

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

ONE TO WATCH JACKSON LAING

So, who's this then?

Jackson Laing, a Horsham boy playing the title role in a major new musical production by the Royal Shakespeare Company's (RSC) at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

Why is he in a dress?

Because the production is *The Boy in the Dress*, an adaptation of the children's book by David Walliams.

I guess he's read it?

Jackson has read most of Walliams' books and *The Boy in the Dress* – the first by the comedian - is his favourite. "I always loved the character of Dennis as he reminds me of Billy Elliot, one of my dream roles."

How does he feel about the costume?

Jackson is taking it all in his stride. In rehearsals, he had to wear a dress and wig and although it felt strange initially, it quickly became like any other costume.

What's the story about?

It follows star footballer called Dennis, who takes to cross-dressing while at school. The production has been running at the theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon since 8 November 2019, with the last show scheduled for 8 March 2020.

What about school?

Having a major role does take up a lot of time for Jackson. However, the role of

Dennis is shared between four actors, so that they can keep on top of school work.

How did he land the role?

Jackson had performed in local shows and summer schools around Horsham before attending an open audition for *Matilda The Musical*, a 2018 adaptation of the Roald Dahl classic by the RSC. He landed the part of Bruce, which opened the door to future opportunities.

Is he a half decent footballer?

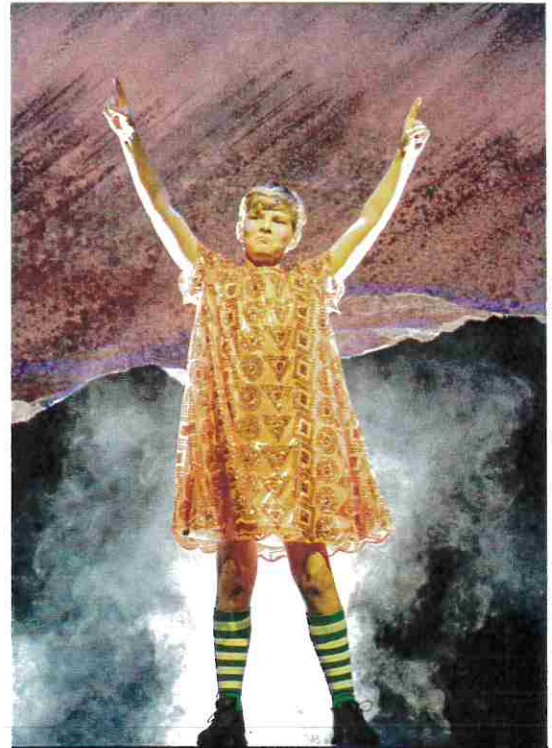
Jackson used to play for his school team, so he's got the necessary skills for the role. Finding time for sports is hard when rehearsals take up so much time, but he still plays football with his dad whenever he can.

Are there big stars in the show?

There are experienced actors in lead roles including comedian, actor and presenter Rufus Hound as Dennis' dad. The musical also features new songs from Robbie Williams and Guy Chambers, the team behind *Angels* and many other of the former Take That singer's hits. Jackson said: "The show has a great soundtrack and I especially love performing big numbers like *Disco Symphony*. It suits the moment in the play perfectly, when Dennis tries the dress on for the first time."

Does Jackson do much singing?

His role involves singing in almost every song, with some key solos. "My favourite song to perform is *You Can't Expel Us All*," says Jackson. "It is a massive, uplifting number and you can really feel the audience getting behind you." ●



● To book tickets call 01789 331111
or visit www.rsc.org.uk



Jackson Laing in *The Boy in the Dress* (Photo courtesy of RSC)



Jackson Laing and Rufus Hound in *The Boy in the Dress*
(Photo courtesy of RSC)



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ROBERT JONES

CHIEF COSTUME DESIGNER
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LIGHTING
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SOUND
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A JOYOUS
PIECE OF THEATRE



performance schedule

DECEMBER – MARCH 2020

DECEMBER 2019							JANUARY 2020							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
no perf	1.00	no perf	2.00	7.15	11.15	no perf	no perf	3.00	7.00	1.00	7.15	no perf	no perf	1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	11.00	no perf		
The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy			
no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf	no perf			
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The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy	The Boy			

KEY
 [no perf] = Last Performance [no perf] = Pre- or Post-Show Event
ASSISTED PERFORMANCES
 [no perf] = Audio Described Performance [no perf] = Captioned Performance [no perf] = Relaxed Performance
 [no perf] = Performance with Integrated BSL Interpreter
ABBREVIATIONS
 The Boy = The Boy in the Dress, Live At Huddersfield = David Bedford; Tonic: Not the Nuts, Live At; Count Arthur = Count Arthur Strong; Then Again? Out There?

A New Musical

The BOY in the DRESS

FROM THE NOVEL BY DAVID WILLIAMS
 BOOK BY MARK YAMENHILL
 MUSIC & LYRICS BY ROBBIE WILLIAMS & GUY CHAMBERS



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