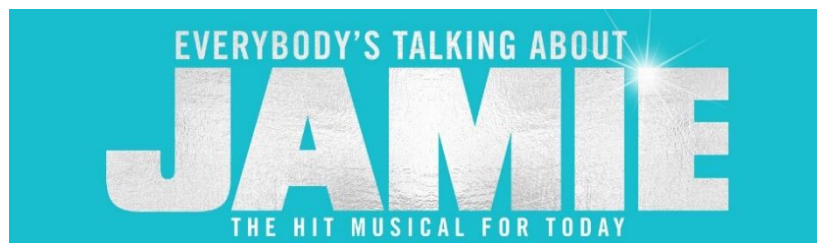


PRESS RELEASE: FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY

RUFUS HOUND AND KATY BRAND TO JOIN THE WEST END CAST OF



Everybody's Talking About Jamie, the award-winning fabulous and feel good musical sensation, is delighted to announce that actor, comedian and presenter **Rufus Hound** and actor, writer and comedian **Katy Brand** will be joining the cast this March to play Hugo/Loco Chanelle and Miss Hedge at the Apollo Theatre in London's West End.

Katy Brand said:

Joining the cast of Everybody's Talking About Jamie is a truly thrilling opportunity for me. If I could tell my teenage self that I would one day have the chance to perform in a huge hit show on the West End stage, that girl would pinch herself. Jamie gets to realise his dream every night, and now so do I!

Rufus Hound said:

I'm absolutely thrilled to be going into the cast of Everybody's Talking About Jamie - a brilliant, brave and British smash hit. I have been waxing for the last year in anticipation and am currently so tucked I may as well be a Ken doll. Bring. It. On.

Nica Burns, Producer of *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* said:

We are delighted that Katy Brand will be joining the cast as Miss Hedge and Rufus Hound as Hugo / Loco Chanelle. They will both bring their own incredible talent to their roles and make them their own.

Katy Brand will play Miss Hedge from 3 March until 20 June 2020 and **Rufus Hound** will play Hugo/Loco Chanelle from 16 March until 30 May 2020. They join current cast members: **Noah Thomas** (Jamie New), **Melissa Jacques** (Margaret New), **Sejal Keshwala** (Ray), **Hiba Elchikhe** (Pritti Pasha), **David O'Reilly** (Laika Virgin), **James Gillan** (Tray Sophisticay), **Leon Craig** (Sandra Bollock), **Marlon G Day** (Dad), **Jordan Ricketts** (Dean Paxton), **Alexander Archer** (Mickey), **Zion Battles** (Levi), **Zahra Jones** (Becca), **Emily Kenwright** (Vicki), **Keenan Knight** (Sayid), **Jordan Laviniere** (Cy), **Harriet Payne** (Bex), **Tilly La Belle Yengo** (Fatimah), **Rico Bakker** (Swing), **Ebony Clarke** (Swing), **Rachel Seirian** (Swing), **Joe Wolstenholme** (Swing), **Gillian Forde** (Alternate Miss Hedge/Understudy Margaret/Ray), **Brian James Leys** (Understudy Jamie's Dad/Drag Queens).

Rufus Hound is an award-winning actor, presenter and comedian. His extensive list of stage credits include Freddy in the original West End production of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, Francis Henshall in *One Man Two Guv'nors* (Theatre Royal Haymarket), Toad in *Wind In The Willows* (London Palladium) and more recently Sancho Panzo in *Don Quixote* (Garrick Theatre). He has also appeared in *Utopia* (Soho Theatre); *Neville's Island*, *What The Butler Saw*, *Present Laughter* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *The Wars Of The Roses* (Rose Theatre); *Dusty* and *The Provoked Island* (RSC). Rufus originated the role of

Dad in the recent RSC production of *The Boy In The Dress*.

On screen Rufus has appeared as a series regular in the hit comedies *Zapped* (Dave) and *Trollied* (Sky). His other TV credits include *Doctor Who*, *Cucumber*, *A Touch Of Cloth* and as the eponymous hero in the BBC's *Hounded*. His film credits include *Beautiful Devils*, *Scottish Mussel*, *Keith Lemon: The Movie*, *My Big Fat Gypsy Gangster* and the lead role of Raif in *The Wedding Video*. He can next be seen as Mr. Cato in *Kat And The Band*.

Rufus lends his vocal talents as the voice of Borka in *Ronja The Robbers Daughter*, as Gilbert in *Sadie Sparks* and as the title character Waffle in the BBC series *Waffle the Wonderdog*.

As a comedian, Rufus has been a regular team member on *Celebrity Juice* (ITV) for 7 series, and has appeared on a multitude of British comedy shows including *Countdown*, *Dave Gorman: Terms & Conditions*, *Never Mind The Buzzcocks*, *Would I Lie To You?*, *8 Out Of 10 Cats* and *You Have Been Watching* to name a very select few.

Rufus continues to host the multi award winning radio show *My Teenage Diaries* which is now in its 9th series.

Katy Brand started writing and performing from a young age and joined the Oxford University Drama Society and Oxford Revue while studying at University. Her first professional comedy performances were at the Ealing Film Studios, *Ealing Live!*, and the Edinburgh Fringe, *Celebrities are Gods*. She went on to devise, and star in, her award-winning ITV sketch show *Katy Brand's Big Ass Show* which ran for three series and later became a nationwide tour. She won a British Comedy Award for the show in 2008 and was also nominated for an RTS Award. During this time, she also co-wrote and performed in *Mouthtrap* with Katherine Parkinson which ran for two series on BBC Radio 4.

Her writing work includes developing scripts for Scott Free, Vertigo Films and Fudge Park for the film *The Festival*. She has also written for and appeared in numerous radio and TV shows, from BBC Radio 4's *News Quiz* to Channel 4's *Peep Show*.

Her acting credits cover a wide array of TV, Film and Radio shows, alongside regular live work. These include *Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang*, *Peep Show*, *Grandpa's Great Escape*, *Annually Retentive*, *Mongrels* and *Psychobitches*.

In 2016, Katy took her first stand-up comedy show *I Was A Teenage Christian* to the Edinburgh Fringe and later toured with it nationwide. She returned to the Fringe in 2017 with the follow-up show, *I Could've Been An Astronaut*. Her debut play *3Women* starring Anita Dobson opened at Trafalgar Studios 2 in May 2018 and is published by Samuel French. Her debut novel *Brenda Monk Is Funny* was published by Unbound in 2014 and her new book *I Carried A Watermelon*, part memoir-part homage to *Dirty Dancing* was published by HQ Harper Collins in October 2019. Katy presents *The Origin of Stuff* on BBC Radio 4, a show which looks at the history, science and design behind everyday objects, and hosts the Penguin Podcast where she interviews leading authors about their latest book.

Jamie New is sixteen and lives on a council estate in Sheffield.

Jamie doesn't quite fit in.

Jamie is terrified about the future.

Jamie is going to be a sensation.

Supported by his brilliant loving mum and surrounded by his friends, Jamie overcomes prejudice, beats the bullies and steps out of the darkness, into the spotlight. With catchy songs by lead singer-songwriter of *The Feeling*, Dan Gillespie Sells, and book and lyrics by writer Tom MacRae, this funny, fabulous, feel-good, musical sensation has been wowing audiences and critics alike. *Sixteen: the edge of possibility*. Time to make your dreams come true.

Watch the *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* trailer [here](#).

Music by **Dan Gillespie Sells**

Book and Lyrics by **Tom MacRae**

From an idea by **Jonathan Butterell**

Directed by **Jonathan Butterell**

Design by **Anna Fleischle**

Choreography by **Kate Prince**

Lighting design by **Lucy Carter**

Sound design by **Paul Groothuis**

Casting by **Will Burton**

Musical Supervisor **Theo Jamieson**

Musical Director **Richard Weeden**

Video Design **Luke Halls**

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Sheffield Theatres Production of *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* is produced in the West End by Nica Burns, Ian Osborne, Paula Marie Black, Teresa and Craig Beech.

Director Jonathan Butterell saw the Firecracker documentary film 'Jamie: Drag Queen at 16' the true story of Jamie Campbell and his mother, Margaret. This inspired him to create this musical which is a dramatised portrayal of a period in Jamie's life but is not a faithful account. Certain events and characters have been fictionalised.

Everybody's Talking About Jamie opened at the Sheffield Crucible in 2017 and is now playing at the Apollo Theatre in the West End, booking until 29 August 2020. As well as receiving 5-star reviews, *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* has won **8 major theatre awards**, including the **UK Theatre** and **WhatsOnStage Awards** for **Best New Musical** and the **Attitude Culture Award 2017**, and was nominated for **5 Olivier Awards**. Most recently the show won **Best Original Cast Recording** at the 2019 **WhatsOnStage Awards**.

Everybody's Talking About Jamie was screened live from the Apollo Theatre into over 500 cinemas across the UK, Ireland and select European territories on Thursday 5 July 2018, it was screened in cinemas across the US, Canada and Australia in November 2018 and then there was an encore cinema screening across the UK on 29 January 2019. *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* won the Event Cinema Campaign of the Year at the Screen Awards 2018. The official West End cast recording was released digitally worldwide and on CD in the UK on Friday 27 April 2018 and won the WhatsOnStage award for Best Original Cast Recording in 2019.

Everybody's Talking About Jamie is being made into a major film by New Regency, Film4 and Sheffield based production company Warp Films starring Richard E. Grant, Sharon Horgan, Sarah Lancashire and Max Harwood. The film will be released in October 2020.

A UK tour of ***Everybody's Talking About Jamie*** commenced in Sheffield on 8 February 2020 starring Layton Williams, Shane Richie, Shoba Gulati and George Sampson.

Twitter **@JamieMusical #JamieLondon**
Facebook and Instagram **Jamie Musical**

The producers cannot guarantee the appearance of any particular artist, which is always subject to illness, injury and statutory leave entitlement.

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BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE

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London W1D 7ES

Booking number: 0330 333 4809

Website: www.nimaxtheatres.com / www.EverybodysTalkingAboutJamie.co.uk

NO BOOKING FEES FOR BOOKINGS THROUGH THE THEATRE AND OFFICIAL WEBSITE

Performances Monday to Saturday at 7.30pm, Matinees – Wednesday and Saturday at 2.30pm.
Tickets from £20.

Booking until 29 August 2020.