

“COME WITH ME AND YOU’LL BE IN A WORLD OF PURE IMAGINATION”

DANIELLE TARENTO PRESENTS

PURE IMAGINATION

The songs of Leslie Bricusse

Director Christopher Renshaw
Musical Director, Orchestrations and Vocal/Dance Arrangements
Michael England
Casting Director Danielle Tarento

Pure Imagination celebrates the songs of Leslie Bricusse, one of the most prolific and well loved film and musical theatre songwriters of our time.

Whether writing alone or forming magical partnerships - including Anthony Newley, Henry Mancini, John Williams and John Barry - double Oscar and Grammy Award winner Leslie Bricusse's music has touched us all. He has composed over 1,000 songs and written the book, music and/or lyrics for more than 40 musical films and plays over a 60-year career. This heartwarming and uplifting show includes such favourites as *What Kind Of Fool Am I*, *If I Ruled The World*, *Talk To The Animals*, *Feeling Good*, *Goldfinger* and many, many more.

Pure Imagination, directed by Tony nominated Christopher Renshaw (*Taboo*, *The King & I*, *We Will Rock You*), will get its world première in the main house at St. James Theatre, in a 4-week season from Thursday 24 September to Saturday 17 October.

Press night is Tuesday 29 September at 7.30pm.

Cast to be announced.

Leslie Bricusse has been nominated for 10 Oscars, nine Grammys and four Tonys and won eight Ivor Novello Awards in an illustrious career. His composing started as a student at Cambridge, where he co-authored, directed and performed in his first two musical shows, *Out of the Blue* and *Lady at the Wheel*, both of which transferred to London's West End. He spent the first year of his professional life writing another musical, *The Boy on the Corner* and the screenplay and score of his first motion picture, *Charley Moon*, which won him his first Ivor Novello Award. His later stage musicals include *Stop the World - I Want to Get Off*; *The Roar of the Greasepaint - The Smell of the Crowd*; *Pickwick*; *Harvey*; *The Good Old Bad Old Days*; *Goodbye Mr Chips*; *Henry's Wives*; *Scrooge*; *Sherlock Holmes*; *Jekyll and Hyde*; *Noah's Ark*; *Sammy*; *Cyrano de Bergerac* *Kennedy*; *Victor/Victoria* and *It's a Dog's Life*!

Christopher Renshaw (Director) began his career in the 1970s directing opera at Glyndebourne and the Royal Opera House. His acclaimed production of *The King and I* began in Australia, was mounted on Broadway and in the West End. *We Will Rock You* ran at the Dominion Theatre for 12 years. Another production of *The King and I* opened on Broadway starring Donna Murphy (she won the Best Actress Tony Award) and Lou Diamond Phillips to rave reviews. He received the 1996 Drama Desk Award as well as Tony and Outer Critics Circle nominations for his direction, and the revival won the Tony Award for Best Revival. In 2002 he directed the world premiere of *Taboo*, using the music of Boy George in London. It later transferred to Broadway and was revived back in London in 2012, co-produced by Danielle Tarento. His production of The Gipsy King's *Zorro* has been seen in London, Amsterdam, Moscow, Tokyo and Paris. After opening at The Alliance Theatre, Atlanta last year, it is now on its way to Broadway.

Danielle Tarento (Producer and Casting Director) was named Best Producer at the 2012 Off West End Awards and nominated Producer of the Year at the 2015 Stage awards. Her production of *Titanic* at Southwark Playhouse won Best Off West End Production at the 2014 Whatsonstage Awards and Best Musical Production at the 2014 Off West End Awards. She has also produced *Gods And Monsters*, *Dogfight*, *Victor/Victoria*, *Mack & Mabel*, *Parade*, *Company* and *Three Sisters* at Southwark Playhouse; *The Grand Tour* (Finborough); *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.

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



PURE IMAGINATION

St. James Theatre

12 Palace Street,
London
SW1E 5JA

**Thursday 24 September -
Saturday 17 October**

Performances:
Monday - Saturday at 7.30pm
Wednesday & Saturday matinee at
2.30pm

**Press night:
Tuesday 29 September at 7.30pm**

Tickets: from £15

How to book:
Box Office: 0844 264 2140
www.stjamestheatre.co.uk

How to get here:
Nearest Tube Station /mainline:
Victoria Station is less than
5 minutes' walk

Free parking after 6.30pm
is available in nearby streets

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