



## MISCHIEF RETURN TO THEIR COMEDY ROOTS WITH THREE SHOWS AT THE 75<sup>TH</sup> EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE

Mischief today announces their return to Edinburgh Festival Fringe, with three productions for 2022. The Olivier Award nominated improv show, *Mischief Movie Night* runs at the Pleasance at EICC (Pentland Theatre), 3 – 28 August, with full cast to be announced. **Henry Lewis**, **Jonathan Sayer** and **Henry Shields** create a brand new comedy, *Mind Mangler: Member of the Tragic Circle* at Pleasance Courtyard (Beyond), 3 – 28 August; and **Charlie Russell** tries to make everyone happy in her new heart-warming show, *Charlie Russell Aims To Please* at Pleasance Courtyard (Below), 3 – 27 August.

Mischief was founded in 2008 by a group of acting graduates of LAMDA and began as an improvised comedy group performing annually at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe from 2009. This marks the company's first month-long run back at the Festival since they presented *The Play That Goes Wrong* in 2013. The production went on to win an Olivier Award, and has since played to an audience of over two million with productions in over 30 countries. In August 2021 it became the longest running play at the Duchess Theatre (since the theatre opened in 1929), and is the longest running comedy in the West End.

**Henry Lewis** and **Jonathan Sayer** said today, *"We're absolutely delighted to be heading back to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe this year. The fringe is full of amazing memories for us and to be part of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with three shows, including new work is incredibly exciting."*

**Charlie Russell** also commented, *"I'm thrilled to be able to create new work with Mischief, and to be returning to Edinburgh and sharing with festival audiences who have supported us from the beginning and helped us get to where we are now."*

[MischiefEdFringe.com](http://MischiefEdFringe.com) | [MischiefComedy.com](http://MischiefComedy.com)

[@MischiefComedy](https://twitter.com/MischiefComedy)

[@TheMindMangler](https://twitter.com/TheMindMangler)

### CHARLIE RUSSELL AIMS TO PLEASE

Written and performed by **Charlie Russell**

Pleasance Courtyard (Below)

**3 – 27 August at 3.15pm**

Press Performance: From 5 August

Charlie Russell wants to do a show in Edinburgh, but all she can think about is what she wants people to think of it and ultimately, of her.

So rather than focusing on what she wants to say, she's just going to create a show that will please absolutely everyone by trying to hit as many solo fringe show tropes and styles as possible within an hour. That's doable, right?

**Charlie Russell** is an actor, writer, improviser, and Creative Associate of Mischief Theatre. Charlie is an original creator and cast member of all of Mischief's work so far, including *The Play That Goes Wrong* (UK tour/West End/Broadway), *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* (Pleasance/West End/BBC1 adaptation), *The Comedy About a Bank Robbery* (West End), *Groan Ups* (West End), *Mischief Movie Night* (London/UK tour) *A Christmas Carol Goes Wrong* (BBC1), and *The Goes Wrong Show* (BBC1). Charlie co-produced (as part of Mischief) the *Mischief Movie Night* (London/UK tour, 2017/2018). In 2019 she produced *Piano\_Play* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe). Her other acting credits include *And Then There Were None* (BBC1 & Mammoth Screen).

## MISCHIEF MOVIE NIGHT

Pleasance at EICC (Pentland Theatre)

**3 – 28 August at 6.30pm**

Press performance: From 5 August

Starring them, directed by you, every show is different with you suggesting a genre, location and title, and Mischief hilariously bring the show to life, complete with rewinds, directors cuts, thrilling live music and DVD extras that will have you howling with laughter.

Over 100,000 households tuned in from over 45 countries to watch the live streamed version in lockdown, now see Mischief's Olivier-nominated improv delight live on stage.

## MIND MANGLER: MEMBER OF THE TRAGIC CIRCLE

By **Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer** and **Henry Shields**

Pleasance Courtyard (Beyond)

**3 – 28 August 2022 at 9.30pm**

Press Performance: From 5 August

Mind Mangler returns to the stage at the 2022 Edinburgh Fringe following a reasonably good two-night run at the Luton Holiday Inn conference centre, suite 2b. His new spectacular is predicted to spiral into chaos as he attempts to read your mind.

Performed by Henry Lewis and Jonathan Sayer.

**Jonathan Sayer** is an Olivier Award-winning writer, actor, producer and Director of Mischief. His work has been performed in over 40 countries worldwide. Theatre credits include *Mischief Movie Night In* (co-creator/actor/producer - live stream), *Magic Goes Wrong* (writer/actor – West End/Lowry/UK Tour - Nominated for Best New Entertainment/Comedy Play - Olivier Award 2020, co-created with magicians Penn & Teller), *Groan Ups* (writer/actor - West End/UK tour), *Mischief Movie Night* (co-creator/actor/producer- West End/UK tours - nominated Best New Comedy - Olivier Award 2018), *The Comedy About a Bank Robbery* (writer/actor- Criterion Theatre/UK tour), *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* (writer/actor- UK tour/West End), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (actor/writer - Lyceum Theatre, Broadway/Duchess Theatre, West End/UK and international tour - Best New Comedy - Olivier Award and WhatsOnStage Award), *Lights! Camera! Improvise!* (actor, improviser, producer - Spirit of the Fringe Award 2013, Best Improv Show Award 2012) and *Happy Birthday Simon* (actor, Orange Tree Theatre). Television credits include *The Goes Wrong Show* (BBC1, writer/actor), *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* (BBC1, writer/actor/associate producer), *The Royal Variety Performance: The Play That Goes Wrong* (ITV, writer/actor), *A Christmas Carol Goes Wrong* (BBC1, writer/actor). Jonathan has also appeared in *We are Most Amused and Amazed* (ITV1), *Keep it in the Family* (ITV1), *Children in Need*

2020 (BBC1) and *Comic Relief 2022* (BBC1). Jonathan is a trustee for Mousetrap Theatre Projects and is the co-chair of Ashton United Football Club. He is currently working on his first book.

**Henry Lewis** is an Olivier Award-winning writer, actor and Director of Mischief, whose work has been produced in over 40 countries worldwide. Theatre credits include *Mischief Movie Night In* (co-creator/actor/producer - live stream), *Magic Goes Wrong* (writer/actor – West End/Lowry, 2020 Olivier nominee for Best New Entertainment/Comedy Play, co-created with Penn & Teller), *The Goes Wrong Show* (BBC1, writer/actor), *Groan Ups* (West End, writer/actor), *Mischief Movie Night* (West End/UK tours – 2018 Olivier Award nominee for Best New Comedy), *The Comedy About a Bank Robbery* (West End—2017 Olivier Award nominee for Best New Comedy), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (writer/actor, West End/Broadway/UK and international tours —2015 Olivier Award winner of Best New Comedy and WhatsOnStage Awards 2014), *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* (BBC1, West End/UK tour — 2016 Olivier nominee for Best New Comedy), *A Christmas Carol Goes Wrong* (BBC1, writer/actor). Henry has appeared at *The Royal Variety Performance* (ITV1), *We are Most Amused and Amazed* (ITV1), *Keep it in the Family* (ITV1), *Children in Need 2020* (BBC1) and *Comic Relief 2022* (BBC1). Henry produced and performed in the critically acclaimed revival of *Mercury Fur* (Trafalgar Studios— Off-West End Awards nominee for Best Production), *Beasts & Beauties* (Hampstead Theatre) and produced the UK premiere of Tracy Letts' *Superior Donuts* (Southwark Playhouse— winner of Peter Brook Empty Space Award). Henry created and founded *The Mystery Agency*.

**Henry Shields** is an Olivier award-winning writer, has been a member of Mischief Theatre since 2009 and is a Creative Associate of the company. Theatre credits include *Magic Goes Wrong* (writer/actor – West End/Lowry/UK Tour - Nominated for Best New Entertainment/Comedy Play - Olivier Award 2020, co-created with magicians Penn & Teller), *Groan Ups* (West End, writer/actor), *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* (writer/actor - 2016 Olivier Award nominee for Best New Comedy), *The Comedy About a Bank Robbery* (writer/actor), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (writer/actor - winner 2015 Olivier Award and WhatsOnStage Award for Best New Comedy), *The Nativity Goes Wrong* (writer), and *The Busy Body* (Southwark Playhouse). Television credits include *The Goes Wrong Show* (BBC1), *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* (BBC1), and *A Christmas Carol Goes Wrong* (BBC1).

Mind Mangler and Mickey are based on characters originally created in *Magic Goes Wrong* by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer & Henry Shields and Penn & Teller

## LISTINGS

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**Box Office:** [www.pleasance.co.uk](http://www.pleasance.co.uk)

### CHARLIE RUSSELL AIMS TO PLEASE

Pleasance Courtyard (Below)

3 – 27 August (except 15 August) at 3.15pm

Press Performance: From 5 August

#### Tickets:

£12.50 - £14 (concessions: £10.50 - £12)

3 – 4 August: £10 (previews)

8 – 9 August: 2 for 1

### MISCHIEF MOVIE NIGHT

Pleasance at EICC (Pentland Theatre)

3 – 28 August (except 15 August) at 6.30pm

Press Performance: From 5 August

**Tickets:**

£17 - £19.50 (concessions: £15 - £17.50)

3 – 4 August: £10 (previews)

8 – 9 August: 2 for 1

**MIND MANGLER: MEMBER OF THE TRAGIC CIRCLE**

Pleasance Courtyard (Beyond)

3 – 28 August (except 15 August) at 9.30pm

Press Performance: From 5 August

**Tickets:**

£16 - £18.50 (concessions £14 - £16.50)

3 – 4 August: £10 (previews)

8 – 9 August: 2 for 1

All Mischief shows will include access performances with dates confirmed soon. Please visit [MischiefEdFringe.com](http://MischiefEdFringe.com) for announcements.

NOTES TO EDITORS**MISCHIEF**

Mischief Theatre Ltd. was founded in 2008 by a group of acting graduates of LAMDA and began as an improvised comedy group. Mischief performs across the UK and internationally with original scripted and improvised work and also has a programme of workshops. The company is owned and controlled by its original members and is led by a creative group and its directors Henry Lewis and Jonathan Sayer.

Pre pandemic, Mischief had multiple productions playing in New York and London. *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Duchess Theatre, which re-opened 18 June 2021), *The Comedy About A Bank Robbery* (which played at the Criterion Theatre for four years) and following a record-breaking two-year run on Broadway it was represented Off Broadway by *The Play That Goes Wrong* (New World Stages since 2019, re-opened October 2021, co-produced with Kevin McCollum and JJ Abrams). In September 2019 the company started a West End residency at the Vaudeville Theatre with *Groan Ups* followed by *Magic Goes Wrong*. *Magic Goes Wrong* returned to the West End for a limited run at The Apollo Theatre from October 2021. Other Mischief productions, including *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*, regularly tour the UK, USA and worldwide.

In 2017 Mischief Theatre Ltd. and Kenny Wax & Stage Presence, the producers of all the company's West End productions, formed Mischief Worldwide Ltd. to manage the rights to all Mischief projects in all artforms. Mischief Worldwide Ltd., based in London, licenses copyrights, trademarks and other Mischief properties to producers, distributors, publishers and others around the world.

Mischief was first seen on television in the Royal Variety Performance of 2015 and subsequently in two BBC One Christmas specials, *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* (2016) and *A Christmas Carol Goes Wrong* (2017). In 2018 Mischief Worldwide Ltd. and the Anthology Group formed Mischief Screen Ltd., an independent TV production company headed by CEO Hilary Strong. Their Royal Television Society award-winning BBC One series *The Goes Wrong Show* aired in December 2019 with a Christmas special, further episodes in early 2020, and a hit Nativity special last Christmas. The second series aired in September 2021 on BBC One and iPlayer where the gang tackled a Downton-esque family saga and a US-style prison break drama, with predictably disastrous results.

All the companies develop, create and perform under the single name of Mischief. Mischief is developing new works of comedy for theatre, TV, film and other media.

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