

Casting announced for the world premiere of **CHASING BONO**  
a new comedy by legendary writers  
**DICK CLEMENT** and **IAN LA FRENAIS**  
creators of acclaimed TV shows *Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads?*,  
*Porridge*, *Auf Wiedersehen*, *Pet*, *Lovejoy*  
and films including *The Commitments*

The cast includes **CIARAN DOWD**  
Winner Best Newcomer at the 2018 Edinburgh Comedy Awards



Final casting is announced for the world premiere of **CHASING BONO**, a new play by Ian La Frenais and Dick Clement based on *I Was Bono's Doppelgänger* by Neil McCormick, a wise and witty memoir which recounted his friendship and rivalry with his school friend and Superstar Bono.

**CHASING BONO**, a rock n' roll fable about the pursuit of fame and coming to terms with failed ambition, runs at Soho Theatre from Thursday 6 December 2018 – Saturday 19 January 2019.

**Press nights: Tuesday 11, Wednesday 12 & Thursday 13 December (also gala night)**  
**Reviews are under embargo to midnight, Thursday 13 December**

1970s Dublin. Friends Neil McCormick and Paul Hewson share the same ambition: to form bands and become global superstars. Paul changed his name to 'Bono' and his band became U2. Neil's band never got off the ground.

1987. Dublin gangster Danny Machin wants a fair and balanced account written of his life whilst now-writer Neil is wondering where his went so wrong. Danny sees an opportunity and kidnaps him. Neil becomes Danny's biographer. Danny becomes Neil's shrink, probing the reasons for his succession of disastrous decisions.

Cast : **Niamh Bracken** (Gwen in *Sunny Afternoon*, West End), **Denis Conway** (last seen in the West End in *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* opposite Aidan Turner), **Ciarán Dowd** (Irish comedian, actor and writer and winner of the 2018 Edinburgh Comedy Award for Best Newcomer), **Farzana Dua Elahe** (best known as Parveen Abbasi in *EastEnders*), **Donal Finn** (winner of the Sir Alec Guinness Award 2018, making his professional debut), **Niall McNamee** (*First Light*, Chichester Festival Theatre), **Shane O'Regan** (*Private Peaceful* - *Irish Times* theatre awards nomination Best Actor, 2017).

Directed by BAFTA nominated, award-winning British theatre and television director, and Soho Theatre Artistic Associate Director Gordon Anderson (*The Catherine Tate Show*, *The Inbetweeners*, *Shameless*, *Fresh Meat*, *Lovesick*). Designer Max Dorey, Lighting Designer Christopher Nairne, Casting Director Orla O'Connor. Produced by Sally Humphreys Productions and Covent Garden Productions.





Dick Clement, producer  
Sally Wood, Ian La Frenais  
and Neil McCormick turn  
Soho Theatre green to launch  
Chasing Bono

Photo Dave Benett

## DICK CLEMENT and IAN LA FRENAIS

Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais have enjoyed a unique creative partnership in television, movies and theatre. Their career began in British television where they created several iconic series including *The Likely Lads*, *Porridge*, *Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads*, *Auf Wiedersehen*, *Pet* and *Lovejoy*. They have written many feature films including *Otley*, *Villain*, *The Commitments*, for which they won the Peter Sellers Award for Comedy and *Still Crazy*, which won a Golden Globe nomination for Best Picture. They spent four years as writers and supervising producers with Tracy Ullman on HBO's multi-Emmy award winning series, *Tracy Takes On* and worked extensively on *The Rock* and *Pearl Harbor*, for producer Jerry Bruckheimer. In the last few years they returned to television with *Archangel*, starring Daniel Craig and *Spies of Warsaw* with David Tennant. Four feature films were produced in completely diverse genres: a sports film, *Goal! The Dream Begins*, an animated movie, *Flushed Away*, a heist movie, *The Bank Job* and a musical, *Across the Universe*, directed by Julie Taymor and nominated for a Golden Globe (Best Picture, Musical or Comedy). Their most recent film is *My Generation*, presented by Sir Michael Caine, released earlier this year. Apart from *Chasing Bono*, they have several other theatrical ventures in the pipeline including their recent rock musical, *Jukebox Hero*.

## SALLY WOOD / SALLY HUMPHREYS PRODUCTIONS

SHP is a West End production company with a passion for plays and musicals, and strongly supports new work. The company was formed by independent theatre producer Sally Wood (nee Humphreys) in 2009. Sally is on the Board of Trustees for London's Roundhouse Theatre and is also a Patron for the Ben Kinsella Trust. She has chaired the Roundhouse Gala Auction twice, raising over £1.5 million to help over 6,000 young, and is currently working on the Gala for 2019. Recent productions include: *Wasted*, Southwark Playhouse, Sadie Frost in *Touched.. Like a Virgin*, Soho Theatre, *Third Floor*, Trafalgar Studios. In addition to many theatre productions, Sally has also produced *Live at the Ambassadors*, a variety of concerts featuring acts such as Paul McCartney, Charlie Watts, Mick Hucknall, Kelly Jones (Stereophonics), Beverley Knight, James McCartney, Bill Wyman, Mica Paris & more.

## COVENT GARDEN PRODUCTIONS

Covent Garden Productions is a theatrical production and live entertainment company, set up to create, manage and invest in commercial property both in the West End and on National Tour, with a focus on new work and developing new talent. Recent Productions include *Jackie The Musical* (UK Tour), *My Name Is Rachel Corrie* (Young Vic), *Room* (Theatre Royal Stratford East, National Theatre of Scotland & Abbey Theatre Dublin) and John Doyle's new production of *Carmen Jones* (Classic Stage Company NYC). [www.coventgardenproductions.com](http://www.coventgardenproductions.com)

## GORDON ANDERSON

Gordon Anderson is an award-winning British theatre and television director. Gordon began his career in the theatre, directing for many of the UK's leading theatre and opera companies including the Royal National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal Court Theatre, Bristol Old Vic, Manchester Royal Exchange, Scottish Opera and English Touring Opera. He also co-founded The League of Gentlemen comedy group, directing their earliest live performances. He was Artistic Director of Actors Touring Company from 2001 to 2006, where he commissioned, produced and directed new and international work that toured extensively throughout the UK. He trained as a television director at the BBC and went on to direct and write for *The Catherine Tate Show*. Subsequently he directed *Suburban Shootout*, *The Inbetweeners*, *Moving Wallpaper*, *Gates*, *Shameless*, *Fresh Meat*, *Badults*, *Lovesick* and *Endeavour*. He has been nominated for a BAFTA four times with three different television shows.

## NEIL MCCORMICK

Neil McCormick is the Telegraph's chief pop and rock music critic. He is an author, television presenter and radio pundit. Neil was born England in 1961 and grew up in Scotland and Ireland. He attended Mount Temple Comprehensive in Dublin with members of U2 and was a singer in several bands, including Yeah!Yeah! (1980-83) and Shook Up! (1984-89). His musical misadventures are laid out in painful detail in his memoir *Killing Bono* (originally published by Penguin in 2003 as *I Was Bono's Doppelganger*). Sir Elton John described it as "the best book I have ever read about trying to make it in the music business." A film of *Killing Bono* was released by Paramount in 2011, with Ben Barnes starring as Neil and Martin McCann as Bono. Neil collaborated on U2's autobiography, *U2 By U2* (Harper Collins, 2005). Neil's journalistic career started at *Hot Press* music magazine in Dublin in 1978. He was a contributing editor for *GQ magazine* from 1990-96 and has been rock critic for *The Daily Telegraph* since 1996. A regular guest on BBC TV and radio shows, since 2012 Neil has presented his own interview show on Vintage TV, *Neil McCormick's Needle Time*. Neil still occasionally makes music under the alias The Ghost Who Walks and as frontman for Groovy Dad.

## SOHO THEATRE

Soho Theatre is London's most vibrant venue for new theatre, comedy and cabaret with a national and international touring programme, a digital presence and an additional venue in progress. As entrepreneurial as it is innovative, under the joint leadership Artistic Director Steve Marmion and of Executive Director Mark Godfrey, the charity and social enterprise's mission is to produce new work, discover and nurture new writers and artists, and target and develop new audiences. Soho Theatre works with artists in a variety of ways, from full producing of new plays, to co-producing new work, alongside working with associate artists and presenting the best new emerging theatre companies. Soho Theatre have numerous artists on attachment and under commission, including Soho Six and a thriving Young Company of writers and comedy groups, and presents two new writing Awards, the Tony Craze Award and the Verity Bargate Award.  
[sohotheatre.com](http://sohotheatre.com) | [www.sohotheatreondemand.com](http://www.sohotheatreondemand.com) | [@sohotheatre](https://twitter.com/sohotheatre)



Sally Humphreys Productions and Covent Garden Productions present

## CHASING BONO

A new play by  
Ian La Frenais & Dick Clement  
Based on *I Was Bono's Doppelgänger*  
by Neil McCormick

Directed by Gordon Anderson

SOHO THEATRE  
21 Dean Street  
London  
W1D 3NE

Thursday 6 December 2018 - Saturday  
19 January 2019

**Press Nights:**  
**Tuesday 11 December**  
**Wednesday 12 December**  
**& Thursday 13 December (gala night)**  
**(embargo to midnight, Thursday 13 December)**

Evening performances at 7.15pm  
Matinees Thursday & Saturday at 3.00pm

Tickets from £11  
(Prices are subject to demand, so book early to  
guarantee the best seats at the best price.

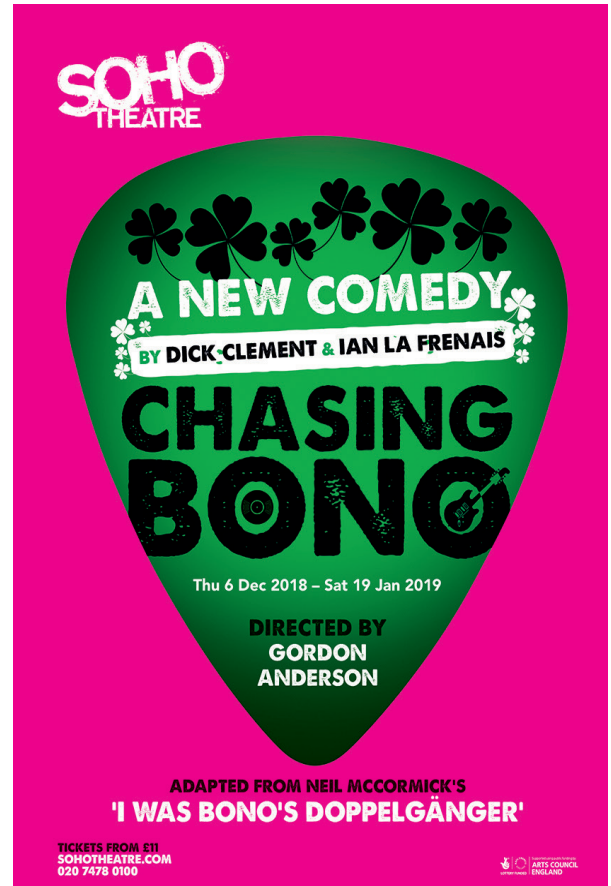
Running time: 90mins

Book tickets Tel: 020 7478 0100  
online at [www.sohotheatre.com](http://www.sohotheatre.com)

Link to tickets:  
<https://sohotheatre.com/shows/chasing-bono/>

Social

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**"Chasing Bono has elements of  
some of our previous work. Like  
Porridge it is set in a captive  
situation. It's Irish, like  
The Commitments.  
And it's funny."**  
Ian La Frenais & Dick Clement

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