

ACT THREE  
PRODUCTIONS



# STAGE RAGE

Issue 142 – September 2022



- ❖ *JERSEY BOYS*
- ❖ Can you help?
- ❖ *Fierce*
- ❖ What's happening?
- ❖ HRH Queen Elizabeth II
- ❖ Theatrical Logic

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*Fierce Fierce Fierce Fierce Fierce*

# JERSEY BOYS

Palmerston North is strong in the performing arts – strong on stage, backstage, in production and in support. *JERSEY BOYS* with Josh Johnson, Frazer Lynn, Asaria Saili and Lindsay Yeo as The Four Seasons, dazzled and proved themselves to be perfectly cast as the generously talented boy group and earned the audience's love. Heart, soul and companionship carried them through the good and the bad times in the storyline with ease. The company supporting the boys was a mix, from experienced Act Three Productions cast members to complete newcomers – all playing multiple roles requiring costume and wig changes, and acting (with slickness) as stage crew too. What an incredible experience for local cast members onstage, and community members in the audience. The artistic team delivered more than a show – they delivered an experience of flawless music for toe-tapping and singing along to, stylised unique choreography to wow you, and direction that was visual but allowed audiences to focus on the facts and figures from across four decades.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this amazing production which was well received in our community and there was amazing feedback about how enjoyable it was.

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*Fierce Fierce Fierce Fierce Fierce Fierce*



We are looking for volunteers for our upcoming production of *Fierce*. We need assistance with Front of House and the Bar. If you are able to assist with this, please contact Michelle Luke on [michelle@actthree.co.nz](mailto:michelle@actthree.co.nz) or mobile 021 997 757

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*Fierce Fierce Fierce Fierce Fierce Fierce*

*"And one day she discovered that she was fierce, and strong,  
and full of fire, and that not even she could hold herself back  
because her passion burned brighter than her fears."*

(Mark Anthony)

*Fierce* captures the essence of the fire that burns within women to push and strive to be the best versions of ourselves. It is a kick ass, all female revue style show with the cast performing musical theatre songs from some of the hottest musicals on the planet; including SIX, HAMILTON, DEAR EVAN HANSEN, WICKED, THE GREATEST SHOWMAN and RENT.

In the Manawatū we have a plethora of female performers and *Fierce* is about celebrating the diversity and talent of these wahine toa!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

<https://actthree.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/77815>

A promotional poster for the musical revue 'Fierce'. The background is dark with a woman's profile on the right, her hair and face glowing with a fiery orange-red light. The title 'Fierce' is written in a large, elegant, cursive font in the same color. Below the title, the words 'determination strength resilience' and 'An all women musical revue' are written in a smaller, similar script. The dates '17th - 26th November 2022' and the venue 'Wallace Development Company Theatre' are listed in a clean, sans-serif font. A small logo for 'ACT THREE' is also present. At the bottom, the text 'SPONSORS WANTED!' is written in large, bold, white capital letters, followed by a question in white text: 'Have you ever wanted to get involved with our society, but weren't sure how? Why don't you join us as a sponsor for Fierce?'. Below this, the word 'Benefits:' is written in a cursive font, followed by a bulleted list of three items. At the very bottom, a closing statement and an email address are provided in white text.

*Fierce*  
determination strength resilience  
An all women musical revue

17<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022  
Wallace Development Company Theatre

**SPONSORS WANTED!**

Have you ever wanted to get involved with our society, but weren't sure how?  
Why don't you join us as a sponsor for Fierce?

*Benefits:*

- Complimentary tickets, programmes, drinks
- Promotion of your business on our social platforms & programme
- Supporting local Arts and a registered charity

We can tailor a sponsorship package unique to your business, so get in touch!  
lorna@actthree.co.nz

# What's happening

*A Beautiful Noise, The Neil Diamond Musical* to release original Broadway cast recording.

by Caitlin Hornik • 29 September 2022



Will Swenson will play Neil Diamond in the biographical musical  
(Photo: Emilio Madrid)

An original Broadway cast recording of *A Beautiful Noise, The Neil Diamond Musical* will be released via Universal Music Enterprises (UME) on 2 November. The album's streaming release will coincide with the production's first preview at the Broadhurst Theatre. A physical CD will be available on 2 December, just two days ahead of the new musical's official opening night on 4 December. The first single, "Cracklin' Rosie" is currently available to stream. All songs from "A Beautiful Noise" are written or co-written by Neil Diamond. Orchestrations are by Bob Gaudio, Sonny Paladino and Brian Usifer. The album is produced by Gaudio, who also serves as a producer on the Broadway production with Ken Davenport. With his first break into song writing in the 1960s and his meteoric rise in the 1970s and plenty of crushing disappointments and heart-stopping triumphs along the way, Neil Diamond has maintained stardom for five straight decades. How did a poor Jewish kid from Brooklyn become one of the most universally adored showmen of all time? There's only one way to tell it – a musical set to his era-defining smash hits that entranced the world.

*The Phantom of the Opera* Draws Audiences Back to Its Lair

by Lindsey Sullivan • 27 September 2022



Emilie Kouatchou in Broadway's *The Phantom of the Opera*  
(Photo: Matthew Murphy)

Audiences are flocking to the Majestic Theatre to experience the angel of music. As previously reported, *The Phantom of the Opera*, the longest running show in Broadway history, has set a final performance date of 18 February 2023. The production packed in crowds to 100.62% capacity and surged from \$US964,172 to \$US1,205,364 within just one week of announcing the show's closure.

## Olivier Winner & *Bridgerton* Star Jonathan Bailey to Play Fiyero in *WICKED* Films

by Caitlin Moynihan • 21 September 2022



Jonathan Bailey  
(Photo: Pascal Le Segretain/Getty Images)

The upcoming *WICKED* movie has found its Winkie prince. Olivier winner and *Bridgerton* star Jonathan Bailey will play Fiyero in the film adaptation. Cynthia Erivo will star as Elphaba and Ariana Grande will star as Glinda in the movie musical, which will be released as two films. Bailey won an Olivier Award for his performance as Jamie in the 2018 West End Revival of *Company*. He is known for playing Viscount Anthony Bridgerton in the Netflix drama *Bridgerton*, which is currently filming its third season. Stephen Schwartz has revealed the movie will contain at least three new numbers. The composer also plans to incorporate at least one song cut from the Broadway show into the film adaptation. Schwartz and the show's librettist Winnie Holzman are collaborating on the screenplay. *WICKED* is playing at Broadway's Gershwin Theatre. Based on the novel by Gregory Maguire, *WICKED* spotlights the untold stories of The Wizard of Oz's Wicked Witch of the West and her unlikely friend, Glinda the Good. The show follows the tale of green-skinned Elphaba through the life changing events that eventually label her "wicked". *WICKED* is a tale about love, friendship and trust that reveals there are two sides to every story. The Grammy winning score by Schwartz features the songs "The Wizard and I", "Popular" and "Defying Gravity".

## *The Music Man*, Starring Hugh Jackman & Sutton Foster, to Release Cast Recording

by Lindsey Sullivan • 21 September 2022



Hugh Jackman, Sutton Foster & the cast of *The Music Man*  
(Photo: Julieta Cervantes)

The hit Broadway revival of Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*, starring Tony winners Hugh Jackman and Sutton Foster, is releasing a cast recording on 23 September 2022. The album is produced by seven time Grammy nominee Robert Sher in partnership with producers Brian Gillet and Huck Walton. *The Music Man* follows travelling salesman Harold Hill (Jackman) as he cons the people of River city, Iowa, into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band that he vows to organise, despite the fact that he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. When he soon falls for the town librarian, Marian Paroo (Foster), his plans take an unexpected turn. The show features the songs "(Ya Got) Trouble", "Goodnight My Someone", "76 Trombones", "Marian the Librarian" and "Till There Was You".

## Broadway's *Beetlejuice* Sets January Closing Date

by Caitlin Moynihan • 20 September 2022



David Josefsbert, Kerry Butler, Elizabeth Teeter & Alex Brightman in *Beetlejuice*  
(Photo: Matthew Murphy)

The return engagement of *Beetlejuice* is giving up the ghost. The musical will play its final performance at Broadway's Marquis Theatre on 8 January 2023. Its performances were at the venue from 8 April after its original run at the Winter Garden Theatre, which lasted from 28 March 2019 to 11 March 2020, due to the Broadway shutdown. At the time of its closing in January, this staging of *Beetlejuice* will have played 313 regular performances. The touring production will launch on 6 December at San Francisco's Golden Gate Theatre and visit more than 26 cities in its first year. Casting for the tour is to be announced. The musical, based on the 1988 Tim Burton film of the same name, is directed by Alex Timbers and features an original score by Eddie Perfect and a book by Scott Brown and Anthony King. *Beetlejuice* received eight 2019 Tony Award nominations, including one for Best Musical.

## Waving Goodbye to Tony Winning Musical *Dear Evan Hansen*

by Lindsey Sullivan • 20 September 2022



Gaten Matarazzo  
(Photo: Natalie Powers)

18 September was an emotional day for *Dear Evan Hansen* fans and here's why – the Tony winning musical played its final performance at the Music Box Theatre. The show opened on 4 December 2016 and went on to score Tony Awards for Best Musical, book writer Steven Levenson, song writing team Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, Alex Lacamoire's orchestrations, Rachel Bay Jones' performance and for staff Ben Platt, who went on to headline the film adaptation. At 100.56% capacity, audiences flocked to the Music Box to wave goodbye to the show.

## Antonio Banderas & Stephen Schwartz Are Collaborating on New Musical About Pablo Picasso

by Caitlin Moynihan • 19 September 2022



Antonio Banderas  
(Photo: Amy Sussman/Getty Images)

Tony nominee Antonio Banderas and composer Stephen Schwartz are teaming up to create a new musical based on the life of Spanish artist Pablo Picasso, according to ABC Cultura. Banderas is set to star in the show he conceived with Schwartz creating music and lyrics along with Gordon Greenberg, who is co-writing the book and will direct. Caridad Svich is also collaborating on the production, which will have scenes both in English and Spanish. Banderas, a Tony nominee for his 2003 Broadway debut in *Nine*, played Picasso in an episode of the anthology series *Genus*. He is best known for his roles in films such as *The Mambo Kings*, *Desperado*, *Assassins*, *Evita*, *The Mask of Zorro*, *Frida*, *Once Upon a Time in Mexico*, *Take the Lead* and as the voice of "Puss in Boots" in the second and third instalments of Dreamworks' animated *Shrek* films. He was nominated for a 2020 Academy Award for his performance in *Pain and Glory*. The musical is being co-produced with Trafalgar Entertainment with plans for both London and Broadway productions. It is currently being developed by Teatro Soho CaixaBank in Málaga, Banderas' theatre that was launched in 2019. Banderas is currently working on a Spanish speaking production of Schwartz's *Godspell*. His previous works at Teatro Soho CaixaBank include *A Chorus Line* and *Company*.

## WICKED extends West End booking to November 2023

27 September 2022



Lucie Jones in *WICKED*  
(© Matt Crocket)

*WICKED* has extended in the West End until 26 November 2023 and put an extra 10 matinees on sale in the current booking period. The show, which is celebrating its 16<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Apollo Victoria Theatre, has released 500,000 new tickets in total. These include extra shows on 27 October 2022, 20 December 2022, 23 December 2022, 27 December 2022, 30 December 2022, 16 February 2023, 6 April 2023, 3 August 2023, 17 August 2023 and 26 October 2023, all at 2.30 p.m. The London production recently welcomed its 11 millionth theatregoer and is now the ninth longest-running West End musical in history. It celebrated its 6,000<sup>th</sup> West End performance in July. Its many accolades include 10 WhatsOnStage Awards (including three for Best West End Show) and a Grammy for its platinum-selling original cast recording.

## West End actors condemn filming shows on mobile phones

Alex Wood • 27 August 2022



A mobile phone  
(© provided by Pexels)

West End stars have condemned the filming of stage shows. *Moulin Rouge!*'s Duke Simon Bailey prompted the reaction, tweeting: "Stop. Filming. The. Show. You're. Watching. It's never sneaky, we *always* see you, we always complain about you and you ruin it for everyone around you. I guarantee the memory is better than a grainy video or blurry picture." Bailey had previously reflected on the filming of shows, saying, "Aren't we supposed to be against filming from phones in the theatre?", when footage of the first preview of *Frozen* on Broadway was released in 2017.

Many ushers and front-of-house staff are tasked with preventing the filming of shows, with pre-show announcements and prominent signage. Taylor Jay, who works front of house at The Other Palace during the London run of *HEATHERS* tweeted earlier this year saying, "Please stop filming the show – our theatre is tiny and we can literally see your phone! We get told every time someone attends who's been caught filming/seen posting about it on social media, too."

Earlier this year, controversy arose over the filming of a strictly no-phones-allowed production of the Tony Award-winning *Broadway Take Me Out* where photos of a naked Jesse Williams were leaked online, the event prompting a negative response from the actor.

Acknowledging their power in promoting shows, some productions encourage filming at very specific moments in the performance. These include the "Mega-Six" in *SIX the Musical*, where audiences are told to "get your phones out" to capture the closing moments of the award-winning piece. Earlier this year, *LEGALLY BLONDE* star Isaac Hesketh tweeted an alternative perspective, saying, "Bootlegs are not that serious. They're actually amazing and the only way theatre is accessible to 90% of people. People who can afford theatre tickets don't sit at home and watch a bootleg instead. Without bootlegs or film versions of musicals, I wouldn't have fallen in love with the industry."

The discussion over phones in theatres is unlikely to go away – *COME FROM AWAY* star Alice Fearn recently tweeted about how disruptive they can be. While acknowledging that "some people might be waiting on important news or might need to be contactable in an emergency" and that "silent/vibrate is better than off completely", she added that "loud sodding ice cream van ringtones at the end of 'Me and the Sky' is not nice for anyone."



## *Get Up, Stand Up! The Bob Marley Musical announces final West End casting*

Sophie Thomas • 28 September 2022



David Albury takes over the role of Bob Marley

Could you be lovin' the new *Get Up, Stand Up! The Bob Marley Musical* cast? A new company will join for performances at the Lyric Theatre ahead of the show's final performance on 8 January 2023. David Albury takes over the role of Bob Marley from Michael Duke. Albury previously starred in *Motown the Musical* and played Simba in *THE LION KING*. *Get Up, Stand Up! The Bob Marley Musical* dramatises the life of Bob Marley, a Jamaican reggae superstar who went international with such as "No Woman No Cry", "Exodus" and "Redemption Song." *Get Up, Stand Up! The Bob Marley Musical* premiered at the Lyric Theatre in October 2021 and won an Olivier for Best Orchestrations.

## *Ain't Too Proud - The Life and Times of the Temptations to open in the West End*

Sophie Thomas • 29 September 2022



*Ain't Too Proud - The Life and Times of the Temptations*  
(Photo courtesy of production)

The Broadway musical *Ain't Too Proud - The Life and Times of the Temptations* will head to the West End in 2023. The Temptations musical will begin performances at the Prince Edward Theatre on 31 March 2023. The *Ain't Too Proud* musical tells the story of the Motown vocal group, the Temptations, and how they rose from the streets of Detroit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. The musical features some of the group's 42 Top 10 hits and 14 number ones, including "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone", "My Girl", "I'm Gonna Make You Love Me", a Supremes medley, and more. After a world premiere in 2017, *Ain't Too Proud* opened on Broadway in 2019 and was nominated for 12 Tony Awards. In a four-star review on New York Theatre Guide, our critic said, "The story of The Temptations is also the story of the famed record label Motown ... As exemplified by The Temptations, there is absolutely nothing more compelling than that tale ... the real star of the show is the music of The Temptations. And there are over 31 of their songs and some other familiar tunes from the period." "I am truly thrilled that our Tony Award-winning musical *Ain't Too Proud - The Life and Times of The Temptations*, which was a smash hit on Broadway and is currently touring to 50 cities in the U.S. will be opening in the West End next Spring. The U.K. has always loved our music and embraces it as much today as it did 60 years ago. All of us involved with the show can't wait to share this very production with you all," said Otis Williams, the Temptations' founding member and executive producer.

# HRH Queen Elizabeth II dies at 96 - the theatre industry remembers

Sophie Thomas • 9 September 2022



Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II passed away 8 September 2022, at the age of 96. Throughout her life, Queen Elizabeth II showed a keen interest in the arts. During her 70-year reign, she opened the National Theatre, attended 35 Royal Variety performances and often saw West End productions.

The Society of London Theatre and U.K. Theatre said in a joint statement, "The theatre industry is thankful for all the support and patronage Her Majesty has shown throughout her lifetime. We would like to convey our deepest sympathy to the Royal Family at this time of national mourning." We look back at the Queen's relationship with West End theatre.



Did you know theatre helped Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip fall for one another? On 30 April 1947, they attended a performance of *Oklahoma!* at Theatre Royal Drury Lane, with the song "People Will Say We're in Love" holding a special meaning for the couple. In an article from Time Magazine, royal biographer Christopher Warwick said, "It was a song that 'sung' to them - their song if you will." This performance of *Oklahoma!* received 14 encores and 60 minutes of curtain calls.

In 1952, the Queen and Prince Philip attended a Royal Gala Performance of *King Henry VIII*. That same year, the Queen attended her first Royal Variety Performance. The performance took place at the London Palladium on 3 November 1952 and featured The Victoria Palace Tiller Girls and Vera Lynn. Over her lifetime, Queen Elizabeth II attended 35 Royal Variety Performances — her last Royal Variety Performance was in 2012 at the Royal Albert Hall.

The Queen Elizabeth Hall opened on the South Bank in 1967 with a concert conducted by Benjamin Britten. Nearly a decade later, on 25 October 1976, the Queen and Prince Philip officially opened the National Theatre building on the South Bank. Together, they opened the Olivier, Lyttelton, and Cottesloe (now Dorfman) theatres. The National Theatre formally earned its 'Royal' accolade in 1990. The Queen served as Patron of the National Theatre from 1974 to 2019.

The Queen was also a devotee of the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC). RSC's Catherine Mallyon and Erica Whyman said in a statement, "Her Majesty the Queen has been Patron of the Royal Shakespeare Company since 1961, when the Company was created. Her Majesty last visited us in Stratford-upon-Avon on 4 March 2011 to open formally the transformed Royal Shakespeare Theatre. This was a memorable day in the history of the RSC where she met and talked with members of the Company and those involved in the redevelopment and transformation of the theatre. It was a great pleasure for us to rehearse with HRH The Prince of Wales in preparation for his poetic tribute to his mother on her 90th birthday in 2016. We were honoured to be part of such a special moment."



The Queen was a champion of West End theatre, too. On 28 March 2006, the Queen saw a performance of *Billy Elliot* at the Victoria Palace Theatre. On 12 October 2009, the Queen then slipped into a performance of *War Horse* at the Gillian Lynne Theatre without an entourage. An Evening Standard article reads, "The Queen wore a simple dark green dress and any bodyguards she had were 'so discreet as to be invisible' ... they were incredibly apologetic for asking people to let them past and there was no hubbub or fuss about it all. At the interval they disappeared and reappeared very discreetly. When they left at the end, they were given a round of applause, which the Queen acknowledged with a wave."

Even though the Queen is no longer with us, she is immortalised in theatre, notably in Peter Morgan's *The Audience*. In an article from The Express, Queen Elizabeth II was reported to be disappointed she missed 2013 performances.

If the Queen had a radio station, she'd most likely play a lot of musical theatre, too. When Lady Elizabeth Anson spoke on the radio documentary *Our Queen: 90 Musical Years*, she revealed the Queen's love of Golden Age musicals like *Show Boat*, *Oklahoma!* And *Annie Get Your Gun*. Some of her favourite songs include "Oklahoma!" and "Anything You Can Do (I Can Do Better)." She also loved listening to ABBA. After a dinner party at Windsor Castle in 2008, the Queen got up and danced to "Dancing Queen". "I always try to dance when this song comes on because I am the Queen and I like to dance," she is reported to have said.

# The theatre industry remembers Queen Elizabeth II ...

## **Andrew Lloyd Webber**

"For the whole of my life, the Queen has been the constant anchor of not just Britain and her beloved Commonwealth, but an inspiration to the world for her lifetime of service. Her legacy will be remembered as a selfless beacon for love, understanding and the celebration of fellow human beings all over the world, no matter their race or creed. Madeleine and I are deeply saddened by this news and our thoughts and prayers are with the Queen's family."

## **Cameron Mackintosh**

"To have lived through the second Elizabethan age has been a privilege. Our longest reigning monarch has shown us all what selfless duty really means and British theatre salutes her extraordinary achievements. What finer demonstration of Her Majesty's show-must-go-on attitude than the Royal Household's wish that everyday life must continue as we all mourn Her passing and marvel at Her wonderful and magnificent life. God bless Her."

## **The National Theatre**

"We are deeply saddened by the death of Her Majesty The Queen, Royal Patron of the National Theatre for more than four decades. Our thoughts and condolences are with the Royal Family."

*Her Majesty's Theatre to be renamed to 'His Majesty's Theatre' following Queen Elizabeth II's passing*

Sophie Thomas • 10 September 2022



Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, Her Majesty's Theatre will be renamed to His Majesty's Theatre. The name change is expected to take place at an appropriate time after King Charles III coronation. A date for the name change will be announced in due course.

The theatre name change is in line with other changes following the Queen's passing, including the new representation on stamps, money, and post-boxes.

Her Majesty's Theatre opened in 1705 as the Queen's Theatre to honour Queen Anne and then became the King's Theatre in 1714 after King George I. The theatre changes to 'His' or 'Her Majesty's' to reflect the current monarch and last changed name from His to Her Majesty's Theatre in 1952.

Her Majesty's Theatre is currently home to *The Phantom of the Opera*. Her Majesty's Theatre is currently owned by Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Theatres Group.

# THEATRICAL LOGIC

## STAGEHAND HUMOUR

IN IS DOWN, DOWN IS FRONT,  
OUT IS UP, UP IS BACK,  
OFF IS OUT, ON IS IN,  
AND OF COURSE –  
RIGHT IS LEFT, AND LEFT IS RIGHT.

A DROP SHOULDN 'T AND A  
BLOCK AND FALL DOES NEITHER.  
A PROP DOESN 'T AND  
A COVE HAS NO WATER.  
TRIPPING IS O.K.  
A RUNNING CREW RARELY GETS ANYWHERE.  
A PURCHASE LINE WILL BUY YOU NOTHING.  
A TRAP WILL NOT CATCH ANYTHING.  
A GRIDIRON HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH FOOTBALL.  
A STRIKE IS WORK  
( IN FACT A LOT OF WORK) .  
AND A GREEN ROOM, THANK GOD, USUALLY ISN 'T.

NOW THAT YOU ARE FULLY VERSED IN  
THEATRICAL TERMS – BREAK A LEG ...  
BUT NOT REALLY!

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*Fierce Fierce Fierce Fierce Fierce Fierce*