



THE
STAFFORD
LONDON
EST 1912

ASK ALAN... WHAT'S ON STAGE

The best-selling and most anticipated new shows



"DANCING AT LUGHNASA" National Theatre

This play is set in an Irish village in 1936 during the annual Festival of Lughnasa which marks the beginning of harvest (named after the Pagan God Lugh, who provided the crops). We follow five sisters' lives as they fight, love, dance, and survive. It really is an excellent play: peaceful, funny and life-affirming. The actors are brilliant – you cannot but delight in their performances.

"AIN'T TOO PROUD" Prince Edward Theatre

This play arrives in the West End following its award-winning run on Broadway. It's the story of The Temptations, so you get all the slick dance moves and all the glorious songs that you would expect: "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone", "My Girl", "If You Don't Know Me By Now" - the list goes on! It is energetic, straightforward, tuneful and the performances are shining. It has to be said, though, that the show is not profound or original, but the audience is not there to be challenged - they're there for a good time, and that's precisely what they get.

"BONNIE & CLYDE" Garrick Theatre

This musical follows the lives of two Texan kids who yearn to escape their run-down lives. It has energy, crisp performances, sharp choreography, and two strong lead performances. Not for everyone (some of the reviews have been poor), but the full house each night, and the spontaneous standing ovations, show how much support this new show has accumulated. Power ballads, blues, country, gospel – they're all there. It's not highbrow, just a fun night out!

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"CABARET"

Playhouse Theatre

The Cabaret at the Kit Kat Club envelops you from the moment you step inside. This is an inventive, intriguing, sexy new version of the decadent musical. Brilliant from start to finish, it's a must-see - one of the greatest pieces of theatre in the West End today. You really do feel like you're in a sumptuous nightclub, surrounded by captivating performers. There's a sense of confrontation and mischief about the whole thing, as events in the pre-war Berlin bar track Germany's descent into darkness. Astounding.

"OPERATION MINCEMEAT"

The Fortune Theatre

Theatre company SplitLip have devised this high-octane comedy musical about a World War Two plot to mislead Hitler about the Allies' invasion plans – so ludicrous it could only be true. Following short runs at various smaller theatres it now has a well-deserved West End transfer. Fast, furious and really very funny, it's a brilliant show, packed with wit from start to finish. The musical talent on display, from both the cast and the live band, is exceptional.

"WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION"

London County Hall

A totally unique courtroom staging of Agatha Christie's gripping, intense drama played out in the historic council chamber of London's magnificent County Hall. You really feel like you're in the Old Bailey watching the proceedings, and hearing the ushers calling witnesses in the corridors outside. This all adds to the thrill of Christie's most ingenious play. What at first seems to be an open-and-shut case turns out to be far more complex and intriguing.

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