

The man who brought the West End to Crystal Palace



Meet Daniel Stockton, the towering talent behind West End @ The Alma. Familiar to regulars at The Alma in Church Road, as one of the managers, he has another life as a West End musical theatre star and now musical theatre impresario.

Born in Los Angeles in 1971, Danny discovered, as a child in Kentucky, that he had a strong singing voice when his neighbour's children took him to church services. Show business was in his blood from his earliest days. He regularly featured in the school drama including Tom Sawyer and he won the State of Kentucky's 'Humorous Interpretation of a Poem' competition and went on to the national heats in New York with his rendering of 'About Eating Slugs'.

He loved the theatre but it was when he was 17 and living in Florida that he took part in his high school musical as Sir Harry in 'Once upon and Actress' that he was hooked on musical theatre. Around this time he was given a cassette of Les Miserables which was touring the state at the time. It was his dream to be in the show and ten years later his dream came true.

Danny graduated in theatre studies from Morehead University in Kentucky having thoroughly learned his craft backstage and onstage and got a place in the prestigious American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York.

Like so many actors he lived a double life. When not treading the boards, he was waiting on table to bring in his rent. He had realised while at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts that serious acting wasn't really for him and when he heard about an open audition for Les Mis in New York he went for it. At the audition he mentioned that he would be visiting the UK because he has British grandparents. They said, "get in touch when you're over in the UK". And so he did and so his dream came true – after eight auditions -. Danny joined the Les Miserables company and toured the UK for three years and at the end of the tour he was invited to join the West End company and spent 18 months in the show in the West End.

Just before his contract was about to be renewed he auditioned for Sir Trevor Nunn at the National Theatre and joined the magnificent musical South Pacific.



In 2011 Danny auditioned for Sister Act and spent 18 months touring the UK. Then after 18 months he was straight into Hairspray, playing the part of Aunt Doris.

"I found that women's clothing was really comfortable!, says Danny who had many clothes and wig changes per show.

Danny's entrepreneurial and impresario talents started some time ago when working with the fantastically talented musical director, Simon Lambert, he created 'Gigging for it' a musical theatre show with his West End pals.

"I loved putting those gigs together and suggested to Stephen Boyd, the Alma's owner, that we could do a similar thing in the pub and he leapt at the chance. He's now one of the producers," says Danny.

West End at the Alma started on September 13, 2015 and every one of the four shows since then has been a sell out. Bringing the best of the West End talent to Crystal Palace at a tenth of the price of a theatre show in town.

"I wanted to start doing Musical Theatre gigs in Crystal Palace as it adds to the culture. There is always some kind of gig, craft fair, market and so on that I thought people would enjoy a taste of The West End without paying through the nose. And an even better treat to walk there! I love doing these shows at The Alma. The audience reaction is priceless and sending people off into the night dancing and singing is NEVER a bad thing."

West End @ The Alma
An evening of Musical Theatre
Sunday 5th February 2017

Featuring:

 JULIE ATHERTON <small>Mama Mia, Avenue Q, Sister Act</small>	 TOSH WANOGHO-MAUD <small>The Book of Mormon, The Producers, Showboat</small>
 DANIEL STOCKTON <small>Les Misérables, Beautiful and the Beast</small>	 JOEL MONTAGUE <small>Funny Girl, Dewy Finn</small>
 ZAC HAMILTON <small>Le Misérables, Wicked</small>	 SHONA WHITE <small>Mama Mia, Le Misérables</small>

With Musical Direction by Simon Lambert.

The Alma, 95 Church Road, London, SE19 1TA
Doors open at 7pm, show starts at 8pm
Tickets £17.50, either via email: info@thealmapub.com or call 0208 768 1885
(no reserve seating)

Sound Design by Simon Guiger
Produced by Daniel Stockton, Stephen Boyd & Bryner Scudamore
Follow us on Twitter: @westendjms

The show on Sunday, February 5th has another stellar cast. Joining Danny will be Julie Atherton from Mama Mia, Avenue Q and Sister Act; Andy Coxon from Les Miserables, Beautiful and the Rocky Horror Show; Tosh Wanogho-Maud from The Book of Mormon, The Producers and Showboat; and Shona White from Le Miserables, Wicked and Mama Mia. Joel Montague who starred with Sheridan Smith in Funny Girl and who had a standing ovation for his Dewy Finn, the lead part in the School of Rock, will make a special appearance.

Tickets are £17.50 and available from info@thealmapub.com