

ASK ALAN... WHAT'S ON STAGE

The best-selling and most anticipated new shows



"PLAZA SUITE" Savoy Theatre, until I3 April 2024

Real-life couple Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick are the big attraction here. Box office records were broken when they starred in this production of Neil Simon's play on Broadway. They spar well together on stage, playing three different couples who stay in the same hotel suite. It's both romantic and bitter, and hilarious in places. It is a joy to see her making her West End debut!

"STANDING AT THE SKY'S EDGE" Gillian Lynne Theatre

This is one of the most exciting new British musicals in years, and fully deserves the 5-star reviews it has already received. Set in the Park Hill flats in Sheffield, it follows a line of three families who have lived in the same flat over the course of six decades. It's complicated, but so cleverly directed that the intricacies of their different lives are easy to follow. There are vivid, remarkable performances all round, and it really is a must-see!

"THE HILLS OF CALIFORNIA" The Harold Pinter Theatre

This is a new play by Jez Butterworth (he wrote 'Jerusalem' and 'The Ferryman') and is directed by Sam Mendes. So realistically, it can only be brilliant! Set, not in California, but in Blackpool during the sweltering summer of '76 when the beaches and hotels are packed, it follows the Webb sisters as they return to the family guesthouse to see their dying mother for one last time.

Get excited, get very excited...

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"JUST FOR ONE DAY"

The Old Vic Theatre, until 30 March 2024

This musical is about the astonishing day in July 1985 when the Live Aid concerts in London and Philadelphia brought together the world's greatest musicians to raise money for the starving in Ethiopia. They were watched live on TV by 40% of the world's population, and raised £150 million for charity. This show captures and celebrates the wonder of that day: the musicians – Queen, David Bowie, Elton John and the like; the atmosphere of togetherness; the joy; and the generosity of spirit.

"THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY" Theatre Royal Haymarket, until II May 2024

Based on Oscar Wilde's gothic classic, it tells the story of Dorian, who sells his soul to the devil so that his portrait, rather than he, will age and fade. Thus he can lead a life full of beauty and sensual fulfilment, whilst his portrait grows old recording all his sins.

"EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE" Peacock Theatre

This exuberant musical is back in London. 16-year-old Jamie New's ambition is to wear a dress to the school Prom. The teenage issues arising are dealt with in a wonderfully brash, shouty and hilarious way. Smooth vocals and great choreography mean we are treated to a fiesta of rip-roaring song and dance numbers throughout the show. It's a high energy riot of a night!

Funny, moving, refreshing and thought-provoking – what's not to like?

Preferred