

A cup of tea with...

Jill Halfpenny

You're starring in another musical in the West End — are you a big fan of them?

Absolutely! Especially as other people seem to think that they're something I'm quite good at. But with *Legally Blonde*, I get to play a completely different character to ones I've done before — she's ditzy, zany but a complete sweetheart, with some lovely songs, too.

Who would you most like to have a cup of tea with?

Spike Milligan. I played his wife in a play a couple of years ago, and was just fascinated by him as I started to learn more about him. I'm sad that I never got to actually meet him.

Who is your biggest inspiration?

Judy Garland was pretty amazing. She could do everything: dance, sing, act... without breaking a sweat. Yes, she had a terrible life off screen, but she never let that affect her on screen. I remember being a very young girl and watching her films in awe.



Judy Garland inspired Jill to become an entertainer

You've starred in both *Coronation Street* and *EastEnders* — are you a big fan of soap operas as well?

Everybody loves watching soaps, so how can you go wrong being in one? As an actor, there's so much going on that you get to do the full range of emotions in a very short amount of time. Plus they're a lot of fun to be

in, with so many great people around you.

What makes you happiest?

Making a success of something I do — be it acting, or singing and dancing every night. Oh, and my family, of course.

● Jill Halfpenny is in *Legally Blonde: The Musical* at London's Savoy Theatre. For tickets, call 0844 871 7687.