

Production news (full listings at [www.thestage.co.uk/news/production](http://www.thestage.co.uk/news/production))

MUSICALS

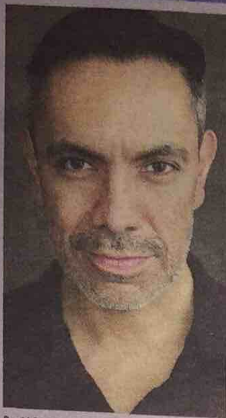
Full casting has been announced for the musical stage adaptation of Sue Townsend's *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 3/4*, which opens at Leicester's Curve in March. The role of Adrian will be shared by Lewis Andrews, Sebastian Croft, Joel Fossard-Jones and Toby Murray, while the cast also features Rosemary Ashe, Cameron Blakely, Amy Booth-Steel, Neil Ditt, Kirsty Holles and Neil Salvage. The show runs from March 7 to April 4, with press night on March 17.

Writer: Jake Brunger (book, lyrics), Pippa Cleary (music, lyrics)  
 Director: Luke Sheppard  
 Design: Tom Rogers (set), Howard Hudson (lighting), Paul Groothuis (sound)  
 Choreographer: Tim Jackson  
 Musical arrangement: Paul Herbert  
 Musical director: Mark Collins  
 Costume supervisor: Sally Wilson  
 Cast also includes: Elise Bugeja, Imogen Gurney, Lulu-Mae Pears, George Barnden, Kwame Kandekore, Samuel Small, Edward Cross, James McJannett-Smith and Harrison Slater  
 Producer: Curve

Phil Jupitus and David Bedella have joined the UK tour of *The Producers*. Cory English and Tiffany Graves will also appear in the production, which opens at the Churchill Theatre in Bromley in March before touring. They join the previously announced Jason Manfred and Louie Spence. Meanwhile, comedian Ross Noble will take over from Jupitus as Franz Liebkind from May 18.

Writer: Mel Brooks  
 Director: Matthew White  
 Design: Paul Farnsworth (set), Paul Anderson (lighting), Gareth Owen (sound)  
 Orchestration: Chris Walker  
 Choreographer: Lee Proud  
 Musical direction: Andrew Hilton  
 Cast also includes: Abigail Brodie, Jaye Elster, Rebecca Fennelly, Olivia Fines, Andrew Gordon-Watkins, Fenton Gray, Aime Hodnett, Paul Hutton, Nia Jermin, Joel Montague, Genevieve Nicole, Tosh Wanogho-Maud, Jay Webb, Russell Wilcox and Aron Wild  
 Producer: Adam Spiegel

Christine Baranski, Russell Watson and Ruthie Henshall are to star in a concert production of *Follies* at the Royal Albert Hall. The production will be staged on April 28 and will also feature Anita Dobson, Roy Hudd and Anita Harris. The show's music will be performed by the City of London Philharmonic Orchestra.  
 Writer: Stephen Sondheim (music and lyrics), James Goldman (book)  
 Director: Craig Revel Horwood  
 Choreographer: Andrew Wright  
 Casting: Anne Vossler  
 Producer: SilverBlue  
 Entertainment in association with Elliot Davis



David Bedella has joined *The Producers* UK tour

Charlotte Jaconelli will star in the Landor Theatre's production of *She Loves Me* next month. Jaconelli, who came second on ITV's *Britain's Got Talent* in 2012, will play Amalia Balash in the musical, which runs from February 4 to March 7, with press night on February 9.  
 Writers: Sheldon Harnick, Jerry Bock (music and lyrics), Joe Masteroff (book)  
 Director: Robert McWhir  
 Design: David Shields (set), Richard Lambert (lighting)  
 Choreographer: Robbie O'Reilly  
 Musical director: James Cleeve  
 Cast also includes: John Sandberg, Emily Lynne, Matthew Wellman, Joshua Leclair, David Herzog, Ian Dring, George Mulryan, Luke Kelly, Tom Whalley, Rosie Larkin, Olivia Holland Rose, Annie Horn and Susie Chaytow  
 Producer: Theatrica Ltd

The London Palladium will host the UK premiere of new musical *Beyond Bollywood* later this year. The show, which premiered in Mumbai, will run at the West End venue from May 8 to June 27, with press night on May 11.  
 Writer/director/choreographer: Rajeev Goswami  
 Music: Salim-Sulaiman  
 Lyrics: Irfan Siddiqui  
 Producer: RG Studios

PLAYS

Felicity Kendal will star in a West End transfer of Noel Coward's *Hay Fever* later this year. The production, which was originally staged at the Theatre Royal Bath last summer, will run at the Duke of York's Theatre from April 29 to August 1, with press night on May 11.  
 Writer: Noel Coward  
 Director: Lindsay Posner  
 Producer: Theatre Royal Bath Productions

Maureen Lipman and James Dreyfus are to star in a West End transfer of *Harvey* later this year. The revival is currently touring the UK and will run at the Theatre Royal Haymarket from March 17 to May 2. Press night will be on March 23.  
 Writer: Mary Chase  
 Director: Lindsay Posner  
 Producer: Don Gregory for Harvey West End Ltd in association with Birmingham Repertory Theatre

Greg Wise will lead the cast of Brad Fraser's *Kill Me Now* at the Park Theatre next month. It is directed by Brahm Murray and will run at the north London theatre from February 19 to March 29, with press night on February 24. Meanwhile, Muswell Hill transfers to the Park following a run at the White Bear Theatre last year. It is co-directed by Roger Mortimer and Deborah Edgington and will run from February 17 to March 14, with press night on February 19.

Theatre Ad Infinitum will stage the London premiere of its production of *Odyssey* as part of the Vault Festival. The show will star George Mann and will run from February 18 to March 1.  
 Writers: Mann and Nir Paldi  
 Director: Paldi

The Finborough Theatre will revive Gilbert and Sullivan's opera *Princess Ida* as part of its new spring season. Directed by Phil Wilmott, *Princess Ida* will run from March 24 to April 18, with press night on March 26. Elsewhere, the season includes *Our American Cousin* directed by Lydia Parker, *Harajuku Girls* by Francis Turnly and directed by Jude Christian, and *I Wish to Die Singing - Voices from the Armenian Genocide*, which has been devised by the Finborough's artistic director Neil McPherson. The season is completed by Ben Weatherill's *Chicken Dust* and *A New Play for the General Election* by Chris Dunkley.

Former Hollyoaks actor Gerard McCarthy is to star as a fired member of the musical *Cats* in a staging of one-man show *Cat*. The production will run at the Courtyard Theatre in Belfast from February 23 to 28, and has plans to run in London later in the year.  
 Writers: Richard Hardwick and Jamie Beamish  
 Producer: Courtyard Theatre

Roy Williams' *Antigone* is to play at the Theatre Royal Stratford East following a tour of the UK. The show, whose cast features Doreen Blackstock, Lloyd Thomas and Savannah Gordon-Liburd, will run from February 19 to March 14, with press night on February 24.  
 Writer: Roy Williams  
 Director: Marcus Romer  
 Design: Joanna Scotcher (set), Alexandra Stafford (lighting)  
 Music: Sandy Nuttgens  
 Producers: Pilot Theatre, Derby Theatre and Theatre Royal Stratford East

A View from the Bridge will be broadcast to cinemas as part of National Theatre Live in March. The production, which transfers to Wyndham's Theatre next month, will be broadcast to cinemas across the UK and around the world on March 26.  
 Writer: Arthur Miller  
 Director: Ivo van Hove  
 Producer: Young Vic Theatre

Campsite planned for artists at Edinburgh Festival Fringe

by Thom Dibdin

A temporary campsite offering discounts to performers and allowing them to showcase previews of their work is planned for this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

The site is planned by Campingninja, the company that created a pop-up site for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow last year.

It is expected to hold up to 1,000 campers in 350 tents, but the exact site has not yet been confirmed. However, Campingninja director Rhian Evans told The Stage that the preferred site is Inch Park, two miles south of Edinburgh High Street.

The site, which is situated around a community sports centre, is intended to be open for the duration of the fringe, from August 7 to 31. The campsite side-steps any change-of-use planning requirements because

it is open for less than 30 days.

Campingninja is proposing to have a separate performers' area in the site, and will offer discounts for 12- and 24-day passes. However, Evans told The Stage that both the opening time and the duration of passes were open to change.

Evans said: "We put it out there to see what feedback we get, and if it is more sensible to do something in a different way, then we can change it. We will probably canvas opinion in some way on the website, so we can get a sense of whether people want to come earlier."

The site will also have a breakfast stage where performers can showcase previews of their productions to early risers, according to Evans.

Details of the site are available on Campingninja's dedicated Edinburgh website at: [edinburghfestivalcamping.com](http://edinburghfestivalcamping.com)

UK theatre's most searched shows

January 7-13

In partnership with Ticketmaster, The Stage reveals trends in the interests of audiences.

Analysis

The Book of Mormon, which was new to the list last week, has dropped from eight to 10. There has been no change in the top four, with *Cats* holding on to the number one slot for the 11th week in a row. *Mamma Mia!*, last week's number 10, has climbed to number five.

- 1 *Cats*
- 2 *Matilda*
- 3 *Jersey Boys*
- 4 *War Horse*
- ↑ 5 *Mamma Mia!*
- ↑ 6 *Once*
- ↑ 7 *Dirty Dancing*
- ↓ 8 *Miss Saigon*
- ↓ 9 *Les Miserables*
- ↓ 10 *The Book of Mormon*

Methodology

Every time someone visits [Ticketmaster.co.uk](http://Ticketmaster.co.uk) and searches for a show, it is recorded in the company's system. These can then be filtered by event type.

[ticketmaster](http://ticketmaster)

ITALIA CONTI ARTS CENTRE

# BOYS OPEN DAY

## MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2015

Italia Conti Arts Centre is hosting a boys open day. This is a great opportunity for boys interested to train in the performing arts and to experience a dynamic and diverse programme of training specifically designed for boys. The breadth of classes will be taught by leading teachers and choreographers. At the end of the day, candidates will have the option to be considered for full-time training.

### 2 FULL-TIME & 2 PART-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO BOOK A PLACE  
 email: [info@italia-conti.com](mailto:info@italia-conti.com)  
 or telephone: 01483 568070

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