

Caracrol

Stiles and Drewe's

**SOHO
CINDERS**

A New Musical



ESSEX THEATRE ARTS PERFORMANCE

ETA Productions

Produced by: ETA Productions

Director: Matt Jewson

Musical Director: Rob Miles

Venue: Headgate Theatre, Colchester

Performance dates: 21 to 25 July 2026

SHOW ANNOUNCEMENT

INFO

ETA Performance is a newly established creative and training hub which is mounting its first production - **SOHO CINDERS**. This is a bold, witty, and rarely produced modern musical, and we are assembling a cast of performers who are excited by sharp storytelling, strong musicianship, and collaborative rehearsal-room energy.

SYNOPSIS

Robbie is a cheeky, big-hearted dreamer who finds himself swept off his feet by James Prince, a charming and ambitious politician running for mayor. But when their secret romance hits the tabloids, the fairytale sparkles turn to flashes of scandal. Soho Cinders reimagines Cinderella for the modern world in a story where love, identity, and truth collide in the glare of the media spotlight. With dazzling humour, toe-tapping tunes, and a whole lot of Soho spirit, this feel-good musical celebrates what it means to live authentically and love boldly.

Funny, fearless, and full of heart, Soho Cinders is a reminder that sometimes the real magic isn't about finding your prince, but instead about owning your story.

CREATIVES

The show will be directed by Matt Jewson, an Essex-based actor, director and producer. Matt comes with years of extensive professional experience in both stage and TV work across a mix of genres and is passionate about creativity and artistic expression. The musical director will be Rob Miles. Rob has been MD for numerous productions over the past twenty years in addition to his work as a freelance vocal and acting coach in both professional and educational settings.

DATES

There will be an informal introduction night at the Headgate Theatre, Colchester on **Friday 27 March** at 7:45pm, giving you the opportunity to meet the creative team, hear more about the production, and receive further audition details. Auditions take place on **Sunday 29 March** from 11am. The day will follow a workshop style audition, where you will learn some music, a short choreographed routine and work with some of the text. We'll also incorporate some great ensemble exercises to help you all become acquainted with each other. There will be nothing to prepare, but we suggest you do have a listen to the soundtrack so that you're familiar with the material. As the day will include physical activities, we recommend coming in clothes that allow you to move freely and to also bring water and refreshment. We are looking to ensure the strongest possible ensemble across the show, so please register your interest if you think you have that something special that you can bring to us.

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals will primarily take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings, with some Sundays incorporated. Indicative dates are listed below. Rehearsals will be held at the Headgate Theatre and other rehearsal spaces across the Colchester area.

RESOURCES

The "Live Concert Recording" of the show can be found on Spotify, with various clips of songs and scenes available on YouTube.

The character list can be found on page 5.

INDICATIVE REHEARSAL DATES

MARCH

Friday 27th - Intro Evening

Sunday 29th - Auditions

APRIL

Friday 17th - Read Through

22nd, 24th, 29th

MAY

6th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 22nd

JUNE

3rd, 5th, 10th, 12th, 14th, 17th, 19th,

24th, 28th

JULY

1st,

Sunday 5th - Sitzprobe

8th, 10th, 12th, 15th, 17th

IN THEATRE FROM

Sunday 19th to Saturday 25th inclusive

CHARACTERS

ROBBIE

A gay college boy with warmth, naïveté, and infectious youthful charm. Energetic, open-hearted, and easy to love. A modern Cinderella with real Soho spirit.

VELCRO

Robbie's fiercely loyal best friend. A single mum who runs the launderette. Chatty, confident, streetwise, and proudly opinionated, but always open-minded and big-hearted.

CLODAGH

Robbie's first ugly stepsister. Loud, crude, and gloriously trashy. Promiscuous by fashion and attitude. *TOWIE* meets *Jeremy Kyle*. A bold, unapologetic comedy role.

DANA

The second ugly stepsister. Foul-mouthed and crude. Less glam and less sharp than Clodagh. Think sportswear without the exercise. Another big, fearless comedy role.

LORD BELLINGHAM

A wealthy industrial tycoon with a taste for younger men. Lavish, charming, and deeply unsettling. His money gives him power, and that power makes him dangerous.

JAMES PRINCE

Engaged and running for mayor. Intelligent, idealistic, and well-educated. Desperately wants honesty, yet struggles to live it. Hiding a secret love affair with Robbie.

MARILYN PLATT

James's fiancée. Beautiful, kind-hearted, and emotionally perceptive. Strong-minded and intelligent, yet fragile beneath the surface. Knows James inside out and struggles to let him go.

WILLIAM GEORGE

James's campaign manager and the villain of the piece. A ruthless spin doctor who lies, cheats, and manipulates to get ahead. Misogynistic, pompous, and unapologetically nasty.

SASHA

William's assistant. Strong, independent, and capable, forced to endure William's sexism and menial demands. Sharper and more resilient than she's given credit for.

SIDESADDLE

A Westminster bike-hire manager and close friend of Robbie and Velcro. Feisty, fun, and full of Soho energy. A vivid supporting role with plenty of character.

ENSEMBLE



Bursting with Soho colour and character, Soho Cinders is a contemporary Cinderella story where political intrigue, scandal, and romance collide. With a joyful, infectious score, it's guaranteed to have you humming long after midnight.

COME AND JOIN US

We hope you're excited by this opportunity and will join us in our quest to cast this funny, irreverent and playful production. To book a place at the intro evening and audition workshop day, please complete the short registration form by clicking [here](#).

We'll look forward to hearing from you.

www.etaperformance.co.uk