

THE MITRE
PLAYERS

are pleased to present

THE GREAT BRITISH
BAKE OFF
MUSICAL



BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
JAKE BRUNGER AND
PIPPA CLEARY

21ST - 25TH JULY 2026
THE MITRE THEATRE, TRINITY SCHOOL
SOUVENIR PROGRAMME
EXTRA SLICE!

The Great British Bake Off Musical

Book and Lyrics by Jake Brunger

Music and Lyrics by Pippa Cleary

Original Theme Music by Tom Howe

The Great British Bake Off is a registered trade mark of Love Productions Ltd.

Originally produced in London at the Noel Coward Theatre
by Mark Goucher Productions

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk

Act One

Prologue	Choristers, Jim and Kim
The Bake Off Tent	Jim, Kim and The Bakers
The Arrival of the Judges	Pam, Phil, Jim and Kim
Obviously	Izzy and The Bakers
Somewhere in the Dough	Gemma
Slap It Like That	Phil, Pam and Company
Bring on the Scone	Jim, Kim, Pam and Phil
Grow	Francesca, Izzy, Ben and Hassan
The Handshake Song	The Bakers
My Dad	Lily and Ben
All The Way	Company

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between
the first and second halves when the bar will be open for drinks

Act Two

Keep on Keeping On	Pam and Company
The Perfect Petit Fours	Gemma and Ben
Don't Send Me Home	Company
I'd Never Be Me Without You	Phil and Pam
The Semi-Final	Semi-Finalists, Jim, Kim, Pam and Phil
Babs' Lament	Babe
Rise	Gemma
Finale	Company



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The Bakers
that's the cast

The Chefs
that's the creative team

The Show
for more about the show!





The Bakers

*The Cast

Evie McManus

Lily



Evie McManus is delighted to be making her Mitre Players debut. She's had the best time working with such a brilliant cast and has loved every minute of the experience. Being the only junior has meant she's gained lots of honorary aunties, uncles... and plenty of dad jokes!

Playing Lily has taken her on an emotional rollercoaster of laughs, tears and everything in between - rather like the journey she hopes to take you on throughout the show. Her mum is a long-time Mitre Players member, so sharing this experience together has been extra special.

Her parents couldn't be prouder of how much she's grown in confidence and flourished throughout rehearsals. One other thing she's learned... Old people are weird!



Nicky Chambers

Babs



A Mitre Player since she was 8 progressing from child actor to juve lead to Mums! In her *Wind In the Willows* biog she said... "At least it's not Grandmas - yet!" Haha! as Babs has 15 grandchildren! Although she doesn't have any grandkids, yet, she celebrates her 60th Birthday on opening night!

A recent Mitre triumph was 'Best Actress' in *Heaven's Above* which also won The Southern Counties Drama Festival, but will she win 'Star Baker?!' Other Mitre musicals have included *Big Fish*, *Our House*, *Gulliver's Travels*, *Cabaret*, *Chicago*, *Guys & Dolls* and many more! Next up is her debut with TOPS in *Steel Magnolias* directed by her talented husband and daughter - who she'd like to thank enormously for making her 60th celebrations SO special!

In real life she's an environmentalist's PA but mainly runs a Publishing & Licensing Company, Stagescripts.com, and she'd like to dedicate her performance to the founder, her dear friend, David Waters, who has his 'Final Curtain Call' this week.

Nicky would like to thank John, Megan and Philippa for their patience - having auditioned thinking Babs was a 'nice little cameo' - well, it certainly isn't a cameo and she's a rubbish baker (!) but she hopes you enjoy her 'Showstopper!'



Dominic Binefa

Ben



Dom is delighted to be appearing as Ben in *The Great British Bake Off Musical*. A familiar face to Mitre audiences, Dom has been performing in musical theatre for many years and has enjoyed taking on a wide variety of roles with amateur companies across Surrey and London.

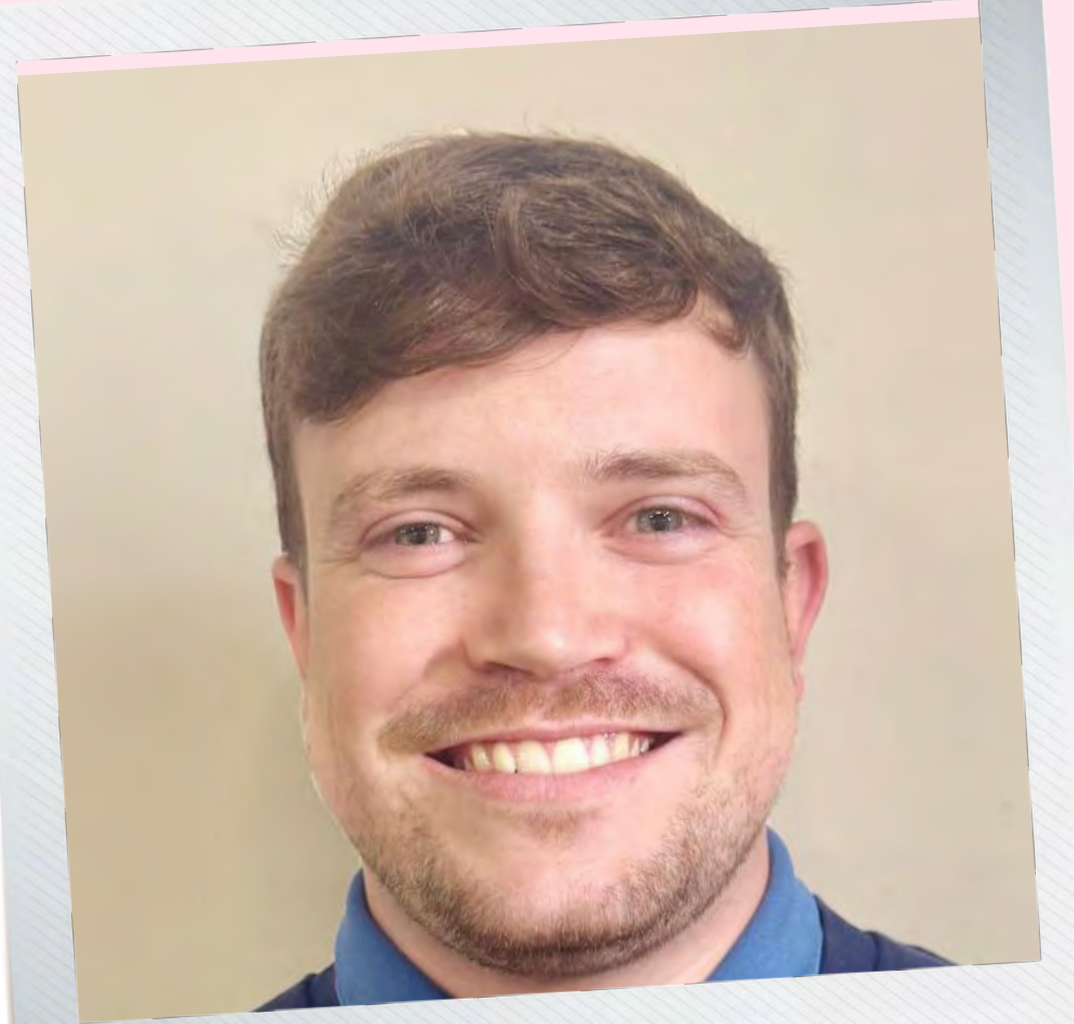
Previous credits include Willy Wonka in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Frederick Frankenstein in *Young Frankenstein*, Leo Bloom in *The Producers*, Tony in *West Side Story*, Leo Frank in *Parade*, William Barfée in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Seymour Krelborn in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Lumière in *Beauty and the Beast*, Robbie Hart in *The Wedding Singer*, Joe Vegas in *Fame*, John Willoughby in *Sense & Sensibility* and Billy Lawlor in *42nd Street*.

Although his baking experience is considerably less impressive than his musical theatre experience, he is thrilled to be part of this joyous show and hopes his performance will rise to the occasion.



David Harries-Rees

Dezza



David has been a member of the Mitres for many years, which is either a testament to his commitment or proof that nobody has worked out how to get rid of him. Recent roles include Emmett in *Legally Blonde*, Lonny in *Rock of Ages*, and Anthony in *Sweeney Todd*. This time he's delighted to be playing Dezza, proving once again that his casting can best be described as "eclectic".

Away from the stage, David works in the wholesale gemstone industry, where he spends his days convincing people that rocks are genuinely fascinating (they are). He's incredibly grateful to everyone involved in another fantastic Mitre production and hopes you've enjoyed the show. If nothing else, he hopes he's managed to avoid setting fire to the tent... figuratively, of course...



Elsa Maria Metni

Francesca



Elsa is delighted to be back with the Mitre Players for a second production. She has enjoyed performing in shows across London including *Guys and Dolls*, *Urinetown* and *Avenue Q* and is thrilled to be stepping into the flour-dusted world of *The Great British Bake Off Musical* as Francesca.

She hopes her bakes turn out to be delicious, well proved, and just the right amount of Italian spice. Buon appetito, and enjoy the show!



Rachel Kitchen

Gemma



Rachel is delighted to be stepping into the tent as Gemma. As a proud Lancashire lass herself, this is the closest Rachel has ever come to performing in her own accent, making this role feel especially close to home!

Musical theatre became part of Rachel's life since she first played the title role in *Annie* aged 10. And most recently she's played: Wednesday Addams (*The Addams Family*), Penny (*Hairspray*), Johanna (*Sweeney Todd*), Jolene (*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*), Little Red (*Into the Woods*) and her favourite, Elle Woods (*Legally Blonde*) - three times! Now, she's swapped Elle's pink stilettos for Gemma's Crocs, and they're definitely comfier!

Away from the stage, Rachel works as a Business Advisor for BBC News and enjoys family life with her two children, Willow and Charlie.

With a wedding just around the corner, Rachel and her fiancé, David, thought, "Why not add a musical into the mix too?" This is their third show together, and sharing the stage makes this summer even more special.

Here's the real showstopper: Rachel is gluten free, meaning she's surrounded by flour, bread and cakes she can't actually eat—or, in real life, even go near!

She's hoping to leave the audience smiling, share a little Lancashire charm and, if she's lucky, earn a Hollywood handshake. Enjoy the show!



Caleb Williams

Hassan

Caleb is delighted to be making his debut with the Mitre Players in this production. He currently studies Musical Theatre at The BRIT School for Performing Arts & Technology, where he has performed in a range of musical theatre productions and dance showcases, developing his skills as a versatile triple-threat performer in acting, singing and dance.

Alongside his training, Caleb has performed at MOVE IT, the world's largest dance event, with Khronos Dance. He is also one of the founders, choreographers and creative directors of CAIV Creatives, a dance company dedicated to creating original work that celebrates community, culture and storytelling through movement.

Caleb's professional career began at the age of 10 when he appeared in *The Bodyguard the Musical*, touring to Japan. Since then, he has made several television appearances on the BBC, gaining valuable experience across both stage and screen while continuing to pursue his passion for performance.

Outside of theatre, Caleb is a passionate musician and has been playing the drums, piano and guitar since the age of two. He also enjoys producing his own music, choreographing, and playing football whenever he gets the chance.

As this is Caleb's first production with the Mitre Players, he would like to give a special thank you to Philippa, John and Megan for believing in him and giving him this opportunity. Finally, a huge shout-out goes to his mum, whose unwavering love, encouragement and support have been the driving force behind his journey. He hopes you enjoy the show!



Alex Absalom-Sanchez

Izzy



Alex is buzzing to get into the tent for her third Mitre show. She's just finished her training at ArtsEd and is now going onto LSMT (London School of Musical Theatre) in September.

Alex is straight onto her next show "Ovbiously" which is *Calamity Jane* in the Barn Theatre with Kenley Holiday Workshop running from the 12th - 15th of August.

Brace yourself when she goes flying in "The Perfect Petit Fours" and hope that she doesn't end up like her dead dove strudel.

Alex hopes that you all love the show as much as her and the cast do performing it!

P.S. If anyone has tasted Ostrich Anus she'd love to know what it's like x



Peter Calver Russell



Whilst an enthusiastic cook, baking is one section that Peter hasn't really got around to, with the exception of short crust pastry. So, if most of his cooking acting (and I use that word in its loosest possible terms) rather resembles creating a chicken and leak pie, it's because that's what he's cooking. Every time.

He is also not known as a fast cook... in fact, if he were in a competitive cooking program, there is a great chance that when the words "You have 5 minutes left" were uttered, he'd still be finishing his beer and boogying to the radio.

And that's another thing - cooking without alcohol... it's not very realistic now, is it?



Mike McKenzie

Phil



Blue eyes frankly is the only reason Mike got this part, given that he can't bake, isn't from Liverpool and his hair isn't quite that grey naturally. Though he does have the slightly rotund master baker physique!

Still, here he is back with the marvellous Mitres (last time being for *Big Fish*) and having the usual marvellously fun time with the gang.

Bake Off is a national treasure and this lovely fun musical sends it up delightfully, so enjoy with a cup of tea (or something stronger from the Bar), and remember: what ever else is happening in the world, **CAKE** is the cure!



Vicky Watkins

Pam

Vicky is delighted to be back treading the boards with the Mitres.

She has over 40 years of am dram under her belt and has been lucky enough to play many wonderful roles in both plays and musicals. Such as Aunt Eller - ***Oklahoma***, Mrs Clackett - ***Noises Off*** and The Duchess - ***Me and my Girl***.

Playing the part of Pam has been huge fun, not least finding all the whacky jewellery and glasses! It has also been a joy to work with such a talented cast and production team.

Here's to a brilliant week in the Bake Off tent!



Paul Grace

Jim



Last time Paul performed in a musical with the Mitres was 2024's 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. He played the host of a competition where an everyday activity was given a high-stakes twist, and competitors were eliminated one by one, down to a nail-biting final - so finding the story arc for Jim this week has been a real challenge!

Since then he has played a variety of characters in *The 39 Steps* (watch out tonight for a reprise of one of the many Scottish(ish!) accents he used!) and directed the somewhat unconventional *Urinetown*.

Paul is a bit of a budding baker and enjoys sharing this with his two little sous chefs who will be watching this week. Better make sure his performance isn't half baked!



Jo Morrison

Kim

Jo is delighted to be stepping into the fabulously glamorous shoes of Kim, the presenter, in *The Great British Bake Off Musical*. Swapping the director's chair for the presenter's tent this time, she's looking forward to serving up plenty of theatrical flair with just a pinch of chaos.

Previous on-stage appearances with The Mitre Players include the delightfully terrifying Frau Blücher (*Young Frankenstein*), the legendary Lady of the Lake (*Spamalot*), and Mary in *Merrily We Roll Along*. Away from the spotlight, Jo has been fortunate to direct productions including *Rock of Ages*, *Bugsy Malone* and *Curtains*, as well as choreographing *The Wind in the Willows*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and *Big Fish*.

Jo also produces shows for the award-winning Glow Theatre Group, working with an incredible cast of over 50 teenagers. Recent productions include *Xanadu*, *Cats*, *Moana*, *Godspell*, *Fame*, *The Trench* and *A Monster Calls*.

When she's not creating theatre, Jo works supporting women and newborn babies across the Epsom & St Helier maternity departments. Outside work, she loves spending time with her son, who unknowingly becomes the chief judge each May as she takes on the annual challenge of creating an increasingly ambitious birthday showstopper cake. Here's hoping all those hours in the kitchen have been good rehearsal for this show!



Kate Slingerland

Ensemble



Kate is delighted to be back on stage with the Mitre Players, having been part of the company since 2019. Previous shows include *Young Frankenstein*, *Urinetown*, and *Rock of Ages*, where she has sung, danced, and generally tried not to trip over the scenery.

Originally from Canada, Kate is affectionately known as “Tall Kate”—partly because she’s Canadian, but mostly because she’s... well... tall. This has proved invaluable when reaching high shelves, changing light bulbs, and spotting the interval bar queue from almost anywhere in the theatre.

Friends will also know Kate for her spectacularly flamboyant collection of glasses, usually visible from space. However, in an extraordinary act of restraint, she’s opted for a much more understated pair for this production, refusing to risk upstaging Pam with excessive eyewear. It hasn’t been easy!



Gemma Ward

Ensemble



The 'real' Gemma is making her debut with The Mitre Players, and is absolutely thrilled to be in the Bake Off tent. No stranger to the stage, she has appeared in numerous pantomimes with The Oxted Players, most recently as Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel* and as Dance Captain for OMTC's *Annie* last November.

After Bake Off's TV Crew blacks she is looking forward to donning her mechanics overalls as Natalie in OMTC's *All Shook Up* in November.

Whatever the judges decide, it's been a joy to whisk this show together with such a fantastic cast and crew. Enjoy every crumb!





The Chefs

**The Creative Team*

John Harries-Rees

Director



Over the 50 years that John has been associated with The Mitre Players, this is the eleventh time that he has directed for them and the medication still seems to be

working!

John trained at the Rose Bruford College of Drama, specialising in production and direction. Teaching and lecturing in Drama and Theatre, and freelance directing, for the past 50 years, has provided many wonderful memories from the 250 plus shows that he has directed, from classical Shakespeare to outrageous musical theatre. His love of all styles of theatre has seen him directing Opera, Old Time Music Hall, Experimental Improvisation-based Drama, in addition to all his plays and musicals.

A proud father of six, two of whom are involved in the show, John is delighted to be directing *The Great British Bake Off* for the Mitres and he would like to pay tribute to the hard working and talented company and creative team, with whom he has been privileged to work.



Megan Harries-Rees

Assistant Director



Megan is no stranger to the Mitre Players, having been a member for her entire life. Over the years, she has been fortunate to perform a variety of memorable roles with the society, including Constance in *The Clockmaker's Daughter*, the Leading Player in *Pippin*, and Sherrie in *Rock of Ages*.

In recent years, Megan has discovered a passion for directing, most recently leading the Mitre Players' production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. She has loved being part of this production, particularly the opportunity to work closely with her dad, John, helping to bring his vision for the show to life.

Away from the theatre, Megan is a proud mum to three wonderful children, who keep her just as busy as rehearsals do. While she may not share the show's enthusiasm for cake or baking, she certainly has a love of chaos—which means this production has been the perfect fit!



Philippa Caldecourt

Musical Director



This is Philippa's first show with the Mitre Players and she has loved musical directing **The Great British Bake Off** with such a talented cast and production team, to create a perfect petit four of a show. She knows the cast will rise to the occasion!

She has recently musical directed **Guys and Dolls** for Oxted Musical Theatre Company and **School of Rock** for Epsom Light Opera Company.

By day, she is a music teacher at the BRIT School and is delighted to have current students and alumni in the band.

She hopes you enjoy the show and get a handshake from our beloved Phil Hollinghurst!



Paul Cohen

Choreographer



Paul is delighted to be back choreographing for Mitre and has loved working with this extremely talented cast. His last outing as choreographer was for Mitres' The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee two years ago. He has also choreographed The Wedding Singer and Boogie Nights for The Mitre Players, and Little Shop of Horrors and Seussical for CODA.

For many years Paul danced his way through numerous shows, but in recent years he has begrudgingly accepted that his dancing days are probably over (albeit he did attempt to dance in last year's Mitre production of Urinetown). So, relax back on your not so 'soggy bottoms' and enjoy our 'star bakers' produce a 'showstopper' for your entertainment!!





The Show

Since its arrival on television, The Great British Bake Off has become a much-loved celebration of creativity, community and the curious British ability to treat a collapsed sponge as a national emergency!

Created by Anna Beattie and Richard McKerrow and produced by Love Productions, the programme provided irresistible ingredients for a stage musical: colourful characters, ticking clocks, spectacular creations

and the ever-present possibility of a soggy bottom.

The Great British Bake Off Musical was developed to ensure that the theatrical version retained the warmth, humour and unmistakable atmosphere of the television series. Rather than recreating particular contestants or presenters, the musical introduces its own fictional collection of amateur bakers,





judges and hosts—characters who may nevertheless seem reassuringly familiar to regular viewers.

The show features a book and lyrics by Jake Brunger, with music and lyrics by Pippa Cleary. The pair met while studying at Bristol University and had already enjoyed success together with their musical adaptation of Sue Townsend's *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13¾*. Their *Bake Off* score moves between energetic ensemble

numbers, comedy songs and heartfelt ballads, allowing the bakers' personal stories to emerge alongside the competition.

The musical received its world premiere at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham on 23 July 2022. Directed by Rachel Kavanagh, with set, costume and cake design by Alice Power, the production transformed the famous tent – with its bunting, pastel



colours, workbenches and mixers
- into a fully theatrical setting.

Following its successful Cheltenham run, the show transferred to London's Noël Coward Theatre in February 2023 for a limited West End season, closing on 13 May.

At the heart of the musical are eight very different bakers. Each enters the tent hoping to impress the judges and become Star Baker, but each also brings a personal story, ambition or insecurity. As

friendships develop, disasters strike and romances begin to rise, the competition becomes about considerably more than cake. The result is a story about confidence, belonging, resilience and the support that can be found in the most unexpected of communities.



Jake Brunger Book and Lyrics

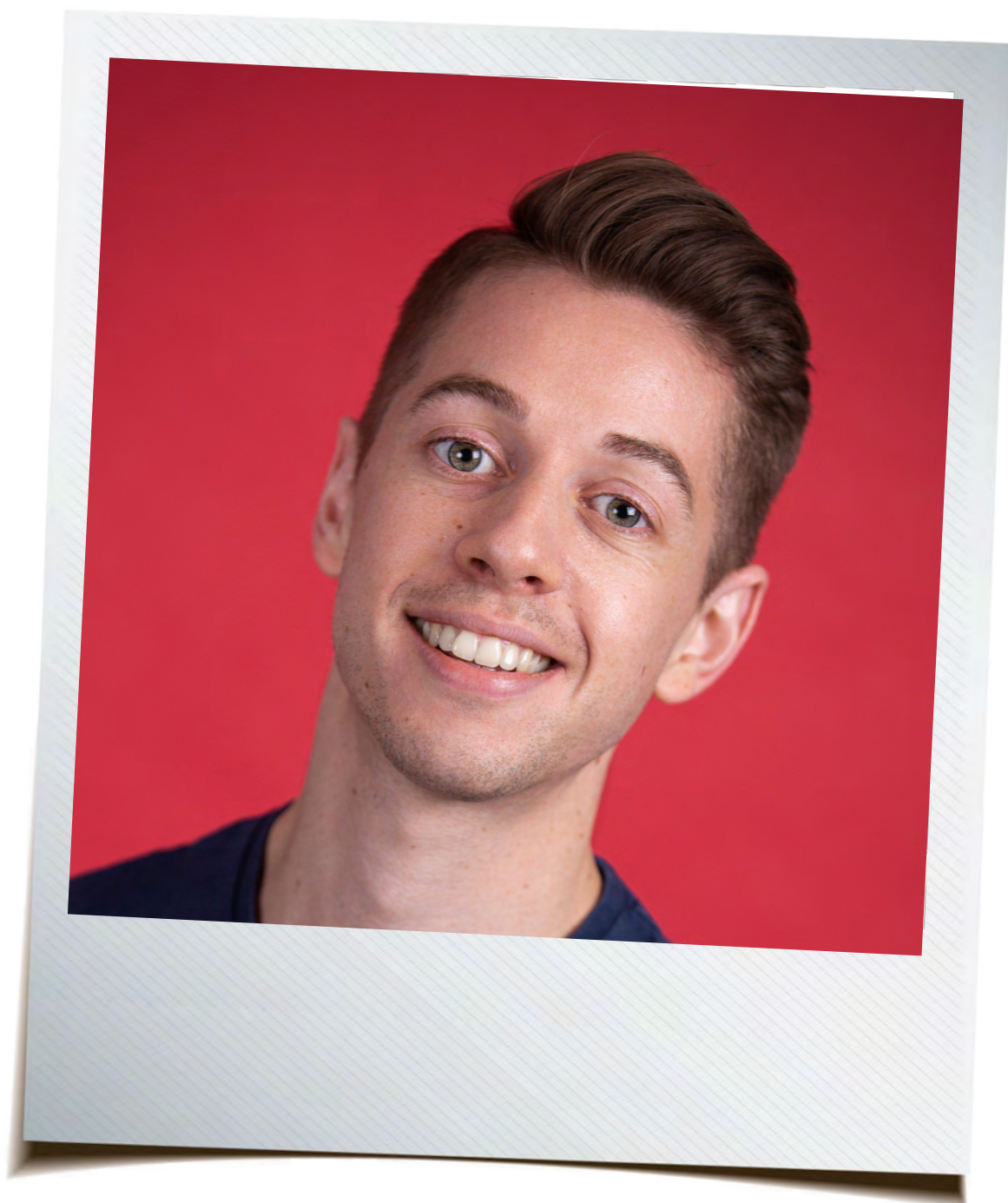
Jake Brunger is a London-based playwright, lyricist and screenwriter originally from Nottingham.

He is the writer and co-lyricist of two West End musicals: **THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE AGED 13¾** at the Ambassadors Theatre, which originally premiered at Leicester Curve and the Menier Chocolate Factory (nominated for the

Evening Standard Award for Best Musical), and the stage adaptation of **THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF** at the Noël Coward Theatre (nominated for 4 Whatsonstage Awards including Best New Musical).

His debut feature film **LOVE SARAH** starring Celia Imrie, Bill Paterson and Rupert Penry Jones reached #1 at the New Zealand box office and #3 in Australia. It was released on Netflix in July 2022, reaching #5 in their Top 10 films. He also wrote the stage play **FOUR PLAY**, which originally premiered at the Old Vic Theatre starring Richard Madden and Jeremy Irvine, and is now regularly performed in the UK and abroad.

He has worked extensively as a musical theatre librettist and lyricist with his regular composer collaborator Pippa Cleary,





including RED RIDING HOOD, TREASURE ISLAND and CHICKEN LITTLE for Singapore Repertory Theatre, PRODIGY for National Youth Music Theatre, THE GREAT BRITISH SOAP OPERA and the cult fan-favourite JET SET GO! at Edinburgh Fringe.

His musical theatre work is licensed worldwide by Music Theatre International and Concord Theatricals and is recorded and released by Sony Masterworks Broadway.

Earlier in his career Jake was Associate Director on BARKING IN ESSEX (West End) starring Lee Evans and Sheila Hancock and Assistant Director on CALENDAR GIRLS (UK Tour and West End) and DEATHTRAP starring Simon Russell Beale (West End). Jake read Drama at Bristol University. He is a graduate of the Royal Court Theatre's Supergroup of writers and worked for two years developing new work as Literary Associate for David Pugh Ltd

He is represented by Harriet Pennington Legh at Lark Management.

Website: <http://www.jakebrunger.co.uk/>
Instagram: @jake.brunger or @jakeandpippa



Pippa Cleary Music and Lyrics

Pippa Cleary is an award-winning composer, lyricist and songwriter. She is the first female British composer to have had three musicals produced in the West End: **THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF MUSICAL**, **THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE AGED 13¾** and **MY SON'S A QUEER (BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO?)**, which is due to open in America next year after a recent UK Tour.



Pippa wrote the first original opening number for this year's Olivier Awards at the Royal Albert Hall, performed by Hannah Waddingham. She is currently writing songs for two animated movies with screenwriter Philip LaZebnik (**POCAHONTAS**, **MULAN**, **PRINCE OF EGYPT**). Other musicals include **PRODIGY (The Other Palace)**, **A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM (BBC)**, **IN THE WILLOWS (UK Tour)** and **JET SET GO! (Jermyn Street Theatre)**.

Pippa won the Times Christmas Carol Competition with 'In The Snow' and also runs Pippa's Poppets, a preschool business that provides Father Christmas visits, party entertainment and Music & Drama lessons to little ones across London.

