COLCHESTER OPERATIC SOCIETY

LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical



MERCURY

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LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical

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COLCHESTER OPERATIC SOCIETY

MERCURY

LEGALLY BLONDE
The Musical

Music and Lyrics by
Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin

Book by
Heather Hach

Based on the novel by Amanda Brown
and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture

Original Production by Hal Luftig, Fox Theatricals, Dori Berinstein, James L. Nederlander, Independent Presenters Network, Roy Furman, Amanda Lipitz, Broadway Asia, Barbara Whitman, FWPM Group, Hendel/Wiesenfeld, Goldberg/Binder, Stern/Meyer, Lane/Comley, Bartner-Jenkins/Nocciolino and Warren Trepp; Produced in association with MGM Onstage, Darcie Denkert and Dean Stolber.

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

CHARLOTTE BUTCHER

Welcome to the Mercury Theatre and CO2's 40th Anniversary Production of Legally Blonde We are thrilled to celebrate this milestone with you, our loyal audience. Your unwavering support over the years has allowed us to return year after year, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

This marks the second time we have produced Legally Blonde, the first being nine years ago. With its timeless messages of positivity and empowerment, it felt like the perfect show to revisit. Interestingly, only one cast member from 2015 is back this time around—and it is none other than Bentley, the chihuahua, reprising his role! We are delighted to welcome him back to the stage.

As I reflect on CO2's 40-year journey, 13 of which I've had the privilege to be a part of, two things stand out: first, the remarkable number of young performers we've worked with, many of whom have gone on to careers in the performing arts; and second, the countless volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes, many returning year after year, to create these incredible opportunities for young people. If you see any of our volunteers after the show (they will be dressed in all black), please feel free to thank them—they truly deserve it.

Our creative team has worked tirelessly to bring this production to life. We are delighted to have Matt Jewson directing CO2 for the first time. Matt first performed with us in our 2008 production of Summer Holiday, and we are excited to welcome him back in this new role. Rob Miles, our musical director, returns after 11 years—his last production with us being Guys and Dolls. Rounding out the team is choreographer Sarah Rose James, who has been working hard to whip the cast into shape. A huge thank you to the entire team for your dedication and creativity.

Our last production, School of Rock, was a tremendous success, and we are proud to say it was awarded Best Youth Production and The Best Production in district 11 by NODA, as well as Best Musical by NETG. Will Hackett who played Dewey also won Best Youth Performer and Best Young Actor from NODA and NETG, respectively. These achievements are the result of hard work, and I want to thank everyone who contributed to making that show so special. We are always excited to welcome new members, whether you are young enough to join the cast or 16+ and interested in helping behind the scenes. If you would like more information, please contact us at co2theatre@colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk.
With the incredible talent Colchester has to offer—both on stage and off—I am confident that CO2 will continue to thrive for many years to come. I hope you thoroughly enjoy the show!

Charlotte Butcher
Chairperson of CO2



CREATIVE TEAM



MATT JEWSON

DIRECTOR

It has been an absolute privilege for Matt to direct his first CO2 production on its anniversary year. He began his journey with CO2 back in 2008 and he has fond memories of his time performing, particularly being surrounded by such talented and supportive people. It was a crucial part of his life and it has led him to become a professional theatre maker for the past 12 years. Now he lectures at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and is currently directing ***The Tempest*** for Colchester Fringe Festival this year. He is also a mentor on the 'Mercury Creatives Programme' and alumni from the 'Mercury Directors Programme'. He would like to dedicate this production to his CO2 director and society legend, Dani Fincham.

ROB MILES

MUSICAL DIRECTOR



Rob is a musical director, vocal coach, composer and arranger. He has held a residency for the last nine years as Head of Singing at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, acting as musical director for all productions in addition to running the Conservatoire's Foundation in Acting course. Specialising in voice and singing, Rob manages his own private singing practice in the UK and has international recognition having also worked extensively as a singing specialist across Europe. As musical director and vocal arranger, Rob's work has appeared in West End venues including The Other Palace, Leicester Square Theatre and The Arts Theatre, in addition to The Brighton Fringe Festival, the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich and on-board London's celebrated cabaret venue, The Battersea Barge. His most recent MD credit is ***Urinetown*** at The Crescent Theatre and he has worked as MD on touring productions across the UK and was previously the musical director and vocal coach for Ruthie Henshall's theatre school.



SARAH JAMES

CHOREOGRAPHER

Sarah-Rose James has a degree in musical theatre from Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts. Sarah adores Musical Theatre but her professional work took her down the commercial and corporate event working in London and LA such as London Alternative Fashion Week, Olympics 2012, NHS, MOBO Awards, Gillette and Chanel 4 to name a few. As well as performing Sarah's passion for choreography has always come through and she been able to work on a number of musicals including ***Spring Awakening, Carrie, Godspell, Singing in the Rain, Rent, Frozen Jr*** and ***Annie Jr.*** Sarah's passion project of her original contemporary fusion dance show: ***Cinderman*** got granted a DYCP grant to develop via the arts council. She's excited to develop this show which challenges difficult topics and gives a voice to the voiceless. She has enjoyed working with director Matt, on the fourth musical she has worked along side him on, and legendary Rob Miles.

ACT 1

Omigod You Guys
Margot, Serena, Pilar, Elle, Delta Nu's

Serious
Warner, Elle

What You Want
Elle, Margot, Serena, Pilar, Delta Nu's, Ensemble

The Harvard Variations
Emmett, Aaron, Sundeep, Enid, Students

Blood In The Water
Callahan, Students

Positive
Elle, Margot, Serena, Pilar, Delta Nu's

Ireland
Paulette

Ireland (Reprise)
Paulette

Serious (Reprise)
Warner, Elle

Chip On My Shoulder
Emmett, Elle, Delta Nu's

So Much Better
Elle, Ensemble

ACT 2

Whipped Into Shape
Brooke, Callahan, Ensemble

Take It Like A Man
Elle, Emmett, Ensemble

Bend And Snap
Margot, Serena, Pilar, Elle, Paulette, Ensemble

There! Right There!
Elle, Callahan, Emmett, Vivienne, Enid, Warner, Brooke, Nikos, Carlos, Ensemble

Legally Blonde
Elle, Emmett

Legally Blonde Remix
Elle, Vivienne, Paulette, Enid, Brooke, Ensemble

Scene Of The Crime
Elle, Margot, Serena, Pilar, Emmett, Warner, Vivienne, Brooke, Ensemble

Find My Way/Finale
Elle, Paulette, Emmett, Ensemble





BECCI MORRIS

ELLE WOODS

Becci is delighted to be playing Elle Woods in her first show for Colchester Operatic Society. Recently, she graduated from University Centre Colchester with a BA Hons. in Musical Theatre. Some recent credits include 'Nancy' in ***Oliver***, 'Martha" in ***Spring Awakening***, and 'Sandra' in ***Made in Dagenham***. She is looking forward for future opportunities and for her career in performing.



NICHOLAS MCKEOWN

EMMETT FORREST

Nicholas has loved every minute of being Emmett and has been a part of CO2 since 2018. His credits include: Baker in ***Into the Woods*** (2024) Ned in ***School of Rock*** (2023) Billy Flynn in ***Chicago*** (2023) Hanschen in ***Spring Awakening*** (2023) Jack Zakowski in ***Fame!*** (2022) Britney in ***We Will Rock You*** (2020) ***Cinderella***: Mercury theatre Pantomime (2019) U/S Oliver Twist in ***Oliver!*** (2019) ***Wizard of Oz*** (2018)



MARGARITA FERNANDEZ

PAULETTE BONAFONTE

This is Margo's first show with CO2 and in the UK. A 22-year-old actress from Guatemala with a background in Commedia dell'arte, Film, and Singing, she recently moved to England. Margo dedicates this performance to her husband, parents, friends Kai and Valerie, and the Escenarte Academy of Artistic Studies in Guatemala City.



MARS SENCHELL

PROFESOR CALLAHAN

Mars Senchell is a first time performer with CO2 and is delighted to put another face to the name of Callahan. Mars is an up and coming actor and singer who has been involved with the Princes Acting Centre in Clacton-on-sea as Shrek in ***Shrek the Musical*** (2022), Lurch in ***Addams Family*** (2024) Hanschen in ***Spring Awakening*** (2024) and Mr Bumble in ***Oliver!*** (2023) with Clacton Community Theatre.



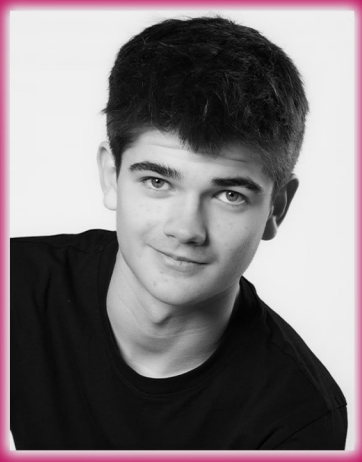
MATILDA DAVIS

BROOKE WYNDHAM

Matilda has been dancing at the Colchester School of Dance since the age of 2 and has recently been training at Tomorrow's Talent in Danbury. Matilda has been a part of COS since 2018 in their production of ***Annie***, and is excited to take on the role of Brook Wyndham in CO2s' production of Legally Blonde.

ZACHARY DAVIS

WARNER HUNTINGTON



Theatre is Zach's passion, he's been performing for many years and the passion he has still remains. Zach's theatre club in Halstead is where it started. He's done many shows over the years but not as big as Legally Blonde. Zach couldn't ask for a more supportive cast and hopes theatre is something that he will be doing for the rest of his life and he will enjoy every second of it.



ZAHRA NORAY

VIVIENNE KENSINGTON

Zahra is really excited to be a part of this cast and has loved getting to know everyone. She has had a great time taking part in this amazing show. Her credits include: Rizzo in ***Grease***, The Wicked Witch in ***The Wizard of Oz***, Elphaba in ***Wicked*** and Chad in ***High School Musical***.

IZZY WILLSON

MARGOT



Izzy has been performing since the age of 9. She has performed at the O2, The Royal Albert Hall and The Adelphi to name a few. Izzy graduated last year from University Centre Colchester with a First Class degree. Since then she has been teaching at Donovan's Academy. During her time at university Izzy played 'Wendla' in ***Spring Awakening***. She also performed in Colchester Fringe festival in a musical adaption of ***Treasure Island***.



HANNAH WENTWORTH

SERENA

Hannah has been a part of CO2 for 3 years and when she was younger she played Gretl in the COS production of ***The Sound of Music***. Hannah has enjoyed taking part in Headgate Pantos and attending dance classes at Stephanie Cook school of Dance. Hannah is very grateful for all the opportunities that Colchester Operatic Society has given her. She is looking forward to making many more memories with the society.

ZARA BALL

PILAR



Zara loves this show so much and is excited to be a part of her first CO2 production. She loves how true to the original film it is as well as all the extra special quirks it adds. Zara has previously been a junior chorus member in both the 2022 and 2023 Mercury pantomimes and been a key actor in the three MYC summer productions of ***Grimm Tales, Gogol's Underdogs and Buckets***.

CAST



ADAM EATON
SUNDEEP PADAMAN



ALBIE OXLEY
AARON SCHULTZ



ANNA TADMAN
QUINN



ARTHUR ALLEN
LOWELL



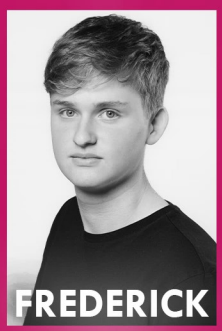
BECCI MORRIS
ELLE WOODS



BESSIE CHANDLER
ENSEMBLE



FREDDIE BULL
NIKOS



FREDERICK COE
WINTHROP



FREYA RUDKINS
WHITNEY/ JOYCE RILEY



GEORGIA BRINDLEY
ADDISON



GINEVRA VENTRE
ENSEMBLE



HANNAH WENTWORTH
SERENA



LEO WIGGINS
KYLE



LILY BROTHERTON
DANA



MAISIE GODDARD
MRS WOODS



MARNEY COX-GARDNER
ENSEMBLE



MARGARITA FERNANDEZ
PAULETTE BONAFONTE



MARS SENCHELL
PROFESSOR CALLAHAN



NIAMH CULLEN
GAELEN



NICHOLAS MCKEOWN
EMMETT FORREST



OLIVIA BAKER
ENSEMBLE



PHOEBE WENTWORTH
HARPER



ROSIE COFFEY
ENSEMBLE



TILLY FRANCIS
ENSEMBLE

CAST



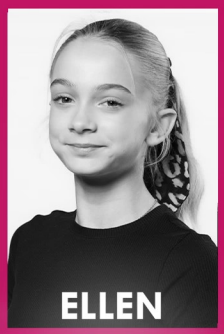
CAITLIN FEAKES
ENSEMBLE



CHLOE LONG
ENSEMBLE



DANIEL SAMULIONIS
PFORZHEIMER/ MR WOODS



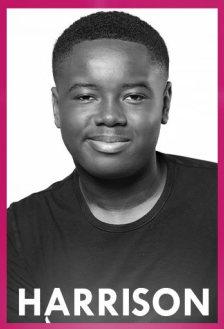
ELLEN CRAYSTON
ENSEMBLE



ELLIE-MARIE CHAPMAN
AVERY



EVEY DALY
ENID HOOPES



HARRISON AGORO
GRAND MASTER CHAD



INDIA HILL
LEILANI



IZZY WILLSON
MARGOT



JESSICA DINES
ENSEMBLE



KATE WALL-HARDEN
ENSEMBLE



KOBE BOYCE
ENSEMBLE



MATILDA DAVIS
BROOKE WYNDHAM



MEGAN FOX
ENSEMBLE



MIA MCINTYRE
KATE



MOLLY CUTTING
CHUTNEY



NATHAN SMITH
DEWEY/ CARLOS



NIAMH BUTCHER
ENSEMBLE



ZACHARY DAVIS
WARNER HUNTINGTON



ZAHRA NORAY
VIVIENNE KENSINGTON



ZARA BALL
PILAR



BENTLEY
BRUISER



BELLA
RUFUS



Messages!

To our lovely Molly
So proud of you sweetheart
Love Mum, Dad, William and Teddy xxx

Good luck to you all
Jane Crayston

OMIGOD Zachary and Matilda! We're beyond proud of you both and can't wait to see the results of your hard work. Break all the legs. Love from Mum, Dad and Dexter (& Maggie)

Good Luck to Lily & All of the Cast! So proud of you Lily as always. Love Mum, Dad, William & Family xxxx

Break a leg Els! We're all so proud of you, Love from us all x

Wishing Nathan and the whole cast a fantastic run. Enjoy yourselves, we certainly will.
Best wishes from The Wettons.

Good luck Niamh! Love from Mum, Dad, Gabi, Biscuit, Nori, Zero, Izzy and Gypsy!

Go Bec !!
We are all super proud of you xx
Lots of love, Mum, Nan, James, Alex, Lara & Charlie xxxx

Dear Jessie,
We are so proud of you Princess!!!
Break a leg and have a wonderful time.
Love always,
Mum, Dad & Sammy XXX

Good luck our little queen! We're so proud of you Jess and can't wait to see the show. Keep shining like the star you are. Lots of love, Katie, Chris, Chloe and Charlie xx

Good Luck Jess! Can't wait to see you perform, you'll be amazing. Love you lots. Nan. xxx

Marney, each time we see you on stage, you shine with a joy and energy that lets us know you're doing exactly what you're supposed to do. We are in awe of your talent and deeply proud of your achievements. When you perform, you perform from the heart, and it's nice to see all those years of listening to you singing in the bath have paid off. We love you more than anything. Mum and Dad.

Dear Ellen, we are really proud of you and can't wait to see you all on stage. Break a leg! Love from Mum, Dad and Tilly xxxx

Good luck Anna and the rest of the cast of Legally Blonde! Can't wait to watch you on stage A! Love Mum, James and Nanny.

Wishing Leo W and all the cast and crew of Legally Blonde a fantastic show run. Can't wait to watch the show on stage. So proud of you Leo. Have an amazing time. Love Mum & Dad xx

Wishing Harrison Agoro all the best! We know you can do it. Shine like a star. Have a fantastic time. Love: Mom, Dad and sisters Hannalee and Harmony

Good luck to Bessie and the rest of the amazing cast of Legally Blonde love Mum, Dad, Kitty and Megan

COLCHESTER OPERATIC SOCIETY'S PRODUCTION OF

Disney THE LITTLE MERMAID



Music by ALAN MENKEN
Lyrics by HOWARD ASHMAN & GLENN SLATER
Book by DOUG WRIGHT

MERCURY

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CO2
COLCHESTER OPERATIC SOCIETY

MERCURY

ROALD DAHL'S CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SEPTEMBER 2025

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager Terry Lyon
Deputy Stage Manager Charlotte Butcher
Properties Manager Phil Ager
Set Designers Terry Lyon with Phil Ager, Andy Bird
Stage and Props Team Phil Ager, Andy Bird, Ruby Blunden, Daniel Brewer, Rachel Brewer, Kirsty Bryant, Clair Cutting, Mark Littlewood, Eve Lloyd, Terry Lyon, Doug Mockridge, Bob Neville, Holly Pleasant, Maggie Walton, Keira Waring, Amy Wilson, Adam Webb, Bob Wilkinson
Flys Kirsty Bryant, Travis Roxburgh
Lighting Operator Alex Ray
Lighting Technical Support Nick Goodridge
Follow Spot Operators Jacob Jones, Elaine Lloyd, Blaine Myhill
Sound Number 1 Wesley Laing
Sound Number 2 Liz Fossey, Vinnie Weymouth
Wardrobe Manager Chloe Jones
Wardrobe Team Melanie Bird, Mia Hayter
Becci Morris' assistant Shannon Hannah
Dog Liaison Stefanie Wyatt
Prompt Andrew Hodgson, Helen McCraw, Lauren Nolan
Chaperones Charlotte Butcher, Kirsty Byrant, Sue Campbell, Anni Cullen, Katie Cutmore, Clair Cutting, Fiona Duhamel, Diane Emberton, Tracey Hackett, Maggie Walton, Tia Winterbottom, Stefanie Wyatt



ACKNOWLEDEMENTS

Props, furniture and set CC All Stars Cheerleaders, The Staff of Essex Outdoors Mersea, Fenwicks, The Gallery Players, Headgate Theatre, Kerry King, Manifest Theatre, Mercury Theatre Workshop, Mersea Island Festival, Judith Peeling, NSPCC Book Fair , Wayne Setford, The Wilson Family, Spingold Design and Print, St Helena Hospice, Stefanie Wyatt and members of COS/CO2.
Staging Steeldeck
Sound Design and Services Wesley Laing Productions
Sound Equipment supplied by Crosslight and Sound, Wesley Laing Productions
LX Equipment supplied by Artistic Solutions, James Broadhurst, Alex Ray
Marketing The Marketing Committee and the Mercury Theatre
Poster Artwork Design Emma Theedom
Programme Design Nicholas McKeown
Poster, Programme printing Spingold Design and Print
Photography Wild Bears Photography, Emma Theedom
Captioner Miranda Yates
Rehearsal venue Philip Morant School



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