

MUSIC THEATRE BRISTOL'S THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Music Theatre Bristol (MTB) has seen a wide variety of shows, cabarets, showcases, 48-hour musicals, and Edinburgh Fringe runs over the years. Each year has brought a brand-new group of fabulous people together to produce some outstanding pieces of musical theatre and not to mention some life-long memories.

With the help of ex-Presidents, our Alumni Rep and some ancient MTBers we have collated some reflections and photographs of MTB's best moments over 'The Last Five Years'. From **international tours**, to **winning inter-university musical theatre competitions** we have done it all! So please do take a quick look and you will be able to see what we get up to in a regular year!

Enjoy!

MTB 2015-16



This year featured a full-length Autumn show, Spring Show AND Main Show! A success that any committee would be proud of! On top of this, the society also hosted 2 cabarets before MTB's first run at the Edinburgh Fringe since 2014!

The society staged productions of **Dogfight**, **West Side Story** and **Edges** as the Autumn, main and spring shows respectively, before taking '**Reefer Madness**' up to the Fringe. The Autumn cabaret was titled '**Lights, Music, Action!**' and the Spring Cabaret took its (rather brilliant) inspiration from the '**Heroes and Villains**' of musical theatre!

One particular highlight of the year was the annual Performing Arts Ball, lovingly known by the PAF community as **POSHED!** In 2016, this wonderful night was hosted at the Old Fire Station.

MTB2016-17



2016 saw MTB launch '**Showcase!**' for the very first time! This has now become an absolute staple in the MTB calendar, thank you MTB 2016-17!

Proposals for main show in 2015/16 broke all records seeing three different proposal sessions before at last the main show was decided as '**Mack and Mable!**' Other shows this year included the '**Jukebox Heroes**' and '**A Night in New Orleans**' cabarets before another run up to the Edinburgh Fringe with '**2016 The Musical!**'

In addition to all of these wonderful shows, 2016/17 saw *another* first for MTB.... **MTB TOUR!** This first tour (lovingly dubbed Georgia's Tour) brought MTB to

Prague and in later years would see MTB visit many other countries! All in all, Alex Stephenson (President 2016/17) summarised the year as the "Best Part of 3rd Year" and I'm sure all of our Alumni would have to agree!

MTB 2017-18



MTB opened 2017 with another first for the society, a 48-hour musical! This production of **Mamma Mia** was like nothing MTB had ever seen before. Rehearsed and performed in under 48 hours, everybody was so impressed that all they could say was 'let's do another!' So we did... **Joseph and The Technicolour Dream-Coat** became the second ever MTB 48 hour musical later that year!

Showcase was once again a hit success, featuring 9 completely different musicals. MTB took the Hairspray and Book of Mormon extracts from Showcase to the **Inter-University Musical Theatre Festival** where MTB became NATIONAL CHAMPIONS winning Best Overall Group and Best Male Performer!

Our main show of the year was **RENT**, a brilliant show which helped to raise money for the Terrence Higgins Trust. The spring term concluded with performances of the Original Musical **'No Mind'**! MTB hosted the **'(im)mature; Winter Cabaret'** in 2017/18 and concluded the academic year by bringing **'The 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee'** to the Edinburgh Fringe.

MTB tour visited **Budapest** and the year was chock-a-block full of socials culminating in POSHED at the Bristol Museum!

MTB 2017-18



This year saw MTB expand even further with over 70 people in the cast of our annual **Showcase** making this one of the biggest shows to EVER be performed in the Winston Theatre of the Student's Union! Following a 5* reviewed Showcase, MTB hit back with yet another 5* review for the main show of 2018, **Chicago!**

The 48 hour musicals were once again a resounding success with casts performing both **'Grease!'** and **'We Will Rock You'** to impeccably high standards despite only having 48 hours to learn, rehearse and perform the entire musical!

2018/19 saw MTB host 2 cabarets. The first cabaret, a festive themed musical extravaganza **'Sleigh; A Christmas Cabaret'** was directed and produced by our brand-new freshers reps and thus started a tradition of handing the reigns of our first cabaret each year to our wonderful freshers! Spring saw MTB host our second cabaret of the year **'Miscast'**, a particular fan favourite! The academic year was wrapped up by an extremely exciting workshop with **'The Secret Cabaret'**

This year saw MTB travel to **Amsterdam** for the annual MTB Tour. One especially memorable highlight from this year was the annual performing arts ball, **POSHED**, which this year took place on the infamous **SS Great Britain!**

MTB 2019-20



Last year saw MTB flourish and reach brand new heights. Despite the year being cut prematurely short, last year saw MTB grow more than ever before, with the **largest membership in MTB history!**

Showcase once again proved to be the highlight of the MTB calendar with an eclectic line-up of everyone's musical favourites, from the old classics (**Sweeney Todd, Company**) to contemporary sensations (**Six, Heathers**). The 48 hour musical followed in the footsteps of showcase as another MTB success with last year's production of '**The Rocky Horror Picture Show**'.

The freshers of 2019/20 were more involved in the society than ever before with the first ever '**Newbies Cabaret**' which was produced, directed, and performed exclusively by MTB newbies! The year also saw a *further* two cabarets, our Christmas cabaret '**Snowstoppers**' and our spring cabaret '**Power is Power**'! The MTB 2019/20 committee took the whole society by surprise by announcing not one but TWO slots for main show! The first was filled by the spectacular '**Legally Blonde**' which received an equally spectacular 5* review!

Our second main show slot was taken by the classic Sondheim show '**Into the Woods**'. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the performance of this was suspended for the time being.

In spite of the unprecedented circumstances we currently find ourselves in, MTB has adapted and improvised and we are extremely proud of the way our members have responded to the pandemic! Over lockdown we have had 2 brilliant workshops by industry professionals **Monique Young** (Hairspray Tour) and **Lauren Drew** (Six and Heathers). Furthermore, MTB participated and **WON** the **2020 Inter-University Musical Theatre Festival!**

Our outgoing President for 2019/20 has summarised the past year as follows....

'It was incredible seeing so many people getting really involved with the society, returning members being incredibly encouraging to newbies, and having MTB alumni visit and work with us. It just showed how amazing and supportive the MTB community is... and the standard just keeps going up and up!

- Sasha Eastabrook (President 2019/20)

Thank You for Reading!

