



Mayhem Theatre Company



Tuesday 26th October – Saturday 2nd November 2024
Arthur Cotterell Theatre, Kingston

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director/Producer: Jon Haines

Choreographer: Lauren Price

Musical Director: Ash Harvey

Assistant Director: Grace Iglesias-Fernandez

Assistant Producer: Marc Fusil

Company Manager: Ema-Mae West

Lighting Designer: Ben Sassoon

Sound Designer: Henry Whittaker

Technical Consultants: Mark Steward & Jon Kingsley

Council Rep: Matt Bentley



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About the show

It's the late 1980's, California; an era of big characters, short skirts and screaming guitars where, "if you had a dream, a fifth of Jack and a decent amount of hair, there was nowhere else to be". Sherrie, a small town girl, heads to the bright lights of LA to pursue her dreams of acting stardom. She meets Drew, a bartender at the Bourbon Room, a bar on the Sunset Strip, who has dreams to be a rock star.

German Developers Hertz and Franz Klineman have also come to LA, with the idea of bulldozing the Strip (including the Bourbon Room) to make way for a new shopping mall, much to the disgust of Dennis (the Bourbon's owner) and Lonny (the resident sound engineer and narrator of the show). The Klinemans encounter the resistance of Regina (the Mayor's former planning officer) who wants the strip to retain its hedonistic lifestyle.

Add Stacey Jaxx, lead singer (and lead misogynist) of the band Arsenal, and Justice Charlier, owner of the "Venus" 'gentleman's' club to the mix, along with a collection of rockers, strippers and lovers of LA nightlife and you have the recipe for a love story gone wrong all set to a soundtrack of some of the best known rock songs from the era. Will the Bourbon survive its European invasion? Will Sherrie and Drew get together or will Stacey kill off love's young dream? Only the music of bands Styx, Journey, Bon Jovi, Whitesnake and more hold the answer...

Rock of Ages is unashamedly a rock show, and we're very much sticking to that. Expect big vocals, larger than life stage performances, and huge dance routines. Add to that soloists whipping handheld mics out of their pockets, plenty of fourth wall breaking, and the flashing lights, and you'll get somewhere close to the spectacle we'll be bringing to the ACT theatre. With a quippy script and a score that will transport you back (if you're old enough) to the 80s, we're looking to breathe life into these characters, balancing the funny, absurd and tender moments.

This really is a rock show on a scale not yet seen before by the amdram scenes of South West London. If you're up for a good time, read on!



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Production Team

Jon Haines (Director/Producer)

Although often found backstage calling various shows (most recently *Little Mermaid* with Centre Stage, *Fame* with Cygnets, and Mayhem's *Anything Goes*) as part of the Stage Management Team, Jon is no stranger to the Creative Team himself. He directed *Bring It On* with Centre Stage in 2019, produced *Just So* with Sedos in January, and has Directed/Produced *Our House*, *Thirteen*, and *Little Shop of Horrors* at the school in which he teaches, alongside writing, directing and MDing (and - arguably - 'choreographing') three large scale staff pantomimes. Jon is thrilled to be returning to Mayhem, having performed in *Legally Blonde* a few years back. *Rock of Ages* combines some of his favourite things about Musical Theatre: big voices, fun technical elements, and - above all - an ethos of zany, irreverent fun.

Lauren Price (Choreographer)

Lauren has been dancing since she was 2 years old, having grown up doing Jazz, Ballet, Tap and Musical Theatre. She started working as a choreographer at 16 locally in North Wales and continued to do so through her training at Liberatus School of Performing Arts. You may have most recently seen snippets of Lauren's choreography in the Geoids production of *Spring Awakening*. Other Choreography credits include: *Chicago*, *Grease & Honk!*. Lauren absolutely loves teaching dance and her favourite narrative is to turn those 'I am not a dancer' theatre types into confident dancers! She is excited to embark on this *Rock of Ages* journey in what she hopes is going to be FULL OUT FUN!

Ash Harvey (Musical Director)

Ash trained as a classical pianist in Manchester before graduating with first class honours in Natural Sciences at University College London. She returned to music to pursue a career as a Musical Director. Highlights include *The Last Five Years* (Electric Theatre), *West Side Story* (Michael Frayne Theatre), *Life Could Be A Dream* (UK Premiere), *Wizard of Oz* (Cockpit Theatre), *Mess* (Ed Fringe), *Urinetown* (Cockpit Theatre), *Luck Be A Lady* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse), *Kinky Boots* (London Oratory Theatre), *Big Fish* (Putney Arts Theatre), *Yeast Nation* (Southwark Playhouse), *Young Frankenstein* (Arthur Cotterell Theatre), *The First Years* (New Musical) and *Fame* (London Oratory Theatre). Ash has starred in the live final of the Iranian X-Factor, performed with Mexican "The Voice" star Morganna Love, and in cabarets across London including The Sing Easy West End. She can't wait to get started on this rock adventure!



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Grace Iglesias-Fernandez (Assistant Director)

Grace has been a part of Mayhem since 2012, when she joined for *Company* as April. Since then she has performed in a number of Mayhem shows including: *Zanna Don't!*, *The Producers*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Legally Blonde* and *2 Songs Under the Summer Sun* cabarets, as well as shows with other London groups including: *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Centre Stage), *Hairspray* (Cygnet Players), *On the 20th Century* (Geoids), *2x 48-hour Pantos* (Geoids), *My Fair Lady* (Geoids) & *Top Hat* (Geoids). In 2018, she co-directed *The Pajama Game* with Geoids, which won NODA awards for Best Ensemble and a Flame award. In 2022, she directed Mayhem's production of *9 to 5* at the Arthur Cotterell Theatre and in 2023 directed Mayhem's *Anything Goes*. Grace's background is in Music, as she received a Music degree from Cardiff University in 2011. A lover of hair metal and everything 80s rock, she cannot wait to get started on this show!

Marc Fusil (Assistant Producer)

Marc began his backstage career at school, working on various shows including *Les Miserables* and *Wizard of Oz*. From there, he went on to pursue qualifications in Lighting Design and Theatre Management, as well as gaining work experience on the West End's *Hamilton*. Post-college, he continued his work in the wings as stagehand for Mayhem's *Songs Under the Summer Sun* and *Merry Wives of Windsor* in 2022, going on to join the Mayhem committee and work as the Company Stage Manager in Mayhem's *9 to 5* at the ACT Theatre later that year. Marc's experience also includes Deputy Stage Managing for Quay Players with their annual pantomimes, *Little Red* (2022) and *Robin Hood* (2023).

Ema-Mae West (Company Manager)

Ema-Mae began her Theatre career at the age of 5; playing Jemima Potts in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. Credits include: Penny in *Rod & A Touch of Tina* (NI Tour), Inga in *Young Frankenstein*, and Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes*. Ema-Mae was a soloist in the World Skills Opening Ceremony at the O2 London, and has performed for HRH Queen Elizabeth II in St Peters Palace. Creatively, Ema-Mae directed WLOS's *Anything Goes Cabaret* and was Assistant Director for *Curtains the musical*. Ema-Mae joined Mayhem in 2022 and can't wait to air guitar with the creative team and rock with the cast!



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Key Information

Monday 10 th June (19:30 - 22:00)	First round auditions
Wednesday 12 th June (19:30 - 22:00)	First round auditions
Sunday 16 th June (18:00 - 22:00)	First round auditions
Sunday 23 rd June (10:00 - 14:00)	Recall auditions (by invitation)
Mon 1st/Wed 3rd July (19:30 - 22:00)	First rehearsals (selected characters only)
Sunday 7th July (14:00 - 18:00)	First full-cast rehearsal and social

Rehearsals will be held in South Wimbledon on Monday and Wednesday evenings (19:30 - 22:00), and on Sunday afternoons (14:00 - 18:00). Rehearsals will begin with some selected principal characters on Monday 1st and Wednesday 3rd July, before a full cast rehearsal and pub trip on Sunday 7th July. Our regular rehearsal venues are:

- **South Wimbledon Community Centre (South Wimbledon, SW19 1HN)**
- **All Saints' Church Hall (All Saints Road, SW19 1BU)**

The following dates are mandatory for all cast members:

Monday 21 st October (evening)	Full cast rehearsal
Wednesday 23 rd October (evening)	Full cast rehearsal
Saturday 26 th October	Band call (Sitzprobe)
Sunday 27 th October	Tech rehearsal
Monday 28 th October (evening)	Dress rehearsal
Tuesday 29 th October – 2 nd November	Show week



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Key Information

Attendance

We ask people on their audition form to give us their availability so that we can create a schedule based around our cast. In the initial part of the rehearsal period, it is likely that you won't be called to every rehearsal. As we get closer to show week, rehearsals will increase and all cast will be required for all rehearsals. We will expect the cast to be as committed as possible to the process and as such your lack of availability for rehearsals may have an effect on casting decisions. Please also be aware that once the schedule is set you will be expected to attend rehearsals to which you are called, and missing rehearsals may lead to us making a decision to re-cast a role or reconsider your participation in the show.

Fees

Auditions for Mayhem shows are open to everyone, free of charge. If you're cast in the show, you must be an acting member of the society if not already in order to perform. Annual membership fees are £35 (£25 concessions). In addition, there is a show fee of £100 to help cover the cost of rehearsal venues and insurance, which can be paid in instalments or as a lump sum during the rehearsal period.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Mayhem and the Rock of Ages creative team want to build a show and a membership that is reflective of our community. We'd love to encourage all auditionees to audition for the roles that you feel best suit your skills and talents. Rock of Ages is an uplifting, fun-filled and whacky show, and we'll be looking to cast a group of diverse performers to tell the stories of the characters. We are willing to consider people of all gender identities for each part, providing the performer would feel comfortable portraying the required gender. Further details are in the casting breakdown.

Backstage

Mayhem is always looking for volunteers to help with set building, sewing costumes, working Front of House or backstage. Although we are happy to hear expressions of interest with any levels of experience for all roles, for this show we're particularly seeking a Costume Designer/Manager. If you are interested in getting involved, please email us at rockofages@mayhemtheatre.co.uk.



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Auditions

All auditionees will have individual slots for acting and singing. Please choose one character that you would primarily like to audition for, and prepare all the scene and musical extracts as listed on the breakdown below. You'll be asked on your audition form to let us know which of the characters you would like to be considered for, and whether you'd like to be considered for Ensemble. Please try to be as honest as you can - us knowing that you wouldn't want to take Ensemble for instance would in no way affect our decisions when casting principal roles.

You don't need to be off book; however, we do expect you to be prepared and be familiar with the audition material. Make the scenes as big, and as 'larger than life' as you can. As for the music: remember that this is a rock show, so riffing and opt-ups are all encouraged. Feel free to really make the songs your own and show us what you can do! Release that inner rock god...

Everyone will also be expected to take part in a group dance audition. In the folder with all the audition material (which you'll receive once you've booked your audition), you'll find videos of the dance routines to familiarise yourself with ahead of the dance call. Aside from a quick run through, there will be limited teaching time in the audition room. Please do ensure you are dressed in suitable clothing! If you want to be considered as a featured dancer, please also prepare the featured dancer routine. These will be clearly labelled on the drive.

If you're invited to a recall audition, we may ask you to read/sing with other auditionees to see how you work opposite other characters. All material will be provided in plenty of time ahead of the recall. Please note that we will only be recalling for some of the roles, so if you're not recalled that doesn't mean you won't be cast.

To book an audition slot, please go to the [Mayhem Ticketsource](#). We cannot guarantee that your preferred date will be available as slots fill up but will do our best to accommodate. If the slots are fully booked and you want to be added to the waiting list or if you need to change anything about your audition, please email rockofages@mayhemtheatre.co.uk. You will also need to fill out the Audition Form that will be sent to you once your audition is booked, alongside the recall material.



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Character breakdowns

Playing ages are very rough, just to give an indication of the character. We would consider Drew and Stacey playing guitar live on stage if the actors were capable, but this is not a prerequisite for casting. Please prepare all materials listed for the part you are auditioning for.

Character [Vocal Range/Gender/Playing Age]	Audition materials
DREW [Bb3-D5/Male-presenting/18-30] An appealing, good-guy rocker with great, easy comedic timing, a boyish charm, vulnerability and strong rock tenor voice. Drew works at the legendary Bourbon Room hoping and waiting for his dreams to come true.	Music I Wanna Rock - all More Than Words - bar 47 to 78
	Scene - 'Drew' (from "and she's ticklin'...")
SHERRIE [G3-F5/Female-presenting/18-25] Fresh faced, innocent Midwestern girl stepping right off the bus into a new world to pursue her dreams of stardom. Eventually joins the Venus Club as a stripper/exotic dancer. Strong comedic timing, strong rock belt, good movement ability.	Music Harden my heart - bar 9 to 32 Hate myself for loving you - bar 9 to 20 AND bar 32 to 40
	Scene - 'Sherrie'
LONNY [D3-D5/Any gender/25-40] The narrator of the piece, charming, mischievous, welcoming, vibrant personality, a person who would be fun to spend one drunken night with. Strong, honest comedic timing and improv skills, and strong rock vocals.	Music Built this city Ex1 - verse and chorus (marked on music) Built This City Ex2 - bar 115 to 138
	Scene - 'Lonny'
DENNIS DUPREE [D3-G4/Male-presenting/40+] Classic stoner type guy who runs the famous Bourbon Room club. Torn about whether he should sell the club to Hertz. Very strong comedic timing. A laid back, easy going dude. Bari-tenor rock vocals.	Music Built this city Ex1 - verse and chorus (marked on music) Built This City Ex2- bar 115 to 138
	Scene - 'Dennis'
REGINA [A3-Eb5/Female-presenting/20-40] A fun, hippie type, earthy girl who fights against the attempted takeover of The Strip. Strong comedic timing, belt vocals.	Music Built this city Ex1 - verse and chorus (marked on music) We're Not Gonna Take It - bar 13 to 35
	Scene - 'Regina'



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<p>JUSTICE [G3-Eb5/Female-presenting/35+] Strong presence, an easy sensuality about her. Once a performer, she now operates a strip club where Sherrie winds up working. Takes on the maternal role for the girls that work for her. Strong, soulful vocals and belt needed.</p>	<p>Music Built this city Ex1 - verse and chorus (marked on music) Shadows of the Night - bar 58 to 78</p> <p>Scene - 'Justice'</p>
<p>STACEE JAXX [C3-Eb5/Male-presenting/30+] A sexy rock star. Decided to leave his successful hair/metal-rock band to try it solo. Self important, confident, intriguing in all the wrong ways, the ultimate bad boy; he is all about sex, drugs, and rock-n-roll. Great comedic timing and strong rock tenor voice.</p>	<p>Music Wanted Dead or Alive - bar 17 to 41 I Wanna Know What Love Is - bar 5 to 23</p> <p>Scene - 'Stacee'</p>
<p>HERTZ KLINEMANN [F3-Ab4/Any gender/40+] Franz's parent. Uptight, cold, intimidating business person trying to buy up the Strip to develop it. The 'bad guy' of the piece. Strong comedic timing and rock vocals.</p>	<p>Music Built this city Ex1 - verse and chorus (marked on music) Hit Me With Your Best Shot - bar 1 to 18</p> <p>Scene - 'Franz/Hertz'</p>
<p>FRANZ KLINEMANN [Db3-E5/Any gender/18-30] Hertz's child, a young German. Works for Hertz, but not by choice. Shy, gentle with a big heart. Strong rock vocals with a confident falsetto/higher register and comedic timing.</p>	<p>Music Built this city Ex1 - verse and chorus (marked on music) Hit Me With Your Best Shot - bar 1 to 18</p> <p>Scene - 'Franz/Hertz'</p>
<p>FEATURED DANCERS/ ENSEMBLE Featured Dancers: Sassy, confident, and a strong dance capability. A smaller group of FDs will portray the strippers in the Venus club.</p> <p>Ensemble: Energetic, confident, and with strong rock vocals. There are lots of named parts, solo lines and characters!</p>	<p>Music Built this city Ex1 - verse and chorus (marked on music) OR Don't Stop Believing (Up to "searching in the night"). If you would like to be considered for any vocal solos or roles, please prepare a second excerpt of your choice from the selection above.</p> <p>Scene - 'Ensemble'</p>



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And finally...

Everyone on this team has experience of being in shows in some capacity. We all know how nerve wracking auditions can be, and how agonising it can be when waiting to hear outcomes. Decisions on casting will be shared as soon after recalls as possible, but things can sometimes take a bit of time to process. We will, however, be very transparent in our emails and let you all know if there are going to be any unexpected delays, etc. Hopefully not!

Try to remember that we'll all be sitting there in auditions willing you to be the best you can be. We're really excited to see what each of you bring to the room, and to start imagining all the wonderful things you'll add to this big, fun, crazy adventure of a show with us.

Good luck!