

Press Cuttings
School of Rock – The Musical
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FirstNews
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GET READY TO (SCHOOL OF) ROCK!

by Ben Pulsford

YOU'VE seen the movie, now rock along to the West End musical!

Just a year after opening on Broadway in New York, Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's rocking musical version of the popular film *School Of Rock* will officially open on London's West End on Monday (14 November).

The musical will tell the story of slacker and wannabe rock star Dewey Finn, who turns a class of smarty-pants into an ear-popping, riff-scorching, all-conquering rock band! Dewey poses as a substitute teacher at a prestigious school to make ends meet and, when he discovers his class's musical talents, he gets them to form a group and conquer the Battle Of The Bands.

Back in September, *First News* was invited to a top secret media event with all the stars of this brand-new musical (we know, we know... we're naughty for not telling you earlier!) – and boy, did this crew introduce us to the power of rock! As well as meeting all of the young actors playing members of Dewey's rock band, we also met David Fynn, who's starring as Dewey, and the man behind the music, Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Now, you might not know who Sir Andrew is from his name, but you'll definitely know his work! He is the composer of some of the world's best-known musicals, including *Cats*, *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *The Phantom Of The Opera*, to name just a few! In musical land, he's basically the biggest rocker of them all.

Anyway, here are a few show secrets we picked up from Andrew and all the other rock stars backstage a few weeks ago. Prepare to be rocked!



Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber poses with some of the younger cast members

ANDREW SAID IT!



"My kids loved it [the film] ten years ago and my wife made me watch it and I thought: 'There really is something quite wonderful here'. I originally thought we'd use songs from the movie, but in the end, they're only little fragments and they didn't make a theatre score."

SHOW SECRET!

Some of the producers thought they were going to have to get older actors to play the kids, to get the level of musical talent they were after for Dewey's band. But, on the first day of rehearsals, there were kids playing instruments as big as they were – really well! So children the right age ended up being in Dewey's band – never underestimate the power of kids!

ANDREW SAID IT!



"It took around seven years to get the rights to the movie. At one time there was going to be a *School Of Rock* sequel, but it never got made."

SHOW SECRET!

Three sets of children were selected to play each individual member of Dewey's band. They take turns to perform, due to certain performance rules in the UK. So, in total, 39 children have been cast in *School Of Rock – The Musical*.

SHOW SECRET!

When Jack Black first saw the musical in New York, he was nervous. At the end of the show he threw his arms around a producer, cried and said: "It's beautiful, it's perfect!"

DID YOU KNOW?

Jack Black played the original Dewey Finn in the movie *School Of Rock* back in 2003. The film also featured a young Miranda Cosgrove, star of *iCarly* and the *Despicable Me* films, when she was just ten years old. She's 23 now!



ANDREW SAID IT!



"Music empowers. This show is about the empowering force of music. Why I love this story is because every character is somehow changed for the better through music."

David Fynn (who plays Dewey) with his British band of young rockers

Book tickets for *School Of Rock – The Musical* at the New London Theatre at SchoolOfRockTheMusical.co.uk