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The Musical



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LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical

Hessle
Theatre
Company

Hull New Theatre

8-12 April 2025

Tues - Fri 7:30pm, Sat 2pm & 7pm

We're thrilled to welcome you here for our production of 'Legally Blonde'! This fun and upbeat musical was first premiered in London in 2010 and went on to win three Laurence Olivier awards, including Best Musical.

At Hessle Theatre Company we take pride in producing top-notch West End musicals with a live band, lavish sets and costumes. Our cast, crew and creative team are incredibly talented and dedicated individuals from our local community who are committed to artistic excellence. But we couldn't do this without the support of yourselves, our followers and the management team. I'd also like to heartily thank all our sponsors, including MKM, for their generous financial support.

We hope you'll enjoy our performance today and we look forward to seeing you again later this year when we will be staging 'Everybody's Talking about Jamie' at the Hull Truck Theatre.

So, thanks for coming! Sit back, relax, and enjoy this wonderful show.

John Drury
Chairman



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Director

Martin Beaumont

Martin hails from the East Midlands, but graduated in Drama from Hull University and started his career teaching drama and lecturing in performing arts locally. Now an Occupational Therapist, he has continued his passion for theatre as an all-consuming hobby.

Joining Hessle Theatre Company as a performer in 1991, he has played several leading roles in both plays and musicals, and recently enjoying the role of Dame in our annual pantomime at Hessle Town Hall. First taking on the role of director and choreographer for HTC in 2006, he has greatly enjoyed working with new additions to the creative team this year, and gives a big shout out to Rebecca and Elise for their hard work and collaboration on this production.



Musical Director

Rebecca Barques

Rebecca has absolutely loved returning as the musical director for 'Legally Blonde' after her first experience with Hessle Theatre Company in 2023 with 'Grease'.

She is absolutely thrilled to be with HTC again and has loved working with the cast on these fun, energetic, and sometimes challenging songs. Rebecca's full-time job is being a Teacher of Performing Arts and Music Coordinator at Queen Ethelburga's Collegiate. Rebecca also musically directs alongside other local theatre companies in Hull. Despite the daily commute to York and the late nights of rehearsals, Rebecca still gets a buzz when it comes to show week, and she is incredibly proud of the hard work put in by all the cast, band, and crew.



Stage Manager

Kieran Danby

Kieran has been part of Hessle Theatre Company since 2018 and has performed in shows such as 'The Producers', 'Shrek' and 'Our House'.

While working on shows with HTC, Kieran has realised that he has a passion for working backstage in the theatre whether it be set design, being a part of the backstage crew or taking on the role of stage manager. Kieran's first show as stage manager was for Park Street Performing Arts Centre's production of 'Spend Spend Spend'. From there, he has gone on to stage manage and produce sets for various productions.

His previous shows as stage manager for Hessle Theatre Company include 'Grease' at Hull Truck Theatre and 'Crazy for You' at Hull New Theatre.



Choreographer

Elise Johnson

Elise is a dance artist, teacher and choreographer based in Hull. She is a co-owner of local dance school AB School of Dance and also works as a Performing Arts Lecturer at Hull College.

Elise has danced with Hessle Theatre Company in several of their recent productions including 'Shrek' (2022), 'Urinetown' (2022), 'Our House' (2023), 'Grease' (2023) and 'Crazy For You' (2024).

Upon completing her Masters in Choreography in 2024, Elise decided to take on the challenging role of choreographing 'Legally Blonde the Musical'! This is the first of Hessle Theatre Company's shows that Elise has choreographed, and she is excited to also be appearing as a Delta Nu in the production.

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Synopsis

Act One

At their UCLA sorority house, the Delta Nus celebrate their president, Elle Woods, anticipating a marriage proposal from her boyfriend, Warner Huntington III, and they help Elle to find the perfect dress (Omigod You Guys). However, during dinner, Warner doesn't propose, but instead breaks up with Elle, stating he needs someone more serious for his political plan to become Senator (Serious).

Devasted, Elle confines herself to her room (Daughter of Delta Nu) but comes up with a plan to win Warner back by joining him at Harvard Law School. With help from her sorority sister, Kate, she studies for the required LSAT grades. Instead of a personal essay, she bursts into Harvard and, backed by her sorority sisters, she persuades the stuffy admissions board to admit her (What You Want).

At Harvard, Elle's vibrant personality clashes with her peers, but teaching assistant, Emmett Forrest, offers her guidance (The Harvard Variations). On her first day, Elle enters Professor Callahan's class unprepared and gets kicked out of class, with a little help from Vivienne Kensington (Blood in the Water).

Elle finds out that Warner is dating Vivienne and her frustration summons the vision of her Delta Nu sisters as a Greek Chorus, only visible to Elle, who give her support (Positive). Believing her appearance is holding her back, Elle decides to dye her hair, but is advised against it by Paulette, a hairstylist who becomes her confidante (Ireland). Vivienne invites Elle to a "costume" party, and Paulette gives Elle a costume to wear (Ireland (Reprise)).

Arriving at the party in a Playboy Bunny outfit, Elle soon realises she has been tricked but holds her head high. She finds Warner and tries to win him back, but he points out her academic failures (Serious (Reprise)).

Emmett encourages Elle to focus on her studies and prove her worth. The hard work pays off and she impresses everyone by defeating Warner in a classroom debate (Chip on My Shoulder). Using her studies, Elle helps Paulette win back custody of her dog, Rufus, from her ex-boyfriend (Run Rufus Run/Elle Reflects).

When Warner proposes to Vivienne in front of her, Elle is devastated, but she discovers that she has secured a coveted internship with Professor Callahan, alongside Warner and Vivienne, showing she succeeded alone (So Much Better).

Act Two

Callahan and his interns watch a workout video from their new client, fitness guru Brooke Wyndham, who is accused of murdering her husband (Whipped Into Shape). Callahan is frustrated that Brooke will not give them her alibi. Elle recognises her as a Delta Nu sister and gains her trust and the alibi but promises to keep it a secret (Delta Nu Nu Nu).

To compensate for Callahan's annoyance, Elle gives Emmett a makeover to boost his confidence and show her gratitude (Take It Like a Man). Back at Paulette's salon, Elle and her friends teach Paulette the "Bend and Snap" move to attract the UPS delivery man she's interested in (Bend and Snap).

During the trial, Brooke Wyndham's pool boy is on the stand testifying he had an affair with Brooke. But Elle's intuition leads her to discredit his evidence and prove he is gay. (Gay or European?).

Later that night, whilst celebrating, Professor Callahan forces himself on Elle, and she slaps him. Callahan fires her. Devasted, Elle tells Emmett she has decided to leave law school, but he tries to persuade her to stay (Legally Blonde).

Elle heads to the salon to say "goodbye" to Paulette, but Vivienne and Enid turn up and convince her not to leave. Back at the courtroom, Brooke fires Callahan and hires Elle instead (Legally Blonde Remix).

Brooke's stepdaughter, Chutney, takes the stand stating she was in the shower when she saw her father covered in blood. Elle realises there is a flaw in Chutney's story and takes the entire courtroom to the bathroom where the murder took place (Scene of the Crime) where she wins the case with her expert hair knowledge (Omigod You Guys (Reprise)).

Having been dumped by Vivienne, Warner proposes to Elle, but she realises her own worth and declines. The story concludes with Elle graduating as valedictorian, embracing her journey of self-discovery, and she proposes to Emmett (Find My Way/Finale).

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Songs & Scenes

Act One

Omigod You Guys

Serena, Margot, Pilar and Delta Nus

Serious

Warner and Elle

Daughter of Delta Nu

Serena, Margot, Pilar and Delta Nus

What You Want

Elle, Serena, Margot, Pilar, Kate, Elle's Mom & Dad,
Grandmaster Chad and Company

The Harvard Variations

Emmett, Aaron, Enid, Boris, Warner and Students

Blood in the Water

Callahan, Enid, Elle, Aaron, Vivienne and Students

Positive

Elle, Serena, Margot, Pilar and Greek Chorus

Ireland

Paulette

Ireland (Reprise)

Paulette

Serious (Reprise)

Elle and Warner

Chip On My Shoulder

Elle, Emmett and Greek Chorus

Run Rufus Run/Elle Reflects

Elle and Emmett

So Much Better

Elle, Greek Chorus and Company

Act Two

Whipped Into Shape

Brooke, Callahan and Company

Delta Nu Nu Nu

Elle and Brooke

Take It Like a Man

Elle, Emmett and Company

Bend and Snap

Elle, Paulette, Serena, Margot, Pilar, Hairdressers
and Company

Gay or European?

Elle, Callahan, Emmett, Brooke, Vivienne, Warner,
Enid, Judge, Nikos, Carlos and Company

Legally Blonde

Elle and Emmett

Legally Blonde Remix

Vivienne, Elle, Paulette, Kyle, Enid, Elle's Mom & Dad,
Margot, Serena, Pilar, Brooke and Company

Scene of the Crime

Elle, Judge, Serena, Margot, Pilar
and Company

Find My Way/Finale

Elle, Paulette, Emmett and Company



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Elle Woods



Emmett Forrest



Warner Huntington III

Tanya Sewell

Tanya is thrilled to step into the iconic role of Elle Woods in 'Legally Blonde'!

A proud member of Hessle Theatre Company for several years, this marks her first leading role, and she couldn't be more excited. A graduate of the Arden School of Theatre, Tanya has honed her craft in various productions, including leading roles in UK tours of 'Aladdin' and 'Cinderella'.

In addition to her stage work, she co-owns Troupers Entertainment Ltd, where she performs weekly at various venues, bringing joy and entertainment to audiences.

Tanya is grateful for this incredible opportunity and looks forward to sharing this character's journey with you all!

James Galer

James has been performing with Hessle Theatre Company for over 10 years and has been involved in 15 productions so far. He has thoroughly enjoyed his time with HTC and has played roles such as Captain Tempest in 'Return to the Forbidden Planet', Cinderella's Prince in 'Into the Woods', Nicky in 'Avenue Q', Glen in 'The Wedding Singer' as well as being involved in the chorus for 'The Producers', 'Made in Dagenham' and 'Crazy For You'. More recently James was cast as Danny Zuko in the 2023 production of 'Grease' which he still looks back on fondly and had a one off appearance in the 2023 UK tour of 'Heathers' as Steve.

James has thoroughly enjoyed being a part of 'Legally Blonde' as it is one of his favourite musicals, and hopes audiences enjoy the hard work put in by the cast, crew and production team.

Aaron Bolton

Aaron started performing when he was 12 years old, in Hessle Theatre Company's 2016 production of 'Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs' as a part of the chorus where he, without a doubt, caught the musical theatre bug.

He continued being a part of pantomimes for a couple of years before making his debut on the Hull New Theatre stage in 'Made in Dagenham'. Having been cast in the chorus for a few years, Aaron got his first principal role, as Tiny Tim, in the production of 'Urinetown' at Hull Truck Theatre and loved every minute of it. Aaron has played Roger in 'Grease' for HTC and Jack in 'Into the Woods' for Hull Musical Theatre.

Aaron is very much looking forward to portraying the part of Warner in HTC's 'Legally Blonde'.



Vivienne Kensington



Paulette Buonufonte



Professor Callahan

Georgia Wormald

Georgia has always had a passion for the dramatic arts and has been performing from a young age.

In 2017 she joined Hessle Theatre Company to perform in 'The Producers' and this is where her love for the big stage really grew. She was then cast as Velcro in 'Soho Cinders' and Clare in 'Made in Dagenham'. She played leading roles as Julia in 'The Wedding Singer' and Hope in 'Urinetown'. She has played supporting roles in 'Grease' and 'Shrek the musical', and Irene in last year's 'Crazy for You'.

Working backstage for the wonderful 'Our House', Georgia gained even more appreciation for all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes.

This year Georgia will be playing the overachieving law student Vivienne in the wonderful 'Legally Blonde'. She is thoroughly enjoying portraying Vivienne's journey throughout this upbeat musical.

Emma Burgess

Emma has been part of Hessle Theatre Company for an impressive 39 years, dedicating her talents and passion for the stage in a wide variety of roles. Throughout her years of performing, Emma has played many character roles, including Rita O'Grady in 'Made in Dagenham', Nancy in 'Oliver!' and Calamity Jane in 'Calamity Jane'.

Whatever the role, whether it be a lead role, a light-hearted supporting character or taking part in the ensemble, Emma is most at home when she is performing on stage.

Emma is very much looking forward to performing in 'Legally Blonde' as the loveable Paulette and hopes you enjoy the show as much as she has.

Ian Appleyard

Ian has been involved in numerous HTC productions, both as a performer and Musical Director. Ian played the title role in 'The Wedding Singer' and performed in 'Shrek', 'The Producers' and 'Grease' and most recently as Bela Zangler in 'Crazy for You'. Then as Musical Director for 'Return to the Forbidden Planet', 'Avenue Q', 'Soho Cinders' and 'Urinetown'.

He has always loved live performance and studied drama at the University of Hull and Brunel, performing in several Edinburgh Fringe productions, playing Judd in 'Bouncers', Ray Say in 'Little Voice' and Silvio in 'A Servant to Two Masters'.

He is excited to be back on stage with such a talented and dedicated group and looking forward to channelling his darker side!

Sarah Brodie

Sarah gained a DaDa scholarship to study at London Studio Centre where she graduated with a BA Hons degree in Theatre Dance and received the Cameron Mackintosh Award for Most Potential in Musical Theatre. Sarah then worked as Lead Vocalist on cruise ships including the QE2's 40th anniversary voyage.

On her return to Hull, Sarah joined HTC and has performed in many productions over the past 13 years, including Fiona in 'Shrek-the musical', Ulla in 'The Producers', Adelaide in 'Guys and Dolls' and Audrey in 'Little Shop of Horrors'.

Sarah has choreographed several shows for Hessle Theatre Company including, 'Grease', 'Urinetown' and 'Return to the Forbidden Planet'. She is excited to make her directorial debut in the Autumn with HTC's production of 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie'.

Jonathan Wainman

Jonathan joined Hessle Theatre Company for the first time in their production of 'Made in Dagenham' at Hull New Theatre in 2019. He performed later that year in HTC's pantomime, 'Robinson Crusoe'.

After a short break, mainly due to the COVID pandemic, Jonathan took on the role of Hot Blades Harry in the mad-cap production of 'Urinetown' at Hull Truck Theatre in 2022. He was back at Hull Truck Theatre the following year, this time as the smooth-talking Vince Fontaine in 'Grease'.

Jonathan is looking forward to getting back to the Hull New Theatre stage as Kyle in 'Legally Blonde'.

Abigail Potter

Abigail has been a member of Hessle Theatre Company since 2017, taking part in shows such as 'The Producers', 'Urinetown' and 'Crazy for You'. Abigail has participated in several pantomimes with HTC, most recently taking up the mantle as our resident puppet, Diddles in 'Dick Whittington'. Abigail has had a passion for musical theatre from a young age, which followed her through school as she studied Performance and Musical Theatre at college.

In other local productions, Abigail has previously been cast as Clare in 'Made in Dagenham', Madame Giry in 'Phantom of the Opera' and Audrey II in 'Little Shop of Horrors', twice! 'Legally Blonde' has been one of Abigail's favourite musicals for years so she is delighted to be playing Enid Hoopes in her first principal role with Hessle Theatre Company.



Brooke Wyndham



Kyle



Enid Hoopes



Serena

Elinor Kirby

Elinor has had a love for theatre since she began dancing at the age of 2 and her joy for Musical Theatre began as a teen. She is now a co-owner of local entertainment company 'Troupers Entertainment Ltd', local dance school 'AB School of Dance' and also works as a children's party entertainer, alongside being an Airbnb host.

At the University of Lincoln, Elinor's musical roles included Sarah Brown in 'Guys and Dolls' and Paulette in 'Legally Blonde'. With Hessle Theatre Company, she has played Sugar Plum Fairy/Gingy in 'Shrek', Lil' Sally in 'Urinetown', Angie in 'Our House' and been lucky enough to reprise the role of Fairy in three Christmas pantomimes. More recently, she played her dream role as Polly in HTC's 2024 production of 'Crazy for You' at Hull New Theatre.

Playing Serena in 'Legally Blonde' has been a ridiculous amount of fun. Her self confidence and positivity is completely joyful and so infectious.



Margot

Gina Hobson

Gina first performed with Hessle Theatre Company back in 2005 (age 13) as an orphan for their production of 'Oliver!'. Gina trained at SLP college and has worked professionally in the industry for the past 10 years. Gina now runs her own events company 'GW Events'.

She's also Head of Competition & programme lead at Hull College and loves transferring her industry knowledge to her performing arts students, giving them the opportunities to succeed.

Last year Gina played Patsy in HTC's 'Crazy for You'. Other previous theatre roles include Viv Nicholson in 'Spend Spend Spend', Baby Boots in 'Boogie Wonderland', Ariel in 'Footloose' and Hedy La-Rue in 'How to Succeed' to name a few favourites.

Gina hopes you enjoy the show as much as she has rehearsing it.

Katie Flanagan

From a young age Katie has had a love for dance and musical theatre. Her first professional role was in 2002 performing as one of the seven dwarfs in the pantomime 'Snow White' at Hull New Theatre aged 9.

Katie was awarded a scholarship at the Louise Browne Yorkshire Ballet school where she trained for a number of years. She then went on to train in Musical Theatre at Bird College in London. Katie has travelled the world singing and dancing on luxury cruise ships.

This is her fourth show with Hessle Theatre Company after joining the company in the cast of 'Shrek'. Since then, Katie has performed in 'Our House' and 'Crazy For You'.

She is excited to be playing the sassy role of Pilar alongside her friends.



Pilar

Kimberley Fletcher

Kimberley has been performing with Hessle Theatre Company since 2019. In that time Kimberley has performed as an ensemble member in various productions including 'Our House' and 'Crazy for You'. Kimberley has also taken on roles including Little Red Riding Hood in 'Shrek the Musical' at Hull New Theatre and Patty in 'Grease' at Hull Truck Theatre.

Kimberley is really excited to be playing Kate alongside her Delta Nu sisters. She also has a law degree so is perfectly placed to help Elle get into Harvard Law!



Kate

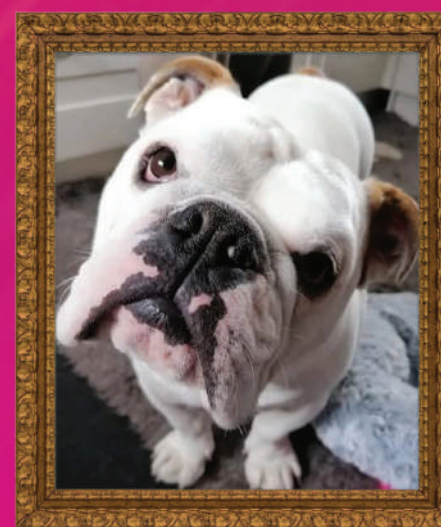
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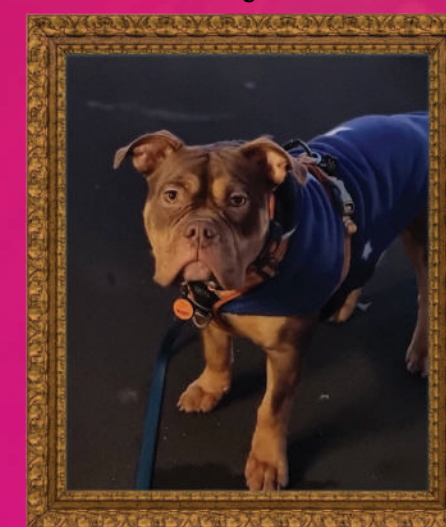
Millie



Disney



Ernie



Nellie



Simba

Cast

Elle Woods

Tanya Sewell

Emmett Forrest

James Galer

Warner Huntington III

Aaron Bolton

Vivienne Kensington

Georgia Wormald

Paulette Buonufonté

Emma Burgess

Professor Callahan

Ian Appleyard

Brooke Wyndham

Sarah Brodie

Enid Hoopes

Abigail Potter

Kyle

Jonathan Wainman

Serena

Elinor Kirby

Margot

Gina Hobson

Pilar

Katie Flanagan

Kate

Kimberley Fletcher

Aaron Shultz

Chris Barques

Boris Abramowicz

Oscar Morton

Winthrop/TV Announcer

Mark Jardine

Lowell/Dewey

Tim Drage

Pforzheimer

James Gridley

Elle's Mom

Gina Garton

Elle's Dad

Mark Gillyon-Powell

Chutney Wyndham

Rhiannon Lightfoot

Nikos Argitakos

Josh Murraybutler

Carlos

Luke Cardwell

Grand Master Chad

Luke Gillingham

Shop Manager/Judge

Sue Bielby

Courtney/DA Joyce Riley

Hannah Allman

Delta Nus

Chelsea Short, Elise Johnson,
Paige Hudder, Rachel Gilroy,
Samantha Hotham

Ensemble

Hannah Allman, Sue Bielby,
Luke Cardwell, Maiya Clucas,
Toby Dodson, Tim Drage,
Scarlet Farrer, Gina Garton,
Alfi Gözaçan, James Gridley,
Bethany Headland, Mark
Jardine, Rhiannon Lightfoot,
Ellie McLaughlin, Josh
Murraybutler, Harry Salter,
Bailey Smith, Nat Thornton,
Joseph Walker

Bruiser

Millie, Disney

Rufus

Ernie, Nellie, Simba

LEGALLY BLONDE *The Musical*

Based on the novel by
AMANDA BROWN
and the
MGM MOVIE

Music & lyrics by
LAURENCE O'KEEFE
& NELL BENJAMIN
Book by
HEATHER HATCH



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Martin Beaumont

Musical Director

Rebecca Barques

Choreographer

Elise Johnson

Stage Manager

Kieran Danby

Deputy Stage Manager

Ben Parry

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Elizabeth, Mike Hall, Colin
Thompson, David Underwood,
Anne Walker

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Tony Courts, James K Bateman

Sound

Mark Ridpath, Richard
Carmichael, Cameron Clark

Lighting Operator

Paul Jenkinson

Follow Spot Operator

Neal Edlin

Production Assistant

John Drury

Dog Trainer

Sally Hague, Leads in Action

Dance Captain

Samantha Hotham

Scenery

Scenic Projects

Additional Scenery

Hessle Theatre Company

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Anne Walker

Wigs

Mark Gillyon-Powell, Dream
Wigs by Tanya

Make Up

Mark Gillyon-Powell, Lizzie Moy

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Beaumont, David Gillyon-Powell,
Mark Gillyon-Powell, Darlington
Operatic Society

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Brumby, Will Cadle, Lesley
Cussons, Harry Gillyon-Powell,
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Hyde, Kelly Lightfoot, Allison
Owen, Adrian Roach, Joe
Spence, Elaine Windass

Business Manager

Richard Carmichael

Photography

John Drury

Cast Headshots

Andy Crozier - Insight
Photography

The Students



L to R: Luke Gillingham, Chris Barques, Oscar Morton

The Delta Nus



L to R: Paige Hudder, Rachel Gilroy, Maiya Clucas, Elise Johnson, Chelsea Short, Sam Hotham

The Professors



L to R: Mark Jardine, James Gridley



L to R: Bethany Headland, Sue Bielby, Hannah Allman, Ellie McLaughlin



L to R: Alfi Gözaçan, Luke Cardwell, Josh Murraybutler, Bailey Smith



L to R: Toby Dodson, Harry Salter, Joseph Walker



L to R: Scarlet Farrer, Nat Thornton, Gina Garton, Rhiannon Lightfoot



LEGALLY BLONDE

From Page to Stage

Many stories make the leap from page to stage, or screen to stage, but how many jump from page to screen to stage like 'Legally Blonde'? You probably know the smash hit Hollywood film, starring Reese Witherspoon stepping into Elle Woods' iconic pink stilettos, but did you know that the popular film was based on a book?

Yes, the hilarious Hollywood movie and the high-energy Broadway musical that followed are based on a novel of the same name by Amanda Brown. And even more than that, the book is actually based on Amanda's real-life experiences of studying law at Stanford. The setting of the film (and musical) was moved to Harvard when Stanford refused to let film producers, MGM, use their name.



Amanda Brown (Author of 'Legally Blonde')

The movie was an instant success. Cinema audiences fell in love with Reese Witherspoon's career-defining portrayal of the lovable fashion merchandiser turned law student. The film took Amanda's experiences and turned them into a heart-felt comedy with an empowering message about defying expectations. Reese Witherspoon brought Elle to life in a way that was both hilarious and inspiring.

While Elle's love of pink, beauty and fashion remained front and centre, Elle was never reduced to a stereotype. In fact, just the opposite, she proved that the stereotypes we inflict on others are often unfounded. Witherspoon's portrayal showed Elle as intelligent, kind and ambitious and changed what a "strong female lead" could look like.



While at Stanford, fashion-loving law student Amanda, who loved reading 'Elle' magazine (yes, that's no coincidence), found that she didn't fit in with her fellow students. Frustrated Amanda documented her experiences of personality clashes with her peers in letters to her parents.

After dropping out of law school, Amanda was encouraged to turn her letters into a novel. However, the manuscript did not gain any attention... until... ironically, she resubmitted it on pink paper, writing it with a pink fluffy pen! This time, it got noticed by an agent and "movie people went nuts". They loved the story of a woman overcoming prejudices and proving that intelligence and femininity are not mutually exclusive.

Published in 2001, the book was not a massive bestseller. Nevertheless, when it hit the big screen later that year, it quickly became one of the most loved comedies of the time.

"At least once a week, I have a woman come up to me and say, 'I went to law school because of Legally Blonde', it's incredible... You can be unapologetically feminine but also smart and driven."

Reese Witherspoon

From iconic quotes ("What? Like it's hard?") to Elle's legendary "Bend and Snap" move and her unforgettable Harvard admissions video, the movie became deep-rooted in pop culture. This hilarious and heartwarming movie has grossed over \$140 million worldwide and its enduring popularity caught the imagination of Broadway.

The combination of light-hearted fun and its positive message made 'Legally Blonde' a natural choice for a Broadway musical. But turning a movie into a musical while retaining its essence is never easy. With music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe ('Bat Boy', 'Heathers: The Musical') and Nell Benjamin ('Mean Girls') and a book by Heather Hach ('Freaky Friday' 2003 movie remake screenplay), the musical expands on Elle's story.



Top: Laura Bell Bundy on Broadway (2007)
Bottom: Sheridan Smith on West End (2010)

It's fair to say that Elle Woods has become something of a cultural icon. She has become an inspirational force as a woman who challenges expectations. In a world that often underestimates women and judges those who choose to embrace their femininity, Elle realises that she doesn't need validation from anyone. We can all learn from Elle that self-belief is a great strength.

Elle's resilience has resonated with audiences for over 20 years. Elle Woods teaches us to hold our heads high while facing rejection, judgement and setbacks. Her signature positivity and unwavering determination make her a joyous role model for anyone who has felt underestimated. We should never judge a person by their choice of clothes or hair colour.

'Legally Blonde's' themes of self-empowerment and ambition continue to resonate with new generations. The film is readily available for streaming and the musical continues to be revived around the world, including notable productions at the Curve Theatre, Leicester (2016) and Regent's Park Open Air Theatre (2022).

Whether audiences first met Elle through the pages of Amanda Brown's novel, on the big screen, or under the bright lights of the stage, one thing is clear: Elle Woods is here to stay. And as long as people continue to be underestimated and challenged, her story will continue to inspire.



Reese Witherspoon as Elle Woods in 'Legally Blonde' (2001)

Catchy songs like 'Omigod You Guys', 'So Much Better' and 'What You Want' and high-energy choreography from Jerry Mitchell ('Hairspray', 'Le Cage Aux Folles', 'Kinky Boots', 'The Devil Wears Prada') captured Elle's character and humour. After a try-out in San Francisco, 'Legally Blonde the musical' opened on Broadway in April 2007 with Laura Bell Bundy stepping into Elle's pink stilettos.

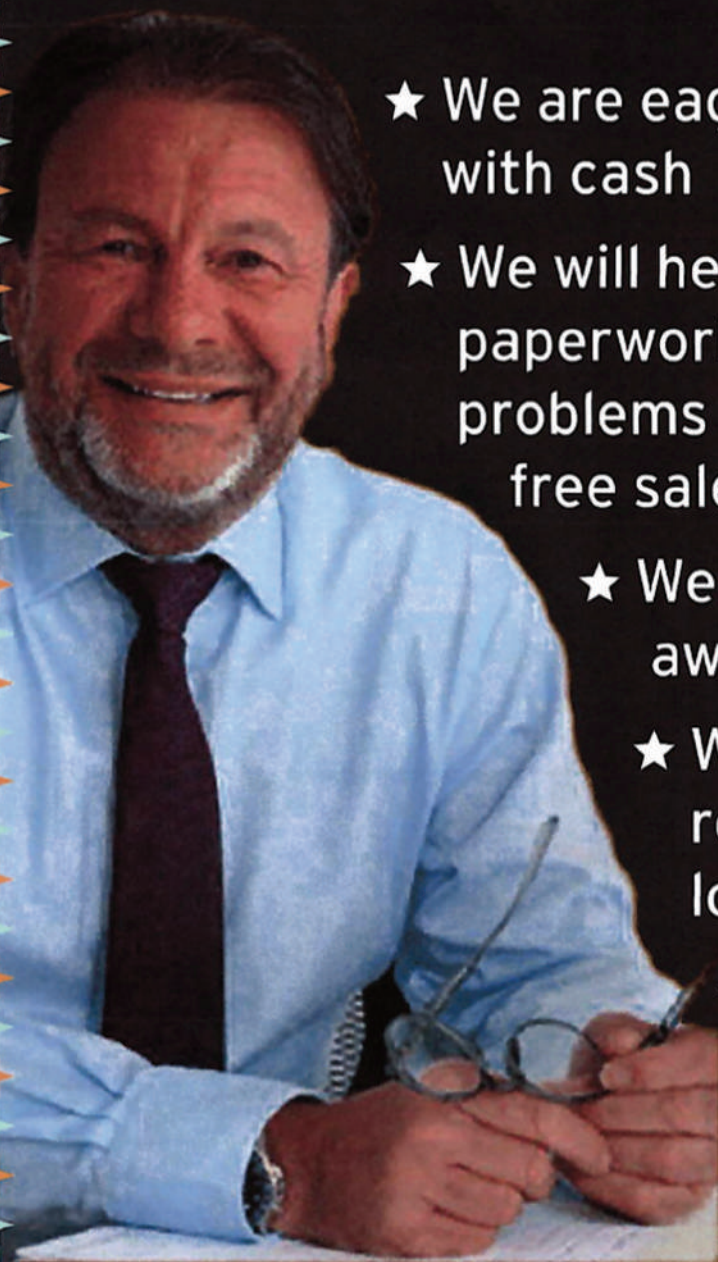
The show ran on Broadway until October 2008, closing after 625 performances. The musical opened on London's West End in January 2010 with Sheridan Smith taking on the iconic leading role. The West End production was received more favourably than in New York, closing in April 2012 after 974 performances. The West End production was nominated for five Laurence Olivier Awards and won three, including 'Best New Musical' and secured Sheridan Smith the award for 'Best Actress in a Musical'.

While the musical follows the same general plot as the film, the music and book offered audiences a deeper understanding of Elle's journey. The show puts a strong emphasis on her personal growth and the friendships she develops along the way.



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Our President

Jan Brumby

Thank you for supporting our production of 'Legally Blonde the musical' at Hull New Theatre.

Its blend of comedy, romance and inspiring messages, combined with dazzling choreography and catchy pop-infused songs, makes it a feel-good favourite that continues to delight audiences around the world.

As President of Hessle Theatre Company, I feel very proud of our talented cast and crew who have worked so hard to bring this modern story of self-belief and resilience to life.

Finally, did you know that Elle's signature "Bend & Snap" is scientifically proven. According to a study at the University of Hertfordshire, the "Bend & Snap" has an 83% success rate for attracting attention from potential romantic interests!

Our Patron

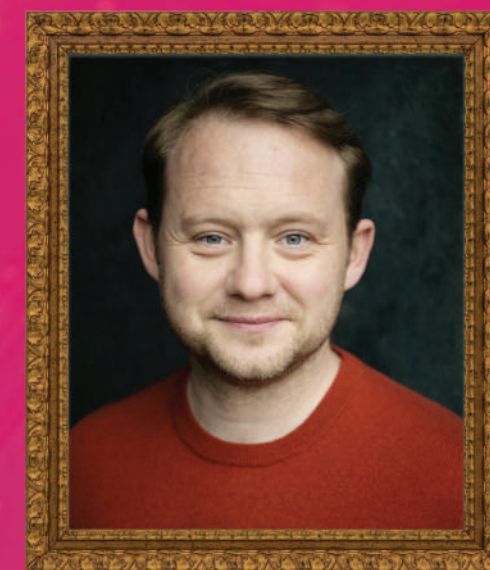
Michael Jibson

Thanks so much for coming to support Hessle Theatre Company at the Hull New Theatre! I have so many fond memories of performing when I was younger starting in their productions of Oliver! In 1994 through to playing Lt Cable in South Pacific in 1999! Good times with lovely people.

It's so exciting that the audiences of Hull and East Yorkshire get to see Legally Blonde performed by this incredible company. A brilliant Broadway musical filled with great songs, comedy and a brilliant message.

Best of luck to the cast and crew and Oh My God you guys, enjoy your week at The Hull New Theatre!

Best wishes,
Michael Jibson



We are very grateful to have Micheal Jibson as Hessle Theatre Company's patron. Michael's commitment to the performing arts and his advocacy of the importance of amateur theatre is inspirational to many. As a past member of Hessle Theatre Company, he has shown what an important part community theatre has to play in experience for performers of the future.

Michael has appeared in numerous films including, 'The Bank Job', 'Les Misérables', 'Beauty and the Beast', and 'Star Wars: The Last Jedi'. On the small screen, he recently appeared in 'The Crown' and 'Bodies' for Netflix, the latter being filmed in his hometown of Hull.

Michael has also had a long theatre career. He originated the role of Joe Casey in the world premiere of 'Our House' and won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role in a Musical for his portrayal of King George III in 'Hamilton' in 2018. He recently finished playing Victor Creel in the original West End cast of 'Stranger Things: The First Shadow', based on the phenomenal Netflix series.

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Hessle Theatre Company

Hessle Theatre Company has been creating theatre for over 100 years, since it was founded in 1922 as Hessle Operatic and Dramatic Society. We have been presenting musicals at Hull New Theatre every year since 1958, only stopped by the theatre closing for refurbishments in 2016 and then by the COVID pandemic which saw theatre lights go dark across the world. We were very excited when the curtain rose again in 2022, when we staged our showstopping production of 'Shrek the Musical', which had also been postponed from 2019 because of the pandemic.

We also stage exciting productions at Hull Truck Theatre and produce an annual family pantomime at Hessle Town Hall every Christmas. We're proud to say that we are still one of the area's leading community theatre companies and we are affiliated to the professional organisation, the National Operatic & Dramatic Association (NODA).

As a not-for-profit company with charitable status, we never fail to bring exciting productions to local audiences and a high calibre of performers, some of whom have gone on to perform on London's West End, stages around the globe and even on the silver screen! In fact, past member Michael Jibson has won an Olivier Award for his role in the West End phenomenon, 'Hamilton', and now acts as our company patron.

Holding charitable status and being a not-for-profit theatre company, and with the climate as it is, we find the costs of staging a full-scale production like 'Legally Blonde' are mounting year on year. With our commitment to high artistic standards and affordable ticket pricing, we rely on the generous support that we receive from local businesses and individuals to help us carry on doing what we do best.

If you can help Hessle Theatre Company in any way, whether that be through sponsorship or helping out behind the scenes, we'd love to hear from you. We are easy to get hold of, either via our website or through our social media channels.

Thank you so much for coming along and purchasing a ticket for 'Legally Blonde' and helping to keep local theatre alive!

Do you have

TIME TO HELP?

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At Hessle Theatre Company our doors are always open for people who can help in all aspect of putting on full-scale musicals at Hull New Theatre, Hull Truck Theatre, and our annual panto at Hessle Town Hall.

Could you help out with:

- Helping backstage/moving scenery
- Painting/constructing sets
- Organising or helping at social events
- Welcoming audiences & selling programmes
- Marketing and computer skills
- Helping on our management team
- Making or finding props

For more information, or to express an interest, please get in touch via our website:

www.hessletheatre.co.uk

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Keep up to date with
our latest productions,
details of open auditions and
plenty of theatre fun.
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Previous Productions

2024

Crazy For You, Dick Whittington

2023

Our House, Grease

2022

Shrek the Musical, Urinetown,
Robin Hood & the Babes in the
Wood

2021

The Regina Monologues (online)
Songs For a New World (online)
Robinson Crusoe

2020

The Night Before Christmas
(online)

2019

Made in Dagenham, The Wedding
Singer, Jack and the Beanstalk

2018

The Producers, Soho Cinders,
Cinderella

2017

The Baker's Wife, Aladdin

2016

The Hired Man, Avenue Q,
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

2015

Sister Act, Into the Woods

2014

Oklahoma!
Return to the Forbidden Planet

2013

Guys and Dolls, A Broadway
Christmas

2012

Curtains, Little Shop of Horrors

2011

Jane Eyre the Musical, Nunsense

2010

Calamity Jane, Blithe Spirit

2009

Sweeney Todd, Abigail's Party

2008

Barnum, Summer Serenade

2007

Titanic the Musical, Broadway to
Berkeley Square, Mixed Doubles

2006

Fiddler on the Roof, Summer
Showstoppers, Time of My Life

2005

Oliver!, A Walk Through the West
End, Make It Musical

2004

Half a Sixpence, Steel Magnolias

2003

Kiss Me Kate, Sounds Sensational

2002

Annie Get Your Gun, A Festive
Treat

2001

My Fair Lady, The Crucible

2000

Carousel, Stagestruck

1999

South Pacific, Last Tango in Whitby

1998

The Sound of Music, Godspell

1997

Me and My Girl,
Runaways - Phantom of the Opera

1996

Oklahoma!, Deathtrap

1995

Hello Dolly!,
No Sex Please, We're British

1994

Oliver!, Gosforth Fete,
Outside Edge

1993

The King and I, A Winter's Tale,
Fathers & Sons

1992

Anything Goes, Albert,
Once a Catholic

1991

Carousel, The Right Place,
Noises Off

1990

Blue Remembered Hills, Ritual for
Dolls, Guys and Dolls

1989

A View from the Bridge, Annie,
Black Comedy

1988

South Pacific, Our Town

1987

The Boyfriend, The Dresser, Play It
Again Sam, Mary Poppins

1986

Brigadoon, The Purging, The
Miracle Worker, The Wizard of Oz



Crazy For You - 2024



Our House - 2023



Shrek - 2022

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'Legally Blonde'

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Left - The cast of Shrek at Hull New Theatre with Gordon Richardson, NODA National President (2021-2022) and NODA rep, Geoff Haywood.
Right - Les Smith NODA Area Councillor meets the cast and crew of Crazy For You at Hull New Theatre.



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Whether you are staging a musical, an opera, a play, a concert or a pantomime, as the UK's leading amateur theatre membership organisation, NODA is here for every show, every rehearsal, every curtain call – here for our members every step of the way.

From just starting out to centre stage; village halls to professional venues; NODA exists to celebrate, connect, support and amplify amateur theatre and theatre groups across the UK.

We provide invaluable services, expertise and resources – that help thousands of our member groups create and produce theatre, that enhances lives and benefits communities everywhere.

Whatever your passion, level of experience or stage of life, we are here to help everyone enjoy the unique benefits, opportunities and sense of community that live performance can bring.

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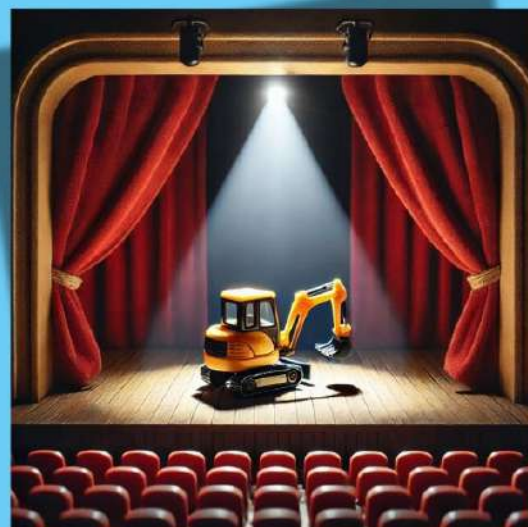


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Huge Thanks from Hessle Theatre Company

We wouldn't be able to stage musicals as fabulous as 'Legally Blonde' without additional support, so we want to express additional thanks to the following for their invaluable help. Sally Hague from Leads in Action for helping to find and train our talented pooches. Hull Golf Club for the loan of the golf buggy. David Kilburn from MKM and John Moore for their kind donations. Adrian Roach for his continued support. St. Mary's College for the loan of potted palms. Richard Carmichael and Christine Rostron for providing much-needed refreshments at our rehearsals. Scribes Digital for printing our eye-catching posters & leaflets and totally awesome glossy souvenir brochure. And, last but not least, massive thanks to **YOU** for coming to see 'Legally Blonde', we cannot underestimate the "Positive" effect your support has on our company and our community. **THANK YOU! SNAPS!**

Hull New Theatre Personnel

Theatre and Halls Manager

Claire Elsdon

Operations Manager

Jozef Csendes

Assistant Operations Managers

Susanne Payne, Paul Peskey

Duty Manager

Jodie Wilcock

Technical & Production Manager

Tony Evans

Stage Manager

Alex Lintott

Chief LX

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