

Kings Club



MURDER BALLAD
SPECIAL EDITION



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THE FORUM THEATRE
2022

MURDER BALLAD

A NEW MUSICAL

Conceived by & with Book & Lyrics by
Julia Jordan

Music & Lyrics by
Juliana Nash

Musical Director
CERI GRAVES

Directed by
PAUL WILSON

Assistant Director
LUCY WORTHINGTON

Fight Choreography by
ADAM UREY

Artistic Director
KERRY DAY

Orchestrations & Vocal Arrangements by
JUSTIN LEVINE

Production Co-ordinator
DOMINIC STANNAGE

Stage Manager
CLARE LOUISE BROWN

Lighting Design & Operation
PAUL WILSON

Technical Manager & Production LX
JAMES DOOLEY

Sound Design & Operation
BEN WICKS

Video Design & Operation
STUART DEAN

Video Control Technician
SAM NAGLER

Set Design
PAUL WILSON

Promotional Video Production
MATT CORRIGAN

Master Of Coin
DARREN STANNAGE

Promotional Photography
DOMINIC STANNAGE

Rehearsal Photography
THE CAST

Promotion Material Printing
MANCHESTER PRINT SERVICES

Originally presented Off-Broadway by
MTC Productions INC., Niclas Nagler, Richard Frankel, Tom Viertel, Steven
Baruch, Marc Routh, Simone Genatt Haft, Susanne Adamski, Scott M. Delman
Originally presented by New York Stage and Film Company and The Powerhouse
Theater at Vassar in July, 2012.

Originally produced in New York City by the Manhattan Theatre Club, Lynne
Meadow, Artistic Director, Barry Grove, Executive Producer on October 31, 2012.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO INTERVAL IN THIS PRODUCTION.
OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE PERFORMERS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE
WE WOULD ASK THAT YOU DO NOT LEAVE THE THEATRE ONCE THE PRODUCTION
HAS STARTED. WE WOULD ALSO ASK THAT YOU REFRAIN FROM SHOWING YOUR
APPRECIATION UNTIL THE END OF THE SHOW. THE ENTIRE PRODUCTION RUNS TO
APPROXIMATELY 1 HOUR 15 MINUTES AND THE BAR WILL BE OPEN AT THE END OF
THE SHOW FOR YOU TO GET A DRINK WHILST YOU THINK!
THANK YOU!



OK, I get it, I am an anachronism! Love musical theatre, but I'm just not one for jazz hands and dance numbers - I clearly just live for the darker things in life! That said, welcome to Murder Ballad!

A friend (thanks, Joe Gallogly) introduced me to the, little known, Broadway album some years ago and I completely fell for it. The music was great and the story completely gripped me - but the vision for putting on a stage was tricky as I didn't think it would work as well in a normal proscenium theatre. It was therefore chucked onto the back burner, potentially indefinitely.

Then, along came Covid and the opportunity to think more about what could be done once we finally got back into the theatre. I'd been away from NK and The Forum for a few years but the improvements that had been made to the theatre meant that it could provide the space I had in my vision for 'Ballad'. The window of March 2022 presented itself and it was too tempting to turn down...so here we are!

This is NOT your usual musical type show as, hopefully, you will realise very quickly. It is one act long - there is no interval. There's no dancing. There's not much colour. There's no script - the show is sung from beginning to end. There's no traditional happy ending. What there is, is a story - but a story that could be mine, yours or, indeed, that of the person sitting next to you in the audience. There is also a reflection on the human desire for stories about murder - and the willingness that we all have to watch, listen to and read about murder (particularly when it is linked to love) - but from the comfort of being outside looking in. The pre-show music and images have all been carefully selected to maintain that theme and, hopefully, will have that drip-drip effect from the moment you take your seat.

I couldn't have put this show on without my two production team colleagues, Ceri and Lucy, who have been amazing throughout the process and have been absolutely sold on getting the vision in my head onto the stage - thank you both. Also thanks to the technical and stage management team who have enabled this production to stand up. As for the cast of four - you have all been fabulous to work with over the last three months or so. Again, you have bought into the vision and have really put yourselves through the wringer to get that vision on stage. The biggest thanks, as always, go to you - our audience members - who are the reason for us all doing this.

So, sit back and experience "Murder Ballad"; I hope you will enjoy it - but I also hope that it will trigger some self reflection. The thrill of the kill; romance, blood, calamity - it's all entertainment as long as it don't happen to you.

PAUL WILSON





J The story takes place in New York City over the course of about ten years in the life of Sara. We start with her relationship with Tom, move forward 3 or 4 years to her marriage to Michael and the birth of her daughter, Frankie, before jumping forwards five years to her life now. It does not fit into any particular period - the music takes us back to the 1990's but it could just as easily be happening today. During the course of the story we will visit a bar, Sara's apartment, Sara and Michael's apartment, Central Park and, most importantly, The Kings Club.

The Present

Here and now - "Murder Ballad"

Ten to eight years earlier

A Bar, New York City - "Narrator 1"
 A Bar and a Street, New York City - "I Love NY", "Narrator 2"
 Sara's Apartment - "Little By Little", "Troubled Mind", "Promises"

Seven years earlier

Nowhere - "Narrator 3"
 Sara and Michael's Apartment - "Turning Into Beautiful"
 A Bar, New York City - "Crying Scene Theme", "I Love NY Reprise"

Five years earlier to The Present

Sara and Michael's Apartment, a Street - "Prattle 1", "Narrator 5", "Coffee's On", "Prattle 2"

The Present

Kings Club - "Narrator 6", "Sara", "Narrator 7", "Mouth Tattoo", "Narrator 8"
 Sara and Michael's Apartment - "Sugar Cubes and Rock Salt", "Prattle 3"
 Kings Club - "My Name"
 Everywhere - "Crying Scene"
 Sara and Michael's Apartment - "Coffee's On Reprise"
 Everywhere - "Built for Longing"
 Kings Club, Sara and Michael's Apartment - "Answer Me"
 Kings Club - "You Belong to Me"
 A Street - "Narrator 9"
 Sara and Michael's Apartment - "Troubled Mind Reprise"
 Kings Club and a Street - "I Love NY Reprise 2"
 Central Park - "Prattle 4", "I'll Be There", "Prattle 5", "Little By Little Reprise"
 Central Park, a Street, Kings Club - "Narrator 10"
 Kings Club, Sara and Michael's Apartment, a Street - "You Belong to Me Reprise"
 Kings Club - "Crying Scene Reprise", "Narrator 11"
 A Street - "Walk Away", "Promises Reprise"
 Kings Club - "Clubs and Diamonds"
 Sara and Michael's Apartment - "Prattle 6"
 Here and now - "Finale"





NICK WARD - Michael



Nick has been involved with theatre from an early age, having performed with numerous companies across the North West. He trained in Professional Musical Theatre with the London School of Musical Theatre.

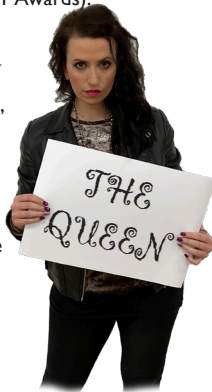
Nick's previous roles include Action (West Side Story), Ren (Footloose), Galileo (We Will Rock You), Tad (Bright Lights, Big City), Freddie (Chess - Nominated for Best Vocal Performance at the Manchester Musical Awards), Judas (Jesus Christ Superstar), Roger (Rent - Winner of Best Vocal Performance at the Manchester Musical Awards), Clyde (Bonnie and Clyde - Winner of Best Actor at both the Manchester Musical Awards and the ACT Awards), Drew (Rock of Ages - Nominated for Best Vocal Performance at the Manchester Musical Awards), Seymour (Little Shop of Horrors - Nominated for Best Actor at the Manchester Musical Awards) and Robbie (Wedding Singer - Nominated for Most Accomplished Actor at the ACT Awards).

HEATHER SCHOFIELD - Sara

Heather's debut stage performance began in the role of Audrey (Little Shop Of Horrors) where at 16 years old she was the youngest ever winner of "Best Actress" in an adult category at the GMDF Awards.

Through the years Heather has played roles such as Mary (Jesus Christ Superstar), Nancy (Oliver), Maureen (Rent), Carmen (Fame), Nell (Nell Gwynne).

After having taken a hiatus to concentrate on family and focus on her 80s band, The Amstrads, Heather is now returning to the stage to fully embrace her new role as Sara.



MATT CORRIGAN - Tom



Matt has mostly spent his theatre career on the other side of the production, as a musical director in societies across the north west.

Learning his trade with Blackburn Gilbert & Sullivan Society in 2017, he won the NODA award for Best MD in District 12 for his production of Iolanthe.

Since then he has worked on shows such as Priscilla: Queen of the Desert (HAODS), Chicago (PADOS), Guys & Dolls (Whitworth AMDS) and Our House (Centenary Theatre Company).

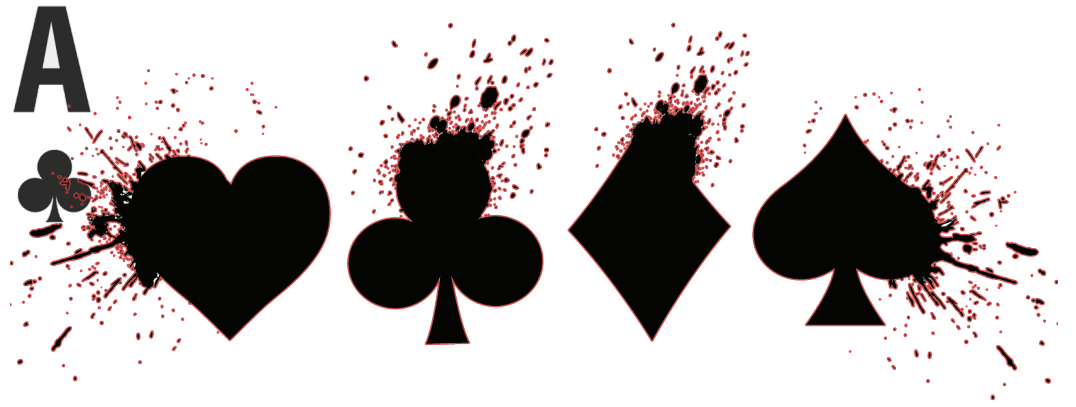
Matt has only performed once on stage since the age of 16, in a production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat at Oldham Grange Theatre in 2018, as Joseph. He is very much looking forward to treading the boards again and stepping into a new challenge.

SELINA ADAMS - Narrator

Selina has performed in musical theatre for a few years now, in productions locally as Angie (Wedding Singer), Mrs Sowerberry (Oliver) and being part of the Company for Guys and Dolls, Me and My Girl and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Selina is also the lead vocalist for a local covers band, "The Reform", alongside playing piano.

'Murder Ballad' is Selina's first show at the Forum Theatre, her first with NK Theatre Arts and her largest role to date. She is excited to be a part of this Company - although a little nervous about being on stage continuously for the entire production! She is looking forward also to being able to use her rock vocals in a stage show.



GUITARS

Mark Davies & Scott Mitchell

DRUMS

Dan Bennet

KEYS

Ceri Graves

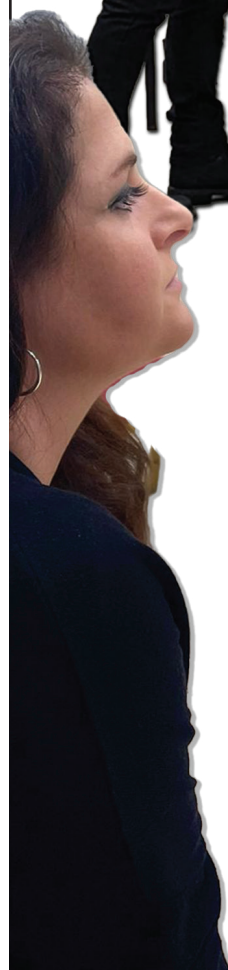
BASS

Robert Palmer-Fenney





J
♥



♥
K



BLINDSIDED

by Simon Stephens



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July 29th 7:30pm



September 21st 1pm



November 1st 1pm

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