

Acclaimed musical star Anna O'Byrne cast in the first London revival of *The Woman in White*



Acclaimed Australian musical theatre star, Anna O'Byrne, will take the role of Laura Fairlie in the first ever revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Tony and Olivier Award-nominated musical, **The Woman in White**

A wildly exciting romantic musical with a tempestuous tale of love, betrayal and greed, **The Woman in White** is adapted from Wilkie Collins' haunting Victorian thriller of the same name.

Directed by Thom Southerland, previews begin at Charing Cross Theatre on Monday 20 November and the production runs for 12 weeks to Saturday 10 February 2018.

Following a chance encounter with a mysterious woman, dressed in white, Walter Hartright's life is changed forever. On taking a position as drawing master to the beautiful Laura Fairlie and her half sister, Marian, Walter sees in Laura's face an eerie reflection of the forlorn woman in white. As his feelings for Laura develop, they are thwarted by her engagement to the sinister Sir Percival Glyde. What is the connection between, Laura, Sir Percival, and the woman in white? Can true love prevail?

Anna O'Byrne played Christine in the hugely successful Australian premiere of *Love Never Dies*, which was later filmed for DVD release. Andrew Lloyd Webber then brought Anna to London to make her West End debut in *The Phantom of the Opera*.

The recipient of the 2017 Helpmann Award for Best Actress - the Australian equivalent of the Olivier Awards – Anna received the award for her performance as Eliza Doolittle in the sold-out 60th anniversary production of *My Fair Lady* at Sydney Opera House. The show was cast and directed by Dame Julie Andrews.

Speaking of her upcoming role, Anna said: "I'm thrilled to be playing Laura in this re-imagined version of **The Woman In White**. Andrew's score is just gorgeous, and it's very special to continue our association on this show. Andrew has been, and continues to be, a guiding force in my career."

Other cast announced today;

Chris Peluso will play Sir Percival Glyde. Chris starred as Death in the European premiere of *Death Takes a Holiday* and played Nicky Arnstein opposite Sheridan Smith in the UK tour of *Funny Girl*. He made his West End debut as Chris in *Miss Saigon* and was Mississippi gambler Gaylord Ravenal in *Show Boat* at the New London Theatre.

Carolyn Maitland is cast as Marian Halcombe. Carolyn starred as Molly Jensen in *Ghost*, Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*, and Ellen in *Miss Saigon*.

Ashley Stillburn cast as Walter Hartright. Ashley was previously in *Death Takes a Holiday* at Charing Cross Theatre and has previously played Raoul in *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Greg Castiglioni cast as Count Fosco. Credits include the European premiere of *Titanic*, *Fiddler on the Roof* at Chichester, *Evita* (Magaldi), *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Cats* and *Lend Me a Tenor*.

Sophie Reeves cast as Anne Catherick. Sophie is a recent graduate of Guildford School of Acting, and has appeared in the West End company of *Les Misérables*.

The Woman in White has music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, lyrics by David Zippel, and a book by Charlotte Jones.

The production features choreography by Cressida Carré, scenic design by Morgan Large, costume design by Jonathan Lipman, lighting design by Rick Fisher, and Sound Design by Andy Johnson. The music supervisor is Stephen Brooker, with orchestrations by David Cullen. Casting is by David Grindrod Associates.

The Woman in White is produced by Patrick Gracey, Steven M. Levy and Vaughan Williams by arrangement with The Really Useful Group Limited. Original London production by Sonia Friedman Productions and The Really Useful Theatre Group.

Andrew Lloyd Webber (Music)

When *Sunset Boulevard* joined *School Of Rock*, *Cats* and *The Phantom Of The Opera* on Broadway in February 2017, Andrew Lloyd Webber became the only person to equal the record set in 1953 by Rodgers and Hammerstein with four Broadway shows running concurrently. Other musicals he has composed include *Aspects Of Love*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita* and *Love Never Dies*.

His production of *School Of Rock* is the first British musical to have world premiered on Broadway. He has co-produced his own shows including *Cats* and *The Phantom Of The Opera* and as a solo producer he presented the groundbreaking *Bombay Dreams* which introduced the double Oscar winning Bollywood composer AR Rahman to the Western stage.

Other productions include the Olivier Award Winning *Daisy Pulls It Off* and *La Bete*, the record breaking Palladium production of *The Sound Of Music* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

He owns seven West End Theatres including the Theatre Royal Drury Lane, the Palladium and most recently the St James which reopened this year as The Other Palace to provide a unique London home for new musicals in development.

He is passionate about the importance of music in education and the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation has become one of Britain's leading charities supporting the arts and music.

His awards, both as composer and producer, include seven Tonys, seven Oliviers, a Golden Globe, an Oscar, the Praemium Imperiale, the Richard Rodgers Award for Excellence in Musical Theatre, a BASCA Fellowship, the Kennedy Center Honor and a Grammy for Best Contemporary Classical Composition for *Requiem*, his setting of the Latin Requiem mass which contains one of his best known compositions, *Pie Jesu*.

He was knighted by Her Majesty The Queen in 1992 and created an honorary member of the House of Lords in 1997.

David Zippel (Lyrics)

David Zippel's lyrics have won him the Tony award, the Olivier award, the Evening Standard award, two Oscar nominations, two Grammy award nominations, and three Golden Globe award nominations. His songs appear on over 25 million CDs around the world, and have been recorded by many great singers including Stevie Wonder, Christine Aguilera, Mel Torme, Ricky Martin, Cleo Laine, Elaine Paige, Barbara Cook, Sarah Brightman and Nancy LaMott. David Zippel made his Broadway debut with *City of Angels* (music by Cy Coleman, book by Larry Gelbart), he also wrote the lyrics for the Broadway musical *The Goodbye Girl* (music by Marvin Hamlisch, book by Neil Simon). He has contributed lyrics to the revues *A...My Name Is Alice*, *Diamonds* and, with composer Doug Katsaros, wrote the musical comedy *Just So*. With Wally Harper he has written numerous songs for Barbara Cook including *It's Better With A Band* and the original songs for her Broadway and West End show *Barbara Cook, A Concert For the Theatre*. Her acclaimed revue showcasing David Zippel's lyrics, entitled *It's Better With A Band*, played Off-Broadway and at the Donmar Warehouse. On film, in collaboration with Alan Menken, the songs for Disney's feature film *Hercules*; with Matthew Wilder, the songs for Disney's animated feature *Mulan*; with Marvin Hamlisch, the theme song for *Frankie and Johnny*; with Mervyn Warren the end title for the Jennifer Lopez movie *The Wedding Planner*; lyrics for *The Swan Princess*, an animated feature with music by Lex De Azevedo. Awards: Olivier award, Evening Standard award, Tony award, New York Drama Critics' Circle award and Drama Desk award for *City of Angels*; Outer Critics' Circle award nomination for lyrics for *The Goodbye Girl*; Oscar nominations for lyrics on Disney's *Hercules* and *Mulan*; Golden Globe award nominations for lyrics for *Hercules*, *Mulan* and *The Swan Princess*.

Charlotte Jones (Book)

Charlotte Jones is an award-winning writer of theatre, film, television, and radio. She won the Critics' Circle Most Promising Playwright award in 1999 for *In Flame and Martha*, *Josie and the Chinese Elvis*. Her fourth stage play, *Humble Boy*, premiered at the National Theatre in 2001, and was awarded the Critics' Circle Best New Play Award, the People's Choice Best New Play Award, and was nominated for an Olivier Award. It transferred to the West End and ran for nine months before opening at the Manhattan Theatre Club in New York and being nominated for a Drama Desk Award. In 2015, Charlotte was made an Honorary Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford, for her service to the arts. She currently has a number of films in development, and was the creator and writer of the television series, *The Halcyon*.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM FOR THE ORIGINAL PRODUCTION OF THE WOMAN IN WHITE

"The Woman in White is more than a musical, it is a powerful popular opera, both romantic and spectacular; a thriller; a swaggering, flamboyant Victorian melodrama; a tempestuous story of love and intrigue; a great, arching narrative, brilliantly told."

The Sunday Times

"Lloyd Webber's music, never before so classical and operatic, becomes hypnotic as it slowly unveils its melodies."

The Daily Mail

"Andrew Lloyd Webber's best score in years."

The Guardian

"Big, lush, swirling melodies that pour over you and seem to pin you down."

Financial Times

"Luscious, lavish, sensual, romantic and melodramatic."

The Mail on Sunday

"A must-see musical thriller! The Woman in White is an engrossing tale, full of artifice and spine-chiller twists."

New York Post

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Thom Southerland (Director)

Thom is the Artistic Director at Charing Cross Theatre. His opening season of major musicals included the return of his acclaimed multi award-winning *Titanic* and *Ragtime* (nominated for a record 14 Off West End awards) and *Death Takes A Holiday*. His production of *Titanic* has also been produced at the Princess of Wales Theatre in Toronto, and in Tokyo. He was longlisted Best Newcomer in the 2011 Evening Standard Awards for *Parade*. He was named Best Director at the 2011 The Offies for *Me And Juliet* at the Finborough. He directed *Allegro*, *Grey Gardens*, *Grand Hotel*, *Titanic*, *Victor/Victoria*, *Mack & Mabel* and *Parade* (Southwark Playhouse); *The Smallest Show on Earth* (Mercury Theatre, Colchester & tour) Jerry Herman's *The Grand Tour* (Finborough); *The Mikado* (Charing Cross Theatre); *Daisy Pulls It Off*, Irving Berlin's *Call Me Madam!* (Upstairs At The Gatehouse); the European première of *I Sing!*, *Divorce Me, Darling!*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *The Pajama Game* and sold-out all-male adaptations of Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore* and *The Mikado* (Union); *Noël and Gertie* (Cockpit); the European première of *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* (Landor); the European première of *State Fair* (Finborough & transfer to Trafalgar Studios).

Cressida Carré (Musical Staging)

Cressida has previously worked with Thom Southerland on staging the award-winning production of *Titanic* in London, Toronto and Japan. Other selected theatre credits include the all-female version of *POSH* (Pleasance, Off West End Award nomination, Best Director), the UK tour of *Avenue Q* (director & choreographer); *Laila The Musical*, *Britain's Got Bhangra*, *Great Expectations* (Watford Palace & UK tour); *The Jungle Book* (Glasgow Citizens); *CATS* (Dubai); *Spring Awakening* (UK tour).

Morgan Large (Scenic Design)

Morgan has previously worked with Thom Southerland on *Death Takes A Holiday* at Charing Cross Theatre. He is currently designing a brand new production of *Top Hat* directed by Stephen Mear, and the UK tours of *Son of a Preacher Man* directed by Craig Revel Horwood, *Tango Moderno* directed by Karen Bruce, and *Deathtrap* directed by Adam Penford. Selected theatre credits include: *Dance Til Dawn* (West End & UK Tour); *Forbidden Broadway* (Menier Chocolate Factory & West End); *Flashdance* (West End); *Xanadu* (Southwark Playhouse); *Othello* (Sheffield Crucible); and the UK tours of *Love Me Tender*, *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, and *Equus*.

Jonathan Lipman (Costume Design)

Jonathan Lipman has previously worked with Thom Southerland on *Grey Gardens*, *Allegro* (Southwark Playhouse), *Ragtime*, *Death Takes A Holiday* (Charing Cross Theatre), and a U.S. tour of *Peter Pan*. Selected theatre credits include: *The Country Girl* directed by Rufus Norris (West End & UK Tour), and the UK tours of *Larkrise to Candleford* and *Jekyll & Hyde – The Musical*.

Rick Fisher (Lighting Design)

Rick Fisher is a multiple Tony and Olivier Award-winner. He is known for his collaborations with director Stephen Daldry on *Billy Elliot the Musical* and *An Inspector Calls* (for both of which he received the Tony Award). He has done the lighting design for many opera companies, including the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, the New York City Opera, and Santa Fe Opera. Other selected West End credits include: *Sunny Afternoon*, *Jerry Springer the Opera*, *Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake*, *The Threepenny Opera*, and *Lady in the Dark*, *Chips with Everything*, *Hysteria* and *Machinal* at the National Theatre (for which he received Olivier Awards).

Andrew Johnson (Sound Design)

Andrew's recent credits including the Olivier Award-winning smash hit *The Play That Goes Wrong*. Other selected theatre credits includes: *Titanic*, *Ragtime*, *Death Takes a Holiday* (Charing Cross); *Grey Gardens*, *The Toxic Avenger - The Musical*, *Grand Hotel*, *Dogfight*, *Victor/Victoria* (Southwark Playhouse); *Calamity Jane* (UK Tour); *Let It Be* (UK Tour, Moscow, Japan); *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* (UK Tour); *Midnight Tango* (West End & UK Tour); *Top Hat* (UK Tour); *A Clockwork Orange* (Theatre Royal, Stratford East).

THE PRODUCERS

Patrick Gracey

Patrick Gracey is an international producer and general manager based in London's West End. Patrick has produced and general managed plays and musicals in London's West End, on Broadway, in Australia, and on tour in the UK. Most recently, Patrick produced Pedro Almodovar's *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* in the West End starring Tamsin Greig, and *Constellations* starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Ruth Wilson on Broadway for Ambassador Theatre Group. On Broadway, Patrick was the general manager of the Tony Award®-winning production of *Death of a Salesman* starring Philip Seymour Hoffman, and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* starring Scarlett Johansson. As general manager of the Donmar, Patrick supervised over a dozen productions in the UK, U.S. and Australia, including the Donmar's West End season at Wyndham's Theatre. Productions included *Ivanov* starring Kenneth Branagh, *Twelfth Night* starring Derek Jacobi, *Madame de Sade* starring Judi Dench, and *Hamlet* starring Jude Law. In Australia, Patrick was the general manager of Disney & Cameron Mackintosh's award-winning production of *Mary Poppins*.

Steven M. Levy

Steven has spent the past 30 years as a theatrical producer, general manager and theatre owner in both New York and London. Broadway includes: *Whoopi - The 20th Anniversary Show*; *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All* starring Ellen Burstyn; *Our Town* starring Paul Newman; *I'm Not Rappaport* starring Judd Hirsch and Ben Vereen; *Dame Edna: The Royal Tour*; *The Beauty Queen Of Leenane*; *The Lonesome West*; *Waiting In The Wings* starring Lauren Bacall. West End includes: *Titanic*, *Ragtime*, *Death Takes a Holiday*, *In The Bar Of A Tokyo Hotel*, *Piaf*, *The Mikado*, *Jacques Brel Is Alive And Well And Living In Paris*, *Long Story Short*, *Finian's Rainbow*, *Ushers: The Front Of House Musical*, Jerry Herman's *Dear World*, the Olivier Award-winning *La Bohème*, *6 Actors In Search Of A Director* (written and directed by Steven Berkoff), *Fascinating Aida – Cheap Flights*, *The Man On Her Mind*, *John Leguizamo - Ghetto Klown*, *Patricia Routledge – Facing The Music*, *Thrill Me* (Charing Cross); *Singular Sensations*, Tom Stoppard's *The Invention Of Love* (Theatre Royal, Haymarket); *Nixon's Nixon* (Comedy); *Gross Indecency* (Gielgud); *The Boys In The Band* (Aldwych). Film includes: *Our Town* starring Paul Newman; *Whoopi* (HBO, starring Whoopi Goldberg); *The Man On Her Mind* (The Talking Pictures Company). Steven's productions have been the recipient of 14 Tony Award nominations, 5 Tony Awards, as well as the recipient of the Drama Desk, Lucille Lortel, Outer Critics Circle and OBIE Awards.

Vaughan Williams

Vaughan was a founder shareholder in and is Chairman of the Charing Cross Theatre, where he has been a regular producer. Following an English Literature degree at London University, Vaughan enjoyed a long career in the City of London. Initially qualifying as a Chartered Accountant with Deloitte, he then joined merchant bankers Morgan Grenfell & Co., where he was appointed to the main Board in 1993. Following the merger with Deutsche Bank, he was appointed a Managing Director in Deutsche's Investment Bank. Since retiring from banking in 2012, Vaughan divides his time between the theatre and property industries. His theatre productions include: *Death Takes A Holiday*, *Christina Bianco: O Come All Ye Divas!*, *Ragtime* (Offie Award for Best Musical), *Titanic*, *6 Actors In Search of A Director*, the UK premiere of Jerry Herman's *Dear World*, the Olivier Award-winning production of *La Bohème*, *In the Bar of A Tokyo Hotel*, by Tennessee Williams, and a number of shows currently in development. Vaughan has also recently fulfilled a long-held ambition to appear as lead guitarist in a rock and roll band.

LISTINGS INFO

Patrick Gracey, Steven M. Levy and Vaughan Williams
by arrangement with The Really Useful Group Limited
present

The Woman in White

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
Lyrics by David Zippel
Book by Charlotte Jones

Monday 20 November, 2017 -
Saturday 10 February, 2018

Press night:
Monday 4 December at 7.30pm

Charing Cross Theatre
The Arches
Villiers Street
London WC2N 6NL
www.charingcrosstheatre.co.uk
Box office: 08444 930 650

Performances:
Monday to Saturday at 7.30pm
Wednesday matinee at 2.30pm
Saturday matinee at 3.00pm

Tickets:

£39.50 stalls
£29.50 balcony
£19.50 slips

Phone and internet orders are subject to a
booking fee

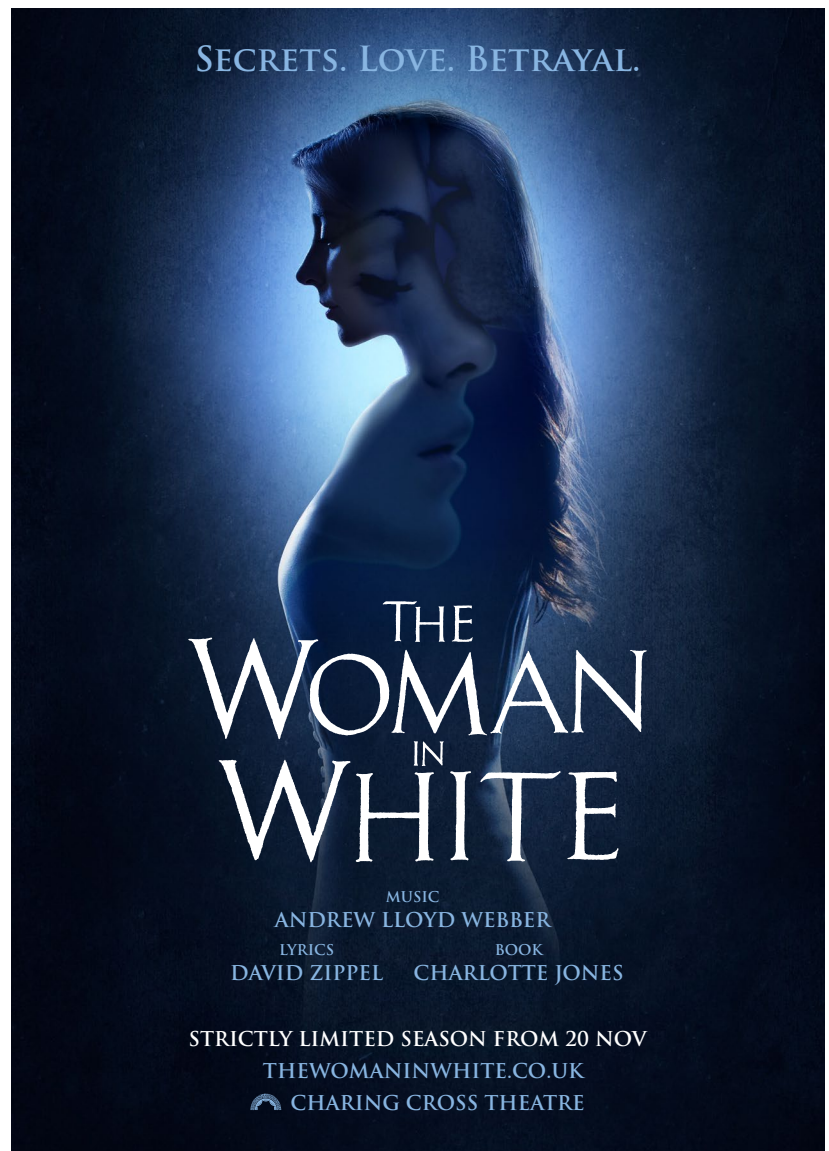
There are no booking fees on tickets
purchased in person.

How to get here:

Nearest underground stations:
Charing Cross (Bakerloo and
Northern lines)
Embankment (Bakerloo, Northern, Circle
and District lines)

Website: www.thewomaninwhite.co.uk

Twitter: @WomanInWhiteUK



Press contact:

Kevin Wilson
Kevin Wilson Public Relations
kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com
07884 368697
www.kevinwilsonpublicrelations.co.uk