



ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS
He Whānau Tuatinihini

STAGERAGE

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NOTICE OF MEETING

The Palmerston North Operatic Society's
(trading as ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Is to be held on

Monday – 24 March 2025

at

ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS
75 The Square, Palmerston North

7.30 pm Refreshments & Nibbles
8.00 pm Meeting Proper

ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS
He Whānau Tuatinihini



BATTLE OF THE BANDS

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- 14-16 March 2025:
Whakakā – MTNZ National Training & Networking Weekend
- Saturday – 15 November 2025:
ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS BIRTHDAY PARTY at the Regent on Broadway – this date will be 125 years since opening night of our first production, "The Pirates of Penzance"



Your ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS membership is due for renewal. The renewal fees for **current** financial members (i.e. your membership card expires on 31 January **2025**) are as follows;

- **Adult Membership – \$30.00**
 - This will include a free membership gift if paid before the AGM on 24 March 2025 (which can be picked up from 75 The Square).
- **Child Membership (under 16) – \$15.00**
 - This will include a free membership gift if paid before the AGM on 24 March 2025 (which can be picked up from 75 The Square).
- **Family Membership (2A & any children under 16) – \$60.00**
 - This will include two free membership gifts per family membership if paid before the AGM on 24 March 2025 (which can be picked up from 75 The Square).

Membership renewal rates, if paid after the AGM on 24 March 2025, will be;

Adults – \$40.00

Child (under 16) – \$20.00

Family (2A + any) – \$80.00

Pro-forma invoices for membership have already been sent out. Membership fees can be paid to **PN Operatic Society: 06-0729-0024947-00**



Open Ballet Classes

We are holding Open Ballet Classes with Chantelle Vivian-Christensen on Wednesday nights from 7:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS
He Whānau Tuatinitini

Open Adult Ballet Classes
With
Chantelle Vivian-Christensen

Wednesdays 7:30pm-8:45pm
Start date 29/01, Term schedule!

\$10 Members | \$15 Non Members p/class

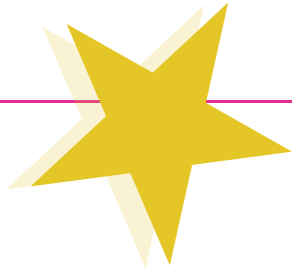
These classes are back by popular demand and running on term schedules – \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members with a pay as you go structure!

We are so excited to be offering these classes again after **rave reviews** from the attendees last year! We are so lucky to have Chantelle teaching at ACT THREE!

To register please click the link below ...

<https://forms.gle/n4ApUMr97Aj51qP76>





Regional Theatre Awards 2024 Theatre Productions

Held on Friday, 14 February 2025

ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS WINNERS

CREATIVES

Choreography

Ruby Jamieson – Matilda (ATP)

Nicole Field – *Kinky Boots* (ATP)

Amy MacDonald-Te Huki – *Annie* (DTC)

Charlette Taylor – *Alice in Cuckoo Land* (LLT)

Musical Direction

Barry Jones & Kirsten Clark – Matilda (ATP)

Catherine Carr – *Kinky Boots* (ATP)

Shasa Pene & Cindy O'Sullivan – *Annie* (DTC)

Direction (Musical)

Graham Johnston – *Disney Frozen Jr* (MYTH)

Linda Buckley – *The Spongebob Musical, Youth Edition* (HYPE)

Phil Anstis – Matilda (ATP)

Megan Hartley – *The Addams Family* (WPA)

Lisa Higginson – *Annie* (DTC)

Erin Hutchinson & Letitia Hodder – *Disney The Little Mermaid Jr* (PRS)

PERFORMANCES

Ensemble (Musical)

The Worms and The Maggots – Matilda (ATP)

Angels (Cameron Baker, Finn Davidson, Alex Dinniss, Clio Exconde, Matthew Lyne, Hannah Newman) – *Kinky Boots* (ATP)

The Factory Workers – *Kinky Boots* (ATP)

Annie and the Orphans – *Annie* (DTC)

The Ancestors – *The Addams Family* (WPA)

Connection Between Characters (Musical)

Lucy Bennett (Matilda) and Sophia Parker (Mrs Phelps) – Matilda (ATP)

Myah Snow (Spongebob) and Aidan Tautari (Patrick Star) – *The Spongebob Musical, Youth Edition* (HYPE)

Jo Sale (Pat) and Erica Ward (Trish) – *Kinky Boots* (ATP)

Lavara Makutu and Briana Howard (Beryl & Cheryl) – *Cinderella* (FLTP)

Toby Walker (Rooster) and Brooke Behague (Lily St Regis) – *Annie* (DTC)

Ava Te Huki (Annie) and Nathan Davis (Daddy Warbucks) – *Annie* (DTC)

Supporting Actor in a Female Role (Musical)

Jessie Feyen (Mrs Wormwood) – Matilda (ATP)

Sophia Parker (Mrs Phelps) – *Matilda* (ATP)

Milana Mariu-Reade (Nicola) – *Kinky Boots* (ATP)

Tamzin Price (Lauren) – *Kinky Boots* (ATP)

Cindy O'Sullivan (Grace Farrell) – *Annie* (DTC)

Davina Graham (Miss Hannigan) – *Annie* (DTC)

Supporting Actor in a Male Role (Musical)

Jacob McDonald (Mr Wormwood) – *Matilda* (ATP)

Jayden Colban (Don) – *Kinky Boots* (ATP)

Kieran Murphy (Harry) – *Kinky Boots* (ATP)

Toby Walker (Rooster) – *Annie* (DTC)

Actor in a Female Role (Youth)

Tanzi Good (Matilda) – *Matilda* (ATP)

Lucy Bennett (Matilda) – *Matilda* (ATP) Sylvie Muso (Matilda) – *Matilda* (ATP)

Lucy Hartley (Wednesday) – *The Addams Family* (WPA)

Sasha Borlase (Cinderella) – *Cinderella* (FLTP)

Ava Te Huki (Annie) – *Annie* (DFC)

Actor in a Female Role (Musical)

Phil Anstis (Agatha Trunchbull) – *Matilda* (ATP)

Danica Manson (Miss Honey) – *Matilda* (ATP)

Alyssa Hartley (Morticia Addams) – *The Addams Family* (WPA)

Actor in a Male Role (Musical)

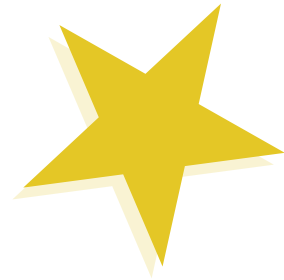
Lindsay Yeo (Charlie) – *Kinky Boots* (ATP)

Max Herdman (Gomez Addams) – *The Addams Family* (WPA)

Nathan Davis (Oliver Warbucks) – *Annie* (DTC)

The Stellar Award (Musical)

Matilda (ATP)



Musical wins big at theatre awards

18 February 2025 – Matthew Dallas



Matilda has the double allure of being a well-known story and appealing to audiences of all ages, says Phil Anstis, who directed ACT THREE's successful production of the beloved musical.

The popularity of ACT THREE's production of *Matilda* has been matched in its accolades. The musical cleaned up at the Regional Theatre Awards, winning 10 categories, including musical direction, musical ensemble and four acting gongs. The awards, which covered 25 community theatre productions in Palmerston North, Feilding, Foxton, Levin, Pahiatua, Dannevirke and Whanganui, were presented at the Conference and Function Centre on Friday, 14 February 2025.

Phil Anstis, who won awards for directing *Matilda* and for his performance as the monstrous Miss Trunchbull, said the recognition provided further satisfaction following the show's successful two week run at The Regent on Broadway last April. "I couldn't be happier and more proud of the whole company." Lucy Bennett, one of the three girls to play the titular wunderkind, won best youth actor in a female role, Jessie Feyen won best supporting actor in a female role for her part as Mrs Wormwood, and Jacob McDonald won for supporting actor in a male role, as Mr Wormwood. Barry Jones and Kirsten Clark's musical direction was recognised, as was Ruby Jamieson's choreography, and the connection on stage between Bennett and Sophia Parker (who played Mrs Phelps). *Matilda* walked away with one of the night's three Stellar Awards, the others going to Manawatu Theatre Society's play *Stockholm*, and Whanganui Performing Arts' production of *The Addams Family*. Anstis, who wasn't able to attend the awards night, said more people attended *Matilda* than any previous ACT THREE show, which he attributed to the mass appeal of the Roald Dahl story and Tim Minchin's stage adaption. He was very surprised to be nominated in, and then actually win, the category of acting in a female role, given Miss Trunchbull was traditionally played by a man on stage. He said many of *Matilda*'s young "maggots" had since progressed into ACT THREE's upcoming *SCHOOL of ROCK* and had become entrenched in a special theatre community. Intense two cast play *Stockholm* also collected a number of awards. Mikel O'Connell won for drama direction and concept and design, Tyler Brailey for actor in a male role, and Hannah McDowell for emerging actor. Brailey and McDowell's interplay on stage was also recognised with the Connection Between Characters Award.



MUSICAL THEATRE NZ INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN 2025

PALMERSTON NORTH 14 - 16 MARCH

Friday - Act Three Clubrooms
ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS birthday celebration - 125 years! Sponsored by MDR Sound and Lighting. A social networking event

Saturday - Palmerston North Conference Centre

Opening Keynote Speaker
Annual General Meeting
THREE Training Streams: Performance, Leadership and Tech featuring; short deep dives into specific relevant topics
Zone Time, Social Hour and a performance from the MTI Australasia Juniors Stream
iTICKET Gala Dinner & Awards Evening

Sunday - ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS club rooms

Industry Brunch
Performance and Leadership Extended
Workshops & Masterclasses

Whakakā
Whakahou, whakahou i te āhua, me te whakatū anō i te wānanga
Refresh, Rebrand, Rebuild

PLATINUM PARTNER iTICKET

MTNZ | WHAKAKĀ - IGNITE
NATIONAL TRAINING & NETWORKING WEEKEND

DISCOVER MORE AT MTNZ.CO.NZ

MTNZ invite the national theatre community here in Aotearoa – whether you are an onstage performer, a behind-the-scenes doer, committee member or total first timer – to join us for our 2025 National Training and Networking Weekend – **Whakakā**.

"This is the premium event for the NZ Theatre community – there is nothing else nationally like it in scale and offering; it is designed for all of us and welcome you" (Kirsty Skomski – General Manager, MTNZ)

We have an action packed line-up planned combining the best of theatre; together we celebrate; learn and grow; network and connect. Check out what's on offer below!

Why Whakakā is for you!

- Tailored Learning: Choose from three specialised streams (see below) to focus on what matters most to you.
- Inclusive Environment: First-timers and seasoned attendees alike are welcomed and celebrated.
- Unmatched Networking: Build meaningful connections with like-minded theatre enthusiasts.
- Fresh New Format: Exciting changes to enhance your experience, including shorter, high-impact sessions.
- Performance, Stage Intimacy and Leadership Masterclasses.

On our website you can register, find out more about instructors and training topic briefs, view our keynote speaker, read about the Whakakā Partners Lounge, view our sponsors and supporters and more.

[Head to the MTNZ Website HERE to Find Out More](#)

Training Streams

Our training streams are comprised of multiple 15 minute power-sessions which deep dive into the listed topics. You can commit to one stream, or switch streams after The G&T Productions Lunch for session two if you like.



Whakakā
Whakahou, whakahou i te āhua, me te whakatū anō i te wānanga
Refresh, Rebrand, Rebuild

Jennifer Ward-Lealand

Performance Masterclass:
Join Jennifer for an inspiring 1.5-hour performance masterclass. With her vast expertise, she will share invaluable insights to help performers unlock their full potential on stage.

Intimacy for Community Theatre:
Jennifer, a passionate intimacy coordinator, will facilitate a session exploring the principles of creating safe, respectful spaces for performers. Learn how to navigate intimacy in community theatre and support your cast through best practices.

mtnz
MUSICAL THEATRE
NEW ZEALAND

A Theatrical Powerhouse Joins Whakakā 2025!
We are beyond excited to announce that Jennifer Te Atamira Ward-Lealand, one of New Zealand’s most celebrated and accomplished figures in theatre, will be joining us at Whakakā 2025 – IGNITE!

Jennifer’s extensive knowledge, skills, and experience make her an incredible addition to our lineup, and we’re thrilled to offer you the opportunity to learn directly from this powerhouse of Aotearoa’s entertainment industry

Introducing our keynote: Carrie Green (Ngāti Porou/Kāi Tahu)

An award-winning actor, writer, and director with an extensive career in New Zealand's performing arts scene. A graduate of Toi Whakaari (2012), Carrie has worked with many leading theatre companies, including Circa Theatre, Silo Theatre, Auckland Theatre Company (ATC), Centrepont Theatre, The Court Theatre, Tawata Productions, Taki Rua, and World of Wearable Art. Originally from Palmerston North, Carrie began her artistic journey with ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS in 2002 (formerly Abbey Musical Theatre) and credits her time there as the impetus for pursuing a career in the arts. Carrie's acting credits span theatre, television and film. She is known for her roles in Cellfish (Silo Theatre) and Bless the Child (Tawata Productions), as well as television appearances in Under the Vines, Mystic, Inside and Wellington Paranormal. Her work has earned her numerous accolades, including Actor of the Year at the 2019 Wellington Theatre Awards and Outstanding New Playwright in 2016. In addition to acting, Carrie is a theatre director, children's acting coach for screen, script supervisor, and member of the Circa Theatre council. She describes her practice as "people-focused and collaboration-driven." Her diverse body of work reflects her versatility as both a creator and collaborator, and she continues to captivate and inspire audiences with her compelling storytelling across stage and screen.



A Training Programme for our youth at Whakakā!

Running alongside the Whakakā Training and Networking Weekend, MTNZ is excited to offer a unique programme designed for tamariki and rangatahi aged 8–18. Facilitated by the expert team from Junior Theatre Festival NZ, participants will develop the three essential skills of musical theatre – dancing, acting, and singing – in a fun and inclusive environment.

"We wanted our 'theatre families' to be able to participate in Whakakā, so a stream for our young performers was a natural solution" (Emma Bishop, President, MTNZ)

The weekend culminates in a special 10 minute performance at the iTicket Gala Dinner on Saturday night, giving participants the chance to showcase their talent on stage.

When: 5:30 pm Friday, 14 March 2025 – 10:00 pm Saturday, 15 March 2025 @ Globe Theatre, Palmerston North

This fantastic opportunity is proudly sponsored by Creative Communities NZ



Members' Tickets

Don't forget, your ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS Adult or Child membership entitles you **two** discounted tickets per show season, or **four** discounted tickets per family membership. So to book seats for *SCHOOL of ROCK* go to <https://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?sh=SCHROCK25>, and use the password **SORMEM** to unlock your discount.



ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS thanks the following *SCHOOL of ROCK* sponsors.



Property Brokers Ashhurst



Kevin Downing
Guitar School



Property Brokers Ltd Licensed REAA 2008

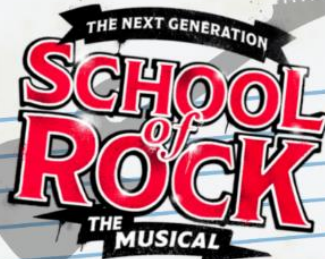


TOTAL TRUCK SPRAY

PANELBEATING & SPRAYPAINTING

Linda Warren

CAST LIST



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

ROCKY ROADIEZ

Caleb Henderson
Jacob Lauridsen
Annie Miles
Angela Du
Lucy Chan
Martha Khanna
Connor Aberdein
Oscar 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
Kate Easton
Tanzi Good
Mikaela Rosales
Niamh Galpin

CHILDREN BVs

Rosie Costley
Reuben Costley
Sophia Patterson
Isobelle Franssen
Eliza Valentine
Elizabeth Brunn

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, Sarah Bird
Vanessa Stephens, Hannah Newman, Ian Williams, Matthew McEwen

ADULT BVs

Merryn Osborne, Melissa Downey, Nadia Hillary, Anna Skeggs



18 APR - 3 MAY

REGENT ON BROADWAY



Did you know ...

ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS has the following merchandise available to purchase on www.actthree.co.nz

ACT THREE EDIT TEE (22063) CODE 66319



\$25 (incl. GST)

Crew neck tee
Heavyweight, 100% combed ring-spun cotton
220gsm, pre-shrunk, anti-pill
Tight knit for superior printability and handfeel
Side seams for better fit and to prevent twisting
Shoulder to shoulder reinforcing tape
Twin-needle stitching on body and sleeve hems
Includes printed logos

Available in the following sizes:

	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	5XL
width (cms)	51	54	57	60	64	67	74
length (cms)	72	75	78	81	84	87	93

ACT THREE WOMENS SILHOUETTE TEE (22941) CODE 66318



\$25 (incl. GST)

Women's tailored fit
Scoop neck
100% combed ring-spun cotton
145gsm, pre-shrunk
Super fine fabric for superb prints and ultra-soft hand-feel
Side seams for better fit and to prevent twisting
Shoulder to shoulder reinforcing tape
Twin-needle stitching on body and sleeve hems
Includes printed logos

Available in the following sizes:

	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
width (cms)	43	46	49	52	55	58	61
length (cms)	65	66	67	68	69	70	71

ACT THREE MENS ELEMENT POLO (22848) CODE 66321



\$40 (incl. GST)

Heavyweight 220gsm polo
Premium combed ring-spun cotton makes it soft and durable
Pre-shrunk, anti-pill for long-term good looks
Self-fabric collar
Contrast trim inside collar and side splits
Tear-away neck label
Includes printed logos

Available in the following sizes:

	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	5XL
width (cms)	51	54	57	60	64	67	74
length (cms)	70	73	76	79	82	85	91

ACT THREE MENS CREW ZIP HOODIE (22943) CODE 66325



\$50 (incl. GST)

55% cotton / 45% poly, 320gsm
Full front zip with traditional front kangaroo pocket
Hood with wider 'shoelace' drawstring
Knitted ribbed band on hem and cuff
Includes printed logos

Available in the following sizes:

Mens Easy Fit

garment	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	5XL
1/2 chest (cm)	54	57	60	63	66	70	74	82

ACT THREE LADIES CREW ZIP HOODIE (22942) CODE 66324



\$50 (incl. GST)

55% cotton / 45% poly, 320gsm
Full front zip with traditional front kangaroo pocket
Hood with wider 'shoelace' drawstring
Knitted ribbed band on hem and cuff
Includes printed logos

Available in the following sizes:

Ladies Easy Fit

garment	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL
1/2 chest (cm)	45.5	49	52.5	56	59.5	63

ACT THREE LADIES ELEMENT POLO (22877) CODE 66320



\$40 (incl. GST)

Heavyweight 220gsm polo
Premium combed ring-spun cotton makes it soft and durable
Pre-shrunk, anti-pill for long-term good looks
Self-fabric collar
Contrast trim inside collar and side splits
Tear-away neck label
Includes printed logos

Available in the following sizes:

	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
width (cms)	44	47	50	53	56	59	62	66	70
length (cms)	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72

FAQs

1. How long will it take to receive my order? Orders will be made at the end of each calendar month. If we do not receive the minimum of five orders for a month, this may be delayed until we receive five orders. From there, it will take three weeks for your order to be ready.

2. How will I know my order is ready? When your order is ready to collect Jen, our administrator, will call or email you and let you know.

3. Where do I collect my order from? You can collect your order from 75 The Square, Palmerston North (ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS office). This is open Monday to Friday, 10.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m. You may be able to collect your order outside these times - just arrange this with Jen - e-mail admin@actthree.co.nz

If you have any other questions about merchandise? Contact admin@actthree.co.nz



Jonathan Groff Will Play Himself at the Top of *Just in Time* Before Transforming Into Bobby Darin

Hayley Levitt • 6 February 2025



Jonathan Groff (Photo c/o Polk & Co.)

Good news for Jonathan Groff fans who have secured their tickets to see the Tony-winning actor croon as Golden Age dreamboat Bobby Darin. You'll also get to see him as ... Jonathan Groff. At a recent press event for the Broadway biomusical *Just in Time*, Groff told Broadway.com that the show will have a framing device that "honors the spirit of Bobby Darin" and the bond he built with his audiences. Inside Circle in the Square Theatre, which will be transformed into a '50s nightclub via the vision of director Alex Timbers and set designer Derek McLane, "I am gonna start the show as myself to build a connective thread between me and the audience, which was apparently Bobby's magic," Groff said. "And then collectively, we're gonna go back in time and experience the story of Bobby Darin's life together." He's no stranger to direct address, having played *HAMILTON*'s quasi-third wall-breaking King George III. But interacting with audiences as himself, and without the distance of a proscenium, will add another layer of intimacy to a show that promises an "immersive" experience. "I think Bobby Darin's best relationship he ever had was the relationship between him and the audience – honestly, same," he added with a self-mocking "LOL." "And so it makes sense that the show would be an immersive audience experience because that was his most passionate and successful relationship of his life."

Hell's Kitchen Wins Grammy for Best Musical Theatre Album

Darryn King • 2 February 2025



The case of *Hell's Kitchen* (Photo: Marc J. Franklin)

Hell's Kitchen, the Alicia Keys-scored Broadway musical now running at the Shubert Theatre, won the Grammy Award for Best Musical Theatre Album.

The honour was announced at the 67th Annual Grammy Awards ceremony, held on 2 February 2025 at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles. Recipients of the award include original cast members Shoshana Bean, Brandon Victor Dixon, Kecia Lewis and Meleah Joi Moon (principal vocalists), along with Adam Blackstone, Alicia Keys and Tom Kitt (producers), with Keys also recognised as composer and lyricist. Also nominated for Best Musical Theatre album this year were *Merrily We Roll Along*, *The Notebook*, *The Outsiders*, *Suffs* and *The Wiz*. Notably, the 2024 Tony Award-winning Best Play, *Stereophonic*, was not nominated. *Hell's Kitchen* is a New York City coming-of-age story and mother-daughter love story inspired by the life of Alicia Keys. It follows Ali, a 17-year-old girl searching for freedom, passion and her place in the world. The show is directed by Michael Greif, with choreography by Camille A. Brown, a book by Kristoffer Diaz and the music of Alicia Keys, featuring new songs and her greatest hits.

Chita Rivera Awards to Honour Ben Vereen with Lifetime Achievement Award

Darryn King • 10 February 2025



Ben Vereen (Photo: Emilio Madrid)

The 2025 Chita Rivera Awards will honour Tony Award-winning performer Ben Vereen with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his lifelong commitment to dance in the theatre. The annual awards will take place on 19 May 2025 at the NYU Skirball Center for the Performing Arts. Spanning four decades, Vereen's Broadway credits include *HAIR*, *JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR*, *Pippin* (Tony Award), *Jelly's Last Jam* and *Fosse*. He joined *WICKED* as the Wonderful Wizard of Oz in 2005. He also appeared in *Sweet Charity* on stage in Las Vegas and in the subsequent movie version. "We are thrilled to honor Ben Vereen with this year's Lifetime Achievement Award," said Joe Lanteri, the founder and executive director of the New York City Dance Alliance Foundation, in a statement. "Over his unprecedented career, Ben has starred on stage and screen, performed around the world, and has been a public speaker and humanitarian for causes close to his heart including black history and continuing education." The nominations for the 2025 Chita Rivera Awards will be announced on 29 April 2025. The Outstanding Dancer in a Broadway Show category will be gender-free for the third year running, with twice as many nominees as the former gendered categories and two winners to be announced.

***The Lost Boys* Musical, Adapted from Cult-Classic Vampire Film, Sets Broadway Debut for Spring 2026**

Darryn King • 27 January 2025



Kiefer Sutherland, Brooke McCarter, Alex Winter and Billy Wirth in *The Lost Boys* (Photo: Warner Home Video)

The Lost Boys, a new musical based on the cult-classic 1987 teenage vampire movie of the same name, will premiere at Broadway's Palace Theatre in spring 2026. The musical will feature a book by David Hornsby (*It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*) and Chris Hoch. *The Lost Boys* will feature a score by the L.A.-based outfit The Rescues—Kyler England, AG (Adrienne Gonzalez) and Gabriel Mann—including existing songs by the group reworked for the show. The 1987 movie was directed by Joel Schumacher and starred Kiefer Sutherland, Corey Haim, Jason Patric, Dianne Wiest and Alex Winter. Casting for the Broadway production has not been revealed. The movie follows two teenage brothers who, after moving with their mother to Santa Carla, California, uncover the town's vampire underworld. Tawdry, pulpy and sexually charged, *The Lost Boys* redefined vampire narratives for a younger generation. The Broadway show is produced in special arrangement with Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures.

Mean Girls wins Best New Musical at the 25th Annual WhatsOnStage Awards

Tanyel Gumushan – 9 February 2025 – London



Charlie Burn (as Cady), Elèna Gyasi (as Gretchen), Georgina Castle (as Regina) and Grace Mouat (as Karen) in *Mean Girls*
(© Brinkhoff-Moegenburg)

Mean Girls, the hit musical from Jeff Richmond, Tina Fey and Nell Benjamin, took home the *grool* Best New Musical prize at the 25th Annual WhatsOnStage Awards. Currently turning the Savoy Theatre pink, the musical is based on the much-loved Lindsay Lohan-led flick about a girl who moves back to the U.S. where she realises just how savage high school can be. It is directed by Casey Nicholaw (*The Book of Mormon*, *Aladdin*). The Best New Musical award was presented on 9 February 2025 at The London Palladium as part of a special concert ceremony featuring top performances and surprises for the audience.

Starlight Express wins seven WhatsOnStage Awards

Tanyel Gumushan – 9 February 2025 – London



Starlight Express (© Pamela Raith)

Starlight Express has skated in to first place! Michael Harrison and Andrew Lloyd Webber's revival, which continues its open-ended run at the Troubadour Wembley Park Theatre, has won seven out of its nine nominated categories. The show is newly minted as Best Musical Revival, after facing stiff competition from the touring production of *Dear Evan Hansen*, *OLIVER!* in Chichester and the West End stagings of *Hadestown*, *Hello, Dolly!* And *Kiss Me, Kate*. In addition, the creative team honoured includes set designer Tim Hatley, lighting designer Howard Hudson, video designer Andrzej Goulding, and costume designer Gabriella Slade.

Jackie Saunderson and Campbell Young Associates took home the first-ever WhatsOnStage Award for Best Wigs, Hair and Make-Up Design. In the acting categories, Jeevan Braich received the award for Best Professional Debut for his portrayal of Rusty. Lloyd Webber's musical, which first debuted 40 years ago, is about a child's train set that comes to life and competes to become the fastest engine in the world. Audience members in Wembley Park can sit either around and inside the "racing track", or behind the performance space on a more conventional rake.

WICKED announces historic Nessarose casting on Broadway

Tanyel Gumushan – 6 February 2025 – London



Jenna Bainbridge, provided uncredited by the production

New cast members will join *WICKED* on Broadway. The hit musical, which was recently adapted into a film starring Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande, is currently in its 21st year in New York. As previously revealed, Lencia Kebede (*HAMILTON*) will become the first Black actress to assume the role of Elphaba full-time on Broadway. Allie Trimm, who has been serving as a standby for the role, will play Glinda. Interestingly, Trimm starred as Patrice alongside Grande as Charlotte in Jason Robert Brown's *13* on Broadway – both making their debuts. It has been revealed that NaTasha Yvette Williams (*Some Like It Hot*), Jenna Bainbridge (*Suffs*), and Daniel Quadrino (*WICKED*) will join the company as Madame Morrible, Nessarose, and Boq respectively. Bainbridge will become the first wheelchair-using actor to take on the role of Nessarose on stage. It follows the casting of Marissa Bode, the first wheelchair-using actor to play the character, in the film adaptation. The lead roles are currently played by Mary Kate Morrisey and Alexandra Socha, who will play their final performances on 2 March 2025. The new principal cast members will start performances on 4 March 2025. *WICKED* has made history as the highest-grossing stage musical adaptation in history, and *WICKED: FOR GOOD* will bubble into cinemas later this year on 21 November 2025.

WICKED confirmed as highest grossing film on U.K. shores in 2024

Alex Wood – 7 February 2025



Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande, © Universal Studios

WICKED set a number of box office records last year, but has officially emerged with a major accolade. Overall, the film made £59.6 million on U.K. shores, making up around six per cent of the overall annual box office. This places it as the highest grossing film of 2024. Animated sequel *Inside Out 2* came in a very close second with £59.5 million.

Based on the hit novel *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West* by Gregory Maguire, *WICKED* tells the story of two unlikely university friends in the land of Oz, one destined to become Glinda the Good and the other, the Wicked Witch of the West. *WICKED* writers Winnie Holzman (book) and Stephen Schwartz (score) collaborated on the screenplay with Dana Fox. Cynthia Erivo (Elphaba), Ariana Grande (Glinda) and Jonathan Bailey (Fiyero) lead the adaptation, alongside Oscar winner Michelle Yeoh as Madame Morrible, Tony nominee Ethan Slater as Boq, Marissa Bode as Nessarose, Jeff Goldblum as the Wizard of Oz, and Peter Dinklage as Dr Dillamond. Jon M Chu directs the two-part property. The film received glowing reviews. It also picked up a raft of Academy Award nominations, including for Best Picture and for its two leading stars. The news bodes well for the second part of the adaptation, which soars into cinemas in November.

SIX cinema release goes on sale and confirms further screening dates

Tanyel Gumushan – 6 February 2025 – London

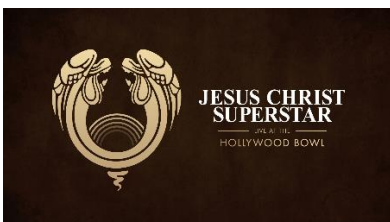


A still from the *Six* film – supplied by Universal

Tickets are now available in the U.K. to watch the filmed version of *SIX* in cinemas. Captured at London's Vaudeville Theatre, it stars the six original West End Queens. Written by Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss, the musical casts Henry VIII's wives as contemporary figures reclaiming their narratives, presenting their stories through pop music and modern performances. *SIX the Musical* has attracted over 3.5 million viewers globally since its debut at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2017. The filmed performance will be screened from 6 April 2025 in U.K. and Ireland cinemas, featuring the original West End cast. Moss and Jamie Armitage directed the stage production, with Liz Clare directing the film version. The cast are accompanied by an onstage band known as the Ladies in Waiting. The release comes as Universal Pictures Content Group (UPCG) secures the U.K. theatrical rights for the production. They have previously brought stage productions such as *The PHANTOM of the OPERA* and *Les Misérables: The Staged Concert* to cinemas. Details around international releases are expected to follow.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR returns to its rock roots at the Hollywood Bowl with Cynthia Erivo playing the role of Jesus

18 February 2025



The Hollywood Bowl tradition of the annual star-studded musical returns with *JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR*, the global phenomenon by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber that has wowed audiences for decades. Emmy, Grammy, and Tony winner, and three-time Oscar nominee Cynthia Erivo is cast as Jesus.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, originally released as a concept album and now returning to its rock roots at the Hollywood Bowl, features lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, with Tony Award winner Sergio Trujillo as director and choreographer, Tony winner Stephen Oremus as musical director and conductor, casting by The Telsey Office, and is produced in association with Neil Meron and Robert Greenblatt. First released as a concept album in 1970, *JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR* quickly became a cultural phenomenon before debuting on Broadway in 1971. The show tells the story of Jesus Christ's final days, focusing on the complex relationship between Jesus and his disciple-turned-betrayer, Judas Iscariot. The rock opera, featuring hit songs like "Superstar", "Gethsemane" and "I Don't Know How to Love Him", is set to bring a high-energy, visually stunning, and emotionally powerful rendition of this timeless story. Performances will take place between Friday, 1 August – Sunday, 3 August 2025.

Tony Winner and Oscar Nominee Cynthia Erivo Will Host the 2025 Tony Awards

by Darryn King • 19 February 2025



Cynthia Erivo (Photo: Mark Seliger)

Tony, Emmy and Grammy Award winner and three-time Oscar nominee Cynthia Erivo will host the 78th Annual Tony Awards. This year's ceremony will take place on 8 June at Radio City Music Hall in New York City. "I am so proud and excited to take on this glorious honour," said Erivo. "I am looking forward to ushering the theatre community at large through a night that celebrates the wonderful performances we have witnessed throughout the year. I hope I can rise to the occasion." Erivo mentioned her willingness to host the Tony Awards during the *Vanity Fair* lie detector test in September, when Ariana Grande asked her, "Is hosting an awards show the worst possible gig?" "No, I'd like to do it," Erivo responded. "I'd like to host the Tonys at some point." Erivo is a Tony winner for her performance as Celie in *The Color Purple*. Her performance as Elphaba in the *WICKED* movie has earned her Golden Globe, SAG, Critics' Choice, NAACP, BAFTA and Academy Award nominations. Presented by the Broadway League and the American Theatre Wing, the awards will recognise outstanding achievement by theatre professionals during the 2024-25 Broadway season. The Tony Awards are produced by Tony Award Productions, a joint venture of the League and the Wing, and White Cherry Entertainment; Ricky Kirshner and Glen Weiss serve as executive producers. Weiss will direct the broadcast. The ceremony will air on the CBS Television Network and stream on Paramount+ in the U.S., with nominations announced on 30 April.

Musical theatre bar, with performing staff, opens in the West End

Alex Wood – London, 19 February 2025



Inside "The Room Where It Happens" (© two-d photography)

New musical bar “The Room Where It Happens” has opened in Soho, offering a space for theatre fans to gather, sing, and enjoy a West End experience. Located on the top floor of 5 Greek Street, the venue aims to provide an interactive late-night atmosphere for show-tune enthusiasts. The space includes Oscar’s Bar, which is open during the day and serves cocktails, wines, and draught beers. From 5 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, as well as Saturdays, professional actors working as singing servers provide entertainment while serving drinks. A resident pianist will then lead a sing-along from 9 p.m., encouraging guests to participate in a communal performance of musical theatre classics. The bar’s cocktail menu features drinks inspired by musical legends, including the “Judy”, a mix of Chivas Regal 12, Disaronno, lemon, vanilla, and pinot noir, and the “Patti”, a combination of Olmeca tequila, lime, agave, cucumber, and chilli. The venue also offers a selection of wines, prosecco, champagne, and non-alcoholic mocktails. The menu includes small plates such as bacon-wrapped king prawns and burrata with roasted aubergine, alongside mains like miso-glazed salmon, rare duck breast with potato gratin, and sirloin steak. On Saturdays, a Bottomless Brunch is available for £45 per person, including drinks and dishes like eggs benedict, smashed avocado toast, and berry-stacked pancakes, also served by singing West End performers. The concept was developed by Tristan Moffat, former operations director at the Piano Works, alongside Maisie Sellwood from Sing Easy and Lucy Penrose and Dave Cribb from Overtures.

Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice Set to Collaborate on Sherlock Holmes Musical Comedy

Darryn King – 11 February 2025



Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice circa 1970 while promoting *JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR*
(Photo: Evening Standard/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice—the musical partnership behind *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR* and *EVITA* – are set to collaborate for the first time in years. The duo will pen original songs for a new comedy whodunnit, *Sherlock Holmes and the Twelve Days of Christmas*, which will premiere at Birmingham Rep on 14 November for a limited engagement through 11 January 2026. In a joint statement, Rice and Lloyd Webber said, “*Sherlock Holmes and the Twelve Days of Christmas* is pure mischief. It has the exuberance of a Christmas tree, the joy of a panto and a plot worthy of Conan Doyle. It’s wonderful to be working together again on something so unashamedly fun.” The play is written by Humphrey Ker and David Reed, who said, “There are few things that put us more in the mood for Christmas than all piling into the theatre for some much needed festive cheer. And what could be cheerier than a series of brutal murders underscored by a few new bangers from the mighty duo of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber?” Rice had previously ruled out working together again, saying they are “not relevant as a team anymore.” Lloyd Webber and Rice last shared co-writing credits in 2011, when they wrote new numbers for *The Wizard of Oz*. Their last major collaboration was 1978’s *EVITA*; a possible *SUNSET BLVD* collaboration was not to be. It’s Christmas in Victorian London but in the West End, a flurry of performers are suddenly dying mid-scene. Scotland Yard rules out foul play ... until the world’s greatest consulting detective, Sherlock Holmes, discovers an intriguing link to the Twelve Days of Christmas. *Sherlock Holmes and the Twelve Days of Christmas* will be directed by Phillip Breen with Becky Hope-Palmer.

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