

## PRESS RELEASE

### SMASH-HIT MUSICAL COMES TO BLACKPOOL!

Premier Theatre Company announced today that it has secured one of a handful of licenses to present the Broadway and West End hit musical "The Producers" at Blackpool's Grand Theatre from 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009 for 8 performances. Premier, famous for its ground-breaking productions such as "Ragtime" and "Jane Eyre The Musical," and its outdoor Shakespeare presentations, is a well known name in the North West. "The Producers," written by Mel Brooks, is a hilariously slick comedy set to a clever and vibrant musical score. It is best known in the UK for its recent tour which starred comedian Peter Kay. On Broadway and also the newly released film which was shown last week on television, it starred Nathan Lane, Matthew Broderick and Uma Thurman. Tony Stone, Executive Producer of Premier said, "We have been waiting for an exciting opportunity to bring something special to the Grand Theatre and are delighted that we have been able to secure this wonderful piece of musical theatre." The company are inviting the cream of North West actors, singers and dancers to come along to an Information Evening on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm at Poulton Methodist Church, Queensway. Pre-audition Workshops and Open Auditions will follow shortly after. Full details of the Information Evening and participation can be found on the company's website [www.premier-theatre.co.uk](http://www.premier-theatre.co.uk) or telephone 01253 895927.

Ends

Further Information Contact: Premier Theatre Company  
01253 895927 or [info@premier-theatre.co.uk](mailto:info@premier-theatre.co.uk)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **PREMIER ANNOUNCE EXCITING PRODUCTION TEAM FOR “THE PRODUCERS”**

The recently announced production by the Premier Theatre Company of the smash-hit musical, The Producers, at the Grand Theatre next July, took another major step forward with the announcement of a highly talented and professional Production Team. To choreograph this fast moving and slick show, the company is delighted to announce they have appointed Simon Green, better known locally as leading lady Betty Legs Diamond of Funny Girls. Directing the 17 piece orchestra will be Kelvin Futers, whose credits include Musical Director of UK Productions, Stageworks and the BBC. Artistic Director is Sarah Jane Stone LLAM, well known ex-professional singer and dancer, who is seen performing and directing regularly in theatres throughout the area.

Tony Stone, Executive Producer of the company, said “Following the recent press announcement, we have been inundated with enquiries, not only from our local area but from areas such as Southport, Manchester and Blackburn. With this Production Team, and the level of interest in the show, I am confident that this will be one exciting show not to be missed at all costs.”

The company’s Open Evening on Monday 20 October at Poulton Methodist Church is open to all North West talented performers and also those interested in working behind the scenes. Further information is available at [www.premier-theatre.co.uk](http://www.premier-theatre.co.uk).

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# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **SEARCH FOR A PREMIER STAR!**

Could you be just the talent the Production Team of 'The Producers' is looking for? Would you like to star at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool next July? Would you like to be choreographed by the legendary Betty Legs Diamond? If the answer to any of these is "Yes!" then get in contact with Premier Theatre Company as soon as possible.

After three grueling rounds of auditions, the leading roles of Max Bialystock and Ulla (played by Nathan Lane and Uma Thurman in the recent film version), are still uncast. Applicants have come from all over the North West but the right performers are still to be found. Director, Sarah Jane Stone said "These are wonderful roles to play and require the highest standard of performer. Only the best will do. They need to be able to act, sing and in Ulla's case, dance. Max also needs to be the King of Comedy!"

Also required are 6 stunning tall showgirl dancers, and 4 male dancers who will have the rare opportunity of being taught and choreographed by Betty Legs Diamond of Blackpool's infamous Funny Girls.

This is a unique opportunity to be involved in an exciting top class production and be led by a quality professional Production Team, headed by UK Productions Musical Director, Kelvin Futers.

Further auditions will be held in the coming weeks. For more information, telephone 01253 895927 or visit [www.premier-theatre.co.uk](http://www.premier-theatre.co.uk)

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## Betty Legs in Premier Show

After three months of auditions, the company has finally cast its production of “The Producers.” In a surprise announcement today, the company confirmed that Betty Legs Diamond (leading lady at Funny Girls Blackpool) will feature in the production as Scott, The Choreographer.

Although the quality cast comes from all across the North West, two local actors have landed the leading roles of Max Bialystock and Leo Bloom, who will be played by Chris Campbell and Andy Figg. The leading lady, Ulla (played by Uma Thurman in the 2003 film) goes to St Annes dance teacher, Sarah Appleton.

Simon Green (AKA Betty Legs Diamond) is also to choreograph this exciting production, along with Kelvin Futers and Sarah Jane Stone as Musical and Artistic Directors respectively.

The company is expecting a star-studded Opening Night, with guest celebrities from the world of TV, Film and Stage. First to accept the company’s invitation was actress Gemma Craven, famous for TV series Pennies from Heaven and who has performed at the Grand Theatre in productions such as 42<sup>nd</sup> street and Calamity Jane. The guests will meet the cast and VIP’s following the show.

Tony Stone, Executive Producer said “Simon - Betty Legs Diamond - is perfect for this character, and I know this will be a great opportunity for the cast to work with experienced professionals like Simon. Whilst the show has made a touring visit to Manchester starring Peter Kay, this will be a “First” and a major production at our theatre, bringing audiences from the both the local area and beyond.”

Tickets for the production, which runs from 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> July, are on sale now at the Grand Theatre box office, including the special opening night performance. Details of the company and information on the production can be found at [www.premier-theatre.co.uk](http://www.premier-theatre.co.uk)

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Photo: Chris Campbell (Max Bialystock) Andy Figg (Leo Bloom)

## THE STARS ARE OUT AT BLACKPOOL'S GAY PRIDE

Leading men Chris Campbell and Andy Figg from the smash hit musical *The Producers*, met Toyah Wilcox during their joint appearance at the Gay Pride performance on Saturday. Toyah who has herself starred in musicals in Blackpool, was keen to offer Chris and Andy some professional words of advice before they take to the Grand Theatre stage in July. The Premier Theatre Company production of *The Producers* is being choreographed by Simon Green, aka Betty Legs Diamond, who will also make a cameo appearance in every performance of the show.

The Company has also recently been joined by Charlotte Dalton, a professional singer dancer born locally here in Preesall, who is taking a couple of months out from her professional career to join *The Producers* team as leading lady, Ulla, played by Uma Thurman in the 2003 film.

Sarah Jane Stone, Director of the production said, "I am really excited the way the cast are working together and it is becoming increasingly difficult to rehearse such a humorous piece of theatre. I can guarantee our audiences will be laughing from the opening lines." The company has invited a number of celebrities to the opening night as well as several of our own local comedians to the final performance. Jodie Prenger, who won the part of Nancy in the West End's "Oliver," starred in the company's production of *Mack and Mabel* in 2000, and is also hoping to return to meet the cast and audience on the final performance. *The Producers* runs from 7-12 July for a total of 8 performances and tickets are on sale at the Grand Theatre box office 01253 290190.

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Note to Editor: picture shows left to right, Chris Campbell (Max Bialystock), Toyah Wilcox, Andrew Figg (Leo Bloom)