

PRESS RELEASE – immediate release

## Lucy Benjamin to star in brand new jukebox musical *Love Letters* at Queen's Theatre Hornchurch

Queen's Theatre Hornchurch is thrilled to announce the cast for its summer musical *Love Letters*, a brand new world premiere production written and directed by **Douglas Rintoul**. *Love Letters* runs **30 July – 21 August 2021**.



**Lucy Benjamin**, who is best known for playing Lisa Fowler in *EastEnders* and Maggie in the BAFTA award-winning BBC Four series *Detectorists*, has been cast in *Love Letters*.

*Love Letters* sees the former *EastEnders* actress return to her local Theatre after performing in *In Basildon* in 2019 and *Deadly Murder* at the Queen's Theatre Hornchurch in 2015.

Lucy will be joined by **Holly Ashton** (*The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 ¾*, Menier Chocolate Factory), **Kit Esuruoso** (*West Side Story*, Royal Exchange Theatre), **Dannie Harris** (*Christmas Carol Casebook: Away in a Danger*, Lichfield Garrick Theatre), **Mike Lloyd** (*Dreamboats and Petticoats*, UK Tour), **Hannah Price** (*Buddy*, UK Tour), **Steve Simmonds** (*Tommy*, Ramps on the Moon and New Wolsey Theatre) and **Luke Anthony Thornton** (*Footloose*, UK Tour).

The production will be directed by **Douglas Rintoul**, the Theatre's Artistic Director, with design by **Jess Curtis**, lighting design by **Mark Dymock**, sound design by **Chris Murray**, musical direction from **Adam Gerber**, and choreography by **Tara Young**.

*Love Letters* tells the story of an unposted love letter meant to be sent between a passionate young couple dating, only to be delivered sixteen years later. With a raft of brilliant songs from Essex's very best, and hits ranging from the 60s to today, this funny and popular working class love story promises to be an uplifting night out for everyone proudly calling Essex their home. Music featured is by Alison Moyet, Billy Bragg, Billy Ocean, Blur, David Woodcock, Depeche Mode, Jessie J, Olly Murs, Sandie Shaw and The Tremeloes.

This production is a highlight of the Theatre's **Essex On Stage** programme, made possible by the generous support of The Clothworkers' Foundation.



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Tickets to **Love Letters** cost £13.50 - £30 plus 65p QRenew Fee, tickets for under 26s are just £8 Mon -Thu. To book, visit [queens-theatre.co.uk](http://queens-theatre.co.uk) or call the **Box Office** on **01708 443333**.

[ENDS]

**Press Night:** Tuesday 3 August 2021 at 7.30pm.

For press tickets, further information, images and interviews please contact Sarah Soliman, Marketing Manager by e-mail [sarahs@queens-theatre.co.uk](mailto:sarahs@queens-theatre.co.uk)

### **Listings information**

**30 July – 21 August 2021**

A Queen's Theatre Hornchurch production

**LOVE LETTERS** by Douglas Rintoul

Director **Douglas Rintoul**

Set and Costume Designer **Jess Curtis**

Lighting Designer **Mark Dymock**

Sound Designer **Chris Murray**

Musical Director **Adam Gerber**

Choreographer **Tara Young**

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

#### **About Queen's Theatre Hornchurch**

Queen's Theatre Hornchurch (QTH) is a vibrant producing theatre, working in Outer East London, Essex and beyond. As a cultural hub, over 210,000 people enjoy the programme each year. Audiences are guaranteed a warm welcome from a three-year winner of UK Theatre's Most Welcoming Theatre (2016 – 2018) and London Theatre of the Year 2020 (The Stage Awards), the first Outer London theatre to receive this prestigious award.

Queen's Theatre Hornchurch is the recipient of the 2018 Clothworkers' Theatre Award, a competitive annual prize given to a regional producing theatre, that has only ever been awarded five times.