

Friday 21 May 2021

TRP Press Contact: Savanna Myszka, savanna.myszka@theatreroyal.com

For Immediate Release

ARLENE PHILLIPS TO DIRECT & OTI MABUSE TO CHOREOGRAPH THE CHER SHOW UK & IRELAND TOUR TO OPEN APRIL 2022

“All of us invent ourselves. Some of us just have more imagination than others.” CHER

A brand new production of The Cher Show will open next year, with book by Tony and Olivier Award-winning Rick Elice (*Jersey Boys*, *The Addams Family*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*), direction by Arlene Phillips (*Saturday Night Fever*, *Starlight Express*, *Grease*), choreography by Oti Mabuse (two-time Strictly Come Dancing champion) and costume design by Gabriella Slade (*Six*, *In The Heights*, *Spice World 2019 Tour*). The tour will open at Leicester’s Curve on 15 April 2022 and will continue through to 1 April 2023, coming to Theatre Royal Plymouth from 21 – 25 June 2022 with tickets on sale soon.

Arlene Phillips said of directing The Cher Show, *“I have been a fan of Cher since I first heard I Got You Babe in the mid-sixties and cannot wait to direct her musical. I love stories about strong inspirational legends like Cher and I am proud to be joined in the creative team by two women who have already made a huge impact in their careers: Oti Mabuse as choreographer of the many different genres in the show and Gabriella Slade for the iconic costume designs. This exciting show will be a non-stop journey of Cher’s rollercoaster life, bringing to the audience Cher’s iconic songs, glorious dance numbers, unique costumes and her epic drama. All they need to do is come along and Believe.”*

Oti Mabuse said, *“I cannot WAIT for audiences to see what we’re doing with The Cher Show. Cher’s music covers so many styles, genres and rhythms, which makes it so exciting to choreograph. Every song in the show is a hit and we are going full out with exciting routines and movement. It’s going to be a party! Cher has been such an inspiration to so many people and this musical is going to be a celebration of*



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Plymouth
Britain's Ocean City

everything people love about her.”

Gabriella Slade added, *“Cher is quite literally a style icon. Her fashion moments pushed the boundaries of the time and continue to do so. I’m so excited to be taking huge influence and inspiration from these looks as I embark on creating the costume design for this new production of The Cher Show.”*

From a young child with big dreams, the shy daughter of an Armenian American truck driver, to the dizzying heights of global stardom, The Cher Show tells the incredible story of Cher’s meteoric rise to fame. Cher takes the audience by the hand and introduces them to the influential people in her life, from her mother and Sonny Bono, to fashion designer and costumier Bob Mackie. It shows how she battled the men who underestimated her, fought the conventions and, above all, was a trailblazer for independence.

The musical is packed with 35 of her biggest hits, including *‘Turn Back Time’, ‘I Got You Babe’, ‘Strong Enough’, ‘The Shoop Shoop Song’ and ‘Believe’.*

With over 100 million record sales, an Academy Award®, an Emmy®, a Grammy®, three Golden Globes® and an award from The Council of Fashion Designers of America, Cher has influenced popular culture more than most. Her on-screen career started in 1971 with her weekly television show that attracted 30 million viewers a week, and went on to include starring roles in iconic films from Moonstruck, for which she won the Oscar for Best Actress, to Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again!, which prompted the New York Magazine to realise “every single movie—no matter how flawless—would be infinitely better if it included Cher.” Her ‘Farewell Tour’ became the highest grossing music tour in history – in true Cher fashion, she followed up her ‘Farewell Tour’ with two further sell-out, worldwide arena tours. She is the only artist in history to have a number one hit in the Billboard chart for six consecutive decades; an achievement that caused Vogue to deem her “eternally relevant and the ruler of outré reinvention”. She became known as the Queen of Reinvention.

In the 1990s, she established The Cher Charitable Foundation to support causes around the world. She has been a long-time donor and supporter of Habitat for Humanity, The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund and Keep A Child Alive, an organisation

that helps to combat the AIDs epidemic. Most recently, she co-founded Free the Wild to help rescue Kaavan the Asian elephant from Islamabad zoo.

Written by Tony Award-winning Rick Elice, The Cher Show made its debut on Broadway in 2018 in a production that earned two Tony Awards and delighted fans from around the world. This new production will be the European premiere.

The Cher Show UK & Ireland Tour will have lighting design by Ben Cracknell and sound design by Dan Samson.

Website: www.cheronstage.com

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram: @TheCherShowUK

TOUR SCHEDULE

15 - 23 April 2022 Leicester Curve 0116 242 3595 www.curveonline.co.uk on sale 27 May

26 - 30 April Sunderland Empire Theatre 0844 871 7615*
www.atgtickets.com/venues/sunderland-empire on sale

3 – 7 May Hull New Theatre 01482 300 306 www.hulltheatres.co.uk on sale 24 May

10 – 14 May Sheffield Lyceum Theatre 0114 249 6000 www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk on sale soon

17 - 21 May Manchester Opera House 0844 871 7615*
www.atgtickets.com/venues/opera-house-manchester on sale

24 – 28 May Belfast Grand Opera House 02890241919 www.goh.co.uk on sale soon

31 May – 4 June Blackpool Opera House 0844 856 1111
www.wintergardensblackpool.co.uk on sale

7 - 11 June Nottingham Theatre Royal 0115 989 5555 www.trch.co.uk on sale 28 May

14 - 19 June Canterbury Marlowe Theatre 01227 787787 www.marlowetheatre.com on sale 9 August

21 – 25 June Plymouth Theatre Royal 01752 267222 www.theatroyal.com on sale soon

19 – 30 July Dublin Bord Gáis Energy Theatre 0844 847 2455*
bordgaisenergytheatre.ie on sale soon

2 – 6 August Birmingham Hippodrome 0844 338 5000*
www.birminghamhippodrome.com on sale soon

9 - 13 August Milton Keynes Theatre 0844 871 7615*
www.atgtickets.com/venues/milton-keynes-theatre on sale

16 – 20 August Southend Cliffs Pavilion 01702 351135 southendtheatres.org.uk on sale

23 – 27 August Cardiff New Theatre 07925 659065 www.newtheatreCardiff.co.uk on sale 28 May

30 August - 3 September Stoke Regent Theatre 0844 871 7615* www.atgtickets.com/venues/regent-theatre on sale

6 - 10 September Woking New Victoria Theatre 0844 871 7615*
www.atgtickets.com/venues/new-victoria-theatre on sale

19 – 24 September Dartford Orchard Theatre 01322 220000 orchardtheatre.co.uk on sale

27 September - 1 October Glasgow King's Theatre 0844 871 7615*
www.atgtickets.com/venues/kings-theatre on sale

4 – 8 October Aberdeen His Majesty's Theatre aberdeenperformingarts.com on sale soon

11 – 15 October Edinburgh Festival Theatre 0131 529 6000
www.capitaltheatres.com/your-visit/festival-theatre on sale 28 May

18 – 22 October Wolverhampton Grand Theatre 01902 429212
www.grandtheatre.co.uk on sale 26 May

25 – 29 October Bradford The Alhambra Theatre 01274 432000 www.bradford-theatres.co.uk/venues/the-alhambra-theatre on sale soon

1 - 12 November Brighton Theatre Royal 0844 871 7615*
www.atgtickets.com/venues/theatre-royal-brighton on sale

15 - 19 November York Grand Opera House 0844 871 7615*
www.atgtickets.com/venues/grand-opera-house-york on sale



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Plymouth
Britain's Ocean City

22 – 26 November Ipswich Regent Theatre ipswichtheatres.co.uk on sale

3 - 7 January 2023 Southampton Mayflower Theatre 02380 711811

www.mayflower.org.uk on sale 25 May

10 – 14 January Northampton Royal & Derngate 01604 624811

www.royalandderngate.co.uk on sale soon

17 - 21 January Liverpool Empire Theatre 0844 871 7615*

www.atgtickets.com/venues/liverpool-empire on sale

24 - 28 January Bristol The Hippodrome 0844 871 7615*

www.atgtickets.com/venues/bristol-hippodrome on sale

31 January - 4 February Wimbledon New Wimbledon Theatre 0844 871 7615*

www.atgtickets.com/venues/new-wimbledon-theatre on sale

7 – 11 February Darlington Hippodrome 01325 405405

www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk on sale soon

14 - 18 February Torquay Princess Theatre 0844 871 7615*

www.atgtickets.com/venues/princess-theatre-torquay on sale

21 - 25 February Oxford New Theatre 0844 871 7615*

www.atgtickets.com/venues/new-theatre-oxford on sale

28 February – 4 March Llandudno Venue Cymru 01492 872000

www.venuecymru.co.uk on sale soon

7 – 11 March Norwich Theatre Royal 01603 630 000 norwichtheatre.org on sale soon

14 – 18 March Carlisle The Sands Centre 0333 33 55055 www.thesandscentre.co.uk on sale

Further dates to be announced

ENDS



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Plymouth
Britain's Ocean City

For further information please contact the Media and Communications team on mediaandcommunications@theatreroyal.com / 01752 230439

RICK ELICE (book writer) is the Tony and Olivier award-winning book writer of global phenomenon *Jersey Boys*. His play, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, was nominated for nine Tony Awards and won five. He also wrote the book for *The Addams Family* and is currently working on Disney Theatrical's upcoming new musical adaptation of *The Princess Bride*.

ARLENE PHILLIPS (director) is one of Britain's leading directors and choreographers behind musical mega brands including *Saturday Night Fever*, *Starlight Express*, *Grease* and *We Will Rock You* to name a few. Founding member of 1970s dance group 'Hot Gossip', she went on to choreograph for music legends including Freddie Mercury, Whitney Houston and Diana Ross, and for Hollywood. Her time as lead judge on BBC One's *Strictly Come Dancing* cemented her as one of Britain's most recognisable entertainment legends, a status recognised with a CBE for services to dance.

OTI MABUSE (choreographer) is a champion dancer and choreographer; eight times South African Latin American Champion, and 2019 champion of both BBC's *The Greatest Dancer* and *Strictly Come Dancing*, the two biggest dance shows on television. She was champion of *Strictly Come Dancing* again in 2020. She is a judge on the new ITV light entertainment show, *The Masked Dancer*. In 2019, she made her stage choreography debut for Tamasha Theatre Company's production of *Ain't Misbehavin'* followed by *Kiss Me Kate* at the Watermill Theatre, Newbury.

GABRIELLA SLADE (costume designer) is the award-winning designer behind the unforgettable costumes of West End and Broadway musical *Six* and the force behind the Spice Girls' reinvented look for their *Spice World* 2019 tour. She has designed recent West End productions of *Curtains* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, as well as David Walliam's *Billionaire Boy* and Lin Manuel Miranda's *In The Heights*. She is also designing the costumes for the upcoming UK tour of *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*.

TOM DE KEYSER and **HAMISH GREER** (producers) formed **ROYO** after several years producing together in the UK, on tour and in the West End, and around the world. Alongside the European premiere of *The Cher Show*, ROYO is the lead producer of *The Osmonds: A New Musical*, which brings The Osmond Family's biographical musical to the stage for the first time in 2022. ROYO is also the lead producer of *Fisherman's Friends: The Musical*, based on the true story and hit film of an unlikely boyband of real lobster fishermen and their rise to fame. The production will reopen Hall For Cornwall following its £20m refurbishment in Autumn 2021. ROYO is producing several profile driven events throughout 2021 and 2022, including *Oti*

Mabuse: I am Here and *AJ & Curtis' Bi Night Out*. ROYO is the co-owner of stream.theatre, a digital venue designed to solve the streaming, and capture, needs of arts practitioners around the world, and in the past year has filmed, edited, streamed and ticketed high profile theatrical events with partners including *Sky Arts*, *ENO*, *the Evening Standard*, *TikTok*, *WhatsOnStage*, and *The Shanghai Grand Theatre*.

Theatre Royal Plymouth (TRP) is a registered charity providing art, education and community engagement in Plymouth and across the region. It engages and inspires with the aim of touching lives. Theatre Royal Plymouth presents a year-round programme of world class productions on all scales as the South West's principal centre for performing arts.

Theatre Royal Plymouth works with partners to understand the challenges people face accessing the arts, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged people. It creates pathways that are genuinely accessible to those who might otherwise never get to engage with the arts. They collaborate to co-create and co-author work that represents the community, creating the space needed for people to tell their story in their own way.

Theatre Royal Plymouth is the UK's largest regional producing theatre. With a focus on embracing the vitality of new talent and supporting emerging and established artists. It collaborates with a range of partners to provide dynamic cultural leadership for the city of Plymouth.