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For immediate release

# Press Release

Danielle Tarento presents  
*The Pitchfork Disney*



- ***Misfits* star Nathan Stewart-Jarrett to star alongside Chris New, Mariah Gale and Steve Guadino in 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary revival of *The Pitchfork Disney* at the Arcola Theatre**

**Nathan Stewart-Jarrett**, currently on television screens as Curtis Donovan in Channel 4's *Misfits*, will play Cosmo Disney in the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary revival of Philip Ridley's electrifying debut play *The Pitchfork Disney*.

**Chris New**, currently to be seen in the multi award-winning hit film *Weekend*, will play Presley Stray. **Mariah Gale**, who recently played Juliet in Rupert Goold's *Romeo and Juliet* and Ophelia to David Tennant's *Hamlet*, will play Haley Stray, with the prolific Italian film and theatre actor **Steve Guadino** as Pitchfork Cavalier.

The production will be directed by **Edward Dick**, who directed the critically-acclaimed revival of Ridley's *The Fastest Clock in the Universe* at Hampstead Theatre in 2009, and designed by **Bob Bailey**, with lighting design by **Malcolm Rippeth** and sound design by **Richard Hammarton**.

When it premiered at London's Bush Theatre in 1991, *The Pitchfork Disney* caused a sensation. Ridley was hailed as a new and hugely talented voice in British theatre and *The Pitchfork Disney* has come to be seen as the play that kick started the 'in-ner-face' writing revolution. Now regarded as a contemporary classic, it is performed and studied internationally, and has influenced countless writers.

*The Pitchfork Disney* will run from 25<sup>th</sup> January to 17<sup>th</sup> March at the Arcola Theatre, London (press night 1 February).

**Nathan Stewart-Jarrett** is currently starring as Curtis in the third series of Channel 4's hit TV drama *Misfits*. His theatre credits include *Wig Out!* (Royal Court), *The History Boys* (National Theatre / West End) and *Big White Fog* (Almeida). Other television credits include *Money* (BBC TV) and *Apples and Oranges* (Channel 4).

**Chris New** played the lead role of Glen in the award-winning and critically-acclaimed film *Weekend* in 2011, and was nominated for Best Newcomer at the BFI London Film Festival Awards for his performance. His theatre credits include the title role in *Edward II* at the Royal Exchange, Manchester, and starred opposite Matt Lucas in the 2009 West End production of *Prick Up Your Ears*. Other theatre credits include *Twelfth Night*, *The Comedy of Errors* (both RSC) and *The Reporter* (NT). In 2006 he was nominated for Outstanding Newcomer at the Evening Standard Theatre Awards, and London Newcomer of the Year at the What's On Stage.com Theatregoers' Choice Awards, for his role in the West End production of *Bent*.

**Mariah Gale**, has played the roles of Juliet, opposite Sam Troughton, and Ophelia, opposite David Tennant, as well as roles in *Morte d'Arthur*, *The Grain Store*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *As You Like It* and *Love's Labours Lost*, all for the RSC. Her other theatre credits include *The Sea (West End)* and *Vernon God Little (Young Vic)*. For her performance in *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* at the Southwark Playhouse in 2005, also directed by Edward Dick, Mariah won the Critics' Circle Award for Most Promising Newcomer, the Time Out Live Award for Best Newcomer and the Ian Charleson Award, Television credits include *Hamlet (RSC / BBC)*, *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *Skins*.

**Edward Dick** trained as an assistant director with Cheek by Jowl. Theatre directing credits include Philip Ridley's *The Fastest Clock in the Universe* (Hampstead Theatre); *Twelfth Night* (Regents Park); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Sydney Theatre Company); *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Singapore); *Our Country's Good* (Liverpool Playhouse); *Fewer Emergencies* (National Theatre, Prague); *'Tis Pity She's A Whore* (Southwark Playhouse) and *The Age of Consent* (Bush Theatre and Edinburgh Fringe). Opera credits include the world premiere of Tarik O' Regan's *Heart of Darkness* (Royal Opera House); *The Rape of Lucretia* (Aldeburgh) and *The Turn of the Screw* (King's Head).

**Bob Bailey's** theatre credits as designer include *The Empire* (Royal Court/Plymouth Drum); *Edward Gant's Amazing Feats of Loneliness* (Plymouth Drum); *Chekhov In Hell* (Plymouth Drum/Soho); *The Lying Kind* (Royal Court); *Stitching, Trance, Pumpgirl* (Bush); *Angels In America* (Sheffield Crucible); *Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *The Real Thing*, *Anything Goes* (UK tours); *Never Forget* (Savoy/tours); *Translations, Moll Flanders* (Bristol Old Vic). Opera and dance credits include *Fedora, Macbeth, La Sonnambula, Manon Lescaut* (Opera Holland Park); *The*; *About Face* (Linbury Theatre), *All Nighter, Horse-Play* (Royal Ballet), *The Happiest Day Of My Life DV8* (Set Design only - UK/ European Tour - Time Out Designer of The Year Award).

**Malcolm Rippeth's** theatre credits as lighting designer include *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (West End); *Brief Encounter* (Kneehigh - West End & Broadway); *The Wild Bride, The Red Shoes, Don John, Cymbeline, Nights at the Circus, The Bacchae* (Kneehigh); *The Acid Test, Kin, Spur of the Moment* (Royal Court); *Decade, Faustus* (Headlong); *Calendar Girls* (West End, Australia & Canada) and *A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings* (Little Angel). Malcolm won a 2010 OBIE as a member of the design team for *Brief Encounter* in New York and the 2009 WhatsOnStage Theatregoers' Choice Award for Best Lighting Designer for his work on *Brief Encounter* and *Six Characters in Search of an Author* in the West End.

**Richard Hammarton's** theatre credits as sound designer and composer include *Judgement Day* (The Print Room); *Edward II, Dr Faustus* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *Persuasion, People at Sea, The Real Thing, Arsenic And Old Lace, Les Liaisons Dangereuses, The Constant Wife* (Salisbury Playhouse); *Speaking in Tongues* (Duke of Yorks); *Ghosts* (Duchess); *Pride And Prejudice* (Bath Theatre Royal & national tour); *The Mountaintop* (Trafalgar Studios1 & Theatre 503); *Raisin In The Sun, Six Characters Looking For An Author* (Young Vic); *Ship Of Fools*, (Theatre 503)

For more information, visit [www.pitchfork2012.co.uk](http://www.pitchfork2012.co.uk)

As well as the revival of The Pitchfork Disney, Philip Ridley's new play, *Shivered*, will receive its world premiere at the Southwark Playhouse, previewing from 7<sup>th</sup> March (press night 9<sup>th</sup> March)

-ENDS-

Notes to editors

- Press representative

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- Listings information

Danielle Tarento presents

**The Pitchfork Disney**

By Philip Ridley

Arcola Theatre

25th Jan - 17th Mar 2012

Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat mat 2.30pm

Press Night Wednesday 1 February, 7.30pm

Tickets £22.50, concessions £17.50

Preview ticket offer: £16 (contact box office for details)

Tuesdays: pay what you can - limited and subject to availability

Box office 020 7503 1646 [www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com)

Arcola Theatre, 24 Ashwin Street, London E8 3DL

[www.pitchfork2012.co.uk](http://www.pitchfork2012.co.uk)

- Philip Ridley

Philip Ridley was born in the East End of London where he still lives and works.

He studied painting at St Martin's School of Art and his work has been exhibited widely throughout Europe and Japan.

As well as three books for adults - and the highly acclaimed screenplay for the *The Krays* feature film (winner of The Evening Standard Best Film of the Year Award) - he has written eight adult stage plays: *The Pitchfork Disney*, the multi-award-winning *The Fastest Clock in the Universe*, *Ghost from a Perfect Place*, *Vincent River*, the highly controversial *Mercury Fur*, *Leaves of Glass*, *Piranha Heights* and, most recently, the hugely successful *Tender Napalm* (nominated for the London Fringe Best Play Award), plus several plays for young people: *Karamazoo*, *Fairytalesheart*, *Moonfleece*, *Sparkleshark* and *Brokenville*.

He has also written many books for children, including *Scribbleboy* (shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal), *Kasper in the Glitter* (nominated for the Whitbread Prize), *Mighty Fizz Chilla* (shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book of the Year Award), *ZinderZunder*, *Vinegar Street*, *Zips' Apollo* and the bestseller *Krindlekrax* (winner of both the Smarties Prize and WH Smith's Mind-Boggling Books Award), the stage play of which - adapted by Philip himself - was premiered at the Birmingham Rep Theatre in the summer of 2002.

He has also directed three feature films from his own screenplays: *The Reflecting Skin* (winner of eleven international awards including the prestigious George Sadoul Prize), *The Passion of Darkly Noon* (winner of the Best Director Prize at the Porto Film Festival) and, most recently, *Heartless* (winner of The Silver Meliers Award for Best Fantasy Film), starring Jim Sturgess and Noel Clarke.

Philip has won both the Evening Standard's Most Promising Newcomer to British Film and Most Promising Playwright Awards; the only person ever to receive both prizes.