



CONTENTS

- Working Bee(zzzzz)
- AGM
- WE WILL ROCK YOU
- Congratulations
- Regional Theatre Awards
- What's Happening?



WORKING BEE(zzzzz)

The time has finally come for us to pack up our things at the Wallace Development Company Theatre and move them to our new home at 75 The Square.

Over the following dates, come down and listen to your favourite show tunes and 80's rock while helping us pack up the things we love.

10am: Easter, Good Friday – 7 April 2023

10am: Saturday – 8 April 2023

10am: Sunday – 23 April 2023

10am: ANZAC Day, Tuesday – 25 April 2023

There will be a huge range of jobs to do for all ages and skill levels – everybody welcome!

Some of these jobs include;

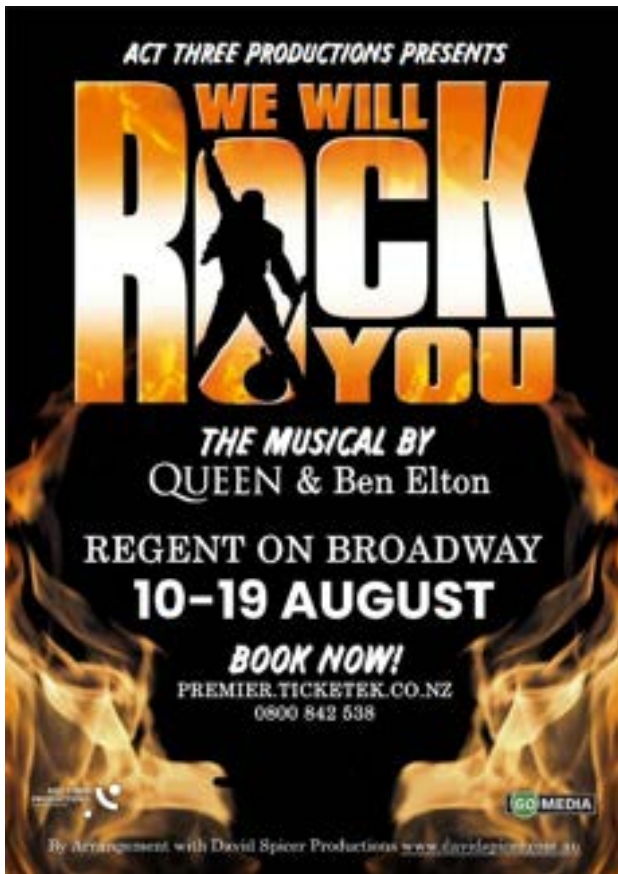
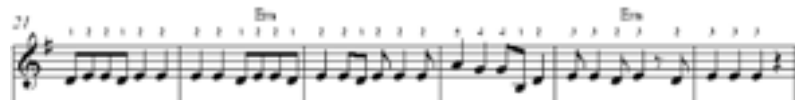
- emptying the props room and organising items on rehearsal room floor
- packing up the kitchen crockery, etc. into boxes
- coiling cables and sorting items
- sorting and packing hardware into boxes
- packing up the archives and bar
- removing items from under the stage and stacking
- sorting through items stored under the auditorium
- unplugging and coiling cables, etc. in the roof

Remember, this is your society and we need YOUR help. Don't forget to bring snacks, water, closed toed shoes, empty boxes (if you have spares at home) and a sense of fun!

See you there!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We look forward to seeing you at the
ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS Annual General Meeting
which is being held this year on **Tuesday, 25 April 2023**,
at 7.30 p.m. – 75 The Square, Palmerston North.



The show must go on ...

We're getting ready to rock the Regent and we want YOU to have the best seats in the house! As valued members of ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS, we'd like to offer each of you TWO discounted tickets per membership (or FOUR discounted tickets per family membership).

Get your tickets here:

<https://actthree.co.nz/shows/current-show>
or by telephoning the Regent on 06 350 2100 during office hours.

Don't forget to use the password **WWRY2023** and select **Act Three Presale – Act Three Member** to redeem your discount.

Members' Ticket Pricing

Premium \$70.00 + ticket fees

A Reserve \$50.00 + ticket fees

B Reserve \$30.00 + ticket fees

Get your tickets now, before they go on sale to the public on Saturday, 1 April 2023.



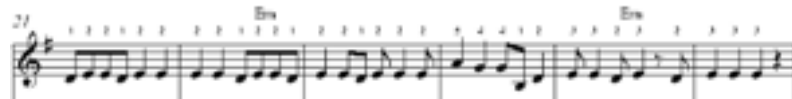
10 – 19 AUGUST 2023

PALMERSTON NORTH

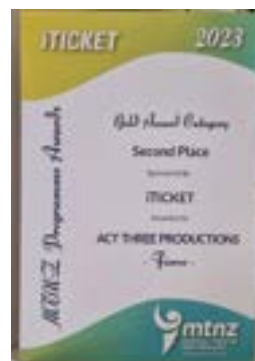
ARE YOU KEEN TO BE A PART OF OUR COSTUMING TEAM?

If you would like to be part of a fun team and the amazing WE WILL ROCK YOU family,
we are looking for you!

If you are interested, please contact us – at aknagy@inspire.net.nz



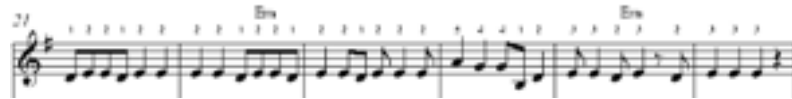
Congratulations!



At the recent MTNZ Conference, AGM & Training Weekend in Blenheim, ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS won First Prize in the Gold Award Category (Programme Awards) for the *GODSPELL* programme and second prize in the same category for the *Fierce* programme. Congratulations to the design teams!

Congratulations!

It was announced at this year's MTNZ AGM that the inaugural trustees of the Musical Theatre Foundation of Aotearoa are Terry O'Connor as the MTNZ appointment, Lesley Carthew as the early trustee appointment and Kevin Murphy, Allan Nagy and Cheryl Simpson as the general appointments.



Congratulations to the following ACT THREE PRODUCTION winners at the Regional Theatre Awards held in February 2023.

Technical Design & Operation: *Fierce*

Costume: *Fierce*

Musical Direction: Bronwyn Boddy for *GODSPELL*

Debut Direction: Katte Johnston for *Fierce*

Cameo/Magic Moment: Emma-Katte Johnston (Right Hand Man) – *Fierce*

Connection Between Characters (Musical): Terado Bassett (Nick) &
Matthew Lyne (Nick) – *GODSPELL*

Supporting Actor in a Female Role (Musical): Jessie Feyen (Mary Delgado) –
JERSEY BOYS

Broadway – Schedule of Upcoming and Announced Broadway Shows

James Miller, Playbill Staff – 10 March 2023



2022/23 Season

Bad Cinderella

Theatre: Imperial Theatre

Opening: 23 March 2023

Writers: Andrew Lloyd Webber (music), David Zippel (lyrics), Emerald Fennell (book)

About: Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest musical, a modern update on the classic fairy tale, comes to Broadway following a run on London's West End.

Parade

Theatre: Bernard B. Jacobs theatre

Opening: 16 March 2023

Starring: Ben Platt

About: Following a sold out run last fall at New York City Center, the acclaimed musical *Parade* will return to Broadway in a new production.



Michaela Diamond and Ben Platt in the New York City Center production of *Parade*
(Photo: Joan Marcus)

Sweeney Todd

Theatre: Lunt-Fontanne Theatre

Opening: 26 March 2023

Starring: Josh Groban

About: The musical thriller about the Demon Barber of Fleet Street and the pie-maker will return to Broadway with a full 26 person orchestra playing Jonathan Tunick's original orchestrations.



Josh Groban and Annaleigh Ashford in *Sweeney Todd*
(Photo: Franz Szony)

Dancin'

Theatre: Music Box Theatre

Opening: 19 March 2023

Concept: Bob Fosse

Director: Wayne Cilento

About: The Bob Fosse musical revue features an eclectic song list from Neil Diamond to George M. Cohan. Cilento starred in the original 1978 Broadway production.



The cast of Bob Fosse's *Dancin'*
(Photo: Julieta Cervantes)

Shucked

Theatre: Nederlander Theatre

Opening: 4 April 2023

About: What do you get when you pair a semi-neurotic, New York comedy writer with two music superstars from Nashville? A hilarious and audacious farm-to-fable musical about the one thing Americans everywhere can't get enough of; corn.

Camelot

Theatre: Vivian Beaumont Theatre

Opening: 13 April 2023

Writers: Frederick Loewe (music), Alan Jay Lerner (original book and lyrics), Aaron Sorkin (additional book)

About: Lincoln Center Theater will bring the world of Lerner & Loewe's *Camelot* to vibrant life once again when it produces a new version of the classic tale, re-imagined for the 21st century.

Peter Pan Goes Wrong

Theatre: Ethel Barrymore Theatre

Opening: 19 April 2023

About: The play sees the 'Cornley Drama Society' back on stage battling technical hitches, flying mishaps and cast disputes as they attempt to present J. M. Barrie's much loved tale.

New York, New York

Theatre: St James Theatre

Opening: 26 April 2023

Writers: John Kander (music), Fred Ebb (lyrics), Lin-Manuel Miranda (additional lyrics)

About: Loosely based on Martin Scorsese's 1977 movie, this musical will use John Kander & Fred Ebb's songs, with new ones by Kander & Lyn-Manuel Miranda, to depict a post-WWII New York in recovery.

2022/23 Season – without confirmed date or venue

Pal Joey

Writers: Richard Rodgers (music), Lorenz Hart (lyrics)

About: The primary setting for this classical musical has been re-imagined as a South Side Chicago nightclub in the 1940s; the character of Lindy, formerly a stenographer-clerk, is now an aspiring singer.

Sing Street

Writers: Gary Clark and John Carney (music & lyrics)

About: The show, based on the 2016 film, explores the power of first love and music against the backdrop of 1980s Dublin.

2023/24 Season

Once Upon a One More Time

Theatre: Marquis Theatre

Opening: 22 June 2023

Writers: Britney Spears (music), John Hartmere (book)

About: The chart topping anthems of the Princess of Pop herself, Britney Spears, are weaved into a heart-warming and uproarious musical adventure about claiming your own happily ever after.



Here Lies Love

Theatre: Broadway Theatre

Opening: 20 July 2023

Writers: David Byrne (concept, music & lyrics), Fatboy Slim (lyrics)

About: The immersive disco pop musical based on the rise and fall of Imelda Marcos will transform the Broadway Theatre into a dance club environment.

Back to the Future

Theatre: Winter Garden Theatre

Opening: 3 August 2023

About: This new musical adventure based on the 1985 blockbuster and pop culture phenomenon is brought to the stage by the movie's co-creators, Bob Gale and Robert Zemeckis.

2023/24 Season – without confirmed date or venue

Merrily We Roll Along

Starring: Daniel Radcliffe, Jonathan Groff

Writers: Stephen Sondheim (music & lyrics), George Furth (book)

About: The first ever Broadway revival of Stephen Sondheim and George Furth's musical will open in Fall 2023 after its sold out runs Off-Broadway and in London's West End.

The Wiz

First Preview: Spring 2023

About: The beloved adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz* will return to Broadway following a national tour.

2023 Season – without confirmed date or venue

The Mousetrap

Writers: Agatha Christie (playwright)

About: The world's most successful and longest running play comes to Broadway for the very first time in a limited engagement.



The Mousetrap London Cast
(Matt Crockett/PA)

In the Works

13 Going on 30

About: New musical based on the 2004 hit movie of the same title about a gawky teenage girl who uses “wishing dust” to transform herself into a glamorous adult.

17 Again

About: New musical based on the 2009 Zac Efron fantasy film about a man who gets to relive his youth.

The Bodyguard

About: Musical adapted from the Whitney Houston film about a pop star who falls in love with her bodyguard.

Bombshell

About: Stage incarnation of the fictional Marilyn Monroe centred musical whose creation was at the centre of the TV series *Smash*.

The Devil Wears Prada

About: New musical based on Lauren Weisberger's 2003 novel and the 2006 film about a woman who becomes assistant to the notorious editor of a top line fashion magazine.

Dreamgirls

About: A New York transfer of the hit London revival.

La La Land

About: A stage adaptation of Damien Chazelle's Academy Award winning movie musical.

Magic Mike

About: A stage adaptation of Steven Soderbergh's film about male strippers.

The Nanny

About: A musical based on the popular sitcom series that ran during the '90s, starring Fran Drescher.

The Queen of Versailles

Starring: Kristin Chenoweth

About: A new musical based on the 2012 documentary The Queen of Versailles about socialite Jacqueline Siegel.

The Secret Garden

About: Revival of the 1991 musical based on Frances Hodgson Burnett's story about an orphan girl who finds renewal when she discovers a locked, dead garden and brings it back to life.

A Sign of the Times

About: The musical tells the story of Cindy, a young woman who moves to New York City from the Midwest in 1965 with dreams of making a difference in the world. Set against the backdrop of women's liberation, the civil rights movement, and the Vietnam War, the musical features the songs of a generation from Grammy Award winning artist Petula Clark and multiple hitmakers of the day, such as "Downtown", "You Don't Own Me", "Don't Sleep in the Subway", "The Shoop Shoop Song (It's In His Kiss)", and "The Boy From New York City".

Sinatra The Musical

About: A new musical based on the life and career of the legendary artist Frank Sinatra.



Sinatra the Musical artwork
(© Birmingham Rep)

Thelma & Louise

About: A musical adaptation of the beloved 1991 about two friends on the run from the law.

The Who's Tommy

About: The musical puts The Who's original concept album on stage as a rock opera about a "deaf, dumb, and blind" boy who overcomes his disabilities with the help of ace pinball skills.

***Funny Girl* Sets Closing Date**



Lea Michele in *Funny Girl*
(Photo: Matthew Murphy)

Producers have announced that the current Broadway revival of *Funny Girl* will play its final performance on 3 September at the August Wilson Theatre. The production began previews of 26 March 2022 and officially opened on 24 April. By closing, *Funny Girl* will have played 30 previews and 599 regular performances. The four current principal performances (Lea Michele, Tovah Feldshuh, Ramin Karimloo and Jared Greimes) have extended their contracts and will star in the production through closing. The news of closing comes after the show saw a significant dip at the box office over this last week, when many of its stars were out.

***Les Misérables* extends West End booking period into 2024**

Tom Willward – 10 March 2023

London's longest-running musical continues...



The cast of the West End Production of *Les Misérables*
(© Johan Persson)

The West End booking period for *Les Misérables* has now been extended into 2024. The long-running musical is based on the novel by Victor Hugo and features music by Claude-Michel Schönberg, lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer and original French text by Alain Boublil and Jean-Marc Natel, additional material by James Fenton and adaptation by Trevor Nunn and John Caird. It is directed by James Powell and Laurence Connor.

***Guys and Dolls* London revival – first look at immersive production**

Alex Wood – 8 March 2023



Cedric Neal and the company of *Guys and Dolls* dancing on stage
(© Manuel Harlan)

Have a first look at *Guys and Dolls*! Based on the story and characters of Damon Runyon, with music and lyrics by Frank Loesser and book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows, the world famous show follows a pair of gamblers who hit the Great White Way. It features classic numbers such as "Luck be a Lady", "Guys and Dolls" and "Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat". Nick Hytner's production of the seminal show features choreography by Arlene Phillips.

***MJ the Musical* announces West End dates and details**

Alex Wood – 10 March 2023



A scene from *MJ the Musical* on Broadway
(© Matthew Murphy)

Details have been revealed for the arrival of *MJ the Musical*. Winner of four Tony Awards, the show is currently playing on Broadway and follows the life and work of the famous singer Michael Jackson, centring around the famous 1992 Dangerous World Tour. The piece is penned by Lynn Nottage (*Sweat*) and directed and choreographed by Royal Ballet associate artist Christopher Wheeldon. With casting to be revealed, the show will run at the Prince Edward Theatre from 6 March 2024.

Chaim Topol has died aged 87

Alex Wood – 9 March 2023



Chaim Topol
(© Dan Wooller)

Chaim Topol, also known as Topol, has died aged 87. The Israeli actor, singer, and producer was best known for his role as Tevye in the film adaptation of the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. He originated the role on stage in the West End and on Broadway, and went on to play the character in the film version, which was released in 1971. Topol's performance in the film earned him an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor. In addition to his work in *Fiddler*, Topol has had a long and successful career in film and television. Some of his other notable film roles include playing Milos Columbo in the James Bond film *For Your Eyes Only* and Captain von Trapp in the 2000 television adaptation of *The Sound of Music*. He has also appeared in numerous Israeli films, including *Sallah* and *Hirbet Hiz'ah*. He released several albums over the course of his career, and performed in concerts all over the world, and was awarded the Israel Prize for lifetime achievement in 2002. He was honoured with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1983. Omid Djalili, who played Tevye in *Chichester*, paid tribute to the actor saying, "Amazing to think he was only 35 when he made the film. Anyone who plays Tevye knows he can never top Topol. God rest his soul."

Pretty Woman sets West End closing date and announces new lead casting

Alex Wood – 8 March 2023

The show will wrap up its run in June.



Oliver Tompsett
(© Provided by production)

Pretty Woman will be bidding farewell to the Savoy Theatre this summer – but before then will welcome some new faces! The show has announced that Oliver Tompsett (& *Juliet*) will take on the lead role of Edward Lewis in the show in early April, replacing Danny Mac in the production. Tompsett's first performance will be 4 April. It will play its final performance on 18 June 2023, ahead of a major UK and Ireland tour.

***Titanic the Musical* – in rehearsals for anniversary tour**

Editorial Staff – 3 March 2023

The show is setting sail this spring.



James Darch and Bree Smith
(© Pamela Raith)

Step into rehearsals for *Titanic* ahead of the show's tour – which is set to open in a couple of weeks. Produced by Danielle Tarento in association with Mayflower Theatre, Southampton, Harmonia, Bruce Robert Harris and Jack W. Batman, the piece explores the lives and aspirations of the passengers and crew onboard, when the Titanic infamously sank on 15 April 1912 and over 1,500 lives were lost. The original Broadway production took home five Tony Awards including Best Musical.

First look at the new London *Heathers* cast

Editorial Staff – 3 March 2023

Have first look at the new cast of *Heathers!* Miracle Chance (*Be More Chill*) has taken on the lead role of Veronica Sawyer, while *Dear Evan Hansen*'s Ellis Kirk steps into the role of Jason 'J D' Dean.



(© Pamela Raith)

Joining them as the twisted trio of blazer-sporting class queens are Olivia Barnett-Legh, who is making her professional debut as Heather Chandler, Kia-Paris Walcott (*Millennials*) as Heather Duke, and Katharine Pearson (*Back To The Future*) as Heather McNamara.

***Stranger Things* stage show to open in the West End in late 2023**

Alex Wood – 1 March 2023

A stage adaptation of seminal series *Stranger Things* will officially open in the West End this autumn. Previously teased by the series' producer Netflix last year, the new stage production is to be directed by Stephen Daldry (*Billy Elliot*, *The Inheritance*) with co-direction by Justin Martin (*Prima Facie*). Kate Trefry, who is an executive co-producer and writer on the sci-fi series, has penned the new script. It is to be produced by Netflix and Sonia Friedman Productions, with the show's creators The Duffer Brothers acting as creative producers, and 21Laps (founded and run by *Stranger Things*' series director Shawn Levy) as associate producers. Matt and Ross Duffer said, "We are beyond excited about *Stranger Things: The First Shadow*. Collaborating with the brilliant Stephen Daldry has been nothing short of inspiring, and Kate Trefry has written a play that is at turns surprising, scary, and heartfelt. "You will meet endearing new characters, as well as very familiar ones, on a journey into the past that sets the groundwork for the future of *Stranger Things*. We're dying to tell you more about the story but won't – it's more fun to discover it for yourself. Can't wait to see you nerds in London!"

Unlike the TV series, which grounds itself in 1980s pop culture, the stage production will be set in 1959 with characters including a young Jim Hopper, Joyce Maldonado, Bob Newby and Henry Creel (played respectively by David Harbour, Winona Ryder, Sean Astin and Jamie Campbell Bower on screen). The production teases that the stage production "will take you right back to the beginning of the *Stranger Things* story – and may hold the key to the end."

Sonia Friedman added, "The world and mythology of *Stranger Things* has enabled a rich and fertile ground for creating an incredible story for the stage. The Duffer Brothers have built a huge global following for good reason, and a world-class creative team has built on their boundless imagination to dream up an unbelievably exciting theatrical event for our audiences." "Set within the canon of *Stranger Things*, this new play opens in London, with the West End hosting the only place in the world to experience this new story – for now. I'm thrilled to reunite with my visionary long-term collaborator Stephen Daldry. Together, with our brilliant Netflix partners, we can't wait to welcome *Stranger Things* fans into theatre, and theatregoers into the realm of *Stranger Things*." The show is set to open at the Phoenix Theatre "late in 2023", with casting, on-sale details and dates to be revealed in due course. Greg Lombardo, VP Live Experiences for Netflix commented, "*Stranger Things* has captured the imagination of fans around the world and we are incredibly thrilled to expand this exciting universe with Netflix's first live stage production. With the creative talents of Matt and Ross Duffer combined with Sonia Friedman and Stephen Daldry, theatregoers will be swept up in a truly epic event worthy of *Stranger Things*."

New musical *Drag Addict* to premiere this summer

Alex Wood – 28 February 2023

Arlene Phillips choreographs the new production.



The artwork for *DRAG Addict*

A new musical, *DRAG Addict*, will have its world premiere in Manchester this summer. Penned by Matt Cain and David Andrew Wilson, the piece's concept was developed by WhatsOnStage Award winner Arlene Phillips, who also choreographs this new production. Phillips said, "When I moved from Manchester to London in the 1970's, many people found an escape in my dance classes from a society that still frowned upon their sexuality. It became a place where they were free to express themselves through dance in any way they wanted." "It has been my dream to create a musical that embraces my love of drag and the LGBTQ plus community. I was lucky enough to have two creative friends in my life, Matt Cain and David Wilson, that I could bring together to make it a reality."

The musical follows Dolly Ravage, who is battling to save a Manchester club in the Gay Village from being closed down – whose life is upended by the arrival of a mysterious American. Writer, broadcaster and author of *Becoming Ted* Cain commented, "In my novels and journalism I've always loved exploring themes of LGBTQ plus identity, culture and community, asking what it means to be gay or queer in our modern, digital world. So it's a real thrill to be opening up this new channel for my creativity and exploring the same themes in musical theatre. I'm also overjoyed to be creating a show that pays tribute to my home city of Manchester, a city that saved my life as a teenager and helped shape both the person and the writer I've become today."

Composer Wilson, head of music at the Really Useful Group, added. "I am so excited to be bringing *DRAG Addict* to HOME in Manchester. So much of this musical was written in lockdown when Matt, Arlene and I were just dreaming about what it would be like to be back on Canal Street. And now, here we are, about to open in Manchester! Writing pop music has always been my number one passion and I am so excited that I've had the opportunity to write a show that incorporates modern pop to 90s dance to Broadway big band in an entirely original score. It's time to Slay the Runway!"

Jonathan O'Boyle (*Top Hat*) will direct the show at HOME in Manchester (where it plays from 18 July to 13 August), with further details to be revealed. Tickets are on sale via the HOME website.

Lead cast set for *WE WILL ROCK YOU* in the West End

Alex Wood – 27 February 2023



Brenda Edwards and Lee Mead

© Danny Kaan

Lead casting has been set for *WE WILL ROCK YOU* in the West End. The seminal *QUEEN* musical, which broke records during its initial West End run, is back at the London Coliseum with further information at the link below. Brenda Edwards will star in the role of Killer Queen. She previously played the part in both the UK tour and the record-breaking Dominion Theatre run. Lee Mead (*Any Dream Will Do*) will star in the role of Khashoggi. Director Ben Elton said; "I'm thrilled that the wildly talented Brenda Edwards and Lee Mead are starring in *WE WILL ROCK YOU*. They're guaranteed to blow your mind and after that they'll blow the roof off!" Edwards added, "I'm delighted to be stepping back into the shoes of the legendary Killer Queen and this time at the iconic London Coliseum! I can't wait to work with Ben again, the hugely talented Lee Mead and the rest of the amazing company." Mead commented, "I'm so excited to be joining the cast of *WE WILL ROCK YOU* and can't wait to bring *QUEEN*'s legendary songs back to the London stage. We start rehearsing in April – bring it on!" Following their performances in the UK tour, Ian McIntosh and Elena Skye will reprise their roles as Galileo Figaro and Scaramouche. Further casting is to be announced.

SIX extends West End run into 2024

Tom Willward – 24 February 2023

The fan-favourite musical was recently crowned Best West End Show ... again! The hit West End production of *SIX* has extended its current run at the Vaudeville Theatre into 2024. The musical took home the prize for Best West End Show for a second consecutive year at the recent 23rd Annual WhatsOnStage Awards with producers commenting, "It was a huge honour to have won Best West End Show at last year's awards, so to win it for the second year running is incredible. We're all so grateful to the shows' wonderful fans, the Queendom, for continuing to support *SIX* and we're very proud to continue its history in London's West End." It also triumphed in the BBC Radio 2-sponsored Best West End Musical category at the 2020 ceremony. Written by Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss and boasting a Tony Award-winning score and costumes, the musical takes the form of a modern-day girl group concert, where the six ex-wives of Henry VIII each get to give their testimonies through song. *SIX* is currently playing in the West End and on Broadway, as well as on tour across the UK and North America. It recently completed an Australian tour and has forthcoming productions in Korea, Holland and Canada in the works.