

chichester festival theatre

Thursday 13 February 2025

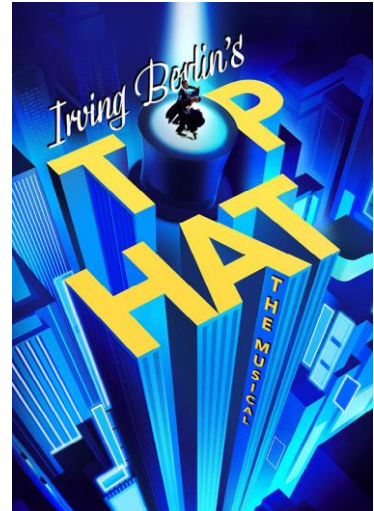
Kathleen Marshall directs and choreographs a brand new production of

Irving Berlin's classic musical
TOP HAT

Music & Lyrics by **Irving Berlin**
Based on RKO's Motion Picture
Adapted for the stage by **Matthew White & Howard Jacques**
Directed and Choreographed by **Kathleen Marshall**

14 July – 6 September, Festival Theatre
Press night: Thursday 24 July

Chichester Festival Theatre's eagerly anticipated summer musical for 2025 will be a brand-new production of **Irving Berlin's** classic tap extravaganza *Top Hat*, directed and choreographed by the multi Tony and Olivier Award-winner **Kathleen Marshall**.



Based on the classic 1935 film which starred Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, the stage adaptation's original West End production won the 2013 Olivier Award for Best New Musical and the Evening Standard Award for Best Night Out. It will run at Chichester Festival Theatre from 14 July – 6 September, with a press night on 24 July.

*There may be trouble ahead,
But while there's moonlight, and music, and love, and romance...
Let's face the music and dance.*

You're invited to the musical equivalent of a finest vintage champagne. Effervescent, elegant and exhilarating, *Top Hat* is a heady romantic cocktail laced with sparkingly witty dialogue, stunning choreography, lavish sets and gorgeous costumes. **Irving Berlin's** irresistible score includes some of Hollywood's greatest songs: the immortal *Cheek to Cheek*, *Let's Face the Music and Dance*, *Top Hat White Tie and Tails* and *Puttin' on the Ritz*.

When Broadway star Jerry Travers arrives in London to open a new show, he crosses paths with model Dale Tremont, whose beauty sleep is rudely interrupted by Jerry tap dancing in the hotel suite above hers. Instantly smitten, Jerry vows to abandon his bachelor life to win her – but the path of true love never does run smooth. Especially since Dale has mistaken Jerry for his hapless producer Horace, who's trying to avoid the wrath of his formidable wife Madge, and Dale's own fiery Italian admirer is planning a trip to Venice for her to showcase his couture gowns...

Acclaimed American director and choreographer **Kathleen Marshall** comes to Chichester to stage this brand-new production. A nine-time Tony nominee and three-time winner for her choreography on the Broadway productions of *Wonderful Town*, *The Pajama Game* and *Anything Goes*, her most recent revival of *Anything Goes* – which played at London's

Barbican, on a UK tour, and was also televised – received nine Olivier Award nominations in 2022 and Kathleen herself received the award for Best Choreographer. She has worked on more than twenty Broadway shows and she is the first woman to have directed a play, directed a musical and choreographed a musical on Broadway.

The set designer for *Top Hat* will be **Peter McKintosh**; the musical supervisor will be **Gareth Valentine**, orchestrator & arranger **Chris Walker**, lighting designer **Tim Mitchell**, sound designer **Paul Groothuis**, and casting director **Natalie Gallacher CDG** for **Pippa Ailion and Natalie Gallacher Casting**.

There will be a Dementia Friendly performance on 31 July and a Relaxed Performance on 26 August. A Summer Gala on 29 August will support Chichester Festival Youth Theatre.

Top Hat is sponsored by Greenwood Wealth Solutions

BOOKING INFORMATION

Priority booking for Friends & Champions of Chichester Festival Theatre opens:

Saturday 22 February (online and booking forms only)

Tuesday 25 February (phone and in person)

Booking for Groups and Schools opens:

Thursday 27 February

General booking opens:

Saturday 1 March (online only)

Tuesday 4 March (phone and in person)

Tickets from £10

cft.org.uk Box Office **01243 781312**

Prologue: £5 tickets for 16 – 30s

9,000 £5 tickets are available for 16 to 30 year-olds across all Festival 2025 productions; sign up for free at **cft.org.uk/prologue**.

For further information please contact Lucinda Morrison, Head of Press & Publications on 01243 812917 or lucinda.morrison@cft.org.uk