

Ramin Karimloo joins The West End Men

Ramin Karimloo, award-winning star of *The Phantom of the Opera*, its sequel *Love Never Dies* and *Les Miserables*, is to join Lee Mead and Stephen Rahman-Hughes for their next concerts as **The West End Men**.

Ramin, who was recently voted Favourite West End Leading Man in a poll by the Whatsonstage website - he also won a 2011 Whatsonstage.com Award for *Love Never Dies* - is one of the biggest stars in Musical Theatre.

He replaces Matt Rawle, who has been cast in the new West End production of *Cabaret*, in the line-up.

The West End Men, who have starred in some of the West End's biggest and most successful musicals in recent years, come together with live musicians and a full choir, in a sharp and sexy musical theatre concert driven by astonishing voices and formidable musicianship, directed by Mitch Sebastian.

The West End Men have been handpicked from the heart of the West End, and are among the finest performers of their generation. Charismatic and fiercely talented, they deliver a selection of signature numbers from some of their most famous roles together with a smorgasbord of some of the best known show tunes.

Iranian-born Canadian actor and singer **Ramin Karimloo** made his West End debut in *Les Miserables* playing Feuilly and he understudied the roles of Marius and Enjolras. In 2003 he took one of the lead roles, Raoul, in *The Phantom of the Opera*. In June 2005, Karimloo joined the UK national tour of *Miss Saigon*, playing Chris. In 2007 he appeared in the West End production of *The Phantom of the Opera*, this time as the show's 21st anniversary Phantom. He brought a new interpretation to the role and a vitality which was recognised by fans of the show as it earned him the Whatsonstage Theatregoers' Choice Award Nomination for Best Actor in a Take Over Role. He moved on to playing the Phantom in Andrew Lloyd Webber's sequel, *Love Never Dies*, performing the role until the show closed on August 27, 2011. That October, he played The Phantom for three performances alongside his *Love Never Dies* co-star Sierra Boggess as Christine Daaé in the 25th anniversary production of *The Phantom of the Opera* at the Royal Albert Hall and was streamed live to cinemas across the globe.

Lee Mead was already a successful West End performer when he won *Any Dream Will Do*, the BBC's search for a lead for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. His acclaimed leading performance that followed this created an enormous following, which he has consolidated in such roles as Fiyero in *Wicked* and Emmett in *Legally Blonde* - together with solo concert tours and album releases.

Stephen Rahman-Hughes trained initially as a dancer at Rambert, before discovering his voice and landing a leading role in *West Side Story*. He went on to play the lead in the Andrew Lloyd Webber produced musical *Bombay Dreams* amongst many other roles, which led to him being selected as a founder member of Sony BMG's group Teatro.

The West End Men is brought to the stage by renowned director Mitch Sebastian, recently described by Time Out as being "the future of British Musical Theatre". Mitch has received acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic for a body of work that includes the phenomenally successful and Olivier Award-nominated *The Rat Pack Live from Las Vegas*, which has enjoyed numerous runs in the West End and across the world, including North America.

The Musical Director is David White

The West End Men is produced by Milton Morrissey Ltd & Jason Haigh-Ellery

www.thewestendmen.com

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



THE WEST END MEN Tour Dates

Wednesday 14 November

GLASGOW

Royal Concert Hall

at 7.45pm

Tuesday 20 November

GATESHEAD

The Sage

at 7.45pm

Friday 23 November

LEICESTER

De Montfort Hall

at 7.45pm