



Press Release: 13 July 2022



MISCHIEF ANNOUNCE FULL CAST FOR OLIVIER AWARD NOMINATED IMPROV SHOW *MISCHIEF MOVIE NIGHT* AT THE 75TH EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE

Mischief, the award-winning company behind *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Magic Goes Wrong* and *The Comedy About A Bank Robbery* as well as BBC comedy series *The Goes Wrong Show*, today announces the full cast for the return of ***Mischief Movie Night***, the improvised movie live on stage.

The production runs at the Pleasance at EICC (Pentland Theatre), 3 – 28 August.

The cast includes **Rhyanna Alexander-Davis** as Not Sure, **Josh Elliott** as TBC, **Susan Harrison** as No Idea, **Dave Hearn** as ?????, **Harry Kershaw** as Decide Later, **Henry Lewis** as Someone Else **Charlie Russell** as Don't Know Yet, **Lauren Shearing** as Unknown, **Jonathan Sayer** as Figure it out on the night, and **Henry Shields** as Have a think and get back to me. They will be joined onstage by musician **Ed Zanders**.

Mischief also present **Henry Lewis**, **Jonathan Sayer** and **Henry Shields'** brand new comedy ***Mind Mangler: Member of the Tragic Circle***, starring Lewis and Sayer at Pleasance Courtyard (Beyond), 3 – 28 August. In addition **Charlie Russell** performs 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. 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**.

[ENDS]

MISCHIEF MOVIE NIGHT

Pleasance at EICC (Pentland Theatre)

3 – 28 August at 6.30pm

Press tickets available from 5 August

Mischief, the international, award winning makers of mayhem return to the Edinburgh Festival for the first time in 7 years, presenting **Mischief Movie Night**, the improvised movie live on stage!

Every performance is different. You suggest a genre, location and title and Mischief bring your movie to life, complete with rewinds, directors' cuts, live music and DVD extras that will have you howling with laughter.

Over **100,000** households from over **45** countries tuned in to watch the live-streamed version (**Mischief Movie Night-In**) during lockdown, now Mischief's **Olivier** nominated improv delight is back on stage.

BIOGRAPHIES

Rhyanna Alexander-Davis is a 2019 graduate of East 15. She is of Dominican and Jamaican heritage and was born in London. Her stage credits include *Beauty and the Beast* at the New Vic, *Mischief Movie Night In* at Riverside Studios and *The Visit* at the National Theatre. Screen credits include playing Miss Wannamaker in *The Ministry of Curious Stuff* (CBBC, 2012) and Daisy in *The Revolving World of Stanley Brown* (CBBC, 2012).

Josh Elliott is an original founding member of Mischief Theatre and has performed with company numerous times in shows including *Lights, Camera, Improvise!* And *Mischief Movie Night*. Josh currently works as a doctor and is a very silly man.

Susan Harrison trained at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She was a series regular in two series of the BAFTA winning TV show *Class Dismissed* (CBBC) and also in *Definitely Not Newsround* (CBBC), for which she created her own characters. Theatre credits include; *Mischief Movie Night* (Riverside Studios and on tour), *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* (Mischief Theatre/ West End), *The Elephantom* (National Theatre/West End), *Showstopper! The Improvised Musical* (West End and on tour), *Robin Hood and Marian* (New Vic Theatre), *Timpson The Musical* (Gigglemug Comedy), *Heels of Glory* (Chelsea Theatre), *Bagpuss* (Soho Theatre), *The Gathering* (Theatre Abandon), *Hansel & Gretel* (National Theatre of Scotland/Catherine Wheels), *Bazaar and Rummage* (Wanstead Fringe), *Men Should Weep* (Oxford Stage Company), *Cinderella* (Corn Exchange Newbury), *Aladdin* (Corn Exchange Newbury), *The Fence* (Wrestling School), *Little Women* (Theatreworks), *Bad Girls* (Polka Theatre/Watershed Productions), *The BFG* (Polka Theatre), *Charlie and Lola* (Polka Theatre/BBC Worldwide), *Nightflights*, *The Seagull*, *Mince*, *Abody's Aberdeen*, *Puss in Boots*, *Pants* (all for Dundee Rep), *Too Far to Walk* (Kings Head), *The Button* (Subtext Theatre). Radio includes; *Gemma Arrowsmith: Emergency Broadcast* (BBC Radio 4) and *The Simon Day Show* (BBC Radio 4).

Dave Hearn is an actor and founding member the Olivier Award-winning Mischief Theatre. Dave trained at LAMDA on the foundation course and then three years at Rose Bruford. His recent credits include: *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Broadway, West End & UK/International Tour - winner of Best New Comedy at the Olivier Awards 2015 and WhatsOnStage Awards 2014); *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* (BBC1, West End/UK Tour/Pleasance London-nominated for Best New Comedy at the Olivier Awards 2016); *The Comedy About a Bank Robbery* (West End-nominated Best New Comedy at the Olivier Awards 2017); *The Goes Wrong Show* (BBC1); *A Christmas Carol Goes Wrong* (BBC1); *Magic Goes Wrong* (Comic Relief BBC1); *Royal Variety Performance* (ITV); *Mischief Movie Night* (West End/UK Tour –

nominated for Best New Comedy at the Olivier Awards 2018). Dave also practices parkour, rock climbing and gymnastics.

Harry Kershaw trained at RADA and is a founding member of Mischief. Theatre Credits include: *What's New Pussycat?* (Birmingham Rep), *Edmond De Bergerac* (Birmingham Rep), *The Madness of George III* (Nottingham Playhouse/NT Live), *This House* (NT/UK Tour), *Mischief Movie Night* (West End/Tour), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (West End), *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* (Tour, West End, Pleasance), *Lights! Camera! Improvise!* (Various), *One Man Two Guvnors* (West End). Film includes: *Solitary*, *Exhibition*, *Unrelated*, *Blue Monday*, *Great Expectations*, *Skyfall*, *Rufus Stone*. Television: *Jerk*, *The Emily Attack Show*, *Supreme Tweeter*, *the Interceptor*, *Omid Djalili's Little Cracker*, *Switch*, *Cuckoo*, *Wallander*, *Endeavour*. Harry teaches Improvisation at LAMDA is also appearing in *Boris III* at this summer's Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

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*.

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).

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.

Lauren Shearing trained at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, and is one of the most prominent improvisers in the UK. She is a cast member of the Olivier-award winning *Showstopper! The Improvised Musical* and *Austentatious: An Improvised Jane Austen Novel* and performs with both companies in the West End and on tour across the UK. She is also a regular guest with the renowned Comedy Store Players. She is one half of improv double act *Breaking & Entering* with Maria Peters and one third of three-woman improv troupe *Anxiety Club* with Charlotte Gittins & Briony Redman. Lauren is also a co-founder of *The Playground*, a ground-breaking night of improvisation that showcases new female talent and brings together some of the most experienced improvisers in the country.

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).

MischiefEdFringe.com | MischiefComedy.com
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MISCHIEF EDINBURGH LISTINGS

Box Office: www.pleasance.co.uk

CHARLIE RUSSELL AIMS TO PLEASE

Starring **Charlie Russell**

Directed by **Katie-Anne McDonough**

Pleasance Courtyard (Below)

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

Press tickets available from 5 August

Tickets:

£12.50 /£14 (concessions: £10.50/£12)

3 – 4 August: £10 (previews)

8 – 9 August: 2 for 1

Signed performance on **Tuesday 16th August** using BSL interpretation.

Captioned performance on **Thursday 18th August** using open captioning.

Audio described performance on **Monday 22nd August** which will be integrated.

MISCHIEF MOVIE NIGHT

Pleasance at EICC (Pentland Theatre)
3 – 28 August (except 15 August) at 6.30pm
Press tickets available from 5 August

Tickets:

£17/£19.50 (concessions: £15/£17.50)
3 – 4 August: £10 (previews)
8 – 9 August: 2 for 1

Signed performance on **Tuesday 16th August** using BSL interpretation.
Captioned performance on **Thursday 18th August** using open captioning.
Audio described performance on **Tuesday 23rd August** which will be integrated.
Relaxed performance on **Wednesday 24th August**.

MIND MANGLER: MEMBER OF THE TRAGIC CIRCLE

Written by **Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer** and **Henry Shields**.
Starring **Henry Lewis** and **Jonathan Sayer**
Directed by **Hannah Sharkey**
Magic Consultant **Ben Hart**

Pleasance Courtyard (Beyond)
3 – 28 August (except 15 August) at 9.30pm
Press tickets available from 5 August

Tickets:

£16/£18.50 (concessions £14/£16.50)
3 – 4 August: £10 (previews)
8 – 9 August: 2 for 1

Signed performance on **Tuesday 16th August** using BSL interpretation.
Captioned performance on **Thursday 18th August** using open captioning.
Audio described performance on **Monday 22nd** which will be integrated.

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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