

VOCAL PERFORMANCE ACADEMY

TO TAKE PART IN INTERNATIONALLY AWARD WINNING BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL'S BILLY YOUTH THEATRE



SEARCH for BILLY ELLIOTT for Local Production In Buckinghamshire!

To celebrate five amazing years in the West End, the producers of **Billy Elliot the Musical** have launched **Billy Youth Theatre**, an exciting new initiative providing schools and youth groups around the country with the opportunity to perform their own productions of this internationally award-winning show.

Billy Elliot writer Lee Hall, together with Martin Koch (Musical Supervision and Orchestrations), have adapted their original script and orchestrations to produce a version of the show exclusively for groups staging local productions as part of *Billy Youth Theatre*. With 115 separate productions being staged across the country, **Billy Youth Theatre** is truly a nationwide event and **VOCAL PERFORMANCE ACADEMY (VPA)** based in **CHALFONT St PETER & GERRARDS CROSS** are delighted to announce that they will be taking part with a local production planned for **June/July 2010**.

Vocal Performance Academy is offering a **Billy Elliot Workshop day on Sunday 24th of January at St Peters Church Hall** for any one interested in being part of this fantastic show which has been especially adapted for young people aged 10 to 19. The day will start at 11.30 am and run through to 5.30 pm. The cost for the days workshop will be £5.00 and participants are asked to bring a packed lunch - drinks will be available throughout the day. **Billy Workshop Day** will provide lots of fun combined with expert professional tuition, including learning accents, rehearsing dialogue and scenes from the show, learning the dance routine to at least one of the numbers from the show, and also working on songs from the show. We are looking for all principle parts, as well as miners, policemen/women and girl dancers and anyone is welcome to come to the day to work on script, music and movement requirements. To book your place and for more information, please call **Vocal Performance Academy on 01753 889946 or 07850 617775** and or visit www.VocalPerformanceAcademy.co.uk to email direct.

As part of **Billy Youth Theatre**, selected productions of Billy Elliot from around the country will be invited to perform excerpts from their productions at showcases held at major regional theatres between April and June 2010. This will culminate with some groups being offered the opportunity to follow in the steps of Billy and perform at the *Billy Youth Theatre West End Gala* at the Victoria Palace Theatre, Billy's London home, in July 2010.

To support and encourage local productions, the directors of the participating groups were given a fantastic opportunity to take part in an all day workshop at the Victoria Palace Theatre in London in December led by the award-winning team that brings Billy Elliot to life each day on the London stage.

Participating on the day, alongside writer Lee Hall, were Resident Choreographers, Lee Proud and Damian Jackson, Musical Director, Chris Hatt and Resident Director, Nick Evans as well as some former and current cast members including current Billy Elliot, Tom Holland. **3 members of Vocal Performance Academy's Creative Team attended this fantastic day: VOCAL PERFORMANCE ACADEMY Founder & Musical Director Catherine Françoise who has a professional career spanning West End Musical Theatre to Classical Opera, Actor & Professional Director IAN MacDONALD from VPA, and VPA's Technical Director, joined other directors from participating groups at the Victoria Palace Theatre for this unique event.**

Lee Hall, who originally conceived the idea behind *Billy Youth Theatre*, said: *"I am delighted that young people around the country will have the opportunity to bring the story of Billy Elliot to life in their local communities with the help and guidance of our creative team".*

Billy Elliot director, Stephen Daldry said: *"It is very exciting that we are able to offer young people around the country a chance to pour their energy and creativity into local productions of Billy Elliot. We are looking forward to seeing their ideas brought to life."*

Billy Youth Theatre is open to performers aged 10-19 and VOCAL PERFORMANCE ACADEMY is thrilled to be able to offer limited additional places to participate in their forthcoming production of Billy Youth Theatre. This follows an extremely busy 18 months over which VPA has produced 5 fully staged productions at the Compass Theatre, Ickenham: Disney's **The Jungle Book, Christmas Spectacular 2008, The Pirates of Penzance (Broadway version),** and **Little Women - The Musical,** along with **Community fund-raising concerts for The Epilepsy Centre,** and **in November raising £1500 at a sold-out concert for vision-4-the-future for Amersham Free Church.** This Christmas 6 performances of **Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs** at Chalfont Community Centre played to packed audiences who enjoyed great singing, dancing and lots of laughs with door Collections also raising another £139.50 for The Epilepsy Centre - fantastic in spite of the snow!! (See attached photo of Snow White Company). **2010 now brings VPA this fantastic opportunity to present Billy Elliot the Musical - Come along and join us!**

<http://www.billyelliottthemusical.com/byt/>

For press enquires please contact

Catherine Françoise : 07850 617775 or 01753 889946

Email: Catherine@VocalPerformanceAcademy.co.uk

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