grandtheatre.co.uk/whats-on for an up to date list of performance days.

Methods of Payment

The theatre accepts payment Visa Credit and Debit cards, Mastercard, Maestro, Solo, Grand Theatre credit, Grand Theatre gift vouchers, Theatre Tokens or cash.

Booking Fee

A £4 fee applies to all bookings, irrespective of the method of payment.

E-Tickets

You can opt to receive your tickets as e-tickets when booking. E-Tickets can be presented on your mobile device when attending the theatre, or you can choose to print your e-ticket at home and present it as a paper copy when attending.

Postage

If you would like hard copies of your

tickets posting out to you there will be a £1 charge.

Refunds, Exchanges and Conditions Of Sale

Full terms and conditions of purchase can be found at grandtheatre.co.uk/terms-conditions-of-sale

Your Comfort and Safety

Please note that some productions may include smoking on stage.

Babes in arms are not usually admitted. Exceptions may be made for certain children's shows and pantomime. Due to Fire Regulations a ticket must be purchased irrespective of the age of the child, tickets cost £3. Please turn your mobile phone off in the theatre.

Please note bag searches are in operation at all performances.

On certain productions/performance additional security may be in place.

Production, ticket and performance information is correct at the time of going to press. The theatre reserves the right to make alterations as necessary.

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre (1982) Ltd, Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1DE Charity No. 515154. Registered in England No 1731876.



MyWolves
[Ages 17+]

International
[Ages 17+]

Young Wolves
[Ages 3-11]

#Wolf Pack
[Ages 12-16]

Wolves Dribblers
[Ages 0-2]

Official Wolves Memberships

Purchase your membership today and gain the following benefits:

- Exclusive joining gifts
- Smartcard
- Ability to earn Wolves Cash on tickets and merchandise (10% of spend)
- Access to members priority window for home tickets
- Ability to join season ticket waiting list
- Invitations to exclusive members-only events
- Access to exclusive competition

Memberships are available to purchase at memberships.wolves.co.uk.



WOLVERHAMPTON GRAND THEATRE

PRESENTS

CBEEBIES

TAM RYAN

EVIE PICKERILL

IAN ADAMS



SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER 2023
- SUNDAY 7 JANUARY 2024

WOLVERHAMPTON
GRAND
THEATRE

GRANDTHEATRE.CO.UK

#WOLVESGRANDPANTO

