

Les Miserables" - the Movie

You don't have to wait one day more to get the inside scoop about Tom Hooper's highly anticipated (and sure to be amazing!) *Les Miz* movie. To find out the difference between the star filled movie and the beloved stage musical, read on ...

Fantine's fall is darker than ever – in the stage version Fantine loses her job at Valjean's factory and desperately sells a locket and her hair before resorting to prostitution. Readers of Victor Hugo's 1862 novel know that during her unravelling, Fantine also sells her teeth, a plot point left out of the musical. However, in the film, Fantine sells her back teeth during the number *Lovely Ladies*.

A different order gives musical numbers punch – unlike the *Dreamgirls* or *Phantom of the Opera* movies, *Les Miz's* Tony winning score is represented in its entirety. What is surprising about the musical numbers is the fresh new context some of the songs received. Fans will note that *I Dreamed A Dream, On My Own, One Day More* and *Do You Hear The People Sing* all appear in different places than they do in the stage musical.

Eponine's demise is more heroic – fear not, our girl Eponine still feels *A Little Fall of Rain* in the arms of her true love, Marius. Yet, her cause of death is different, sadder and even more heroic than it is on stage. Without ruining the shocking death sequence, all we can say is that Eponine's love knows no bounds.

Javert and the Bishop get meatier roles – Javert's lifelong pursuit of Jean Valjean has never been more real than it is in Hooper's film. According to the script, there are even more Javert and Valjean confrontations, fights and chases. The Bishop of Digne in the big screen epic enjoys extra scenes than the character does in the musical.

The final scene is more upbeat – when the three hour stage musical *Les Miserables* ended audiences were left weeping to a dark and eerie ghost filled epilogue. But happier times are ahead for movie audiences. The final *Do You Hear The People Sing* reprise takes place at the Place de la Bastille in 1848 and it's a far cry from the stage version's sombre finale. The ghosts are still present but audiences will be cheering.





Editorial

Well, the silly season is upon us ... again – or is that still?????? It's only just over four weeks until Christmas ... To lighten the mood before Christmas 2012, how about checking out the fantastic new production at the Abbey Theatre – "Avenue Q". This show opened on Thursday night to a very enthusiastic and vocal audience who absolutely loved the production. So don't miss out – you don't want to be one of those people who say, "Oh, I was going to"

Finally, from all of ours to all of yours – we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a splendiferous (and safe) New Year.



Administration Office Christmas Hours

- Closing at 4.00 p.m. on Friday, 21 December 2012
- Re-opening at 12 noon on Tuesday, 22 January 2013 (after Wellington Anniversary Day)



Costume Hire Christmas Hours

- Closing at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, 21 December 2012
- Re-opening Tuesday, 22 January 2013 (after Wellington Anniversary Day)



Do you need ... ???

... a Santa costume for your Christmas function? If Santa is sorted, how about some Elves, Mrs Claus, a Christmas Pudding or some Pavlova or even The Grinch??? If so, Debbie and Julie at Costume Hire would be more than pleased to assist you.

Have a very Merry Christmas from the team at Abbey Costume Hire. Ho Ho Ho !!!



We've heard a rumour ...

... producer Dianne Fraser has acquired the stage rights to **Gilligan's Island: The Musical** and plans to take the show to Broadway in 2013/14. The musical is based on the iconic 1960's TV show, which aired in the States from 26 September 1964 to 4 September 1967. The TV series was based around the comic adventures of seven castaways as they attempted to survive the island on which they had been shipwrecked. In the musical stage adaptation, the gang of castaways find a U.F.O. and an alien visitor.

... Global Creatures, the company behind the phenomenal worldwide success, **Walking with Dinosaurs – the Arena Spectacular**, has announced that a creative team has been assembled and work has begun on **King Kong – Live on Stage**, an entirely new production conceived for the Broadway stage. The shows aims to arrive on Broadway in 2013. **King Kong – Live on Stage** is the latest project from the Australian-based Global Creatures, an international entertainment group that develops new theatrical productions to take to audiences all around the world. Their animatronics arm, The Creature Technology Company, invents and deploys the latest in animatronic design. Earlier this year, Global Creatures, in collaboration with Dreamworks Animation, conceived and executed an arena show based on the film **How to Train Your Dragon.**





Abbey Theatre Restaurant 22 November – 15 December 2012

"Abbey Theatre's production of *Avenue Q* has all the pizzazz and daring of the New York tenements that couldn't be further from Sesame Street."

"Abbey's take on the Broadway production is populated by hilarious ... puppets, and their human supporting cast who don't miss a beat."

"... it is a familiar story following the conventions of Broadway musical – wide eyed young'un moves to new city, boy meets girl, a seductive siren is the spanner in the works, boy is made destitute, girl breaks her heart – all made much more hilarious told by puppets."

"The ensemble cast showed off an impressive vocal strength on stage amid a brilliant and dynamic set, the comedy constant and never forced, performing to a delighted crowd on their opening night."

"Steve Sayer's interpretation of a Broadway favourite is not one to be missed ..."

BOOKINGS OPEN NOW AT ABBEY THEATRE

or book on line at <u>www.abbeymusicaltheatre.co.nz</u>





Auditions for this production which will be staged in August 2013 will be advertised shortly. Watch this space ...