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# COURT THEATRE

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BY ARRANGEMENT WITH NICK HEARN BOOKS  
FRAYED KNOT THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

# MOJO

BY JEZ BUTTERWORTH



10-13 MAY 2017



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In person at Beechwood Fine Foods

42 Frogmore Street, Tring, HP23 5AU ● Cash/cheque only ● Open 7 days a week

The Grass Roots Court Theatre, Station Road, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5QY



**Director** Dan Clucas  
**Producer** Sarah Amsden  
**ASM** Joyce Miller  
**Crew** Matthew Minors  
Lucy Palmer and cast  
**Lights** Chris Cooper  
**Sound** Nick Cooper  
**Set Build** Paul Stratford  
Simon Ruck  
Dave Reece  
and anyone we've forgotten

**Thanks to** Kings Langley Players  
Rob Farrow  
Tim Amsden  
Beechwood Fine Foods  
Simon Blanchard  
Malcolm Emms for photography





**Matt Wake**  
*Baby*

Matt started acting when he joined Court Youth Theatre aged 10. He has since been involved in

numerous productions with companies such as TFC, Vivo D'Arte and DYP. Previous roles include Michael (*Billy Elliot*), Joe Casey (*Our House* and *Lysander* in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*). He is currently rehearsing for TFC's production of *Spring Awakening* in which he will play Melchior. Matt plays guitar and has performed live on his own and in a band. He will be starting at The Birmingham School of Acting in September.



**Ben Churchill**  
*Potts*

Ben has been acting in Tring since 2014 and has played roles in *Frayed Knot's Journeys*

*End* and *One Man, Two Guvnors*. This year you will have seen him in *Road* with BTC and he is due to perform in *Death of a Salesman* later in the year. He will then audition for Drama School. Outside Tring, Ben has been in the likes of *West Side Story*, *The Sound of Music* and *The Wizard of Oz*. His favourite play is *Two-Character* by Tennessee Williams.



**Alfie Glasser**  
*Sweets*

Alfie is 19 and has been performing for most of his life! He is an aspiring opera singer

under the tutelage of Dan Cowtan and has recently accepted a place to study at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He has appeared in Vivo D'Arte's production of *West Side Story* and *La Boheme* and was in TFC's production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He hopes you enjoy the show.



**Matt Bowles**  
*Mickey*

This is Matt's 15th year performing at the Court Theatre. Having been involved since the age

of 15 he has been in a wide range of productions including the annual Court Theatre pantomime, various musicals and plays. Credits include; Stanhope *Journey's End*, Dakin (*History Boys*), Joe Casey (*Our House*), Andy (*Brassed Off*), Rick (*A Slice of Saturday Night*), Riff (*West Side Story*), Lt. Joseph Cable (*South Pacific*) & Idle Jack (*Dick Whittington*). Matt also directed *High School Musical Jnr.* on behalf of TFC in 2013 which involved 85 local children.

**Alex Chard:*****Skinny***

This is Alex's second production with Frayed Knot after last year's *One Man Two Guvnors*

in which he played Stanley Stubbers. Previous shows at The Court Theatre include *Jesus Christ Superstar*, as Jesus; *Spamalot*, as Sir Robin and *Murder Below Stairs*, as Tristram. Alex has just finished playing Dante in a new production of *Divine Comedy* at the Barons Court Theatre in London and will be returning there in September for an extended run.

**Rowan McIntosh**  
***Silver Johnny***

This is Rowan's seventh appearance at The Court Theatre after being in such

shows as TFC's *High School Musical* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* and Tring School's 2016 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He has also played Lord Ashcroft in *The Coram Boy* earlier this year. He is halfway through Drama A Level at Tring School and is hoping to pursue a career in Theatre and Drama.

**Dan Clucas** *Director*

Previous Shows Directed At The Court Include *History Boys*, *Titfield Thunderbolt*, *See How They Run*, *Damages*, *One Man*, *Two Guvnors* and *Hang On A Minute Lads I've Got A Great Idea*. Two years ago, Dan co-wrote with Rob Shaffer the pantomime *Dick Whittington and his Cat* for the Limelight Theatre, Aylesbury. Dan has acted in many shows including Richard Hannay in *The 39 Steps*, Francis in *One Man Two Guvnors* and Rooster Byron in Jez Butterworth's *Jerusalem*. He has recently played the professor in *Road* and Detective Shrank in *West Side Story*.



# Director's Note

A few years ago, Frayed Knot staged Butterworth's most celebrated work to date, *Jerusalem*. The writing was so exciting and the production was so thrilling, we really wanted to do another of his plays as soon as possible. Frayed Knot has produced a number of great shows recently including *Journey's End*, *Ladykillers* and *One Man, Two Guvvners*. During this time, we have been joined by new and talented young actors. So when the opportunity arose to stage *Mojo*, it made sense: another great play by Butterworth and an opportunity to cast six great young actors - before they go to college, get proper jobs, travel around the world or just wander off.

This production wouldn't be possible without an amazing production team who have gone to the ends of the earth to get props, set and costume. Have you ever tried buying toffee apples outside of Bonfire season? Big thanks to Sarah, Joyce and everyone that has lent

a hand in finding props, building set, printing programmes etc.

I have had a great time working on this show. It has been a bit of a journey of discovery having never seen the play performed, but that is half the fun of it. A few years back I directed a production of Alan Bennett's *The History Boys* here at the Court Theatre. One particular line of the show I shall always remember and it seems so apt whenever acting or directing a play: "Sometimes a hand comes out of the text and grabs you and then you understand what the writer, even though there might be time and distance between you, is trying to say".

We hope we have done this to the best of our ability.

Dan Chucas

## Jeze Butterworth, the writer

Butterworth had his first major success with his play *Mojo* which premiered at the Royal Court in 1995. It won the Laurence Olivier, an Evening Standard and the George Devine awards. The play was revived in London's West End in 2013

Butterworth's fourth play for the Royal Court was the comedy *Jerusalem*, which premiered in July 2009 to outstandingly positive reviews. Described as a "contemporary vision of life in England's green and pleasant land", it was a sell-out at the Royal Court; won the Evening Standard Theatre Award and Critics' Circle Theatre Award transferring to the West End and Broadway.

Film work includes *Edge of Tomorrow* (starring Tom Cruise) and James Bond movie *Spectre*.

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