

For Immediate Release

"FROM A JACK TO A KING" BY BOB CARLTON MACBETH, MUSOS AND ROCK AND ROLL!

Singapore, 26th February 2010 - In the Theatre world they are nicknamed "Musos". The theatrical definition of which is an actor or actress who, not only acts in plays but sings in musicals as well and, most importantly, is talented enough to play three, four, even five instruments to professional-band level.

All nine members of the cast of the British Theatre Playhouse's latest production are true "Musos" and show-off their exceptional talents in the British Theatre Playhouse's production of the Rock 'n Roll musical "From a Jack to a King" which opens at Raffles Hotel, Jubilee Hall Theatre on Wednesday 5th May 2010 with a Charity Gala Dinner-Theatre in aid of KK Hospital Health Endowment Fund to the benefit of needy women with cancer and chronic illnesses; the guests of honour are the Minister of Education, Dr Ng Eng Heng and Mrs Ivy Ng. The production will continue to run until Sunday 9th May 2010 before it tours to Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City and Bangkok.

A musical combining the work of William Shakespeare (circa 1606) with the adaptation by Bob Carlton (circa 1992) the plot bears a passing resemblance to Shakespeare's "Macbeth" and, indeed, audiences will recognise familiar lines from many other of the Bard's most famous plays. Olivier Award winning British director and writer Bob Carlton ("Return to the Forbidden Planet") has not lost his power to surprise and does it again in "From a Jack to a King". He has taken "Macbeth" and transposed it to 1960's Soho, London. "Macbeth" becomes aspiring Rock and Roll star Eric Glamis, "Lady Macbeth" is now Queenie (a pretty good belter of songs herself) and the King, "Duncan", is the King of Rock and Roll, Terry King, who can still shake his hips with the best of them ... until ... murder most foul and Eric's ambition is to blame!

Fans of 1950's/60s Rock n' Roll will have a ball! The hits come thick and fast featuring some of the biggest songs including "Blue Suede Shoes"; "Downtown"; "Go Johnny Go"; "The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Anymore"; "Leader of the Pack"; "Jailhouse Rock" and "Terry" and these are just some of the 21 songs in the show.

The cast act all the lines, sing all the songs and play all the instruments in this edgy and thrilling Rock and Roll musical with a tale of passion.



Steve Simmonds will play Terry King. His extensive theatre credits include Norman Petty and Band Leader in *The Buddy Holly Story* (UK No. 1 Tour) Antonio in *Twelfth Night*; The Servant of Two Masters; From a

Jack to a King; *A Slice of Saturday Night*; *Gaslight* and *Bouncers* at The Queens Theatre Hornchurch) and *Mack and Mable* at the Criterion Theatre West End. Steve also played *Stitch* in *OLIVER!* directed by Sam Mendes at the London Palladium. In television, he played Kevin in BBC's *Love Soup*. An accomplished musician, Steve plays over 8 instruments including guitar, double bass, cornet, trumpet, saxophone, drums, keyboards and banjo.



Grant Dinwoodie stars as the ambitious "Eric Glamis". Grant is lead singer with Scottish Rock and Blues band *The Yah Yahs* and plays no less than six instruments including guitar, accordion, piano, and harmonica.



Peter Helmer will play "Joe MacDuff". A support musician with bands like *Duran Duran*, *The Jam*, *The Piranhas* and *The Damned*, Peter now has his own indie band *Reilly Peacock* and has recently release the

album "Introducing a Wonder of the Age". In 'straight' theatre work he appeared in Jonathan Kent's production of *Hamlet* both on Broadway and at London's celebrated Almeida Theatre. In television, he appeared in *Judge John Deed* on BBC as a character called *Day Cat Killick*.



Ally Holmes is the seductive "Queenie" and is no stranger to Bob Carlton's work having appeared in two productions of "Return to the Forbidden Planet" as well as starring in the musicals "Grease";

"Godspell" and "Red Hot and Fosse" and she originated the role of "Sharon" in the UK national tour of "Boogie Nights 2".



Directing this feast of Rock and Roll is **Matt Devitt** (Olivier Award nominee for *Most Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Musical* – in the original West End production of "Return to the Forbidden

Planet"). Matt will also play the unscrupulous impresario "Duke Box". He is Associate Director at the Queens Theatre Hornchurch (birthplace of "From a Jack to a King") and has directed over 50 productions there.



Maria Lawson plays "Laura" and has just finished appearing in the West End production of *Avenue Q* at the Gielgud Theatre, London and she toured the UK, Sweden and Portugal in *Miss Saigon*. Her

television work includes "Love Soup" for the BBC and the role of "Miko" in David Tuck's "London Calling".

The best way to sum-up this, funny, irreverent, musical blast of a show is to quote a press review from the original production:-

"Calling *From a Jack to a King* a musical doesn't really do it enough justice. It's more like a rock concert with a plot".

Tickets are now on sale through SISTIC. To book, call SISTIC hotline 63485555 or book online www.sistic.com.sg or through SISTIC agents island wide.

The cast will be flown in by British Airways.

For further information, please contact:

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