

**Announcing the UK premiere at Charing Cross Theatre of VIOLET,
a multi award-winning musical by the composer of
FUN HOME, CAROLINE, OR CHANGE, SHREK THE MUSICAL
and THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE**

A Japanese co-production, VIOLET will transfer to Tokyo after its 12-week London run



VIOLET, a multi award-winning musical with Music by Jeanine Tesori (Tony Award winner for Best Original Score with Lisa Kron for *Fun Home*, and Tony-nominated for *Caroline, or Change* and *Shrek the Musical*), and Book & Lyrics by Brian Crawley (*The Little Princess*), is to get its UK premiere in an international co-production that will see it transfer to Tokyo.

VIOLET will get its UK premiere at Charing Cross Theatre (Thom Southerland, Artistic Director, Steven M. Levy, Managing Director) for a 12-week season from Monday 14 January – Saturday 6 April, 2019.

Press night is Monday 21 January at 7.30pm.

Announcing the co-production, Thom Southerland said: I am delighted to welcome director Shuntaro Fujita and our producing partners Umeda Arts Theater for this exciting production. For four years it has been my privilege to create shows with Umeda Arts Theater in Japan and I am pleased that **VIOLET** is the first of our collaborations in the UK. Building on our in-house musical productions of *Ragtime*, *Titanic*, *Death Takes A Holiday* and *The Woman in White*, I am thrilled that Jeannie Tseori and Brian Crawley's urgent, exciting and extraordinary musical will find its premiere at Charing Cross Theatre. Umeda Arts Theatre have been creating world class, international theatre in both Japan and on Broadway and I am delighted they have joined us at Charing Cross Theatre for a production which will transfer to Tokyo after its initial London run. This collaboration marks the beginning of an exchange of both work and artists between Charing Cross Theatre and Umeda Arts and we will soon announce further projects including the development of new work and further UK premieres. **VIOLET** is an important production at Charing Cross Theatre celebrating our commitment to the creation of exemplary work from a range of international artists."

1964. Somewhere between North Carolina and Oklahoma, we find Violet, a young woman who was facially disfigured as a child. She hopes her life savings will bring her a miracle halfway across the country. Reflecting on her childhood, and shaped by the reactions of the people she encounters, Violet embarks on a life-changing personal journey.

VIOLET, based on the short story *The Ugliest Pilgrim* by Doris Betts, premiered Off-Broadway and won the Drama Critics' Circle Award and Lucille Lortel Award as Best Musical, before transferring to Broadway where it was nominated for four Tony awards.

Cast to be announced.

Creative team: Directed by Shuntaro Fujita, Choreography by Cressida Carré, Set Design by Morgan Large, Costume by Jonathan Lipman, Lighting by Howard Hudson, Sound by Andrew Johnson, Music Director Dan Jackson, Associate Music Director Chris Ma. Associate Director Abigail Pickard-Price Production Supervisor Thom Southerland.

Producers: Steven M. Levy and Vaughan Williams for Charing Cross Theatre Productions Limited in a co-production with Umeda Arts Theater Co, Ltd., Osaka, Japan

JEANINE TESORI

Music

Jeanine Tesori won the Tony Award for Best Original Score with Lisa Kron for the musical *Fun Home*. She has also written Tony-nominated scores for *Twelfth Night* at Lincoln Center; *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (lyrics, Dick Scanlan); *Caroline, or Change* (lyrics, Tony Kushner); and *Shrek The Musical* (lyrics, David Lindsay-Abaire). The production of *Caroline, or Change* at the National Theatre in London received the Olivier Award for Best New Musical. Her 1997 Off-Broadway musical *Violet* (lyrics, Brian Crawley) opened on Broadway in 2014 and garnered four Tony nominations, including Best Musical Revival. Opera: *A Blizzard on Marblehead Neck* (libretto, Tony Kushner; Glimmerglass) and *The Lion, The Unicorn, and Me* (libretto, J. D. McClatchy, Kennedy Center). Music for plays: *Mother Courage* (dir. George C. Wolfe, with Meryl Streep and Kevin Kline), John Guare's *A Free Man of Color* (Lincoln Center Theater, dir. George C. Wolfe), and *Romeo and Juliet* (Delacorte Gala). Film scores: *Nights in Rodanthe*, *Every Day*, and *You're Not You*. Ms. Tesori is a member of the Dramatists Guild and was cited by the ASCAP as the first female composer to have two new musicals running concurrently on Broadway.

BRIAN CRAWLEY

Lyrics & Book

Brian Crawley is a playwright and screenwriter. He wrote the book and lyrics for *A Little Princess* (composer Andrew Lipka) which debuted at Theatreworks of Palo Alto in the summer of 2004. He also wrote the book and lyrics for *Violet* (composer Jeanine Tesori) which was mounted Off-Broadway by Playwrights Horizons in 1997, then remounted in a concert version in 2003 to help inaugurate their new theater. Other musicals he has written include *Evangeline* with Ted Dykstra, and *Down There* with composer Lewis Flinn. He appears in the documentary *One Night Stand* in which he writes a short musical in 24 hours with composer Gabriel Kahane. For the libretto of *Violet*, Brian won the Kleban Award. Prior to the Playwrights Horizons production, and on its behalf, *Violet* was given the Richard Rodgers Musical Production Award and an AT&T OnStage Award. Afterwards, besides a Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Musical, *Violet* received the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical over all the year's Broadway offerings (as did Paula Vogel's play *How I Learned to Drive*; the first time two off-Broadway pieces took these top awards in the Drama Critic Circle's history). Brian's plays have been developed or staged at Lincoln Center, New York Theater Workshop, the National Alliance of Musical Theatre, and the Eugene O'Neill summer theater conference.

Shuntaro Fujita

Director

Shuntaro is a director of MY Promotion, Tokyo. He received Best Theatre Award of the 42nd Kikuta Kazuo Theatre Award in April 2017, and Best Director Award of the 24th Yomiuri Theatre Awards, the most prestigious theatre award in Japan, in 2017.

Theatre includes: *Peter Pan* (Tokyo International Forum); *Danny and Deep Blue Sea* (Kinokuniya Hall Tokyo); *Take Me Out* (DDD Aoyama Cross Theatre); *Jersey Boys* (Theatre Creation - winner, Best Director Award and Best Production Award of the 24th Yomiuri Theatre Awards in 2017); *Tegami the musical*, New National Theatre); *The Little Mermaid the musical* in a version by Shuji Terayama (Theatre West, Tokyo); *The Beautiful Game* (otherwise known as *The Boys in the Photograph*, New National Theatre - winner, Sugimura Haruko Award and Best Director Award of the 22nd Yomiuri Theatre Awards in 2015); *The Factory 2: Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen* (Sainokuni Saitama Arts Theater).

LISTINGS INFO

Steven M. Levy and Vaughan Williams
for Charing Cross Theatre Productions Limited
in a co-production with
Umeda Arts Theater Co, Ltd., Osaka, Japan
present

VIOLET

Music by Jeanine Tesori
Book and Lyrics by Brian Crawley

based on *The Ugliest Pilgrim*
by Doris Betts

Charing Cross Theatre

The Arches
Villiers Street
London
WC2N 6NL

www.charingcrosstheatre.co.uk

Box office: 08444 930650

Monday 14 January - Saturday 6 April, 2019

Press Night:

**Monday 21 January
at 7.30pm**

Performances

Monday – Saturday at 7.30pm
Matinees Wednesday at 2.30pm
and Saturday at 3.00pm

Ticket prices

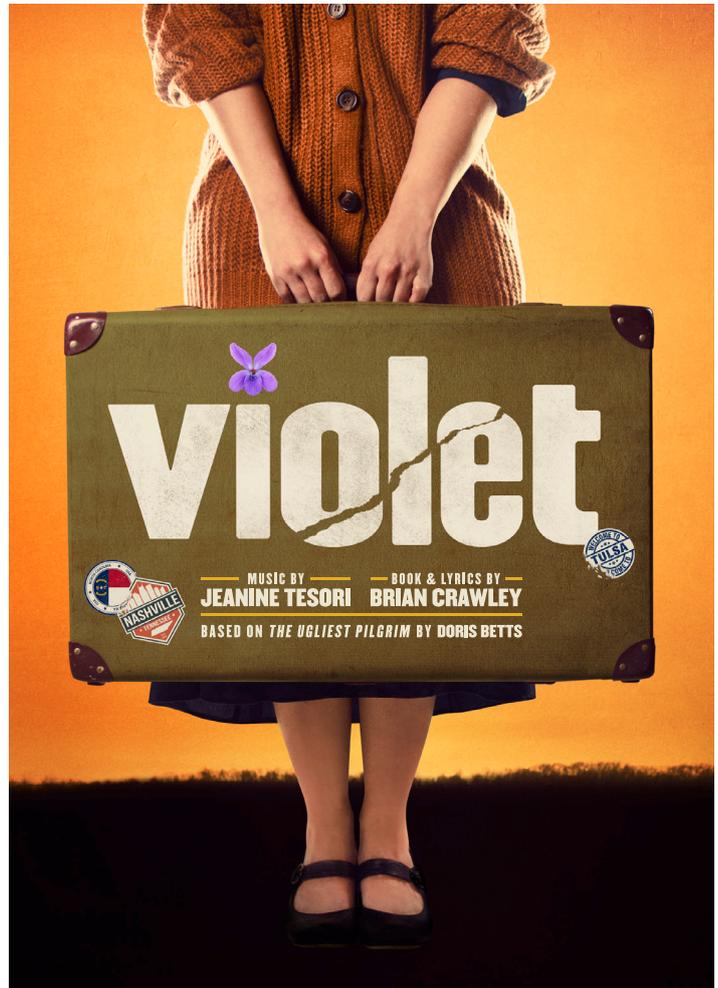
Premium £42.50 which includes prime
stalls locations, a programme and a
glass of bubbly

Stalls £35.00
Balcony £25.00
Slips £17.50

A booking fee applies to phone and internet
orders; no booking fee to personal callers

The box office is open from 2 hours
before curtain time on performance days for
personal callers

Performed by arrangement with
Music Theatre International (Europe) Limited



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