



SOLIHULL

Presents

# Les Misérables

## School Edition™



17TH - 21ST MARCH 2015 BUSHELL HALL

Performed entirely by students

A musical by ALAIN BOUBLIL and CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHÖNBERG

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# SYNOPSIS

## ACT I

### PROLOGUE: 1815, DIGNE

After 19 years on the chain gang, Jean Valjean finds that the ticket-of-leave he must display condemns him to be an outcast. Only the Bishop of Digne treats him kindly and Valjean, embittered by years of hardship, repays him by stealing some silver. Valjean is caught and brought back by the police and is astonished when the Bishop lies to the police to save him. Valjean decides to start his life anew.

### 1823, MONTREUIL-SUR-MER

Eight years have passed and Valjean, having broken his parole and changed his name to Monsieur Madeleine, has become a factory owner and Mayor. One of his workers, Fantine, has a secret illegitimate child. When the other women discover this, they demand her dismissal.

Desperate for money to pay for medicines for her daughter, Fantine sells her locket, her hair, and then joins the whores in selling herself. Utterly degraded, she gets into a fight with a prospective customer and is about to be taken to prison by Javert when ‘The Mayor’ arrives and demands she be taken to hospital instead.

The Mayor then rescues a man pinned beneath a cart. Javert is reminded of the abnormal strength of convict 24601 Jean Valjean, who, he says, has just been recaptured. Valjean, unable to see an innocent man go to prison, confesses that he is prisoner 24601.

At the hospital, Valjean promises the dying Fantine to find and look after her daughter Cosette. Javert arrives to arrest him, but Valjean escapes.

### 1823, MONTFERMEIL

Cosette has been lodged with the Thénardiers, who horribly abuse her while indulging their own daughter, Eponine. Valjean pays the Thénardiers to let him take her to Paris.

### 1832, PARIS

Nine years later, there is unrest in the city because of the likely demise of the popular leader General Lamarque, the only man left in the government who shows any feeling for the poor. A street-gang led by Thénardier and his wife sets upon Jean Valjean and Cosette. They are rescued by Javert, who does not recognise Valjean until he has gone.

The Thénardiers’ daughter Eponine, who is secretly in love with the student Marius, reluctantly agrees to help him find Cosette, with whom he has fallen in love. News of General Lamarque’s death circulates in the city and a group of politically-minded students stream out into the streets to whip up support for a revolution.

Cosette is consumed by thoughts of Marius, with whom she has fallen in love. Eponine brings Marius to Cosette and then prevents an attempt by her father’s gang to rob Valjean’s house. Valjean, convinced it was Javert lurking outside his house, tells Cosette they must prepare to flee the country.

## ACT II

The students prepare to build the barricade. Marius, noticing that Eponine has joined the insurrection, sends her away with a letter to Cosette, which is intercepted by Valjean. Eponine decides to rejoin her love at the barricade.

The barricade is built and the revolutionaries defy an army warning to give up or die. Javert is exposed as a police spy. In trying to return to the barricade, Eponine is killed.

Valjean arrives at the barricade in search of Marius. He is given the chance to kill Javert but instead lets him go. The students settle down for a night on the barricade and, in the quiet of the night, Valjean prays to God to save Marius. The next day the rebels are all killed.

Valjean escapes into the sewers with the unconscious Marius. After meeting Thénardier, who is robbing the corpses of the rebels, he comes across Javert once more. He pleads for time to deliver the young man to hospital. Javert lets Valjean go and, his unbending principles of justice having been shattered by Valjean’s own mercy, he kills himself.

Unaware of the identity of his rescuer, Marius recovers in Cosette’s care. Valjean confesses the truth of his past to Marius and insists he must go away.



At Marius and Cosette’s wedding, the Thénardiers try to blackmail Marius. Thénardier says Cosette’s ‘father’ is a murderer and as proof produces a ring which he stole from the corpse the night the barricade fell. It is Marius’s own ring and he realises it was Valjean who rescued him that night. He and Cosette go to Valjean where Cosette learns for the first time of her own history before the old man dies.

Valjean tells her the truth about her mother. His vision of Fantine is joined by a vision of Eponine. As he dies, Valjean and his visions remind Cosette of the everlasting power of love telling her that “to love another person is to see the face of God.”

The entire company sings of “the music of a people who are climbing to the light. For the wretched of the earth, there is a flame that never dies. Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise.”

# MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT I

### PROLOGUE

*The Chain Gang, Valjean, Javert, Farmer, Labourer, Bishop Of Digne*

### AT THE END OF THE DAY

*Foreman Fantine, Valjean & Ensemble*

### I DREAMED A DREAM

*Fantine*

### THE DOCKS (“Lovely Ladies”)

*Sailors, Prostitutes, Old Woman, Fantine, Pimp, Bamatabois, Javert & Valjean*

### THE CART CRASH (Who Am I?)

*Valjean, Fauchevellant, Javert & Bystanders*

### FANTINE’S DEATH

*Fantine, Valjean & Javert*

### LITTLE COSETTE (“Castle On A Cloud”)

*Young Cosette & Madame Thenardier*

### THE INNKEEPER’S SONG (“Master Of The House”)

*Thenardier, Madame Thenardier & Ensemble*

### THE BARGAIN

*Thenardier, Madame Thenardier & Valjean*

### THE BEGGARS

*Gavroche, Enjolras, Marius, Urchin & Ensemble*

### THE ROBBERY

*Thenardier, Madame Thenardier, Marius, Eponine, Valjean, Javert*

### STARS

*Javert*

### THE ABC CAFE

*The students*

### THE PEOPLE’S SONG (“Do You Hear The People Sing”)

*The students*

### RUE PLUMET (including “In My Life”)

*Cosette, Valjean, Marius & Eponine*

### A HEART FULL OF LOVE

*Marius, Cosette & Eponine*

### THE ATTACK ON RUE PLUMET

*Montparnasse, Babet, Brujon, Claquesous, Thenardier, Eponine, Marius, Valjean & Cosette*

### ONE DAY MORE

*Ensemble*

## ACT II

### THE BARRICADE (“On My Own”)

*Enjolras, Javert, Marius, Eponine, Valjean, Army Officer& Students*

### JAVERT AT THE BARRICADE (“Little People” & “A Little Fall Of Rain”)

*Joly, Javert, Gavroche, Grantaire, Courfeyrac, Feuilly, Legles, Enjolras, Marius, Eponine & Valjean*

### THE FIRST ATTACK

*The students, Valjean, Marius & Javert*

### THE NIGHT (including “Drink With Me” & “Bring Him Home”)

*The students and people of Paris*

### THE SECOND ATTACK

*The students, Valjean & Gavroche*

### THE FINAL BATTLE

*Army Officer, The students, Valjean*

### THE SEWERS

*Thenardier*

### JAVERT’S SUICIDE/TURNING

*Valjean, Javert & Mourning Women*

### THE CAFE SONG (“Empty Chairs At Empty Tables”)

*Marius*

### MARIUS & COSETTE (including “A Heart Full Of Love (Reprise)”)

*Marius, Cosette & Valjean*

### THE WEDDING

*Major D’Omo, Thenardier, Madame Thenardier & Marius*

### EPILOGUE (“Bring Him Home”)

*Valjean, Fantine, Marius, Cosette, Eponine & Ensemble*





# CAST

(in order of appearance)

## Chain Gang/Convicts

Ahmad Alani, Charlie Badham, Ben Davidson, James Hart, David Herriotts, Andrew Hooper, Joe Lankester, Alex Lavery, Charlie Morgan, James Newman, Ben Northam, Darius Shoja-Assadi, James Ward  
 Oscar Haynes  
 Joe Chamberlain  
 Jack Hines, Chris Fowler  
 Iain Rodriguez-Brown  
 Austin Henderson  
 Ben Davidson  
 Ahmad Alani, Charlie Badham, James Hart, Andrew Hooper, Joe Lankester, Charlie Mogan, Tom Murphy, James Ward, Charlotte Sasse, Iain Rodriguez-Brown, Austin Henderson, Jack Hines, Amy Allen, Jenna Balfour, Annie Bewick, Anna Brice, Eve Colyer, Laura Daglish, Lucy Davies, Poppy Eales, Sophie Fowler, Georgia Greenburgh, Jess Lawton, Grace Lodge, Megan Lloyd, Isabel Lury, Harriet Marshall, Caitlin Moylan, Charlotte Perry, Megan Perry, Leticia Salmon, Tanya Sebastian, Charlotte Spence, Victoria Steele, Becky Timperley, Crystal Wilkins, Chris Barker, Beatrice Cowley, Amelia Diccico, Eleanor Brown, Georgina Brownsword, Caroline Camm, Henry Eaton, Jack Edge, Chris Fowler, Nicola Frankland, Caroline Gerard, James Green, Emma Hadley, Meredith Hanson, Anna Higgins, Alex Levey, Abigail Moise, Anjali Parekh, Eva Penhallurick, Vicknes Sarveswaran, Isobel Serle, Megan Woolley  
 Amelia Diccico, Nicola Frankland, Emma Hadley, Anna Higgins, Abigail Moise, Eva Penhallurick, Leticia Salmon, Crystal Wilkins, Maddy Browse  
 David Herriotts  
 James Newman, Darius Shoja-Assadi, Ben Northam, Oliver Daniels  
 Jenna Balfour, Jess Lawton, Harriet Marshall

## Factory Girls

Fantine  
 Foreman  
 Sailors

## Solo Whores

## Other Prostitutes

Old Woman  
 Pimp  
 Bamatabois  
 Fauchelevent  
 Onlookers

Young Cosette  
 Madame Thenardier  
 Young Eponine  
 Thenardier  
 Beggars

Enjolras  
 Marius  
 Grantaire  
 Feuilly  
 Courfeyrac  
 Lesgles  
 Combeferre  
 Prouvaire  
 Joly  
 Urchins

Thenardier's Gang:  
 Montparnasse  
 Babet  
 Brujon  
 Claquesous  
 Eponine  
 Cosette  
 Army Officer  
 Mourning Women

## Major D'Omo

Amy Allen, Annie Bewick, Anna Brice, Eve Colyer, Laura Daglish, Lucy Davies, Poppy Eales, Sophie Fowler, Georgia Greenburgh, Jess Lawton, Grace Lodge, Isabel Lury, Caitlin Moylan, Charlotte Perry, Megan Perry, Tanya Sebastian, Charlotte Spence, Victoria Steele, Becky Timperley, Crystal Wilkins, Megan Woolley  
 Charlotte Sasse  
 Tom Murphy  
 Charlie Morgan  
 Chris Barker  
 Annie Bewick, James Green, Iain Rodriguez-Brown, Charlotte Perry  
 Olivia Hass & Eleanor Berrow  
 Aine Maher  
 Georgina Dalby  
 Harry Sharpe  
 Megan Lloyd, Crystal Wilkins, Abigail Moise  
 Oliver Daniels  
 Tom Carson  
 Ben Northam  
 James Newman  
 Darius Shoja-Assadi  
 Angus Young  
 Ben Davidson  
 Alex Lavery  
 David Herriotts  
 Chrissie Bate, Eleanor Berrow, Jessica Blissett, Tabitha Botterill, Georgina Dalby, Alex Duckworth, Georgina-May Hart, Olivia Hass, Harrison Jones, Helena Massoud, Katie Phillips, Guy Sandler, Ewan Waddell

Chris Fowler  
 Grace Lodge  
 Olivia Eguiguran-Wray  
 Iain Rodriguez-Brown  
 Olivia Harris  
 Katie Williams  
 Alex Sasse  
 Charlotte Perry, Caroline Gerard, Jenna Balfour, Megan Perry, Becky Timperley  
 Chris Fowler



# PRODUCTION TEAM

**Director**  
**Musical Director**  
**Production Manager**  
 Assistant  
 Choreography

## Costume

## Make up

**Mrs L M Fair**  
**Mr S Perrins**  
**Dr P Jukes**  
 Mrs J Johnson  
 Mrs S Mabon assisted by Mrs Johnson  
 Mrs Serle & Mrs Skan, assisted by Harriet Woolley, Isobel Fuller, Camilla Ortey, Mrs J Brown  
 Mrs S Thomas, assisted by Sandria Marks, Miss Airdire, Mrs Goodman, Miss Mesrie, Mrs Scott, Mrs Duggan, Miss Watling, Isobel Cawley, Anne-Sophie Gilson, Cathy Kiely, Celine Simmons, Becky Rodwell, Aimee Skidmore, Adina Bailey, Izzy Kent, Evie Townend, Milly Dixey, Muskan Shrivastava, Holly Krober, Odile Webber, Miss J Whelan.

**Backstage**  
 Stage Manager  
 Deputy Stage Manager  
 Technical Manager (Props)  
 Deputy Technical Manager  
 Keyboards Sound Technician

Joe Hadley  
 Freya Harding  
 Mr P Hadley  
 Mr P Green  
 Lee Harris

**Crew**  
 Siraaj Ahmed, Tara Bennett, Hector Brooke, Wajeesh Chaudhry, Nick Chitty, Tom Day, Dan Dowell-Lee, Moses Fakatou, Frank Fogarty, Imogen Goldsby-Taylor, Luke Hoey, Chloe Houghton, Mohamed Iman, Haris Khan, Holly Krober, Ben Lyth, Fraser Mackie, Ciara Mahoney, Cormac McLean, Jodie Meenaghan-Bell, Liam Mingo, Will Moore, Joanna O'Sullivan, Yashpreet Panesar, Max Richmond, Becky Rodwell, Jack Sandilands, Matthew Sargent, Aimee Skidmore, Thomas Smith, Pete Stansfield, Bhav Sunner, Freddie Sykes, Charlie Thompson, Rebecca Toher, Fraser Waddell, Odile Webber, Phil Wreford

**Stage Hire**  
**Additional Staging**  
**Programme**  
**Tickets**  
**Photography**  
**Additional Photography**

**Scenic Designs**  
 Mr K Leach, Kevin Hunton  
 Mrs L Fair & Alan Hill - Hill Shorter  
 Mrs T Duggan  
 Dave Warren - Pictureteam  
 Tom Gill

# ORCHESTRA

Flute  
 Oboe/Cor Anglais  
 Clarinet  
 Saxophone  
 Horns  
 Trumpets  
 Trombone  
 Drums  
 Percussion  
 Violins

Violas  
 Cellos  
 Guitar  
 Bass Guitar  
 Keyboards

Elisabeth Thomas  
 Lesley Knowles  
 David Clarke  
 Abigail Moise  
 John Geddes, Allyson Roper  
 Joe Price, Joe Sherman  
 Sam Troth  
 Jonathon Altham  
 Simon Clarke, Hannah Currie  
 Helen Dolby, Amy Parry, Hannah Shakeshaft, Imogen Hanson, Ellie Ajao, Aviva Sandler, Sarah Sasse  
 Gail Kirby, Julia Lawley  
 Dominic Martens, Alex Sasse  
 Daniel Murphy  
 James Sutton  
 Simon Phillips, Oliver Walker, Hanlie Martens, Philip Blenkinsop





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## CAST (MAIN CHARACTERS)

### VALJEAN - OSCAR HAYNES

I have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in productions during my time at Solihull School. Being part of 'My Fair Lady' in year 7 encouraged me to get involved as much as possible. 'Les Mis' has been a personal highlight of my achievements at the school. My first experience of this show was watching my brother in the school's production 10 years ago, and it seems fitting to finish with this fantastic musical. I am privileged to be a part of Mrs. Fair's and Mr. Perrins' last musical together, who, along with Mrs Wilde, have made the musicals as enjoyable as they are and inspired me to keep going with my drama. I am grateful for these opportunities which have created so many amazing memories.

### JAVERT - JOE CHAMBERLAIN

This is my first appearance in the Musicals at Solihull. When I found it was Les Mis, I was very excited as it has always been a favourite of myself and my family! I look forward to taking part in musical theatre in the Sixth Form and I can't thank everyone enough for an unforgettable experience!

### FANTINE - MADELEINE BROWSE

I have always had a love of musical theatre and have taken part in many throughout my time at school - although this is my first one at Solihull School. It is great to be taking part in Les Mis as, when I was in Year 8, I got to play the part of Little Cosette and it has been an amazing experience enjoying the musical again but in a different role!

### COSETTE - KATIE WILLIAMS

I have always had a strong interest in singing and have loved being able to play the role of Cosette. Les Mis is my third musical at Solihull School and has been by far the most demanding and enjoyable. I couldn't have asked for a better way to end my time at the school.

### LITTLE COSETTE - ELEANOR BERROW & OLIVIA HASS

I have loved every bit! It's been such a fun experience and I have loved to see everything come together. I was surprised I was chosen but it's just been such a fun, new and exciting journey and I'm really looking forward to the performance - Ellie.

This is a great experience for me and I am ecstatic about playing the part of Little Cosette. Acting and singing are my main hobbies. This is my fourth musical and I'm so happy to be taking part! - Olivia.



### EPONINE - OLIVIA HARRIS

'Les Misérables' is one of my favourite musicals, so when I found out I would be playing Eponine I was so excited! Despite being incredibly demanding, I think it is an experience I'll never forget. I don't think any of us could have asked for a better musical for our final year. I'm looking forward to pursuing my passion for music at Nottingham University next year. Thank you for such a memorable experience.

### MADAME THENARDIER - AINE MAHER

Ten years ago I saw my first production at Solihull school. Six years ago I saw my first professional production - Les Misérables. Since then I have performed countless number of times on the Bushell Hall stage, but none as more exciting or challenging as this. It has been wonderful to finish my time with the theatre and the production that started my love for drama. Thank you to everyone who has made it so special.

### MARIUS - TOM CARSON

Ever since joining the school, I have enjoyed musical theatre. Les Mis will be my fourth musical after starting as Jerome in South Pacific in Year 7, followed by parts in Phantom of the Opera and Spamalot. This has been by far the greatest challenge, but also the most fun and an experience I will never forget!

### ENJOLRAS - OLIVER DANIELS

This is only my second musical, after playing Jerome in South Pacific in Year 7. However, I have always enjoyed musical theatre and whilst Les Mis is a big challenge, it has been an enjoyable one. It has been great fun playing Enjolras and thanks to everyone for making it such a memorable experience.

### MONSIEUR THENARDIER - HARRY SHARPE

My fondest memories of Solihull can all be found in this room. The Dracula Spectacular in year seven was where my musical career started and ever since I have taken every opportunity to fool around upon the Bushell Hall stage. I would like to thank Oscar and Aine for being up there with me, beside my side without fail in every play since. It has been a pleasure. I hope to study medicine at Exeter next year, however, wherever I go I am sure the experience of Les Mis and all those plays before will stay with me forever.

### GAVROCHE - DAVID HASS

This is my second musical and I love musical theatre. I was thrilled to be given the part of Gavroche and I love singing and acting. I feel Gavroche is a very big part.

## DIRECTOR - LISA FAIR

It's officially the end! The end of an era, that is.

I have had the great pleasure to work alongside Stephen Perrins since 2000, when I was lured into the murky world of musical theatre by the temptation of 'Cabaret'. From such humble (if slightly seedy beginnings), I lurched - amateur-like - into Les Misérables 4 years later and it proved to be one of the most daunting and enjoyable experiences I've ever had. This show holds a special place in my affections, mostly because the music is just so emotive, but also because I felt the 2005 production was the best I had ever done. It was with mixed emotions then that I agreed to reprise the show for Stephen's farewell musical.

First time round, I went to see the show in London only after I'd agreed to produce it - mistake: huge, articulated barricades; slick choreography and relentless, endless singing! How was a school company to match that? They did, however - brilliantly.

This cast numbers over 100 pupils from all years in the senior school and they have proved to be equally as capable and enthusiastic as our first 2005 cast. I shall miss the entertainment of Mr Perrins singing everyone's part in rehearsals; the cast rocking up to rehearsals in games kit having just given their all for the school in some dangerous sport or other; dance sequences taken as seriously as finals night on Strictly (in fact, who knew dancing could be so competitive?!).

## MUSICAL DIRECTOR - STEPHEN PERRINS

It is an astonishing thirty-five years since the world's longest running musical - the phenomenon that is 'Les Misérables' - made its appearance and thirty years since it came to the West End. So just what is it that makes this show so popular with people of all ages?

Well, to start with, it tells a great story with memorable characters, written by a master story-teller, Victor Hugo. It also has a musical score which so expertly complements the drama: music which is vibrant, lyrical, passionate and charged with emotion. This is a score which propels the drama on to its heart-rending conclusion: a score full of sublime melodies, remembered by young and not-so-young alike. Who can fail to be moved by Fantine's 'I Dreamed a Dream', Eponine's 'On My Own' or the emotive 'One Day More' a song which outlines the hopes and despairs of so many?



The rehearsals are finally over and they can begin to enjoy the fruits of all their hard work. Just don't forget you are watching school children and give them all your encouragement for what will be a memorable few nights of entertainment, I am sure.

Happy retirement, Stephen!

## CHOREOGRAPHER - SAM MABON

It was such a pleasure to be invited back for the seventh consecutive year to choreograph the school musical and I would like to thank Lisa Fair for once again including me in her production team. Les Mis is an iconic musical and it has been a memorable and enjoyable experience to be involved in bringing this production together. Each musical presents its own unique challenges, and choreographing and coordinating 50 pupils waltzing on the stage at the same time is definitely one of the most difficult that I have attempted! However, I hope you will be as impressed as I have been by the pupils dancing abilities and their dedication to making this musical a success. I do hope you enjoy the show.

It has been a long but also an incredibly rewarding musical journey working with the cast and musicians. Les Misérables has to be the most demanding of all musical theatre scores, not only for its musical complexity but also in the sheer physical stamina required to sing and (particularly for the orchestra) play for nearly three hours with no spoken dialogue to provide temporary musical respite!

Our cast and musicians have risen to these challenges magnificently and I would like to thank each and every one of them for their considerable commitment over the past five months. They have been a great bunch of people to work with.

Producing a musical is a team effort and it wouldn't happen without colleagues equally giving of their time. The whole process has been made far less fraught thanks to the 'Les Mis' family of Jo Johnson, Sam Mabon, Natasha Evans, Paul Jukes and Lee Harris together with others whom I have undoubtedly forgotten to mention-humble apologies! However, there is one person who most definitely must be thanked: our wonderful producer, Lisa Fair. Lisa has guided, rail-roaded, cajoled and encouraged us all on our 'Les Mis' epic to bring this wonderful show to fruition.

On a personal note, as I approach my last musical here, I want to thank Lisa for many wonderful musical journeys over the past 14 years from 'Cabaret' to Les Mis' (twice) and also to Jean Wilde for her invaluable help in bringing so brilliantly 'South Pacific', 'Fiddler' and 'Spamalot' to our stage.

Enjoy the show!





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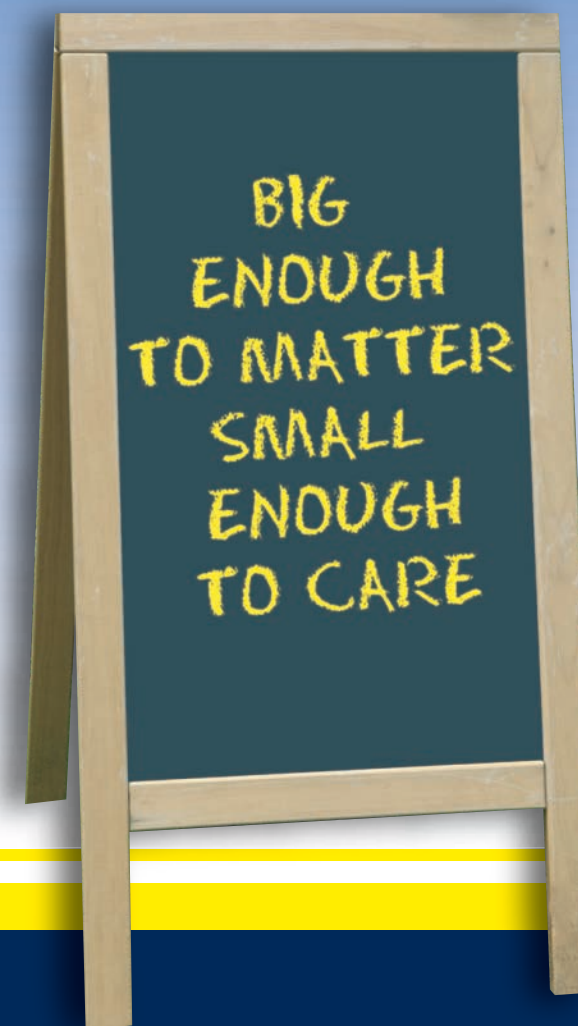
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## VICTOR HUGO

*"When a woman is talking to you, listen to what she says with her eyes."*

- Victor Hugo

VICTOR HUGO'S enormously successful career covered most of the nineteenth century and spanned both the Romantic and Realistic movements. A great poet, novelist, playwright, essayist, pamphleteer, diarist, politician and moralist, Hugo was a man of immense passion and endless contradictions.

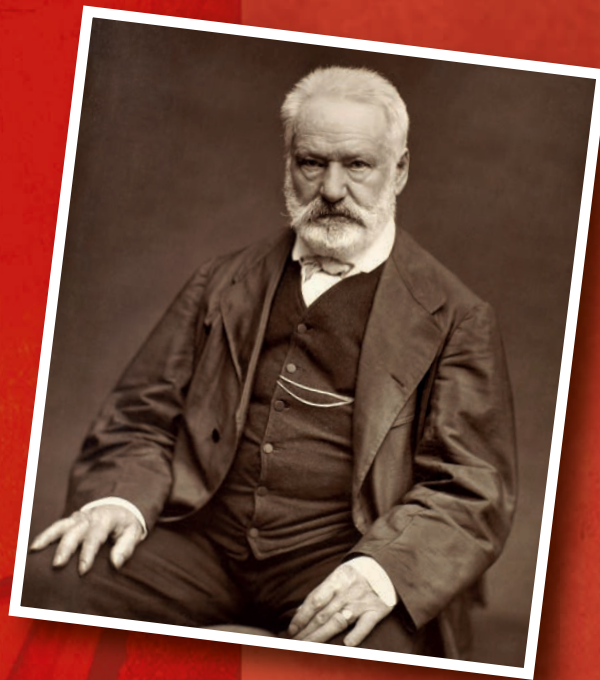
Hugo was born on February 26, 1802. His father, General Joseph Leopold Hugo, was the son of a carpenter who rose through the ranks of Napoleon's citizen army.

However, Victor's mother decided not to subject her three sons to the difficulties of army life, and settled in Paris to raise them. After training as a lawyer, Hugo embarked on the literary career. He became one of the most important French Romantic poets, novelists and dramatists of his time, having assembled a massive body of work while living in Paris, Brussels and the Channel Islands.

In 1831, he published one of his most enduring works, Notre-Dame de Paris (The Hunchback of Notre Dame). Set in the medieval period, the novel presents a harsh criticism of the society that degrades and shuns the hunchback Quasimodo. This was Hugo's most celebrated work to date, and paved the way for his subsequent political writing.

A prolific writer, Hugo was established as one of the most celebrated literary figures in France by the 1840s. In 1841, he was elected to the French Academy and nominated for the Chamber of Peers. He stepped back from publishing his work following the accidental drowning of his daughter and her husband in 1843. In private, he began work on a piece of writing that would become Les Misérables.

Hugo fled to Brussels following a coup in 1851. He lived in Brussels and in Britain until his return to France in 1870. Much of the work that Hugo published during this period conveys biting sarcasm and fierce social criticism.



Among these works is the novel Les Misérables, which was finally published in 1862. The book was an immediate success in Europe and the United States. Later reinterpreted as a theatrical musical and a film, Les Misérables remains one of the best-known works of 19th century literature.

Though Hugo returned to France after 1870 as a symbol of republican triumph, his later years were largely sad. He lost two sons between 1871 and 1873. In 1878, he was stricken with cerebral congestion. Hugo and his mistress, Juliette, continued to live in Paris for the rest of their lives. The street on which he lived was renamed Avenue Victor Hugo on the occasion of his 80th birthday in 1882. Juliette died the following year and Victor Hugo died in Paris on May 22, 1885. He received a hero's funeral. His body lay in state beneath the Arc de Triomphe before burial in the Panthéon.

Over 3 million spectators followed his cortege to the Pantheon.

Hugo remains one of the giants of French literature. Although French audiences celebrate him primarily as a poet, he is better known as a novelist in English-speaking countries.

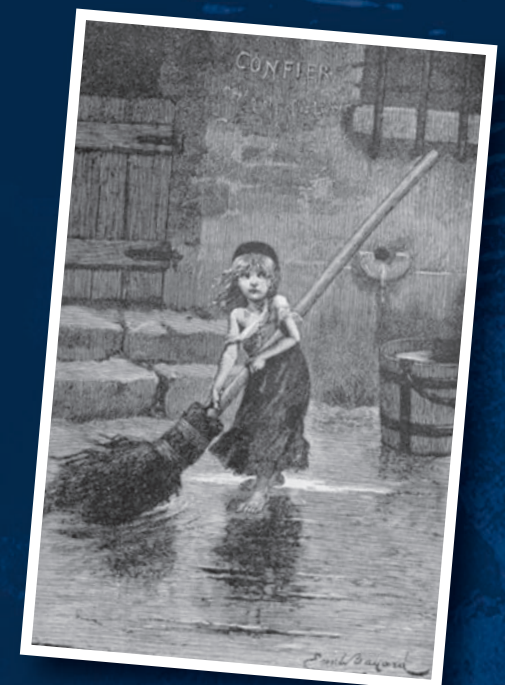
## ACTOR MASTERCLASS

We were really lucky to have a visit from Adam Linstead before half term. Adam is part of the current London production of les Misérables at the Queen's Theatre. He has played Thenardier and Grantaire as well as the Bishop in recent shows. He took our cast through the physical warm ups used by the professional cast and then spent some time exploring the characters and physicalities of the characters on stage, working on At The End of The Day and the student scenes. The cast thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working with a professional and it was a pleasure to see them step up to the mark.



## LES MISÉRABLES 30 FACTS & FIGURES

1. The original French version of the show - by lyricist Alain Boublil and composer Claude-Michel Schonberg - ran for 107 performances in 1980 at the Palais des Sports in Paris.
2. The original London show, a collaboration between the Royal Shakespeare Company and Cameron Mackintosh, opened at the Barbican on 8 October 1985. The London production was co-directed by John Caird and Trevor Nunn. The English lyrics were by Herbert Kretzmer, who at the time was TV critic for the Daily Mail.
3. That didn't stop the Mail on Sunday's Kenneth Hurren writing in his 1985 review: "Watching it is rather like eating an artichoke: you have to go through an awful lot to get a very little."
4. Michael Ball, who played Marius, has said since: "We thought we'd be looking for new jobs after the first night."
5. In the original London production, the role of Inspector Javert was played by Roger Allam - who can currently be seen in the film The Book Thief.
6. The role of thieving innkeeper Thenardier was played by Alun Armstrong, who starred in the BBC series New Tricks and the Christmas special of Downton Abbey.
7. There are approximately 101 cast and crew directly involved in every performance.
8. Each performance requires 392 complete costumes and 31 wigs.
9. There have been almost 40 cast recordings of Les Misérables.
10. On 22 January 2010, the show celebrated its 10,000th performance in London.
11. The RSC is estimated to have made £19m from royalties from touring productions.
12. Productions have played in 42 countries.
13. Les Misérables has been translated into 21 different languages.
14. The production has played over 45,000 professional performances worldwide to a total audience of more than 57 million people - that's almost the population of Italy.
15. Contrary to popular opinion, the musical is NOT set during the French Revolution of 1789. The action begins in 1815, and follows events over the next two decades including the Paris Uprising of 1832.
16. Les Misérables is the third longest running show in Broadway history after Phantom of the Opera and Cats.
17. The Les Misérables schools edition was launched in the US in 2001 and in the UK in 2002.
18. In school productions, the entire cast must be 19 years of age or under, and must be amateurs.
19. The biggest single live audience for Les Misérables to date was 125,000 at the 1989 Australia day concert in Sydney.
20. In 2004, a special concert performance was given at Windsor Castle in honour of French President Jacques Chirac to celebrate the centenary of the entente cordiale - Britain's friendly agreement with France.
21. Les Misérables celebrated its 10th anniversary with a gala concert at the Royal Albert Hall, London.
22. The concert starred the original Jean Valjean, Colm Wilkinson. The finale featured 17 different Jean Valjeans from around the world singing in different languages.
23. Les Misérables became the West End's longest-running musical on 7 October 2006. On that night super-fan Sally Frith from Gloucestershire saw the show for the 740th time.
24. In 2009, Susan Boyle sang Les Mis song I Dreamed a Dream on TV show Britain's Got Talent. It became one of the most watched videos on YouTube.
25. Producer Sir Cameron Mackintosh developed a film version of the musical. (The first movie version of the novel Les Misérables was a silent film in 1909. There were no songs.)
26. Les Misérables has won over 50 major theatre awards, a Grammy for the Broadway cast album and a Triple Platinum Disc for the London cast album which has now sold over 1,030,000 copies in the U.K.
27. Before Les Mis was a Broadway or London sensation, it was a musical concept album sung completely in French. Legendary CATS producer Cameron Mackintosh revamped it for English-speaking audiences.
28. Little Gavroche was the inspiration for the whole thing. Songwriter Alain Boublil was watching a performance of Oliver! when he remembered a similar ragamuffin as depicted in Victor Hugo's novel.
29. The show's iconic logo is based on this original illustration from the novel, which was released in 1862.
30. Javert's suicide scene was not in the original incarnations of Les Mis--it was added for the show's first run on Broadway.





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## Architecture | Design | Conservation

*We are proud to be the architects for Solihull School and to continue our ongoing support for their musical productions*



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## Brewin Dolphin is proud to support Solihull School's production of Les Misérables

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# SOLIHULL SCHOOL PAST PRODUCTIONS

1976 H.M.S. Pinafore  
 1978 The Beggars Opera  
 1979 Salad Days  
 1980 Orpheus in the Underworld  
 1981 La Belle Helene  
 1982 Free as Air  
 1983 The Magic Flute  
 1984 Pink Champagne  
 1985 Orpheus in the Underworld  
 1986 Kiss Me Kate  
 1987 The Mikado  
 1988 The Merry Widow  
 1989 La Belle Helene  
 1990 The Pirates of Penzance  
 1991 Pink Champagne  
 1992 Fiddler on the Roof  
 1993 My Fair Lady  
 1994 Annie get your Gun  
 1995 South Pacific  
 1996 Kiss Me Kate  
 1997 Oklahoma  
 1998 Guys and Dolls  
 1999 Crazy for you  
 2000 West Side Story  
 2001 Cabaret  
 2003 Oliver  
 2004 Joseph and the Amazing  
 Technicolor Dreamcoat  
 2005 Les Misérables  
 2006 Barnum  
 2007 The Sound of Music  
 2008 The Scarlet Pimpernel  
 2009 My Fair Lady  
 2010 South Pacific  
 2011 Grease  
 2012 Fiddler on the Roof  
 2013 Phantom of the Opera  
 2014 Spamalot



**SOLIHULL**



## Personalised Granite Stones

As a striking addition to our new Sixth Form Building, opening in September 2015, we are planning to lay personalised granite stones in the main foyer. Each signature stone will be engraved with details of the person in whose honour it is given. You can choose to have a stone engraved with the name, house and school dates of you, your child, or another family member or friend, to mark their time at Solihull. For any donation of £250.00 or more to the School, we will lay one of these stones.

Donations will go towards the Silhillian Fund for Assisted Places, which enables talented pupils to attend Solihull, regardless of

financial capabilities, thus creating a powerful connection between past and future generations.

If you would like to see what these unique pieces will look like, please call in to the main School reception where we will have a sample on display. These stones are selling fast and we now have only a limited number still available to purchase.

Please contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office, on **0121 703 2963**, or at **dev-os@solsch.org.uk** for more information and to reserve a stone.

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