

For immediate release

**THE WEST END MUSICAL HIT
“EVERYBODY’S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE” ANNOUNCES
FULL CASTING FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE ENGAGEMENT
AT THE AHMANSON THEATRE
JANUARY 16 THROUGH FEBRUARY 20, 2022**

Casting has been announced for the North American premiere of the West End hit musical **“Everybody is Talking About Jamie”** coming to Los Angeles at the Center Theatre Group / Ahmanson Theatre January 16 through February 20, 2022.

It was previously announced that Layton Williams and Roy Haylock (also known as Bianca Del Rio, winner of “RuPaul’s Drag Race”) will be reprising their roles from the West End production as Jamie and Hugo/Loco Chanelle, respectively. They are joined by Melissa Jacques as Margaret, Shobna Gulati as Ray (also stars as Ray in the New Regency film), Gillian Ford as Miss Hedge, Hiba Elchikhe as Pritti Pasha, James Gillan as Tray Sophisticay, David O’Reilly as Laika Virgin, Leon Craig as Sandra Bollock, Richard Appiah-Sarpong as Cy, Zion Battles as Levi, Ryan Hughes as Mickey, Jodie Knight as Fatimah, Harriet Payne as Bex, Adam Taylor as Sayid and Rachel Seirian as Swing all of whom were involved in the West End production. The Los Angeles cast also features George Sampson as Dean, Cameron Johnson* as Jamie’s Dad, Kazmin Borrer as Vicki, Talia Palamathanan as Becca, Simeon Beckett as Swing/Dance Captain and Emma Robotham-Hunt as Swing/Assistant Dance Captain who were in the UK touring production.

Inspired by a true story, winner of three WhatsOnStage Awards including Best New Musical and nominated for five Olivier Awards, this funny, fabulous musical sensation has thrilled audiences and critics alike since opening in 2017. Fresh and contemporary with an extraordinary mother and son relationship at its center, “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” celebrates acceptance, belonging, the power of unconditional love of a mother for her child and how good life is when everybody is the best they can be.

Jamie New (played by Williams) is sixteen and lives in public housing in Sheffield, England. Jamie doesn’t quite fit in, he’s terrified about the future and he’s going to be a sensation. Supported by his loving mum (played Jacques); inspired by local legend Hugo and his alter ego Loco Chanelle (played by Haylock); and surrounded by his friends, Jamie overcomes prejudice, beats the bullies and steps out of the darkness, into the spotlight. “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” features catchy songs with music by Dan Gillespie Sells, lead singer-songwriter of the UK rock band The Feeling, and lyrics by Tom MacRae, who also wrote the book.

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 dramatized portrayal of a period in Jamie’s life but is not a faithful account. Certain events and characters have been fictionalized.

“Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” features design by Anna Fleischle, choreography by Kate Prince, lighting design by Lucy Carter, sound design by Paul Groothuis, casting by Will Burton and video design by Luke Hall. The musical supervisor is Theo Jamieson.

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. “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” opened at the Sheffield Crucible in 2017 before moving to the Apollo Theatre in London’s West End. In addition to receiving five-star reviews, “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” has won eight major theatre awards including the UK Theatre and WhatsOnStage Awards for Best New Musical and the Attitude Culture Award 2017 and was nominated for five 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 July 5, 2018, it was screened in cinemas across the US, Canada and Australia in November of 2018 and there was an encore cinema screening across the UK on January 29, 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 April 27, 2018.

“Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” has been made into a major film by New Regency, Film4 and Sheffield based production company Warp Films starring Max Harwood, Sarah Lancashire, Lauren Patel, Shobna Gulati, Ralph Ineson, Adeel Akhtar, Samuel Bottomley, with Sharon Horgan and Richard E. Grant. The stage production’s director, Jonathan Butterell, makes his feature-film debut as director. “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” was released globally on Amazon Prime on September 17, 2021.

Center Theatre Group, one of the nation’s preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles’ leading nonprofit theatre company, which, under the leadership of Managing Director / CEO Meghan Pressman and Producing Director Douglas C. Baker, programs seasons at the 736-seat Mark Taper Forum and 1,600 to 2,100-seat Ahmanson Theatre at The Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles, and the 317-seat Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City. In addition to presenting and producing the broadest range of theatrical entertainment in the country, Center Theatre Group is one of the nation’s leading producers of ambitious new works through commissions and world premiere productions and a leader in interactive community engagement and education programs that reach across generations, demographics and circumstance to serve Los Angeles.

Bank of America is Center Theatre Group’s 2021 – 2022 Season Sponsor. Bank of America believes in the power of the arts to help economies thrive, to educate and enrich societies, and to create greater cultural understanding. For more than 20 years, the company has supported Center Theatre Group’s innovative Education and Community Partnerships programs as well as world-class productions. Bank of America is also an instrumental supporter in accelerating Center Theatre Group’s commitment to becoming an anti-racist, equitable, diverse, and inclusive organization.

American Express is the official credit card for Center Theatre Group and the presenting sponsor of the Digital Stage.

Center Theatre Group requires all guests to wear a mask and provide proof of full vaccination, along with a government or education issued photo ID upon arrival. Per the guidelines set by the CDC, “full vaccination” means that at least 14 days have passed since receiving the second dose of an FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine. Booster shots are highly recommended and will be required in February for anyone who is eligible. Unvaccinated guests, including children or those with a medical or religious reason, must provide proof of a negative PCR COVID-19 test taken no more than 48 hours prior to attending an indoor performance, or a negative rapid antigen test taken no more than 24 hours prior to attending an indoor performance.

Center Theatre Group will continue working closely with The Music Center and L.A. County officials to ensure they are following all applicable health and safety protocols. More information regarding safety updates as well as audience vaccination, testing and mask requirements is available at CenterTheatreGroup.org/Safety.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter: @JamieMusical

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November 4, 2021 / Revised January 13, 2022

* *Please note: An earlier version of this release listed a different actor in this role.*

BIOS

Layton Williams (he/him, *Jamie New*). Layton was born in Bury, Manchester and he began his career at the age of 12 playing the title role of Billy in the West End production of “Billy Elliot.” He made his debut TV appearance as Kylie in the BBC comedy “Beautiful People.” He went on to train at Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts which was documented on CBBC’s “School for Stars.” Layton is so excited to be returning to the title role of Jamie in “Everybody’s Talking about Jamie” on the UK/International Tour. During lockdown, Layton shot “Murder They Hope for Gold” (UKTV) and will appear alongside Greg Davies’ new BBC One comedy “The Cleaner” starring Helena Bonham-Carter and David Mitchell. Theatre Credits include: Connor in “Hushabye Mountain” (Hope Mill); Jamie in “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” (West End and UK Tour); Paul in “Kiss Me Kate” (Crucible); Seaweed in “Hairspray!” (UK Tour); Angel in “RENT” (London/UK Tour). For “Matthew Bourne’s New Adventures;” “The Car Man” & “The Lord of the Flies” (London/UK Tour); Young Michael in “Thriller Live!” (West End). TV/Film credits include; Dancing in “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” (Amazon), “Rocketman” (Paramount). Larry in “Benidorm” (ITV); Russell in “Postcode” (CBBC). Layton played series regular Stephen’ in the BBC Comedy “Bad Education” and reprised his role in the “Bad Education” feature film. Layton is the director of “Pros from The Shows” which provides high quality workshop experiences for young performers. @laytonwilliams @prosfromtheshows.

Roy Haylock (Roy/him, *Hugo/Loco Chanelle*). Bianca Del Rio (she/her), otherwise known as Roy Haylock (Roy/him), is a dimple-cheeked, larger-than-life drag queen and outrageous comic who isn’t afraid to shock and offend. When it comes to insult comics, Bianca is in a class by herself. Fierce, funny, and fabulous, she has sandblasted her name in the annals of pop culture on “RuPaul’s Drag Race.” Thanks to her snarky frankness, impeccable timing, and politically incorrect humor, she became the show’s breakout star, winning its sixth season. Dubbed the “Joan Rivers of the Drag World” (The New York Times), there isn’t anything Bianca is afraid to say.

A self-professed “clown in a gown,” Bianca is quick to point out that she is the biggest joke of all. Bianca’s brand continues to expand with her recently launched makeup remover, The Bianca Remover, which is currently Amazon’s top selling beauty product. Among her many accomplishments, Bianca starred in the feature film “Hurricane Bianca” (2016) (available on Hulu), its sequel “Hurricane Bianca 2: From Russia with Hate” (2018) (available on Netflix), the Vimeo original comedy special “Rolodex of Hate,” and the Logo original television specials “Not Today Bianca.” Bianca has also taken her trademark wit and sharp commentary to the page in her book “Blame It On Bianca Del Rio: The Expert on Nothing with an Opinion on Everything” (Harper Collins 2018). Bianca made history in 2019 by being the first drag queen to headline Carnegie Hall and Wembley Arena, selling out both venues, with her stand-up comedy show “It’s Jester Joke.” She recently kicked off her fifth global stand-up comedy tour, “Unsanitized,” but will be taking a brief break from her tour to return to the hit musical “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” in the role of Hugo/Loco Chanelle on it’s tour of the UK and Los Angeles. For all things Bianca, visit her website TheBiancaDelRio.com

Melissa Jacques (she/her, *Margaret New*). Training: The Constance Grant Dance Centre, Sheffield and London School of Musical Theatre. Theatre includes: Margaret New in “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” (Apollo – West End); Trish in “Kinky Boots” (Adelphi Theatre) “Wicked,” “Midwife,” “Madame Morrible Cover” (Victoria Palace); Original cast member of “Mamma Mia” (London), alternate ‘Donna’ and understudying all of The Dynamos; “My Fair Lady” (Esplanade Theatre, Singapore); “Chess” (Spektrum Arena, Oslo); “Company,” “Into the Woods” (Derby Playhouse); “The Full Monty” (UK tour); “Spend, Spend, Spend” (West Yorkshire Playhouse & UK tour); “A Slice of Saturday Night,” “Oliver,” “Beauty and the Beast” (Theatre Royal, Lincoln); “Little Shop of Horrors” (Millfield Theatre); “Me and My Girl,” “Crazy for You” (Aberystwyth); Workshops include: “We Will Rock You,” “Desperately Seeking Susan,” “Blag,” “Paris Thunder.” Melissa was one-sixth of the close vocal harmony group The Unconventionals who released their album “Flower to the People.”

Shobna Gulati (she/her, *Ray*) became a household name for her role as Anita in Victoria Wood’s “dinnerladies,” as Sunita in “Coronation Street” and Najia in “Doctor Who.” Shobna was recently seen as Ray in the film adaptation of “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie.” Her theatre credits include, amongst others, “Going the Distance” (Lawrence Batley / Oxford Playhouse & Online) “Cinderella” (Lyric Hammersmith), Richard II (The Globe), “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” (The Apollo Theatre & UK Tour) and “Daisy Pulls It Off” (The Park). Further television credits include “Hullraisers” (Ch4), Selma in “My Name is Leon” (BBC), “Midsomer Murders” (ITV), “Murder They Hope” (for Gold UKTV) “Doctors” (BBC), “Casualty” (BBC), “Eastenders” (BBC), and “Paranoid” (ITV1/Red/Netflix), amongst others. Shobna has also written and directed the critically acclaimed comedy show for young women, “The Masala Girls.” Her memoir, “Remember Me? Discovering my mother as she lost her memory,” which was published by Octopus Books is out now.

Gillian Ford (she/her, *Miss Hedge*). Originally from Stirling in Scotland, Gillian trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London. West End Theatre: “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” (The Apollo) and “The Sound of Music” (The Palladium). Regional Theatre: “Mamma Mia!” (UK Tour); “Cinderella” (The Kings, Glasgow); “It’s a Wonderful Life,” “Whisky Galore,”

“The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie,” “What Every Woman Knows” and “A Servant o’ Twa Maisters” (Pitlochry Festival Theatre); “Hay Fever” (UK Tour); “The Marriage-go-Round” (The Lyceum, Crewe); “Songs for a New World” (Judi Dench Theatre, London) and “Jack and the Beanstalk” (The Kings, Edinburgh). Workshops: “What’s New Pussycat?” (Ambassador Theatre Group) and “The Walpole Orange” (Regents Park Open Air Theatre), Film/Television: “Yo! Diary!” (BBC 1, The Comedy Unit) and “The Honeymoon” (FilmFour).

George Sampson (he/him, *Dean*). George found his passion for performing on the streets of Manchester, Market Street, at the age of 12, where he would busk three times a week and where he was spotted as an exceptional talent and encouraged to audition for “Britain’s Got Talent.” At the age of 14, he rose to fame after winning the popular ITV talent show with his interpretation of “Singin’ in the Rain.” Following the success of the show, he went on to star in the West End in “Into the Hoods” and two national arena tours. George also starred as Eddie in the feature films “StreetDance 3D” and “StreetDance 2,” where he found his love for acting. He then went on to shoot three series of the BBC drama “Waterloo Road,” playing bad boy Kyle Stack, in which one series won a National Television Award for Best Drama. Having found a desire for screen work, George began working on “Mount Pleasant,” playing the role of Gary, and also appeared on “Emmerdale,” as troublemaker Ryan. In 2016, he starred on “Britain’s Got Talent’s” 10-year anniversary show and performed alongside Diversity. George played the main character Daniel in the short film “Daniel Thomas,” produced by East Heads Films in 2017. Throughout his career, George has featured on television, film, and numerous pantomimes and Easter theatre tours. After making his musical theatre debut in “Our House,” which combined his love for both acting and performing arts. He had such a successful run with his first Qdos Entertainment pantomime at Lyceum Theatre, Crewe, in 2018; he returned the following year for Qdos Entertainment to the Hippodrome, Darlington, to play Jack in Jack and the Beanstalk. In 2019, George appeared on “Britain’s Got Talent: the Champions.”

Hiba Elchikhe (she/her, *Pritti Pasha*). Training: Mountview Theatre Arts and The Brit School. Credits include: Brooklyn in “Brooklyn The Musical” (Greenwich Theatre), “Fiver” (Southwark Playhouse), “Antony & Cleopatra” (National Theatre), Princess Jasmine in “Aladdin” (Australia), Mrs Santiago/Understudy Molly in “Ghost the Musical” (Asia), “The Sound Of Music: Live” (ITV), featured soloist in “Friday Night is Music Night” for BBC Radio 2 and “Bend it Like Beckham” (workshop). Original albums: “Broken wings,” “Fiver,” “In the willows.” Socials: @hiba_elchikhe.

***Cameron Johnson** (he/him, *Jamie’s Dad*). Cameron trained at LAMDA. Professional credits include: Mr Myers in “Fame The Musical” (UK Tour), Widow Twankey in “Aladdin” (Peter Rowe Rock & Roll Pantomime), Morocco in “Europe” Mike Connor in “High Society” and Bruce in “People” (all at Pitlochry Festival Theatre), Big Moe in “Five Guys Named Moe” (Underbelly Festival Square Edinburgh), Big Jule in “Guys & Dolls” (UK Tour & Phoenix Theatre), Memphis in “The Life” (English Theatre Frankfurt), Marvin in “I Will Be Everything” (New International Encounter), Nugget in “Equus” (Pomegranate Theatre), Jacob Marley in “A Christmas Carol,” The Narrator in “The Boxed Romeo & Juliet” (both for BoxClever Theatre) and Mrs. Rochester in “The Brontës of Dunwich Heath...and Cliff” (Eastern Angles). Cameron also masquerades as a live vocal looping artist, electric bassist and semi-professional drag queen. He is originally from

Toronto but has lived in and around London for much of his life. As a result, he lost the Canadian twang long ago and feels like a bit of a fraud. London has been kind to him though, proving to be the perfect backdrop for a career in pretending to be someone he's not.

Leon Craig (he/him, *Sandra Bollock*). Training: Guildford School of Acting. Theatre credits include: Babkak & cover Genie in Disney’s West End “Aladdin” (Prince Edward Theatre, London); Audrey II Voice of the plant in “Little Shop Of Horrors” (Salisbury Playhouse & Mercury Theatre Colchester); Queen Of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland* (UK tour); King Herod in “Jesus Christ Superstar” (World Arena tour); Rodney in “My Big Gay Italian Wedding (Greenwich Theatre, London); Melvin P Thorpe in “The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas” (Union Theatre, London); Lead singer in Soul Sunday “The Songs Of Michael Jackson” (Warwick Castle); Company in “Myths & Hymns” (Finborough Theatre, London); Sid/Inventor in “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang” (UK tour); Montel/Jesus in “Jerry Springer The Opera” (Cambridge Theatre, London); Chuck Brown in “Over the Rainbow” (UK tour); Company in “On the Shelf” (Edinburgh Festival); Man 1 in “Exit Allan” (Sherman Theatre, Cardiff). TV credits include: Presenter/Host “Goldwell Colour Zoom Hair” (Vienna); “Jerry Springer the Opera” (BBC 2); Footballer/Cream guy in “Paddy Power World Cup” (ITV); “Nintendo Wii” (UK). Film credits include: “Jerry Springer the Opera” (Avalon); “Jesus Christ Superstar World Arena Tour” (Universal & Really Useful Group). Leon has appeared in over 14 Pantomimes over the Country as Dame. Twitter: Leoncraig1. Instagram: leoncraigofficial.

David O'Reilly (he/him, *Laika Virgin*). TV: Steve in “Better Things” (FX), Finn Pendle in “Doctors” (BBC), Bean in “Benidorm” (ITV) Chobado in “Furiki Wheels” (Disney XD) Boogie in “Tiki Tam Tam” (Pilot), Nigel Nit Boy in “Worlds Worst Children” (Teaser), Ronan in “Round Ireland with a Fridge” (Fridge D’or). Theatre: Shem in “Children of Eden” (Cadogan Hall), Franics Henshall in “One Man Two Guvnors” (Derby Theatre), Jamie in “Catherine Tate Live” (West End, Australian & New Zealand Tour), Cecil Graham in “Lady Windermere’s Fan” (Vaudeville Theatre), Standby Elder Cunningham in “The Book Of Mormon” (Prince Of Wales), Roger in “Grease” (West End & UK Tour), Reggie in “Bluebirds” (Above The Stag).

James Gillan (he/him, *Tray Sophisticay*). Theatre Credits: Tray Sophisticay in “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” (Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue and Sheffield Crucible) Lady Puck in “The Donkey Show” (Camden Proud Galleries), Mr Tumnas in “The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe” (The Rose theatre Kingston), Seymour in “Little Shop of Horrors” (Aberystwyth Arts Theatre), Colin in “The Secret Garden” (Birmingham Rep and West Yorkshire Playhouse), Peter in “Peter Pan” (West Yorkshire Playhouse and the Royal Festival Hall) , Original Boq in “Wicked” (Apollo Victoria theatre), John Hinckley in “Assassins” (Sheffield Crucible theatre) , Rusty in “Starlight Express” (Apollo Victoria theatre and 1st national tour) , Marilyn in “Taboo” (National tour), Nick in “Fame” (Arena tour Of Sweden) James in “Godspell” (Chichester Festival Theatre), Iras in “Antony and Cleopatra” and Lucius in “Julius Caesar” (Shakespeare's Globe theatre) , Pippin in “Pippin” (The Bridewell Theatre), “Tommy” at the Shaftesbury theatre (Oliver Award Nomination for best supporting performance in a musical) , Benjamin in “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” (National tour) and James in “James and the Giant Peach” (National tour) . TV Credits: “Doctors” (BBC), ““Orrible” (BBC), “Casualty” (BBC) “The Seven Industrial Wonders of the World” (BBC), “The Inbetweeners” (Channel 4) “The C Word” (BBC), “A Tale of Two Cities” (CBS) and most recently “Suspects” the improvised cop drama for Channel 5. Recordings:

“Everybody's Talking About Jamie” (original West End cast recording), “Peter Pan,” “Easy Virtue” (soundtrack), “A Tale of Two Cities” (international cast recording).

Richard Appiah-Sarpong (he/him, Cy) trained at the Urdang Academy, where he graduated with a first-class BA (hons) in 2019. Theatre credits include: Pepe/understudy Chino in “West Side Story” (Leicester Curve Theatre); Donny in “The Wedding Singer” (Daegu Opera House) and “Back to the Future” (workshop).

Zion Battles (he/him, *Levi*). Training: The Brit School Of Performing Arts. Theatre Includes: “Groove On Down The Road” (Zonation). Danced for: Steff London and Skepta. Film: “PAN,” “Everybody's Talking About Jamie: The Film” (2020). Music: Cosigned artist by Little Mix, Stormzy, Wiley, Chipmunk, Wretch 32. Performed at: Wireless Festival 2018 & 2019, Mutiny Festival 2018

Kazmin Borrer (she/her, *Vicki*). Training: Arts Educational Schools London - awarded the Cone Ripman Prize for Musical Theatre in 2015. Film and television includes: Blythe in “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” (Warp Films); Stella (Fifth Colony) in “How to Talk to Girls at Parties” (See-Saw Films); Rebecca in “Honey” (Floodwater Films); Cari in “Baggage” (Bertil Nilsson); Lauren in “What I Learnt” (Marmalade Film and Media); dancer in “Michael McIntyre’s Very Christmassy Christmas Show” (BBC) and “Red in Little Red Hoodie” (Imagine Pictures and Hopscotch Films). Theatre includes: dancer in “Salome” (London Coliseum/English National Opera); guest performer at “MOVE IT” and Capezio Championships final; Maria in “The Last Days of Jack Sparks” (OFF Book’s Urban Fright, Waterstones, Piccadilly, London) and Khadija in “Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens” (Insideout Theatre Productions Ltd/the Tron Theatre, Glasgow).

Ryan Hughes (he/him, *Mickey*). Training: ZooNation Dance Company. Credits include: swing for various ZooNation productions: “Groove on Down the Road,” “Into the Hoods: Remixed” and “The Mad Hatter’s Tea Party;” original West End cast member of “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” as Mickey.

Jodie Knight (she/her, *Fatimah*). Training: Midlands Academy of Dance and Drama (MADD College). Credits whilst training: Danielle in “Bring It On” and French Guard/ensemble in “Spamalot.” Jodie also held the position of ‘College Dance Captain’ throughout her training. Other credits include: “MOVE IT” – dance exhibition both 2018 and 2019 at the Excel Centre, London. Jodie is thrilled to be resuming her role as Fatimah in the UK tour of “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” which marks her professional stage debut and she dedicates her performances to her Mum, without whom she wouldn’t be where she is today. Instagram: @_jodieknight_.

Talia Palamathanan (she/her, *Becca*). Training: The BRIT School. Talia also trained part-time at the Laura Bruce Dance Academy and Flawless Dance School. Theatre includes: Anne Margaret in “Teenage Dick” (Donmar Warehouse - 2021), “West End Musical Celebration” (Palace Theatre), Hortensia in *Matilda the Musical* (Cambridge Theatre). Film includes: “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” - The Film. TV includes: Pav in “Hank Zipzer” (CBBC), “Children in Need” 2013 performing with the cast of “Matilda the Musical” (BBC). Other Work includes: “Evening Standard

Theatre Awards 2019” with Cush Jumbo & Drew McOnie, Michael Bubl  and Idina Menzel’s “Baby it’s Cold Outside” music video.

Harriet Payne (she/her, *Bex*). Training: Italia Conti. Credits include: Bex & 1st Cover/Played Miss Hedge in “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” (Apollo Theatre - West End), Bex in “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” (Sheffield Crucible and Workshops), Fern in “Charlotte’s Web” (Gordon Craig Theatre), “Snow White” (Southport Theatre and Grimsby Auditorium), Princess Aurora in “Sleeping Beauty” (Millfield Arts Centre, London), “The Little Mermaid” (Dugdale Centre, London), Beauty in “Beauty and the Beast” (The Victoria Theatre, Halifax), Dorothy in “The Wizard of Oz” (Tour), Wendla in “Spring Awakening” (The Bull Theatre, Barnet). Harriet is also one third and co-founder of the 1920s vocal trio The Wild Tonics. www.thewildtonics.com

Adam Taylor (he/him, *Sayid*) completed his training at Bird College of Dance, Music and Theatre. Adam’s credits include: swing/covered and played Jamie New in “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” (Apollo Theatre, West End); Little Pig/covered and played Donkey in “Shrek” (UK tour); ensemble in “Ishq - a new musical” (Sadler’s Wells Theatre); ensemble/cover Sheriff in “Robin Hood” (Mayflower Theatre/Qdos Entertainment); ensemble/covered and played Pepper in “Mamma Mia!” and dancer/aerialist in “Blue Planet” (Royal Caribbean International) and dancer for Jermaine Jackman’s “How Will I Know” (Gas & Electric). Adam has also been seen as part of Tesco’s Love Food campaign and featured in a TUI Holidays commercial.

Simeon Beckett (he/him, *Swing/Dance Captain*). Training: the Urdang Academy. Theatre credits include: dance captain in *Motown - the Musical* (UK tour); understudy Andy/Joe in “Flashdance - the Musical” (UK and international tour) and dance captain in “Sleeping Beauty” (Qdos Entertainment). Television credits include: “The 2018 BRIT Awards” for Stormzy (ITV); “Ant & Dec’s Saturday Night Takeaway” (ITV); “Backchat” (BBC One); “The X Factor” for Rita Ora (ITV) and “The BRIT Awards” for Kanye West (ITV). Other credits include: various music videos, including “Think About It” by Naughty Boy featuring Wiz Khalifa and Ella Eyre; and numerous modelling jobs for Reebok, Adidas, Les Mills, Bank Fashion and JD Sports.

Emma Robotham-Hunt (she/her, *Swing/Assistant Dance Captain*). Training: the Urdang Academy, Birmingham Ormiston Academy. Theatre credits include: swing/assistant dance captain in “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” (UK tour); swing in “Matilda: The Musical” (Cambridge Theatre, London); ensemble/assistant dance captain in “Motown the Musical” (UK and Ireland tour). Workshops: Amanda Thripp in “Matilda” (international tour); dancer in “Matilda: The Musical” film. Television credits: “BBC Music Awards” - extra/ dancer for Zara Larsson. Recordings: singer in the “Eurovision Song Contest” opening soundtrack.

Rachel Seirian (she/her, *Swing*). Training: Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts. Theatre Includes: Fatimah/Understudy Pritti/Swing in “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” (Apollo Theatre). Concerts Include: “Godspell” 50th Anniversary Online Concert (Hope Mill Theatre). TV includes: Guest Dancer on “Strictly Come Dancing”: It Takes 2 & ITV “This Morning.” Other credits include: Brother Leo Music Video “Push Up.”

Dan Gillespie Sells (he/him, *Music*) is best known for being the lead vocalist and principal songwriter in The Feeling. Their debut album, “Twelve Stops And Home” sold over a million copies, whilst their second album, “Join With Us,” reached the No. 1 spot in the UK Charts. The band’s fifth album was released in March 2016. Before The Feeling, Dan worked as a session musician. Theatrical credits include: “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” (Crucible Theatre with Tom MacRae and Jonathan Butterell), “The Bad, The Sad and The Broken Hearted” (Performed originally at the Soho Theatre and then at The Steve Allen Theatre in Los Angeles. It is currently being developed as a series in America), “3WithD” (Colosseum in London and at the Stuttgart Ballet, a collaboration with Javier De Frutos and Ed Watson), “Beautiful People” (a TV Series Theme Music). Dan was the recipient of the 2015 Stonewall award for Entertainer of the Decade for his work in the LGBT community and the 2007 Ivor Novello Award for Songwriter of the Year.

Tom MacRae (he/him, *Book and Lyrics*) is brand new to theatre, although he has written a lot of TV shows, including “Doctor Who,” the Comedy Central sitcom “Threesome” (which he also created) and Sky 1’s “Fungus The Bogeyman” which he developed from Raymond Briggs’ classic story. He currently lives in Los Angeles where he is working as a writer and producer on US TV drama “The Librarians.” Tom is also a children’s author and has had three picture books published, including the award winning “The Opposite.” “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” marks Tom’s debut as a playwright and lyricist and is his first professional collaboration with long-time friend Dan Gillespie Sells.

Jonathan Butterell (he/him, *Director*). Theatre includes: “Love Musik” (La Plaza, Buenos Aires), “Second Chance” (The Public Theater, New York), “Whida Peru, Resurrection Tangle” and “Tres Niñas” (Inner Voices for Premier Stages New York), “Giant” (Signature Theatre), “The Sound of Music” (Opera Theatre, Buenos Aires), “Orpheus Descending” and “Creditors” (Theatre Project, Tokyo). Broadway credits include: musical staging for the 2005 Tony Award-winning “Nine,” “Fiddler On The Roof,” “Assassins,” “Light In The Piazza.” Other New York work: musical staging for the original workshop of Sondheim’s “Wise Guys” (New York Theatre Workshop), “A Man of No Importance” (Lincoln Center Theater) and staged the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Public Theater titled “Public Sings!” New York City Center). UK theatre credits include: musical staging and movement direction for Donmar Warehouse productions of “Company” (West End transfer), “Habeas Corpus,” “Into The Woods” (co-directed with John Crowley), “How I Learned To Drive,” “Electra” (Broadway transfer) and “The Maids.” He devised and directed Michael Ball; “Alone Together – Divas at the Donmar” (also at the Royal Haymarket Theatre, London). Co-directing credits include: “Sweeney Todd” (Opera North/Sadlers Wells) and “Peter Pan” (Royal Festival Hall). Film includes: choreography for “Finding Neverland.”