

# Final casting confirmed for Victor/Victoria

As rehearsals start today, final casting is confirmed for the major London production of the Broadway musical comedy, **Victor/Victoria**. Directed by Thom Southerland and produced by Danielle Tarento, it will run for an 8-week season in The Vault at Southwark Playhouse, from Thursday October 25 - Saturday December 15. Press night is Thursday 1 November at 7.30pm.

Joining the previously announced Anna Francolini in the twin lead roles of Victoria Grant and Count Victor Grazinski are: Michael Cotton, Mark Curry, Matthew Cutts (King Marchand), Richard Dempsey (Toddy), Dafydd Gwyn Howells, Luke Johnson, Natalie Kent, Ashley Knight, Amira Matthews, Kate Nelson, Matthew Pennington, Jean Perkins, Kayleigh Ross, Nick Stuart.

Based on the 1982 Julie Andrews/Blake Edwards Hollywood movie, **Victor/Victoria** has a book by Blake Edwards, music by Henry Mancini, lyrics by Leslie Bricusse and additional musical material (music and lyrics) by Frank Wildhorn. Julie Andrews, Liza Minnelli and Raquel Welch all starred as Victor/Victoria on Broadway, where the show ran for more than 700 performances.

**Victor/Victoria** is set in Paris in the 1930s. Victoria, a penniless, starving British soprano with an amazing vocal range, is rescued by Toddy, a performer at night club Chez Lui, who comes up with the crazy idea to disguise her as a man called Count Victor Grazinski and become the toast of Gay Paree as the world's greatest female impersonator... But things get complicated when King Marchand, an American mobster from Chicago and very straight, sees the celebrated act and finds himself strangely attracted to Victor.

The venue's seating is being configured with cabaret-style tables placed near the stage. The price of these reserved cabaret seats will include a glass of champagne, and people sitting there will really feel part of the action in the night club Chez Lui where the show is set.

**Victor/Victoria** is not Anna Francolini's first time on stage cross-dressing in a musical. In *The Ballad of Little Jo*, she starred in the title role as Jo Monaghan, a young woman who lived as a man in the silver mines of Idaho in the 1890s. Anna's other stage credits include two acclaimed Stephen Sondheim productions at the Donmar Warehouse - Marta in Sam Mendes' production of *Company* in 1995 and Gussie in Michael Grandage's production of *Merrily We Roll Along* in 2000. She played the Baker's Wife in the Royal Opera House production of Sondheim's *Into the Woods* in 2007. She won the 2009 TMA Award for Best Performance in a Play with her portrayal of Jean Brodie in Muriel Spark's *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* at the Royal & Derngate in Northampton. In 2010, she starred as Maria Callas in Martin Sherman's West End play *Onassis*. She appeared in Mike Leigh's film, *Topsy-Turvy* and the TV mini-series *Rome*.

Director Thom Southerland was longlisted Best Newcomer in the 2011 Evening Standard Awards for *Parade*. He was named Best Director at the 2011 The Offies - Off West End Theatre Awards - for *Me and Juliet* at the Finborough. He directed the European premiere of *I Sing!*, *Divorce Me, Darling!*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *The Pajama Game* and sold-out all-male adaptations of Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore* and *The Mikado* (Union); *Noel and Gertie* (Cockpit), the European premiere of *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* (Landor), Irving Berlin's *Call Me Madam!* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse) and the European premiere of *State Fair* (Finborough and transfer to Trafalgar Studios).

**Victor/Victoria** is produced by Danielle Tarento (winner Best Producer at the 2012 Offies). She also produced *Mack & Mabel*, *Parade* and *Company* at Southwark Playhouse; *The Pitchfork Disney* (Arcola Theatre), *Burlesque* (Jermyn Street), and *Noel and Gertie* (Cockpit). She is co-founder of the Menier Chocolate Factory and co-produced all in-house shows 2004-2006, including *Sunday In The Park With George*, which received a West End transfer and 5 Olivier awards. She is currently co-producing *Taboo* at Brixton Club House.

## THE CREATIVE TEAM

### **Victor/Victoria**

Book by BLAKE EDWARDS

Music by HENRY MANCINI

Lyrics by LESLIE BRICUSSE

Presented by arrangement with Tams-Witmark Music Library Inc, New York

Director THOM SOUTHERLAND

Choreographer LEE PROUD

Musical Director JOE ATKINS

Set and Costume Designer MARTIN THOMAS

Lighting Designer HOWARD HUDSON

Sound Designer ANDREW JOHNSON

Producer and Casting Director DANIELLE TARENTO

**Press contact at KWPR: Kevin Wilson (07884 368697)**

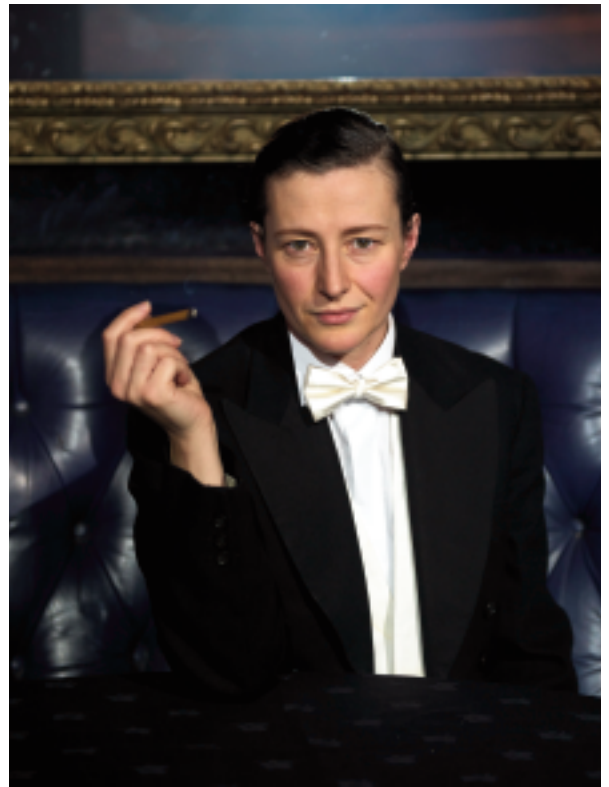
kevinwils★n  
public relations

49 Western Lane London SW12 8JS

T: 020 8673 0658 M: 07884 368697

E: kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com

www.kevinwilsonpublicrelations.co.uk



## LISTINGS INFO

### **Victor/Victoria**

#### **Southwark Playhouse**

The Vault  
Shipwright Yard  
(Corner of Tooley St. and  
Bermondsey St)  
LONDON SE1 2TF

Box Office: 020 7407 0234  
[www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk)

Nearest Rail/Tube: London Bridge  
Northern line/Jubilee line

#### **Thursday October 25 – Saturday December 15**

Monday - Saturday at 7.30pm  
Saturday matinee at 3.00pm

Press night: Thursday  
1 November at 7.30pm

Tickets: £10.00 £16.50 £22.50  
airline style pricing, the earlier you book,  
the cheaper the tickets

£27.50 tickets for reserved seats on cabaret  
tables close to stage (the price includes a  
glass of champagne)

