

Theatre Royal Plymouth
The Devil Wears Prada
Sat. 10th Sep and Sat 17th Sep 2024 @2.30p.m.
Audio described performance Act 1

Welcome to the Theatre Royal Plymouth and this co-production of The Devil Wears Prada by Kevin Mc Collum, David Furnish/Rocket Entertainment and Jamie Wilson productions. Music by Elton John, lyrics by Shaina Taub and from the book by Kate Wetherhead and based on the novel by Lauren Weisburger. The musical Director is Katherine Woolley leading an orchestra of 11 multi-talented musicians.

A West End Season awaits in the Dominion Theatre, London.

This exciting new musical is here until August 17th. There will be two accompanied touch tours for the visually impaired on Sat. 10th and the 17th at 1.30p.m. Please contact the box Office to book.

The show will run for 2 hours 30 minutes including a 20-minute interval.

My name is Pauline, and I will be describing Act 1 and my colleague Denise will be describing Act 2. I will start the programme notes approx 10 minutes before curtain up and Denise will be starting the Act 2 programme notes approx 8 minutes before the end of the interval.

There are 10 scenes in Act 1 which run seamlessly into each other with the added scenery slid into place noiselessly. Act 2 has 10 scenes which Denise will describe in her programme notes.

There are also 24 songs, 13 of which are in Act 1.

As the Show is loud and busy, I will describe the scenes and costumes in detail within these programme notes and add my audio description as the action takes place.

Cast

This is a large cast so I will name the main characters only.

Miranda Priestley..... Vanessa Williams

Nigel..... Matt Henry

Emily..... Amy Di Bartolomeo

Andy.....Georgie Buckland

Nate..... Rhys Whitfield

Christian..... James Darch

Chanteuse..... Maddy Ambus

Miranda is the Editor in chief and a force to be reckoned with.

Nigel is her stylish creative Fashion Director

Emily is Miranda's insecure assistant who tries too hard.

Andy is a naive reporter who must quickly understand the world she has entered

Nate is Andy's boyfriend who tries to advise her against being sucked into a hostile world.

Christian is a successful writer who likes his own way

Chanteuse is a night club singer

The show contains flashing lights, loud music and noise, strobe lighting, smoke, haze, some strong language, mild sexual references and discrete scenes of intimacy.

The giant show title is displayed under red lighting with white lights around the proscenium. The word Devil is in large red roman style lettering with a forked tail curving from the base of the letter D. The other words are smaller in white, and they are all mounted horizontally on a metal grid at floor level. This will be flown out and we meet Emily who delivers a stern warning with reference to mobile phones. She has long flowing blonde hair and wearing a green mini dress under a coat slung over her shoulders with strappy ankle boots.

Synopsis

Fresh out of college. A young journalist Andy lands a job at the Runway magazine working for the powerful Miranda Priestley. Andy finds herself trying to meet Miranda's demands at the sacrifice of her personal life and she then becomes embroiled in the glamorous world that she once despised. This is the story of her fight to succeed, but at what cost?

It is an inspiring story about discovering the kind of person one wants to become. The costumes are all original haute couture and brought to the stage at no little cost.

We meet twelve young women of New York who parade before us in a variety of stylish outfits all in shades of blue. These include miniskirts and wide shouldered blouses, knee length shift dresses under coats draped over their shoulders. They sing, *We mean Business*.

Andy is in stark contrast with her knee length check skirt, argyle patterned jumper under a plain short jacket and grey cable knit tights and sensible shoes. Her long dark hair is carelessly tied back.

Andy has come for an interview but faces the neurotic Emily in her mini dress under a green jacket and wearing roman style boots. She also encounters the very smart Nigel Owens, Runway's creative Fashion Director in his double-breasted green suit. Nate, her boyfriend in jeans and a loose jumper greets her on her return to their apartment.

We move to the Elias Clarke Office, the home of the magazine Runway. The office is two white room dividers set at angles to provide a central entrance through which is a view of New York Skyscrapers. White Desks and office chairs are set in front of these with the obligatory office paraphernalia set upon them.

The office staff, known as Clackers, ignore Andy as she arrives. Emily, a driven, impatient and uptight young woman greets Andy with thinly disguised disgust. Andy is introduced to Nigel, and he gives the same reaction.

House of Miranda is sung as Miranda appears, up through the floor in a purple dress suit, high heels and shades and a purple coat around her shoulders. Her blonde hair is up and immaculate.

The interview commences and she addresses Andy coldly after the Clackers have sung the praises of the House of Miranda.

Nigel sweeps in carrying the Runway cover mock ups and wearing a very smart suit.

Andy is surprised to eventually be given the position.

We are in Andy and Nate's Apartment; a double bed is central in front of a view of New York through a French window with full length curtains framing the view and Nate greets her in t shirt and loungers as Andy discreetly undresses behind the bed headboard down to her camisole and knickers. They profess their love by singing and moving to *I only love you for your body* and they finally fall into bed.

It is Andy's first day at Runway and it is dark and we hear a cell phone and the light goes up on an angry Emily dressed in a knee length skirt and fitted jacket, and Andy answers her phone sleepily from her bed. Emily issues instructions and we are back in the Office with Miranda impatiently waiting for her coffee which Andy should be providing. Emily nervously sings *How to survive at Runway*.

Andy eventually appears in a nondescript skirt and cardigan under a trench coat with all the requirements for Miranda.

Emily has a fantasy moment and dreams of being at the Paris Fashion week wearing a full length flounced cerise Skirt and we are momentarily whisked to Paris, before Emily returns to her real world.

Andy flounders as Miranda issues machine gun speed instructions. Nigel gives her some stylish sling backs which she is reluctant to wear.

The Run Through is being planned and we are back in Miranda's office where racks of clothes are wheeled in by the nervous Clackers and Nigel takes the opportunity to tutor Andy in the ways of the fashion world. Andy is scolded by Miranda whilst she is skilfully assembling an outfit on a mannequin. Andy angrily sings *Girl for the Job* Later Andy removes her oversized sweater, but she storms into her apartment and rants at Nate about her day.

Andy returns to the Office and The Clackers, 8 girls and 4 boys, in stylish outfits parade up and down and malign Andy before she appears to greet Miranda who is wearing a grey skirt and sequined jacket under the obligatory stylish red lapped coat over her shoulders. The Clackers bitchily sing *In or Out*

Andy is sent to James Holt's fabulous Loft Apartment where he is hosting a cocktail party where she needs to pick up a sketch for Miranda and there, she meets Christian Thompson, a successful writer.

Later she has to solve a transport problem for Miranda, which interferes with her personal life.

Andy is directed to Nigel's Office, with shelves and alcoves packed with racks of clothes, and files. Mood Boards are low down behind a high desk and high stool and the desk is littered with design sheets overseen by Nigel. She asks for his style advice, and she is taken to another room where three huge units are dripping with fashionable clothes, shoes and accessories.

Nigel sings *How to Survive At Runway and Dress Your Way Up*

He begins Andy's transformation with the help of the Clackers. She is finally revealed, dressed in a denim mini skirt, jacket and over the knee-high heeled boots. Her hair flows over her shoulders. The Clackers are in high fashion.

The transformed Andy struts into the office where Miranda sets Andy another seemingly impossible task. Emily, in a green shift dress is gobsmacked at Andy's attire. Emily sings *In or Out*.

Luckily Andy meets Christian again. She asks for his help and Nate calls her thinking she has resigned.

Christian delivers the goods, but she is required to attend a Ball, the same night as Nate's birthday dinner.

Miranda and the Clackers are studying a seating plan for the Ball and being cutthroat over the guest list. Miranda sings *The Devil Wears Prada*.

We are at the Ball and a decorative magnificent red central staircase is flanked by two giant jardinieres at its base, holding an arrangement of exotic flowers. Lights line the proscenium arches, and the predominant colour is red. A model, in a red high collar coat over a dress and her long train cascades down the steps poses at the head of the staircase.

Nigel is in a full length wide sleeved dark edge to edge evening coat heavily decorated with sequins over a shirt and dark trousers.

Smartly dressed Nate is waiting at the restaurant for Andy.

The Clackers appear all dressed in gorgeous haute couture and parade up and down the staircase with red lights twinkling around the proscenium.

Miranda makes her grand entrance at the head of the staircase flanked by two males. She is in in a full length red sequinned dress with a red satin shawl coat draped over her shoulders.

Emily is in a one shouldered black fitted full length evening dress, her hair piled on top of her head and Andy is in an off the shoulder black evening dress with her hair up. They both vie for Miranda's favour by helping to remind her of the names of the guests. Christian has a proposition. Will Andy be tempted as the ensemble sing *The Devil Whispers Prada*

Meanwhile, Nate is still waiting at the restaurant.

We leave Andy determined to be a Miranda Girl, and she sings *Miranda Girl*. But will her decision cost her Nate's love?

The Devil Wears Prada – New Musical Production
Theatre Royal Plymouth
Programme Notes – Act Two
Saturday 10th & 17th August 2024 @2:30 pm
Audio Describer – Denise Reeves

Good Afternoon everyone and welcome back to the Theatre Royal Plymouth where we continue with this fabulously stylish new musical production of The Devil Wears Prada.

I am Denise your audio describer for Act Two which lasts for 60 minutes.

Please note there will be the sounds of hospital beeping, intercom paging, photographer's flash lights, strobe lighting, together with loud music and more wonderful songs.

As the audience return to their seats, there is an open blacked out stage with the same The Devil Wears Prada sign, as that which opened Act One. The scenes continue to segue by clever spot lighting and slider set changes.

As the orchestra begins, the conductor pops her head out of the orchestra pit on the left and with her baton encourages the audience to clap along with the music as the sign is taken up. The show then continues with the morning after the Ball.

As the lights come up we are in a hospital. In the centre is a hospital bed with a screen either side. Emily's left ankle is in a pink cast, as she is pushed on in a wheelchair by a Hot Nurse, already hopelessly devoted to her, whilst two other male nurses prepare her bed. All dressed in blue hospital scrubs. Andy follows behind wearing a chocolate brown leather dress under an open coat, matching bag and high heel ankle boots. She carries a small bouquet of flowers.

Emily is not best pleased with Andy who leaves escorted by Hot Nurse – who then summons eight male nurses – dressed in blue scrubs to support Emily. They surround her and engage in a delightfully amusing rendition of "Bon Voyage".

Meanwhile, Andy, in the same sleeveless leather dress, hurriedly packs her suitcase on the bed in Nate's apartment. Nate walks in wearing a green T shirt, jeans and trainers, stands and watches her, finally realising that she is going to Paris. Tension fills the air. As Nate's frustration mounts, he tells her of his concerns through the lyrics of the song "The Old You".

Then we are transported to Paris as out of the darkness, the Eiffel Tower is gradually lit up in white lights. An elegant model comes up out of the stage dressed in a white haute couture ensemble with matching shawl draped across her shoulders and outstretched arms, with a big picture hat tilted to the side. More models appear, four

in red, four in blue and another three in white, wearing individual haute couture designs - thereby mirroring the colours of the French flag. Miranda appears in a yellow dress under a glamorous yellow coat with gold detail and a long silver grey sequined shawl draped over her left shoulder and silver shoes. Nigel wears a dashing light double breasted suit, white shirt and tie, with a trench coat hanging loose from his shoulders and brown shoes.

As the models parade around the Eiffel Tower, Miranda and Nigel welcome us to the "City of Dreams".

The red carpet is rolled out as the Paparazzi with flashing lights take their pictures. Miranda and Nigel make their rounds with Andy dressed in a fetching short white jacket edged in black, with short white skirt, high heels and carrying a large bag, following close behind. As the Paparazzi throw questions at them Massimo Corteleoni approaches Miranda to have their picture taken together.

As Miranda and Nigel start to head inside to the Fashion Show a young French photographer asks Andy for a picture of her. Andy hesitates but gets a nod from Miranda to go ahead. This moment of recognition entices her to walk her own red carpet.

With the Eiffel Tower still visible through the drapes, we meet Nigel in a dimly lit booth of his Hotel Bar, sat on a red velvet sofa with a small side table and lit table lamp. He wears the same light coloured suit with satin lapels, and open necked white shirt.

Nigel invites Andy to join him as they share a bottle of champagne whilst he looks through the credentials she gives him, prompting Nigel to tell her his backstory through the moving rendition of the song "Seen".

We then move to Miranda's Hotel Suite where she is sat on a French style couch with a chair either side and two lamps lit on side tables. Unadorned, Miranda wears a white robe, dark glasses, her long blonde hair hanging loose around her shoulders and no makeup. Even with her exposed vulnerability, she still appears fearsome to Andy, presenting an awkward moment between them as they go over the itinerary for tomorrow.

That evening, in a romantic Parisian restaurant, a spotlight falls on the singer Chanteuse wearing a long black halter neck sequined dress and long black evening gloves. Behind her, soft lighting then reveals a jazz trio of piano, double bass and drums -as they entertain restaurant guests with the song "Your Twenties". Andy and Christian appear and begin to cosy up as two couples take to the floor and dance behind them. The evening has only just begun.

Meanwhile, Emily is discharged from hospital, with her Hot Nurse pushing her wheelchair. As she begins to hobble away on crutches, the Hot Nurse stops her and tells her of his dream to travel, but to where?

The next morning in Christian's dishevelled hotel room Andy is still a little giddy from last night. She retrieves her remaining clothes draped over a side table and sees a Runway Magazine cover. This discovery leads Christian to divulge devastating news.

The ensemble gathers for the highly anticipated James Holt Fashion Show. A line of chairs, backed by a wall of mirrors are placed in front of the catwalk. A James Holt Spring 2006 sign is lit up to the right.

Andy appears flustered and seeing Nigel, races over to him urgently seeking Miranda. But too soon the show begins leaving Andy to take her seat. Miranda models strut along the catwalk in the latest eye-catching designer long dresses, of various pastel shades and vibrant colours, some sequined, others with feathers and flowing chiffon.

They all freeze as Miranda sings "Stay on Top" the lyrics of the song revealing her innermost feelings. She wears an elegant red silk blouse tucked into black leather below the knee pencil skirt and red high heels.

The show is a great success, but the aftermath leaves Andy confused and wondering what just happened. Nigel tells her this is Paris where anything can happen.

Miranda takes Andy aside with an explanation. In so doing, Andy sings the song "What's Right for Me" prompting her to make a serious decision.

With the finale to come and a "Gigamix" of songs ringing out in unison, it is here that I will leave you.

With the New York skyline in the background, join in the applause as the Ensemble come forward to each take their bow amidst song and flashing lights – followed by Nigel, Emily, Andy and finally Miranda wearing a pillar box red trouser suit. As the finale ends and the ensemble leave, Nigel, Andy, Miranda and Emily, turn and walk to the back of the stage.

