

BOYS IN THE BUFF

A Christmas comedy
spectacular for adults



Drayton Arms Theatre
Dec 15-Jan 9

Welcome

From the writer Chris Burgess

WELCOME TO OUR SHOW AND MANY THANKS FOR COMING. Without your support, we could not put together productions such as this.

Bodies. We've all got one. But who is totally happy with theirs? Are you? Too fat? Too thin? Addicted to diets? Obsessed with the gym? Toying with the idea of plastic surgery? Or just fretting self-consciously because you don't have the perfect complexion like everyone on social media? Well, of course they do; they've all been Photoshopped.

That's what *Boys in the Buff* is about. In our 'selfie' culture the notion of 'self-image' – and how we deal with it – is more and more on our minds. Our show aims to playfully illuminate the issue with songs about weight-loss, playground taunts, self-confidence, narcissism, exhibitionism, penis envy and all things related to our naked selves.

The boys are taken through their paces by hostess Diana and yes, indulge in a bit of daft male nudity at times. But they also expose themselves in a more emotional way: revealing real insecurities about the way the world sees them.

You've seen *The Full Monty*, you've heard *Naked Boys Singing*, you've squinted at *Puppetry of the Penis* – but finally it's here: *Boys in the Buff*.

We hope you enjoy the show and will come back to see it again. And please bring your friends!

From the executive producer Richard Lambert

WE LIVE IN A CULTURE where our image is valued more than

our contributions, skills, talents, kindness, heart and true selves. This can be very destructive to our feelings of self-worth, particularly when the majority of us are not born with perfect physical characteristics.

This shallow concept is difficult to overcome. Believing somebody should keep their body covered up and out of sight is offensive and reflects on the person who holds this opinion! We're all different and that's to be valued.

What makes us all interesting and wonderful is our true selves, it is not the image we create, it should not be conformity. We should cast aside superficial attempts to appear successful with attempts to disguise our natural physical characteristics. We'd be much happier if we could love our bodies, accept others for who they are, and be more willing to accept our selves and others.



LAMBCO Productions and Peter Bull present

BOYS IN THE BUFF

Words and Music: **Chris Burgess**
Director and Choreographer: **Robbie O'Reilly**
Designer: **David Shields**
Musical Director: **Flynn Sturgeon**
Lighting Designer: **Richard Lambert**

Cast

Aaron Blackburn
Samuel Howe-Barrett
Louis van Leer
Aaron Wood
Katarina Zofia

Production Team

Orchestrations: **Joe Louis Robinson**
"I Can Fly" music by **Cathy Shostak**,
lyrics by **Chris Burgess**
Stage Manager: **Richard Lambert**
Production Photography: **Nick Brittain**
Casting: **Anne Vosser Casting**
Press: **Kevin Wilson PR**
Costume Feather Collars:
Maxine's Feathers
Musical Arrangements: **Andy Collyer**
Piano Transcriptions: **James Otto**
Graphic Design: **Steve Caplin**
Crew: **Daniel McKeown**,
Chris Marsh-Hilfiker
Production Assistant: **Daniel McKeown**
Video content by **Richard Lambert**,
Daniel McKeown and **Maximilien**
Spielbichler

Acknowledgements

Audrey Thayer at the Drayton Arms Theatre
Venue Technician: **Geert Rigters**
Thanks to **Steve Caplin**, **Christopher Knowlton**,
Maximillien Spielbichler,
The Garden Theatre Trustees



Cast



Aaron Blackburn

Max

Training: Aaron graduated from London College of Music, BA Hons Musical Theatre in 2017.

Theatre credits include: Lead Vocalist, *Marella Dream* (Cruise). Aaron is also a songwriter and guitarist and is thrilled to be returning to play the role of Max again. Teacher/ Performer, TNS in China, M1 vocalist, *Aida Aura* (cruise). *Santa and Elf*, *Christmas at Kew*, Immersive entertainment.

Theatre credits while training include: Nathaniel/ Bartholomew, *Risen*, Mustard Seed Songs, Ennio Ficiur.

Twitter: @AaronPeart1996

Aaron Wood

Dan

Training: The Urdang Academy in London earning himself a degree BA (hons) Professional Dance and Musical Theatre 2021.

Theatre credits include: West End debut at The Adelphi Theatre in a charity performance of *Singing in the Rain*; Aaron learnt the entire script in 48 hours. Aaron had previously performed in the West End as a child in *Oliver!* at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane.

Instagram: aaron__wood



Louis Van Leer

Phil

Training: D&B Performing Arts Saturday school in London at age 11, Central School of Ballet.

Theatre credits include: Matthew Bourne's *Cinderella* on their UK and Asian Tour as part of the New Adventures company. He has performed in the European Tour of *Cats* in which he played the part of Carbucketty and first cover Mr Mistoffelees, and at The King's Head Theatre in London where he played the role of Alexandro in LAMBCO Production's *Margot*. He most recently performed as Slave Master/Il Muto in the UK and Ireland Tour of *Phantom of the Opera*.

Instagram: @louis_vl/



Samuel Howe-Barrett

Richard

Training: The Urdang Academy London (BA (Hons) Degree - 2019 Graduate); and Emil Dale Academy.

Theatre credits include: Swing in *Queenz: The Show with Ballz!* (UK Tour); Slightly/On-Stage Swing in *Peter Pan* (Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds).

Concert credits include: Vocalist in *Musical Theatre Rewind: The 80s* (Union Theatre); Dancer in *Best of British Music* (Open Air Theatre - Canary Wharf).

Theatre Credits while training: Moritz Stiefel in *Spring Awakening* (Bernie Grant Arts Theatre); Bat Boy/Edgar in *Bat Boy! The Musical* (The Urdang Academy).

Further Credits: Ensemble Vocals in *Zombies: The Musical* (Cast Recording); Backing Vocals in *We're Unstoppable* (West End Charity Single for mind.org/Pieta UK).

Twitter: @SamuelHBarrett

Instagram: @samuelhbarrett_

Katarina Zofia

Diana

Training: Italia Conti – 2017 graduate & Performers College - 2020 graduate.

Theatre: Director/ensemble in *My Dear Lenny*, Joanne in *Rent* (P.C Fringe Theatre)

Concert: Ensemble in *Swing* (West End Live)

Online: Ensemble In “Disco inspired” West End Musical (workshopping with Michael Gyngell & Mark Crossland); Vivienne in *Legally Blonde* (3rd Year Professional Musical).

Television: Drummer in *Rugby Clash* (Twickenham Stadium)

Theatre whilst training: Vivienne in *Legally Blonde*; Joanne In *Rent*.

Twitter: @KatarinaZofia

Instagram: katarina.zofia/



Creatives

Chris Burgess

Writer (music and lyrics)

Musical Theatre credits include:

Tales My Lover Told Me and *Tickle* (King's Head Theatre, Islington); *The Last Fattybottypuss in the World* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre); *It's Only Make Believe* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate), *Dishonorable Ladies*, one woman show for Honor Blackman, (National tour, and West End); *Sophie Tucker's One Night Stand*, *Bette Midler and Me* and *Skin Deep* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival); *Lunch With Marlene and Noel* - starring Kate O'Mara - and *Hetty Feinstein's Wedding Anniversary* (New End Theatre, Hampstead) *Devilish!* (Landor Theatre). *Jewish Legends*, *Great Jewish American Songbook*, *That's Jewish Entertainment*, *MGM Story* and *A Night at the Oscars* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse). His musical *Sleeping Arrangements* opened in 2013 at the Landor Theatre. CD available from SimG Productions. *Elton John – A Little Bit Funny* opened in 2020 at Upstairs at the Gatehouse and is currently touring.

Next show: *Jewish Hollywood* opens at Upstairs at the Gatehouse in Feb 2022

Website: chrisburgess.org.uk

Lambco Productions

Producer

Producing credits include: *Christmas Skating Events* (5 seasons, Torquay); *Bluebirds the Musical* (Above the Stag Theatre); *LAMBCO Fringe Festival 2014 – 2016* (LOST Theatre); *Sincerely Yours* (Landor Theatre); *Bewitchment on Black Ice* (Associate Producer, Landor Theatre); *Do you have a Secret Crush (Sleeping with Straight Men)?* (LOST Theatre);

The Crumple Zone (Clapham Omnibus, Pleasance Theatre, King's Head Theatre); *Boys in the Buff the Musical* (Stockwell Playhouse) and *Boys in the Buff* the Concert (King's Head Theatre), *Skin Deep* (UK Tour and Edinburgh Fringe 2018), *Margot, Dame - the Most Famous Ballerina in the World* (King's Head Theatre), *Tickle* (King's Head Theatre).

Flynn Sturgeon

Musical Director

Training: Royal Holloway, University of London.

Musical Director credits include:

I Could Use A Drink (UK Premiere, Garrick Theatre), *Roles We'll Never Play* (Apollo/Vaudeville Theatres), *When I Grow Up* (Lyric Theatre), *Love Story* (Cadogan Hall, Associate Musical Director), *Songs for a New World* (London Palladium, Assistant Musical Director), *There's No Business Like Show Business* (The London Eye), *Three Little Pigs* (UK Tour), *Frostbite* (Garden Theatre).

Performance credits include: *Soho Cinders* (Charing Cross Theatre), *Singin' In The Rain* (Adelphi Theatre, charity performance).

Other info: Flynn is the musical director of the Gay Men's Dance Company and a conductor with Popchoir. He also works regularly with a variety of the top musical theatre colleges in and around London.

David Shields

Designer

David has designed the set and costumes for plays, musicals, and other spectacles at venues of every scale from international arena tours to studio theatres via



prominent international and regional producing houses and the West End, most recently with *Heathers The Musical* (Theatre Royal Haymarket). Some of his other credits include: *Little Shop Of Horrors*, *Sister Act* and *Legally Blonde* (Aberystwyth); *Strictly Come Dancing The Professionals* (UK tour); *Ice Age Live - A Mammoth Adventure* (Arena World Tour); the UK touring Production of *Robin Cousins' ICE*; National Touring productions of *End of the Rainbow*, *Little Shop Of Horrors*, and *Our House*. *High Fidelity* (Turbine Theatre); *Honest Amy* (directed by Kathy Burke); *Bang Bang* by

John Cleese, *Dick Whittington*, *Snow White*, (GBPA best costume design nominee), *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Oliver* and *Cinderella* (Mercury Theatre Colchester).

Peter Bull

Artistic Director, Garden Theatre

Peter is artistic director of The Garden Theatre and formerly the associate producer at the King's Head Theatre in Islington. He has produced over 100 Off West End plays, musicals and pantomimes as well as cabaret and stand up performances. In addition he has directed in London, New York, Chicago and Milwaukee. He recently produced the original cast recording of his award winning production of *Grindr The Opera*.



Creatives

Richard Lambert

Lighting Designer

Frostbite, Pippin and Next Thing You Know (Garden Theatre); *TICKLE, Margot, Undetectable* (OFFIE Nominated Lighting Design), *The Crumple Zone, Boys in the Buff* (King's Head Theatre); *Skin Deep* (Ed Fest and UK Tour); *Marry Me A Little, Muscles the Musical, Alvaro's Balcony, Discotivity, Stand Tall, Vincent River, The Hot Mikado, Get Aladdin, A Class Act, Next Thing You Know, Nunsense, Bakewell Bakeoff, Meet Me in St. Louis, No Way to Treat a Lady, The Man Inside, Damn Yankees* (OFFIE Nominated Lighting Design), *She Loves Me, In the Dead of Night, The Clockmaker's Daughter, Sincerely Yours, Personals, Romance Romance, Devilish* (Landor Theatre); *Do you Have a Secret Crush?* (Stockwell Playhouse)

Other credits: *Disney on Ice* (Worldwide including Tokyo Budokan, New Orleans Super Dome, Toronto Sky Dome, NYC Radio City Music Hall), *Royal Wedding Dress Exhibition* (Kensington Palace), *#Hashtag Lightie* (Arcola Theatre), *Cirque Enchantment* (UK Tour) and Jazz Dance Company UK Tour (6th year).

Other credits: Producer of Christmas Skating Events in Torquay for 5 seasons; Producer of *Bluebirds* (Above the Stag); LAMBCO Fringe Festival 2014 and 2015, *Sincerely Yours* (Landor Theatre) and Associate Producer for *Bewitchment on Black Ice* (Landor Theatre). Produced the LAMBCO Fringe Festival 2016, and *The Crumple Zone* (Pleasance London), *Boys in the Buff* (Stockwell Playhouse and King's Head Theatre) and *Skin Deep* (UK Tour and Edinburgh Fringe 2018), *DJ Maxx Festival, Dance Overtures*, and various

projects in the Middle East including the Luseil Stadium for the World Cup 22.

Web: lambcolighting.co.uk

Robbie O'Reilly

Director and Choreographer

Performing credits include: Robbie has had an extensive career starting as a performer in numerous stage productions for Original London and European theatre companies: *Chicago; Fosse; My One and Only* and Royal National Theatres' *Anything Goes* to name a few, as well as many appearances on Television, in Film, on Video and in Cabaret.

Recording credits include: *Chicago* (Original London Cast) and *Anything Goes* (National Theatre Cast).

Choreography credits include: *Boys in the Buff the Concert* (King's Head Theatre); *Boys in the Buff* (Stockwell Playhouse); *Dynasties: The Sands of Time* (Jazz Dance Company, UK Tour); critically-acclaimed *Sondheim's Follies, Put On A Happy Face, Into The Woods* (Landor Theatre); *I Love You Because* (UK Premiere, winner of Theatregoers' Choice Award for Best Off-West End Musical, 2007, Landor Theatre); *Alvaro's Balcony* (Landor Theatre); *Curtains* (2013 Award Winner for Best Choreography, Front Row Dress Awards and shortlisted Finalist for the WhatsOnStage 'Offies' for Best Choreography, Landor Theatre); *Damn Yankees* (Offie Nomination for Best Choreography 2014, Landor Theatre); *She Loves Me* (4 Offie Nominations, 2015 and shortlisted Finalist for WhatsOnStage 'Offies', Landor Theatre); *The Clockmaker's Daughter, Sincerely Yours* (Landor Theatre);

Opening Gala, Hello Again, Pippin, Assassins for (Birmingham School of Acting); *The Wrong House* (LSMT); *The Step into Dance Company*; *The Royal Academy of Dance*; *Almost Like A Virgin* (Edinburgh Fringe); *City of Angels* (Bridewell Theatre); *Bumblescratch* (Workshop, Robert Sherman Jr, Network Theatre); *Do You Have A Secret Crush? (Sleeping With Straight Men)* (LOST Theatre), *Guys and Dolls*, *Sound of Music*, *Oliver*, (Francis Holland school) and numerous Jazz and Musical Theatre pieces for various dance colleges, *Move it* and corporate gigs including The Natural History Museum and Mastercard.

Directorial credits include: *Skin Deep – The body image show* (Edinburgh Fringe), For the Jazz Dance company - Touring productions, JDC, *Evolution*, *Circus of Dreams*, *Silver Screen*, *Unexpected Tales*, *Dynasties -The Sands Of Time*, *Decades*, *Iconic* and *Phoenix Rising from the Ashes*. (Pentland Theatre), Assistant Director *Alvaro's Balcony* (Landor Theatre)

Other info: Robbie is Artistic Director and Company Director of London Studio Centre's Jazz Dance Company.

Twitter: @OReillyRobbie

Insta: @robbiea5678

For the Garden Theatre

Patron: Su Pollard

Board of Trustees:

Adam Spreadbury-Maher (Chair)

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BOYS IN THE BUFF

Boys In
The Buff

All About Bodies

I Can Fly

Size Doesn't
Matter

Disco In
Heels

Body Shame
Game

The Gym

Only A Joke

My Foreskin
And Me

Ode To My Body

Take A Selfie

Keep It Under
Our Hats

INTERVAL

Embarrassing
Bodies

Let It All
Hang Out

Dancing In The
Semi-Nude

Ballet

Tropicana

My Favourite
Thong Song

Now Is The
Time

Le Porn

Love Me For
Who I Am

I Can Strip
For You!

Big Hearted
Mama

What We Have
In Common

Naked

Finale

BOYS IN THE NET

