

PRESS RELEASE
Monday 11 September 2017



Lyric Hammersmith announces casting for *Jack and the Beanstalk* and other Christmas events

- Initial casting announced for *Jack and the Beanstalk*, including Vikki Stone returning from last year.
- Joe Stilgoe offers three unique Christmas concerts over the festive month.
- Raymond Briggs' Father Christmas returns to the Lyric Hammersmith's intimate space, the Lyric Studio.

Jack and the Beanstalk

By Joel Horwood

Saturday 18 November 2017 – Saturday 06 January 2018

Press Performance: Saturday 25 November 2017

The Lyric Hammersmith today announces casting for its Christmas panto, *Jack and the Beanstalk*. With plenty of magic beans, a loveable cow, an enormous beanstalk, a gigantic giant and a massive adventure, this year's panto looks set to be the biggest ever.

Award-winning comedian, composer and BBC Proms presenter, Vikki Stone returns to the Lyric Hammersmith's pantomime for the second year in a row to play the role of Fleshcreep, joining Cherrelle Skeete who will play the Fairy Godmother, and who is currently rehearsing at the Lyric in the forthcoming production of *The Seagull*. Other cast members include: Kayla Meikle who will play Daisy the Cow and Faith Omole who will play Jack. The ensemble is built up of six young performers, as part of the Lyric Hammersmith's commitment to nurturing young talent.

Further Casting to be announced.

Jack and the Beanstalk has been written by Joel Horwood and is co-directed by the Lyric Hammersmith's Artistic Director, Sean Holmes and Jude Christian, an Artistic Associate of the Lyric.

Kayla Meikle plays Daisy the Cow

Theatre credits include: *Macbeth* and *Romeo & Juliet* (National Theatre); PRIMETIME (Royal Court); *Merlin* (Nuffield); *The Taming of the Shrew* (Arts Theatre); *All That Lives* (Ovalhouse) and *Streets* (Interval Productions)

Film and TV credits include: *Will*.



Faith Omole plays Jack

Theatre credits include: *Twelfth Night* (Royal Exchange); *The Rolling Stone* (Orange Tree/National Theatre/West Yorkshire Playhouse); *Custody* (Talawa); *A Slave Story* (Traverse/ UK Tour) and *Walk in the Light* (National Theatre).

Film and TV credits include: *Dumpee* and *He Loves Me*.

Cherelle Skeete plays Fairy Godmother

For the Lyric: *The Seagull*.

Other theatre credits include: *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Palace); *Three Days in the Country* and *Amen Corner* (National Theatre); *Wind in the Willows* (Royal and Derngate, Northampton); *And I and Silence* (Finborough) and *The Lion King* (Lyceum).

Film and TV credits include: *Silent Witness*, *Danny and the Human Zoo*, *The Five*, *Ordinary Lies* and *Call the Midwife*.

Vikki Stone plays Fleshcreep

Vikki Stone is an award-winning comedian, actress, musician and composer, best known as host of the official BBC Proms Podcast. She is also an Associate of The Royal College of Music and Fellow of Wells Cathedral School.

For the Lyric: *Aladdin*.

Television credits include: *Partners in Rhyme*, *The John Bishop Show*, *Uncle*, *Ten Pieces*, *The Funny Thing About...*, *Titch & Ted*, *Safeword*.

Radio credits include: *The Proms Podcast*, *BBC Radio 6 Music Weekend Breakfast*, *The Now Show*, *In Tune*, *Essential Classics*, *Live At The Fringe*, *The Last Word*, *Virgin Radio's Sunday Takeover*.

Composition credits include: *The Thing That Matters* (*Imagination*, *The Royal Albert Hall*), *Concerto for Comedian & Orchestra* (Glastonbury/Latitude/Edinburgh Festival).

Cast: Kayla Meikle (Daisy the Cow), Faith Omole (Jack), Cherelle Skeete (Fairy Godmother) and Vikki Stone (Fleshcreep).

Young Ensemble: Montel Bowen, Olivia Davidson, Lucy Havard, Jack Pallister, Tienne Simon and Amelia Stevenson.



Joel Horwood
Writer

Joel is an Artistic Associate at the Lyric Hammersmith.

For the Lyric: *Aladdin* (2016), *Secret Theatre: A Stab in the Dark*, *A Series Of Increasingly Impossible Acts*, *Cinderella* (co-written with Morgan Lloyd Malcolm 2012) and *Dick Whittington* (co-written with Morgan Lloyd Malcolm 2010).

Other theatre credits include: *I Want My Hat Back* (National Theatre); *The Little Mermaid* (Bristol Old Vic); *The Planet And Stuff* (Polka); *I Heart Peterborough* (Soho); *The Count Of Monte Cristo* (West Yorkshire Playhouse); *I Caught Crabs In Walberswick* (The Pleasance/UK Tour/The Bush); *Is Everyone OK?* (Latitude Festival/UK Tour); *Stoopud Fucken Animals, Food* (Traverse); and *Mikey the Pikey* (The Pleasance/UK tour).

Jude Christian
Co-Director

Jude is an Artistic Associate at the Lyric Hammersmith.

For the Lyric (as Associate Director): *Shopping and F**king*, *Aladdin*, *The Seagull*.

Theatre credits include: *Split/Mixed* (Summerhall); *Nanjing* (Yard Theatre); *Blue* (RWCMD); *Lela & Co.* (Royal Court); *I'd Rather Goya Robbed Me Of My Sleep Than Some Other Arsehole* (Gate Theatre/Boom Arts Portland) and *Bwyta Eliffant, Sut Mae Gwneud Hynny Dwedwch?/How Do You Eat An Elephant?* (National Youth Theatre of Wales).

Sean Holmes
Co-Director

Sean is Artistic Director of the Lyric Hammersmith.

For the Lyric: *Terror*, *Shopping and F**king*, *Bugsy Malone*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hérons*, *Secret Theatre Shows 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7*, *Cinderella*, *Desire Under the Elms*, *Morning, Have I None, Saved, Blasted* - winner Olivier Award 2011, Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre, *A Thousand Stars Explode in the Sky*, *Ghost Stories* (also Duke of York's/Liverpool Playhouse/Panasonic Theatre, Toronto/Arts Theatre), *Three Sisters* and *Comedians*.

In 2016 Sean directed *The Plough and the Stars* at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin (also Irish/US Tour).

Sean was an Associate Director of the Oxford Stage Company from 2001 to 2006 and has also worked at the National Theatre, RSC, Tricycle, Royal Court, Donmar Warehouse, Chichester Festival Theatre and the Abbey Theatre, Dublin.



Written by	Joel Horwood
Co-directed by	Jude Christian and Sean Holmes
Design by	Jean Chan
Lighting by	Tim Deiling
Composed & Arranged by	Corin Buckeridge
Sound by	Nick Manning
Choreography by	Lainie Baird
Musical Direction	James Taylor
Casting	Will Burton CDG

Also playing at the Lyric Hammersmith this Christmas

Joe Stilgoe's Christmas at the Lyric

Presented by Lyric Hammersmith and EBP

Monday 04, 11 and 18 December 2017

Joe Stilgoe is back this Christmas to take up residency at the Lyric Hammersmith for three nights only this December.

Joe Stilgoe & His Mighty Big Band
Monday 04 December 2017

Kicking off the festival season in style, Joe will be joined by his Big Band, a hand-picked selection of the finest, most exciting players in the country. Expect Joe's inimitable take in seasonal favourites plus his own incredible songs and classic big band standards.

Joe Stilgoe's Christmas Party
Monday 11 December 2017

A variety night reminiscent of the good old days of entertainment, as Joe and his 7-piece band welcome guests from stage, screen and music to reinterpret the Christmas songbook, play some games and indulge in a spot of Dickens.

Joe Stilgoe's White Christmas
Monday 18 December 2017

Finally, to take you into the festive week, Joe, the band and special guests will give you their unique spin on *White Christmas*.

Joe Stilgoe has twice topped the UK jazz chart, been featured on countless radio programmes for Radio 2, 3 & 4, presented on BBC4, Radio 2 and JazzFM, has written award-winning songs, starred in The Old Vic's 2015 production of *High Society*, and he has an established international concert career, collaborating with John Wilson, Curtis Stigers, Claire Martin, the RLPO and BBC Concert Orchestra among many others. He has had sell out runs at the Edinburgh Fringe and is a regular favourite at the world-famous home of jazz, Ronnie Scott's.



Raymond Briggs' Father Christmas

A Lyric Hammersmith and Pins and Needles Production

Wednesday 22 November – Sunday 24 December 2017

Now established as a Christmas tradition at the Lyric, this critically acclaimed production of *Raymond Briggs' Father Christmas* returns for another brilliant bloomin' year.

Watch Brigg's grumpy but loveable Father Christmas as he gets ready for his busiest day of the year, Christmas Eve. Preparing his Christmas deliveries, feeding his reindeer and finally taking flight into the snowy night.

Full of merry touches with plenty of live music, songs and playful puppetry. A perfect festive treat for under 6s and their families.

Based on the Book by	Raymond Briggs
Adapted by	Pins and Needles
Directed by	Emma Earle
Design by	Zoe Squire
Lighting by	George Ogilvie
Music and Sound by	Lucy Rivers
Puppet Designer	Max Humphries
Associate Director	Eva Sampson

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For more information visit www.lyric.co.uk.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Booking Information

Tickets 020 8741 6850 | www.lyric.co.uk
Lyric Square, King Street, London, W6 0QL

Christmas at the Lyric

Jack and the Beanstalk

Saturday 18 November 2017 – Saturday 06 January 2018

Various evening and matinee performance times. Please see www.lyric.co.uk

Free First Night: Saturday 18 November at 6pm. For more information: www.lyric.co.uk

Previews: Tuesday 21 – Friday 24 November 2017 | Press Night: Saturday 25 November 2017 at 6pm

Preview Tickets: £15, £20 | Tickets: £15, £20, £25, £30, £35, £40 | Mid-week matinees: £15, £20

Family Ticket: £75 (limited availability). No booking fee.

Relaxed Performances: Wednesday 06 December 10am & 1:30pm

Open Captioned Performance: Friday 15 December 7pm

BSL Performance: Saturday 16 December 2pm

Audio Described Performance: Sunday 17 December 5:30pm

Raymond Briggs' Father Christmas

Wednesday 22 November – Sunday 24 December 2017

For full schedule: www.lyric.co.uk

Tickets: £10. No booking fee.

Joe Stilgoe's Christmas at the Lyric

Monday 04, 11 and 18 December 2017

Performances 7.30pm For more information: www.lyric.co.uk

Tickets: £15, £20, £25, £35, £40. No booking fee.

Also booking

The Seagull

Tuesday 03 October – Saturday 04 November 2017

Mon-Sat 7.30pm. Also Sat 2.30pm (excluding 7 October) & Wed 1.30pm (25 October & 01 November only) & Thu 19 Oct at 1.30pm.

Free First Night: Tuesday 03 October. For more information: www.lyric.co.uk

Previews: Wednesday 04 – Tuesday 10 October 2017 | Press Night: Wednesday 11 October 2017 at 7pm

Preview & Mid-week Matinees: £15, £20 | Tickets: £15, £20, £25, £30, £35, £40.

No booking fee.

Open Captioned Performance: Saturday 28 October 2:30pm

Audio Described Performance: Saturday 28 October 7:30pm



Things I Know to be True

Thursday 11 January 2018 – Saturday 03 February 2018

Free First Night: Thursday 11 January. For more information: www.lyric.co.uk

Tickets: £15, £20, £25, £35, £40. No booking fee.

Open Captioned Performance: Saturday 27 January 2:30pm

Audio Described Performance: Saturday 27 January 7.30pm

Fatherland

Friday 25 May – Saturday 23 June 2018

Mon-Thu & Sat 7.30pm; Fri 8pm

Also Sat & Wed 2.30pm (excluding Sat 26 May & Wed 30 May. No performance on Mon 28 May)

Free First Night: Friday 25 May at 7.30pm. For more information: www.lyric.co.uk

Previews: Saturday 26 – Wednesday 30 May 2018

Press Performances: Thursday 31 May at 7pm

Preview Tickets: £15, £20 | Tickets: £15, £20, £25, £35, £40.

Free First Night

The Lyric is proud to call Hammersmith their home. In 2016 they celebrated the 20th anniversary of their Free First Night scheme, part of their long term partnership with the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, through which they give free tickets to people who live or work locally. Through this scheme last year they provided 2,354 Free First Night tickets to people who may not have had an opportunity to see theatre before. And as part of this commitment to the local community, they also provided 2,000 tickets to Hammersmith & Fulham schools. For full details including dates of future Free First Nights, www.lyric.co.uk