

LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL

OPENING IN LONDON'S WEST END DECEMBER 2009

SHERIDAN SMITH AND DUNCAN JAMES

TO PLAY COLLEGE SWEETHEART ELLE WOODS AND HEARTBREAKER WARNER

Sheridan Smith is to lead the cast as college sweetheart Elle Woods in Jerry Mitchell's *Legally Blonde The Musical* which will preview in the West End from this December. Tickets for *Legally Blonde The Musical*, which has its press night at the Savoy Theatre on 12 January 2010, go on sale to the public today. Sheridan is joined by **Duncan James** who will play heartbreaker Warner and **Alex Gaumond** as Emmett, Elle's love interest. Previews are from 5 December 2009 and the show is currently booking until 23 May 2010. *Legally Blonde The Musical* is produced in the West End by Sonia Friedman Productions, Robert G Bartner, Ambassador Theatre Group and ACT Productions. Further casting for this production will be announced shortly.

Directed and choreographed by Tony Award-winning Jerry Mitchell *Legally Blonde the Musical* has music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin, book by Heather Hach, set design by David Rockwell, costume design by Gregg Barnes, lighting design by Kenneth Posner and Paul Miller, sound design by ACME Sound Partners and orchestrations by Christopher Jahnke.

College sweetheart and homecoming queen Elle Woods doesn't take no for an answer. So when her boyfriend dumps her for someone serious, Elle puts down the credit card, hits the books, and heads for Harvard Law! Along the way, Elle proves that being true to yourself never goes out of style.

In its first year on Broadway *Legally Blonde The Musical* earned seven Tony nominations and ten Drama Desk Award nominations as well as winning an Outer Critics' Circle Award. The Broadway production of *Legally Blonde The Musical* concluded its run in October 2008 and is currently packing out houses across America in its hugely successful two year tour with international dates in Japan and Canada soon to be announced. In 2001 Amanda Brown's novel *Legally Blonde* was made into a film starring Reese Witherspoon, produced by MGM and directed by Robert Luketic.

Sheridan Smith is best known for many award-winning television roles which include eight series of *Two Pints of Lager & A Packet of Crisps*, two series of *Grown Ups* which was written specifically for her, two series of *Love Soup* and four episodes of *Benidorm*. She played Emma in the multi award-winning *The Royle Family* and played a guest lead in *Gavin and Stacey*. Her other television credits include *Blood Strangers*, *Doctors*, *Fat Friends* and *The Comic Strip Presents Sex Actually* as well as *Lark Rise to Candleford* and *Jonathan Creek*. Sheridan made her West End debut as Tallulah in the National Youth Music Theatre production of *Bugsy Malone*. Since then she has appeared in *Into the Woods* at the Donmar Warehouse, *Ancient Lights* for Hampstead Theatre, *The People are Friendly* for the Royal Court and *Tinderbox* at The Bush Theatre. Sheridan made her Shakespearian debut at Regents Park Open Air Theatre in 2006 playing Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Bianca in *The Taming of the Shrew*. She also played the lead role of Audrey in the Menier Chocolate Factory's production of *Little Shop of Horrors* which later transferred to the West End. As well as recording many radio plays, Sheridan played Lucie Miller, the Doctor's Assistant, in the radio version of *Dr Who*.

As an original member of the chart-topping band *Blue*, Duncan James achieved 40 number one singles worldwide. In 2007 he was a finalist in ITV's *Dancing on Ice* and later that year he joined

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the West End cast of *Chicago* to play Billy Flynn. He is a regular presenter on radio and TV including his own show on *Capital FM*, *Party in the Park*, *Soapstar Superstar* (ITV2), *T4 Movie Special: Spiderman II*, *Record of the Year* and GMTV's *Entertainment Today*. He has most recently appeared as himself in Channel 4's *Comedy Showcase: Plus One* and made a special appearance in *The Bill* in January playing the role of Dan Colman. He has also recently been announced as the new host of Sky1's *Summer School Musical*.

Alex Gaumont is currently appearing as Galileo in the No. 1 UK Tour of *We Will Rock You*. His many other musical theatre credits include *Desperately Seeking Susan* at the Novello Theatre, the No.1 UK Tour of the Donmar Warehouse production of *Guys and Dolls*, *Sunday in the Park with George* at Wyndham's Theatre, *The Full Monty* at the Prince of Wales Theatre and UK tour, *Kiss Me Kate* for the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, *Miss Saigon* on tour world wide, *Something About You* at Jermyn Street Theatre. His many recordings include *Scrooge* and the *Sondheim Tonight* Gala Concert.

Jerry Mitchell, who directed and choreographed the Broadway production of *Legally Blonde The Musical*, began his career as associate choreographer to Michael Bennett on *Scandal* and Jerome Robbins on *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*. Since that time his many Broadway choreography credits include the revivals of *The Rocky Horror Show* and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* as well as *Gypsy* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Mitchell conceives, directs and choreographs *Broadway Bares*, a comedy burlesque performed annually for the charity Broadway Cares. As well as numerous nominations, he won the Tony and Drama Desk Awards for his work on *La Cage aux Folles* and worked with Ann Miller on the critically acclaimed *Follies*. Jerry Mitchell's choreography can currently be seen in London in *Hairspray* at the Shaftesbury Theatre. His film credits include *In and Out*, *Drop Dead Gorgeous* and *Scent of a Woman*.

Christmas Schedule

Monday 21 December 7.30pm

Tuesday 22 December 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Wednesday 23 December 7.30pm

Thursday 24 December 2.30pm

Friday 25 December no performance

Saturday 26 December 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Sunday 27 December no performance

Monday 28 December 7.30pm

Tuesday 29 December 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Wednesday 30 December 7.30pm

Thursday 31 December 2.30pm

Friday 1 January 7.30pm

Saturday 2 January 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Sunday 3 December no performance

Listings Information

Legally Blonde The Musical

Address:

Savoy Theatre, Strand, London WC2R 0ET

Dates:

previews from 5 December 2009

Press night 12 January 2010

Currently booking until 23 May 2010

Performances:

Monday – Saturday at 7.30pm

Tuesdays and Saturdays at 2.30pm

NB there will be no matinees on 8 and 15 December

Box Office:

0870 164 8787

Ticket prices:

previews £20 - £40 excluding Saturdays, then £20 - £62.50

Website:

www.legallyblondethemusical.co.uk

For further press information on *Legally Blonde The Musical* –
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