**SHERIDAN SMITH**

**TO REVISIT HER AWARD-WINNING TV ROLE AS**

***CILLA***

**IN THE HIT STAGE MUSICAL ADAPTATION**

**FROM SEPTEMBER 2020 OPENING AT THE LIVERPOOL EMPIRE**

After much speculation, producers have confirmed that **Sheridan Smith** will revisit her award-wining portrayal of the late **Cilla Black** to star in **Bill Kenwright**’s stage production, ***Cilla The Musical***, written by BAFTA award-winning writer **Jeff Pope**.

The musical will open at the **Liverpool Empire** for a 4-week residency commencing **23rd September 2020**, ahead of a UK tour to **Aylesbury**, **Edinburgh**, **Birmingham** and **Leeds**. Tickets go on sale 10th March at 10 am.

Sheridan wowed fans and critics alike with her portrayal of the nation’s favorite singer and TV personality in Jeff Pope’s BAFTA award-winning ITV series. *“Mesmerising… a joy to watch… she really does embody the young Cilla perfectly…”* *(Independent).* Her acclaimed portrayal of the British icon won Sheridan both a 2015 National TV Award and a 2015 TV Choice Award, and went on to see her nominated for a BAFTA (2015) and a second international EMMY Award (2015).

Hailed “*The Greatest Theatre Star of her Generation*” by The Evening Standard and with nearly two decades of television, film and theatre success, Sheridan Smith is widely considered Britain’s favourite actress. After starting a career in such sitcoms as *The Royle Family, Two Pints of Lager, Gavin & Stacey* and *Benidorm*, she starred in *Jonathan Creek* (2013) and went on to receive acclaim for a succession of television dramas such as *Mrs Biggs* (2012), *Cilla* (2014), *The C Word* (2015), *Black Work* (2015) and *The Moorside* (2017). Sheridan was named Best Actress at the 2013 BAFTA TV Awards for *Mrs. Biggs*.

Theatre credits include her first Olivier Award nomination for *Little Shop of Horrors* at the Menier Chocolate Factory and her first Olivier Award and WhatsOnStage Award for her role as Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde*. Following this, she won an Olivier Award and an Evening Standard Theatre Award for her role of Doris in *Flare Path*. Ibsen’s *Hedda Gabler* at The Old Vic gave her another WhatsOnStage Best Actress Award. She also enjoyed a hugely celebrated run in the West End as Fanny Bryce in *Funny Girl*.

**★★★★★**

***‘YOU’LL LAUGH, CRY AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN.***

***CILLA THE MUSICAL IS SIMPLY FLAWLESS’***

LIVERPOOL ECHO 2017

*Cilla The Musical* is a spectacular and heart-warming musical adaptation of the TV series. The 2017 debut tour was met with five-star reviews and standing ovations up and down the UK and was nominated Best New Musical in the WhatsOnStage Awards.

The story follows the extraordinary life of an ordinary teenage girl from Liverpool, Priscilla White, and her rocky, yet incredible, rise to fame. By the age of just 25 she was recognized as international singing star Cilla Black. By 30 she had become Britain’s favorite television entertainer headlining series of *Blind Date*, *Surprise Surprise* and many more. The musical score features the ultimate soundtrack to the 60’s including Cilla’s greatest hits *Anyone Who Had a Heart,* *Alfie* and *Something Tells Me,* alongside a backdrop of the legendary “Liverpool Sound”.

Jeff Pope is an award-winning writer for film and television. Film credits include *Pierrepoint: The Last Hangman* (Timothy Spall); *Essex Boys* (Sean Bean, Tom Wilkinson); *Philomena* (Judi Dench, Steve Coogan) for which Jeff picked up Golden Globe, BIFA and London Critics Circle nominations and BAFTA and Venice Film Festival wins for Best Adapted Screenplay and most recently the critically acclaimed *Stan & Ollie* (Steve Coogan, John C Reilly).

TV work includes the BAFTA winning ITV drama *Mrs Biggs* (starring Sheridan Smith), the multi-award winning *Dirty, Filthy Love*; *Cilla* (starring Sheridan Smith) and *Lucan* (starring Rory Kinnear). As a producer, Jeff has helmed a number of award-winning dramas including *Mo*, a bio-pic based on the life of politician Mo Mowlam, the BAFTA winning *See No Evil - The Moors Murders*; *Appropriate Adult* (Starring Dominic West and Emily Watson), which earned five BAFTA awards; as well as a Golden Globe nomination in the acclaimed BBC1 drama *The Moorside* and more recently *A Confession* (starring Martin Freeman).

**★★★★★**

***‘A PERFECT BALANCE OF SONG AND STORYLINE… CILLA WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD.’***

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS 2017

ON 2017 UK TOUR

BILL KENWRIGHT & LAURIE MANSFIELD

PRESENT

**SHERIDAN SMITH**

IN

**CILLA THE MUSICAL**

BY JEFF POPE

DIRECTED BY BILL KENWRIGHT AND BOB TOMSON

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: ROBERT WILLIS

DESIGN: GARY MCCANN

 LIGHTING DESIGN: NICK RICHINGS SOUND DESIGN: DAN SAMSON

CHOREOGRAPHY: CAROLE TODD

MUSICAL DIRECTION: SCOTT ALDER

**LISTINGS**

**Website:** Kenwright.com / CillaTheMusical.com

**Twitter:** @BKL\_Productions / @CillaMusical

**UK TOUR DATES**

**Liverpool, Empire Theatre atgtickets.com/Liverpool**

w/c 21 September, w/c 28 September, 0844 871 3017

w/c 5 October & w/c 12 October

**Aylesbury, Waterside Theatre atgtickets.com/Aylesbury**

w/c 19 October 0844 871 7607

**Edinburgh, Playhouse Theatre atgtickets.com/Edinburgh**

w/c 26 October 0844 871 3014

**Birmingham, The Alexandra Theatre atgtickets.com/Birmingham**

w/c 2 November 0844 871 3011

**Leeds, Grand Theatre leedsgrandtheatre.com**

w/c 9 November & w/c 16November 0844 848 2700

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