

Simply Theatre Productions during COVID-19

We hope we are able to present a limited production season for 2020/21 that delivers against both of our objectives of providing top quality cultural opportunities for our students as well as ensuring the safety of our performers and our audiences.

Our usual aims of our productions up until now has been to

Support the excellent provision of Simply Theatre teaching and courses by:

- 1) providing top quality cultural performance opportunities to our students
- 2) providing top quality theatrical viewing experiences to young people and their families, nurturing their future love of theatre.

For this year we have another, over-riding goal:

To ensure our courses and productions are offered in as COVID secure an environment as possible and to minimise disruption to our students.

To meet this goal, we have made the following decisions:

- We have decided to prioritise the experience of performing in productions for our students and accept that the opportunities to see shows will be more limited, due to capacity constraints.
- Furthermore, to minimize the risk for performers of cancellation, we have decided that we will be rehearsing our initial productions over a small period of time (a half term week).
- To minimise the risk to audience members, they will be asked to observe social distancing between family units, wear masks and have a temperature check when arriving for a performance. Details for all attendees must also be submitted when booking. The number of shows in each production has also been reduced.
- There will be very few tickets on sale, and these will only go on sale two weeks before the show opens. A limited number of complimentary tickets will be provided to families of cast members, who will be able to reserve seats before the remaining seats go on sale to the general public.
- Shows will be postponed should any performer be tested positive for Coronavirus during the rehearsal or performance process.
- We will not be producing a large-scale musical at the Casino Theatre this year however we do hope to keep the same number of overall opportunities for our students. This includes two plays, one Academy Musical and one Performing Arts Company Musical.
- We will not be presenting any professional productions (other than our 'Special Events') until the COVID pandemic is over.

We are delighted to have been able to find a way to still offer our students top performance experiences this year. We are happy to be able to announce our exciting Academy productions, on the understanding that they may have to be postponed, presented online or cancelled at short notice.

Whilst we look forward to a time when we can return completely to normal, we will in the meantime enjoy working on these shows and providing creative outlets for our students.