



Cast announced for new 1950s gig-theatre musical *Punchy!*

Courtyard Theatre, Bowling Green Walk, 40 Pitfield Street, London N1 6EU

Tuesday 2nd November – Sunday 21st November 2021

Press Night: Wednesday 3rd November, 7pm

The cast has been announced for *Punchy! The Musical*, a brand new musical at The Courtyard Theatre. This raucous, affecting piece of gig-theatre brings the soulful sounds of the 1950s to the heart of Hoxton. **Robert Hook** (*Peaky Blinders*, BBC; *The Milkman's on His Way*) will take on the lead role of the wayward and conflicted George 'Punchy' Armstrong. As he attempts to overcome the crimes of his young adulthood in post-war London, Punchy's path to transformation is witnessed by the alarming appearance of his Ego and Soul and their struggle to influence his decisions. Punchy's Ego will be played by **Jaymes Sygrove** (*Blithe Spirit*, Studio Canal; Alan Menken's *A Christmas Carol*) whilst his Soul will be brought to life by **Peter Parker Mensah** (*The Informer Citadel*, Amazon; *Bolan's Shoes*).

Conceived by *Sylvia Anderson* Award-winning composer **Jack Terroni**, with production consultancy provided by **Joan Lane** (*The King's Speech*), the soundtrack is produced by triple platinum-selling producer/composer **Steve Brown** (*Laura Mvula/Magic Goes Wrong*). Playwright **Kevin McMahon** has adapted *Punchy!* from **Richard Barrett's** thought-provoking work *What My Soul Told Me*.

They will be joined by **Lucy Penrose** (*Judy!*, West End) as Edith Jameson, **Amy Mitchell** as Doreen Lofthouse, **Fiona Kelly** as Olive Jameson, **Phillip Gill** as Manny Cohen, **Robert Allen** as James Armstrong/Mickey Flynn and **Richie Brett** as Frankie Brown.

Blending a contemporary mix of soul, indie rock and pop songs, Jack Terroni's soundtrack is played by an onstage band. This eclectic soundscape sets the tone for the curious characters of Soul and Ego to play with the very fabric of time, in the heart of an ordinary working-class London community.

Terroni drew upon stories from his mother's childhood in 1950s Islington, telling the tales of everyday people, and one particular 'lost soul': the inspiration for the character Punchy lived in his mother's building.

Composer Jack Terroni commented, *I didn't set out to write a musical as I've always been put off by the thought of jazz hands and glitter! If I was writing one, it had to rip up the rulebook! Punchy! was inspired by the real story of my mother's working-class childhood in 1950s Islington. I was moved at how a young man with mental health challenges left home one day never to be seen again. Punchy! imagines what could have been if he followed the voice of his Soul and asks you to be courageous enough to do the same.*

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Punchy! The Musical</i>
Dates	Tuesday 2 nd November – Sunday 21 st November 2021, 7pm (doors open at 6.15pm).
Running Time	90 minutes
Location	Courtyard Theatre, Bowling Green Walk, 40 Pitfield Street, London N1 6EY.
Box Office	Tickets are priced at £22.20 (£18.70 Early Bird tickets available now) via https://www.punchythemusical.com/ VIP Tables of 4 People are available for £133 per table. This includes a complimentary bottle of prosecco and a chance to meet the cast.
How to get there	The nearest underground station is Old Street (on the Northern Line). The theatre is a 10-minute walk from Shoreditch High Street and Hoxton (East London Line), and a 15-minute walk from Liverpool Street (Central,

Circle, Metropolitan and Hammersmith & City Lines). The nearest bus stop is at Old Street.

Director	Tiffany King
Writer	Kevin McMahon
Composer/Producer	Jack Terroni
Production Consultant	Joan Lane
Soundtrack Producer	Steve Brown
Source Material	Richard Barrett

Cast

George 'Punchy' Armstrong	Robert Hook
Ego	Jaymes Sygrove
Soul	Peter Parker Mensah
Edith Jameson	Lucy Penrose
Doreen Lofthouse	Amy Mitchell
Olive Jameson	Fiona Kelly
Manny Cohen	Phillip Gill
James Armstrong/Mickey Flynn	Robert Allen
Frankie Brown	Richie Brett

Live Band

Lead Vocalist, Piano, Guitar	Jack Terroni
Drums	Tony Louis Fernand
Bass	Marco Marzola
Saxophone	Ben Hadwen
Guitar	Iuri Bianchi
Backing Vocals	Charlene McTaggart

Social Media	@punchythemusical
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Age Guidance	Parental advisory for coarse language and physical violence.
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All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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