



"The very first tune I ever learned to play was 'That'll Be The Day'. My mother Julia taught it to me on the banjo, sitting there with endless patience until I managed to work out all the chords." JOHN LENNON

A NEW PLAY TO PREMIERE AT THE EPSTEIN THEATRE ABOUT JOHN LENNON'S MISSING BANJO - THE GREATEST MYSTERY IN POP MUSIC

From the writer of the stage play adaptation of *Helen Forrester's 'Twopence to Cross the Mersey'* comes a brand-new comedy about the disappearance of Lennon's first musical instrument.

The play is based on the 2012 novel '*Julia's Banjo*' by Rob Fennah and Helen A Jones and will mark the **60th anniversary of Julia Lennon's death and the disappearance of the banjo she taught her son to play.**

Produced by **Pulse Records Ltd** in association with **Bill Elms**, *Lennon's Banjo* will open at **Liverpool's Epstein Theatre** on **Tuesday 24th April 2018** for a **two-week run** until Saturday 5th May. Full cast and creative team to be announced soon.

Set in present day Liverpool: When Beatles tour guide Barry Seddon finds a letter written by John Lennon he unearths a clue to the solving the greatest mystery in pop history - the

whereabouts of Lennon's first musical instrument which has been missing for 60 years. But Barry's loose tongue alerts Texan dealer, Travis Lawson, to the priceless relic. In an attempt to get his hands on the letter and the clues within he persuades his beautiful wife, Cheryl, to befriend the hapless tour guide and win his affections. The race for the holy grail of pop memorabilia is on!

"The intrigue and mystery surrounding Lennon's missing banjo, and the logic that it could be sitting in somebody's attic right now, has the potential to make headlines around the world. The story crosses over beautifully from fiction to fact and back again to tease and tantalise the reader that every word is true." **Trinity Mirror book review**

So where do the facts end and the fiction begin? Everything will be revealed in this fast paced, comic caper, multi-media play.

Stage writer and Co-producer Rob Fennah said: *"The banjo has been described as the holy grail of pop memorabilia - and for good reason. Without it, there wouldn't have been a Beatles and, without them, everything we know today would be different. Given that a piano John once owned went under the hammer at Sotheby's in 2000 for 1.5 million pounds, it's reasonable to assume the banjo, the first instrument the greatest rock and roll legend ever learned to play, would be worth millions more. As a Beatles fan, I knew all about Julia and how she taught John to play banjo but, what I didn't know, until a dealer at a Beatles convention told me, was that the banjo, the catalyst that changed the world, went missing shortly after Julia Lennon died in 1958. It's the most fascinating tale in pop history and I honestly believe it's out there somewhere just waiting to be found."*

Co-producer Bill Elms added: *"The story is so true to life that the audience will leave the theatre secretly planning their own search for the missing banjo. It's The Beatles meet the Da Vinci Code, an hilarious treasure hunt romp through Beatledom."*

Missing for 60 years... The holy grail of pop is now worth millions to whoever finds it!

FULL TOUR LISTING

LENNON'S BANJO

Epstein Theatre

Tue 24th April – Sat 5th May 2018

HOW TO BOOK

Tickets are on sale Friday 17th March at 10am.

EPSTEIN THEATRE

ONLINE: www.epsteinliverpool.co.uk **CALL:** 0844 888 4411

IN PERSON: Hanover Street, Liverpool, L1 3DZ | Mon-Thu 2pm-6pm, Fri & Sat 12pm-6pm

TICKETQUARTER

ONLINE: www.ticketquarter.co.uk CALL: 0844 8000 410

IN PERSON: Echo Arena Box Office, Kings Dock, Liverpool

ENDS

For more information, please contact Bill Elms at Bill Elms Associates on 0151 245 0136 or email bill@billelms.com

High res images available on request.

EDITORS NOTES

Press Night Performance – Wednesday 25th April 2018 at 7.30pm

