

EMMA HOLLAND PR

FURTHER STAR CASTING ANNOUNCED IN THE
OLIVIER AND MULTI TONY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL

FOLLIES
In Concert

INCLUDING ALEXANDER HANSON, STEFANIE POWERS,
ALISTAIR BRAMMER & LAURA PITT-PULFORD

DIRECTED BY CRAIG REVEL HORWOOD
AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

IN CONCERT WITH
THE CITY OF LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
ON TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2015

IN CELEBRATION OF STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S 85TH BIRTHDAY YEAR

Alexander Hanson (*Stephen Ward the Musical, Jesus Christ Superstar, A Little Night Music*) and **Stefanie Powers** (*Hart to Hart, The Girl From U.N.C.L.E*) with **Alistair Brammer** (*Miss Saigon, War Horse, Les Misérables*) and **Laura Pitt-Pulford** (*The Sound Of Music, Marry Me A Little, The Light Princess*) join the previously announced **Christine Baranski** (*Into The Woods, The Good Wife, Mamma Mia*), **Anita Dobson** (*EastEnders, Chicago*) **Anita Harris** (*Carry On Doctor & Follow That Camel, Cats*), **Ruthie Henshall** (original Roxy in *Chicago, Les Misérables*), **Roy Hudd** (Fagan in *Oliver!, Coronation Street, Good Old Days*) and **Russell Watson** (the UK's best selling classical artist ever; winner of four Classical BRIT awards), in **Follies in Concert**, with **The City of London Philharmonic Orchestra**, at the prestigious **Royal Albert Hall**.

With music and lyrics by **Stephen Sondheim** and book by **James Goldman**, **FOLLIES, in Concert**, will be directed by Strictly Come Dancing's **Craig Revel Horwood**, with choreography by **Andrew Wright** and musical direction by **Gareth Valentine**.

Voted in the Top Ten of BBC Radio 2's *The Nation's Number One Essential Musical*, FOLLIES tells the story of the former showgirls of the Ziegfeld Follies, amidst a wealth of well-known songs, including ***Losing My Mind, Broadway Baby*** and ***I'm Still Here***.

FOLLIES in Concert at the Royal Albert Hall marks the musical's dazzling return to London for the first time in 13 years, **for one day only**.

The production of *Follies*, featuring this exceptional cast and creative team is produced by **SilverBlue Entertainment**, in association with **Elliot Davis**, and will be performed on **Tuesday 28 April 2015** for one matinee (at 3pm) and one evening performance (at 7.30pm) only, in celebration of composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim's 85th Birthday year.

The Follies' story is set around a reunion of the past performers of the "Weissman's Follies" and focuses on two couples who are attending the reunion, Buddy and Sally Durant Plummer, and Benjamin and Phyllis Rogers Stone, as well as some of the original "Follie's girls". The former performers are reuniting on the stage of the now-decrepit theater that was once their professional home, the night before it is turned into a parking lot. Phyllis and Sally, who were best friends in their Follies days, have married Ben and Buddy, respectively. The once-close foursome has fallen out of touch. As these aging starlets reminisce, they end up hashing out old affairs, remembering who loved (and loves) whom, and reliving the roads they did and didn't take.

Alistair Brammer (Young Benjamin Stone) is currently appearing as Chris in *Miss Saigon* at the Prince Edward Theatre. Alistair's other stage credits include *War Horse* at the New London Theatre, *Taboo* at the Brixton Club House, *Les Misérables* at the Queen's Theatre, *Les Misérables 25th Anniversary Concert* at the O2 Arena, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* on UK Tour and *Hair* on European Tour. Alistair also played the part of Prouvaire in *Les Misérables*, directed by Tom Hooper.

Alexander Hanson's (Benjamin Stone) stage credits include *Accolade* at the St. James Theatre, *Single Spies* at the Rose Theatre, Kingston, *Stephen Ward The Musical* at the Aldwych Theatre, *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the O2 London and UK Arena Tour, *Uncle Vanya* and *Translations*, both at the Chichester Festival Theatre, *A Ideal Husband* at the Vaudeville Theatre, *A Little Night Music* at The Walter Kerr Theatre, New York, the Garrick Theatre and the Menier Chocolate Factory (for which he received an Oliver Award nomination for Best Actor in a Musical), *Marguerite* at the Theatre Royal Haymarket (Oliver Award nomination for Best Performance in a Supporting Role in a Musical), *The Sound Of Music* at the London Palladium, *Tonight At 8.30* at the Chichester Minerva Theatre, *Troilus & Cressida*, *The Merchant Of Venice*, *Candide*, *The Villains' Opera* and *The London Cuckolds* all for the National Theatre, *Talking To Terrorists* at the Royal Court Theatre and Out of Joint Tour, *Cracked* and *The Memory Of Water* both at Hampstead Theatre, *Enter The Guardsman* and *Brel* both at the Donmar Warehouse, *Shallow End* at the Royal Court Theatre, *Arcadia* at the Theatre Royal Haymarket, *The Things We Do For Love* at the Duchess Theatre, *We Will Rock You* at the Dominion Theatre, *Sunset Boulevard* at the Adelphi Theatre, *Aspects Of Love* at the Prince of Wales Theatre, *A Little Night Music* at the Chichester Festival Theatre and Piccadilly Theatre, *Valentine's Day* at The Globe Theatre, *Matador* at the Queen's Theatre and *Playing With Fire* at the Orange Tree Theatre. Alexander's screen credits include *London's Burning*, *The Man Who Crossed Hitler*, *Party Animals*, *The Fugitives*, *Auf Wiedersehen Pet*, *The Last Detective II*, *Rosemary & Thyme*, *Heartbeat*, *Papadopoulos & Sons* and *Kidulthood*.

Laura Pitt-Pulford's (Young Phyllis) stage credits include *The Sound Of Music* at the Leicester Curve, *The Return Of The Soldier* at the Jermyn Street Theatre, *Marry Me A Little* at the St. James Theatre, *The Light Princess* at the National Theatre, *A Man Of No Importance* at Salisbury Playhouse, *Shakers* at the Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch, *Mack &*

Mable and *Parade* both at Southwark Playhouse, *Sweet Charity* at MAC Belfast, *The Little Prince* at the Lyric Theatre, Belfast, *Guys & Dolls* at Clwyd Theatr Cymru, New Wolsey Theatre Ipswich and Salisbury Playhouse, *Copacabana* at the Watermill Theatre, *The World Goes Round* at Wellingborough Castle, *Jack & Jill* at Oxford Playhouse, *Little Fish* at Finborough Theatre, *Sunset Boulevard* at the Comedy Theatre and the Watermill Theatre, *The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe* at West Yorkshire Playhouse, *Follies* at the Royal and Derngate Theatre, Northampton and *Closer Than Ever* and *Edward II* both at the Edinburgh Festival.

Stefanie Powers (Solange Lafitte) is best known for her work on the popular, long-running television series *Hart to Hart* alongside Robert Wagner. She began her career at age fifteen, dancing briefly for famed choreographer Jerome Robbins. Stefanie was under contract to Columbia Pictures for five years appearing in 15 motion pictures. In addition to her films, she has made dozens of TV guest appearances, over 25 mini-series, 35 movies for television and the television series *The Girl From U.N.C.L.E* and *Feather and Father*. Most recently Stefanie co-starred with Richard Chamberlain in the critically acclaimed independent film, *Three Days Of Hamlet*. Stefanie's stage credits include *How The Other Half Loves*, *Under the Yum Yum Tree*, *Sabrina*, *A View From The Bridge*, *Oliver!*, *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Applause* all on U.S Tours, *Love Letters*, alongside her *Hart To Hart* co-star Robert Wagner, at the Wyndham's Theatre and on U.S Tour, *Matador* at the Queen's Theatre, *The Vagina Monologues* at the Westside Theater, *The King And I* on UK and U.S Tours, *Sunset Boulevard* at the Ogunquit Playhouse and *On Golden Pond* on UK Tour. Also in 2012 she performed her one-woman show, *Hart Of My Heart*, a tribute to the life and the lyrics of Lorenz Hart at the Matcham Room at the Hippodrome. Stefanie has also recorded a CD with the legendary jazz artist Page Cavanaugh called *On The Same Page*, a collection of tunes from the classic American songbook.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Stephen Sondheim wrote the music and lyrics for *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* (1962), *Anyone Can Whistle* (1964), *Company* (1970), *Follies* (1971), *A Little Night Music* (1973), *The Frogs* (1974), *Pacific Overtures* (1976), *Sweeney Todd* (1979), *Merrily We Roll Along* (1981), *Sunday In The Park With George* (1984), *Into The Woods* (1987), *Assassins* (1991), *Passion* (1994) and *Road Show* (2008), as well as lyrics for *West Side Story* (1957), *Gypsy* (1959), *Do I Hear A Waltz?* (1965) and additional lyrics for *Candide* (1973). *Side by Side by Sondheim* (1976), *Marry Me A Little* (1981), *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow* (1983), *Putting It Together* (1993/99), *Moving On* (2001) and *Sondheim on Sondheim* (2010) are anthologies of his work as composer and lyricist. For films, he composed the scores of *Stavisky* (1974) and co-composed *Reds* (1981) as well as songs for *Dick Tracy* (1990). He also wrote the songs for the television production *Evening Primrose* (1966), co-authored the film *The Last Of Sheila* (1973) and the play *Getting Away With Murder* (1996) and provided incidental music for the plays *The Girls Of Summer* (1956), *Invitation To A March* (1961), *Twigs* (1971) and *The Enclave* (1973). *Saturday Night* (1954), his first professional musical, finally had its New York premiere in 1999. Mr. Sondheim has received the Tony Award for Best Score/Music/Lyrics for *Company*, *Follies*, *A Little Night Music*, *Into The Woods* and *Passion*, all of which won the New York Drama Circle award for Outstanding/Best Musical, as did *Pacific Overtures* and *Sunday In The Park With George*. In total, his works have accumulated more than sixty individual and collaborative Tony Awards. 'Sooner Or Later' from the film *Dick Tracy* won the 1999 Academy Award for Best

Song. Mr. Sondheim received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1984 for *Sunday In The Park With George*. In 1983 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters, which awarded him the gold medal for music in 2006. In 1990 he was appointed the first visiting professor of contemporary theatre at Oxford University and was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award in the 1993 Kennedy Center Honors. Mr. Sondheim is on the council of the Dramatists Guild, the National Association of Playwrights, Composers and Lyricists, having served as its President from 1973 to 1981. In 1981 he founded Young Playwrights inc. to develop and promote the work of American playwrights aged 18 years and younger. His collected lyrics with attendant essays have been published in two volumes: *Finishing the Hat* (2010) and *Look, I Made A Hat* (2011).

James Goldman (1929-1998) has written numerous plays, including *Blood, Sweat and Stanley Poole* (1961; co-written with his brother, William Goldman), *They Might Be Giants* (1961) and *The Lion In Winter* (1966). In addition to *Follies* (1971), he has been the bookwriter of *A Family Affair* (1962; co-author with William Goldman, music by John Kander), the television musical *Evening Primrose* (1967, music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim) and *Follies* (1987, London - a re-conception of the original piece). His screenplays include *The Lion in Winter* (1968 - Academy Award; British Screenwriters Award), *They Might Be Giants* (1970), *Nicholas and Alexandra* (1971), *Robin and Marian* (1976) and *White Nights* (1985, co-writer). Goldman's work for television has included an adaptation of *Oliver Twist* (1982), *Anna Karenina* (1985), *Anastasia: The Mystery of Anna Anderson* (1986). He is also the author of a novel, *Waldorf*.

The City of London Philharmonic is made up of many of London's finest musicians. It has performed and recorded in many sizes from small chamber orchestra to full symphony orchestra. Artists that have recorded with *The City of London Philharmonic* include *Cliff Richard, Elaine Paige, Idina Menzel, Kerry Ellis, Ronan Keating, Ruthie Henshall and Will Young*. Live concerts include: *Barbra Streisand live at the O2, Rufus Wainwright live at the London Palladium and Paris Olympia, Kirsten Chenoweth live at the London Palladium, Chess in Concert, The Night of 1000 Voices and Anthems the Concert* at the Royal Albert Hall. TV credits include: *Little Lord Fauntleroy* and *The Prince and The Pauper* (Drama series) *The Royal Variety Performance, Laurence Olivier Awards* and *The BAFTA TV Awards* (One-off specials).

SilverBlue Entertainment Ltd is a production company of Producers and Directors, led by Barry Satchwell Smith (Founder and Producing Partner) and Laura Cunningham (Producing Partner) and committed to developing and producing quality products, with the aim of driving new energy and audiences into British Theatre, Television and Film. Recent credits, and current and future projects in performance and development: Theatre: *Bonnie and Clyde, Broadway* (Frank Wildhorn/Don Black, 2011); *Tell Me on A Sunday, West End* (Andrew Lloyd Webber/Don Black, 2013/2014); *Singer Series* (feat. Van Morrison, Curtis Stigers and more, 2014/2015), *Briefs* (US tour 2015), *Hello Dolly* (2016), *Bonnie and Clyde* (transfer to UK from Broadway, target 2016), *As it is in Heaven* (2016), *Flora Plum* (2016); TV: *Diva School* (2015).

Elliot Davis' recent credits as a producer include *Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'Be* which opened in May 2014 to rave reviews at the Theatre Royal Stratford East, directed by Terry Johnson and starring Jessie Wallace and Gary Kemp. The *Follies Concert* represents the first collaboration between SilverBlue Entertainment and Elliot who will focus on the

production of musical theatre concerts. Elliot is also an award-winning and Olivier-nominated writer and composer whose stage credits include Loserville at the West Yorkshire Playhouse and Garrick Theatre for which he wrote the book and co-wrote the music and lyrics alongside James Bourne. Loserville received an Olivier Award Nomination for Best New Musical in 2013. Out There at Riverside Studios, which he also co-wrote with James Bourne, Soho Cinders at the Soho Theatre, which he co-wrote the book with Anthony Drewe, Once Upon A Time At The Adelphi at the Liverpool Playhouse and Union Theatre, London, The Secret Life Of Nora in Malaysia, for which he wrote the book, and won the Best Original Book and Audience Choice Award for Best Musical in The BOH Cameronian Arts Awards and Best Friends and Butterflies for which he won the TicketMaster Composer Award and Award For Best Musical For Young People. Elliot has a close collaboration with Gary Hynes and Druid Theatre for whom he has written music for The Silver Tassie at Druid Theatre, Ireland Tour and on Broadway and The Colleen Bawn at Druid Theatre and Ireland Tour.

** Artists perform subject to availability and the producer has the right to change casting.*

LISTINGS

FOLLIES, IN CONCERT - ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Performances:	3.00pm and 7.30pm on 28 April 2015
Running Time:	Approximately 2.5 hours
Ticket Prices:	From £37.50 to £95.00 (excl VAT)
Address:	Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AP
Box Office:	020 7589 8212
Website:	www.royalalberthall.com

Hospitality Packages:

Matinee (all prices per person)

Fine Dining Luncheon: £183.33 (excl VAT)

Two course luncheon in Coda Restaurant
Welcome glass of Champagne
Half bottle of wine per person and a Follies programme

Afternoon Tea (Boxes) from £180.00 (excl VAT)

Champagne Afternoon Tea Package
Including Follies programme and waiter service in your Royal Albert Hall Box

Evening (all prices per person)

Fine Dining Dinner: £183.33 (excl VAT)

Two course dinner in Coda Restaurant

Welcome Glass of champagne and half bottle of wine per person and a Follies programme

Fine Dining (Boxes) from: £230 (excl VAT)

Champagne, wine, mineral water and soft drinks, Canapes and finger bowl food including dessert canapés, Follies programme and waiter service in your Royal Albert Hall box

Boxes must be booked as a complete private hire and range in size from 4 seats to 12 seats, dependent upon performance and availability. All prices above quoted on a per person basis.

PRESS CONTACT: EMMA HOLLAND PR (EHPR)

Emma Holland

E: emma@emmahollandpr.com

M: 0791 709 4203

W: www.emmahollandpr.com

Georgie Robinson

E: georgie@emmahollandpr.com

M: 0751 211 2776

W: www.emmahollandpr.com