

CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR THE WEST END TRANSFER OF THE MULTI-AWARD-WINNING NEW BRITISH MUSICAL *STANDING AT THE SKY'S EDGE*



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New images of the announced cast are available [here](#)

The National Theatre and Various Productions announce today initial casting for the West End transfer of Sheffield Theatres' smash-hit production, ***Standing at the Sky's Edge***. Written as a love letter to Sheffield and the city's iconic Park Hill Estate, this 2023 Olivier Award-winning 'Best New Musical' is directed by Sheffield Theatres' Artistic Director, **Robert Hastie** and features songs by the legendary Sheffield singer-songwriter, **Richard Hawley**. With a hilarious and gut-wrenching book by **Chris Bush**, ***Standing at the Sky's Edge*** charts the hopes and dreams of three generations over the course of six tumultuous decades, navigating universal themes of love, loss and survival. It will make its West End premiere at the **Gillian Lynne Theatre** in London from **8 February 2024**.

Joining the cast are, **Elizabeth Ayodele** (*Small Island*, National Theatre; *Steel Magnolias*, Trafalgar Theatre Productions) as Joy, **Joel Harper-Jackson** (*Cock*, Elliot & Harper Productions; *Kinky Boots*, Adam Blanshay Productions) as Harry, **Sharlene Hector** (*A Strange Loop*, Trafalgar Theatre Productions/National Theatre; *Hairspray*, Adam Spiegel Productions/Fiery Angel) as Grace, **Mel Lowe** (*Orlando*, The Michael Grandage Company; *A Billion Times I Love You*, Homotopia/Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse) as Connie, **Laura Pitt-Pulford** (*Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, Regent's Park Open Air Theatre; *Emmerdale*, ITV) as Poppy and **Lauryn Redding** (*Bloody Elle*, Rebel Productions/Royal Exchange) as Nikki.

Returning to reprise their roles are, **Samuel Jordan** (*Masters of the Air*, Apple TV; *Sex Education*, Netflix) as Jimmy, **Baker Mukasa** (*The Comedy of Errors*, Royal Shakespeare Company; *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*, Stage Entertainment) as George, **Alastair Natkiel** (*Line of Duty*, BBC; *Strangers on a Train*, Barbara Broccoli) as Marcus and **Rachael Wooding** (*Pretty Woman: The Musical*, Ambassador Theatre Group Productions; *We Will Rock You*, Queen Theatrical Productions/Phil McIntyre/Tribeca Theatrical Productions) as Rose. Further casting will be announced.

Standing at the Sky's Edge is currently nominated for 'Best Musical' at the **2023 Evening Standard Theatre Awards**. It won 'Best New Musical' at the **2023 Olivier Awards** earlier in the year with Sheffield singer-songwriter, Richard Hawley and Tom Deering also winning 'Best Original Score and New Orchestrations'. Previously it has won the **2020 South Bank Sky Arts Award** for Theatre and 'Best Musical Production' at the **UK Theatre Awards in 2019**.

Director, **Robert Hastie** said: "I'm thrilled that many of the company who created *Standing at the Sky's Edge* in Sheffield and at the National Theatre are continuing to tell this important story in the West End, and equally excited that a brilliant new group of actors are joining the cast to bring new perspectives and fresh takes on Chris's characters and Richard's songs. Getting the casting right is central to any show's success, but with this show it feels particularly crucial. The characters in this show might be fictional, but they represent real people's lives, so the actors who embody these roles need to take pride in telling these beautiful human stories, and I'm confident that this incredible cast will do exactly that."

Hastie is joined by set and costume designer, **Ben Stones**; choreographer, **Lynne Page**; orchestrator and arranger, originating music supervisor, **Tom Deering**; lighting designer, **Mark Henderson**; sound designer, **Bobby Aitken**; wigs, hair and make-up designer, **Cynthia De La Rosa** and casting director, **Stuart Burt CDG**.

First commissioned by Sheffield Theatres and Various Productions, ***Standing at the Sky's Edge*** had its world premiere at the Crucible Theatre in 2019. Following a hugely successful, sold-out run, it returned to the Crucible Theatre in December 2022, selling out again, before making its London premiere in the National Theatre's Olivier theatre in early 2023 where it continued to sell out and receive standing ovations.

Revealing the history of modern Britain, through the stories of this iconic housing estate, ***Standing at the Sky's Edge***, is a heartfelt exploration of the power of community and what it is we all call home.

Richard Hawley has recently released *Now Then: The Very Best of Richard Hawley*, his first ever best of collection. This 36-track deep dive into his hugely successful career to date includes his original versions of songs from the musical including *Open Up Your Door*, *Tonight the Streets Are Ours*, *Coles Corner* and the production's title track, *Standing at the Sky's Edge*. He has also announced a UK and Ireland tour with live performance dates from May 2024.

Standing at the Sky's Edge, the original live cast recording is available to stream via Spotify and purchase online from major music retailers.

Tickets for the musical are available from £20 at [SkysEdgeMusical.com](https://www.skysedgemusical.com). Assisted performances are available throughout the run.

ENDS

For further information please contact **Holly Nicholls** at honicholls@nationaltheatre.org.uk / 07772610692

Further Press Materials

- The new publicity images have been shot by leading music photographers, Steve Gullick who has worked extensively with a host of legendary recording artists including Nirvana, PJ Harvey, Nick Cave, The Prodigy and Richard Hawley. Images are available [here](#)
- Headshots and biogs are available [here](#)
- Images from the 2022/2023 production are available [here](#)
- *Standing at the Sky's Edge*, the original live cast recording is available via [Spotify](#)

Listing Information

Dates: From 8 February 2024
Press night: Wednesday 28 February 2024

Website: [SkysEdgeMusical.com](https://www.skysedgemusical.com)

Address: Gillian Lynne Theatre
166 Drury Lane
London
WC2B 5PW

Assisted performances:

Audio Described Performances
Wednesday 13 March 2024, 2:30pm
Saturday 13 April 2024, 7:30pm

Captioned Performances
Tuesday 26 March 2024, 7:30pm
Saturday 13 July 2024, 2:30pm

BSL Performances
Thursday 23 May 2024, 7:30pm
Saturday 22 June 2024, 2:30pm

Tickets: From £20

Box Office: Book via [lwtheatres.co.uk](https://www.lwtheatres.co.uk) / call **020 3925 2998**
(lines open Monday to Saturday 10am – 5:30pm)

Or book via [nationaltheatre.org.uk](https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk) / **020 7452 3000**
(lines open Monday to Saturday 9:30am – 8pm)

For Groups 10+ contact LW Groups at: groups@gillianlynnetheatre.co.uk

Running Time: 2 hours 50 minutes, including an interval

Follow us on social media:

Instagram: @skysedgemusical
Twitter: @SkysEdgeMusical
Facebook: Standing At The Sky's Edge – A New Musical

Notes to Editors

About the National Theatre

The National Theatre makes theatre that entertains and inspires using its creativity, expertise and unique reach. The National Theatre shares unforgettable stories with millions of audience members across the UK and around the world – on its own stages, on tour, in schools, on cinema screens and streaming at home.

World-leading artists make their best work at the National Theatre with the widest possible audience and impact. The National Theatre invests in talent and innovation on stage and off, taking seriously its role as the nation's theatre. Of the new productions developed each year with a wide range of theatre companies, a third of that research and development resource is dedicated to shows staged at theatres outside London.

Through touring our work to local theatres and schools and nationwide education and community programmes, we are active in 71 of the 109 levelling up priority areas in the UK. A registered charity with deeply embedded social purpose, the National Theatre works with hundreds of schools and communities across the UK to fire imagination and inspire creativity, and to develop skills and pathways for careers in theatre.

For more information, please visit [nationaltheatre.org.uk](https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk)

About Various Productions

Various Productions is an award-winning production company working across theatre, film, TV, led by Rupert Lord.

Working with some of the world's greatest playwrights and musicians, we commission, develop and present brave, entertaining and compelling new work with universal appeal.

Having commissioned *Standing at the Sky's Edge* with Sheffield Theatres, the show opened at the Sheffield Crucible in 2019 to critical and audience acclaim, winning awards for Best Musical Production at UK Theatre Awards in 2019 and the 2020 South Bank Sky Arts Award for Theatre.

Standing at the Sky's Edge is currently being developed for television with Lord co-producing.

Various Productions currently have three new musicals in development, and two plays due to for the West End in 2023 and 2024.

Past projects include *Our House*, with music and lyrics by *Madness* and a book by Tim Firth, which Rupert Lord conceived and co-produced. It won the Oliver Award for Best New Musical in 2003.

www.variousproductions.co.uk

About originating co-producer, Sheffield Theatres

Sheffield Theatres is home to three theatres: the Crucible, the Sheffield landmark with a world-famous reputation; the Playhouse, an intimate, versatile space for getting closer to the action; and the gleaming Lyceum, the beautiful proscenium that hosts the best of the UK's touring shows.

Having held the title 'Regional Theatre of the Year' on four separate occasions, Sheffield Theatres is the ticket to big names and local heroes, timeless treasures and new voices. Committed to investing in the creative leaders of the future, Sheffield Theatres' dedicated talent development hub, The Bank, supports a new cohort of emerging theatre-makers every year.

Sheffield Theatres has a reputation for bold new work. Starting life in the Crucible in 2019, the award-winning *Life of Pi* transferred to the West End in 2021 and to Broadway in 2023. This success follows hit musical *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* which also transferred to the West End, toured the UK and enjoyed a feature film release internationally on Amazon Prime in 2021. Both *Life of Pi* and *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* return home to Sheffield Theatres as part of their 2023 – 24 UK and Ireland tours. Last year, *ROCK / PAPER / SCISSORS* was staged across all three theatres to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Crucible and Playhouse, winning Best Directors at the UK Theatre Awards 2022. Also during the anniversary year, the acclaimed *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* opened the newly named Tanya Moiseiwitsch Playhouse in September 2022. The show transfers to the West End in June 2023. Over Christmas 2022, Sheffield Theatres, in co-production with the National Theatre and Various Productions, revived *Standing at the Sky's Edge*, returning the show to the Crucible before transferring to the Olivier Theatre and winning two Olivier awards including Best New Musical. The show transfers to the West End in February 2024. This year Sheffield Theatres productions have received five UK Theatre Award nominations, including two for their reimaged revival of *Miss Saigon*, staged by special arrangement with Cameron Mackintosh in summer 2023.

Crucible Lyceum Playhouse 55 Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 1DA

sheffieldtheatres.co.uk