



**ON STAGE NOW**

**UNTIL 9 DECEMBER 2017**

**WALLACE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY THEATRE  
CENTENNIAL DRIVE, PALMERSTON NORTH**

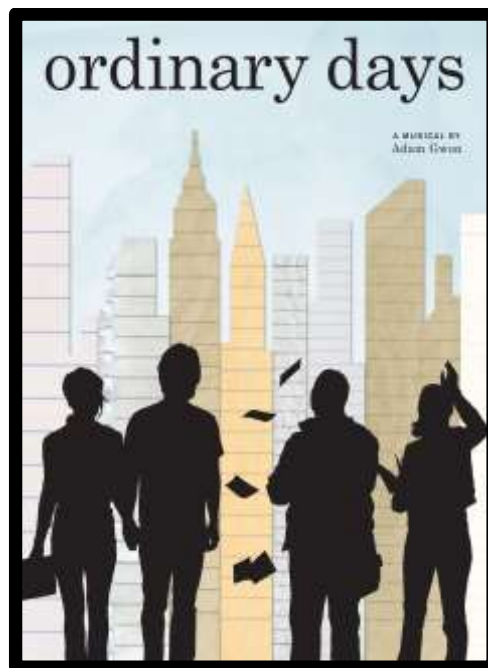
**BOOK NOW!!!**

**DON'T MISS THIS ROCKTACULAR  
PRODUCTION!!!**

Settling into our seats and leafing through the programme together we hit the 'musical number's' page and gave each other the smiling version of a high-five! From Bon Jovi's "Wanted Dead or Alive" to Foreigner's "I Want to Know What Love Is", there was an impressive list of absolute bangers to look forward to. Set in the legendary 'The Bourbon Room' of West Hollywood fame, the stage came alive with music, colour, dance and some great laughs. Skipping in and out of the role of narrator and character Lonny Barnett was Nick Ross – OMG!!!! What a funny guy. He really was a bit of a legend. Honestly, I don't know how to encapsulate effectively how great he was as he skilfully injected laughs at just the right time. Rock on Nick Ross, I salute you. As one of the lead characters, I recognised Riley Booth (Sherrie Christian) from many singing events and knew her singing would be exceptional. What I wasn't expecting was for her to be a triple threat, also excelling in dance and acting. Riley left nothing behind, she was a tender yet gutsy and totally believable character. A performance of this calibre for her young age was absolutely outstanding. Riley was truly a star of the show. Another absolute rock star was Liam Taylor as womanising Stacee Jaxx. Liam has impressed me before and did not fail to again. Total embodiment of his character and great commitment to some challenging songs Stacee Jaxx was the rock god every groupie wanted to be with.

Tyrell Beck as Sherrie Christian's love interest Drew Boley expertly managed the depth of emotion required for the kind and tender role he played. I've seen Tyrell in a previous show and it was great to see him play a totally different role with the same high standard of acting. Jason Harkett (Franz Klineman) with his caricature-style German accent was a crowd favourite with his unerring commitment to character. The band was handily inserted into the show and residing on the stage, a great option, as they kept everything rocking along. I reckon musical director Michael Doody managed all the music stuff well because there was a lot of it weaving its way through characters, and timing was crucial. High energy dancers filled the stage with va-va-voom and brought 'The Bourbon Room' to life, they must have been exhausted by the time the curtain came down. *ROCK OF AGES* is a fun and exciting show to watch with some standout performances and great music. Abbey Theatre has really rocked this one and laughs came readily from a well entertained audience.

*(You Have My Word)*



*On stage at the Wallace Development Theatre  
9 – 24 February 2018*



**WARREN** – Tyrell Beck

**DEB** – Tayla Clark

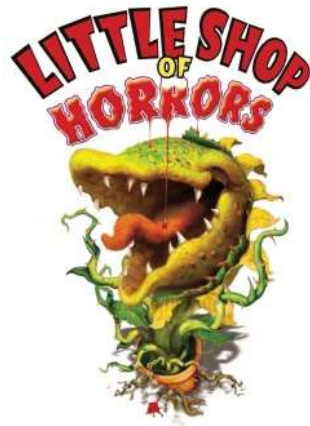
**JASON** – Richard Brown

**CLAIRE** – Amy Doherty

---

**Director:** Andrea Maxwell  
**Musical Director:** Nick Ross





Director

Teesh Szabo

Musical Director

Shane Brown

---

On stage at the Wallace Development Company Theatre  
17 May – 2 June 2018

---

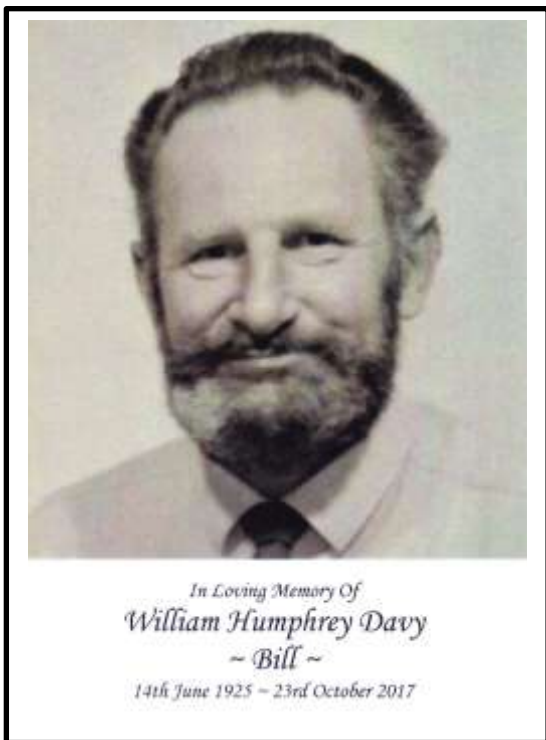
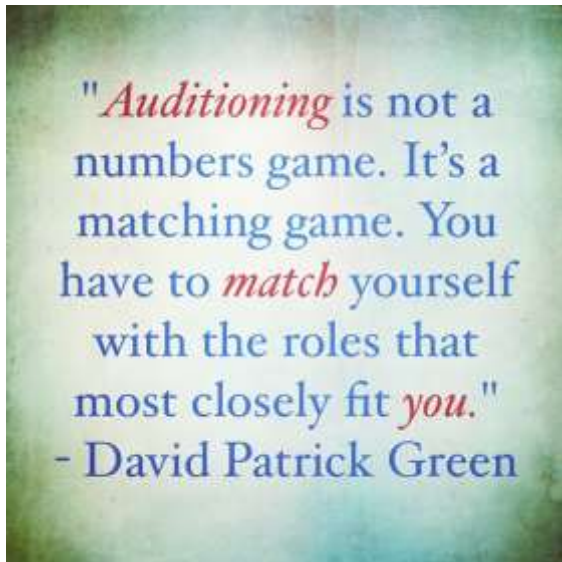
Auditions will be held on 27 & 28 January 2018  
For further information, please contact  
Linda Warren on 021 216 5170 or e-mail: [lindyloony52@gmail.com](mailto:lindyloony52@gmail.com)



## Audition Rule #1

Don't think you can wing it, you **MUST** practice!

"We are but what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then,  
is not an act, but a habit" -  
Aristotle (who knew a fair bit about being awesome)



## **Bill Davy**

*(Life Member – Palmerston North Operatic Society/  
Abbey Musical Theatre)*

A limb has fallen from the family tree  
That says grieve not for me  
Remember the best times  
The laughter, the song  
The good life I lived while I was strong



Our thoughts are also with the family and friends of;

- **Len Speir** – MTNZ's Auditor and Life Member.
- **Shona Spencer** – previous MTNZ Administrator and Life Member.
- **Sam Keen** – Wardrobe Manager and Administrator for Musical Theatre Dunedin.







			
9 – 24 FEBRUARY 2018	17 MAY – 2 JUNE 2018	10 – 25 AUGUST 2018	22 NOVEMBER – 8 DECEMBER 2018
<u>Director</u> Andrea Maxwell <u>Musical Director</u> Nick Ross	<u>Director</u> Teesh Szabo <u>Musical Director</u> Shane Brown	<u>Director</u> Scott Andrew <u>Musical Director</u> Barry Jones <u>Choreographer</u> Teesh Szabo	<u>Creative Team</u> TBA



## Membership

Just a friendly reminder and as you are no doubt aware, your AMT membership will expire on 31 January 2018. Invoices for membership will be forwarded to you in the new year.



## MTNZ 58<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE & VOLUNTEER TRAINING WEEKEND

**16 – 18 March 2018**  
Founders Heritage Park & Grand Mercure Nelson Monaco  
Nelson

Registrations for next year's MTNZ Conference are now open. More information/details can be found at  
<http://www.mtnz.org.nz/conference-registration/>



# RUMOUR HAS IT



## ***CHESS* will receive first revival in London's West End**

*"CHESS"*, the cult-favorite musical featuring music by ABBA songwriters Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus, lyrics by Tim Rice and a book by Richard Nelson, will receive a five-week London revival courtesy of English National Opera in 2018. Laurence Connor (*"School of Rock"*) will direct and Stephen Mear (*"Sunset Boulevard"*) will choreograph the West End production set to play the London Coliseum beginning on April 26 with an opening slated for May 1. The limited engagement will conclude on June 2. This production will mark the first West End revival since the musical's original 1986 debut mounting. *"CHESS"* is set against the background of the Cold War in the late 1970s/early 1980s, during which superpowers attempt to manipulate an international chess championship for political ends. Two of the world's greatest chess masters, one American, one Russian, are in danger of becoming the pawns of their governments as their battle for the world title gets underway. Simultaneously their lives are thrown into further confusion by a Hungarian refugee, a remarkable woman who becomes the centre of their emotional triangle. *"CHESS"* first played London in 1986, boasting a cast led by Elaine Paige, Murray Head and Tommy Korberg. The production ran for three years at the Prince Edward Theatre. The 1988 Broadway production, starring Judy Kuhn, Philip Casnoff and David Carroll, ran for just two months at the Imperial Theatre. A notable *"CHESD"* concert, starring Idina Menzel, Josh Groban and Adam Pascal, played London's Royal Albert Hall in 2008. Casting for the West End revival of *"CHESS"* will be announced at a later date.

## ***Magic Mike* Musical Will Zoom in on Channing Tatum's Personal Stripper Stories**

That *"Magic Mike"* musical is still bumping and grinding its way to the stage. Lyricist Brian Yorkey (*"Next to Normal"*) has revealed the eagerly anticipated tuner will actually take inspiration from more of film star Channing Tatum's real experiences as a Florida stripper. "We're doing the prequel," Yorkey recently told the Hollywood Reporter; "It's like *Magic Mike .5*, the story of how Mike became Magic Mike, how he got his name, which really is based on Channing's stories." Tatum's pre-Hollywood gig as a stripper inspired the plot for the 2012 film *Magic Mike* and its subsequent movie *Magic Mike XXL*. "Channing's been really involved," said Yorkey. "He's been at all of the readings and workshops." Yorkey went on to describe a few of the numbers fans can look forward to in the musical. "There's a really great stripping sequence in the first act, which is where you see Mike start off his first strip and it's a total disaster," he said. "There will certainly be hot guys, but we also have a great number of Mike's girlfriend and her sorority sisters at the top of act two. There's an awful lot of beefcake, but it also has heart."

## **Sting musical *The Last Ship* to sail into the West End?**

Following the news that a UK tour of the Sting musical *"The Last Ship"* is set to tour the UK next year, it could be eyeing a transfer to London's West End late next year. With music and lyrics by Sting, and a book by John Logan and Brian Yorkey, *"The Last Ship"* is inspired by the singer's childhood in Wallsend in Tyne and Wear, and its connections with the shipbuilding industry. It tells the story of the community as the shipyards in the area begin to close, focusing on the Swan Hunter shipyard. The musical premiered in America and opened on Broadway in 2014 at the Neil Simon Theatre starring Michael Esper and Rachel Tucker, with Sting joining the cast himself as Jackie White for a six week period. The musical was nominated for two Tony Awards; Best Original Score and Best Orchestrations. Now, a UK tour of the musical produced by Northern Stage has been announced, starring original Broadway cast member Jimmy Nail. Directed by Lorne Campbell, it is set to begin its tour at Northern Stage in Newcastle in March, before heading to Liverpool, Birmingham, Northampton, Leeds, Nottingham, Cardiff, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, York and ending in Salford in July. The show is also produced by 59 Productions whose recent West End stage work includes *"Oslo"* at the National and the Harold Pinter Theatre, *"An American in Paris"* at the Dominion Theatre and *"City of Glass"* at the Lyric Hammersmith. *"The Last Ship"* tried out in Chicago before the Broadway production and has also had productions in Salt Lake City and Finland, but it has been yet to dock in the UK. With its intrinsically British storyline, a successful touring production could make its way to a West End theatre in time for the summer of 2018.

## Broadway Grosses: 14 Years Later, *WICKED*'s Still Green

**"WICKED"** opened on Broadway on October 30, 2003. Fourteen years later, the Broadway juggernaut about everything that happened before Dorothy dropped into Oz is a regular member of the Great White Way's frontrunners. With \$1,524,660, last week was no exception. The Stephen Schwartz-scored production also played at 95.29% capacity. Popular indeed! Other productions joining the eighth longest running show on Broadway in this week's top-earning spots are *"Hamilton"*, *"Springsteen on Broadway"*, *"Hello, Dolly!"*, *"The Lion King"* and *"Dear Evan Hansen"*. Happy Birthday, *"WICKED"*, and may you soar on Broadway for years to come! Here's a look at who was on top—and who was not—for the week ending October 29, 2017;

### FRONTRUNNERS (by Gross)

1. *Hamilton* (\$2,665,092)
2. *Springsteen on Broadway* (\$2,383,080)\*\*
3. *Hello, Dolly!* (\$2,362,351)
4. *The Lion King* (\$2,019,366)
5. *Dear Evan Hansen* (\$1,677,889)

### UNDERDOGS (by Gross)

1. *M. Butterfly* (\$528,964)\*\*\*
2. *The Play That Goes Wrong* (\$376,856)
3. *Latin History for Morons* (\$334,883)\*
4. *Time and the Conways* (\$321,440)
5. *Prince of Broadway* (\$217,558)

### FRONTRUNNERS (by Capacity)

1. *Come From Away* (101.91%)
2. *The Book of Mormon* (101.83%)
3. *Hamilton* (101.58%)
4. *Dear Evan Hansen* (101.54%)
5. *Springsteen on Broadway* (100.00%)\*\*

### UNDERDOGS (by Capacity)

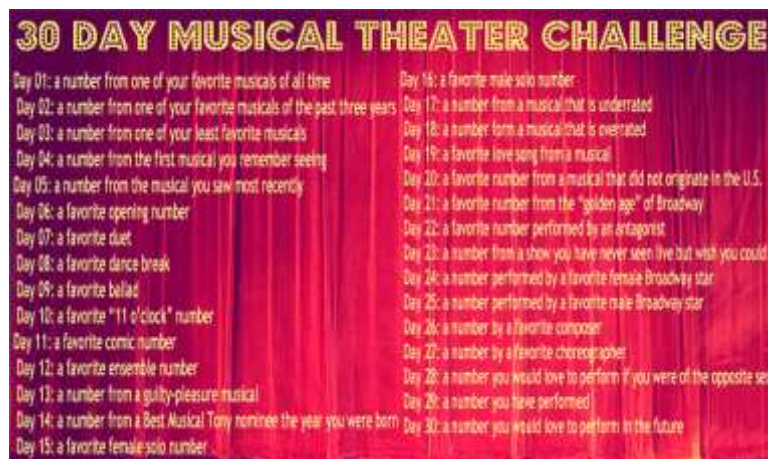
1. *Time and the Conways* (78.15%)
2. *War Paint* (75.33%)
3. *School of Rock* (71.60%)
4. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (70.12%)
5. *Miss Saigon* (62.06%)

\* Number based on four preview performances

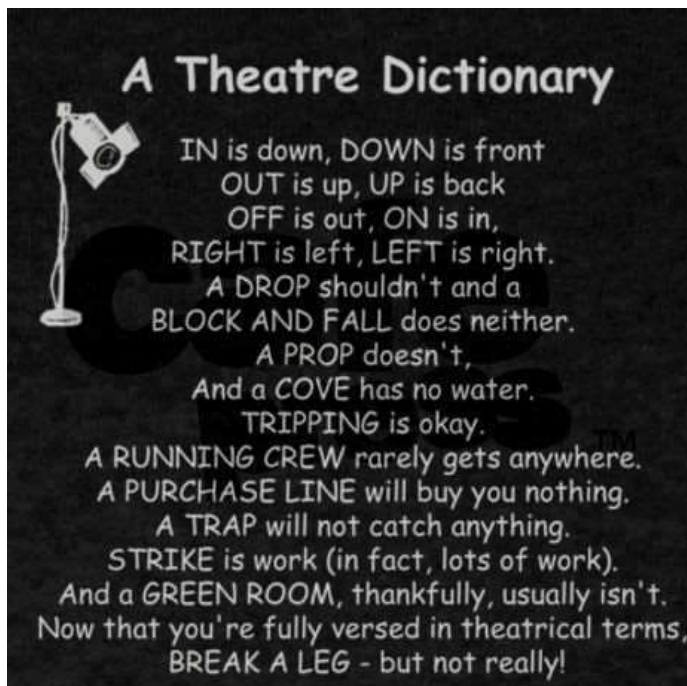
\*\* Number based on five performances

\*\*\* Number based on two preview and five regular performances

Source: *The Broadway League*



# Just for laughs





### **And Finally ...**

From everyone at Abbey Musical Theatre 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. See you back here next year for some exciting theatrical happenings.

