



PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cast revealed for *Blonde Bombshells of 1943*

Co-production from Octagon Theatre Bolton, Stephen Joseph Theatre and Theatre by the Lake coming to audiences this summer!

Three powerhouse producing theatres are teaming up to present a sensational new production of **Alan Plater's** warm and witty musical play, ***Blonde Bombshells of 1943***.

Following the success of 2021's *Home I'm Darling* and 2022's *Brief Encounter*, the **Octagon Theatre Bolton, Stephen Joseph Theatre** and **Theatre by the Lake** are now excited to take audiences back to the swinging 40s in this glorious production, directed by **Zoë Waterman** (*Jane Eyre*, Stephen Joseph Theatre and New Vic Theatre, *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, Theatre by the Lake)

Opening at Octagon Theatre Bolton from **Fri 9 June – Sat 1 July** before transferring to Theatre by the Lake from **Wed 5 – Sat 29 July** and Stephen Joseph Theatre from **Wed 2 – Sat 26 August**.

Featuring a stellar company of 8 actor–musicians, the cast has now been revealed.

The full cast includes **Verity Bajoria** (*Tale of a Thousand and One Nights*, Dragonboy Productions, *Atrocities at Arkham*, Tell No Tales Theatre Company); **Lauren Chinery** (*Dreamboats and Petticoats*, Bill Kenwright Ltd, *Gatsby*, *Ruby in the Dust*); **Georgina Field** (*Gods & Dogs*, The Rude Mechanical Theatre Company, *Roll Over Beethoven*, Belgrade Theatre Coventry).

They will be joined by **Stacey Ghent** (*We are the Best*, Live Theatre, *When the Long Trick's Over*, High Tide and New Wolsey Theatre); **Rory Gradon** (*The Snow Queen*, London Touring Players, *Julius Caesar*, The Undisposables); **Sarah Groarke** (*The Borrowers*, Theatre by the Lake, *Jane Eyre*, Stephen Joseph Theatre and New Vic Theatre).

Completing the cast are **Alice McKenna** (*Red Sky at Night*, Mikron Theatre Company, *Girls Don't Play Guitar*, Royal Court Liverpool); and **Gleanne Purcell-Brown** (*Playboy of the West Indies*, The Birmingham Rep Company, *She Loves Me*, Sheffield Crucible).

The Blonde Bombshells, the most glamorous all-girl swing band in the North, loses members every time it plays a GI camp. Now there's an important BBC job in the offing and Betty needs to find new musicians fast!

This lively and lavish musical play is filled with glorious live swing performances of 1940s classics including Glenn Miller, The Andrews Sisters, George Formby, Fats Waller and more, taking audiences on a wonderful journey back to a bye-gone era.

The creative team includes **Jess Curtis** (designer); **Greg Last** (musical director); **Richard G Jones** (lighting designer); **Chris Bogg** (sound designer); **Sundeep Saini** (movement director); **Howard Gray** (orchestrations); **Sarah Hughes** (casting director); and **Ryan McVeigh** (assistant director).

Commenting on the casting of the production, director Zoë Waterman said: *"I am absolutely thrilled to be directing Blonde Bombshells of 1943. We have got a glorious and terribly talented cast; it is such a privilege to work with performers who are not only stunning actors but also phenomenal musicians.*

"I can't wait to get into rehearsals and start bringing the characters to life and weaving the music through the show. It is always a joy to make work that celebrates women, and this is no exception - full of hilarious, practical, strong characters who make do and mend as the time dictates and manage to pull an all singing, all dancing performance out of the jaws of an air raid."

The Blonde Bombshells of 1943 comes to the Octagon Theatre Bolton from **Fri 9 June – Sat 1 July**.

Tickets start from £15 and are on-sale now.

Find out more and book tickets via the **Box Office** on 01204 520661 or at octagonbolton.co.uk

-ENDS-

The cast and creative team are available for interview.

For interview and other press requests please contact **Dan Hicklin** on dan.hicklin@octagonbolton.co.uk

Octagon Theatre Bolton, Stephen Joseph Theatre and Theatre by the Lake present

BLONDE BOMBSHELLS OF 1943

By **Alan Plater**

Directed by **Zoë Waterman**



Octagon Theatre Bolton run dates:

Fri 9 June – Sat 1 July

Press Night: Tue 13 June, 7:30pm

Theatre by the Lake run dates:

Wed 5 – Sat 29 July

Press Night: Thu 6 July

Stephen Joseph Theatre run dates:

Wed 2 – Sat 26 August

Press Night: [insert date]

Octagon Theatre Bolton

Octagon Theatre Bolton is a regional producing theatre that makes popular, bold and adventurous theatre of the highest quality. We believe theatre matters because everyone's story matters and aim to entertain, inspire and engage as many people as possible through theatre. We are leaders in ensuring arts and culture thrive in Bolton working with thousands of young people and community groups every year. The Octagon reopened in May 2021 following a major redevelopment, funded by Bolton Council and Arts Council England. The redevelopment is the largest transformation of the building in the Octagon's history and will ensure the future of the Theatre for generations to come.

Stephen Joseph Theatre

Scarborough's Stephen Joseph Theatre has provided world-class accessible theatre for audiences on the Yorkshire coast since 1955. It's produced over 700 plays, many of them new – developing new writers and writing was the primary aim of the company's founder, Stephen Joseph, and it remains one of our core aims. The SJT was the first professional theatre-in-the-round in the UK, and is widely known for presenting the world premieres of most of Alan Ayckbourn's 89 full-length plays. It also has an extensive community programme.

Theatre by the Lake

Theatre by the Lake, described by the New Statesman as "artistically sharp and stunningly situated", opened in 1999. Born out of Century Theatre's travelling Blue Box, it was willed into existence by passionate theatre lovers who wanted a permanent home for theatre in Keswick. Theatre by the Lake is idyllically situated a short stroll from Derwentwater amid the magnificent western fells of the Lake District, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The theatre has two stages, a 400-seat Main House and 100-seat Studio and presents an annual programme of homemade shows throughout the year, as well as hosting a variety of festivals, visiting companies and community performances, playing to over 120,000 people per year.

As the only Arts Council funded producing theatre in Cumbria, our purpose is to enrich the lives of our local communities through making theatre. We create and share great theatre, develop and champion talent, and celebrate our place and culture in the work we do across our county and our nation.

You can find out more about us at www.theatrebythelake.com

Theatre by the Lake (as Cumbria Theatre Trust) is a registered charity, number 516673



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SJT Stephen
Joseph
Theatre