OPERATION MINCEMEAT - A NEW MUSICAL GETS FIRST WEST END RUN

8 WEEKS ONLY, PREVIEWS FROM 29TH MARCH 2023

"a dazzling series of gender-switching roles…a Beyoncé-esque assertion of female power…excellent performers… There are some big, blowsy shows around in the West End, but this little belter is staging its own audacious invasion plan" ★★★★★
Suzi Feay, Financial Times

"a miraculous musical that tells the entire story in a kind of accelerated farce that is part Mel Brooks, part SIX, part Hamilton with a side order of One Man, Two Guvnors." ★★★★★
Neil Norman, The Daily Mirror

"the stage show's comic power rests in its ability to subvert expectation and provide a revisionist commentary on the establishment figures"
Emma John, The Observer

"a buzz louder than a doodlebug surrounds Operation Mincemeat...a kind of genius declares itself"
Dominic Cavendish, The Daily Telegraph

"this is the musical you didn't know you needed…a little show with a very big future."
David Benedict, Variety

18th November 2022 – After sold-out development runs at the New Diorama Theatre in 2019 and Southwark Playhouse in 2020, 2021 & 2022, plus an extended Riverside Studios run this summer, *Operation Mincemeat* transfers to the West End's Fortune Theatre for previews (SpitLip never rest on their laurels) starting on the 29th March, followed by an 8-week run beginning on the 9th May 2023. *Operation Mincemeat* will be following thirty-three hugely successful years of *The Woman In Black* at the Fortune Theatre.

Tickets are on General Sale now from the Official Box Office at OperationMincemeat.com. Priority access to the best seats is available via the official mailing list.

Press nights on Tuesday 9th and 10th May. Places are limited. Please get in touch if you would like to attend.

The year is 1943 and we're losing the war. Luckily, we're about to gamble all our futures on a stolen corpse.

Singin' in the Rain meets *Strangers on a Train*, Noel Coward meets Noel Fielding, *Operation Mincemeat* is the fast-paced, hilarious and unbelievable true story of the twisted secret mission that won us World War II. The question is, how did a well-dressed corpse wrong-foot Hitler?

Operation Mincemeat won The Stage Debut award for Best Composer/Lyricist, the Off-West End award for Best Company Ensemble and was listed in the Observer's Top 10 shows of the year. The show is currently featured in the V&A's *Re:Imagining Musicals* display, exploring how musicals have continuously reimagined, reinvented and reinterpreted themselves over time.

SpitLip said: *"We're overjoyed, overwhelmed, overtired, and cannot believe we're bringing our show to the West End, where it will definitely run for at least 33 years"*

Jon Thoday for Avalon said: *"We're very pleased to have supported the show to date and delighted to be chosen by SpitLip to help bring such a funny, moving and brilliant show to a wider audience".*

The show was commissioned by New Diorama Theatre, co-commissioned by The Lowry, and supported by the Rhinebeck Writers Retreat with additional support from Avalon.

Operation Mincemeat is presented in the West End by Avalon in association with SpitLip.

For press enquiries and further information please contact **Victoria Wedderburn** on **07557160139** or VWedderburn@avalonuk.com and **Jasmine Ruparelia** on JRuparelia@avalonuk.com

More praise for *Operation Mincemeat:*

"actors hurl themselves into the frenetic fray, multitasking with little more than a few strings of telephone wire and some clever lyrics…Amid many breathless japes there is a beautiful song about lost love, Dear Bill." ★★★★
Quentin Letts, The Sunday Times

"A dazzling musical masterpiece... Ingenious, inventive, a brilliant role-swapping cast, great songs, and the true story of a macabre MI5 plot against the Nazis. What more do you want...this ceaselessly inventive musical scarcely puts a foot wrong: get booking, on the double" ★★★★
Sam Marlowe, The i

*"as daring as it is **comic**... a staggeringly high-energy explosion... It has all the subtlety of an M4 Sherman tank crashing its way from one sketch to the next – and is all the better for it... a totally brilliant musical... funnier than Hamilton… exceptional."* ★★★★
Isobel Lewis, The Independent

"But whoof! It blew the roof clean off. Hoots and tears welcomed this ingenious, touching musical. Taut lyrics, vintage gags, a wild tale and tunes that followed me out into the night air, in hums and whistles. Perfection… An artisanal masterpiece" ★★★★★
Luke Jones, The Daily Mail

"A masterclass of macabre musical comedy, masterfully performed." ★★★★★
Tim Bano, The Stage

"Madcap and utterly marvellous...This taut and tiny production roars in the face of bloated West End blockbusters. An Absolute triumph." ★★★★★
Stefan Kyriazis, The Sunday Express

"A finely varied score, and lyrics that shame most big musicals." ★★★★
Susannah Clapp, The Observer

"Few theatrical success stories have been more heartening than the rise and rise of this quirky musical… a snappy production… high comedy mixed with some genuinely touching moments"
Hugh Montgomery, Metro

"Right now, it's Operation Mincemeat that has people talking. With a huge number of 5 reviews the fast-paced, hilarious production centres around the most bizarre true story you've ever heard."*
Daniella Scott, Cosmopolitan

"surprising depths... deliciously rackety…takes you by surprise at every turn, with many clever ideas that come off"
Nick Curtis, The Evening Standard

“less a ripping yarn than one entirely torn to shreds.” ★★★★
Holly Williams, Time Out

“an absolute must-see” ★★★★★
Chris Selman, Gay Times

“SpitLip could go stratospheric. Operation Mincemeat has proved to be one of the most exciting musical theatre debuts in decades."
The Stage

“currently killing it at Southwark Playhouse”
Lyn Gardner, Stagedoor

“Move over Hamilton and Six. There's a new historical musical in town and it's creating ripples...the West End needs to take notice ASAP.” ★★★★★
Cindy Marcolina, Broadway World

“This production has a heart of gold. West End impresarios should check it out immediately.”
Lloyd Evans, The Spectator

★★★★★
Neil Norman, Daily Express

★★★★★
Stefan Kyriazis, The Sunday Mirror

“Glows with theatrical invention and delivers laughs by the gallon. Unmissable.” ★★★★★
Alex Wood, WhatsOnStage

“musical theatre heaven” ★★★★★
Craig Glenday, Musical Theatre Review

“Showcases the utterly bonkers plot in the most fantastical way… cannot recommend it enough – perfectly cast… beyond doubt one of the most brilliant, funny, captivating shows with proper laugh-out-loud moments… you won’t be disappointed”
Zara Janjua, The Sun

“moving at breathless speed, the five performers take on a dazzling series of gender-switching roles… a Beyoncé-esque assertion of female power...excellent performers… There are some big, blowsy shows around in the West End, but this little belter is staging its own audacious invasion plan” ★★★★★
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<u>Notes To Editors</u>

OPERATION MINCEMEAT

Written and composed by SpitLip.

SpitLip are David Cumming, Felix Hagan, Natasha Hodgson and Zoe Roberts.

SpitLip were included in The Stage’s *25: Theatremakers to watch out for in 2022 and beyond* list.

Directed by Rob Hastie. Choreography by Jenny Arnold. Musical Director Joe Bunker. Set and costume design by Ben Stones. Lighting design by Mark Henderson. Sound design by Mike Walker. Orchestrator & Musical Supervisor Stephen Sidwell. Produced by Jon Thoday for Avalon.

Listings Information

Official Box Office
www.OperationMincemeat.com

Venue
Fortune Theatre
Russell Street
London
WC2B 5HH

Nearest Tube: Covent Garden (Piccadilly Line)

Performances
OPERATION MINCEMEAT
Previews from 29th March
9th /10th May (press nights) – 8th July
Monday to Wednesdays at 7.30pm
Thursday to Saturdays at 8pm
Tuesday and Saturday Matinees at 3pm

See venue website for full schedule.

Ticket Prices
£19.50-£79.50

Group rate available for every show - please visit website for further details.

Keep up to date on social media
Twitter/ Instagram: @MincemeatLive @spitlip #OperationMincemeat #GodThatsBrilliant @FortuneTheatre1