

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Pitlochry Festival Theatre presents

## Gypsy

A Musical Fable

Book by Arthur Laurents

Music by Jule Styne, Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Suggested by the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee

Original Production by David Merrick and Leland Hayward

Entire production originally directed and choreographed by Jerome Robbins

Directed by Ben Occhipinti

- *Gypsy* was last performed in Scotland 18 years ago.
- Cast will feature **Shona White** (*Jack Absolute Flies Again*, National Theatre, *Mamma Mia!* West End and *Merrily We Roll Along*, Donmar Warehouse); **Blythe Jandoo** (*The Maggie Wall* and *Sunshine on Leith*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre and *A Mother's Song: A New Folk Musical*, Macrobert Arts Centre); **Patricia Panther** (*Peter Pan and Wendy*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre and *Orphans* and *Glasgow Girls*, National Theatre of Scotland)
- Directed by **Ben Occhipinti** who co-directed *Sunshine on Leith* co-produced by Pitlochry Festival Theatre and Capital Theatres.
- Production runs from 19 May – 30 September

**Press performances:**

**Friday 26 May at 8pm and Saturday 27 May at 2pm**

**Pitlochry Festival Theatre**

**Pitlochry Festival Theatre to open 2023 Season with dazzling new production of the much-loved musical *Gypsy***

Pitlochry Festival Theatre is set to open its exciting 2023 Season in May in a most spectacular way with the first staging in Scotland for nearly 20 years of *Gypsy*, Jule Styne, Arthur Laurents and Stephen Sondheim's iconic musical.

*Gypsy* is one of the greatest and most dazzling of all musicals. Based on the tantalising comedic memoirs of famous striptease artist Gypsy Rose Lee, it tells the amusing and sassy story of pushy showbiz mother Rose, who travels across America with her daughters, Baby June and Louise, in search of success with their homemade vaudeville act.

When Baby June leaves the act to elope, Rose vows to make introverted Louise into a star, and will do almost anything to see her daughter break into the big time.

Featuring the iconic songs *Some People*, *Let Me Entertain You*, and the show-stopping *Everything's Coming Up Roses*, *Gypsy* is set to be a cracking night out that will have audiences humming all the way into the night as they leave the theatre.

*Gypsy's* exciting cast will feature **Shona White** (*Jack Absolute Flies Again*, National Theatre, *Mamma Mia!*, West End and *Merrily We Roll Along*, Donmar Warehouse) as Mamma Rose; **Blythe Jandoo** (*The Maggie Wall* and *Sunshine on Leith*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre and *A Mother's Song: A New Folk Musical*, Macrobert Arts Centre) as Louise; **Patricia Panther** (*Peter Pan and Wendy*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre and *Orphans* and *Glasgow Girls*, National Theatre of Scotland) as June; **Ben Stock** (*Grease* and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, West End) as Herbie; **Oliver Cookson** (*Hay Fever* and *Travels with my Aunt*, Assembly Roxy) as Pop Rose/Mr Goldstone); **Matthew Churcher** (*Animal Farm*, National Tour/Fiery Angel & Birmingham Rep, *Peter Pan*, National Theatre/Bristol Old Vic and *White Teeth*, Kiln Theatre) as LA/Cigar; **Rachael McAllister** (*Little Women* and *A Christmas Carol*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre) as Mazeppa; **Robbie Scott** (*Peter Pan and Wendy*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre) as Tulsa; **Joseph Tweedale** (*The Meaning of Zong*, Bristol Old Vic and *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, Theatre Clwyd) as Yonkers/Weber; **Jack Ward** (*Bridgerton*, Netflix) as Angie; **Trudy Ward** (*As You Like It*, Jupiter Theatre) as Electra/ Agnes, and **Kristin Weichen Wong** (*Field-Something For The Future Now*, Edinburgh International Festival) as Tessie Tura.

*Gypsy* is directed by Pitlochry Festival Theatre's Associate Director **Ben Occhipinti** (*Blonde Bombshells in 1943* and co-director *Sunshine on Leith*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre), Designed by **Liz Cooke**, lighting by **Kate Bonney**, Musical Direction by **Rob Hiley** (CATS nominated for *Blonde Bombshells in 1943*), Choreography by **Maggie Rawlinson** and Sound Design by **Lorna Munden**.

**Director Ben Occhipinti said:**

*“Gypsy is one of the most loved and powerful musicals ever written. I have wanted to direct it ever since I discovered the film years ago. I can’t think of another musical that brings the combined elements of drama, song and dance together in such a clear and joyful way. The combination of Sondheim’s exquisite lyrics and Styne’s beautiful melodies make Gypsy an enduring, powerful story. I can’t wait to bring it to life on the Pitlochry stage with such a talented and brilliant company.”*

Gypsy runs at Pitlochry Festival Theatre from 19 May till 30 September.

Tickets for Gypsy are now on sale and are available from the Pitlochry Festival Theatre Box Office on **01796 484626** or online at [www.pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com](http://www.pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com)

**-Ends-**

**For all press interviews please contact Duncan Clarke PR:  
T 07880893750 or E [duncanclarkepr@gmail.com](mailto:duncanclarkepr@gmail.com)**

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

**PRESS NIGHT: Friday 26 May at 8pm and Saturday 27 May at 2pm**

## **CREATIVES**

Pitlochry Festival Theatre present

### **Gypsy**

A Musical Fable

Book by Arthur Laurents

Music by Jule Styne, Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Suggested by the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee

Original Production by David Merrick and Leland Hayward

Entire production originally directed and choreographed by Jerome Robbins

Directed by Ben Occhipinti

Designer Liz Cooke

Musical Director Rob Hiley

Choreographer Maggie Rawlinson

Lighting Designer Kate Bonney

Sound Designer Lorna Munden

Cast: Matthew Churcher (L.A/Cigar), Oliver Cookson (Pop Rose/Mr Goldstone), Blythe Jandoo (Louise), Rachael McAllister (Mazeppa), Patricia Panther (June), Robbie Scott (Tulsa), Ben Stock (Herbie), Joseph Tweedale (Yonkers/Weber), Jack Ward (Angie), Trudy Ward (Electra), Kristin Weichen Wong (Tessie Tura), and Shona White (Mamma Rose)

## LISTINGS

### AUDITORIUM

#### **Eve perf at 8pm:**

May: 19, 20, 24, 26 & 27

June: 7, 8, 23 & 28

July: 6, 12, 18, 22, 28 & 29

Aug: 5, 8, 16

Sept: 1, 5, 13, 19, 26 & 30

#### **Mat perf at 2pm:**

May 24 & 27

June: 24 & 29

July: 13

Aug: 9

Sept: 2, 7, 14, 20 & 27

Captioned performance: 29 June at 2pm

Relaxed performance: 13 July at 2pm

Audio Described: 22 July at 8pm & 7 September at 2pm

**Tickets:** £16-£39

**Box Office and group bookings:** 01796 484626

**email** [boxoffice@pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com](mailto:boxoffice@pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com)

**Website:** [www.pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com](http://www.pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com)

### **Pitlochry Festival Theatre. A Theatre for Everyone. A Theatre for a Lifetime.**

Since 1951, Pitlochry Festival Theatre has been the artistic heart and soul of Highland Perthshire. Attracting over 100,000 visitors every year, we're more than simply a place to come and see a show – we're Scotland's leading producer of musical theatre, a champion of ensemble practice and the country's only rurally-located, major arts organisation. Our vision is to improve lives by sharing Pitlochry with the world and the world with Pitlochry, and our aim is to create life-enhancing experiences in our Theatre its and environment – a glorious eleven-acre campus that encompasses the magical Explorers Garden. In everything we do, we are committed to nurturing an exciting creative and cultural future for Scotland.

Pitlochry Festival Theatre is supported by funding from Creative Scotland and Perth & Kinross Council. It is also grateful to the many individual donors, trusts and foundations who continue to support the Theatre in its vision.

Pitlochry Festival Theatre

Address: Pitlochry Festival Theatre, Port Na Craig, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5DR

Box Office and group bookings: [boxoffice@pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com](mailto:boxoffice@pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com)

Website: [www.pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com](http://www.pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com)

Pitlochry Festival Theatre is supported by the following organisations:



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

