



# SOUNDS & STAGE

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ISSUE 1

JUNE 2026

## Debut 2026 Issue

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## ABOUT THIS MAGAZINE



Sounds and Stage is an independent entertainment magazine covering theatre, reviews, live music and TV from London and across the UK. Founded by Tim Todd, we bring you the best of the West End, the fringe, and beyond.

Our team of passionate reviewers and journalists attend hundreds of productions every year to bring you honest, enthusiastic coverage of the performing arts.

From five-star West End blockbusters to hidden gems at pub theatres and fringe festivals, we cover it all.



### Reviews

In-depth, honest reviews of the best productions



### News

Breaking theatre news from London and across the UK



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# Casting Announced For UK and Ireland Haunting of Paranormal Activity

By Tim Todd - 1 June 2026

By Tim Todd

1 June 2026

*Melting Pot today announces casting for its major UK and Ireland tour of the smash-hit, Paranormal Activity. The spine-chilling theatrical experience will star James Bye (2:22, UK Tour, BBC 1's EastEnders)*

Melting Pot today announces casting for its major UK and Ireland tour of the smash-hit, Paranormal Activity. The spine-chilling theatrical experience will star James Bye (2:22, UK Tour, BBC 1's EastEnders) as 'James', Hannah Sinclair Robinson (The Play That Goes Wrong, West End, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, National Theatre, UK and Ireland Tour) as 'Lou', Jo Castleton (War Horse at the National Theatre, National and International Tour;) as 'Etheline Cotgrave' and Caroline Faber (Network and The Heiress, National Theatre) as 'Carolanne.'

Opening at Richmond Theatre on Saturday, 5 September 2026, the supernatural smash will visit towns and cities nationwide until May 2027, giving audiences across the country a chance to witness the haunting phenomenon that has taken the West End by storm. Originally developed at Leeds Playhouse, the production returns this Christmas for a spine-chilling festive run.

Praised for its inventive storytelling and terrifying atmosphere, Paranormal Activity is a must-see event for thrill-seekers and theatre lovers alike. Following its original run at Leeds Playhouse and its first West End engagement, which saw the show play at the West End's Ambassadors Theatre from Friday 5 December 2025 - Saturday 25 April 2026. The show returns to the same venue this summer, where it reopens on Tuesday 11 August and will run simultaneously with the tour, having just extended for the fourth time.

Paranormal Activity began a North American tour last autumn, with dates including the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Center Theatre Group, Ahmanson Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Washington DC and American Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco. Paranormal Activity marks its Canadian premiere at the CAA Ed Mirvish Theatre, Toronto this June, ahead of a run at Boston's Emerson Colonial Theater in July, before embarking on a 20-week Broadway season at the August Wilson Theatre from August 14 2026.

A new story inspired by the worldwide horror phenomenon, Paranormal Activity, is directed by immersive theatre pioneer and Punchdrunk's

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### NEWS

By Tim Todd

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Founder and Artistic Director, Felix Barrett and written by playwright Levi Holloway, whose pulse-pounding theatrical thriller Grey House chilled Broadway audiences.

James and Lou move from Chicago to London to escape their past, but they soon discover that places aren't haunted, people are... This thrilling West End hit is inspired by the iconic, hugely popular film series, Paranormal Activity, with a brand-new story live on stage. Now embarking on its first ever UK and Ireland tour after a sell-out, extended run in London, this chilling production promises to keep you on the edge of your seat from start to finish. Hold your nerve...

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By Tim Todd

1 June 2026

*Disney Concerts and Cuffe & Taylor are delighted to announce that DISNEY PRINCESS - THE CONCERT will embark on a major UK and Ireland tour for the first time from March 2027, with 5 performances over*

Disney Concerts and Cuffe & Taylor are delighted to announce that DISNEY PRINCESS - THE CONCERT will embark on a major UK and Ireland tour for the first time from March 2027, with 5 performances over the Easter break at London's Royal Festival Hall.

For generations, the music of Disney's princesses has been the soundtrack to our lives. Now, these beloved songs come alive on stage with a host of acclaimed Broadway and West End stars in DISNEY PRINCESS - THE CONCERT.

Your every dream will come true as larger-than-life animation and theatrical effects immerse the audience in pure Disney magic, while these powerhouse talents sing your favourite princess, hero and (yes!) villain songs, and share behind-the-scenes stories from their time on the stage and screen.

We invite you to relive your VHS glory days, dress up in your favourite royal attire, and share the joy of Disney with your loved ones at this internationally acclaimed concert experience. Be part of our world at DISNEY PRINCESS - THE CONCERT!

DISNEY PRINCESS - THE CONCERT has played 20 countries on 5 continents since its premiere in 2021, including two US tours of more than 100 cities, and tours the UK and Ireland for the first time in 2027.

The show features iconic songs from more than 29 films, including: "How Far I'll Go," "A Whole New World," "Just Around the Riverbend," "Part of Your World," "Almost There," "Let It Go" and more!

Cast of Disney Broadway and West End talent to be announced in August.

DISNEY PRINCESS - THE CONCERT is produced in London by Disney Concerts, Broadway Princess Party, Cuffe & Taylor and Live Nation.

Running time: Approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes, including one 20-minute intermission.

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By Tim Todd

30 May 2026

*West End LIVE will return to Trafalgar Square on Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 June, with a packed line-up of over 50 incredible performances from top shows from the West End and beyond. Hailed as 'Glastonb*

West End LIVE will return to Trafalgar Square on Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 June, with a packed line-up of over 50 incredible performances from top shows from the West End and beyond. Hailed as 'Glastonbury for theatre lovers', West End LIVE is Europe's largest free musical theatre festival which takes place each year in the heart of London.

Tens of thousands of theatre fans are set to descend on the capital for this unique event, presented by Westminster City Council and Official London Theatre, with support from the Mayor of London, partners and sponsors. West End LIVE brings together audiences of all ages to celebrate the very best of the West End - from its world-class theatre and culture to its vibrant food, drink, fashion, nightlife and retail scene - delivering a significant boost to Westminster's local economy and championing the creative industries.

Shows set to perform at the event include Disney's Hercules & Disney's The Lion King - which will open the event each day, respectively -, as well as a host of old and new West End favourites, such as Avenue Q, Beetlejuice The Musical, The Book Of Mormon, Cabaret, The Choir Of Man, Disney's High School Musical, The Devil Wears Prada, Hadestown, Hamilton, Kinky Boots, Les Misrables, Magic Mike Live, Mamma Mia!, Matilda The Musical, Moulin Rouge! The Musical, Oliver!, My Neighbour Totoro, Operation Mincemeat, Paddington The Musical, Phantom Of The Opera, The Producers, Six, Titanic, Waitress and Wicked, with more performances and the weekend's full schedule still to be announced.

For the first time in West End LIVE history, 100 fast-track entry places per day are up for grabs via an online competition. Plus, one lucky winner will get the chance to go backstage and see the magic of West End LIVE from behind the curtain, receive a 50 merchandise voucher, and 200 in Theatre Tokens to redeem on

OfficialLondonTheatre.com or at the Official London Theatre Ticket Booth in Leicester Square. Entrants must complete an online form at OfficialLondonTheatre.com to be in with a chance of winning this exclusive prize.

Embedding sustainability at its core, West End LIVE is setting a

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benchmark for how major cultural events can responsibly serve audiences, artists and the city alike. In 2025, working alongside our power provider, Film and TV Services, the entire event was powered by 100% green energy using grid-supplied electricity, Battery Energy Storage Systems, and state-of-the-art Stage V backup generators. This year's event marks the beginning of London Climate Action Week, taking place from 20 to 28 June, and West End LIVE continues its commitment to staging world-class entertainment sustainably.

Cllr Paul Swaddle, Leader of Westminster City Council, said:

"West End LIVE has established itself as an annual calendar highlight for theatre and show lovers. Once again, I am proud that Westminster City Council in partnership with Official London Theatre can organise and host a unique festival which will bring more than 60,000 musical lovers into Trafalgar Square over the weekend.

"This special weekend is also an amazing shop window for the West End and Westminster. Those thousands of people who queue from dawn for their place will buy meals, stay at hotels and hopefully go on to enjoy our other attractions. We know for a fact that so many West End LIVE visitors become longstanding friends of our City who return time and again.

"So whether it's a classic show or a song and dance debut you are after, remember you saw it first at West End LIVE!"

Emma D'Souza, Executive Director (Audiences & Commercial) at Society of London Theatre & UK Theatre, said:

"London is the theatre capital of the world - with over 17 million visitors each year enjoying a wide variety of plays and musicals, there is truly something for everyone. We are so grateful to Westminster City Council, the participating shows, and all of our partners for their ongoing support in creating this magical weekend of musical theatre fun."

West End LIVE would not be possible without the ongoing commitment shown by Westminster City Council and Official London Theatre, with special thanks to Art of London, ATG Entertainment, Delfont Mackintosh Theatres, Gascoyne London, Heart of London Business Alliance, London Heritage Quarter, LW Theatres, and New West End Company. With the additional support of Conway, Criterion Theatre, Crowdguard, The Crown Estate, Disney on Stage, Lynne & Land Foundation, Mayor of London, Nederlander Theatres, Nimax Theatres, Nimbus, The Nol Coward Foundation, The Portman Estate, Regent Street and St James's, Shaftesbury Capital, Theatre Royal Haymarket, Theatrical Rights Worldwide, Trafalgar Entertainment, and Veolia.

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West End LIVE is free to attend. Throughout the weekend, performances and exclusive backstage content are streamed on Official London Theatre's YouTube and social media channels.

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By Tim Todd

30 May 2026

*JOY MACHINE RECORDS has announced the release of Snow White & Me: A New Musical - Original Cast Recording, available on streaming and digital platforms Friday, May 29. The full album is available to*

JOY MACHINE RECORDS has announced the release of Snow White & Me: A New Musical - Original Cast Recording, available on streaming and digital platforms Friday, May 29. The full album is available to STREAM now.

With Music and Lyrics by West End composer Pippa Cleary and Book by Philip LaZebnik and Ronald Kruschak, Snow White & Me is a new family musical that brings a contemporary twist to the world of classic fairytales.

LaZebnik's screenwriting credits include Disney's Pocahontas and Mulan, and DreamWorks' The Prince of Egypt and The Road to El Dorado. Cleary's West End credits include The Great British Bake Off Musical, The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 The Musical and the Olivier-nominated My Son's a Queer (But What Can You Do?), created by Rob Madge which played New York City Center last year. Kruschak, a German-based writer, producer and filmmaker, initiated Snow White & Me as both a musical and film project; his musical A Little Peace, written with German composer-producer Ralph Siegel, premiered at Festival Hall Neuschwanstein and Deutsches Theater Munich in 2024.

Following many successful productions across Europe, including Czechia and Germany, Snow White & Me received its first English-language production at the Conservatory for the Performing Arts at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, directed by Lisa Brescia, whose Broadway performing credits include Dear Evan Hansen, Mamma Mia!, and Wicked. This new original cast recording brings together that Missouri cast with West End musicians and a London-based musical creative team. Scott Schwartz was dramaturg on the project and crucial to the show's development.

The album features Rob Madge as the Magic Mirror, and Director Lisa Brescia on the album's final bonus track "My Sister," performed with Cleary. Gea Rose Henry stars as Daisy, Angelina Nazario as Alex, Joe Murphy as Prince Jeremy, Kylie Howard as Endora, Matthew Kischer as Rumpelstiltskin, and Quinten Loveland as the Wolf.

Ensemble vocals feature students from Stephens College, including Keira Anderson, Chloe Anderson, Zack Anderson, Gabriel Beech, Stella Brown, Macie Bruderer, Josh Crowley, Isabella Clutter, Vivian K. Dick, Olivia

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Evans, Molly Foster, Carina Galloway, Devin Michael Leming, Wyatt Logan, Lily Mace, Wyatt Munsey, Hugh Paul, Sophia Poole, Isaac Robinson, Libby Serber, Kaley Sikora, Sydnee Sisk, Olivia Starnes, Kylie Steinhauser, Sarah Whitehead, Mallory Womeldorff and Nicholas Youngstead.

In *Snow White & Me*, two girls from the real world, Alex and Daisy, are pulled into a fairytale kingdom where stories are being rewritten by the evil Queen Endora. With the help of a hapless prince, a cast of familiar fairytale figures, and a little courage, they must save Snow White and discover that they have the power to shape their own stories. Full of heart, comedy, adventure, and sweeping family-musical emotion, the score draws on Cleary's lifelong love of Disney, with influences including Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz.

"As a composer, this has been one of the most fulfilling creative journeys I have undertaken," said Cleary. "I have always been a Disney fanatic and I've really relished the opportunity to embrace the sweeping melodies and irresistible, upbeat numbers that define a great family fantasy musical. The theme of finding your own story is what first drew me to the project, and working alongside such an incredible company of performers as well as the best music team I could have wished for has been a true delight."

This international recording was created between Missouri and London. Vocals were recorded in Missouri by Pete Szkolka, with West End players recorded at Auburn Jam Music in London. The album features orchestrations by Joe Davison and Simon Nathan, with Musical Direction by Nollie Moore and Joe Davison. Davison also handled supervision, production, mixing and mastering for the album.

"Working with Pippa and her team has been such an incredible collaboration for us at Joy Machine Records. Pippa is a fresh voice in the Musical Theater landscape, and we're so excited to help get her music out in the world."

Originally commissioned by Bettina Weyers of Berlin-based Gallissas, *Snow White & Me* has been developed internationally over nearly a decade by Cleary, LaZebnik and Kruschak, and now looks ahead to further life in the United States. For sheet music, licensing enquiries or more information on the show visit [www.pippacleary.co.uk/snow-white-me](http://www.pippacleary.co.uk/snow-white-me).

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# Atlantic Records to Release Original Broadway Cast Album for **THE LOST BOYS** on July 24th

By Tim Todd

30 May 2026

*In partnership with the show's producers James Carpinello, Marcus Chait, and Patrick Wilson, Atlantic Records will release **THE LOST BOYS** (Original Broadway Cast Recording) on Friday July 24th. The off*

In partnership with the show's producers James Carpinello, Marcus Chait, and Patrick Wilson, Atlantic Records will release **THE LOST BOYS** (Original Broadway Cast Recording) on Friday July 24th. The official companion to the 12-time Tony Award-nominated Broadway smash features music and lyrics by 2026 two-time Tony Award nominees The Rescues. The album is produced by The Rescues (Kyler England, AG, Gabriel Mann) alongside Ethan Popp, recorded by Ian Kagey, and mixed by Richard Furch. To celebrate today's announcement, the single "Secret Comes Out" is available to stream everywhere now [HERE](#). Fans can pre-order the full Cast Recording [HERE](#).

"We are beyond ecstatic to be recording the cast album for The Lost Boys - it has been the creative adventure of a lifetime to create the musical fabric of this epic story of family and belonging," said two-time Tony Award nominees The Rescues, "To hear the songs come to life with our phenomenal cast and orchestra, and to be able to share them with the world outside the Palace Theater is a literal dream come true. We can't wait for theater kids everywhere to be singing and harmonizing along with these songs very soon!"

"'Secret Comes Out' is an amazing preview of the dynamic performances being captured for this album," said the album's Grammy Award-winning executive producers, Craig Rosen, EVP, A&R / Label Operations, and Michael Parker, SVP, A&R, Atlantic Records. "Fans of this show, present and future, will love how this incredible cast and creative team bring these songs to life. This music will live forever...like a vampire."

**THE LOST BOYS** (Original Broadway Cast Recording) continues Atlantic Records' long-running string of landmark Original Broadway Cast Recordings, including 2015's GRAMMY Award-winning, RIAA Diamond-certified milestone, *Hamilton*, 2017's GRAMMY Award-winning *Dear Evan Hansen*, 2021's GRAMMY Award-winning *Jagged Little Pill*," 2024's GRAMMY Award-nominated musicals, *The Notebook* and *Suffs*, last year's GRAMMY Award-nominated *Just In Time*, and the recently released live recording of Tony Award-winner Jason Robert Brown's *THE LAST FIVE YEARS* (25th Anniversary Live at the London Palladium).

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#### BROADWAY

By Tim Todd

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THE LOST BOYS is nominated for 12 Tony Awards including Best Musical, 5 Drama Desk Awards, 4 Drama League Awards including Best Musical, and 10 Dorian Theater Awards including Outstanding Broadway Musical, and won 2 Broadway.com Audience Choice Awards for Favorite New Musical and Favorite Featured Actress in a Musical (Shoshana Bean), a Theatre World Award for LJ Benet, and 2 Outer Critics Circle Awards for Outstanding Scenic Design of a Play or Musical (Dane Laffrey) and Outstanding Lighting Design of a Play or Musical (Michael Arden and Jen Schriever).

THE LOST BOYS will launch a North American National Tour in Spring 2028, at Playhouse Square in Cleveland. Additional cities and tour dates will be announced at a later date.

Perfect weather. Beautiful beaches. And a charming boardwalk...as long as you ignore all the "Missing" posters.

When Lucy and her two teenage sons move to town in desperate need of a fresh start, they soon uncover the darker side of this sunny coastal community. While Lucy tries to piece her family's life back together, Michael keeps pulling away in search of belonging. As he finds connection with a local rock band and its charismatic leader, his younger brother Sam comes face-to-face with a startling reality: When night falls, Michael's new friends are even more dangerous than they first appeared.

A new block of tickets for THE LOST BOYS is now on sale through Sunday, March 7, 2027, at BroadwayDirect.com, or at The Palace Theatre box office. For more information, visit @lostboysmusical.

THE LOST BOYS stars LJ Benet, Grammy Award winner and Three-time and 2026 Tony Award nominee Shoshana Bean (Hell's Kitchen, Wicked, Mr. Saturday Night, Waitress), 2026 Tony Award Nominee Ali Louis Bourzgui, Benjamin Pajak, Maria Wirries, Paul Alexander Nolan, Jennifer Duka, Miguel Gil, Brian Flores, Sean Grandillo, and Dean Maupin. The cast also features Ryan Behan, Grace Capeless, Mateus Leite Cardoso, Ben Crawford, Dominic Dorset, Carissa Gaughran, Ashley Jenkins, Liesie Kelly, Cameron Loyal, Pierre Marais, Mason Olshavsky, Hank Santos, Colin Trudell, DeLaney Westfall, and Pierce Wheeler.

THE LOST BOYS is the Best Reviewed New Broadway Musical of the Season

"Sink your teeth into THE LOST BOYS, the best new musical of the season. This maximalist blockbuster mesmerizes at every turn. The toe-tapping, head-banging score from the Rescues layers 1980s pastiche into an appealing indie rock aesthetic. As for said stagecraft? The best coup de Thtre on Broadway. It's the kind of visceral thrill only musical theater can deliver. The 2025-26 Broadway season could use a must-see event and lo and behold, The Lost Boys pushes the musical form forward with its rockin' score and high-wire ambition."

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- The Washington Post, Thomas Floyd

"The most ambitious new musical of the season. Michael Arden infuses his visually spectacular production of THE LOST BOYS with a refreshing 21st century sensitivity. The musical champions found families and individuality over conformity, mixing spectacle with emotionally resonant storytelling about misfits. The staging is a marvel of special effects, but the most spectacular coup is the injection of emotionally resonant meaning. Anything that Shoshana Bean sings as Lucy is gold with the emotional depth she brings to the role. Ali Louis Bourzgui is electric - he commands the stage. The production, full of sensational aerial maneuvers and fog-strewn scenic thrills, is mesmerizing.

- Los Angeles Times, Charles McNulty

"THE LOST BOYS is the best new musical on Broadway. The Rescues' songs have energy and attitude and contribute a brooding, heavy-eyeliner vibe. Directed by Michael Arden, THE LOST BOYS is a serious and ambitious effort of spectacle and heartfelt adventure that doesn't look or behave like any musical I have seen before. There are plenty of unbelievable sights to gasp at. The intoxicating atmosphere washes over the audience sensorily, with a three-level crypt set by Dane Laffrey that uses the Palace's extreme height to its winning advantage and lighting by Jen Schriever and Arden that's so gorgeous it should be billed above the title. On Broadway, bigness has been greatly missed and this show, in every aspect, goes breathtakingly gargantuan."

- New York Post, Johnny Oleksinski

The new musical THE LOST BOYS, based on the Warner Bros. Pictures film, story by James Jeremias & Janice Roberta Fischer, will feature direction by two-time Tony Award winner and 2026 Tony Award Nominee Michael Arden (Parade, Maybe Happy Ending), a book by 2026 Tony Award Nominees David Hornsby ("It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" writer/EP) & Chris Hoch (A Christmas Carol), music & lyrics by 2026 Tony Award Nominees The Rescues (Kyler England, AG, Gabriel Mann), choreography and aerial choreography by 2026 Tony Award Nominees Lauren Yalango-Grant (Parade) & Christopher Cree Grant (Parade), music supervision by three-time Tony Award nominee Ethan Popp (Tina, The Tina Turner Musical), and orchestrations & arrangements by Ethan Popp, Adrienne "AG" Gonzalez, Gabriel Mann, & Kyler England.

THE LOST BOYS is "an eye-popping tour de force" (Chicago Tribune) that features scenic design by Tony Award winner and 2026 Tony Award Nominee Dane Laffrey (Maybe Happy Ending), costume design by 2026 Tony Award Nominee Ryan Park, lighting design by 2026 Tony Award Nominees Jen Schriever (A Strange Loop) & Michael Arden, sound design by 2026 Tony Award Nominee Adam Fisher (Sunset Boulevard), aerial design by Gwyneth

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Larsen (Breaking Surface) and Billy Mulholland (Breaking Surface), hair & wig design by David Brian Brown, make-up design by Christina Grant, fight direction by Rick Sordelet and Christian Sordelet, dramaturgy by Jenna Clark Embrey, electronic music design by Billy Jay Stein and Hiro Ida for Strange Cranium, music direction by Julie McBride, music coordination by Kristy Norter, production management by Juniper Street Productions, with casting by The Telsey Office Kristian Charbonier, CSA, General Management by Bespoke Theatricals, with Mark Kaufman as Creative Consultant.

THE LOST BOYS marks the first collaboration of James Carpinello, Marcus Chait and Golden Globe, Emmy & Tony Award nominee Patrick Wilson as producers. Devin Keudell serves as Executive Producer. THE LOST BOYS is produced in association with James L. Nederlander, At Rise Creative, Ayesha & Stephen Curry, Lauren Shuler Donner, Neil Patrick Harris, Douglas Sills, Slash, Kiefer Sutherland, Steve Young, Amy & Grady Burnett, Allison Bloom & Gabriel Mann, Hunter Arnold/Broadway Strategic Return Fund, Eastern Standard Time, DJD Productions/ZK Productions, Jay Marcus/Carl Moellenberg, Stark Sands, Jordan Silver/Kerri Mandelbaum, James Bolosh & Hillary Wyatt, Decca Broadway/Federal Films, Creative Partners Productions, Independent Presenters Network, The John Gore Organization, Stewart F. Lane/Bonnie Comley/Leah Lane, Greg & Lisa Love, MacPac Entertainment, Murray Entertainment Inc., Oddly Specific Productions, The Shubert Organization, Toho Co. Ltd., We R Broadway Artists Alliance, Stage Entertainment, Carrie & Joe Staley, W Thompson Family, Drew Elhamalawy/David & Kirsten Abdo, Brandon Blaser/Davis-Carroll, Crossroads Live/Marla McNally Phillips, Anthony & Maria Diaco/D'Angora Padgett Productions, Nancy Glass/Handler-Pawliuk Family, Grove Entertainment/KLIVE Entertainment, Howard-DePhillips/Jamie Stone O'Brien, Pamela Hurst-Della Pietra & Stephen Della Pietra/Polly & Ed Han, Willette Klausner/Waikit Lau, Knudsen-Weissberger Productions/April Dovey Productions, Nabatoff-Caise/Sean Nyberg, Andy Raab/Ratelle-Eliason, Orfeh/Braedon Young, David & Megan Scacco/Jason & Sarah Sobel, Jason Taylor/Michael Graf, An 11:11 Experience, and Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures.

Based on the 1987 classic Warner Bros. Pictures film THE LOST BOYS is produced by special arrangement with Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures. THE LOST BOYS opened on Broadway on Sunday, April 26, 2026.

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By Tim Todd

29 May 2026

*It was announced today, 29th May, that leading political comedian and satirist Matt Forde (Spitting Image, HIGNFY, British Scandal) will extend his West End live Political Party podcast residency for*

It was announced today, 29th May, that leading political comedian and satirist Matt Forde (Spitting Image, HIGNFY, British Scandal) will extend his West End live Political Party podcast residency for the fifth time through June 2027, returning to The Duchess Theatre on 9th November 2026 with Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology Liz Kendall kicking off the new season.

The news comes ahead of Forde's Political Party with Deputy Leader of the Labour Party Lucy Powell - the final show of the current run - taking place this Monday 1st June. There couldn't be a better time to interview Lucy, someone who will be central in the imminent leadership election. Powell is expected to offer candid insight into the challenges internal Labour battles that will decide the future of the country.

As the West End residency pauses for the summer, Matt will host three special Political Party Edinburgh Fringe live editions at the Gilded Balloon on 9th, 15th and 20th August, with guests to be announced.

Following his biggest tour to date, Matt will also return to the festival with his new show Project Holy Moly at The Pleasance from 5th-30th August at 8pm. The new hour will see Matt embark on a mission with impossible odds: find joy amid global political turmoil, the rising tide of populism, and his own ongoing health challenges - several years on from a bone cancer diagnosis.

Political Party and Project Holy Moly tickets are available to buy now at [mattforde.com](http://mattforde.com)

Since launching in 2013, Matt's Political Party podcast has brought Parliament to life through stand-up and lively debate with some of politics' most powerful figures, including Keir Starmer, Kemi Badenoch, Zack Polanski, Tony Blair, Nicola Sturgeon, Jacob Rees-Mogg, Angela Rayner, Michael Heseltine, Anthony Scaramucci, Alastair Campbell, Gordon Brown, and Gary Neville. Following an 18-month hiatus due to his bone cancer diagnosis, Matt has resumed his four-time extended West End residency. The podcast has amassed over 11 million downloads, earned multiple nominations from award bodies including the British Podcast Awards and Chortle Awards, and is regularly featured as a top podcast

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## NEWS

By Tim Todd

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pick in the press.

Elsewhere in audio, Matt recently completed the second series of his ARIA Award-nominated BBC Radio 4 political comedy show *The Matt Forde Focus Group*, in which he is joined by politicians, comedians and subject experts to discuss current issues and the ideas shaping them. He also co-hosts the British Podcast Spotlight Award-winning *British Scandal* podcast with Alice Levine, and *Down The Dog* with Jon Richardson, alongside hosting Absolute Radio's *Rock 'n' Roll Football Show*.

Matt hosted four series of *Unspun with Matt Forde* on Dave, receiving several nominations at the Broadcast Digital Awards, and has numerous other broadcast credits including: *Spitting Image* (ITV/BritBox), *Have I Got News For You* (BBC One), *The Royal Variety Performance* (ITV), *Mock The Week* (BBC Two), *8 out of 10 Cats* (Channel 4), *Hypothetical* (Dave) *Rory Bremner's Coalition Report* and *Rory Bremner's Election Report* (BBC Two), *Question Time* (BBC One), *This Week* (BBC One), *Newsnight* (BBC Two) and *Daily Politics* (BBC Two).

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# Rachel Zegler to star in Jamie Lloyd's "Evita" at Broadway's Winter Garden Theatre from

By Tim Todd

29 May 2026

*Producers Jamie Lloyd and Michael Harrison announced that Jamie Lloyd's new production of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's masterwork Evita starring Olivier Award and Golden Globe Award winner Rachel Zegler*

Producers Jamie Lloyd and Michael Harrison announced that Jamie Lloyd's new production of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's masterwork Evita starring Olivier Award and Golden Globe Award winner Rachel Zegler as 'Eva Pern' will play Broadway's Winter Garden Theatre (1634 Broadway) with preview performances beginning Saturday evening, February 27, 2027 for a Thursday, March 25, 2027 opening night.

As the Official Partner of Evita on Broadway, American Express is providing Card Members with access to tickets to the show through Amex Presale Tickets (while supplies last. Terms apply).

Amex Presale Tickets are available now through Monday, June 1 at 9:59 AM ET by visiting [Telecharge.com](https://www.telecharge.com) or calling Telecharge at 212-239-6200.

Fan pre-sale tickets will commence Friday, May 29 at 10 AM ET through Monday, June 1 at 9:59 AM ET. To sign up for the fan pre-sale, please visit [evitathe musical.com](https://www.evitathe musical.com).

Tickets for Evita will go on sale to the general public starting at 10 AM ET on Monday, June 1 by at [Telecharge.com](https://www.telecharge.com) or by calling Telecharge at 212 239 6200.

Rachel Zegler will not play 'Eva Pern' at certain performances during the run. Please check full performance schedule at [evitathe musical.com](https://www.evitathe musical.com). Additional casting, including an 'Eva Pern' alternate, and creative team members will be announced shortly.

Evita made international headlines last summer when it played a sold-out engagement at the London Palladium. It was heralded by critics with a staggering number of five-star reviews and was described by The Telegraph as "a total triumph," The Standard said, "Rachel Zegler is an absolute smash in Jamie Lloyd's thrilling revival" and The Daily Express called Evita, "The event of the year. Do not miss it."

Evita recently received two Olivier Awards including Best Actress in a Musical for Zegler. The production was also awarded Best Musical and Best Musical Performance for Zegler at the London Standard Theatre Awards, along with receiving five WhatsOnStage Awards including Best Musical Revival and Best Performer in a Musical for Zegler.

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#### BROADWAY

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Evita will play the Winter Garden immediately following Lloyd's critically acclaimed production of William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* which will play a strictly limited 10-week engagement at the same legendary venue this fall.

Fuelled by unrelenting ambition and passion, Eva Pern (Zegler) rose from poverty to become the most powerful woman in Latin America. A beacon of hope to some and a threat to others, her star shone brightly as she captured the nation's heart and divided its soul. *Evita* features an iconic score including "Don't Cry For Me Argentina," "Oh What A Circus," "Another Suitcase in Another Hall," and the Oscar-winning "You Must Love Me."

*Evita* on Broadway will be produced by Jamie Lloyd for The Jamie Lloyd Company and Michael Harrison for Lloyd Webber Harrison Musicals by arrangement with LW Entertainment. 101 Productions, Ltd. will serve as general managers for the production.

Jamie Lloyd originally directed *Evita* at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre as part of their 2019 season.

The London cast recording of *Evita*, featuring Zegler, is now streaming on all platforms and includes her chart-topping version of "Don't Cry For Me Argentina," which reached No. 1 on the Official UK Physical Singles Chart on three occasions. Listen here:

<https://lnk.to/EVITA-stream>. A full-length cast recording will be released August 2026 and can be pre-ordered here:

<https://lwe.lnk.to/EVITA>

Photos of the London production of *Evita* taken by Marc Brenner and a trailer featuring Zegler and members of the original West End cast are available for download [HERE](#) with full permission for press and social usage.

To sign up to receive the latest news about *Evita* on Broadway, please visit [evitathemusical.com](http://evitathemusical.com).

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## FRINGE WITH A VENGEANCE

By Tim Todd

29 May 2026

*Following last year's sold-out and critically acclaimed debut hour Don't Count on Me, James Trickey returns to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe with a vengeance - and a brand-new hour - in an attempt to*

Following last year's sold-out and critically acclaimed debut hour Don't Count on Me, James Trickey returns to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe with a vengeance - and a brand-new hour - in an attempt to fill his boots with as much as you'll give him.

On the last day of his 2025 Fringe debut run, a fire alarm stopped the show, and James' audience cheered him on as he went to finish his hour outside in the Pleasance courtyard. His last-minute entry into the Spirit of the Fringe award turned into every comedian's nightmare as a stranger punched him in the face in the middle of a routine.

Join James back in the Pleasance at 9.25pm from 5th - 30th August to see whether the chartered accountant by day, funny man by night has taken on more than he bargained for.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe tickets are on sale now. Full dates and tickets [EdFringe.com](https://www.edfringe.com)

According to the Guardian, James, "has certainly got it". Hailed as "absolutely one to watch" (Edinburgh Reviews). His sharp mind takes a distinct take on life so prepare for an hour of silly gags and physical comedy with clever and surprising routines. On-screen, he recently featured in an episode of Funny Parts (BBC). On stage, he has performed across the UK and at numerous festivals, and as tour support for Stevie Martin and Sam Nicoresi. James garnered a Chortle Student Comedy Award nomination in 2018, followed by a Best New Show nomination at the Leicester Comedy Festival in 2024. He won the Leicester Square Sketch Off Competition in 2024 with sketch partner Ted Milligan.

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ED FRINGE 2026

By Tim Todd

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# The Hunger Games on Stage Extends Booking through to February 2027

By Tim Todd - 29 May 2026

By Tim Todd

29 May 2026

*Performances of the first-ever stage adaptation of Suzanne Collins' internationally acclaimed book "The Hunger Games" and Lionsgate's hit motion picture of the same name have been extended until 14 February 2027.*

Performances of the first-ever stage adaptation of Suzanne Collins' internationally acclaimed book "The Hunger Games" and Lionsgate's hit motion picture of the same name have been extended until 14 February 2027. Tickets are on sale for this epic spectacle from [www.thehungergamesonstage.com](http://www.thehungergamesonstage.com). Tickets for performances from 28 October go on sale to the general public on 29 May 2026.

Troubadour Canary Wharf Theatre, the new 1,200 seat purpose-built, dynamic theatre-in-the-round venue designed specifically to host this production, is situated right in the heart of London's vibrant Canary Wharf. Image

In May and June, Troubadour Canary Wharf Theatre also plays host to two very special exhibits in its spacious foyer - a floral installation celebrating the forthcoming release of The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping, alongside an exhibition of costumes used in connection with the original film.

This spring has seen the official opening of Songbird Restaurant & Bar, situated within the theatre, as a standalone dining destination. It has launched a dedicated la carte offering for lunch and dinner service for non-theatre-goers joining the already popular pre-theatre menu. The 125-cover restaurant brings together seasonal British cooking, creative cocktails, design-led interiors and waterfront views and caters to corporate and social occasions with two private rooms and a semi-private area for group gatherings.

The Hunger Games: On Stage is led by Mia Carragher as Katniss Everdeen with Euan Garrett as Peeta Mellark, Joshua Lacey as Haymitch Abernathy, Tristan Waterson as Gale Hawthorne, Sophia Ally as Primrose Everdeen and Heddle, Ruth Everett as Mrs. Everdeen & Ensemble, Tamsin Carroll as Effie Trinket, Stavros Demetraki as Caesar Flickerman and Nathan Ives-Moiba as Cinna & Mayor.

The company is completed by Aiya Agustin (Rue), Geo Bailey (Swing), Alexandra Barredo (Ensemble and Fight Captain), Imogen Brooke (Swing), Keziah Campbell-Golding (Tippet), Jessica Daugirda (Swing and Deputy Show Captain), Kyerron Dixon-Bassey (Swing), Lewis Easter (Marvel), Felix Garcia Guyer (Tiberius Maul, Ensemble & Fight Captain), Marcellus

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Hill (Thresh), Matthew Ives (Swing and Show Captain), Jessica Lee (Clove), Mariana Lewis (Glimmer), Kiera Milward (Swing & 1st Cover Katniss), Luca Moscardini (Swing), Felipe Pacheco (Cato & Flight Captain), Redmand Rance (Steele), Nathanael Saleh (Swing), Mark Samaras (Drove), Artemis Stamouli (Fossa & Movement Captain) and Rory Toms (Fila). Hollywood legend John Malkovich plays President Snow on screen.

The production's second year cast will begin performances on 20 October 2026, and will be announced in due course.

Conor McPherson has adapted the first book from Suzanne Collins' epic series and the first film from Lionsgate's iconic film franchise for this live theatrical production. The production is helmed by renowned director Matthew Dunster (2:22 A Ghost Story, Hangmen, The Pillowman, Hedda and John Niven's The Battle), with a world-class creative team who bring the show to breathtaking life.

The creative team also includes: Miriam Buether (Set and Costume Designer), Moi Tran (Costume Designer), Charlotte Broom (Choreographer), Lucy Carter (Lighting Designer), Ian Dickinson for Autograph (Sound Designer), Tal Rosner (Video Designer), Chris Fisher (Illusions), Kev McCurdy (Fight Director), John Maddox for Suspended Illusions Ltd (Performer Flying and Special Effects), James Maloney (Arranger, Musical Director and Additional Compositions), Amy Ball CDG (Casting Director), James Robert Moore (Associate Director), Robyn Grant (Creative Assistant Director), Mary Halliday and Rosheen McNamee (Props Supervisors), JJ Wigs (Hair and Make-up), Runaway Entertainment (General Management), Jenefer Brown (Creative Consultant), Lloyd Thomas (Technical Director), Annie Eves-Boland (Production Manager), Janis Price (Voice and Text Coach) and Aundrea Fudge (Dialect Coach).

The Hunger Games franchise encompasses five critically acclaimed novels that have sold over 100 million copies worldwide and been translated into 52 languages as well as a blockbuster film franchise that has grossed more than \$3.4 billion at the global box office. Suzanne Collins' latest The Hunger Games novel, Sunrise on the Reaping, was published by Scholastic in March 2025 and was adapted into a major motion picture, to be released by Lionsgate in November 2026.

In a dystopian future, The Hunger Games ignite a thrilling battle for survival, where 24 young tributes are pitted against each other in an arena to fight to the death. Katniss Everdeen, a fearless and resourceful heroine, emerges as a symbol of rebellion as she fights not only for her life but for the hope of a nation oppressed by a ruthless Capitol.

The Hunger Games: On Stage is produced by Tristan Baker and Charlie Parsons for Runaway Entertainment, Oliver Royds for BOS Productions,

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By Tim Todd

29 May 2026

*Southern California rockers Robert Jon & The Wreck return with Wreckage, Vol. 3, a new album collecting a range of recent standalone singles released throughout the band's relentless run of touring and*

Southern California rockers Robert Jon & The Wreck return with Wreckage, Vol. 3, a new album collecting a range of recent standalone singles released throughout the band's relentless run of touring and recording over the past year. Arriving alongside the launch of the focus track "Arroyo," the release captures another side of the band's evolving sound - looser, heavier, and deeply rooted in the spontaneous chemistry that has long defined their live shows.

Built from a free-form rehearsal jam that quickly took on a life of its own, "Arroyo" began with a single phrase that sparked the song's now-driving chorus. The track unfolds as a fast-moving Southern rock burner, full of harmonized guitar lines, swirling Hammond B3 organ, and extended improvised solos that lean fully into the band's classic rock influences without feeling nostalgic or overly polished.

Lyricaly, the song was inspired by what guitarist Henry James describes as "an image in Robert's head of a lone traveler, out on a dry creek bed in which everyone and everything was out to get him." Drawing from the atmosphere of Spaghetti Westerns and old Clint Eastwood films, "Arroyo" follows a shadowy figure moving through "a brief moment full of darkness, danger and deception on a dry creek bed in the old Wild West."

Recorded at the legendary Sunset Sound in Los Angeles - specifically Studio 2, often referred to as "the Van Halen room" - the track was self-produced by the band and engineered and mixed by Chad Gordon, who previously worked with Henry James on his very first recordings years ago. "We let it be what it is," James explains. "A semi-improvised '70s southern rock jam." Much of the final version came together in the first or second take, including fully improvised solos from keyboardist Jake Abernathie on Hammond B3 and James on his Epiphone Firebird guitar.

Wreckage, Vol. 3, a collection of rarities, fan favorites, and standout tracks showcasing the band's signature Southern rock sound arrives during one of the busiest creative stretches of the band's career and continues the momentum generated by recent new single releases

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By Tim Todd

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including "Run Back To Me" and "Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is." Together, the tracks showcase the band's ability to move fluidly between emotionally grounded songwriting, heavy riff-driven rock, and expansive jam-based musicianship while continuing to push beyond the framework of traditional Southern rock.

The collection also follows the release of the band's acclaimed studio album *Heartbreaks & Last Goodbyes*, produced by Grammy-winner Dave Cobb and released via Joe Bonamassa's Journeyman Records. The record earned widespread praise for its blend of raw storytelling, muscular grooves, and lived-in performances, with *Classic Rock Magazine* calling it "their most accomplished work to date."

Since forming in 2011, Robert Jon & The Wreck - Robert Jon Burrison (vocals, guitar), Henry James (lead guitar, vocals), Andrew Espantman (drums, vocals), Warren Murrel (bass), and Jake Abernathie (keys) - have built a devoted international following through relentless touring and a live show that thrives on spontaneity, interplay, and hard-earned chemistry. Recent years have seen the band tour extensively across the U.S. and Europe, share stages with artists including Samantha Fish, Blackberry Smoke, Joe Bonamassa, and Rival Sons, and steadily establish themselves as one of modern rock's most dependable live acts.

The band's touring schedule continues this summer with dates across the U.K., Europe, and the United States, including appearances at Holland International Blues Festival and a run of East Coast headline dates before returning later this year for the Cali-County Cruise 2026. For tickets, music, and more information, visit [robertjonandthewreck.com](http://robertjonandthewreck.com).

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# Rising star Henry Patterson brings Broadway

By Tim Todd - 29 May 2026

## Maybe to life in one-night-only PizzaExpress

By Tim Todd

29 May 2026

*One to watch Henry Patterson returns to the London stage this summer for a one-night-only concert at the iconic PizzaExpress Live Soho, marking the release of his debut album Broadway Maybe.*

*Following*

One to watch Henry Patterson returns to the London stage this summer for a one-night-only concert at the iconic PizzaExpress Live Soho, marking the release of his debut album Broadway Maybe. Following sold-out performances in London and New York, Patterson brings his signature jazz-infused reinterpretations of musical theatre back to the capital for this special evening at one of the city's most celebrated intimate live music venues. The concert will feature songs from Broadway Maybe, performed live alongside special guest vocalist Roxy Yarnold, who has toured with Boy George & Culture Club as well as Gloria Gaynor, and backed by the acclaimed The Sam Every Big Band, led by drummer Sam Every, who performed on the album and regularly sells out concerts across the UK.

Recorded at the Abbey Road Studios and released on 15th May 2026 to rave reviews, Broadway Maybe is a concept album that reimagines classic musical theatre repertoire through a contemporary jazz lens. Framed around the emotional journey of the audition room, the album explores themes of ambition, identity and resilience through songs from A Chorus Line, West Side Story and Les Misrables.

Henry first came to public attention as a child entrepreneur, writing and publishing his first book at 9 years old. This led to a global speaking tour and collaboration with the likes of Cameron Mackintosh and Ariana Debose. In recent years, Patterson has established himself as a distinctive new voice in the world of theatre and entertainment, having performed internationally and appearing on BBC Americast with his viral musical parodies. What started as playful reinterpretations has evolved into a defining artistic identity, using jazz to unlock musical theatre for people who might never have thought it was for them. His recent shows have become known for their jazz reinterpretations of musical theatre classics, attracting both theatre audiences and listeners new to the genre.

Henry Patterson comments, It's been a longstanding dream of mine to perform a show with a big band, so to get to perform the full setlist from my album Broadway Maybe with a totally new sound is a huge moment! We're going to be bringing that classic Manhattan jazz club energy to

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Soho for one night only.

Arranged by Patterson and musical director Leigh Stanford Thompson (Thoroughly Modern Millie, Adelphi Theatre; The Producers, UK tour), the project blends the storytelling of musical theatre with the sound of modern jazz, connecting with audiences beyond traditional theatre circles. This live performance offers a chance to experience the material in an intimate setting, bringing the album's narrative to life on stage.

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# STING'S ACCLAIMED MUSICAL THE LAST SHIP SAILS INTO LONDON'S WEST END FOR A STRICTLY LIMITED

By Tim Todd

29 May 2026

*17-time Grammy Award winning artist Sting will perform in a newly reimagined production of his musical, The Last Ship, for a limited run at Theatre Royal Drury Lane from 22 September - 3 October. Feat*

17-time Grammy Award winning artist Sting will perform in a newly reimagined production of his musical, The Last Ship, for a limited run at Theatre Royal Drury Lane from 22 September - 3 October. Featuring a new book by Barney Norris this production of the Last Ship, produced by Karl Sydow, is directed by Leo Warner with set and video design by 59, a Journey studio.

While continuing the STING 3.0 World Tour, Sting has also dedicated time this year to taking The Last Ship production to cities across the globe, with hugely successful runs in Amsterdam, Brisbane, and Paris, plus further dates at the Metropolitan Opera in New York this coming June, followed by a return to Amsterdam in the Autumn, performing in every show.

Sting plays a leading role in The Last Ship, the acclaimed musical he first developed in 2011, initially inspired by his 1991 album The Soul Cages, which earned a TONY nomination for Best Original Score. Further cast details are to be announced.

Rooted in his own childhood in the British shipbuilding town of Wallsend, The Last Ship tells the moving story of a community of shipbuilders in the North East of England, faced with the closure of their shipyard - the heart of their existence.

Sting takes on the role of Jackie White, the shipyard's foreman whose health is failing just as his leadership is needed most. In this very personal show, the artist immerses the audience in the hometown he was desperate to escape, a world where love, loss, and hope intertwine.

"I grew up in the shadow of the shipyard," says Sting. "I'd watch thousands of men walk to work each morning, but I dreamed of something else... I dreamed of escaping, and I did everything in my power to get away from that life. But the farther I got, the more I realized I needed to understand where I came from and felt I had to give something back. The Last Ship is my tribute to the people and the place that shaped me."

Sting's beloved songs such as Island of Souls, All This Time, and When We Dance are woven into the performance in this fully staged, large-scale production featuring a company of over 50.

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The Creative Team also includes Set and Props Designer Jenny Melville; Costume Designer Loren Elstein; Lighting Designer Adam Bassett; Sound Designer Tom Gibbons; Animation Director Matt Taylor; Choreographer Rebecca Howell; Video Designer Benjamin Percy; Musical Supervisor & Orchestrator Rob Mathes And Md & Co-Orchestrator Richard John.

**Full biographies: [thelastship-musical.com](https://thelastship-musical.com)**

The Last Ship is produced by Karl Sydow.

In tandem with the new series of performances surrounding The Last Ship, Sting released The Last Ship (Expanded Edition), an extended version of his acclaimed album featuring five brand new recordings.

Produced by Sting and Rob Mathes, mixed by Donal Hodgson and four-time Grammy Award-winner Robert "Hitmixer" Orton, the album is available now in digital and physical formats--including CD and two-disc vinyl.

**Bookings and further information:**

**<https://thelastship-musical.com/>**

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# First look at rehearsals for the RSC's acclaimed

By Tim Todd - 29 May 2026

## 'Cyrano de Bergerac' in the West End

By Tim Todd

29 May 2026

*New rehearsal photography has been released today, giving a behind-the-scenes look at the critically acclaimed Cyrano de Bergerac, produced in the West End by the Royal Shakespeare Company, Wessex Gro*

New rehearsal photography has been released today, giving a behind-the-scenes look at the critically acclaimed Cyrano de Bergerac, produced in the West End by the Royal Shakespeare Company, Wessex Grove and Gavin Kalin Productions and running at the Nol Coward Theatre, a Delfont Mackintosh Theatre, from 13 June - 5 September.

Director Simon Evans (Staged, BBC), co-adapts with Debris Stevenson (My Brother's a Genius), bringing new life to Edmond Rostand's lyrical tale of love and lies, longing and disguise. The production played to packed houses at the RSC in Stratford-upon-Avon last year. Tickets from 25 the West End are on sale now at [www.CyranoWestEnd.co.uk](http://www.CyranoWestEnd.co.uk).

Olivier Award-winning actor Adrian Lester (Company, Donmar Warehouse/ West End; Othello, National Theatre; Hustle, BBC) will reprise his performance as Cyrano alongside Susannah Fielding (This Time with Alan Partridge, BBC; The Merchant of Venice, RSC; A Midsummer Night's Dream, Bridge Theatre) as Roxane, with Levi Brown (This Town, BBC; Silo, Apple TV; Macbeth, UK/global tour) returning as Christian.

Poet, soldier and philosopher. Cyrano de Bergerac burns with brilliance. He's fiercely funny and urgently romantic - but behind the veil of wit is one large problem: his nose.

Haunted by doubts and too proud to beg, he watches from the shadows as Roxane - bold, beautiful and seemingly unreachable - falls for another man, Christian. But this handsome, tongue-tied young suitor knows his only hope of charming Roxane is to seduce her with words. And only one person can help...

Also returning to their roles are Joseph Christain as Edmond, Sunny Chung as Sister Claire/Madame Jodolet, Philip Cumbus as Le Bret, Greer Dale-Foulkes as Abigail, Rachel Dawson as Ann-Sofie, Oliver Grant as Jean, Scott Handy as Comte de Guiche, David Mildon as Jodolet/Carbon, Matt Mordak as Valvert/Pierre, Daniel Norford as Louis, Chris Nayak as Monfleury/Bernard, Christian Patterson as Ragueneau and Josh Sneesby as Raphael. Robert Jackson joins the cast as Arnauld alongside Taiva Hove, Joshua Maduiké and Elim Mapira who will share the role of Small Boy and Fergus Murphy, Lizzie May Bell and Joe Butcher who join as members of

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Cyrano's band.

The full creative team alongside Simon Evans and Debris Stevenson are:

Set and Costume Designer, Grace Smart; Lighting Designer, Joshie Harriette; Composer, Alex Baranowski; Sound Designer, Donato Wharton; Movement Director, Sarita Piotrowski; Fight and Intimacy Director, Bethan Clark; Dramaturg, Rebecca Latham for the RSC, Casting Director, Matthew Dewsbury CDG for the RSC, Music Director Josh Sneesby, Voice and Text by Barbara Houseman, Associate Director Lydia McKinley and Children's Casting Director Charlie Metcalf for the RSC.

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# Original West End Cast return to Mischief's THE COMEDY OF SPIES at the Adelphi this summer

By Tim Todd

28 May 2026

*This summer the temperature is high, and so are the steaks, as the original West End cast return to The Comedy About Spies at London's Adelphi Theatre from 1 August for 8 weeks only. They are joined*

This summer the temperature is high, and so are the steaks, as the original West End cast return to The Comedy About Spies at London's Adelphi Theatre from 1 August for 8 weeks only. They are joined by original Mischief member Bryony Corrigan as Elena Popova.

The full cast is Bryony Corrigan (Elena Popova), David Hearn (Lance Buchanan), Adele James (Rosemary Wilson), Chris Leask (Sergei Ivanov), Henry Lewis (Douglas Woodbead), Henry Shields (Bernard Wright), Greg Tannahill (Albert Tipton), Nancy Zamit (Janet Buchanan), Macadie Amoroso (Ensemble/Understudy), Adam Byron (Ensemble/Understudy), Matt Cavendish (Ensemble/Understudy), Allie Dart (Ensemble/Understudy), Niall Ransome (Ensemble/Understudy) and Ashley Tucker (Ensemble/Understudy).

The Comedy About Spies recently won the WhatsOnStage Award for Best New Play and was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best New Entertainment or Comedy Play following the hit's critically acclaimed sold-out 21-week West End run in 2025.

Tickets are available from [www.SpiesComedy.com](http://www.SpiesComedy.com) with prices from 15.

MISCHIEF's The Comedy About Spies is written by original MISCHIEF members Henry Lewis and Henry Shields and directed by Matt DiCarlo. Set Design is by David Farley, Costume Design by Deborah Andrews, the Movement Director is Shelley Maxwell, Lighting Design is by Johanna Town and Sound Design and Composition is by Jon Fiber for Jollygoodtunes, Casting is by Lucy Jenkins CDG & Sooki McShane CDG, Additional Casting is by Heather Basten CDG CSA and the Executive Producer is Jonathan Sayer.

Henry Lewis said: "We are so excited to bring The Comedy About Spies back to the West End. It's a particular treat to be playing the magnificent Adelphi Theatre. It's a venue synonymous with long running musicals and so we're honored that The Comedy About Spies will be the first play presented there in over 14 years."

When a rogue British agent pilfers plans for a top-secret weapon, CIA and KGB spies converge on London's Piccadilly Hotel in pursuit of the elusive file. Add to the mix a clueless young couple, a hapless actor angling for the role of James Bond, and enough double agents to confuse

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### NEWS

By Tim Todd

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even the sharpest operative, and you've got a mission that's hilariously out of control.

With over 12 impressive years of bringing laughter to the West End, MISCHIEF show no sign of slowing down in 2026. This year, as well as having *The Play That Goes Wrong* and *The Comedy About Spies* running simultaneously in the West End, MISCHIEF have just premiered their first-ever musical, *Thespians* at The Mercury Theatre in Colchester. With book and lyrics by Mischief Creative Director and Original Founding Member Jonathan Sayer, music and lyrics by Ed Sanders, and directed by Robyn Grant, it is on a short tour, closing at HOME in Manchester in July.

Following a sold out UK Tour and 8-week West End season last year, *Christmas Carol Goes Wrong* will return to the West End this Christmas to cause chaos with a run at Wyndham's Theatre, tour the UK from October 2026 - February 2027, make its North American Premiere in Los Angeles from December 2026 and play Australia in December.

Mischief are also back at Shedinburgh Fringe in August, with a silly and poignant new work-in-progress called *We have a problem (WIP)* by Charlie Russell and Henry Shields.

*The Play That Goes Wrong* continues to perform to sell-out audiences in the West End after 12 smash-hit years, is also celebrating 9 years in New York in April, and is being performed in multiple languages worldwide every day in 2026.

Last year the production was the most watched show at the Sydney Opera House, Australia, celebrated its 4001st performance in May 2026 at the Duchess Theatre, London, and Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields were listed in the top 10 most produced playwrights across North America and Canada.

In 2025 MISCHIEF filmed the original casts of both *The Comedy About Spies* and *Christmas Carol Goes Wrong*, adding these live captures to the digital content portfolio with Mischief Movie Night In and *The Goes Wrong Show*. 2026 will bring opportunities for audiences to stream, watch and laugh all over again.

*The Comedy About Spies* is presented by Kenny Wax and Stage Presence in association with Jo Danvers.

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# Becky Hill announces eagerly anticipated third album 'REBECCA' out 25th September

By Tim Todd - 28 May 2026

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*The two-time BRIT Award winner Becky Hill will release her eagerly anticipated third album 'REBECCA' on September 25th via Polydor Records. She launched the album alongside new single 'More! More! More!' on September 25th via Polydor Records. She launched the album alongside new single 'More! More! More!' on September 25th via Polydor Records. She launched the album alongside new single 'More! More! More!' on September 25th via Polydor Records.*

The two-time BRIT Award winner Becky Hill will release her eagerly anticipated third album 'REBECCA' on September 25th via Polydor Records. She launched the album alongside new single 'More! More! More!', which was premiered as BBC Radio 1's Hottest Record.

Pulsating and uncompromising, 'More! More! More!' is the sound of Becky asserting a new-found sense of determination whilst unleashing pent-up frustration. Built around driving electronic production and razor-sharp songwriting, the track takes a wry and self-aware look at the realities of spending over a decade in the music industry - while also reflecting the wider stress, pressure and anxiety felt by anyone navigating modern life today.

Directed by Joesph Delaney, the video for 'More! More! More!' follows Becky through a typically relentless day, tapping into the spiralling chaos that runs through the track. Body-cam shots locked tightly onto her face pull you directly into her sometimes-shocking emotional extremes - moments of paranoia, exhaustion and release - while everything around her moves at a frantic pace. It opens with Becky falling into bed at 5:30am, only to start her day at 10am, before moving through boardrooms, glam sessions and stylised, almost robotic choreography as the tension and intensity gradually unravel deeper and darker into the night. The video closes with Becky collapsing back into bed at 5:30am, ready to start the cycle all over again.

Becky adds, "The song is about the push and pull of never being happy, doing too much but it never feeling enough. Ignoring how I feel and pushing myself in fear of losing the job I love more than anything in the world. It's satirical and tongue-in-cheek, but still very much rooted in my lived experience. This isn't an industry dig, more an insight into a creative mind working in music. Nobody's making me do it, I'm doing this to myself"

'REBECCA' was written during a period of intense personal and artistic reflection and sees Becky exploring ambition, identity, visibility and the contradictions of her life from a place of greater openness and creative freedom. Across the record, she examines the tension between

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### MUSIC

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desire and self-preservation with clarity, humour and brutal honesty, resulting in her boldest, emotionally charged body of work to date.

Described by Becky as "curated chaos", 'REBECCA' also marks a significant evolution in her sound. It sees her reconnecting with the wider influences that shaped her early musical identity, pulling inspiration from guitar music alongside the dance and drum & bass foundations that have defined her career. 'REBECCA' blends that collision of worlds with heavy electro production, alternative influences and euphoric electronics into an album that feels both expansive and unpredictable.

"I've always wanted to be the people's artist," Becky says. "But that doesn't mean having to please everybody all the time. With this album, I needed to be headstrong and make something that fully reflected who I am creatively."

'REBECCA' is available to pre-order / pre-save [HERE](#). Special formats include a fan edition CD digipak featuring alternate artwork with an exclusive bonus track, alongside a numbered limited-edition, signed coloured vinyl, black vinyl and standard CD digipak editions.

A force in the live arena too, Becky Hill has performed standout sets at festivals including Glastonbury, Reading and Leeds, as well as selling out her first UK & Ireland arena headline tour. She now has a summer of live shows ahead of her, headlining a range of major outdoor events and festivals, including Creamfields and Poland's BitterSweet Festival.

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