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The silly season is once again upon us. Did you manage to navigate your way around the Black Friday sales ... the Black Friday sales that seemed to take over the whole month of November!!!!??? Now the Christmas sales are going to ramp up so we hope that you manage to nab yourselves some good bargains for your loved ones.

We hope you spend the Christmas and New Year season with the friends and family members you love. It's definitely a time for rest and relaxation – before we get back into the mayhem of a new year. And what a new year it will be.

Our first production in 2025 will be *SCHOOL of ROCK* in April 2025, followed by *COME FROM AWAY* in August. Along the way we aim to bring you some exciting social events to enrich our theatrical year. So buckle in! It's gonna be a ride!!!

A huge thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy this year to make 2024 an excellent year for ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS. We love having you as part of our family – He Whānau Tuatinitini; a family of many strands.



Important Dates to Remember ...

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------|---|
| • 21 December 2024 | Saturday | 6.30 p.m. – Karaoke Christmas |
| • 1 February 2025 | Saturday | Kids' Disco |
| • 22 February 2025 | Saturday | <i>Matilda</i> Reunion evening |
| • 14–16 March 2025 | | Whakakā – MTNZ National Training & Networking Weekend |
| • 24 March 2025 | Monday | ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS AGM |

PRESENTED BY
ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS
He Whānau Tuatinitini

THE NEXT GENERATION
SCHOOL of ROCK
THE MUSICAL

18 APR - 3 MAY
REGENT ON BROADWAY

BASED ON THE PARAMOUNT MOVIE WRITTEN BY MIKE WHITE
MUSIC BY ANDREW LOYD WEBBER
BOOK BY JULIAN FELLOWES
LYRICS BY GLENN SLATER

THE NEXT GENERATION
SCHOOL of ROCK
THE MUSICAL

CAST LIST

DEWEY - Phil Anstis
ROSALIE - Jenna Baxter
NEP - Clio Exeonde
PATTY - Milana Mariu-Reade

ROCKY ROADIEZ
Caleb Henderson
Jacob Lauridsen
Annie Miles
Angela Du
Lucy Chan
Martha Khanna
Connor Aberdein
Osear Hansen-Wall
Armin Lube
Trisha Dutta
Emily Waugh
Leyla Arnold
Sylvie Musso

ZACK
FREDDIE
KATIE
LAWRENCE
TOMIKA
SUMMER
BILLY
MASON
JAMES
MARCY
SHONELLE
SOPHIE
MADISON

HORACE HOWLERS
Jonte Cuppen
Reuben Lauridsen
Darcy Warren
Annie Srichantra
Charlotte Busuttin
Lucy Bennett
Hridaansh Chettri
Jackson Kingston
Elijah Hobbs
Scarlett Lees-Galloway
Tanzi Good
Mikaela Rosales
Niamh Galpin

CHILDREN BVs
Rosie Costley
Reuben Costley
Sophia Patterson
Kate Easton
Isobelle Franssen
Eliza Valentine
Elizabeth Brunn
Charleigh Skelton-Morris

Naia Taipana
Harriet Fogarty
Shelby Boyden
Ariella Prior
Gaia Aillon
Maddie Pearson
Gareth Prabakar
Sasha May Borlase

ADULT ENSEMBLE
Tony Kuriger, Corie Bowater, Anna Hamilton, Val Andrew, Ben Pryor
Van Belinario, Ethan Hewitt, Stephanie Franssen, Laura Signal, Amy Hunt
Vanessa Stephens, Sarah Bird, Ian Williams, Matthew McEwen

ADULT BVs
Merryn Osborne, Melissa Downey, Nadia Hillary, Anna Skeggs

ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS
He Whānau Tuatinitini

18 APR - 3 MAY REGENT ON BROADWAY

⚡ ⚡ ⚡ Are you ready to **ROCK?! 🎸 🎸 🎸**

SCHOOL of ROCK presale tickets will be available for purchase from **Monday, 25 November 2024!!!**

This opportunity is exclusively for current ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS financial members, so snap up your favourite seats before they go on sale to the general public on Monday, 9 December 2024.

🎄 🎄 🎄 The perfect Christmas present for the kids, your theatre bestie or that one person who already has everything – give the gift of a live theatre experience this holiday season! 🎁 🎁 🎁

SCHOOL of ROCK is on stage at the Regent on Broadway from 18 April to 3 May 2025.

Follow this link [to get your School of Rock tickets](#), enter the password **SORMEM** to unlock your secret members discount. (TWO discounted tickets per adult or child membership, FOUR discounted tickets per family membership.)

Check out our website for the **SCHOOL of ROCK** cast performance schedule and further information. We can't wait to see you there!



Join Musical Theatre New Zealand (MTNZ) and host society ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS for the annual National Training and Networking Weekend, happening in Palmerston North from 14-16 March 2025. Find out all you need to know about Whakakā and Whahakā Juniors at <https://www.mtnz.org.nz/training/conference> and whilst you are there register now – at the new price of only \$200 for Whakakā and \$100 for Whakakā Juniors. This weekend is not to be missed! 🔥

Along with being much more affordable than previous years, as well as having a special Junior section for children who love theatre too, Whakakā is based right here in Palmy at our home venue, 75 The Square, as well as holding events at the PN Convention Centre, The Globe Theatre and more!

Check out the workshops and get amongst it! Early bird prices are good to go and you won't even need to account for travel! See you there!





ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS

HE WHĀNAU TUATINITINI



WE NEED YOU!

MTNZ CONFERENCE 2025

We are looking for a team of people to help host the Musical Theatre NZ Annual Training and Conference Weekend in 2025. This coincides with our 125th Anniversary as a society!

This is going to be loads of fun and a great opportunity to network with theatre societies from around NZ. If you're keen to learn more - email lorna@actthree.co.nz




Join us for our **CHRISTMAS MARKET**
RELAY FOR LIFE COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

December 15th
Caccia Birch house, Te Awe Awe Street
Open from 11:00am - 4:00pm

Sausage sizzle - Christmas baking and crafts - Macrame - Candles
Plants - Preserves - Face painting - Jewellery - Kai - Coffee
Entertainment; Saem Millward soloist, Amy and Blair duo
and heaps more!!

Santa will arrive, courtesy of our mates at Riders against Cancer, at
12pm ready for Santa photos.

Manawatū Overtones Chorus will entertain us from 3pm with
Christmas Carols.

CASH ONLY

RELAY FOR LIFE

PERFORMERS WANTED

The Cancer Society are holding a Christmas Market at Caccia Birch House on Sunday, 15 December 2024, as their community fundraiser for Relay for Life. They are looking for a few performers – a busking type of vibe to entertain people as they walk around the market – any time between 1.30 and 3.00 p.m.

Ideally they are looking for people who are happy to donate their time to add to the atmosphere of family and a community day out. However you're welcome to put out a donation bucket.

If you would like to be involved with this great fundraiser and grab the opportunity to have a jam out in the sun to a receptive and chill crowd, or if you have any further questions, please contact the Cancer Society Events Co-ordinator directly at jo.oneil@cancercd.org.nz



What's Happening

Slumdog Millionaire Is Being Developed Into a Musical Featuring 'Jai Ho' and the Music of A.R. Rahman

by Hayley Levitt



A.R. Rahman (Photo c/o A.R. Rahman)

Broadway producer Ken Davenport has secured the rights to the Academy Award-winning film *Slumdog Millionaire* and has announced plans to develop the property into a stage musical. The show will feature songs from the film including 'Jai Ho' and new songs by multi-award-winning Indian musician A.R. Rahman, who won two Oscars for his work on the 2008 film (Best Original Score and Best Original Song, which he shared with lyricist Gulzar). "I'm incredibly excited to begin work on *Slumdog Millionaire: The Musical*", said Rahman in a statement. "This reimagined version will take you on an electrifying journey with new songs and a few unexpected twists. We can't wait for you to experience it with us!" *Slumdog Millionaire*, which starred Dev Patel in his film debut, is a modern-day fairytale following two brothers as they struggle to survive on the streets of Mumbai. As one brother is seduced into a life of crime, the other defies all odds and embarks on a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that captures the heart of a nation. The film was released in 2008 and the following year won eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture. The film is inspired by the award-winning Indian novel *Q&A* written by Vikas Swarup, with a screenplay by Simon Beaufoy and directed by Danny Boyle. The film was produced by Celador Films in association with Film 4. *Slumdog Millionaire*'s hit soundtrack spawned the English-language single 'Jai Ho (You Are My Destiny)', sung by Rahman and The Pussycat Dolls featuring Nicole Scherzinger, star of Broadway's *Sunset Boulevard*. The song was a Top 20 Billboard hit in the U.S. and a Top 10 hit in over 20 countries.

Original West End Cast of *Operation Mincemeat* Signs On for Broadway Transfer

by Hayley Levitt



The cast of *Operation Mincemeat*: Claire-Marie Hall, David Cumming, Zoë Roberts, Natasha Hodgson and Jak Malone (Photo: Matt Crockett)

The original London cast of *Operation Mincemeat* – featuring David Cumming, Claire-Marie Hall, Natasha Hodgson, Olivier Award winner Jak Malone and Zoë Roberts—will reprise their performances for the musical's 2025 Broadway premiere. All five will be making their Broadway debuts. Previews will begin at the Golden Theatre on 15 February 2025, with an official opening set for 20 March. It's 1943 and the Allied Forces are on the ropes. Luckily, they've got a trick up their sleeve. Well, not *up their sleeve*, per se, but rather *inside the pocket* of a stolen corpse. Equal parts farce, thriller and Ian Fleming-style spy caper (with an assist from Fleming himself), *Operation Mincemeat* tells the wildly improbable true story of the covert operation that turned the tide of WWII.

Now in its second year at the Fortune Theatre in London's West End, the musical is written and composed by the U.K. comedy group SpitLip, comprising Cumming, Felix Hagan, Hodgson and Roberts. An early version of *Operation Mincemeat* opened in London in 2019. The show opened in the West End in March 2023, earning six Olivier Award nominations, winning for Best New Musical and Best Actor in a Supporting Role in a Musical.

Real Women Have Curves Musical Sets Broadway Venue for Spring 2025

by Darryn King



Lucy Godínez in *Real Women Have Curves* at the American Repertory Theater (Photo: Nile Hawver/Maggie Hall)

Real Women Have Curves: The Musical, the Mexican-American coming-of-age musical, has a Broadway venue. The show will open at the James Earl Jones Theatre on 1 April 2025. Cast and additional creative team are still to be announced. Based on the play by Josefina López and its subsequent 2002 film, which had a screenplay by López and George LaVoo, the musical version of *Real Women Have Curves* has music and lyrics by Grammy Award winner Joy Huerta of the Mexican pop duo Jesse & Joy and composer-lyricist Benjamin Velez, a book by Lisa Loomer with Nell Benjamin and music supervision by Nadia DiGiallorardo. Direction and choreography is by Tony Award winner Sergio Trujillo. The stage production had its world premiere at the American Repertory Theater at Harvard University in 2023. Set in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, in the summer of 1987, the story follows 18-year-old Ana who dreams of pursuing a new life in New York City. Her immigrant parents, meanwhile, would prefer she stay home to work at their garment factory. She's left to decide whether it's worth sacrificing the dreams of her family to fulfil her own. The film famously starred America Ferrera in her feature film debut.

KRISTIN CHENOWETH REJOICIFIES AFTER A SCREENING OF THE *WICKED* FILM: "I'M ACTUALLY DEAD"

by Broadway.com Staff



Kristin Chenoweth (Photo by Emilio Madrid for Broadway.com)

The *WICKED* movie has received the official stamp of approval from OG Galinda, Kristin Chenoweth. After a screening held in New York City on 28 October, Chenoweth gushed from the back seat of her car, "Oh my gosh I just saw the movie and I'm dying. I'm deceased. I'm actually dead. I'm not here. People are not going to be well when they see this film. It is so good. It is so special." She went on to praise the film's director, Jon M. Chu, as well as the whole cast, and of course, its pair of leading witches: "Cynthia (Erivo) and Ariana (Grande) are amazing."

In addition to the film's cast, the screening was attended by a number of Broadway Ozians, past and present. Grande posted a series of photos from the event, beginning her caption with "a very emotional night celebrating *WICKED* with some of the beautiful and brilliant Glindas and Elphabas that have come before ours." The carousel includes an image of Grande sitting next to an emotional Chenoweth mid-screening, a selfie featuring Broadway's original Fiyero and Boq — Norbert Leo Butz and Christopher Fitzgerald — and an epic group shot of Glindas and Elphabas including current Broadway stars, Alexandra Socha and Mary Kate Morrissey. In tribute to her sisters in magic, Grande concluded her post with, "My heart is overwhelmed this morning and grateful to our Broadway family. It's an honour to share Oz with you all forevermore."

Andrew Lloyd Webber's Next Musical Will Be *The Illusionist*, Directed by Jamie Lloyd

by Darryn King



Jamie Lloyd and Andrew Lloyd Webber (Photos: Sergio Villarini)

Andrew Lloyd Webber's next musical project will be *The Illusionist*, directed by Jamie Lloyd, whose production of *Sunset Boulevard* opened in New York in October. Lloyd Webber made the reveal in an exclusive to *Deadline*. The book is by Academy Award-winning screenwriter Chris Terrio (*Argo*). British songwriter Bruno Major is also attached, though *Deadline* did not specify how. The show is only partly inspired by the 2006 movie of the same name that starred Edward Norton and was written and directed by Neil Burger, itself based on a story from *The Barnum Museum* by Steven Millhauser. "We are not hugely based on the movie," said Lloyd Webber. "What we've done is taken the idea of it and developed it into another area completely." According to the *Deadline* report, Lloyd Webber performed an early draft of his score to Lloyd earlier this year as they began preparing to open *Sunset Boulevard* on Broadway. Lloyd was approached to direct the musical more recently. Lloyd Webber praised Lloyd as a collaborator ("As an oldie now, to have somebody's who's younger, just challenges me") and said that audiences should look forward to spectacular illusions ("They're a very important part of the show"). He added, "It's absolutely fair to say we haven't a clue where it's going to open, because an awful lot of it's got to do with what theatres are available on which side of the pond. I mean, it could be New York, it could be here (in London). I'd like it to be here, but it could be New York. It's also important to emphasise that it's very, very early days." *Deadline* heard three songs from what Lloyd Webber described as an "operatic" score; "a powerful ballad", "a sweeping love song with a haunting melody" evocative of Lloyd Webber's classic era and a "passionate love song".

Back to the Future Musical Is Out of Time on Broadway; Closing Date Set

by Broadway.com Staff



Roger Bart and Casey Likes in *Back to the Future* (Photo: Matthew Murphy and Evan Zimmerman)

Back to the Future is ending its Broadway ride. The musical, which is based on the hit 1985 film of the same name, will play its final performance at the Winter Garden Theatre on 5 January 2025.

Directed by John Rando, the production will have played more than 500 performances at the time of its closing. The show will open in Germany and Japan within the next 18 months and has announced an eight-year deal with Royal Caribbean to play the musical in its full physical form on Royal Caribbean's Star of the Seas, the largest cruise ship in the world. *Back to the Future* opened at the Winter Garden Theatre on 3 August 2023. The musical features a book by Bob Gale, new music and lyrics by Emmy and Grammy Award winner Alan Silvestri and six-time Grammy Award winner Glen Ballard, with additional songs from the film including "The Power of Love" and "Johnny B. Goode." Gale is the co-creator and co-writer of the *Back to the Future* film trilogy and Silvestri composed the film score for the series. *Back to the Future* was nominated for two 2024 Tony Awards—Roger Bart for Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Role in a Musical and Tim Hatley and Finn Ross for Best Scenic Design of a Musical.

Death Becomes Her, Starring Megan Hilty and Jennifer Simard, Comes to Life on Broadway

by Darryn King



Jennifer Simard, Christopher Sieber, Megan Hilty (Photo: Matthew Murphy and Evan Zimmerman)

Death Becomes Her, the new musical adapted from the camp 1992 horror-comedy film that starred Meryl Streep, Goldie Hawn and Bruce Willis, is springing to life at Broadway's Lunt-Fontanne Theatre. The show stars Megan Hilty, Jennifer Simard, Christopher Sieber and former Destiny's Child member Michelle Williams. Conceited actress Madeline Ashton (Hilton) and author Helen Sharp (Simard) are the best of frenemies until Madeline steals Helen's fiancé Ernest (Sieber). Things take a turn for the supernatural when the mysterious Viola Van Horn (Williams) proffers a magic potion that promises eternal youth and beauty. As fans of the riotous, effects-heavy directed movie will remember, the story involves plenty of grotesquely comical violence, culminating in an absurdly over-the-top brawl. The musical features an original score by Noel Carey and Julia Mattison and a book by Marco Pennette. Christopher Gattelli directs and choreographs the production. The show is the second stage adaptation of a Robert Zemeckis film to make it to Broadway in as many years, after *Back to the Future*. *Forrest Gump: The Musical*, anyone?

Reducio! A New, Shorter Version of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Is Coming to Broadway

by Darryn King



The cast of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Photo: Matthew Murphy)

A new, shorter version of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* is coming to Broadway. The leaner show, which runs under three hours including intermission, will premiere at the Lyric Theatre on 12 November, having made its world premiere in Chicago in September. Broadway rehearsals are underway. The reworked show brings the runtime closer to that of another spooktacular production opening on Broadway this season: *Stranger Things: The First Shadow*. The show's producers say that the show has lost none of its charms.

"From the very beginning, we and the creative team have challenged ourselves to find new and innovative ways to bring the extraordinary storytelling and stagecraft of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* to life," said producers Sonia Friedman and Colin Callender in a joint statement. "We are thrilled that [director and co-writer] John Tiffany, [co-writer] Jack Thorne and the entire original creative team were able to reunite over the last few months to revisit and explore the original material." *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* opened in the West End and on Broadway in 2018 in two parts: Part One was two hours and 40 minutes, Part Two was two hours and 35 minutes. In 2021, the Broadway show was reworked as a single 3.5-hour show. The two-part version is still running in London. Based on an original story by J.K. Rowling, Thorne and Tiffany, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* is set 19 years after the events of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, centring around Harry's headstrong son Albus.

Smash, Starring Robyn Hurder and Caroline Bowman, Will Open on Broadway in Spring 2025

by Darryn King



Robyn Hurder, Caroline Bowman (Photos: Angela of York; c/o Polk & Co.)

The stage musical *Smash*, based on the NBC series that centred on the making of a Broadway musical about Marilyn Monroe, will come to Broadway in spring 2025. The show begins performances at the Imperial Theatre on 11 March with an official opening set for 10 April. *Smash* will feature a score by Tony, Emmy and two-time Grammy winners Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman (*Some Like It Hot*, *Hairspray*, *Mary Poppins Returns*), who wrote over two dozen songs for the television show, many of which will be used in the musical, in addition to new material they have written for the stage. The book is by four-time Tony nominee Rick Elice (*Jersey Boys*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*) and Tony winner Bob Martin (*The Prom*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*), Emmy-winning and Tony-nominated choreographer Joshua Bergasse (*On The Town*), who choreographed the television series, will reprise his role for the stage adaptation.

***NSYNC's Joey Fatone to Sing Backstreet Boys as Lance in *& Juliet* on Broadway**

by Hayley Levitt



Joey Fatone (Photo: Amy and Gabe Mendoza)

Joey Fatone, a Broadway veteran with boy-band credentials, will join the cast of *& Juliet* on Broadway. He will take on the role of Lance from 21 January 2025 through 16 March at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre. He takes over from Tony winner Paulo Szot who took a leave from the show earlier this year and returned to the company on 16 July. "I'm excited that I'll be joining the cast of *& Juliet!*" Fatone said. "I can't wait to get out there and sing Max Martin's amazing songs—his hits have shaped so much of pop music. And yes, I know I'll even be singing a couple of Backstreet Boys songs. Even though my loyalty remains with *NSYNC, they still have bangers. See you at the show!"

Fatone is best known as the baritone of the best-selling '90s boy band *NSYNC, whose gold record "It's Gonna Be Me" is featured in the score of *& Juliet* (though as Lance, Fatone will have to dwell among his historic rivals to perform the Backstreet Boys number "Shape of My Heart"). He made his Broadway debut in 2002 as Mark Cohen in the original Broadway production of *RENT* and returned to the stage in 2004 as Seymour in Jerry Zaks' Broadway revival of *Little Shop of Horrors*. On screen, he played Cousin Angelo in the hit 2002 film *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, as well as its 2016 and 2023 sequels, and has hosted a number of TV shows including Food Network's *Rewrapped*, NBC's *The Singing Bee* and Game Show Network's *Common Knowledge*, among others. Featuring a score of pop hits by Grammy-winning songwriter and producer Max Martin, *& Juliet* reimagines Shakespeare's classic play if its title heroine had lived. The nine-time Tony-nominated production has a book by David West Read, direction by Luke Sheppard and choreography by Jennifer Weber.

LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD: ELTON JOHN'S *TAMMY FAYE* BEGINS ON BROADWAY

by Darryn King



Katie Brayben in *Tammy Faye* at the Almeida in London (Photo: Marc Brenner)

The new Elton John musical *Tammy Faye*, about a traveling preacher's wife who put the fun in faith, began performances at the Palace Theatre on 19 October. The official opening was set for 14 November 14. Directed by Rupert Goold, the show stars two-time Olivier Award winner Katie Brayben, reprising her Olivier-winning performance as Tammy Faye Bakker. Brayben is joined by two-time Tony winner Christian Borle as Jim Bakker and two-time Tony winner Michael Cerveris as Reverend Jerry Falwell. *Tammy Faye* had its world premiere at London's Almeida Theatre in 2022 and was nominated for four Olivier Awards. The show features a book by James Graham and lyrics by ex-Scissor Sister Jake Shears. *Tammy Faye* is Elton John's sixth stage musical, following *The Lion King*, *Aida*, *Lestat*, *Billy Elliot* and *The Devil Wears Prada* (the latter featuring lyrics by Shaina Taub). His 1970 tune "Your Song" is still one of the musical highlights of Broadway's *Moulin Rouge!*

Dirty Dancing: The Musical Is in Development for Broadway

by Hayley Levitt



Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey in *Dirty Dancing*

Lionsgate and The Path Entertainment Group, under its live stage arm *Showpath*, announced plans to develop the classic 1987 film *Dirty Dancing* into a musical bound for Broadway. Original screenwriter Eleanor Bergstein is involved in the development process, revisiting the material she previously helped adapt for *Dirty Dancing: The Classic Story on Stage*. Tony nominee Lonny Price, who played Neil Kellerman in the film, has been tapped to direct.

Dirty Dancing: The Musical has plans to premiere in late 2025 with "a highly anticipated major run in North America," according to the production companies. They are also eyeing international markets including Asia, Australia and Latin America. "In the years after I wrote and co-produced the original film *Dirty Dancing*, I was grateful and astonished by the generations of audiences who responded with open hearts to the themes of honour and courage beneath the surface," said Bergstein in a statement. "Years later, sensing our audiences wanted to 'be there' while the story was happening, I wrote and co-produced a stage show. Its reception all over the world exceeded my sweetest dreams. Now we've come full circle, and with my old friend Lonny Price by my side, I'm returning to the stage with a reimagined version. Its hope is to be equal to the new world swirling around us while revisiting more fully and precisely the story I'd wanted to tell when I wrote my first lines. It's my way of saying thank you to you all." Price added, "I am beyond excited to be reunited with Eleanor and to join her in bringing this expanded *Dirty Dancing* to the stage. For the people who already love the movie, they will get a deeper, more nuanced version of the characters they fell in love with. Having played Neil in the movie, I know full well the scores of people who have been touched by this story, and for me to return to Kellerman's and direct this new musical iteration truly is a thrill." Set during the summer of 1963, *Dirty Dancing* follows the journey of Frances "Baby" Houseman and dance instructor Johnny Castle as they navigate love, passion, and personal growth. The romantic leads were famously played on screen by Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze. "The new production will deliver iconic moments, unforgettable songs, and electrifying dance sequences, while reimagining key elements of the story to resonate with today's theatregoers," The Path Entertainment Group wrote in their announcement. "Fans can expect new choreography and staging concepts, and perhaps even some new songs." The film's soundtrack features a number of memorable songs including "Hungry Eyes," "Hey! Baby," and most iconically, "(I've Had) The Time of My Life."

WHY AM I SO SINGLE? TO CLOSE EARLY IN THE WEST END

by Olivia Rook

Originally scheduled to run until 13 February 2025, Lucy Moss and Toby Marlow's musical about two forever-single best friends will now close on 19 January. Lucy Moss and Toby Marlow's second West End venture *Why Am I So Single* is set to close early next year, with the organisers citing the challenges of making a new musical commercially sustainable in the current climate. Following two, forever-single best friends over the course of an evening as they try to figure out why they are always single, the musical features an original score by Marlow and Moss, with songs including "8 Dates", "Just in Case" and the title "Why Am I So Single?" The producers said, "We are extremely proud of the production and thank all the cast, musicians, creatives, and backstage team who have worked together to bring something daring and original to the West End. We are not discounting the possibility of bringing the show back into London in the future and, with discussions about potential productions in the U.S. and around the world already underway, we are confident that it is just the beginning for this extraordinary show." Marlow and Moss said, "We are so grateful to our truly remarkable cast who have brought this work to life at every performance with such passion, talent, and commitment. We are so grateful to our wonderful company and creatives who have put all their humour and heart into our show. We are so grateful to everyone who has worked hard behind the scenes to bring *Why Am I So Single?* to the West End. We are so very grateful to the producers for taking such a risk on an original, ambitious musical like this and making our wildest dreams come true. And finally, we are SO grateful to everyone who has seen the show so far, and we hope more of you will be able to come and see it in the coming months! We are, of course, pretty sad that it's coming to an end earlier than we'd hoped but we are very proud of the show and are super excited to see what the potential future journey looks like. We cannot WAIT for you all to listen to more of the music, which we're working away at right now and, not to boast, but we think it's going to BEE pretty great."

Elton John reveals intentions for *The Devil Wears Prada* Broadway transfer

by Olivia Rook

Sir Elton John is behind the music of some of the most exciting shows in the West End and on Broadway, including *The Lion King*, *Billy Elliot* and *Tammy Faye*, which is about to open on Broadway. Composer Sir Elton John has revealed his desire to take new West End musical *The Devil Wears Prada* to Broadway. At a launch event for the show on Tuesday, 14 October, at Claridge's in London, the musical's composer also said he wants *Desperate Housewives* and *Ugly Betty* star Vanessa Williams to reprise her role of Miranda Priestly on Broadway and for Williams to win the Tony Award. Speaking to press, John said, "My ambition is to take this to Broadway, and for Vanessa to win the Tony."

The musical follows aspiring journalist Andy Sachs (to be played by Georgie Buckland in her West End debut) as she secures a coveted role as assistant to Runway Magazine editor-in-chief Miranda Priestly. As Andy is drawn into the world of high fashion, she is forced to make brutal decisions impacting her relationship, friendships, and future. On his decision to compose the musical, John said, "It was fantastic being able to write for this kind of musical because it's not Shakespeare. It's absolutely so much fun. It's a really great musical with fantastic costumes, an incredible cast, and brilliant direction and choreography. It was a no-brainer for me." "It's taken a long time – about 10 years – these things don't come together very quickly and we've had a few bumps in the road," he continued. The musical played an exclusive pre-West End season at Theatre Royal Plymouth, following a developmental run in Chicago in 2022. John is behind the music of some of the most exciting shows in the West End and on Broadway, including *The Lion King*, which is celebrating 25 years in the West End, *Billy Elliot* and *Tammy Faye* which is about to open on Broadway.



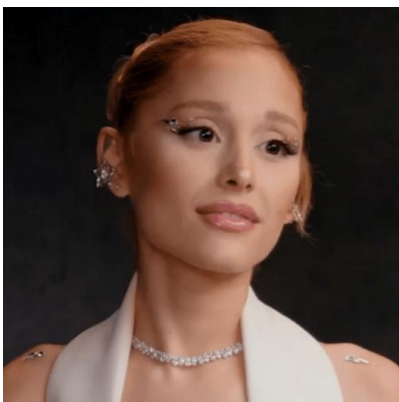
How Does the Movie Compare to the Musical?

by Alexandra Appleton

Warning: *WICKED* spoilers ahead!

The hotly anticipated film adaptation of fan-favourite *WICKED* is finally out and the buzz is huge. Have you seen it yet? Or are you waiting to treat yourself this Thanksgiving?! We joined the cinema audiences who ran to the movies last weekend to get our first taste of Jon M. Chu's reimagining of the world of Oz. And, yes, we're a fan!

The movie brings some exciting twists to the beloved stage musical, blending cinematic magic with deeper character moments. If you're a fan of the original or just curious about the changes, here's a breakdown of what's different – and why it works.



Ariana Grande by Condé Nast (through Vogue Taiwan)
via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 3.0



Cynthia Erivo by Our Movie Guide – WICKED – Australian Premiere Interviews
via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 3.0

Fresh Takes on the Story

Doctor Dillamond's role is expanded in the film. Instead of simply singing about "Something Bad" in a classroom, he gathers Animals in a secret meeting to discuss the dangers they face. It's a powerful scene that intensifies the stakes of Elphaba's journey as an activist. Plus, there's a clever throwback to *The Wizard of Oz*; poppies, which Doctor Dillamond loves, play a critical role when Elphaba uses them to put people (and guards!) to sleep during a rescue.

And Nessarose? She gets way more screen time. The movie delves into her personality and her relationship with Boq, showing her as fiercely independent. This shift should make her eventual storyline in Part Two even more meaningful.

Musical Moments Reimagined

The songs we know and love are getting some extra flair and pizzazz! "Defying Gravity" now has added lyrics and visuals that emphasise Elphaba's emotional and physical transformation. Plus, she learns to fly solo – literally – without the stage mechanics holding her back. It's a jaw-dropping moment of liberation.



Flying on the Broadway stage
[Kara Lindsay, Rachel Tucker and the cast of WICKED – photo by Joan Marcus]

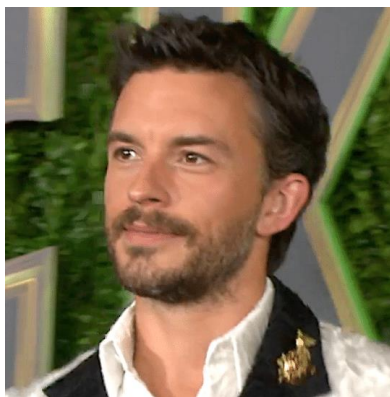
Remember the fun but brief Wiz-O-Mania sequence in "One Short Day"? The movie turns it into a show-within-a-show that dives into the Wizard's backstory and the mystical Grimmerie. It's a feast for fans of Oz lore, complete with Easter eggs and cameos from the original Broadway stars, Kristin Chenoweth and Idina Menzel.

And they're not the only cameos from the original team behind WICKED! Winnie Holzman, who wrote the book for the original musical and also co-wrote the screenplay, appears as a Wiz-O-Mania actor. And who else should be the one to admit Elphaba and Glinda to see the Wizard? It's none other than the show's composer Stephen Schwartz. "The Wizard will see you now!"

Even smaller numbers get a glow-up. “Sentimental Man”, a low-key piece in the stage show, now includes a dream ballet and shadow puppets, making the Wizard’s character more dynamic and tragic.

Characters Shine Brighter

Fiyero gets a much-needed update. His entrance in the musical, with a cheeky joke about Elphaba’s green skin, hasn’t aged well. In the movie, he meets her in the woods, and their interaction has a more genuine spark. It’s a little dashing, a little awkward, and sets up their future relationship beautifully. (And if you’ve seen Jonathan Bailey in *Bridgerton*, you’ll know that he is the king of the smouldering look, more of which are surely to come in Part 2!)



Jonathan Bailey by Our Movie Guide – *WICKED* New York Special Screening Arrivals via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 3.0

Elphaba herself has new tricks up her sleeve. Along with her classic spells, the movie gives her the ability to see visions of the future, adding layers to her decisions and actions. Glinda and Elphaba’s friendship gets some extra love, too. A recurring musical motif blends “Dancing Through Life” with “For Good”, hinting at their eventual connection even as they start as frenemies. And let’s not forget their beautiful connection inside the Ozdust Ballroom ... a quietly emotional moment that had tears rolling down the faces of actors and audiences alike. Arguably one of the best moments in the whole film.

The Big Picture

The film’s CGI breathes new life into Oz. From flying monkeys to magical poppies, it creates a more vivid, immersive experience. Top tips? If you’re of a nervous disposition, maybe hold on to your seat when the monkeys take flight to seek out Elphaba and Glinda ... some people in the cinema audience nearly hit the roof during one key moment! And it’s worth repeating; Elphaba’s climactic flight in “Defying Gravity” is a visual showstopper, free from the stage’s technical limitations.

The most significant change? The movie adapts only Act 1 of the stage show, allowing for richer storytelling and character development. This gives us more time to savour key moments, and the cliffhanger ending will leave us eagerly awaiting Part Two in 2025.

These changes don’t just modernise *WICKED*; they bring depth, spectacle and a fresh perspective to a story we thought we knew. Whether you’re a die-hard fan or new to Oz, this adaptation promises to enchant!

Alexandra Appleton Alex is a freelance writer and editor with a PhD in theatre history. She is also a performer and director, previously running a successful theatre company and youth theatre company in the north of England. Alex is from the UK and lives just outside London with her young family. She is enjoying introducing them to the theatre!



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 2024 to the curb and see you back here next year
for some exciting theatrical happenings.

