

## ***Once On This Island* and *Dogfight* lead The British Theatre Academy's 2019 Summer Season**



The British Theatre Academy is to return to Southwark Playhouse for a second summer season of shows.

Headlining the 2019 season in The Large will be a youth production of the multi award-winning Broadway hit, *Once On This Island*, from the Tony Award-winning songwriting team of Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty (*Anastasia*, *Seussical*, *Ragtime*).

There will also be a youth production of *Dogfight* by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul (*Dear Evan Hansen*, *La La Land*, *The Greatest Showman*) and Peter Duchan, directed and choreographed by Dean Johnson.

Two more exciting productions in the season will be announced soon.

During last year's Southwark Playhouse season, Lin-Manuel Miranda surprised the cast of the British Theatre Academy's critically acclaimed production of his early musical *Bring It On* telling them: "You did an amazing job, I'm so proud and this was so wonderful. You made my wife cry!"

*Once On This Island*, with a poignant story and catchy Caribbean-flavoured score, received eight Tony nominations, including Best Musical, Book and Score. Its UK premiere, starring Sharon D Clarke, won the 1995 Best New Musical Olivier Award, and a critically acclaimed revival, starring Lea Salonga, has just completed a year-long Broadway run, where it was nominated for eight Tony Awards, winning Best Revival of a Musical.

This full-hearted musical tells the story of Ti Moune, a peasant girl who rescues and falls in love with Daniel, a wealthy boy from the other side of her island. When Daniel is returned to his people, the fantastical gods who rule the island guide Ti Moune on a quest that will test the strength of her love against the powerful forces of prejudice, hatred and even death.

*Once On This Island* will be directed and choreographed by multi award-winning Lee Proud - Offie Award winner Best Choreographer for *Grand Hotel* (2016) and *Allegro* (2017), both staged at Southwark Playhouse.

*Once On This Island* will run from Friday August 9 - Saturday August 31.

***Once On This Island* Press night: Wednesday 14 August at 7.30pm.**

*Dogfight*, directed and choreographed by Dean Johnson, will run in The Little from Wednesday 28 - Saturday 31 August.

**Dogfight Press Night: Thursday 29 August at 7.00pm**

On November 21, 1963, a group of young marines are gathered in San Francisco the night before they ship off to Vietnam. They decide to celebrate their last night of freedom with a cruel game they call a 'dogfight' where every man sets out to find the ugliest girl he can and brings her to a party. Everyone puts in money, and the man with the ugliest date wins the pot. One of the young men Eddie Birdlace, is running out of time to find a date when he meets idealistic waitress Rose Fenny in a diner. He invites her to the party - her very first party -and she accepts. She leaves angrily when she finds out about the bet and Eddie, feeling bad, comes to find her. After an inauspicious beginning, an awkward love story begins to unfold.

**THE BRITISH THEATRE ACADEMY**

The British Theatre Academy was set up to give talented young people the opportunity to perform in top venues nationwide for free. Previous acclaimed productions include *The Secret Garden*, *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, and *13 the Musical* (staged in West End seasons at the Ambassadors Theatre), last year's sell-out production of *Bring It On* and *Goodnight Mr Tom* (a finalist at this Sunday's Offies as Best Production for Young People 8+) at Southwark Playhouse, and *Annie Jr* and *Spring Awakening*.

The search for talented young people 26 and under to appear in *Once On This Island* and *Dogfight* will begin in early February;

To register for auditions please go to [www.thebritishtheatreacademy.com](http://www.thebritishtheatreacademy.com)



Lin-Manuel Miranda surprised the young cast of the British Theatre Academy's critically acclaimed production of his musical *Bring It On* by watching the final show of their sold-out 2018 London summer season at Southwark Playhouse. Talking to the cast after the show, he told them: "You did an amazing job, it's a very challenging show. I'm so proud and this was so wonderful. You made my wife cry!."

## LISTINGS INFO

### Southwark Playhouse

77-85 Newington Causeway  
London SE1 6BD  
[www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk)

The British Theatre Academy presents

### ONCE ON THIS ISLAND

Book by Lynn Ahrens  
Music by Stephen Flaherty  
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Based upon the novel *My Love, My Love*  
by Rosa Guy

THE LARGE

Friday August 9 - Saturday August 31

**Press night Wednesday 14 August at 7.30pm**

Tuesday – Saturday 7:30pm  
Tuesday & Saturday 3:30pm  
Sundays 2:30pm and 5:30pm

£27.50, £22 concessions  
(Mon - Thurs and Sat Mat), £16 previews

### DOGFIGHT

Music and Lyrics by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul  
Book by Peter Duchan  
Based on the Warner Bros. Film and  
Screenplay by Bob Comfort

THE LITTLE

Wednesday 28 - Saturday 31 August

**Press night Thursday 29 August at 7.00pm**

Wednesday – Saturday 7pm Saturday 3pm

£22, £18 concessions  
(Mon-Thurs and Sat Mat), £14 previews

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## PRESS CONTACT

These youth productions are presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe). All authorised performance material is also supplied by MTI Europe  
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