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OUR HOUSE

Hull New Theatre

18 - 22 April 2023



I am delighted to welcome you to the Hull New Theatre... 'Our House' for the week!

What a show we have in store for you! 'Our House' sees the funny and ingenious script by Tim Firth (Calendar Girls, Kinky Boots) alongside all the popular well known songs of the band Madness. We follow Joe Casey on his journey of two paths, as he learns about love, laughter and learning to do the right thing.

It's almost unbelievable that Hessle Theatre Company is now in its 101st year of bringing audiences high quality exciting theatre! This, of course, wouldn't be made possible without the hard work and dedication of our performers, stage crew, management team and supporters both past and present. I would like to take this opportunity to give a special mention to one of our past members and now, I am proud to say, our patron Michael Jibson who actually made his professional debut as Joe Casey in the West End production of 'Our House' in 2002/2003 and was nominated for a 2003 Laurence Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Musical.

All that is left to say is that you have chosen the right path to be entertained today! It's going to be Madness!



Nicola Wilson
Chair

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Martin Beaumont

Director/Choreographer

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. More recently he has enjoyed treading the boards as the Dame in our annual pantomime at Hessle Town Hall. First taking on the role of director and choreographer for HTC in 2006, he is proud that the company has brought many new shows to the area, including the local musical premieres of 'Titanic', 'The Baker's Wife' and this year's 'Our House'.



Sarah Lucy Penny

Musical Director

Sarah Lucy first joined the company in 2009, performing in 'Sweeney Todd', 'Calamity Jane' and 'Jane Eyre' before moving away to read music at Edinburgh Napier University, where she obtained a first-class honours, followed by her Masters in consort singing at the University of York. Sarah Lucy returned to HTC to join the cast of 'Made in Dagenham', before becoming MD for 'The Wedding Singer' and has since MD'd for 'Shrek', both online productions of 'The Night before Christmas' and 'Songs for a New World', and was Vocal Coach for 'Urinetown'. She also performed in the online 'Regina Monologues' and the recent pantomime, 'Babes in the Wood'. Sarah Lucy is delighted to be returning as Musical Director for 'Our House', give her a wave in the pit!



Amanda Marshall

Stage Manager

Amanda has been Stage Manager for HTC since 2013, starting with 'Guys and Dolls' at Hull New Theatre. Amanda has stage managed several productions over the years at Hull Truck and Hull New Theatre and is proud to have been a volunteer during Hull's 2017 City of Culture, which involved many different activities. Originally from Merseyside, Amanda toured briefly with a St Helens based theatre company before joining Butlins, where she spent two years performing as a Company Cast member, as well as co-writing some of the children's productions. Amanda has staged managed many productions for HTC from the heavenly 'Sister Act' to pantomimes and last year's crazy 'Shrek' and expects 'Our House' to be even more lively behind the scenes!



Russell Fallon

Stage Manager

"Ogre" the years, Russell has worked with a number of local amateur theatre societies, he first performed 26 years ago, in 'Me and My Girl' in 1997 for Goole Amateurs. Russell has gone on to clock up many stage miles in many productions including 'Oklahoma!', 'Showboat' and has got his kit off in 'The Full Monty' TWICE! During his time with HTC, Russell has performed in 'Guys and Dolls', 'Into the Woods', 'Avenue Q' and 'Sister Act' and played the title role in last year's 'Shrek' to name a few. He has also stage managed HTC's production of 'The Wedding Singer' at Hull Truck. Russell has also produced and directed the annual Hessle Theatre Company pantomime with his cousin, Joe Porte, since the sell-out production of Cinderella in 2018.



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THE STORY

ACT 1

Sixteen years ago, at a dancing competition in Margate, Kath breaks the happy news to her boyfriend that she is pregnant with their future son, Joe Casey.

We're in Camden, London on the day of Joe Casey's 16th birthday, where his Mum, Kath, has arranged a surprise birthday party. Joined by his best friends Emmo and Lewis, Joe is excited to see his new girlfriend Sarah, who brings along her best friends Billie and Angie. (Our House) Afterwards, Joe breaks into a building site wanting to impress Sarah by showing her a bird's eye view of his street, Casey Street, built by his great great grandad. The police arrive and Joe has to make a decision whether to follow the "Right path" and give himself up or take the "Wrong path" and run. The story splits, as Joe's dead Dad reveals the two paths open to him. (Simple Equation)

Wrong Path

Joe escapes the police but is told off by Sarah, as his Dad looks on. Joe, Emmo and Lewis drown their sorrows in the pub (My Girl).

The morning after the night before, Joe meets Reecey, the local thug, who offers him a "business opportunity" if he leaves school. (Baggy Trousers)

Having set up in "business" with Reecey as Sales Manager for 'London Alarms', Joe meets property developer, Mr Pressman. After the meeting we soon discover that this is a scam. (Embarrassment, Reprise)

Doing rather well, Joe has bought himself a new Jaguar and set himself up as a property developer, not only that he's set Emmo and Lewis up with a limousine business. They bump into Sarah, working as a waitress to fund her studies at university, who tells them she is planning a charity ball.

Billie, Angie, Sarah and her new friend, Callum, are at the charity ball when Joe arrives with a large donation. Joe and Sarah reconcile as they dance.

Having found each other again, Joe and Sarah continue to rekindle their romance and on a walk through London, they kiss.

Right Path

Having stayed to face the music, Joe finds himself in the Magistrates court and is sent to a Young Offenders Institute, where his Mum gives words of encouragement. (All I Wanted)

Having been released from the Young Offenders Institute, Joe finds his friends Emmo and Lewis working at a car wash and attempts to find honest work for himself but, on revealing his past, his interviews fail. (Embarrassment)

Joe has found himself a job in 'marketing' promoting a local golf sale, much to the amusement of Billie and Angie. Joe is keen to impress Sarah on her birthday but is skint. Reecey offers a tempting solution, but Joe has a better idea, and he arrives with a clapped-out Morris Minor for Sarah's birthday day out. (Driving in my Car) Sarah invites Joe to her college ball but, unable to afford a dinner jacket, Joe's pride turns down Sarah's offer to pay.

Desperate to be with Sarah at her ball, Joe is led into temptation by Reecey, watched on by his Dad. (Simple Equation, Reprise)

Being caught by the police, Joe and Reecey are taken in where they each blame each other for the crime (Shut Up). Things only get worse when Sarah and her new friend Callum arrive. A fight breaks out and Joe ends up hitting Callum and a policeman. Sarah tries to stand up for Joe, but he says he wishes he'd never met her, and Sarah storms off. Joe has previous form so is sent to prison.

Tomorrow's Just Another Day/The Sun and the Rain

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CONTINUED Wrong Path

Joe and Sarah ride a gondola on their way to their Las Vegas wedding (Night Boat to Cairo). After the ceremony, Joe meets Mr Pressman who gives him his business card. The wedding party continues. (Wings of a Dove)

Mr Pressman explains his plan to remove Kath from her Casey Street home and develop the land. Joe agrees to help.

Joe shows off the flat that he intends to move his mum into. When Joe reveals the plans to demolish Casey Street his friends are angry and leave. Joe looks to Sarah for support but she doesn't provide it, Joe storms out. Sarah looks back on their relationship. (NW5) Joe visits Mr Pressman to ask to work on a different project. Mr Pressman will not release him.

Joe goes to find Mr Pressman's 'heavy' who is revealed to be Reecey. To frighten her into moving house, Joe tells Reecey to break in on Friday the 1st, when Kath will be out and the house will be empty. (Simple Equation)

Emmo and Lewis tell Joe that his mum didn't go out and stayed home to wait for him to come home. Joe runs home to warn her.

Joe is too late and Kath dies. At her funeral Lewis blames Joe for her death and one by one everyone leaves. Joe is charged with arson and manslaughter after Reecey names him as an accomplice.

Suddenly, whisked back to the night of Joe's 16th birthday and the night of the break in, Joe realises he stands on the brink of a decision. Instead of breaking into the building site, he kisses Sarah and takes her out dancing. (Our House - Reprise)

ACT 2 Right Path

Joe is released from prison but doesn't go home. (One Better Day) Kath is worried that another member of her family isn't coming home after their stint in prison. Mr Pressman pays Kath a visit and threatens her with eviction from Casey Street. Overhearing this, Joe is set on making things right! (Rise and Fall)

Joe arrives at Mr Pressman's office. (House of Fun)

Joe tries to fight against Mr Pressman's plans, but Mr Pressman doesn't pay any attention to Joe.

Joe tries to find a lawyer to help fight Mr Pressman's plans and ends up with Sarah as his representative, she is now engaged to Callum. (Embarrassment - reprise Law Firm) Reminiscing on an earlier time, Joe tells Sarah to go and be happy with Callum.

Sarah finds Joe sleeping rough. Sarah reveals that she has done some digging and found the deeds to 25 Casey Street. They realise they're still in love (It Must Be Love) and Sarah reveals she never married Callum. Over the moon, Joe heads home to tell his mum.

(The Sun and The Rain)
Reecey sets fire to 25 Casey Street as Joe arrives to see his house burning down.

Much to Joe's relief Kath is not in the house and is safe.

Joe and Sarah get married. Joe talks to Kath and says he understands his Dad better and wants to make amends. For a brief moment Joe and his Dad finally hear each other and share a touching moment. Joe returns to the wedding party to celebrate.

Wishing all the cast & crew of
Hessle Theatre a great week performing

"Our House"

Break a leg

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It's not our 160 year history that makes us great - it's the
mackerel from the crystal clear waters of the North Atlantic



JOE CASEY
Connor Wilson

Connor started his theatrical journey in his hometown of Hornsea at the age of 12, where he was involved in shows such as 'Grease', 'Little Shop of Horrors', 'Fiddler on the Roof', 'Chicago' and really enjoyed the opportunity to play Arthur Kipps in 'Half a Sixpence'. He went on to perform in shows with theatre companies in Hull, in shows including: 'The Sound of Music', 'Evita' and 'The Full Monty'.

Connor studied theatre at both GCSE and A level, during this time, Connor started to hone his craft, and his passion for theatre keeps growing. Connor enjoys the physicality of theatre, and evolving scripts and character, to help lift a show to another level.

Connor has enjoyed the challenge of taking on the role of Joe Casey in 'Our House' which also marks Connor's first show with Hessle Theatre Company at Hull New Theatre. It certainly won't be the last!

When Connor isn't taking part in theatre, he enjoys running, hiking and generally keeping fit.



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SARAH
Rachel Wheatley

Rachel has had a passion for performing since she was little, from hymn classes at local music festivals at age 9 to the Hull New Theatre stage at age 19. Rachel's notable roles include Cosette in 'Les Misérables', Alice Beineke in 'The Addams Family', and Hedda in 'Hedda Gabler'.

Rachel has loved her first show with Hessle Theatre Company and would like to thank everyone involved for being so incredibly welcoming and for making this process truly one to remember.

She would also like to thank her family, particularly her grandma, for her continuous love and support. Rachel feels proud and a little emotional to be the 4th generation of her family to be performing with Hessle Theatre Company, she hopes her Great-Grandparents, Alec and Muriel would be proud to see her follow in their footsteps!

Next year Rachel will be attending the Royal Northern College of Music in the school of opera and vocal studies and aspires to travel the world singing opera, she is sad to say goodbye to Hessle Theatre Company for now, but will be back for sure!



EMMO
Joe Porte

Joe has been part of Hessle Theatre Company since 2015's production of 'Into The Woods' at Hull Truck Theatre, when he played Rapunzel's Prince.

Since then, his favourite roles have been as neurotic accountant Leo Bloom in 'The Producers', and as the Lilliputian lowlife Lord Farquaad in 'Shrek, the Musical' both at Hull New Theatre.

Joe has also taken on production roles with Hessle Theatre Company, having now co-directed four years of successful Christmas pantomimes. After last year's sell out 'Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood', Joe is looking forward to his fifth panto with 'Dick Whittington and His Cat'.

Outside of his life with Hessle Theatre Company, Joe is probably the biggest dork you will meet, and will enthusiastically attempt to get you to play Dungeons and Dragons with him. Have you played yet? It's great!

Although Joe likes a challenge, it's nice to play someone as simple as young, naive Emmo. Behind the scenes, Joe learned that Emmo actually means M.O. which stands for "Mouth Open". Make of that what you will.

Elinor has never been able to shake off her love for the arts since she began dancing at the age of 2 and her joy for Musical Theatre began as a teen.

Her most recent musical roles include Sarah Brown in 'Guys and Dolls' and Paulette in 'Legally Blonde' whilst at university.

With Hessle Theatre Company, she has recently played Sugar Plum Fairy/Gingy in last year's production of 'Shrek the Musical' at Hull New Theatre and Lil' Sally in 'Urinetown' at Hull Truck Theatre last September.

Elinor has also been lucky enough to reprise the role of 'Fairy' in Hessle Theatre Company's last three Christmas Pantomimes.

Elinor works locally as a dance teacher. She also enjoys bringing a bit of Disney magic to youngsters across the region by visiting them at parties as their favourite Disney Princesses.

Playing the role of the very outspokenly crass Angie in 'Our House' has been refreshingly fun and she hopes you have a really enjoyable time watching the show and having a boogie!



ANGIE
Elinor Kirby



LEWIS
Joe Spence

Joe has always had a passion for theatre, both performing from a young age and working in theatre. Joe has directed shows, including a University of York production of 'Chicago' which taught him how challenging and rewarding putting on a musical really is!

Since his first Hessle Theatre Company show in the award-winning 'The Baker's Wife' in 2017, Joe has appeared as a dancing granny in 'The Producers', Mookie and a Billy Idol impersonator in 'The Wedding Singer' and Robbie the Stockfish in 'Urinetown'. Joe also played another "Robbie" in 2018's 'Soho Cinders', a reinvention of the classic fairy-tale. Joe has also appeared in the online production of 'Songs for a New World' and the pantomimes 'Robin Hood' and 'Robinson Crusoe' including the infamous "Baking Scene incident" (You had to be there!)

Joe would like to thank the cast and crew of 'Our House' for all their hard work and friendship during rehearsals, and to you, our audience, without whom dancing and singing the songs of Madness at Hull New Theatre wouldn't be possible. Sit back, relax and join us 'One Step Beyond' in 'Our House'.

Meg is very excited to be making her debut with Hessle Theatre Company in this production of 'Our House'! Meg has been involved in amateur theatre since she was 9 years old, performing in shows as a child including: 'Annie', 'Oliver!', 'Honk!', 'Me and My Girl' and 'The Wizard of Oz'.

As an adult, Meg has performed in roles such as a Lost Boy in 'Peter Pan', a Toreadorable in 'Gypsy' and, most recently, The Mistress in 'Evita'!

She trained at the University of Chichester Conservatoire and has absolutely loved getting back into performing after a few years break!

Meg has also choreographed shows for the Hull New Theatre stage but equally loves sharing the spotlight on the stage with her very talented friends!

Meg would like to thank her friends and family for all their support. Especially her partner, Tom, who has to deal with her singing and dancing around the house on a daily basis!



BILLIE
Megan Wilson



KATH CASEY
Katherine Fitzgerald

2023 is Katherine's 20th anniversary as a member of Hessle Theatre Company, joining in September 2003 for 'Half a Sixpence'. She has been active behind the scenes for shows including 'Fiddler on the Roof', 'Time of My Life', 'Guys and Dolls', and 'Little Shop of Horrors' and directed 'Blithe Spirit' at Hull Truck. On stage she has played Mrs Lovett in 'Sweeney Todd' and Aunt Eller in 'Oklahoma!', among other parts in 'Sister Act', 'Into the Woods', 'Avenue Q' and many more!

The daughter of an Irishman who worked in the construction business ("I will love you all my life. But without you in my life."), growing up north of London in the early 1980s, regularly visiting Camden when she worked in London and lived in Kilburn, studying for a year at the Working Men's College on Crowndale Road, nights out at the Camden Palace - Katherine's background and wonderful memories of Camden, and the music of Madness as her early teens soundtrack, have helped in preparing to play the role of Kath Casey. Katherine wants to give a shout out to Labi Siffre, the original composer of "It Must be Love" that she owned on 7" single and played until it wore out.

This is Joseph's first performance working with Hessle Theatre Company and he has enjoyed the process of getting it from the page to the stage with a great group of people. Joseph has had a varied history in shows and productions, being lucky enough to play many interesting characters and work with a plethora of local and national talent.

Most recently Joseph has acted in shows such as 'Little Shop of Horrors', '9 to 5' and 'Are you being Served?'. Alongside this, he has been lucky enough to have worked professionally with Amazon and the BBC to produce both audio dramas and audiobooks.

In his spare time, Joseph also directs a number of youth theatre groups, and this has allowed him to see the fantastic creative minds of the next generation coming through!

Joseph would like to thank all the crew off stage and on for their warm welcome, kind words and supportive nature during the show process, and hopes you have a fantastic time watching all their hard work pay off in front of you.



REECEY
Joseph Bough



JOE'S DAD
Neal Edlin

Neal has thoroughly enjoyed preparing for the role of Joe's Dad in Hessle Theatre Company's production of 'Our House'.

Other credits with Hessle Theatre Company include; Max Bialystock in 'The Producers', Harold Wilson in 'Made In Dagenham', Aimable Castagnet in 'The Baker's Wife', Seth in 'The Hired Man', Mysterious Man in 'Into The Woods', Curtis in 'Sister Act', Prospero in (Return to the Forbidden Planet).

For other companies in the region, Neal has taken on the roles of Landlord in 'Two', Daddy Warbucks in 'Annie', RF Simpson in 'Singin' In The Rain', Bill Sykes in 'Oliver!', Max Detweiler in 'The Sound of Music', The Innkeeper in 'The Flint Street Nativity', Ronald Greenhalgh in 'Fur Coat and No Knickers', Lord Battersby in 'Me & My Girl' and Lord Oakleigh in 'Anything Goes'.

He would also like to thank everyone involved in putting on this superb production and hopes you all have a fantastic time.

John first performed on the New Theatre stage aged 10 in Hessle Theatre Company's production of 'Annie Get Your Gun'. He played Little Jake and his Dad, the late Tony, played the lead, Frank Butler.

As a comedy performer, John is an accomplished after-dinner speaker and has written and performed in both radio and TV adverts, acted in corporate films for PLC companies and has performed stand-up comedy on the Northern club circuit. In a double act, John won the "Comedy Act of the Year" Award and toured 5-star holiday venues in Europe for major tour operators and Granada TV.

Married to Karen with three grown up children, John has been a member and associated with Hessle Theatre Company since his Dad introduced him to it as a boy.

John is delighted to be playing Mr. Pressman with his friends at Hessle Theatre Company, 57 years after his first appearance at Hull New Theatre.



MR. PRESSMAN
John Ainsley

CAST

Joe Casey
Connor Wilson

Sarah
Rachel Wheatley

Emmo
Joe Porte

Lewis
Joe Spence

Angie
Elinor Kirby

Billie
Megan Wilson

Kath Casey
Katherine Fitzgerald

Reecey
Joseph Bough

Joe's Dad
Neal Edlin

Mr. Pressman
John Ainsley

Callum
Chris Ellis

Alarms Boss/Vegas Boatman
Russell Fallon

Heather/Lawyer
Rachel Bower-Smith

Julie
Paige Hudder

Policeman/Security/Lawyer
Christian Brodie

Ensemble
Hannah Allman, Sue Bielby, Aaron Bolton, Rachel Bower-Smith, Christian Brodie, Sarah Brodie, Emma Burgess, David Cameron, Luke Cardwell, Kieran Danby, Toby Dodson, Chris Ellis, Russell Fallon, Katie Flanagan, Kimberley Fletcher, Jade Fraser, Gina Garton, Dot Gilchrist, Rachel Gilroy, Kevin Hickson, Paige Hudder, Owen Hyde, Mark Jardine, Elise Johnson, Sophie Keen, Oscar Morton, Josh Murraybutler, Allison Owen, Thomas Peck, Abigail Potter, Harry Salter, Chelsea Short, Joseph Walker, Rachel Waters, Hannah Wilson, Elaine Windass

Policeman/Security
Aaron Bolton

Youth Officer/Saleswoman
Emma Burgess

Priest/Ray the Car Wash
Mark Jardine

Aunt/Lawyer
Sue Bielby

Solicitor
Sarah Brodie

Solicitor/Announcer
Luke Cardwell

Small Time Lawyer
David Cameron

Nun/Gran
Elaine Windass

Clown
Abigail Potter

Headmistress
Gina Garton

Uncle
Kevin Hickson

Barman
Kieran Danby

Stallholders
Emma Burgess, David Cameron, Thomas Peck, Rachel Waters

Doubles
Joel Thompson, Thomas Fry, Owen Hyde

OUR HOUSE

Book by **Tim Firth**
music and lyrics by
MADNESS



CREATIVES

Director/Choreographer
Martin Beaumont

Musical Director
Sarah Lucy Penny

Additional Choreography
Rachel Bower-Smith, Sarah Brodie, Megan Wilson

Production Assistant
Neal Edlin

Stage Managers
Amanda Marshall
Russell Fallon

Deputy Stage Manager
Amy Garstang

Backstage Team
Chloe Fry, Thomas Fry, Colin Thompson, Mike Hall, Phil Wilson, Sal Gelsy, Luigi Pandolfi, Rosie Goodwin, Lucy Rose, Dan Kelsey, Kieran Danby, Joel Thompson, Jack Hewson, Tim Drage, Gemma Porte, Sarah Feasey

Lighting Design
Tony Courts, James K Bateman

Sound
Mark Ridpath

Projection Design
Ashley Hagyard

Projection Operation
Adam Collins, William Cadle

Additional Projection Design
Martin Beaumont, Richard Foot

Band
Andy McIntosh – Keyboard 1
Helga Penny – Keyboard 2
Shelley Gabriel – Tenor Sax/Flute/Clarinet
Seb Williman – Trumpet/Flugelhorn/Tambourine
Dan Edwards – Guitar
Rosie Morris – Bass
Ben Croombs - Drums

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Poster Design
Martin Beaumont

Programme Design
Mark Jardine

Front of House Manager
John Drury

Front of House Team
Vicki Brownlee, William Bygate, Lesley Cussons, Harry Gillyon-Powell, Joan Nicholson, Jan Pryboda, Tom Sugden, Karen Todman

Business Manager
Richard Carmichael

Photography
John Drury

Cast Headshots
Andy Crozier - Insight Photography

OUR HOUSE was first produced at the Cambridge Theatre, London on 28th October 2002. Producers were Tiger Aspect Productions, Rupert Lord, Andre Ptaszynski and Phil McIntyre in association with Madness. This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe) and is sponsored by **MKM HOME**



L - R: Abigail Potter, Katie Flanagan, Hannah Allman, Hannah Wilson, Rachel Gilroy, Kevin Hickson, Elaine Windass, Thomas Peck



L - R: Joseph Walker, Rachel Bower-Smith, Mark Jardine, Rachel Waters, Kieran Danby, Jade Fraser, Russell Fallon, Kimberley Fletcher



L - R: Chelsea Short, Emma Burgess, Christian Brodie, Sue Bielby, Dot Gilchrist, Josh Murraybutler, Allison Owen, Oscar Morton



L - R: Gina Garton, Luke Cardwell, Sarah Brodie, Paige Hudder, Harry Salter, Elise Johnson, Toby Dodson, Sam Hotham

FROM HESSLE TO RECORD BREAKER

The madness of the acting profession

When 'Our House' first opened its doors at the Cambridge Theatre on London's West End in 2002 the leading role of Joe Casey was played by a young lad from Hessle, Michael Jibson.

We caught up with Michael to find out more about his incredible career and how much local theatre has influenced him.

Michael's first outing on the stage was with Hessle Theatre Company back in 1994, then known as Hessle Operatic & Dramatic Society, when he was only 13 years old, "my mum, Evie, had been performing with Hessle Operatic & Dramatic Society for a long time, and at the time I was more interested in playing football", says Michael.

"When the society decided to stage 'Oliver!' at Hull New Theatre, my Mum asked my brother, Paul and me if we wanted to audition for the gang. My brother ended up in the title role and I got cast as the Artful Dodger. And what can I say? I was bitten by the bug!"

Six months later, fate intervened. An advert appeared in the Sunday papers looking for boys to audition for Cameron Mackintosh's new West End revival of 'Oliver!'.

"My mum's best friend and fellow performer, Linda Burgess, suggested we drive down to London for the open auditions", Michael tells us, "So, Linda drove the three of us down for the auditions and we got cast in the gang, opposite Jonathan Pryce as Fagin at the London Palladium!"

"That was that! I wanted to be an actor from then on!"

Michael then pursued his career by attending Guildford School of Acting. In 2002, during his third year at drama school, Michael got the call to say he'd been cast in the West End premier of a new musical called 'Our House', written by Madness and Tim Firth.

"I'd also been offered a place in 'Les Misérables' on the same day, but I had to turn it down. I was only 21 and the opportunity to play the lead in a brand-new show was a dream."

Michael went on to play 8 shows a week for 10 months in what became a record-breaking role. He still holds the Guinness World Record for the most costume changes in a show for his role as Joe Casey.

"There are a whopping 29 changes in the show and the fastest is in act two, known as 'the Umbrella Change' which happens in a split second." Michael tells us that his framed certificate is "hanging in my downstairs loo!"

Michael took the daunting number of costume changes in his stride, "to be honest the quick changes were the last thing on my mind as I had so many people helping me; my dresser, Murray, took care of everything."

Michael was most recently seen on the West End stage when he joined the original London cast of the musical phenomenon, 'Hamilton', for which he won the Olivier Award for his portrayal of King George III.

"Taking on such an iconic role was nerve-wracking, but it was so exciting to be part of it. Not just because of it being such an incredible piece of theatre, but because audiences were mental and so excited to be there."

Michael as King George III in 'Hamilton' at London's Victoria Palace Theatre.

In addition to Michael's extensive stage work, he has also been involved with many projects in TV and film. Michael has featured in many TV programmes including 'A Discovery of Witches' for Sky and has also been in big blockbuster movies for the big screen including 'Star Wars – The Last Jedi'.

But we asked how acting for the screen differs to performing for live audiences on stage?

"In many ways they are similar, in terms of the work you put into the character, but then they are different processes. Theatre is about rehearsals and opening night, then you prepare for repetition and stamina." Michael tells us. "Especially if it is a long run."

"TV and film, however, is intense and you spend a lot of time waiting around which can get quite boring and lonely, particularly when you are in a foreign country away from friends and family."

Over the years, Michael has had the enviable opportunity to work with well-known actors such as Hugh Jackman, "one of the kindest men I've ever met" and Kevin Costner who Michael says was "an incredible force to be around".

Being an actor comes with many challenges, so we asked Michael what he has to overcome the most, "Nerves. They never go away. But also, making sure you are always working, so I never miss the opportunity to chase a job."

"Being an actor is tough and the rejection we face can be crippling. For all the incredible jobs I've got, I've missed out on far more. You have to be able to brush yourself off and crack on."

So what advice would Michael give someone who is considering acting as a profession, or just getting started? "Go and see as much theatre as you can, good and bad," he says, "immerse yourself in everything."

"Do the work, don't try to wing it. Learn your lines and read the play before you audition!"

"Try not to compete with or compare yourself to other actors. Be yourself and a nice person."

Bringing it back to where it all began, Michael remembers, "I was a member of Hessle Theatre Company from 1994 when I joined for their production of 'Oliver!' as the Artful Dodger, in that cast was Emma Burgess, playing Bet, and Martin Beaumont (the director of this production of 'Our House') was in the chorus!"

"I remained a performing member of the company until 1999, taking part in many productions including 'Oklahoma!' and 'South Pacific' playing Lieutenant Cable. I also worked backstage running around fitting head mics for the cast in their production of 'The Sound of Music'."

"I have very good memories with lots of lovely people, some of whom are sadly no longer with us."

"I'm proud to say that Hessle Theatre Company introduced me to the stage."

Opposite page - Michael receives his Guinness World Record with Murray Lane (dresser), Matthew Warchus (director) and Paul Keive (Illusionist)

This page top - The original West End cast of 'Our House'

Middle - Michael on the opening night of 'Our House' with co-star, Julia Gay and Suggs

Bottom - The Cambridge Theatre, West End, London



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WELCOME FROM our Patron



Michael Jibson

I'm very honoured to be the Patron of the brilliant Hessle Theatre Company, so let me take this opportunity to thank every member of the audience for coming out to their local theatre to support one of the premier amateur theatre companies in the North of England.

I'm a proud ex member of Hessle Theatre Company and I know that this year's production of 'Our House' will have the audiences of the wonderful Hull New Theatre dancing in the aisles! Sit back and enjoy this witty, smart and moving musical, using the songs of the brilliant band Madness to move Tim Firth's fantastic story of love and friendship along with style and humour and if you feel like standing up and dancing at the end, please do! This show is very close my heart, as I got to originate the central role of Joe Casey at The Cambridge Theatre in London's West End in 2002, my first job, so I'm thrilled that my old "am dram" group are taking on this beast of a show and they get to share it with my home town.

Welcome to the "House of Fun" and long live local theatre!

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A WORD FROM our President

I'm delighted to welcome you to Hull New Theatre for Hessle Theatre Company's production of Our House.

After an extremely challenging couple of years for the arts and hospitality sector, it's heartening to see audiences once again enjoying theatre shows, despite the current economic challenges that we all face. I feel that wherever possible, it's a win-win to continue supporting arts and culture locally, so thank you for booking tickets to see this fantastic show.

Hessle Theatre Company is volunteer led and I would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved in Our House, from the stage cast and crew through to the musicians, the technical team, the Director and choreographer, the front of house team and all those who work tirelessly behind the scenes on costumes, marketing and the administrative side of the show.



I'd like to also acknowledge the support of MKM Home as our show sponsor along with John and Sarah Moore and the businesses and individuals who kindly place an ad in this programme! Every little helps to cover the cost of putting on such a high quality production for our loyal audiences.

We have some great new productions lined up so keep your eyes peeled!

Finally, if you are interested in supporting HTC in any way, please don't hesitate to get in touch via enquiries@hessletheatre.co.uk. We'd love to hear from you.

Enjoy the show!

Jan Brumby - President - Hessle Theatre Company

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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 Feast

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

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Shrek - 2022



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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 every summer 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 'Our House' 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 'Our House' and helping to keep local theatre alive!



Top - The cast of Shrek at Hull New Theatre with Gordon Richardson, NODA National President (2021-2022) and NODA rep, Geoff Haywood.
Bottom - Gordon Richardson and Les Smith, NODA North East Councillor, meet the cast of Urinetown at Hull Truck Theatre.

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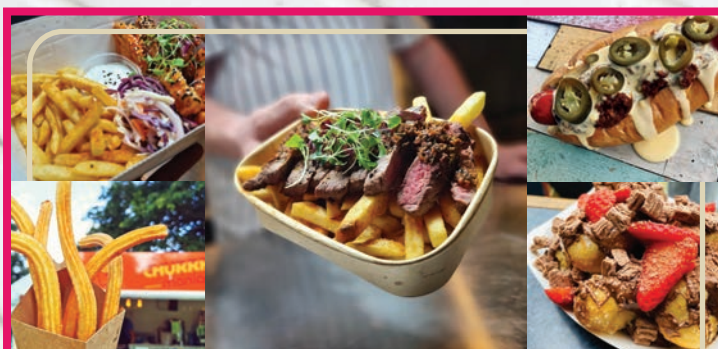
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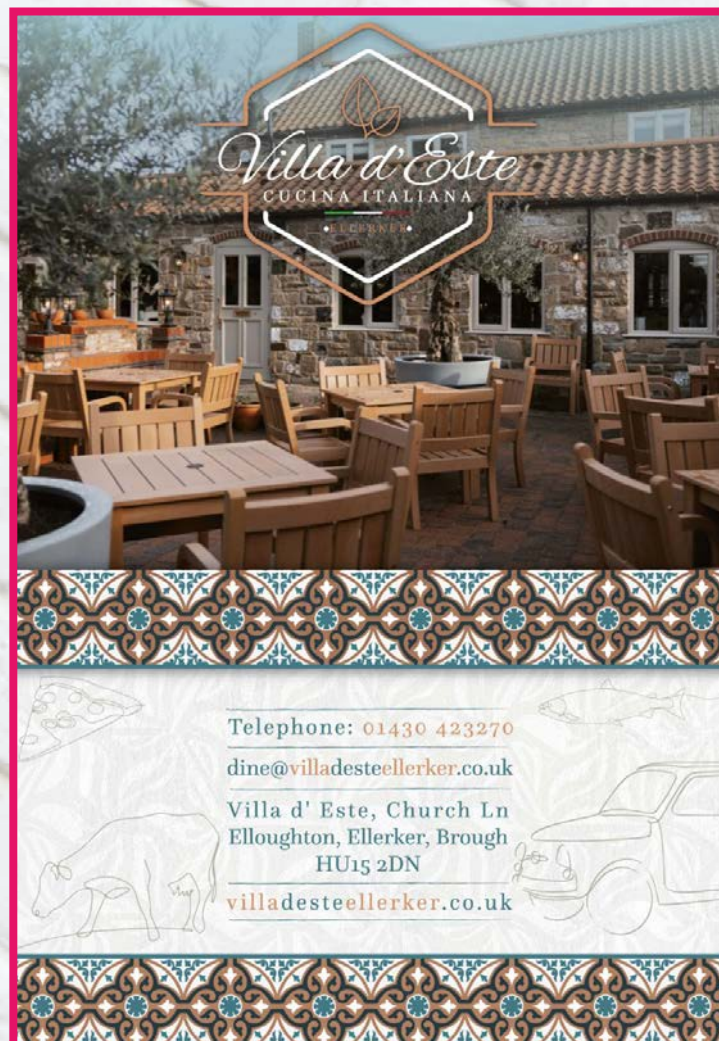
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For the very generous support of our main show sponsors MKM Home.

John & Sarah Moore for their very kind donation.

The staff and caretakers of Tranby School for all their assistance with our main rehearsal venue.

Vicki Brownlee for all her help in the provision of Derringham Bank Methodist Church as a rehearsal venue.

The management and staff at the Kingston Theatre hotel for hosting our meal deal evenings and 'tea on stage'.

Northern Academy of Performing Arts for the kind loan of furniture and their ongoing support.

Mike Hall for the provision of rehearsal refreshments.

Kevin Hickson and all the members of Hessle Theatre Company who helped promote the show by handing out leaflets and posters.

Michael Jibson for his support of the production and marketing teams and endless useful advice and inside information!

Mark Ridpath and HPSS for all their assistance with the sound and technical equipment for this production.

All the advertisers in this program for supporting the production.

Scribes Digital Print for the production of our brilliant posters and leaflets.

Jadan Press for the production of our stunning souvenir brochure.

Derringham Bank Boys Brigade for the assistance with transport of scenery.

Jack Hanson for the kind use of scenery building space.

Tony's Textiles for the use of car parking facilities.

...and 29 costume changes would not be possible without a quick change team! Thanks to Linda Burgess, Mollie Rokahr, David Gillyon-Powell and Mark Gillyon-Powell.

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