

PRESS RELEASE

Friday 18 March 2022

- FULL CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR 101 DALMATIANS
- KATE FLEETWOOD PLAYS CRUELLA DE VIL

Regent's Park Open Air Theatre have today announced full casting for their forthcoming production of *101 Dalmatians* (12 Jul – 28 Aug), a newly commissioned musical written by **Douglas Hodge** (music and lyrics) and **Johnny McKnight** (book), from a stage adaptation by **Zinnie Harris**. Based on the book by **Dodie Smith**, leading the cast as the iconic villain **Cruella de Vil** is Olivier and Tony Award nominee **Kate Fleetwood**.

Dalmatians Pongo and Perdi are puppeteered by **Danny Collins** (Pongo Voice), **Emma Lucia** (Perdi Voice), **Yana Penrose** (Perdi Head) and **Ben Thompson** (Pongo Head).

Also joining the cast are: **Jamil Abbasi** (Ensemble), **Stuart Angell** (Captain Head), **George Bukhari** (Jasper), **Sonya Cullingford** (Ensemble), **Jade Davies** (Swing), **Karen Fishwick** (Danielle), **Joseph Fletcher** (Ensemble), **Taofique Folarin** (Swing), **Courtney George** (Ensemble), **Tash Holway** (Swing and Dance Captain), **CJ Johnson** (Ensemble), **Kody Mortimer** (Ensemble), **Simon Oskarsson** (Swing), **Tom Peters** (Captain Voice), **Eric Stroud** (Dominic), **Jonny Weldon** (Casper), and **Grace Wylde** (Madam Doué).

Director Timothy Sheader said:

"We are incredibly excited to finally bring 101 Dalmatians to our stage after postponing the production twice due to the pandemic. I think audiences are going to love reconnecting with this favourite story outside in Regent's Park; the original home of Pongo and Perdi. The brand new script and music are both packed with fun and joy and I am delighted that Kate Fleetwood's filming schedule for The Wheel of Time allows us the opportunity to work with her on creating that all time baddie, Cruella de Vil."

101 Dalmatians is created by: **Shanaé Chisholm** (Casting Assistant), **Josie Daxter** (Associate Director), **Jill Green CDG** (Casting Director), **Tash Holway** (Associate Choreographer), **Barbara Houseman** (Voice and Text & Season Associate Director), **Howard Hudson** (Lighting Designer), **Maia Kirkman-Richards** (Assistant Puppet Director), **Nick Lidster** for Autograph (Sound Designer), **Katrina Lindsay** (Costume Designer), **Ingrid Mackinnon** (Season Associate: Intimacy Support), **Tarek Merchant** (Musical Director), **Verity Naughton** and **Nick Hockaday** for Verity Naughton Casting (Children's Casting Directors), **Toby Olié** (Puppetry Designer and Director), **Colin Richmond** (Set Designer), **Timothy Sheader** (Director), **Liam Steel** (Choreographer) and **Sarah Travis** (Musical Supervisor and Orchestrator).

The Open Air Theatre is working with Mousetrap Theatre Projects to create a relaxed performance of *101 Dalmatians* on Sunday 14 August (2.15pm). Relaxed performances are designed to provide those with learning disabilities, those who are on the autism spectrum or have other sensory and communication needs who would benefit from a more relaxed environment, the opportunity to experience the production.

PRESS RELEASE

Kate Fleetwood currently plays the leading role of Liandrin Guirale in Amazon Prime's *The Wheel of Time*. Her previous stage roles include: Lady Macbeth (Chichester Festival/Gielgud/ BAM/Broadway) for which she was nominated for a Tony Award, Medea (Almeida) and Goneril in *King Lear* (National Theatre). She also appeared in *Absolute Hell* and *Ugly Lies the Bone* (National Theatre), *Bug* (Found111) and *Life is a Dream* (Donmar Warehouse), for which she received a WhatsOnStage Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress. Kate received an Olivier Award nomination for Best Actress in a Musical for *London Road* (National Theatre), and she also played Tracy Lord in *High Society* (Old Vic).

Kate's television credits include: *Victoria*, *War and Peace*, *The People Next Door*, *The Widower*, *Brave New World* and *Fate: The Winx Club Saga*. Her film credits include: *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, *The Negotiator*, *London Road*, *Philomena*, *Les Misérables* and *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows: Part 1*.

Regent's Park Open Air Theatre's 90th Anniversary season also includes the musical ***Legally Blonde*** (13 May – 2 July) directed by **Lucy Moss**, co-writer and co-director of *Six the Musical*, and - in a second commission from the theatre in 2022 - ***Antigone*** (3 – 24 September) by *Barber Shop Chronicles* writer **Inua Ellams** after Sophocles, directed by **Max Webster** and co-directed by **Jo Tyabji**.

Ends

PRESS CONTACTS

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* Mon-Fri 9am - 8pm / Sat 10am – 8pm / Sun & Bank Holidays 10am - 6pm. A £1.80 per ticket telephone booking fee applies.

Visit openairtheatre.com for latest ticket prices, concessions and discounts.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter: @OpenAirTheatre

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#OAT2022 / #LegallyBlonde / #101Dalmatians / #Antigone

SEASON PARTNER: Magic Radio

PRESS RELEASE

2022 LISTINGS

LEGALLY BLONDE

music and lyrics by **Laurence O'Keefe** and **Nell Benjamin**

book by **Heather Hach**

based on the novel by **Amanda Brown** and the **Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer** motion picture

Fri 13 May – Sat 2 July 2022

Press Night: Tues 24 May (7.45pm)

Performances:

Mon – Sat @ 7.45pm (gates 6.15pm)

Thurs & Sat @ 2.15pm (gates 12.45pm)

No matinee 14 or 19 May

Assisted Performances:

BSL Interpreted: Tues 21 June (7.45pm)

Captioned: Fri 24 June (7.45pm)

Audio Described & Touch Tour: Sat 25 June (2.15pm)

TICKETS FROM £25

Original Production by Hal Luftig, Fox Theatricals, Dori Berinstein, James L. Nederlander, Independent Presenters Network, Roy Furman, Amanda Lipitz, Broadway Asia, Barbara Whitman, FWPM Group, Ruth Hendel, Cheryl Wiesenfeld, Hal Goldberg, David Binder, James D. Stern, Dougals L. Meyer, Stewart F. Lane, Bonnie Comley, Robert G. Bartner, Michael A. Jenkins, Albert Nocciolino and Warren Trepp; Produced in association with MGM Onstage, Darcie Denkert and Dean Stolber.

101 DALMATIANS

A New Musical

music & lyrics by **Douglas Hodge**, book by **Johnny McKnight**

from a stage adaptation by **Zinnie Harris**

based on the book by **Dodie Smith**

Tues 12 July – Sun 28 Aug 2022

Press Night: Fri 22 July (7.45pm)

Performances:

Tues – Sat @ 7.45pm (gates 6.15pm)

Wed, Sat & Sun @ 2.15pm (gates 12.45pm)

Extra show Mon 18 July @ 7.45pm (gates 6.15pm)

No matinee 14, 16, 17, 21 or 24 July

Assisted Performances:

Relaxed Performance: Sun 14 Aug (2.15pm)

BSL Interpreted: Tues 16 Aug (7.45pm)

Captioned: Fri 19 Aug (7.45pm)

Audio Described & Touch Tour: Sat 27 Aug (2.15pm)

TICKETS FROM £25

KIDS GO HALF PRICE (Mon-Thurs, excludes Price Band AA)

PRESS RELEASE

ANTIGONE

by Inua Ellams
after Sophocles

Sat 3 Sept – Sat 24 Sept 2022

Press Night: Fri 9 Sept (7.30pm)

Performances:

Mon - Sat @ 7.30pm (gates 6.00pm)

Thurs & Sat @ 2.15pm (gates 12.45pm)

No matinee 3 or 8 Sept

Assisted Performances:

BSL Interpreted: Tues 13 Sept (7.30pm)

Captioned: Fri 16 Sept (7.30pm)

Audio Described & Touch Tour: Sat 24 Sept (2.15pm)

TICKETS FROM £25

All information correct at the time of going to print. For latest information visit www.openairtheatre.com