

## MOTOWN THE MUSICAL

### WEST END PRODUCTION

TO PREMIERE AT THE SHAFTESBURY THEATRE, FEBRUARY 2016

TICKETS RELEASED FOR SALE TODAY

Tickets for the West End production of ***Motown the Musical***, opening at the Shaftesbury Theatre in February 2016, are released for sale today (15 May 2015). With music and lyrics from the legendary Motown catalogue and book by Motown founder **Berry Gordy**, ***Motown the Musical*** is directed by **Charles Randolph-Wright**. London previews will begin on 11 February 2016 with press night on 8 March 2016 with the show booking to 22 October 2016. Casting and further information about ***Motown the Musical*** will be released shortly.

**Berry Gordy** said: *"I am thrilled to be bringing Motown back to the UK fifty years after our first visit back in 1965 when Diana Ross and The Supremes, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson and The Miracles, Martha Reeves and the Vandellas and I came to London for our very first UK tour. Half a century later we are delighted to be returning, this time bringing our story and the Motown sound on stage at the Shaftesbury Theatre in the legendary West End."*

*With just \$800 borrowed from his family, Motown founder Berry Gordy, goes from featherweight boxer to heavyweight music mogul, discovering and launching the careers of Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Marvin Gaye and many more. Motown The Musical uncovers the true story of the legendary record label that changed music history and created the soundtrack of a generation.*

Featuring a sixteen piece orchestra playing 50 Motown tracks including *Ain't No Mountain High Enough*, *I'll Be There*, *Dancing In The Street*, *Stop! In The Name Of Love*, *My Girl*, *I Heard It Through The Grapevine* and *For Once In My Life*, Charles Randolph-Wright's production tells the story behind the classic hits.

Tony nominated ***Motown the Musical*** received its world premiere in April 2013 in New York at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre and recouped its \$18 million investment by the end of 2014. The first US National Tour opened to critical acclaim last spring in Chicago, grossing \$20 Million dollars during its standing room only sixteen-week run, and continues to play to packed houses across America.

***Motown the Musical*** has music supervision, orchestrations and arrangements by **Ethan Popp**, co-orchestrations and additional arrangements by **Bryan Cook**, dance arrangements by **Zane Mark** and music direction by **Gareth Weedon**. Choreography is by **Patricia Wilcox** and **Warren Adams**, scenic design by **David Korins**, costumes by **Esosa**, lighting by **Natasha Katz**, sound by **Peter Hylenski** and projections by **Daniel Brodie**. ***Motown the Musical*** will be produced in the West End by **Kevin McCollum**, **Doug Morris**, **Berry Gordy** and **Adam Spiegel**.

**Berry Gordy** is the founder of Motown, the enterprise that nurtured the careers of, amongst others, Diana Ross and The Supremes, Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, Michael Jackson and The Jackson 5. Gordy is also a songwriter, producer, director, boxer, innovative entrepreneur, teacher and visionary. Actively involved in the Civil Rights movement, he also released the recorded speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His films include *Lady Sings the Blues*, which received five Academy Award nominations, and *Mahogany*. In 2011, President Barack Obama honoured Gordy with a *Salute to Motown* evening at the White House. Berry Gordy's unparalleled contribution to music and popular culture is chronicled in his autobiography, *To Be Loved: The Music, The Magic, The Memories of Motown*.

**Charles Randolph-Wright** is a director, writer and producer for theatre, film, and television. His theatre directing credits include *Sophisticated Ladies* and the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Ruined* at Arena Stage, the 75th Anniversary international tour of *Porgy and Bess*, *Love/Life* at Lincoln Center with Brian Stokes Mitchell, the national tour of *Guys and Dolls*, *Blood Knot* at ACT in San Francisco and *The Diva is Dismissed* at the Public Theater. Randolph-Wright wrote the plays *Blue*, *The Night Is a Child*, *Cuttin' Up*, and co-wrote *Just Between Friends* on Broadway. He directed the award-winning film *Preaching to the Choir*, and has written screenplays for HBO, Showtime, Disney and Fox. His television credits include directing *Lincoln Heights*, *South of Nowhere*, Bebe Winans' special *America America*, and producing and writing the Showtime series *Linc's*. Randolph-Wright was chosen for a playwright residency in Arena Stages' American Voices New Play Institute.

The original Broadway cast recording of ***Motown the Musical*** is available via Motown Records, a label of UMG Recordings - [www.classicmotown.com](http://www.classicmotown.com)

### **LISTINGS INFORMATION**

Theatre: Shaftesbury Theatre, 210 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8DP  
Dates: First booking period 11 February – 22 October 2016  
Press Night: 8 March 2016 at 7pm  
Performances: Monday – Saturday 7.30pm, Thursday & Saturday matinees at 3pm  
First midweek matinee 18 February 2016  
Prices: £19.50 - £69.50 Monday – Thursday, £19.50 - £75 Friday and Saturday.  
A limited number of premium seats are also available at £89 Monday to Thursday and £99 on Friday and Saturday.  
No booking fees via [www.motownthemusical.co.uk](http://www.motownthemusical.co.uk), over the phone on 020 7379 5399 or in person at the Shaftesbury Theatre Box Office.  
Day seats will go on sale from the Box Office, in person only, from 10am on the day of performance.  
Box Office: 020 7379 5399  
Website: [www.motownthemusical.co.uk](http://www.motownthemusical.co.uk)  
Twitter: @MotownUK  
Facebook: MotownMusicalUK

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For further press information on *Motown the Musical* –  
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