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IMAGES: [Goodman Press Room](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mom58nrbexrsn29/AACQanZVx2kxZU4J2_w2EQuDa?dl=0)

***THE WHO’S TOMMY* ORIGINAL TONY AWARD-WINNING CREATORS REIMAGINE A NEW PRODUCTION AT THE GOODMAN,**

**WITH MUSIC AND LYRICS BY PETE TOWNSHEND AND A BOOK BY PETE TOWNSHEND AND DES McANUFF,**

**DIRECTED BY DES McANUFF, JUNE 13 – JULY 23, 2023**

**\*\*\*THE CAST OF 28 FEATURES ALI LOUIS BOURZGUI AS TOMMY WALKER,**

**JOINED BY JOHN AMBROSINO, BOBBY CONTE, ADAM JACOBS, ALISON LUFF, CHRISTINA SAJOUS AND MORE\*\*\***

(Chicago, IL) This summer, Chicago will be first to experience a reimagined production of *The Who’s Tommy* when the original creators reunite at Goodman Theatre. Tony Award winners **Pete Townshend** and **Des McAnuff**, nearly 30 years after their epic pop-culture musical theater sensation first bowed on Broadway, have reconvened to tell the story of Tommy Walker for 2023 audiences. Rehearsals are underway for the summer musical, which begins previews June 13.

“It’s at once an honor and a joy to again collaborate with Pete to realize the power and pertinence of *The Who’s Tommy* today,” said director **Des McAnuff**, who originated the acclaimed production at La Jolla Playhouse followed by its long-running Broadway engagement (1993-1995). “While the music remains as glorious as ever, our world years later is unimaginably and irrevocably changed. As a result, there’s so much more we all can recognize—and celebrate—in our protagonist’s evolution, as a collective deeper understanding of mental health has sharpened our lens. Tommy Walker’s triumph over devastating childhood trauma, to enlightened leadership, to ultimately recognizing the folly in which he’s surrounded himself is an Amazing Journey to discover anew.”

A cast of 28 and a nine-piece band performs the classic songs from The Who’s exhilarating 1969 rock concept album, *Tommy*, in an exciting new staging. Cast in the title role of Tommy Walker is **Ali Louis Bourzgui** (*Layalina*, *The Band’s Visit* national tour), with **Adam Jacobs** (*Aladdin, Les Miserables* and *The Lion King* on Broadway) as his father, Captain Walker and **Alison Luff** (*Escape to Margaritaville, Waitress* and *Matilda* on Broadway) as his mother, Mrs. Walker. Joining them are **John Ambrosino** (*Les Miserables* on Broadway) as Uncle Ernie; **Bobby Conte** (*Company*, *A Bronx Tale The Musical* on Broadway) as Cousin Kevin; and **Christina Sajous** (*SpongeBob SquarePants* and *Holler If Ya Hear Me* on Broadway) as the Acid Queen.

Also joining the cast are **Jeremiah Alsop**, **Stephen Brower**, **Haley Gustafson**, **Sheldon Henry, Aliah James**, **Gabriel Kearns**, **Tassy Kirbas**  **Lily Kren**, **Nathan Lucrezio**, **Alexandra Matteo**, **Morgan McGhee**, **Mark Mitrano**, **Reagan Pender, Daniel Quadrino** , **Jenna Nicole Schoen, Zach Sorrow**, **Ayana Strutz** and **Andrew Tufano**. Young Tommy is played as a child and a pre-adolescent by the following actors in rotation: **Ava Rose Doty**, **Presley Rose Jones**, **Annabel Finch** and **Ezekiel Ruiz.**

The creative team includes choreography by **Lorin Latarro** (*Into the Woods, Mrs. Doubtfire* and *Waitress* on Broadway); music supervision and additional arrangements by **Ron Melrose** (*Jersey Boys* on Broadway, London and national tour); set design by **David Korins** (*Hamilton, Beetlejuice, Here Lies Love* on Broadway); costume design by **Sarafina Bush** (*for colored girls..., Pass Over* on Broadway); lighting design by **Amanda Zieve** (Broadway associate on *Escape to Margaritaville* and *Allegiance*); sound design by **Gareth Owen** (*Back to the Future, & Juliet* and *MJ The Musical* on Broadway); and projection design by **Peter Nigrini** (*MJ: The Musical* and *Dear Evan Hansen* on Broadway). Casting is by **Lauren Port**, CSAand **Rachael Jimenez**, CSA. New York casting by **Tara Rubin Casting**/**Merri Sugarman**, CSA. **Tripp Phillips** is the Production Stage Manager and **Nikki Blue** and **Jason Hindelang** are the Stage Managers.

A nine-piece band performs the Tony Award-winning original score, featuring **Rick Fox** (Keyboard/Conductor), **Valerie Gebert** (Keyboard/Associate Conductor), **Bobby Everson** (Percussion), **Chris Forte** (Guitar), **Jeremiah Frederick** (Horn), **Larry Kohut** (Bass), **Felton Offard** (Guitar), **Rose Snyder** (Keyboard) and **Jim Widlowski** (Drums).

*The Who’s Tommy* appears at Goodman Theatre June 13 – July 23 (Opening Night is Monday, June 26) in the 856-seat Albert Theatre; for tickets ($30 - $160) call 312.443.3800, visit [GoodmanTheatre.org/Tommy](http://www.GoodmanTheatre.org/Tommy) or purchase in-person at the Goodman Box Office at 170 N. Dearborn (12 noon – 5pm). Northern Trust is the Lead Corporate Sponsor and Winston & Strawn LLP is the Major Corporate Sponsor.

**ABOUT THE CREATORS**

**Pete Townshend** is known principally as the lead guitarist and composer for The Who, as well as for his own solo career. His career with The Who spans over fifty years, during which time Townshend wrote well over a hundred songs for The Who’s eleven studio albums, including the rock operas *Tommy* and *Quadrophenia* and the well-regarded rock radio staple *Who’s Next*. From early classic singles, such as ‘*My Generation*’ and ‘*Substitute*’ to ‘*Tommy*’, ‘*Lifehouse*’ and ‘*Quadrophenia*’, Townshend has always been at the forefront of his profession. Though known mainly as a guitarist, he is an accomplished singer and keyboard player, and has played many other instruments (banjo, accordion, synthesizer, piano, bass guitar and drums) on his solo albums and on certain Who albums. As an author, he has written *Horse’s Neck*, a collection of short stories (Faber & Faber, 1985); *Who I Am*, a memoir (Harper Collins, 2012) and his latest artistic project, *The Age of Anxiety*, is simultaneously a novel and a rock opera about passion and ambition, good drugs and bad drugs, and loves lost and found (the novel was published by Hodder & Stoughton, 2019). His numerous awards for *The Who’s Tommy* include a Grammy Award (1993), Tony Award for Best score (1993), Dora Mavor Moore Award (1994) and Olivier Award (1997). Other awards include Classic Rock Award (2011); Ivor Novello Award (1981); British Phonographic Industry Lifetime Achievement Award (1983); BRIT Award for contribution to British Music (1988); Living Legend Award, International Rock Awards (1991); Q Lifetime Achievement Award (1997); Ivor Novello Lifetime Achievement Award (2001); Kennedy Center Honor, John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts (jointly with Roger Daltrey, 2008); Rock Honor, VH1 (2008); Honorary Doctorate West London University (2010); Les Paul Award, TEC Foundation (2012). The most recent Who album, *WHO*, was released on December 6, 2019.

**Des McAnuff** is a two-time Tony Award-winning director and former artistic director of Canada’s Stratford Festival. He is also director emeritus of La Jolla Playhouse, where he staged over 30 productions of classics, new plays and musicals as artistic director. He’s co-founder of Broadway’s Dodgers. Broadway credits include *Ain’t Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations; Summer: The Donna Summer Musical;**Doctor Zhivago; Jesus Christ Superstar; Guys and Dolls;* Aaron Sorkin’s *The Farnsworth Invention; Jersey Boys*(Tony and Olivier awards: Best Musical); Billy Crystal’s *700 Sundays* (Tony Award: Best Special Theatrical Event); *Dracula the Musical*; *How to Succeed…*; *The Who’ s Tommy* (Tony and Olivier awards: Best Director); *A Walk in the Woods* and *Big River* (Tony awards: Best Director, Best Musical). Selected New York credits include *Fetch Clay, Make Man* (NYTW); multiple productions at The Public and BAM. Stratford highlights include: *A Word or Two; Caesar and* *Cleopatra* and *The Tempest* (all with Christopher Plummer). Operacredits include*Faust* (The Met, ENO). TV and film credits include *700 Sundays* (HBO); *Cousin Bette* (with Jessica Lange, director); *The Iron Giant* (producer, BAFTA Award) and *Quills*(executive producer). In 2011, he was honored with a doctorate from Ryerson University where he attended theater school. In 2012, he was awarded Canada’s Governor General’ s National Arts Center Award and the Order of Canada.

**THE COMPANY OF *THE WHO’S TOMMY***

***For images, bios and additional information about the artists, visit the*** [***Play Detail Page***](https://www.goodmantheatre.org/show/the-whos-tommy/)***.***

**(*listed* *in alphabetical order*)**

Male Ensemble/Lad 2…Jeremiah Alsop

Uncle Ernie…John Ambrosino

Tommy/Narrator….Ali Louis Bourzgui

Male Ensemble/Minister…Stephen Brower

Cousin Kevin…Bobby Conte

Tommy, Age 4….Ava Rose Doty

Tommy, Age 10…Annabel Finch

Female Ensemble/Sally Simpson…Haley Gustafson

Male Ensemble/Hawker/Specialist…Sheldon Henry

Captain Walker…Adam Jacobs

Female Ensemble…Aliah James

Tommy, Age 4…Presley Rose Jones

Male Ensemble…Gabriel Kearns

Onstage Swing…Tassy Kirbas

Female Ensemble…Lily Kren

Male Ensemble…Nathan Lucrezio\*

Mrs. Walker…Alison Luff

Female Ensemble…Alexandra Matteo

Female Ensemble…Morgan McGhee

Male Ensemble/Lad 1…Mark Mitrano

Onstage Swing…Reagan Pender

Male Ensemble…Daniel Quadrino

Tommy, Age 10…Ezekiel Ruiz

Acid Queen/Specialist’s Assistant…Christina Sajous

Female Ensemble…Jenna Nicole Schoen

Onstage Swing…Zach Sorrow

Offstage Female Swing…Ayana Strutz

Onstage Swing…Andrew Tufano

\**Denotes Dance Captain*

Choreography…Lorin Latarro

Set Design…David Korins

Costume Design…Sarafina Bush

Lighting Design…Amanda Zieve

Sound Design…Gareth Owen

Projection Design…Peter Nigrini

Flying Effects…ZFX Inc.

Music Supervision and Additional Arrangements…Ron Melrose

Music Director/Conductor/Keyboard 2…Rick Fox

Associate Conductor/Keyboard 3…Valerie Gebert

Keyboard 1…Rose Snyder

French Horn…Jeremiah Frederick

Guitar 1…Chris Forte

Guitar 2…Felton Offard

Bass…Larry Kohut

Percussion…Bobby Everson

Drums…Jim Widlowski

Casting is by Lauren Port, CSA and Rachael Jimenez, CSA. New York casting by Tara Rubin Casting/Merri Sugarman, CSA. Tripp Phillips is the Production Stage Manager; Jason Hindelang and Nikki Blue are Stage Managers.

**ENHANCED AND ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES**

*Visit Goodman theatre.org/Access for more information about Goodman Theatre’s accessibility efforts.*

-ASL-Interpreted: Friday, July 7 at 8pm – An American Sign Language interpreter signs the action/text as played.

-Touch Tour (12:30pm) and Audio-Described Performance (2pm): Saturday, July 15

-Spanish Subtitles: Saturday, July 15 at 8pm

-Open-Captioned: Sunday, July 16 at 2pm – An LED sign presents dialogue in sync with the performance.

-Sensory-Friendly: Saturday, July 22 at 2pm

**ABOUT GOODMAN THEATRE**

Chicago’s theater since 1925, **Goodman Theatre** is a not-for-profit arts and community organization in the heart of the Loop, distinguished by the excellence and scope of its artistic programming and community engagement. The theater’s artistic priorities include new play development (more than 150 world or American premieres), large scale musical theater works and reimagined classics. Artists and productions have earner two Pulitzer Prizes, 22 Tony Awards and more than 160 Jeff Awards, among other accolades. The Goodman is the first theater in the world to produce all 10 plays in August Wilson’s “American Century Cycle.” Its longtime annual holiday tradition *A Christmas Carol*, now in its fifth decade, has created a new generation of theatergoers in Chicago. The Goodman also frequently serves as a production and program partner with national and international companies and Chicago’s Off-Loop theaters.

Using the tools of the theatrical profession, the Goodman’s Education and Engagement programs aim to develop generations of citizens who understand the cultures and stories of diverse voices. The Goodman’s Alice Rapoport Center for Education and Engagement is the home of these programs, which are offered free of charge for Chicago youth—85% of whom come from underserved communities—schools and life-long learners.

Goodman Theatre was founded by William O. Goodman and his family in honor of their son Kenneth, an important figure in Chicago’s cultural renaissance in the early 1900s. The Goodman family’s legacy lives on through the continued work and dedication of Kenneth’s family, including Albert Ivar Goodman, who with his late mother, Edith-Marie Appleton, contributed the necessary funds for the creation on the new Goodman center in 2000.

Today, Goodman Theatre is led by Artistic Director **Susan V. Booth** and Executive Director/CEO **Roche Schulfer**. Theater leadership also includes the distinguished members of the Artistic Collective: **Rebecca Gilman**, **Dael Orlandersmith**, **Henry Godinez**, **Steve Scott**, **Kimberly Senior**, **Chuck Smith** and **Mary Zimmerman**. **Jeff Hesse** is Chairman of Goodman Theatre’s Board of Trustees, **Fran Del Boca** is Women’s Board President and **Craig McCaw** is President of the Scenemakers Board for young professionals.

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