



SOLIHULL
PRESENTS
THE MUSICAL

FAME

14th - 17th FEBRUARY 2022
BUSHELL HALL

Conceived and Developed by **DAVID DE SILVA**

Book by
**JOSÉ
FERNANDEZ**

Lyrics by
**JACQUES
LEVY**

Music by
**STEVE
MARGOSHES**

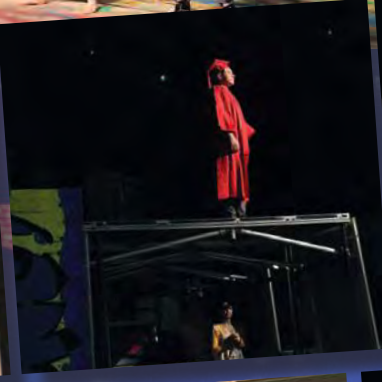
Title Song '**FAME**' written by **DEAN PITCHFORD** and **MICHAEL GORE**

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International.

All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk

Originally produced at the Coconut Grove Playhouse, Arnold Mittleman, Producing Artistic Director





Fame

Fame the musical is based on the 1980s film and a six season TV series.

The Musical is significantly rewritten from the previous screen adaptations, with an almost entirely new score except for the title Academy Award-winning song, 'Fame'. The musical takes over where the film ends, with a new intake of pupils and follows them over their four years at New York City's High School for Performing Arts (PA), from their admission in 1980 to their graduation in 1984.

We meet fame-obsessed Carmen, ambitious actress Serena, quiet musician Schlomo, talented but illiterate dancer Tyrone, determined actor Nick, food loving dancer Mabel, wisecracking comedian Joe, and the financially strapped dancer Iris. We see them coming to terms with life and relationships; we see those who persevere, who are resilient - and those who are not. Above all, we see them perceiving the need to strive for excellence.

With a little bit of 'Hard Work' and a whole lot of 'Dancin' on the Sidewalk', they finally learn what it means to achieve 'Fame'.

Fame is an international sensation that continues to reach new generations of performers and audience members, with high-octane musical numbers, toe-tapping dances and a lot of fun!



THE PRINCIPALS



ALEX TOWNSEND
LAMBCHOPS

"1 2 3 4..." After a very long time it feels so amazing to finally be back on stage, especially as the character Lambchops! From the first rehearsal I knew this show would be unbelievable and here we are now in show week! It has been quite the journey, from having to learn to play the drums, to performing on stage with my brother. It has been an incredible experience and I am beyond grateful to be a part of *Fame*. Thank you so much to everyone who made this happen and we all hope you enjoy our incredible production! **"Let's rock!"**



ALEX WARBURTON
Ms BELL

I am so excited to be in my first musical and proud to have been part of such a fantastic cast. Having been a Deputy Stage Manager last year and co-directed a play last term, I truly feel like I've experienced everything Solihull Drama has to offer. *Fame* has been an incredible opportunity to meet new people and push myself outside of my comfort zone-singing and dancing- it has been a wonderful way to end my time at the school. Hope you enjoy it!



AMELIA BOGIRA
MISS SHERMAN

Taking part in my last ever school show has been a special experience. I have loved drama throughout my time at school and hope to continue it in the future. Working on *Fame* has been such a highlight and playing the role of Miss Sherman has been so much fun. A massive thank you must go to Mrs Stafford for introducing me to the world of performing all those years ago. Everyone involved has worked so incredibly hard on this show and it is a privilege to share the stage with the rest of the cast for one last time.



ANNABEL BAGSHAW
MRS MYERS

I have loved acting for as long as I can remember. The second I got on stage in our J4 production, I knew theatre was my one and only passion. When I joined Senior School and all the school plays became available to me, I couldn't wait to dive in headfirst and refine my own personal skills. I began with *His Dark Materials Part 2*, which I absolutely adored. I looked up to the older actors and felt inspired. Now that I have taken up that role as one of the older members of the cast myself, I hope young audience members will look up to me too and will one day thrive on the stage as I have done. I have loved every moment of being involved in *Fame* and I truly hope that this translates through my performance. I hope that you enjoy the show as much as I do!



DANIEL LANGFORD
JOE VEGAS

Wow, if you had said to me in March 2020 that I would be playing Joe Vegas in *Fame*, (one of my all-time favourite Musicals) I would have said -no way!! Yet, nearly two years later, here we are! I am so honoured to be sharing the stage with such a fantastic cast; we have created an absolute spectacle that I am so proud of. I'm so lucky to do what I love with great people around me. A massive thanks to the creative team for making this all possible - you have smashed it and exceeded all expectations! I can't wait for you to see the fabulous, captivating piece of theatre we have created.



THE PRINCIPALS



FRANKIE DEEHAN
GOODY



FREDDIE TRUMAN
NICK PIAZZA



DANIEL YOUSSEF
SCHLOMO

I have always tried to be as involved with Drama and performing as much as I can here at school, appearing in *Fuente Ovejuna*, as well as playing the role of Thomas, the Duke of Norfolk, in *The Glove Thief*, The Guru in *Heavy Weather*, and appearing in *Little Shop of Horrors*. However, I have enjoyed playing and exploring the character of Goody (Schlomo's best friend and a very humorous musician), who often makes jokes at the other characters' expense. I have loved making the character my own and am very grateful for the opportunity. I hope to continue performing with the school in the future, whether that be as part of a production, choir, or instrumentally.

Drama and musicals have been a huge part of my school career, from *His Dark Materials* in Thirds, all the way to *Fame* now in the UVith. I have loved every second of each warm-up, rehearsal, and performance. To be playing my biggest role yet is an absolute pleasure, but my favourite parts are the whole cast scenes and songs – the whole stage comes alive with music and dancing. It's sad knowing that this is my last show at school, but I'm glad that I am going out with a bang!

Fame! I made it! When I was first selected as Schlomo, I was both shocked and delighted as this is my first principal part within a Senior School Musical. I have a passion for Drama and for Music, so I have loved every rehearsal and the excitement of performing on a wonderful set with the most superb cast. I will always remember the skills I have acquired, and I am so grateful to have been a part of this amazing Musical production!



GEORGE FINNEY
MR SHEINKOPF

Ever since joining Solihull School, I have thoroughly enjoyed watching the Musicals, from *Joseph* to *Made in Dagenham*. So last year, finally being able to perform in *Little Shop of Horrors* was a fantastic experience and left me really excited for this year. When *Fame* was announced as the Musical, I was certainly not disappointed and have loved taking part in every bit of the show so far and hope you enjoy it too!



HIBA SANDHU
SERENA KATZ

After being involved with the Drama Department since Thirds, it is an honour to play Serena Katz in my final production at Solihull. In the past seven years I have fully engrossed myself in all the opportunities to perform, design and direct, and one of my highlights would be co-directing *Medea* earlier this academic year. I hope to continue creating and performing in the future as I further my education in The Arts. It has been a pleasure working with the cast and crew of *Fame* and after the challenges of the last two years, I am thankful and excited to perform with them for the final time.





JACKSON MASIH
TYRONE JACKSON

Hey! I'm Jackson, and I'm very excited to play the role of Tyrone in *Fame*. When I read the character biographies, I knew straight away that I would love to play Tyrone, so I'm very grateful for this opportunity. I've always loved music and drama and being on stage, and so the excellent Drama and Music Departments at Solihull heavily influenced my decision to join the school in the Thirds. Since then, I've been part of numerous productions and my love of performing has deepened. In Shells, when I played Graham in *Made in Dagenham*, I remember looking up to and admiring the older cast members. That particular show really set in stone my love for the Performing Arts. In previous productions I've been involved in at Solihull, I've enjoyed being part of a fun, supportive and dedicated community, and *Fame* is no different. Now, at last, we can enjoy the rewards of our 'Hard Work' ;) I'm so thankful to the school, to fellow cast members, and to our amazing teaching staff for making *Fame* happen. Enjoy the show!



JENNY STOREY
IRIS KELLY

I have always been involved in school Musicals and this is now my sixth. This year, I am looking forward to having a live audience, after not being able to have one at the last minute last year with *Little Shop of Horrors*. My favourite part of this show was learning all the dances- the chorus numbers are all so lively and energetic, making them so fun to learn and perform. It has been great to make loads of new friends with people in other year groups. Iris is my favourite role I have played as it means I am constantly dancing and doing what I love.



LAUREN McDAID-MEEHAN
CARMEN DIAZ

I have loved being part of the *Fame* production. I am very passionate about the Performing Arts, and I feel that a Musical is a great way to showcase the talent we have in the school. Rehearsals are hard, but very rewarding, and all of the cast enjoy the collaborative process. I think that everyone has become a big family in the cast and crew and we always have fun together. As well as this we have all come a long way and improved so much in our technical and performance skills. Overall it's been an amazing experience which we will get to share with an audience!



SHRIYA SHARMA
MABEL WASHINGTON

This is my first time in a Musical. I have been singing with the CBSO since 2012 and dancing since I was 3 years old. Since it is my last year at Solihull, I decided to break out of my comfort zone and audition. I really enjoyed the show and playing such a fun character. I am so grateful to everyone who put this show together. I hope you enjoy it!



STAGE DOOR



THE CAST

The Actors

Nick Piazza
Serena Katz
Joe Vegas

Freddie Truman
Hiba Sandhu
Daniel Langford

The Dancers

Tyrone Jackson
Carmen Diaz
Iris Kelly
Mabel Washington

Jackson Masih
Lauren McDaid-Meehan
Jenny Storey
Shriya Sharma

The Musicians

Schlomo Metzenbaum
Grace 'Lambchops' Lamb
Goodman 'Goody' King

Daniel Youssef
Alex Townsend
Frankie Deehan

The Teachers

Miss Sherman
Ms Bell
Mrs Myers
Mr Sheinkopf

Amelia Bogira
Alex Warburton
Annabel Bagshaw
George Finney

Ensemble and Dancers

Hana Ali
Jacob Bate
Tom Bate
Sukhveer Bhakar
Sophie Burtenshaw
Giorgia Dalley
Evie Da Silva
Mai Fallon
Lily Feist
Hannah Greenwood
Skye Homer
Nupur Kumar
Emma Lacote
Ellie Meads
Anesu Mkwangwanya

Emma Morgan
Diya Parmar
Sara Paulson
Jennifer Peng
Caspar Perry
Liam Rodan
Isabella Simms
Pujaa Srijothy
Katy Thomas
Helena Tisdale
Aaron Townsend
Aimee Turner
Natarsha Wadsworth
Anna Whitmarsh



THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director K Stafford
Musical Director T Kermode
Choreographer A Rudge
Production Design Manager K Hunton
Production Manager P Jukes
Stage Manager K Lawley
Deputy Stage Manager Ellie Lawley
Assistant Stage Managers Olivia Gransbury
 Hermione Hooper
 Freya Kehoe
 India Koziol
 Shaya Moeini
 Freya Salvin-Day
 Silver Sherwood
 M Jackson

Technical Assistant
Sound Operator Aimee O'Malley
Sound Assistant Tom Giddings
Lighting Operators Eleanor Woodward
 Jess Woodman
 S Thomas

Hair and Make-up Design Sophie Storey
Assistant Costume Designer Shaya Moeini
Wardrobe M Hartland
 J Mazzarella
 H Miles

Assistant Set Designer L Moseley
Taxi and Set Construction Hermione Hooper
 R Bishop and the Maintenance Team

Set and Furniture Decoration Thirds Design Club
 Shells Design Club
 Fourths Design Club
 Shells Drama Club
 Fourths Drama Club
 LVI Theatre Design
 Enrichment

Fame Logo Design O Bate
 G Biggs
 J Hands
 K Hunton
 J Ranson
 T Stafford
 Kade Quakenbush

THE BAND

Clarinet and Saxophone C Percy-Smith
Flute Ziying He
Trumpet Keiron Bown
Trombone J Carnell
Guitar D Wilkins
Bass H Wood
Drum Kit Fabian Botterill
Percussion S Phillips
Keyboard 1 O Francis
Keyboard 2 D Rice

SPECIAL THANKS

Set Supplied by Russel Holt and SSE Audio.
 SMASH and Judith Farndon
 Kirk Wood and KW Leisure Hire
 Graduation Gowns Supplied by Zenith Youth Theatre
 Company Bath. www.zenithytc.co.uk/hire
 Central Theatre Supplies
 School singing teachers for vocal support

Thanks:

Mounting a theatrical production in such a busy school requires the help and goodwill of a great number of people. We would like to thank: the Headmaster and the Governors for their support; Lucie Ray-Barrett for helping with the programme; Tom Stafford for taking rehearsal photos; the catering team for refreshments; Tracey Duggan for managing the box office; staff for helping in the dressing rooms and with makeup and finally the parents of the cast and crew for providing costumes and supporting their sons and daughters through line learning and exhausting rehearsals.





MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Hard Work - Company

I Want to Make Magic - Nick

Can't Keep It Cool - Joe, Students

Tyrone's Rap - Tyrone

There She Goes! / Fame - Carmen, Students

Let's Play a Love Scene - Serena

Bring on Tomorrow - Schlomo, Carmen

Teacher's Argument - Ms Bell, Miss Sherman

Hard Work Reprise - Company

ACT TWO

The Junior Festival - Nick, Joe and Students

Think of Meryl Streep - Serena

Mabel's Prayer - Mabel, Students

Dancin' on the Sidewalk - Tyrone, Students

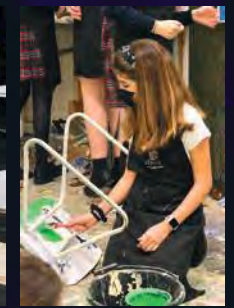
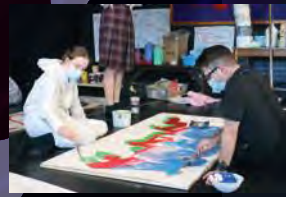
These Are My Children - Miss Sherman

In L.A. - Carmen

Love Scene Reprise - Nick and Serena

Bring on Tomorrow Reprise - Schlomo, Company

Finale: Hard Work / Fame Reprise - Company



BACKSTAGE & REHEARSALS



THE ENSEMBLE



AARON TOWNSEND



AIMEE TURNER



ANESU MKWANGWANYA



ANNA WHITMARSH



EMMA LACOTE



EMMA MORGAN



EVIE DA SILVA



GIORGIA DALLEY



JACOB BATE



JENNY PENG



KATY THOMAS



LIAM RODAN



SARA PAULSON



SKYE HOMER



SOPHIE BURTENSHAW



SUKHVEER BHAKAR



AYIMPUJAA SRIJOTHY



CASPAR PERRY



DIYA PARMER



ELLIE MEADS



HANA ALI



HANNAH GREENWOOD



HELENA TISDALE



ISABELLE SIMMS



LILY FEIST



MAI FALLON



NATARSHA WADSWORTH



NUPUR KUMAR



TOM BATE



DIRECTOR

Kirsteen Stafford

After being so close to performing *Little Shop of Horrors* last year and *Twelfth Night* the year before, we started *Fame* with so much excitement and enthusiasm, which has grown exponentially throughout the rehearsal process. Most of us have fond memories of *Fame*, whether it is the original 1980 film, the subsequent TV series, the stage musical (I saw the original UK tour as a teen and loved it!) or the more recent 2009 film. The musical has a toe tapping score, high energy numbers, numerous speaking roles, large chorus involvement, a range of dance styles and a serious message underneath... beyond that it is really good fun – there really is something for everyone!

However, there are several challenges performing *Fame* - one is the multiple scenes that happen in quick succession, containing only short sections of dialogue. The danger is these scenes are short and choppy and don't flow due to scene changes, with the pace of the show dropping. This was a real challenge for Mr Hunton, as we were really keen to design a composite set which enabled multiple locations within the school setting and the ability to change between them quickly and smoothly. Mr Hunton's fantastic design certainly does this! Another challenge is the huge chorus numbers. The opening, for example, is approximately 12 minutes long, containing dialogue, storytelling, acting through song, complex staging and a full blown dance break. Personally, I really enjoy setting large chorus numbers and the challenges they contain and it has been wonderful to see the numbers grow and develop each week, watching the performance journey of our amazing cast. Adding tables on wheels and a lunch hall full of chairs has been a particular challenge for the cast (and stage crew), but they have risen to it admirably and now can add 'table'ography' to their list of skills – which has been so much fun in rehearsals!

The cast have risen to every challenge we have posed them and approached rehearsals with enthusiasm and professionalism. I have been so proud of the way they have persevered through rehearsals, worked so hard and had so much fun along the way. They have been such a pleasure to work with and it has been a privilege to see them grow and develop alongside their characters and the production.

As always, this production has been a real team effort.

A huge thank you to all involved, in whatever capacity and to the school community for being so supportive and helping us to ensure that with a lot of 'hard work', we will all be able to 'make magic', leaving the theatre 'dancin on the sidewalk', and 'flying high'!

Kirsteen Stafford

Head of Drama

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Tim Kermode

The Solihull tradition of an annual musical, which began over 25 years ago, has been noticeably interrupted by the pandemic – at least in performance. Even though we were cut short of bringing *Twelfth Night* to an audience (2020), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (2021) was only seen by part of the Thirds year group in a single performance, both companies had the wonderful experience of working on the productions and engaging with the drama, music and staging. I am sure that all involved will still have very happy memories of the journey we all had working together towards a shared goal.

That has certainly been true again this year, and I would like to pay tribute to the wonderful enthusiasm, skill and musicianship that everyone has brought to all the rehearsals; I hope that, if you are reading this, it means you are sitting in the Bushell Hall eagerly awaiting a live, face-to-face performance.

Almost 42 years since the original film, 39 since the TV show, and 33 since the theatrical version was first staged, it is beginning to look as though 'Fame' really might live forever. 'Fame' is all about belting tunes and dance moves, leotards and high kicks. Perhaps you have even entered into the spirit of the evening and come dressed in your own 80's lycra and legwarmers! The musical score has something for everyone – energetic 80's funk and Latin grooves, along with rap, rock and roll, and more sentimental numbers with warm saxophone solos. If the mood takes you, please do tap your toes to the energy of the music – or perhaps even get up on your feet and boogie! Whichever you decide, I really hope you leave with a huge smile on your face.

Tim Kermode

Director of Music



PRODUCTION DESIGN

Kevin Hunton

With the design for *'Fame'*, we strived to visually combine the streets of New York with the inside spaces of the Performing Arts School, to create a single world on stage. The concept was then also spread to the costumes, with 1980s influence and elements of 'street art' used in the set decoration.

Its truly brilliant to have seen an influx of enthusiasm from both staff and students getting involved, with many backstage roles in set and costume design, scenic art, props, construction and make-up.

Notably, Hermione Hooper, Sophie Storey and Shaya Moeini have devoted time to shadow the entire design process from 'page to stage'. This is the first time we have seen students taking these levels of responsibility for principle design roles on a Solihull musical!

The Theatre Design Team and Academic Enrichment Theatre Design groups have once again grown in strength. Students of Thirds, Shells, and Fourths were involved in every aspect of backstage production work, in particular the painting of the 'graffiti' scenic panels for the set.

A personal thanks go to all the staff who have given up time to offer support with design clubs and backstage jobs. There are so many hidden talents and amazing skills within our school community!

Kevin Hunton

Design Production Manager

CHOREOGRAPHY

Abi Rudge

I have worked on a number of musicals with Mrs Stafford, being the choreographer for productions of *The Wizard of Oz* and *Legally Blonde*. After a turbulent couple of years for the Arts, and returning from maternity leave, it has been good to come back with a high energy musical such as *Fame*.

We are treated to technical ballet scenes with Iris and Tyrone performing pirouettes, arabesques and jetes across the stage, in contrast to our hip hop and jazz dances that pack a punch with technically demanding actions, lifts and jumps that are full of energy. This, of course, is a big challenge, and the whole cast of dancers have taken on each genre with determination, enthusiasm and a sense of pride in their work.

The Dancers have shown versatility with this challenging and varied choreography, which are sought after characteristics in the Dance and Arts industry. It's hard to pick one number that really stands out as my favourite as they all bring something quite different to the show and I see the 'Hard work' that has gone in previously to get it to the stage, so I always end up naming them all for one reason or another.

It has been such fun sharing this experience with such a dedicated and creative cast and crew. I hope they have really enjoyed this experience and have made some wonderful memories and I really hope you enjoy the show as much as I have enjoyed being involved.

Abi Rudge

Head of Dance





SOLIHULL

Solihull School Past Musicals:

- 1976 H.M.S. Pinafore
- 1978 The Beggar's Opera
- 1979 Salad Days
- 1980 Orpheus In The Underworld
- 1981 La Bella Helene
- 1982 Free As Air
- 1983 The Magic Flute
- 1984 Pink Champagne
- 1985 Orpheus In The Underworld
- 1986 Kiss Me Kate
- 1987 The Mikado
- 1988 The Merry Widow
- 1989 La Belle Helene
- 1990 The Pirates Of Penzance
- 1991 Pink Champagne
- 1992 Fiddler On The Roof
- 1993 My Fair Lady
- 1994 Annie Get Your Gun
- 1995 South Pacific
- 1996 Kiss Me Kate
- 1997 Oklahoma
- 1998 Guys And Dolls
- 1999 Crazy For You
- 2000 West Side Story
- 2001 Cabaret
- 2003 Oliver
- 2004 Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
- 2005 Les Misérables
- 2006 Barnum
- 2007 The Sound Of Music
- 2008 The Scarlet Pimpernel
- 2009 My Fair Lady
- 2010 South Pacific
- 2011 Grease
- 2012 Fiddler On The Roof
- 2013 Phantom Of The Opera
- 2014 Spamalat
- 2015 Les Misérables
- 2016 Carousel
- 2017 Tommy
- 2018 Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
- 2019 Made In Dagenham
- 2020 Twelfth Night (*Unable to perform*)
- 2021 Little Shop Of Horrors

Saint Martin's School Past Productions:

- 2013 Buggy Malone
- 2014 Little Shop Of Horrors
- 2015 Blood Brothers
- 2016 The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe
- 2017 Peter Pan
- 2018 Beauty & The Beast
- 2019 Legally Blonde
- 2020 The Wizard Of Oz

