



## CONTENTS

- Editorial – Time Flies
- For Sale: Mugs & Mirrors
- Quiz Night Raffle
- **Matilda** Presale
- Sponsorship
- **Matilda** Cast
- MTNZ Conference Registrations
- What's the Buzz?
- Christmas Greetings?



Goodness. Who would have thought that it is only four weeks until Father Christmas negotiates his way down our chimneys. It only felt like a few months ago that we were welcoming you to 2023 ... and now we're almost at 2024. But what a year it has been. We have spent this year renovating our new premises at 75 The Square. It has been a lot of hard work and we sincerely thank those people who have helped us bring our new home to a workable and desirable standard. We couldn't have achieved what we have thus far without some very special people giving freely of their time. But we're on the downward trajectory and it is anticipated that we will have finished all we want to achieve by Christmas. So ... if you are free next Saturday, 2 December 2023, we would appreciate some of your time, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to finish off the sanding and painting that is still required to be completed. Many hands make light work and the more the merrier.



### **ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS BRANDED KEEP CUPS**

These awesome keep cups are available for sale at only \$5.00 per cup for ACT THREE members (\$10.00 per cup for non-members).

### **MIRRORS**

We currently have mirrors for sale. They are approximately 1800 x 1200 mm each and we have seven available. Make an offer.



If you would like to purchase one or more keep cups or mirrors, please contact Jen (ACT THREE Administrator) on [admin@actthree.co.nz](mailto:admin@actthree.co.nz).

## HALLOWEEN QUIZ NIGHT

On 4 November we held a Halloween Quiz Night at 75 The Square and a lot of fun was had by all. At the quiz night we sold raffle tickets for an e-bike that was kindly donated to ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS.



Congratulations to the winner of the raffle – PHIL ANSTIS.



We have a special treat in store for our members to indulge in ... A revoltingly enchanting experience is coming to the Regent on Broadway and we want YOU to have the best seats in the house! Inspired by the twisted genius of Roald Dahl, the Tony Award-winning **Matilda the Musical** will have children and adults alike thrilled and delighted by this story of a special little girl with an extraordinary imagination. 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). Treat yourself or spoil your friends or family with the perfect gift these holidays!

[Click here for tickets](#) or by phoning the Regent on 06 350 2100 during office hours. Don't forget to use the password **ACT3MEM** and select **ACT THREE Presale – ACT THREE Member** to redeem your discount.

### Members Ticket Pricing

<b>Premium</b>	<b>\$69.00</b> + ticket fees
<b>A Reserve</b>	<b>\$49.00</b> + ticket fees
<b>B Reserve</b>	<b>\$29.00</b> + ticket fees

The early bird gets the worm 🐛 so grab your favourite seats NOW, before they go on sale to the public on Monday, 4 December 2024! We can't wait to see you there!



**ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS**  
*proudly invite you to sponsor  
 a company member of*

RONALD DAHL  
**Matilda**  
 THE MUSICAL

**12 - 27 April 2024**  
 REGENT ON BROADWAY

**For a sponsorship of \$450, we will provide you with:**

- 2x premium tickets to our opening night
- 1x complimentary programme
- 2x drinks on arrival
- After show cast meet and greet with cash bar operating
- Your logo in our programme
- Promotion on our social media platforms
- The satisfaction of supporting your local arts community

To secure your sponsorship, please email [admin@actthree.co.nz](mailto:admin@actthree.co.nz)

We also have larger sponsorship deals available.  
 Please get in touch to see what we can offer your business!  
 Contact Jen Lambert at [admin@actthree.co.nz](mailto:admin@actthree.co.nz) for further details.

[actthree.co.nz](http://actthree.co.nz) 06 355 0499



We thank the following sponsors who have already signed up for this excellent opportunity.



## CAST OF MATILDA

We are pleased to announce the cast of *Matilda the Musical* ...

PROD. BY  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL

# Children's Cast

<b>MATILDA</b>			
	Sylvie Musso	Lucy Bennett	Tanzi Good
<b>LAVENDER</b>	Charleigh Skelton-Morris Emma Campbell	<b>BRUCE</b>	Manawa Te Wiki Jacob Lauridsen
<b>AMANDA</b>	Kate Easton Leyla Arnold	<b>ERIC</b>	Reuben Costley Caleb Henderson
<b>ALICE</b>	Mabel Henderson Niamh Galvin	<b>NIGEL</b>	Oscar Hansen-Wall Jackson Kingston
<b>HORTENSIA</b>	Elizabeth Cavan Isla Calbuay	<b>TOMMY</b>	Oscar James Isaac Clough

**Offstage Choir**  
Rosie Costley, Mia Warren, Olive Look, Mikaela Christensen, Liam Prabakar, Lucy Chan, Jolisa Abraham, Emily Waugh, Scarlett Lees-Galloway, Noelle Fauolo, Holly Huffer, Laiken Darling, Emily Rule, Harmony Eugenio, Lydie Capper, Annie Bearsley

**ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS**

PROD. BY  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL

# Adult's Cast

<b>MISS TRUNCHBULL</b>	Phil Amtis	<b>ACROBAT</b>	Lily McDonald
<b>MISS HONEY</b>	Danica Manson	<b>ESCAPOLOGIST</b>	Kieran Murphy
<b>MRS PHELPS</b>	Sophia Parker	<b>DOCTOR</b>	Clio Exconde
<b>MRS WORMWOOD</b>	Jessie Feyen	<b>RUDOLPHO</b>	Mikaera Bassett
<b>MR WORMWOOD</b>	Jacob McDonald	<b>CHILD ENTERTAINER/ Alternate MISS HONEY &amp; MRS PHELPS</b>	Alexia Clark
<b>MICHAEL</b>	Cornor Watson		

**Ensemble**  
Tayla Clark, Matthew Lyne, Hannah McDowall, Hani Pere, Terado Bassett, Ella Daynes, Emma-Katle Johnston

**BV**  
Emilia Johnston, Andrew Johnston, Poppy Costley, John Marville, William Lyne, Sheila Monaghan, Jessica King, Charlotte Grant

**ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS**

PROD. BY  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL

# Understudies

<b>MISS TRUNCHBULL</b>	Glenn Maskill
<b>MRS WORMWOOD</b>	Emma-Katle Johnston
<b>MR WORMWOOD</b>	Cornor Watson

**Ensemble Swings**  
Lily McDonald, Clio Exconde

**Alternate**  
**MISS HONEY & MRS PHELPS** - Alexis Clark

**ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS**





**MTNZ** | GROWING TOGETHER  
**CONFERENCE 2024** | GROUNDED IN OUR PAST  
**E TAU AE I MURI, E TIPU TAKITAHU TĀTOU**  
*15-17 March 2024, Distinction Hotel, Rotorua*

Held in Rotorua on 15–17 March 2024 and packed with; 20 varied workshops, the iTICKET National Theatre Awards Dinner, the MDR Lighting Gala Ball, networking, socialising, the MTNZ AGM followed by G&T Productions lunch, the MTNZ Theatre EXPO – and so much more – this is one event not to miss. Head to the MTNZ website (linked below) to view the Registration Information Pack; and once you're ready – register.

Link: <https://www.mtnz.org.nz/training/conference>

If you are still deciding – head to our event page and register interest to be kept up to date as plans unfold;  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/676338671211211>

See you there MTNZ!!!



# What's The Buzz?

## Boy George is returning to Broadway to make *Moulin Rouge!* even more spectacular

by Darryn King



Boy George (Photo: Dean Stockings)

Boy George is gonna swing from the chandelier. The larger-than-life English singer, songwriter, fashion designer and producer will take over the role of the boisterous, top-hatted impresario Harold Zidler in the Tony Award winning musical *Moulin Rouge!* for a limited engagement from 6 February 2024 to 12 May 2024. George is a globally renowned musical icon, known for his soulful voice as well as his penchant for glamorous eye make-up and flamboyant headwear. As the lead singer of the '80s new wave trail-blazers Culture Club, he sang such timeless hits as "Do You Really Want To Hurt Me" and "Karma Chameleon". He is also no stranger to Broadway. The Musical *Taboo*, starring George as Leigh Bowery and loosely based on his life. It opened on Broadway in 2003 and earned him a Tony Award nomination for Best Original Score. Currently he is playing Captain Hook in *Peter Pan: The Arena Spectacular* in the U.K.

## Huey Lewis and the News musical *The Heart of Rock and Roll* to open on Broadway

by Darryn King



*The Heart of Rock and Roll*, a new musical inspired by the songs of smooth '80s hitmakers Huey Lewis and The News, will arrive at the James Early Jones Theatre in 2024. Previews are scheduled to begin on 29 March, ahead of an opening night set for 22 April 2024. Described as a raucous rom-com, *The Heart of Rock and Roll* centres on Bobby, the frontman of a struggling rock band who is ready to give up his rockstar dreams – until he meets the boss' daughter, Cassandra. The musical features such catchy, feel-good Huey Lewis and The News numbers such as "The Power of Love", "Hip to be Square", "Working for a Livin'", "Stuck With You" and "If This Is It". Lewis is no stranger to Broadway, having starred in *Chicago* as Billy Flynn.

## A *Girls Just Want To Have Fun* musical is in the works

by Darryn King



Sarah Jessica Parker and Helen Hunt in a scene from the 1985 teen comedy *Girls Just Want to Have Fun*  
(Photo: New World Pictures/Getty Images – Michael Ochs Archives)

A musical adaptation of *Girls Just Want to Have Fun*, the gloriously cheesy 1985 teen comedy starring Sarah Jessica Parker and Helen Hunt is in the works. The show is to be based on the film's screenplay by Amy Spies and will feature a score of '80s hits, including the one made famous by Cyndi Lauper that inspired the title. The music and lyrics will likely be sourced from the catalogue of pop favourites owned by Primary Wave, a private music publishing and talent management company. Primary Wave is home to such beloved '80s artists as Prince, Olivia Newton-John, Boy George and Culture Club, Air Supply and Devo. A story of minor teenage rebellion that's become something of a cult fave for its '80s time capsule quality, *Girls Just Want to Have Fun* centres on Janey, a talented rule-abiding high school gymnast who moves to a new town and starts disobeying her father. At the encouragement of a wild girl she starts acting out and enters a local TV dance competition.

## Aaron Tveit and Sutton Foster to take over lead roles in *Sweeney Todd*

by Andy Lefkowitz



Sutton Foster and Aaron Tveit  
(Photo: Matthew Murphy)

The Tony Award nominated revival of *Sweeney Todd* is welcoming a new pair of stars. Tony winning performers Aaron Tveit and Sutton Foster will take over the roles of Sweeney Todd and Mrs Lovett, respectively, beginning on 9 February 2024 at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre. Tveit and Foster will play a 12 week limited engagement in the revival, through 5 May 2024. They will replace the production's Tony nominated original leads, Josh Groban and Annaleigh Ashford, who will take their final bows on 14 January 2024. Tveit won a Tony for his turn as Christian in *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*. His other Broadway credits include *Catch Me If You Can*, *Next to Normal*, *Hairspray* and *Wicked*. Foster, who earned Tonys for *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Anything Goes*, was also Tony nominated for turns in *Little Women*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Shrek*, *Violet* and *The Music Man*.

## **The Who's Tommy to receive Broadway revival in 2024**

by Ruthie Fierberg



The cast of the Goodman Theatre production of *Tommy*  
(Photo: Liz Lauren)

*The Who's Tommy* will return to Broadway in Spring 2024. Helmed by the musical's original Tony Award winning director Des McAnuff, the revival is described as a reimagined version of the show, which first opened on Broadway in 1993. *The Who's Tommy* features a Tony winning score by Pete Townshend. The musical is an adaptation of the band The Who's 1969 album of the same name, which – at the time – was described by critics as a rock opera. *The Who's Tommy* tells the story of Tommy Walker who, as a child, witnesses his father shoot his rival. Tommy turns inward and completely disassociates from the world around him, until his knack for pinball rockets him to celebrity status.

## **Starlight Express extends at the Troubadour Wembley Park Theatre in London**

by Ruthie Fierberg



The new London revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *Starlight Express* is extending its run in London. The show will now be booking through to February 2025. Seen by over 20 million people across the world, *Starlight Express* is back in London from 8 June 2024 at a specially designed "Starlight Auditorium" at Troubadour Wembley Park Theatre. The show promises to be an immersive theatrical event, with a cast of 40 whizzing around and above the audience on special tracks in the specially reconfigured auditorium. Songs in the show, with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Richard Stilgoe, include "AC/DC", "Make Up My Heart", "Light at the End of the Tunnel" and "Starlight Express". Producer Michael Harrison said in a statement, "*Starlight Express* is one of the most iconic musicals of the last 40 years, and I am thrilled that our new production has captured imaginations of all ages all over again." *Starlight Express* is now playing in London from 8 June 2024 to 16 February 2025.



## ***I Should Be So Lucky: The Stock Aitken Waterman Musical*** – in pictures

by Ruthie Fierberg

Production photos have been released for brand new musical *I Should Be So Lucky: The Stock, Aitken Waterman Musical*, currently on a big UK tour. Kylie Minogue appears digitally in the show.



The musical features all of the Stock, Aitken Waterman hits you know and love, including “I Should Be So Lucky” (Kylie Minogue), “Never Gonna Give You Up” (Rick Astley), “Too Many Broken Hearts” (Jason Donovan) and “Love In The First Degree” (Bananarama), plus over 20 other songs from their Hit Factory. In the show, young couple Ella and Nathan fall hopelessly in love and are about to take the biggest step of their lives – marriage. Until it doesn’t go quite to plan. Will they be together forever, or will he make her cry and say goodbye? The show had its world premiere at Manchester Opera House on 2 November 2023 and is now touring the U.K. London area dates for the show are; Orchard Theatre Dartford from 8-13 January 2024; New Wimbledon Theatre from 29 January to 3 February 2024; and Churchill Theatre Bromley from 25-30 March 2024.

## **2024 Tony Awards sets date and venue**

by Ruthie Fierberg



The cast of the Goodman Theatre production of *Tommy*

A date and venue has been set for the 2024 Tony Awards. The 77<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of Broadway will take place on 16 June 2024 at the David H. Koch Theatre at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City.

### ***MJ the Musical* extends London run to September 2024**



The West End production of *MJ The Musical* has extended its run at the Prince Edward Theatre in London. Due to overwhelming demand, Producers of *MJ The Musical* have opened a new three month booking period from 22 June to 14 September 2024, adding three months to the London run. The London production of *MJ The Musical* will see Miles Frost lead the cast, reprising his Tony Award winning role of Michael Jackson. Centred around the making of his 1992 Dangerous World Tour, *MJ The Musical* goes beyond the singular moves and signature sound of the star to offer a rare look at the creative mind and collaborative spirit that catapulted Jackson to legendary status.

### ***Sister Act The Musical* wins London Lifestyle Awards 2023**



*Sister Act The Musical* has won the Theatre Show of the Year award at this year's London Lifestyle Awards 2023. The show was up against a diverse range of productions, including *2:22 A Ghost Story*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Dirty Dancing*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Legally Blonde*, *My Neighbour Totoro*, *My Son's a Queer*, *SIX The Musical* and *The Drifters Girl*. Winners are chosen by public vote and this year's awards were announced at a ceremony on 30 October 2023. Performers at the show included Tobias Turley, who sang ABBA's "Does Your Mother Know". Tobias is currently competing in ITV's talent show *Mamma Mia! I Have a Dream* to find a Sky and Sophie for *Mamma Mia!* in the West End. Other performances at the ceremony included opera star Lucy Kay, and Ben Haenow and his band. Alongside the theatre award, other awards categories included London restaurants, bars and hotels, sport and fitness, cafés and coffee shops, hair and beauty, and members' clubs. CEO Jason Gale, who founded the awards, said; "Huge congratulations to the team behind *Sister Act The Musical* on their well deserved win. This feel-good gospel hit is a toe-tapping riot, full of heart. It's a testament to the incredible quality of theatre available to audiences in London that the Theatre Show of the year category was so hotly contested. We look forward to welcoming *Sister Act* back to the capital in Spring 2024!"

### **Jeff Wayne's *The War of the Worlds: The Immersive Experience* to extend its run in London**



Composer and producer Jeff Wayne has agreed with immersive experience specialist Layered Reality to extend the *Jeff Wayne's The War of the Worlds: The Immersive Experience* in London. The experience will continue playing at London's Leadenhall Street for a further two years, into 2025. Nearly 200,000 people have already visited the multi-million pound attraction, set in 21 rooms over two floors of a building on Leadenhall Street in the City of London. The production is also set to get new music sequences and sound design originated by Jeff Wayne, and The Spirit of Man steampunk bar and restaurant at the venue will also get a new light and sound show. At the experience, visitors travel back to 1898 and experience escaping a Martian-occupied Victorian England, in an action-packed journey based on the classic HG Wells story *The War of The Worlds*, and set to Jeff Wayne's iconic score. Layered Reality uses a mix of live actors, movie quality sets, virtual reality (VR), digital tech and multi-sensory effects to create the complete experience. Composer and Producer Jeff Wayne said in a statement; "In June of this year, we announced that *The War of The Worlds: The Immersive Experience* would be relocating to a new venue and featuring an updated production. However, soon after our announcement, we had the wonderful and unexpected opportunity to remain at Leadenhall Street for a further two years, which we couldn't say 'no' to. And we're thrilled that new and returning audiences will have the chance to see this updated award-winning experience for more years to come. Originally planned for a three month run, here we are, almost five years later, and heading for seven! No one would have believed! Layered Reality are recognised leaders in creating unrivalled immersive experiences, and we are delighted to continue working with them." CEO of Layered Reality Andrew McGuinness said; "Our focus remains on delivering for our customers and as we take the experience to the next level alongside our partner Jeff Wayne, we will be making enhancements to the experience over the coming weeks to ensure it continues to exceed guest expectations. Jeff Wayne is an incredible composer and producer and our close working partnership has been fundamental to the success of *Jeff Wayne's The War of The Worlds: The Immersive Experience*. We are looking forward to continuing our work with him and learning from his years of expertise to create a truly unique memory-making experience."

## Royal Variety Performance 2023 performers revealed ...



The Royal Variety Charity has announced performers for its annual *Royal Variety Performance*. The 2023 event will take place at the Royal Albert Hall on 30 November 2023. The show will feature lots of West End performers and shows this year, including a major tribute marking 100 years of Disney, including the casts of *The Lion King*, *Frozen The Musical*, *Aladdin*, *Hercules* and *Beauty & The Beast*.

West End and *Ted Lasso* star Hannah Waddingham will perform with the English National Opera chorus and classical pianist Lang Lang will play a duet with the 14-year-old winner of Channel 4's talent show *The Piano*, Lucy. There will also be performances from brand new British musical *The Little Big Things*, now playing at @sohoplace theatre in the West End; along with smash-hit Gershwin musical *Crazy For You*, now playing at the Gillian Lynne Theatre; and the cast of *Sister Act* led by Beverley Knight – coming to the Dominion Theatre next year. Spice Girl and actor Melanie Chisholm will lead a tribute to theatre producer Bill Kenwright who died recently, aged 78. Chisholm starred in one of Kenwright's most successful shows, *Blood Brothers*, in the West End.

Derren Brown's West End show *Unbelievable*, now playing at the Criterion Theatre in London, will be the magic act on the night; plus Argentinian dance show *Malevo* – which is now playing at the Peacock Theatre – will perform. Producers of *The Little Big Things*, Michael Harrison and Nica Burns said in a statement; "It is such an honour for *The Little Big Things*, our brand new musical, created by a first time British writing team, to be invited to perform on such an iconic show. We and the whole company are absolutely delighted." Superstar Cher, Rick Astley, Zara Larsson, McFly and Paloma Faith will also sing during the night, and comedians will include Britain's Got Talent winner Viggo Venn, plus Tom Allen, Rosie Jones, Ellie Taylor and Simon Brodtkin.

The National Anthem will be led by The Fanfare Trumpeters of The Band of the Welsh Guards and the National Youth Choir. Host Bradley Walsh said in a statement; "I am so excited to be presenting this year's show. It's been 30 years this year since I first performed at The Royal Variety Performance, so what an absolute honour to be hosting. The line-up is incredible and I can't wait for you all to see what I have in store." Last year's show included performances from Andrew Lloyd Webber, Gary Barlow, *Cabaret* and *Newsies*. The Royal Variety Performance is attended by members of the royal family, and will air on ITV1 in December, with the date to be confirmed.



ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS



SEASON OF

A poster for the musical Matilda. At the top, a silhouette of a young girl with her hands on her hips stands against a bright blue, glowing light source. Below the image, the text reads: 'ROALD DAHL'S Matilda THE MUSICAL'. Underneath that, it says 'BOOK DENNIS KELLY MUSIC & LYRICS TIM MINCHIN'. The dates '12 April - 27 April 2024' and the location 'Regent on Broadway' are listed. At the bottom, it says 'Visit our website for more details www.actthree.co.nz'.

ROALD DAHL'S  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL  
BOOK DENNIS KELLY MUSIC & LYRICS TIM MINCHIN  
**12 April - 27 April 2024**  
Regent on Broadway  
Visit our website for more details  
[www.actthree.co.nz](http://www.actthree.co.nz)



From everyone at ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS to everyone  
wherever you are ... we would like to take this opportunity  
to wish you and yours a very festive silly season  
and a happy and safe Christmas with your loved ones.  
Let's kick 2023 to the curb and see you back here next year  
for some exciting theatrical happenings.

