



## New Cast and Triple Whatsonstage.com Award Nominations Revealed Today

- As the new year approaches, new cast members set to join the celebrated production on December 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Run at Brixton Club House extended to March 31st
- Taboo receives three nominations at the Whatsonstage.com Awards

The producers of **Taboo – The Boy George Musical** are in celebratory form today as they announce new casting for the acclaimed production at **Brixton's Club House** alongside a well-deserved trio of award nods at the forthcoming **Whatsonstage.com Awards**.

As the show extends its site-specific run at the Brixton Club House a host of fresh talent are set to join the cast after Christmas. **Paul Treacy** takes the iconic role of **Boy George** and appears alongside **Jordan-Luke Gage** who will appear as **Marilyn**, Boy George's rival who becomes one of his closest allies. Ones to watch, these bright young things - both making their professional debut in **Taboo** - are real life best friends and are third year students at the prestigious Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, due to graduate in summer 2013.

Taking on the role of feisty, yet vulnerable punk runaway, **Kim**, is **Devon-Elise Johnson** who forms an enduring on-stage relationship with young photographer, **Billy's** mother, **Josie** (to be played by **Alex Jordan-Mills** and **Julia Worsley** respectively). Together the two women find themselves and their place in the world as Kim becomes a recognized designer and Josie, her business partner. Josie's drunk and homophobic husband, **Derek**, is to be played by **Paul Kevin-Taylor**, who brings a double dose of the dark side to the show as he also performs the role of **Petal**, the scene's violent and terrifying crossing- dressing drug pusher. **Sarah Goggin** is **Janey** who joins the cast as one of the journalists who would come to have such a huge impact in the young Boy George's life and **Matthew Gent** completes the ensemble.

The production has been recast by **Anne Vosser Casting** ([www.vosser-casting.co.uk](http://www.vosser-casting.co.uk)), the show's original and revival Casting Director.

**Taboo** has enjoyed a feted revival, being described as "a reminder of just how good musical biopics can be" (**The Stage**). As such, it is with great delight that the show also confirms that it has received three award nominations at the respected publically voted **Whatsonstage.com Awards**. In a glitzy ceremony at London's Café De Paris the very best in 2012's theatergoing year were commended and the outstanding current cast have earned **Taboo** a place in the shortlists of the following categories:

- **The W&P Longreach Best Supporting Actor in a Musical** - Sam Buttery
- **The Radisson Blu Edwardian Best Musical Revival**
- **The Boom Ents Best Off-West End Production**

Voting is open now and **Taboo's** loyal fans can show their love by visiting <http://www.whatsonstage.com/vote> before the **31st January 2012**. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony and concert on **17<sup>th</sup> February 2013**.

**Taboo** is a story between a young girl and boy swept up in this exciting artistic climate and also focuses on two other young men – **Leigh Bowery**, a brilliant, anarchic performance artist and designer, and **George O’Dowd**, a young, rough-edged boy who arrives in London and, once part of the Eighties club world, becomes the surprising crossover star of the scene, **Boy George**. From squat to superstardom, from rock to rock bottom, both mens’ stories are played out against the fantastic background of **Taboo**, the nightclub that came to symbolise the excess and decadence of 1980s London and subsequently defined a generation.

A musical portrait of a brief but remarkable era, 1980s London. These gloriously self-indulgent years, played out against a backdrop of mass unemployment and social upheaval, sparked a rebellion among young people which ultimately found its expression in outrageous fashions and a decadent nightlife. These were the “New Romantics” – leaders of a phenomenon which left a lasting influence on both the face and fate of pop, fashion and social culture.

### **CAST**

Philip Sallon - Paul Baker  
Leigh Bowery - Sam Buttery  
Boy George – Paul Treacy  
Marilyn - Jordan-Luke Gage  
Billy – Alex Jordan-Mills  
Kim - Devon-Elise Johnson  
Josie – Julia Worsley  
Derek/Petal - Paul Kevin-Taylor  
Steve Strange - Owain Williams  
Big Sue - Katie Kerr  
Janey - Sarah Goggin  
Ensemble - Matthew Gent, Jennifer Hepburn, Zeph Gould

### **Creative Team**

Directed by Christopher Renshaw  
Book by Mark Davies Markham  
Lyrics by Boy George  
Music and Orchestration by Boy George, Kevan Frost and John Themis  
Co-Created and Originally Directed by Chris Renshaw  
Choreographer - Frank Thompson  
Production Musical Consultant - Mike Dixon  
Costume Design - Mike Nicholls  
Hair and Make-Up Design - Christine Bateman  
Lighting Design - Howard Hudson  
Musical Direction - Matt Smith  
Casting Director – Anne Vosser  
Associate Director (UK) – Christian Durham  
Resident Director – Jason Capewell  
Produced by Danielle Tarento and Bronia Buchanan  
Venue: Brixton Club House  
Licensor: Stage Entertainment Licensed Productions

**[www.taboothemusical.co.uk](http://www.taboothemusical.co.uk)**

Looking for the perfect Christmas present for the Taboo fan in your life?  
Reserved premium table seats are now on sale priced **£30** or **£37.50** with Brixton Club House’s  
delicious meal deal. See Taboo in style!

**Taboo – Brixton Club House**

**08444 771000 | [www.atgtickets.com/taboo](http://www.atgtickets.com/taboo) | ATG Box Office 0844 871 3047**

**For further information, interviews and images please contact Rebecca Byers at Target Live  
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## Notes To Editors

### About The Cast

#### Paul Treacy - Boy George

Paul trained at the Dance School of Scotland before moving to London to train at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. Roles whilst training include: *Peter in Company*, Hamlet in *Hamlet*, Jud Fry in *Oklahoma!*, Billy in *The Architect*, *The Hired Man*, Ben in feature film *An Actor's Guide To Resting*.

#### Jordan-Luke Gage - Marilyn

Training: Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts as a recipient of the BBC Performing Arts Fund and the Lionel Bart Foundation. Jordan would like to thank them for their support during his training.

Theatre includes: *Ensemble in Songs Of My Life - An Evening with Peter Polycarpou* (Garrick).

Roles whilst training include: David in *How Not To Disappear Completely* (feature film), Guy in *Girlfriends*, Dr Parker in *Bat Boy*, Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Roger/Nicholas in *A Week With Tony*, Professor Higgins in *My Fair Lady*.

#### Alex Jordan-Mills - Billy

Alex will make his professional debut whilst still training for his degree in Musical Theatre at Guildford School Of Acting. Theatre whilst training includes: Horace in *Fings Ain't What They Used T'Be*; ensemble in *Sweet Charity*, Jimmy in *Grand Hotel*; Leontes in *The Winters Tale*.

Alex is absolutely thrilled to be joining the cast of *Taboo* and would like to thank his family and friends for their on going support.

#### Devon-Elise Johnson - Kim

Theatre includes: *Spring Awakening* (English Theatre of Frankfurt); *Bugsy Malone* (Qdos); *High School Musical* (Blah Blah Productions/New Empire Theatre); *Billy Elliot* (Victoria Palace).

Workshops include: *Bridget Jones the Musical* (Working Title); *Grease The Musical*; *Spring Awakening* (Act Productions). TV includes: *Ahead Of The Class* (ITV).

Short film includes: *Somewhere Anywhere* (Zero Balance).

She was recently featured in *Woman of Light* at the Charing Cross Theatre.

#### Julia Worsley - Josie

Julia's has worked extensively in film, theatre and television. She has just finished filming the soon to be released *Les Miserables* movie, playing the part of The Head Whore, also recently Julia filmed a guest lead role on *Holby City*, a guest appearance on *Doctors* and Professor Green's video for hit single *Read All About It* playing a young Professor Green's mother. Also on television, Julia has appeared in *Footballers Wives Extra Time*, *The Bill*, *McCullum*, *EastEnders* and *This Life*.

Other notable musical feature films: *Phantom Of The Opera* and *Evita*, where she played a sister of Eva Peron performed by Madonna.

Theatre includes: *Love Story* (Chichester Festival Theatre); Suppliant in *The Suppliant* (Gate); Fantine in *Les Miserables* (national tour); Nancy in *Oliver* (London Palladium); Eponine in *Les Miserables* (Palace Theatre, Manchester & Edinburgh); Ruby in *Rock Hard* (Leicester Haymarket); Fanny Brice in *Funny Girl*, Charity in *Sweet Charity* (King's Theatre, Southsea); *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (Oldham Coliseum); Calphurnia in *Julius Cesar* (Castlefield Roman Fort); Ma Ubu in *Ubu Roi* (Edinburgh Festival).

#### Paul Kevin-Taylor - Derek/Petal/Lucien Freud

Paul has been fortunate to have had a long and varied career.

Theatre includes: Mozart in *Amadeus*; Luby Ranyevskaya in *The Cherry Orchard*; Dorian Gray in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*; Ui in *The Resistible Rise Of Arturo Ui*; Salty & others in *Teechers*; Dick/Schnitershitze in *Ha Ha Hitler*; The Singer in *Caucasian Chalk Circle*; Willy in *Blue Remembered Hills*; Pete Quince/Miles in *The Turn of The Screw*; Jerome in *Three Men In A Boat*; Bailiff/Priest & others in *The Trial*; Yvan in *Art*; Falstaff in *The Merry Wives Of Windsor*; several outings as Oberon/ Theseus in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Emcee in *Cabaret*; Macheath in *The Beggar's Opera*; Tom Jones in *The History Of Tom Jones*.

Whilst Artist in Residence at South Hill Park Arts Centre, he has been fortunate enough to direct some fantastic pieces including *Barnum*, *Dr Faustus* and *Summer Holiday*. His productions of *eXclusion* (Whoop 'n' Wail) and *One Fine Day* also went onto successful tours after the Edinburgh Fringe.

### **Sarah Goggin - Janey**

Sarah attained a Diploma in Musical Theatre from Warrington Collegiate and this summer graduated from Bird College where she studied Creative Industries in Acting.

Originally from Co. Carlow Ireland, she is honoured to be making her professional debut in Taboo.

Theatre whilst training: Mary in *Merrily We Roll Along*; Sarah in *The Labyrinth*; Alison in *Trainspotting*; Georgie/Nurse in *A Clockwork Orange*; Crystal in *Little Shop of Horrors*; Soloist in *Hair: Hooray For Hollywood*

### **Matthew Gent - Ensemble**

Training: Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.

West End theatre includes: Feuilly, u/s Marius in *Les Miserables* (Queen's); u/s Raoul in *The Phantom Of The Opera* (Her Majesty's); u/s Anthony and Tobias in *Sweeney Todd* (Adelphi).

Other theatre includes: Michael in the European premier of *Bright Lights, Big City* (Hoxton Hall); u/s John in *The Hired Man* (Landor); Frederic in *The Pirates Of Penzance* (Hackney Empire & Australian tour).

Concerts include: *Les Miserables 25th Anniversary Concert* (O2 Arena, Classical Brit Awards & Royal Variety Performance); *The Phantom Of The Opera 25th Anniversary Concert* (Royal Albert Hall); *Friday Night is Music Night: Corrie the Musical* (BBC Radio).

Matthew regularly hosts the West End Piano Bar night *Show Off!*.

### **Taboo – Listings**

#### **Taboo - Brixton Club House**

467-469 Brixton Road, Brixton, London SW9 8HL

Until Dec 23rd: Tue-Sun at 7.30pm, Sat-Sun at 3pm

From Dec 29th: Tue-Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 3pm, Sun at 5pm (new cast)

Tickets: £30, £25 & £10 plus Booking Fee

Meal deal: £37.50 & £32.50 plus Booking Fee

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