

THE **Leys**
CAMBRIDGE

150
1875-2025
ACHIEVING THE EXCEPTIONAL

Great Hall
at The Leys

Les Misérables

SCHOOL EDITION

by ALAIN BOUBLIL and CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHÖNBERG

Based on the novel by VICTOR HUGO



WEDNESDAY 3 - SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 2025

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

Welcome from *The Head*

It is a privilege to present *Les Misérables* this term, a production that resonates deeply with themes of resilience, hope, and humanity. This year marks the 40th anniversary of *Les Misérables* as a stage phenomenon, and how fitting that we celebrate this milestone during our own 150th anniversary as a school. Both anniversaries remind us of the enduring power of stories to unite communities and inspire generations.

Bringing a production of this scale to life demands extraordinary talent and unwavering dedication. The cast and crew have poured countless hours into rehearsals, set design, music, and technical preparation. Their commitment reflects not only artistic excellence but also the collaborative spirit that lies at the heart of our school.

Productions like this foster phenomenal skills: creativity, discipline, teamwork, and resilience to name a few. These qualities will serve our pupils far beyond the stage, shaping confident individuals ready to embrace challenges with courage and imagination.

We are also delighted to showcase the exceptional work of our orchestra and musical direction team, whose artistry brings the score to life and elevates every moment of the performance.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt thanks to parents, staff, and supporters for their encouragement and generosity. Your contributions make achievements like this possible.

Thank you for joining us to celebrate this remarkable achievement. We hope you enjoy the performance as much as the cast and crew have enjoyed creating it.

Clare Ives
Head



THE **Leys**
C A M B R I D G E

150
1875-2025
ACHIEVING THE EXCEPTIONAL

Les Misérables

SCHOOL EDITION

PERFORMED ENTIRELY BY STUDENTS

A musical by
ALAIN BOUBLIL and CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHÖNBERG

Based on the novel by
VICTOR HUGO

Music by
CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHÖNBERG

Lyrics by
HERBERT KRETZMER

Original French text by ALAIN BOUBLIL and JEAN-MARC NATEL

Additional material by JAMES FENTON

Adapted by TREVOR NUNN and JOHN CAIRD

Original Orchestrations by JOHN CAMERON
New Orchestrations by CHRISTOPHER JAHNKE
STEPHEN METCALFE and STEPHEN BROOKER

Originally Produced by CAMERON MACKINTOSH

School Edition specially adapted and licensed by
MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL and CAMERON MACKINTOSH (OVERSEAS) LTD

About 'Les Mis'

Across the world, *Les Misérables* has undoubtedly become one of the most iconic musicals of all time. The show has recently celebrated its 40th anniversary in London. It has been translated into over 20 languages and played in well over 300 cities over more than 40 countries. The international acclaim of the show resulted in over 140 major theatre awards, as well as nearly 50 cast recordings in various languages.

Victor Hugo's novel *Les Misérables* was first published in France in 1862. Centuries later, the story was reinvented by songwriter Alain Boublil. Boublil was watching Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* when he began to envision the character of Gavroche Thénardier, the first of many colourful characters in the musical version of *Les Misérables*. He worked with composer Claude-Michel Schönberg to develop the show. In 1980, the two produced a French-language concept album.

The same year, the first live French-language production opened at the Palais des Sports, Paris. In 1982, Cameron Mackintosh received a copy of the concept album and was encouraged to produce an English-language adaptation of the show. Mackintosh called upon the Royal Shakespeare Company to co-produce the show. On 8 October 1985, *Les Misérables* premiered at the Barbican Centre in London, before transferring to the Palace Theatre in December 1985, starring notable names such as Colm Wilkinson, Roger Allam, Patti LuPone and Michael Ball.

When *Les Misérables* debuted, it set itself apart in many ways. First and foremost, the show brought to the stage the well-known, well-loved, and notoriously lengthy work of Victor Hugo. *Les Misérables* was also written to be completely sung through, with no breaks for dialogue. Instead, the songs were all linked by recitative more familiar to the audiences of opera or operetta than popular musical theatre.

Infamously, the initial reviews were negative. The Sunday Telegraph described the musical as "a lurid Victorian melodrama produced with Victorian lavishness", and The Observer considered the show "a witless and synthetic entertainment", while literary scholars condemned the project for converting classic literature into a musical. Public opinion differed, and the box office received record orders. The original West End production won three Olivier Awards, and the subsequent Broadway production won eight Tony Awards, five Drama

Desk Awards and a New York Drama Critics' Circle Award.

Officially now the longest running musical in the world, the show moved to the Queen's Theatre (now known as the Sondheim Theatre) in 2004. Numerous tours, international and regional productions have been staged, as well as concert and broadcast productions. The film version, directed by Tom Hooper and starring Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway, Amanda Seyfried, Eddie Redmayne and others, was released at in 2012 to generally positive reviews; it won three Academy Awards and was nominated for five more, including Best Picture.

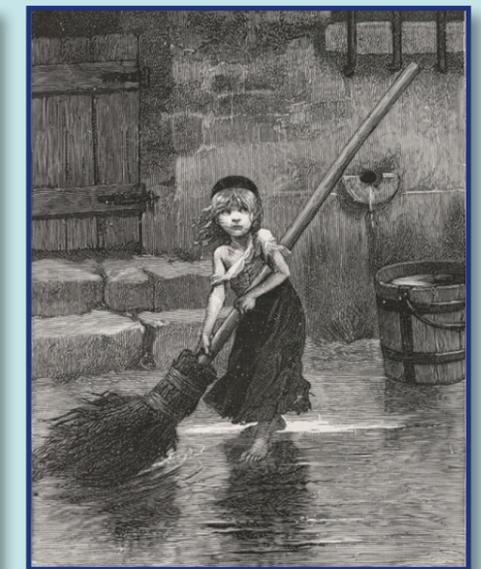
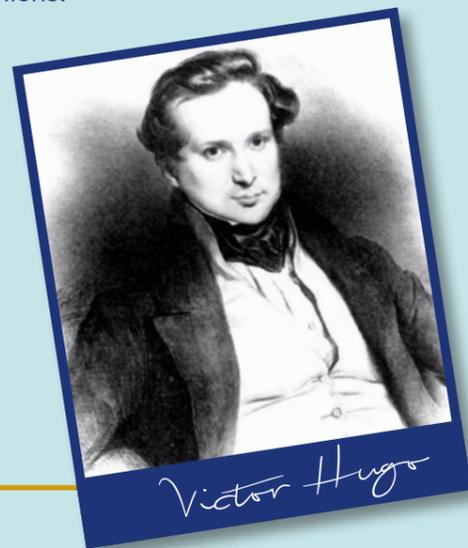
ORIGINS

Victor Hugo was born in 1802 and raised in Franche-Comte, France. His parents were divided in their political beliefs – his father was a Republican who served in Napoleon's army, and his mother was a Catholic royalist. In 1803 the family moved to Paris, and much of Victor's early writing reflected his mother's Catholic education.

It was during the 1848 French Revolution that Victor's beliefs and writing took a turn towards Republicanism and free thought, like his father's beliefs.

After Napoleon III's coup d'état in 1851, Victor lived in exile in Brussels, Jersey and eventually Guernsey. After the siege of Paris from 1870 to 1871, Victor finally returned to Paris, where he would live for the rest of his life.

Victor Hugo's work includes an impressive body of poetry, plays and novels. Hugo's biggest writing influence was Francois-Rene de Chateaubriand, an icon of Romanticism in France. Akin to his idol, he wrote about social issues, specifically about Republicanism, and eventually was pushed into exile for his public opinions.



Hugo began writing *Les Misérables* in the early 1830s, and the novel was eventually published in 1862. Like the musical version, the highly anticipated book was not well received initially among critics but proved to be widely popular among the masses in France. It was originally published in a weekly serial form.

One of the most notable features of the novel was the work of French illustrator Émile Bayard, who created, among many other sketches, a memorable image of Cosette as an impoverished young girl. The image is of course now instantly recognisable as part of the logo for the musical.

FRENCH REVOLUTION

Les Misérables is notably about the legacy of what we call the French Revolution, not the event itself. Whilst the actual French Revolution occurred from 1789 to 1794, the "revolution" in question that takes place in the book occurs in 1832.

A king was once again on the throne of France. The rich were getting richer, and the poor were getting poorer. A cholera epidemic in 1832 also wreaked havoc. General Maximilien Lamarque, an advocate of the poor, had just died. On 5 June, many students, workers, and others were accompanying his body which was being transported to the southwest of France, and the procession multiplied into a mob. Victor Hugo heard the gunshots in the Les Halles direction of Paris. At this point, there were barricades throughout Les Halles, and much of France was occupied by mobs. Hugo's curiosity led him to follow the gunshots, and he found himself caught in the crossfire. Many people lost their lives with little support from the other citizens. Victor Hugo derived the story of *Les Misérables* from this event.

NOVEL v MUSICAL

The beloved French story was adapted for the theatre with much respect to its original version, while making sure each twist and turn was right for the stage. In general, the musical follows the timeline of the novel, and the characters remain as vibrant as they are in the original story.

In the novel, the Thénardiens have more children, including Gavroche. The character Javert is lesser in the novel, while in the musical, the role is elevated to become Valjean's moral and personal nemesis. Marius' grandfather, Monsieur Gillenormand, serves a large role in the book as a source of conflict for Marius when choosing between love and revolution, but the character does not appear in the musical.

The students are a much bigger part of the musical than the book. In that, Marius only goes to one of their meetings after he is thrown out of his grandfather's house and adopted by Courfeyrac, where he fails to read the room and launches into a speech about the greatness of Napoleon - too progressive for his royalist grandfather, but too imperialistic for the stoutly republican "Friends of the Dispossessed" as they called themselves. Finally, in the musical, Valjean's journey is much more condensed.

From page to stage, the story remains a point of inspiration – a tireless anthem for the weak and the poor.

Some text and images adapted from the Les Misérables School Edition Enhanced Study Guide by Derek Bowley and Vichet Chum.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

and Musical Numbers

PROLOGUE

1815 – TOULON, FRANCE

LOOK DOWN – Convicts, Javert, Jean Valjean
ON PAROLE – Jean Valjean, Farmer, Labourer, Bishop Myriel of Digne
VALJEAN ARRESTED / VALJEAN FORGIVEN – Bishop, Constables
VALJEAN'S SOLILOQUY (WHAT HAVE I DONE?) – Jean Valjean

ACT ONE

1823 – MONTREUIL-SUR-MER

The Factory

AT THE END OF THE DAY – Townspeople, Factory Girls, Foreman, Fantine, Jean Valjean
I DREAMED A DREAM – Fantine

The Docks

LOVELY LADIES – Sailors, Prostitutes, Old Woman, Pimp, Fantine
FANTINE'S ARREST – Bamatabois, Fantine, Javert, Jean Valjean
THE RUNAWAY CART – Fauchelant, Townspeople, Jean Valjean, Javert
WHO AM I? – Jean Valjean

The Hospital

FANTINE'S DEATH – Fantine, Jean Valjean
CONFRONTATION – Javert, Jean Valjean

MONTFERMEIL

The Inn

CASTLE ON A CLOUD – Young Cosette, Madame Thénardier, Young Eponine
MASTER OF THE HOUSE – Thénardier, Madame Thénardier, Inn Guests
THE BARGAIN – Jean Valjean, Young Cosette, Thénardier, Madame Thénardier

~~~

#### 1832 – PARIS

LOOK DOWN (REPRISE) – The Poor, Gavroche, Marius, Enjolras, Students  
THE ROBBERY – Thénardier, Madame Thénardier, Marius, Eponine, Jean Valjean, Cosette, Javert  
STARS – Javert  
EPONINE'S ERRAND – Eponine, Marius

##### Café Musain

THE ABC CAFÉ / RED AND BLACK – Enjolras, Marius, Students  
DO YOU HEAR THE PEOPLE SING? – Enjolras, Students

##### The House at Rue Plumet

IN MY LIFE – Cosette, Jean Valjean, Marius, Eponine  
A HEART FULL OF LOVE – Marius, Cosette, Eponine  
THE ATTACK ON RUE PLUMET – Thénardier, Thénardier's Gang, Eponine, Marius, Cosette, Jean Valjean

Finale, Act 1  
ONE DAY MORE – Company

*There will be one interval.  
Refreshments will be served in the Foyer.  
Dale House will be selling ice creams for their chosen charity.*

### ACT TWO

#### The Streets of Paris

BUILDING THE BARRICADE – Enjolras, Javert, Marius, Eponine, Students

#### Rue Plumet

THE LETTER - Eponine, Jean Valjean  
ON MY OWN – Eponine

#### The Barricade

AT THE BARRICADE – Enjolras, Army Officer, Students, Javert  
LITTLE PEOPLE – Gavroche, Students  
A LITTLE FALL OF RAIN – Marius, Eponine  
THE FIRST ATTACK – Enjolras, Students, Jean Valjean, Javert  
THE NIGHT (DRINK WITH ME) – Students, Women's Chorus  
BRING HIM HOME – Jean Valjean  
THE SECOND ATTACK – Enjolras, Students, Gavroche  
THE FINAL BATTLE – Army Officer, Enjolras, Students

#### The Sewers

DOG EATS DOG – Thénardier  
ESCAPING THE SEWER - Jean Valjean, Javert

#### The River Seine

JAVERT'S SOLILOQUY – Javert

#### After the Revolution

TURNING – Parisian Woman  
EMPTY CHAIRS AT EMPTY TABLES – Marius  
A HEART FULL OF LOVE (REPRISE) – Cosette, Marius, Jean Valjean  
VALJEAN'S CONFESSION – Valjean, Marius

THE WEDDING – Wedding Guests  
BEGGARS AT THE FEAST – Marius, Thénardier, Madame Thénardier

### EPILOGUE

EPILOGUE – Jean Valjean, Fantine, Cosette, Marius, Eponine  
DO YOU HEAR THE PEOPLE SING? (REPRISE) – Company

*Please switch off your mobile telephone and other electronic devices during the performance.  
Unauthorised photography or video recording is not permitted during the performance.*

*This production features flashing lights, loud sounds, gun shots, pyrotechnics and theatrical fog effects.  
Les Misérables contains depictions of poverty, prostitution, exploitation, violence, death and suicide.*

# The Cast

Jean Valjean  
 Javert, a policeman  
 Fantine (Wednesday) / Factory Girl  
 Fantine (Thursday) / Factory Girl  
 Fantine (Friday) / Factory Girl  
 Fantine (Saturday) / Factory Girl  
 Thénardier  
 Madame Thénardier  
 Gavroche (Wednesday & Friday) / Ensemble  
 Gavroche (Thursday & Saturday) / Ensemble  
 Eponine (Wednesday & Friday) / Ensemble  
 Eponine (Thursday & Saturday) / Ensemble  
 Young Eponine (Wednesday & Friday) / Ensemble  
 Young Eponine (Thursday & Saturday) / Ensemble  
 Cosette (Wednesday & Friday) / Factory Girl  
 Cosette (Thursday & Saturday) / Factory Girl  
 Young Cosette (Wednesday & Friday) / Ensemble  
 Young Cosette (Thursday & Saturday) / Ensemble

Ollie Howard-Jones  
 Harry Ashcroft  
 Eliza Robson Brown  
 Lilla Tustain  
 Sylvie Gray  
 Lexi White  
 Lucas Mudkavi  
 Sophia Johnson  
 Jacob Haworth  
 Albert Eyre  
 Hermione Harmsworth  
 Heidi Bloomfield  
 Violet Harmsworth  
 Hera Bloomfield  
 Cecilia Godfrey  
 Keira Hyde  
 Charlotte Barberini  
 Martha Kirby

The Foreman  
 Factory Girl / Parisian Woman  
 Factory Girl / Old Woman / Parisian Woman  
 Factory Girl / Parisian Woman

Joshua Adejori  
 Amelia James  
 Tofunmi Jegede  
 Therese Viljoen  
 Marcia Arthur  
 Anna Tomkinson  
 Ruihan Li

Lovely Lady  
 Lovely Lady  
 Lovely Lady  
 Sick Lovely Lady

Daisy Mears  
 Tilda Mannion  
 Elva Ngau  
 Pippa Cook

Lovely Ladies / Ensemble

Izzy Birkby  
 Todun Osofisan  
 Florence Crossley  
 Mia Sargeant  
 Elodie Nicolaus  
 Jil Schepers  
 Clemmi Bedford

## *The ABC' Students*

Enjolras (Wednesday & Friday) / Ensemble  
 Enjolras (Thursday & Saturday) / Ensemble  
 Marius  
 Combeferre / Convict / Customer  
 Feuilly / Convict  
 Courfeyrac  
 Joly  
 Grantaire / Pimp  
 Lesgles / Bamatabois  
 Prouvaire  
 Bossuet / Convict  
 Bahorel / Convict  
 Jehan / Customer

Rufus Hanka  
 Nico Clarke  
 Harry Conlin  
 Alex Kennedy  
 Ollie Rowland  
 Barney Macfadyen  
 Jacob Lucas-Adams  
 Toby Grieve  
 Oscar Misson-Cerdeno  
 Ella Trowell  
 William Temple  
 Arthur Crossley  
 Dmitrii Kliushin

Ensemble

Serena Hutson  
 Herb Songwutwichai  
 Aline Halban Taylor  
 Martha Page  
 Rebecca Huang  
 Xuanyan Chen  
 Felix Johns Gabelich

## *Thénardier's Gang*

Montparnasse / Convict / Fauchelevent  
 Babet / Convict  
 Brujon / Convict  
 Claquesous / Convict  
  
 The Bishop of Digne  
 Farmer / Sailor / Mistaken Valjean / Major Domo  
 Labourer / Sailor / Army Officer  
 Sailor  
 Constable / Onlooker / Sentry  
 Constable / Sentry

Joanna Hinde  
 Lily Campos Bell  
 Mufaro Mavhinga  
 Kerwin Li  
  
 Cameron MacColl  
 Leo Winlaw  
 Henry Kirby  
 Zack Worden  
 Riley Neville  
 Thomas Rowstron



# Cast Bios



*Ollie Howard-Jones*

Ollie made his stage debut aged 13 and most recently played Shakespeare in The Leys' production of *Shakespeare in Love* (2024). He is thrilled to be playing the role of Jean Valjean in this show.



*Harry Ashcroft*

Harry Ashcroft is excited to make his stage debut as Javert in *Les Misérables*. He is thrilled to be a part of this production.



*Eliza Robson Brown*

Eliza first joined Leys Drama in Year 9 and has been in plays ever since. She is thrilled to be playing the part of Fantine and can't wait for everyone to enjoy the show.



*Lilla Tustain*

Lilla most recently played a witch in *Macbeth* in 2025. She is very excited to play Fantine in *Les Mis*.



*Sylvie Gray*

Sylvie most recently played Macbeth in the Year 10 production of *Macbeth*. She is very excited to be playing the role of Fantine in this show.



*Lexi White*

Lexi made her stage debut aged 14 as a very extravagant posh wife in the Year 9 Moliere trilogy. Her latest role in a Leys production was as Edmund Tilney, a very grumpy Lord Chamberlain. She is excited to take on the role of Fantine for the final night of *Les Mis*.



*Lucas Mudkari*

Lucas has thoroughly enjoyed performing in school productions and is thrilled and excited to be playing Monsieur Thénardier in The Leys' production of *Les Misérables*. He would like to thank the amazing drama department for making this incredible production possible.

*Sophia Johnson*

From one pub in The Leys' *Oliver!* to a slightly more French one in *Les Mis*, Sophia is excited to be back in what feels like home!



*Jacob Haworth*

Jacob most recently played the role of Michael Banks in the Moulton production of *Mary Poppins Jr*. He is excited to play the role of Gavroche in this show.

*Albert Eyre*

Albert first performed a play when he was 12 as Scar in *The Lion King*, and most recently played Eric in *Lord of the Flies*. He is very excited to be playing Gavroche in *Les Mis* and look forward to seeing what he can do with the character.



*Hermione Harmsworth*

Hermione found her love for singing and performing when she watched *Mamma Mia* on the sofa aged 2, and after initially complaining, asked to watch it again. Eponine is a dream role for Hermione. Samantha Barks and Lea Salonga are two of her biggest inspirations for performing.

*Heidi Bloomfield*

Heidi is very excited to be playing the part of Eponine in *Les Mis*, a dream role of hers. She has loved the theatre her whole life and has not stopped singing *Les Mis* since she first heard it as a young girl.

*Violet Harmsworth*

Violet joined The Leys last year and debuted as Polly in *Lord of the Flies* (2025), as well as being a faithful member of the costume and makeup team backstage for *Shakespeare in Love* (2024) and *Macbeth* (2025). She is absolutely thrilled to be playing Little Eponine in *Les Mis* this term and has loved every second.

*Hera Bloomfield*

Following her performance in *Lord of the Flies* last year, this is Hera's first musical at The Leys, appearing alongside her sister.



*Cecilia Godfrey*

Cecilia cannot wait to play the part of Cosette in this production. She is so excited to be part of a musical.

*Keira Hyde*

Keira is ecstatic to perform the role of Cosette for this *Les Mis*, with previous performances in *Oliver!*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *The It* and *The Musicians*. Her work for the National Youth Theatre will hopefully help her to bring Cosette to life.

*Charlotte Barberini*

Charlotte made her stage debut in Year 5 and most recently played Mary Poppins at Old Buckenham Hall. She is really excited to play Little Cosette in The Leys' 150th anniversary production of *Les Misérables*.

*Martha Kirby*

Martha was part of the young ensemble in the Cambridge pantomime *Cinderella* last year and played Polly in The Leys' Year 9 play, *Lord of the Flies*. She is very excited to be in this amazing production, playing Young Cosette.



*Rufus Hanka*

Rufus started performing at age 11 at his old school, OBH. He has been main characters in every play since and is now playing the role of Enjolras in *Les Mis*.

*Nico Clarke*

Nico made his stage debut at the age of 4 by playing a shepherd in the nativity. He has performed pretty much every year since and is looking forward to playing Enjolras in *Les Mis*.

*Harry Conlin*

Harry first appeared on the school stage age 7. Having played Lucetta in The Leys' production of *Shakespeare in Love*, he is very excited to be playing the male role of Marius this year.

*Alex Kennedy*

Alex made his stage debut aged 12. As a Year 9, he played Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol*, and is very proud to have been in multiple productions at The Leys. He loves being a Drama Scholar and hopes that his name will one day be engraved backstage in Great Hall!

*Ollie Rowland*

Drama scholar Ollie made his performing debut at The Leys with the production of *Lord of the Flies* where he played Roger. Ollie is very excited to be playing the part of Feuilly.

*Barney Macfadyen*

After always wanting to be in a musical, Barney has made his musical debut as Courfreyac, the student. He hopes that everybody enjoys the show.

*Jacob Lucas-Adams*

Jacob has performed in many shows as a variety of different characters; notably Big Jule in *Guys and Dolls* (2024), Doody in *Grease* (2025), as well as in supporting and principal roles in other plays. He is delighted to be playing Joly in *Les Mis*.

*Toby Grieve*

Toby has enjoyed taking on a variety of comical roles during his time at The Leys. He is delighted to be playing both the Pimp and Grantaire - two contrasting yet entertaining characters.

*Oscar Misson-Cerdeno*

Oscar always enjoyed performing on stage, from Summer Cabaret to *Shakespeare in Love* within the school, to *Matilda* and *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* outside of school. He is looking forward to entertaining you again.

*Ella Trowell*

Ella's first part in a school production was playing Alice from *Alice in Wonderland* at age 7. Since then, she has participated in performances of *The Lion King*, *Mary Poppins* (as Mrs Banks), *The Musicians*, *The It*, and is now playing the character of Jean Prouvaire in this show.

*William Temple*

William made his stage debut aged 11 and most recently started as Piggy in The Leys' production of *Lord of the Flies* (2025). He is extremely excited to see how The Leys' 150th celebratory show of *Les Mis* comes together. He is playing many different roles ranging from a convict to a student and has loved the rehearsal progress.

*Arthur Crossley*

Arthur, a Year 9 Bisseker pupil, made his debut on The Leys stage in the 2025 production of Moulton's *Mary Poppins* playing the role of Bert, and will now be playing the role of ABC student.

*Dmitrii Kliushin*

Dima used to be a musical theatre kid, then became a magician and last year was a chorister. He loves *Les Misérables*, sings the students' parts and enjoys being in the ensemble.



*Joanna Hinde*

Joanna has acted previously in The Leys' other productions, yet *Les Misérables* is by far the biggest. She is extremely grateful and excited to be playing the parts of Fauchelevent and Montparnasse in this show.

*Lily Campos Bell*

Lily has been involved in various productions since she was very young, and although this is her first school musical, she has done musical theatre grades and competitions. She is very excited to be a part of this big production as a convict and as Babet.

*Mufaro Marhinga*

Mufaro is making her Leys stage debut and is very happy to be playing the role of Brujon in this show.

*Kerwin Li*

Kerwin is playing a convict in *Les Misérables*.



*Cameron MacColl*

This is Cameron's first role in a Leys production and - as is appropriate for this musical - he believes any problem can be solved with a fresh baguette!



*Leo Winlaw*

Leo says this is a thrilling piece of theatre with lots of excitement.

*Henry Kirby*

Henry is making his acting debut at The Leys in the production of *Les Mis*. He is looking forward to being a part of the ensemble in the show.

*Zack Worden*

Zack made his stage debut aged 13 as the Pope in St Faith's production of *Sister Act*. He is looking forward to playing many roles as a member of the ensemble in *Les Misérables*.

*Riley Neville*

Riley Neville first learned to truly love theatre in Year 7. He recently featured in The Leys' Year 10 production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* - where he played King Malcolm.

*Thomas Rowstron*

Thomas has been on stage since the age of 4 as Wiseman Number 3. He is glad to be playing the role of Police Officer 2 in this year's production.



# Directors' Note



## Joshua Adejori

Joshua made his debut at age 12 and most recently played Rafiki in *The Lion King* (2019). After a long break from drama, he is very happy to be playing the Foreman in *Les Misérables*.



## Amelia James

Amelia has loved her time performing on stage at The Leys and in the *Les Mis* process, with her highlight playing the lead role of Viola in last year's *Shakespeare in Love*.

## Tofunmi Jegede

Tofunmi made her stage debut aged 13 in The Leys' production of *Matilda* (2022). She is excited to be part of this production.

## Therese Viljoen

Therese is a Year 10 pupil who played in The Leys' production of *Lord of the Flies*. She now plays a factory girl and a Parisian woman in the production of *Les Mis*.

## Marcia Arthur

Marcia is excited about being a part of *Les Mis*.

## Anna Tomkinson

Anna has been involved in drama from a young age and has been involved in all Leys productions. She is very happy to be participating in this production of *Les Mis*.

## Ruihan Li

Ruihan made her stage debut aged 13 and played the role of Old Nala in The Leys' production of *The Lion King*. She is very happy to be playing one of the factory girls in this show.



## Daisy Mears

Daisy was first part of Leys productions in Year 9 and was most recently one of the three witches in *Macbeth* (2025). She is very happy to be part of *Les Mis* this year.

## Tilda Mannion

Tilda has been in many shows from the age of 4. Her highlights have been performing at Disneyland Paris, The Royal Albert Hall and Her Majesty's Theatre. She is looking forward to playing a lovely lady!

## Elva Ngau

Elva is really excited to be debuting in The Leys drama department this year and is looking forward to the production.

## Pippa Cook

This is Pippa's fourth play at The Leys. She is super excited to be a part of this production.

## Izzy Birky

Izzy made her stage debut at age 10 and most recently played Lady Macduff in The Leys' production of *Macbeth* (2025). She is happy to be playing the role of a lovely lady in this show.

## Todun Osofisan

Todun first started acting at the age of 5, joining PQA acting school and starring in shows such as *High School Musical* as Gabriella. After joining The Leys, she has been in all the plays on offer: *Matilda*, *The Lion King*, *Great Expectations*, *Macbeth* and currently *Les Misérables*. She is very excited as it is a very different role to what she is used to, and she is excited for the play to be brought to life.

## Florence Crossley

This is Florence's seventh play at the school, and she really hopes you enjoy the performance.

## Mia Sargeant

Since first performing in *Shakespeare in Love* last year, Mia has been excited to do this one.

## Elodie Nicolaus

Elodie has been a part of school productions since Year 7, and most recently played Lady Macbeth in the Year 10 play last year. She is happy to be playing a lovely lady in this production and is excited to be a part of the ensemble.

## Jil Schepers

Jil is making her stage debut aged 16, playing a lovely lady in The Leys' production of *Les Misérables*.

## Clemmi Bedford

Clemmi's drama experience started at her previous schools. *Les Misérables* is her first play at The Leys, and she has enjoyed working with the cast during the rehearsal process.



## Serena Hutson

Serena played a wild child in The Leys' production of *Lord of the Flies* and played the stepmother in The Leys' production of *Grimm Tales*.

## Herb Songwutwichai

Herb makes her stage debut in The Leys' production of *Les Misérables*. She is delighted to be part of the ensemble.

## Aline Halban Taylor

Aline made her debut aged 11 when she played a brother in St Johns' production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. She is really excited to be a part of The Leys 150th anniversary play: *Les Misérables*, in which she is in the ensemble.

## Martha Page

At the age of 13, Martha is given a role in The Leys' school production of *Les Misérables*.

## Rebecca Huang

Rebecca makes her stage debut here at The Leys after performing in many shows at her previous school.

## Xuanyan Chen

Xuanyan started getting involved with performances at age 10 at school and has performed at professional venues in London such as the Pleasance Theatre and Arts Depot. She has performed various genres including Shakespeare and musicals.

## Felix Johns Gabelich

Felix made his stage debut at The Leys at age 15 in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, playing Philostrate. He is very excited to be in the ensemble for *Les Misérables*.

For a while now, we have been thinking about bringing together the whole school in one show, with Year 9s working alongside those in Upper Sixth to stage a large spectacular show. It seemed fitting that we should attempt such a feat in our 150th Anniversary year, and therefore we looked for a performance that was big enough to achieve this. It does not get much bigger than *Les Misérables*; not just the length of the original show, nor its longevity in its 40th year, or the huge company needed to tell the story. The pressure comes with attempting to stage a production which is so well known and so well loved by so many people. Songs such as 'I Dreamed a Dream' and 'Do You Hear the People Sing' are now so prominent that even if you don't know the show, you are likely to know the tunes.

So how have we approached the staging of this Leysian version? At the heart of what we have tried to achieve with our talented cast and crew is finding truth in the words that are sung and in the story that is told. Sung-through musicals can risk losing the emotional connection of the words, and characters can become singers in a choir, rather than individual people conveying how they feel about a situation. We have attempted to avoid gimmicks or clichés, instead trying to capture the truth in each scene and to tell the story ourselves, rather than rely too much on the thousands of versions that have gone before us. The result, we hope, is a performance full of heart and commitment, honesty and (our favourite word) generosity. Our cast have bought into this, making individual decisions about what feels correct for their character.

The company have worked tirelessly, some rehearsing multiple times a week since September to help capture our vision and, as always it has been a joy to work on a project with such positive young people. Our Design and Technical team of Paul Durose, Adele Meads and James Andrews have been wonderfully immersed in the production and Adele in particular has been Dramaturg, Director and Designer, often all at once with her extensive knowledge of the original novel. Carol Bye has also once again provided wonderful costumes. Chloe Emery, pre-natal, was our Musical Director, before handing over the baton to Max Kenworthy with support from Kamile Radzvilaitė. It has been a treat to work with such talented musicians who are wonderful at getting the best, musically, out of their young charges. However, this production belongs to the pupils; those on stage; the DSMs that have sat 'on book' at every rehearsal; the backstage crew; the pupil musicians and rehearsal pianists that have helped each other along the way. Brilliant things can happen when true collaboration takes place, and this whole school musical, we hope, has really captured that.

In the past 150 years there has been, we estimate, over 750 performances at The Leys. That's 750 examples of pupils and staff coming together to create a piece of live art in a theatrical space. Let's celebrate that this evening and look forward to this wonderful tradition carrying forward as the next generation of Leysians continue to keep the theatrical flag flying high.



John Johnson and Cory Pulman-Jones



THE LEYS  
**BACKSTAGE**  
*Company*

|                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Deputy Stage Manager<br/>Trainee DSM</b>                        | Tess Warder<br>Lucy Hodsdon                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Stage Manager<br/>Stage Manager<br/>Assistant Stage Manager</b> | James Rowland<br>Archie Williamson<br>Dylan Hume                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Stage Operators</b>                                             | David Amure<br>Ziggy Salerno<br>Vince Lam                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Lighting Operator</b>                                           | Dan Suckling                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Follow-spot Operators</b>                                       | Jem Hifzi<br>Max Menell<br>Elliot Pettit                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Sound Effects Operator</b>                                      | Lucy Willington                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Head of Wardrobe Team<br/>Wardrobe Team</b>                     | Tofunmi Jegede<br>Angelica Honey-Ward<br>Emma Vergine-Moreno<br>Hollie Kwok<br>Emily Carpenter<br>Florence Vandrau<br>Bethany Price<br>Charlie Evetts<br>Eden Allen<br>Daria Tomova<br>Bella Mignon |



*Tess and Lucy*

**What is a DSM?**

The Deputy Stage Manager attends every rehearsal with the 'Master Script' (or 'The Book') in which they annotate every movement, cue and note throughout the rehearsal process, providing an invaluable reference for the Directors, Production Team and Cast. During the performance, you will find them giving cues to the rest of the backstage crew, known as 'calling the show'. Despite being named 'Deputy', they are in fact one of the most essential parts of running the show!

## Production Team

|                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Directors</b>                                                                                                         | John Johnson<br>Cory Pulman-Jones                                                                        |
| <b>Musical Directors</b>                                                                                                 | Chloe Emery<br>Max Kenworthy                                                                             |
| <b>Production Manager / Set Design / Lighting Design / Technical Direction</b>                                           | Paul Durose                                                                                              |
| <b>Assistant Director / Rehearsal Support / Scenic Design &amp; Decoration / Props / Make-up / Backstage Supervision</b> | Adele Meads                                                                                              |
| <b>Set Construction / Props / Technical Support / Stage Management / Backstage Supervision</b>                           | James Andrews                                                                                            |
| <b>Costume / Hair<br/>Sound</b>                                                                                          | Carol Bye<br>Nick Hall, Audioria                                                                         |
| <b>Rehearsal Pianists</b>                                                                                                | Sharon Diao<br>Kamile Radzvilaite                                                                        |
| <b>Foyer Pianist</b>                                                                                                     | Theo Yip                                                                                                 |
| <b>Costume Support:</b>                                                                                                  | Julia Clarke; Pippa Taylor; Suze Oldfield                                                                |
| <b>Backstage Support:</b>                                                                                                | John Johnson; Lynsey Cleaves; William McGinley; Sarah Totton; Amy Rowson                                 |
| <b>Photography:</b>                                                                                                      | Fane Henderson; Ruth Brittain; Vaughn Meads                                                              |
| <b>Programme Design:</b>                                                                                                 | Fane Henderson                                                                                           |
| <b>Front-of-House:</b>                                                                                                   | Claire Payne; Abigail Hayes; Paul Durose; Leonardo Clementi & the Catering Team; and the School Prefects |
| <b>Additional Thanks to:</b>                                                                                             | William Earl; David Plumb; Graeme Coe; Heather Cooper; Diego Truscello; Christopher Jacobs               |
| <b>Patron of Great Hall:</b>                                                                                             | Mr Steven Levy                                                                                           |

## The Band

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Reed 1</b>     | Alison Townend         |
| <b>Reed 2</b>     | Rachel Broadbent       |
| <b>Reed 3</b>     | Graham Dolby           |
| <b>Horn 1</b>     | Caroline Prozesky      |
| <b>Horn 2</b>     | Tony Hawkins           |
| <b>Trumpet</b>    | Charles Hutchings      |
| <b>Trombone</b>   | Samantha Hopkins       |
| <b>Keyboard 1</b> | Sharon Diao            |
| <b>Keyboard 2</b> | Zac Appell             |
| <b>Violin</b>     | Lucy Haggerwood-Bullen |
| <b>Cello</b>      | Sharon Beale           |
| <b>Bass</b>       | Louis Thorne           |
| <b>Percussion</b> | Derek Scurll           |

## Celebrating 150 Years

Throughout 2025, The Leys School has been celebrating its sesquicentennial with a vibrant series of events and projects that honoured its rich history and strengthened community spirit. These celebrations made the anniversary year truly memorable for all associated with The Leys.

## Through the Decades

Following the launch of our sesquicentennial celebrations, a detailed timeline was unveiled on our website, chronicling The Leys School's history since its founding in 1875. This timeline highlights significant milestones and achievements over the past 150 years, featuring a collection of photos, audio, and video content. This can be found in the '150 Anniversary' section of the School's website.

In addition to the timeline, a special display of 16 objects has been situated in the Trumpington Gallery, with each object representing a decade from the School's history. Art Scholars have created artwork in response to these objects, which are also on display in the gallery. Pupils, staff, and guests have been encouraged to visit the exhibition throughout the year, and it can be viewed during tonight's performance.

All materials have been compiled by the School Archivist, Alison Lainchbury, who commented: "The timeline and gallery display offer a fascinating insight into the School's evolution, showcasing the rich heritage and achievements of The Leys over the past 150 years. I thoroughly enjoyed putting these materials together and encourage everyone to explore them to appreciate the School's remarkable journey."



## Return to Pitlochry

On the evening of Thursday 23 January, we premiered *Return to Pitlochry*. The documentary film focuses on the evacuation of Leysians to Pitlochry, Scotland in the 1940s, following three Old Leysians on a nostalgic and uplifting journey as they retrace the wartime footsteps of their fathers.

More than 80 Old Leysians and guests attended the premiere, many of whom were related to Leysians who were at Pitlochry during the evacuation. In addition to the journey to Pitlochry, the film features a variety of other elements, including restored footage from the 1940s, readings by current pupils, and reminiscences by 94-year-old Old Leysian John Bullin.

Fane Henderson, Director of Marketing and Admissions at The Leys and creator of the film, commented: "The premiere of *Return to Pitlochry* was a testament to the spirit of collaboration and community that defines our school. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Development team, particularly Alison and Liz, for their dedication and hard work. Without their support, this project would not have been possible."

The film can be viewed at: [www.theleys.net/return-to-pitlochry](http://www.theleys.net/return-to-pitlochry)



## Service of Thanksgiving

The Leys School was founded on 16 February 1875, and on 14 February 2025 we marked our 150 anniversary with a Service of Thanksgiving at King's College Chapel. This flagship event was attended by all staff and pupils, along with a select group of invited guests. It was a truly memorable occasion for all involved. We are grateful to the Dean, Fellows and staff of King's College, Cambridge, for their kindness and help in allowing us to celebrate our Sesquicentenary in their Chapel, as we did for our Centenary fifty years ago.



## Parents' Ball

On 27 March, almost 200 Leys parents donned their gladrags and enjoyed a sumptuous three course meal at beautiful Girton College, before partying the night away in style to the strains of the Nanna Radleys band. Director of Development, Sarah Proud, commented: "The 150 Anniversary Ball was such a good time! We loved celebrating this important year with parents while also raising money from the proceeds for bursaries at the School. The auction alone raised over £11,000 and we are so grateful to the parents and OLs who donated the lots, and those who bid on them."



## Anniversary Cricket Matches

On Saturday 26 April we hosted The Perse for two thrilling back-to-back T20 cricket matches. Our school's first competitive sports match was a cricket game against Perse School on Parker's Piece, held on 12 June 1875, which concluded with a resounding victory for The Perse. These matches commemorated this significant milestone in our history, and old scores were settled as both our boys' and girls' teams emerged victorious in their respective games.



## 150 Years: A Leysian Journey

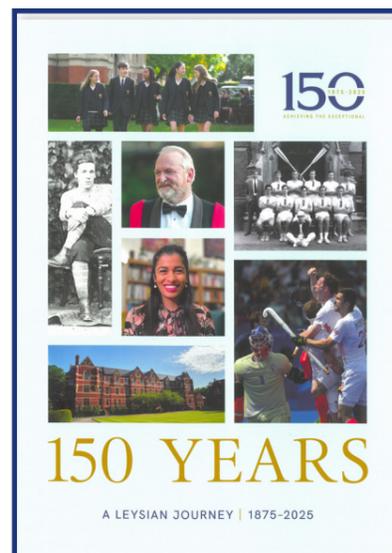
We were delighted to announce the publication of our 150 anniversary commemorative magazine, *150 Years: A Leysian Journey 1875-2025* in the summer term. This 80-page project features spotlights on dozens of Leysians throughout the decades. It has been a real labour of love for the Development team, ably assisted by expert Leysian historian John Harding.

Editor Liz Walden explained: "The project grew from an initial idea to showcase Old Leysians working in a diverse range of fields, into something quite special. The history of the School is beautifully documented and intertwined with the lives of those who studied and taught here, alongside a timeline of Leysian, UK and world events.

"The earlier decades are brought to life thanks to a wealth of archive photographs painstakingly researched by Archivist Alison Lainchbury.

"As well as dozens of individual profiles, there are special features including family histories, Pitlochry, the Granta Girls, Moulton House and many more, making this a rich, multi-layered and – hopefully – highly engaging read."

The publication can be viewed online at: [www.theleys.net/150mag](http://www.theleys.net/150mag)



## Hong Kong Celebrations

In late October, our Head, Dr Ives, Director of Marketing and Admissions, Fane Henderson, Director of Development, Sarah Proud, and Vice President of the OLS, Karen Sears, travelled to Hong Kong. On the evening of Saturday 25 October, the team hosted a warm and engaging reception at the prestigious Island Shangri-La Hotel. The event welcomed more than 50 Old Leysians, prospective families, and friends of the school, offering a unique opportunity to share updates, celebrate achievements, and strengthen ties.

A highlight of the evening was a Q&A session featuring current pupil Caleb C, who joined Dr Ives in discussing life at the school and answering questions from guests.



## 150 Years Together

This term, pupils and staff came together on the Upper Quad to form a commemorative '150'. This special moment echoes a similar occasion from the year 2000, when the school celebrated its 125th year in the same way. Both photographs were taken by our Head of Physics, Mr Harmsworth, who has once again captured the spirit and unity of the school community.



## Les Misérables

This evening's performance of *Les Misérables* is the final event in our 150 anniversary year. We hope you enjoy the production.

## UPCOMING SHOWS

### **The Crucible**

by Arthur Miller

11-12 February 2026

---

### **Dance Show**

25 March 2026

---

### **Summer Concert**

at Saffron Hall

30 April 2026

---

### **Bright. Young. Things.**

by Georgia Christou

13-14 May 2026

---

### **Year 7 and 8 Summer Showcase**

19-20 June 2026

---

### **Summer Cabaret**

24-25 June 2026

**Tickets:** [www.theleys.net/boxoffice](http://www.theleys.net/boxoffice)