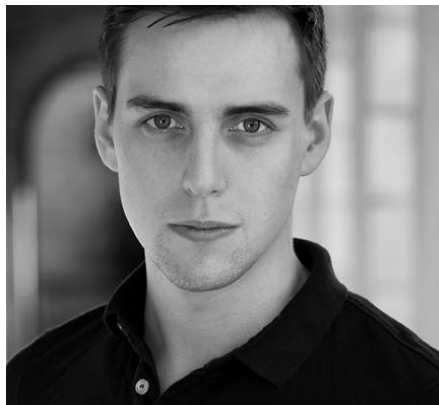
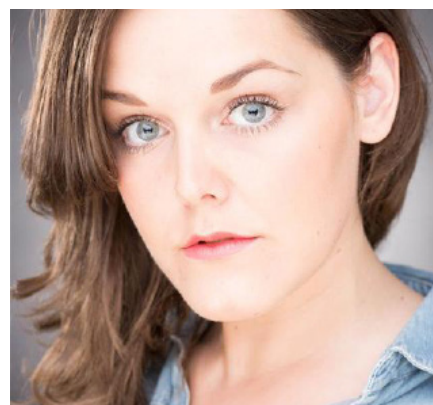


**Casting is
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European première
of
DOGFIGHT**



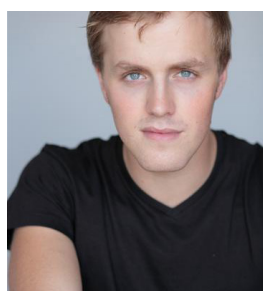
Jamie Muscato



Laura Jane Matthewson



Emily Olive Boyd



Cellen Chugg Jones



Nicholas Corre



Matthew Cutts



Joshua Downen



Ciaran Joyce



Amanda Minihan



Rebecca Trehearn



Samuel J Weir

Casting is announced for the European première of the musical ***Dogfight***, produced by Danielle Tarento, the award-winning producer of *Titanic*, *Parade* and *Mack & Mabel*, and directed by Matt Ryan, in The Large at Southwark Playhouse for a six-week season from Friday 8 August to Saturday 13 September.

Dogfight, a new book musical based on the 1991 movie of the same name starring River Phoenix and Lili Taylor, premièred Off-Broadway in 2012, winning the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Musical and it was also nominated for five Outer Critics Circle and two Drama Desk Awards.

November 21, 1963. The night before their deployment to Vietnam, three young Marines set out for one final boys' night of debauchery. But when Corporal Eddie Birdlace meets Rose, the unassuming and idealistic waitress he enlists to win a cruel bet, she rewrites the rules of the game and opens his eyes to what really matters in life.

Heading the London cast in the central roles of Eddie and Rose are Jamie Muscato and Laura Jane Matthewson.

Jamie Muscato was in the world première of *The Light Princess* at the National Theatre. He has also appeared in *Les Misérables* (both the feature film and on the international tour), *Rock Of Ages* at the Shaftesbury, *Love Story* at Chichester and the Duchess and *Spring Awakening* at Lyric Hammersmith. Recently he was in the development workshops of the musicals *Bend It Like Beckham* and *Blitz!* and has just finished filming the TV biopic, *Cilla*.

Laura Jane Matthewson won The Ronald William White Prize for Acting Through Song at The Royal Academy of Music. ***Dogfight*** is her London stage debut in a starring role.

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Press contact: Kevin Wilson at KWPR 07884 368697
kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com



The rest of the cast are: Emily Olive Boyd; Cellen Chugg Jones; Nicholas Corre (*West End Men*, Vaudeville); Matthew Cutts (King Marchand in *Victor/Victoria* at Southwark Playhouse; *Starlight Express*; *Saturday Night Fever*; *Grease*); Joshua Downen (*Cool Rider*, Duchess); Ciaran Joyce (*Les Misérables*; best known for playing Lol in three series of the BBC drama, *The Story of Tracy Beaker*); Amanda Minihan (the multi award-winning *Merrily We Roll Along*, Menier and Harold Pinter; *Sister Act*; *The Producers*); Rebecca Trehearn (Molly, the lead, in *Ghost* on tour; *Love Story*, Duchess; *Dirty Dancing*, Aldwych; *We Will Rock You*, Dominon; *Aspects of Love* for Trevor Nunn at the Menier); Samuel J. Weir (Frankie Epps in *Parade* at Southwark Playhouse; *Carnival of the Animals*; the world première of *Monkee Business* at Manchester Opera House; the *Les Misérables* feature film).

Press night is Wednesday 13 August at 7.30pm.

Benj Pasek and Justin Paul (Music & Lyrics) have been a composing team since meeting in college. In 2007 they were the youngest ever recipients of the Jonathan Larson Award - named after the late *Rent* composer - that honours achievement by composers, lyricists and librettists. Pasek and Paul (as they are affectionately known) made their Broadway debut last year with *A Christmas Story*, which received three Tony Award nominations for Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical, and Best Original Score, and six Drama Desk Award nominations including Outstanding Musical and Outstanding Music. Their other stage musicals include *Edges* and *James and the Giant Peach*. They composed several original songs for the second season of the Broadway TV drama, *Smash*.

Matt Ryan (Director) began his career as an associate to Trevor Nunn and John Caird on Cameron Mackintosh's original production of *Les Misérables*. He then staged productions of the show in Australia, South Africa, Hong Kong and on tour in the UK. He was associate director of *Miss Saigon* at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane and directed the show's Australian première in Sydney as well as the original British touring production. His other theatre credits include: Howard Goodall's *The Winter's Tale*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Company*, *Cabaret*, *Sweet Charity*, *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*, *Carousel*, *Oklahoma!*, *Nine*, *Grand Hotel*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *The Rink*, *The Wiremen*, Michael John La Chuisa's *The Wild Party*, *Rent*, *Carnival*, *Assassins*, William Finn's *Elegies*, *A Doll's Life*, *Promises Promises* and the London premières of *Violet*, *Jane Eyre*, *A Man Of No Importance*, *Bernarda Alba*, *A Catered Affair* and *Is There Life After High School?*

Danielle Tarento (Producer and Casting Director) was named Best Producer at the 2012 Off West End Awards and recently won Best Off West End Production at the 2014 Whatsonstage Awards and Best Musical Production at the 2014 Off West End Awards for *Titanic* at Southwark Playhouse. She has also produced *Victor/Victoria*, *Mack & Mabel*, *Parade*, *Company* and *Three Sisters* at Southwark Playhouse; *Taboo* (Brixton Clubhouse); *The Pitchfork Disney* (Arcola); *Burlesque*, *Drowning on Dry Land* (Jermyn Street); *Noël and Gertie* (Cockpit). She is co-founder of the Menier Chocolate Factory and co-produced all in-house shows 2004 - 2006, including *Sunday In The Park With George*, which received a West End transfer and five Olivier awards.

CREATIVE CREDITS

Music and Lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul
Book by Peter Duchan
Based on the Warner Bros film and screenplay by Bob Comfort

Director Matt Ryan
Choreographer Lucie Pankhurst
Musical Director George Dyer
Set and Costume Designer Lee Newby
Lighting Designer Howard Hudson
Sound Designer Andrew Johnson
Producer and Casting Director Danielle Tarento

Dogfight is presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd on behalf of Music Theatre International of New York

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public relations

49 Western Lane London SW12 8JS T: 020 8673 0658 M: 07884 368697 E: kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com www.kevinwilsonpublicrelations.co.uk



LISTINGS INFO

DOG FIGHT

Southwark Playhouse
The Large
77-85 Newington Causeway
London SE1 6BD
Box Office: 020 7407 0234
www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk

Friday 8 August - Saturday 13 September

**Press night:
Wednesday 13 August at 7.30pm**

Times: Monday - Saturday at 7.30pm
Saturday matinee at 3.00pm

Ticket prices:
£22.00/£18.00 concessions
all previews £12.00 (8 - 12 August)

Nearest Tubes:
Elephant and Castle and Borough

