

PRESS RELEASE

MAMMA MIA! THE PARTY

FULL CAST ANNOUNCED FOR **MAMMA MIA! THE PARTY** **AT LONDON'S THE O2**

Executive producer Björn Ulvaeus and producer Ingrid Sutej are delighted to announce the cast for MAMMA MIA! THE PARTY, the new immersive theatrical and dining experience opening in a specially adapted venue within The O2 London this summer, with performances beginning on 29 August 2019.

The London cast will be led by Fed Zanni as Nikos, Steph Parry as Kate, Joanna Monro as Debbie, AJ Bentley as Adam, Julia Imbach as Kostantina, Elin König Andersson as Bella, Kimberly Powell as Nina, Pauline Stringer as Grandma, Gregor Stewart as Fernando, with Linda John-Pierre playing Debbie at certain performances and Allie Ho Chee playing Bella at certain performances. Also in the cast are Molly Cleere, Jessica Spalis, Dawn Spence and Matthew Wesley. The musicians will be John Donovan, Luke Higgins, Kathryn Tindall, Steve Rushton and Mark Pusey.

Created by ABBA's Björn Ulvaeus, MAMMA MIA! THE PARTY is a new and unique entertainment concept that puts guests in the heart of the action. Over the course of more than four hours, they can enjoy a spectacular show, a three-course gourmet Mediterranean meal and an ABBA disco all in one unforgettable evening.

MAMMA MIA! THE PARTY is set in a taverna on the island of Skopelos, where most exteriors of the first MAMMA MIA! film were shot. Nikos and his wife Kate run this exotic and wonderful restaurant together with their family and friends. Told through dialogue and ABBA songs, a warm, romantic and funny story evolves and unfolds during the evening, taking place around the guests as they sit at their tables enjoying a delicious Greek meal. The evening ends with the main floor transforming into a 1970s disco, where audience members are welcome to stay to sing and dance to original ABBA recordings.

MAMMA MIA! THE PARTY has music and lyrics by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus (some songs with Stig Anderson), and a story by Calle Norlén, Roine Söderlundh and Björn Ulvaeus, adapted for the UK by writer, comedian and broadcaster Sandi Toksvig.

The London version of MAMMA MIA! THE PARTY, which originally opened in Stockholm in January 2016 and is now in its fourth sold-out year, will be co-directed by Roine Söderlundh and Stacey Haynes, with set designed by Bengt Fröderberg, costumes designed by Annsofi Nyberg, lighting designed by Patrick Woodroffe and sound designed by Gareth Owen.

MAMMA MIA! THE PARTY is produced by Björn Ulvaeus and Ingrid Sutej for MM! The Party Ltd.

LISTINGS INFORMATION

MAMMA MIA! THE PARTY

The O2
Peninsula Square
London SE10 0DX

Performances:

Until 18 November 2019: Mondays & Wednesdays to Sundays at 7.30pm, Saturdays & Sundays at 1pm

From 19 to 25 November 2019: Wednesday to Sunday at 7.30pm, Saturday & Sunday at 1pm*

From 26 November 2019: Tuesdays to Sundays at 7.30pm, Saturdays & Sundays at 1pm

(*N.B. No performances Tuesday 19 & Monday 25 November 2019)

Tickets: From £135 (plus booking fees), to include admission and meal (drinks extra)

Box Office: www.mammamiatheparty.co.uk / 0844 844 9545

Currently Booking to 16 February 2020

Recommended Age: 5+

Website: www.mammamiatheparty.co.uk

Facebook, Instagram: @mammamiapartyuk

NOTES TO EDITORS

FED ZANNI

Fed's theatre credits include *The 12 Tenors European Tour*, *The Thursford Christmas Spectacular*, Lord Byron in *The Year Without A Summer*, Frank Sinatra/Bing Crosby in *Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical*, Robin in *Robin Hood* and Pancho in *The Night Of The Iguana*.

His TV and film credits include *Delicious* (SkyOne), *Being Human*, *Never Better*, *Hotel Babylon*, *The Taming Of The Shrew* and *The Girl In The Café* (all for BBC), *Afterlife* and *The Complete Guide To Parenting* (ITV), *Ten Days To Victory* (The History Channel) and *Dream Team* (Sky).

STEPH PARRY

Theatre includes: Dorothy Brock in *42nd Street* (Theatre Royal Drury Lane), Donna in *Mamma Mia!* (RCCL/Littlestar), cover Madame Morrible/ensemble in *Wicked* (Apollo Victoria), Mrs Meers in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (The Landor), standby Tanya/Rosie in *Mamma Mia!* (International Tour), cover Tanya/Donna/Rosie/ensemble in *Mamma Mia!* (Novello), cover Mrs Wilkinson/Dead Mam/ensemble in *Billy Elliot* (Victoria Palace), Maude Bodley in *Not Now Darling* (UK Tour), Wicked Witch in *Wizard Of Oz* (Lincoln Theatre Royal), Wicked Queen in *Snow White* (Grays Theatre), Rosalind in *As You Like It* (UK Tour), Desdemona in *Othello* (Lakeside Arts Theatre, Nottingham), cover Star To Be/ensemble in *Annie* (UK Tour), Anybody's in *West Side Story* (Larnaca Amphitheatre, Cyprus), Laurey in *Oklahoma!* (Broadway Theatre), cover Babe/ensemble in *The Pajama Game* (The Union Theatre).

JOANNA MONRO

Joanna played the part of Rosie in MAMMA MIA!: she was in the International Tour for two years and then joined the London cast for a period of five years at The Prince of Wales Theatre and then at The Novello Theatre.

Theatre includes *Breeze Block Park* (Liverpool Playhouse), *Habaes Corpus* (Northcott Theatre, Exeter), *Women on the Verge of HRT*, *Golden Leaf Strut*, *The Master Builder* (Belgrade Theatre), Mrs Lyons and Mrs Johnston in the West End production of *Blood Brothers*, Frankie Doyle in the world premiere of *Prisoner Cell Block H*, *Baby Love*, *Rough Crossing*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Dead White Males*, *The Price of Meat*, *Taming of the Shrew* (Nuffield Theatre, Southampton), *Dreams of San Francisco* (Bush Theatre, London), *When I Was A Girl I Used to Scream and Shout* (Whitehall Theatre, London and National Tour), *Free As Air* (Finborough Theatre, London).

Television includes *Not Going Out* (BBC), *Charity Begins* (Sky Arts Theatre Live), *Doctors*, *Casualty*, *Chambers*, *People Like Us*, *The Cazelet Chronicles*, *The Elgin Marbles*, *That's Life*, *Doctor Who*, four years as Anna Newcross in the series *Angels*, *Fast Forward*, *Simon & The Witch*, *Up Our Street*, *Jackanory* (BBC), *Emmerdale* (Yorkshire), *The Bill* (Thames), *Confessions of a Diary Secretary* (ITV), *The Life and Death of Philip Knight*, *Dream Team* (Sky One), *Hale & Pace*, *The Six O'Clock Show* (LWT).

AJ BENTLEY

AJ entered BBC's talent search *Let It Shine*, which he won. From this, he embarked on an 18-month UK tour in *The Band Musical*, including an eight-week run in London's West End.

JULIA IMBACH

Julia graduated in 2018.

Theatre includes *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* (Kilworth House) and *The Little Princess* (Southbank Centre, London).

ELIN ANDERSSON

Elin started circus training as a five year-old in Sweden and started working as a circus artist at the age of 15. In 2010, she was a finalist in *Sweden's Got Talent*.

Her credits include being part of *The Burn't Out Punks* in the show *Inferno*, *Mamma Mia! The Party* in Stockholm, working with Sweden's most popular music tour, *Diggiloo* and Peter Jöback's *His Greatest Show – Med Hjartat Som Insats*.

KIMBERLY POWELL

Theatre credits include Doris in Terry Johnson's adaptation of *Mrs Henderson Presents* (Royal Alexandra Theatre, Toronto), Miss Dinsmore in *Singin' in the Rain* (Pitlochry Festival Theatre), ensemble U/S Sophie in *Mamma Mia!* (International Tour), Samantha in *Loserville* (Union Theatre), Wendy in *Peter Pan* (Theatre Royal, Plymouth), Beatrice in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (Union theatre, London), Edith in *The Lost Boys* (workshop - Liverpool Playhouse), Sally in *The Hired Man* (Landor Theatre), *JEN* (workshop -The Other Palace), *Showboat* (Prince Edward Theatre), Sandy in *Grease* (International Tour), *Red Hot Broadway* (Asia Tour), Baker's Wife in *Into The Woods* (Laine Theatre Arts), Kolo Kolo Bird in *Just So* (Laine Theatre Arts).

PAULINE STRINGER

In the early 70s, Pauline was invited to join a ballet company in Brazil for six months as a leading dancer, ballet mistress and choreographer – the six months stretched into 18 years!

During this time, she also appeared in stage productions of *Pippin*, *Man Of La Mancha*, *The Sound Of Music*, *West Side Story* playing Anita, *Carmina Burana* and *The Merry Widow*, as well as several children's theatre productions.

Her television career also extended from a weekly variety show, which ran for two years, into playing the regular role of the Governess in two series of popular 'Telenovela' drama productions for South America, *O Pecado Capital & Espigao*.

Since returning to the UK, Pauline has choreographed two pantomimes, *Mother Goose* and *Aladdin*. As a performer, she has played Stella in *Follies* and Mrs Perkins in a UK national tour of *Seven Brides For Seven Brothers*. Most recent work includes, the UK national tour of Cameron Mackintosh's award-winning production of *Oliver!*, in the role of Mrs Bedwin, choreographed by Matthew Bourne and directed by Sam Mendes, followed by *Cabaret* at the Chichester Festival Theatre for Bill Deemer and Roger Redfarn in the role of a KitKat dancer and Frau Schneider.

GREGOR STEWART

Gregor recently finished playing Munkustrap in *Cats*, touring Hong Kong and China, followed by Prince Valliant in *Sleeping Beauty* (Kings Lynn).

Other Theatre credits include *Barbara Cook and Friends* (Lyceum Theatre), Ensemble/Dance Captain in *Dick Whittington* (Rhyl Pavilion), Ensemble/Cover Troy Bolton in *High School Musical* (Hammersmith

Apollo), Prince Charming in *Sleeping Beauty* (Mansfield), Ensemble and Cover Fiyero in *Wicked* (Victoria Apollo), Ensemble in *Evita* (UK and European Tour), Swing Ensemble in *Legally Blonde* (Savoy Theatre), Prince David in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (Dartford), Ensemble/Cover Mary Sunshine and Billy Flynn in *Chicago* (UK Tour), Ensemble/Cover Sam Wheat in *Ghost* (UK Tour), Elliot Grey in *50 Shades of Grey Musical Parody* (Edinburgh Fringe and the Seychelles), Dandini in *Cinderella* (SECC Glasgow), Pepe/Cover Bernardo in *West Side Story* (Kilworth House Theatre), Ensemble/Cover Josh in *BIG* (Theatre Royal Plymouth).

Film: Greek Villager in *Mamma Mia 2: Here We Go Again*.

LINDA JOHN-PIERRE

Stage credits include The Empress in *Aladdin* (New Wimbledon Theatre), Ensemble / First Cover Queenie Show Boat (New London Theatre & Sheffield Crucible Theatre), When Blair had Bush and Bunga (Edinburgh Festival), *A Mad World My Masters* (RSC), Mama Morton in *Chicago* (RCCL/NAMCO), Genie in *Aladdin* (Corn Exchange, Exeter), Diva in *Peter Pan* (First Family Entertainment), Fairy Bow Bells in *Dick Whittington* (Camberley Theatre), *AD2050* (Kali Theatre, Manchester), Aduki the Fairy and Ackee the Jamaican Cook in *Jack and the Beanstalk* (Greenwich Theatre), Fairy Bowbells in *Dick Whittington* (Greenwich Theatre), Aretha Franklin in *Sweet Soul Music* (Flying Music), Sadie Fagan and Ella Fitzgerald in *The Billie Holiday Story* (Theatre Productions), *Blues Brothers Meet the Soul Sisters* (Bill Kenwright Ltd), *All You Need Is Love* (Queens Theatre).

Television and Film credits include Receptionist in *Angel Has Fallen* (for release August 2019, starring Gerard Butler, Morgan Freeman and Jada Pinkett-Smith), Nurse in *Silent Witness* (BBC), Wife of Conman in *The Take*, Glenda Lee (Kanye West's Mother) in *Autopsy* (ITV), Celia-Anne in *Threesome*, Nurse Judy in *Age Concern*, Keisha Camille in *Beautiful People* (BBC).

ALLIE HO CHEE

Most recently, Allie played the role of China Doll in Secret Cinema's *Moulin Rouge*, Goddess of The Realm in *Follow The Faun* at Arts Theatre, West End and Aphrodite and Athena in *Zeus on The Loose* at the Cockpit Theatre. Allie recently completed a residency at Jackson's Lane in an aerial, spoken word, musical theatre, dance show that she co-created and performed in called *The Brownie Club*, as well as appearing in the Postcards Festival at Jackson's Lane.