**Press Release
For immediate release 17 August 2023** ****

**Barbican Centre and Trafalgar Entertainment announce three-year collaboration to stage and develop new productions**

**The theatrical partnership builds on Trafalgar’s three successful summer seasons of the award-winning ‘Anything Goes’ and ‘A Strange Loop’**

The Barbican Centre and international live entertainment business Trafalgar Entertainment today announce a new theatrical partnership covering the period 2024 - 2026. Together they will present first class, large-scale productions in the 1,200 seat Barbican Theatre over the next three summers, featuring major international talent. The new venture follows the success of Trafalgar’s smash hit musical *Anything Goes* (2021 and 2022, national television broadcast on BBC Two and global cinema screenings) and its UK premiere of Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway sensation *A Strange Loop* (2023) – both receiving excellent reviews. *A Strange Loop* is “An absolute blast. A dazzlingly clever multi-layered musical.” (Financial Times) receiving standing ovations every night and has just four more weeks before it closes on Saturday 9 September.

For several years, the Barbican has complemented its rich and varied international spring and autumn theatre programme with independent commercial production companies during its summer season, attracting large-scale and technically ambitious shows thanks to the Barbican Theatre’s epic dimensions. Highlights include Benedict Cumberbatch in *Hamlet* (2015, Sonia Friedman Productions) and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (2016, Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre).

The new collaboration with Trafalgar will enable the Barbican to further grow and diversify its audience, while continuing to collaborate with a wide range of other production partners throughout the rest of the year to produce work from all over the world, including for example presenting the Royal Shakespeare Company’s record-breaking production of Studio Ghibli’s *My Neighbour Totoro,* which returns to the Barbican Theatre for a limited run this Autumn (21 November to 23 March 2024).

Beyond the three summer seasons, the Barbican and Trafalgar Entertainment will also collaborate to commission and develop further live theatre events. These could be staged at the Barbican Centre, at other partner venues across the UK, or abroad, and with plans for international cinema broadcasts of these productions, through Trafalgar’s Live Broadcast company (Trafalgar Releasing). The longer-term collaboration will expand Trafalgar Entertainment’s and the Barbican’s ability to commission, develop and stage new shows.

Continuing with the Barbican Centre’s work to broaden access to the performing arts, the arrangement will also introduce a new work placement scheme to support the development of skills, experience and networking in backstage and technical roles. Potential placements include joining the team in Trafalgar Entertainments’ production office or one of their 18 venues to learn about commercial producing, while opportunities at the Barbican include shadowing key roles involved in the development projects and summer season productions.

**Will Gompertz**, **Artistic Director at the Barbican**, **said**:

*“As London’s creative catalyst, we’re excited by the new dimension this partnership will bring to our rich and varied artistic programme. From the very beginning, collaboration has been in the Barbican’s DNA: our Concert Hall and Theatre were originally designed with the London Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Shakespeare Company respectively. The relationship with Trafalgar will combine the best of the Barbican with the scale and reach of the commercial theatre sector, putting the City of London firmly on the capital’s cultural map.*

**Toni Racklin**, **Head of Theatre & Dance at the Barbican**, **said**:

*We’re delighted to build on the relationship we’ve grown with Trafalgar Entertainment over the past three years. This exciting new collaboration will give us the opportunity to develop joyful, inspiring new work that reflects the world around us, while we maintain our important relationships with a wide range of other production partners that allow us to showcase artists from around the world to our audiences throughout the year.”*

**Sir Howard Panter**, **Trafalgar Entertainment joint Co-Founder and CEO**, **said**:
“This innovative new three year partnership will allow for longer term planning of the premium productions we plan to bring to the Barbican’s stage and beyond, working with the best international creative talent, together with TE’s relationships with some of the world’s leading theatre institutions including the Lincoln Center Theater in New York and the National Theatre in the UK. TE also continues to expand its producing and theatre operations in Australia and into Asia and TE/Barbican productions will also be aimed at these exciting markets. After three very successful summer seasons since 2021, we are delighted to be continuing and developing our strong relationship with the Barbican through this new holistic partnership.”

**ENDS**

**Currently Playing:**

**A Strange Loop**Barbican Theatre

From £20

Monday - Saturday at 8pm, matinees on Thursday and Saturday at 2.30pm

Age restriction: Under 16s will not be admitted. (Contains explicit language, references to racism, sexual assault, homophobia, and scenes of an adult nature)

For access performances please visit [barbican.org.uk](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2023/event/a-strange-loop)

Running time: 1 hour 40 minutes (no interval)

Website: Strangeloopmusical.com

Trailer: [A STRANGE LOOP is coming to London! - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91BHZvZcZZ8)

Twitter: @StrangeLoopLDN @BarbicanCentre

Instagram: @StrangeLoopLDN @BarbicanCentre

Facebook: /StrangeLoopLDN /BarbicanCentre

**Press Information**
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**Notes to Editors**

**About Trafalgar Entertainment/ Trafalgar Theatre Productions**

Co-founded by Sir Howard Panter and Dame Rosemary Squire in 2017, Trafalgar Entertainment is a premium international live-entertainment business focussed on new productions, venue ownership, Performing Arts education, theatre ticketing, the distribution of live-streaming innovative content and the provision of great theatres where people can come together to share in the experience of live entertainment. TE is home to Trafalgar Theatres (comprising Trafalgar Theatre and Olympia Theatre in London, Theatre Royal Sydney, and 14 UK regional venues), The Chiswick Cinema, Trafalgar Theatre Productions, Trafalgar Releasing, Trafalgar Tickets, Stagecoach Performing Arts, Drama Kids/Helen O’Grady Drama Academy, ticketing company London Theatre Direct, Stagedoor, Jonathan Church Theatre Productions, and Imagine Theatre.

Trafalgar Theatre Productions produces new shows and classic musicals in London and internationally including the Tony and Olivier award-winning smash hit musical, *Jersey Boys*, now playing at London’s newly renovated Trafalgar Theatre alongside a UK & Ireland Tour, a National Theatre co-production of Michael R. Jackson’s critically acclaimed, Pulitzer Prize and multi award-winning *A Strange Loop* at London’s Barbican Theatre in the summer of 2023, Broadway’s favourite multi award-winning musical, Alanis Morrisette’s *Jagged Little Pill*which opened at Trafalgar’s Theatre Royal Sydney in December 2021 and the first major international production of it to open in Australia straight from Broadway without a West End season, a major revival of the award-winning classic musical Anything Goes at London’s Barbican Theatre in the summers of 2021 and 2022, starring Sutton Foster, Robert Lindsay, Felicity Kendal and Gary Wilmot, *The Merchant of Venice 1936* (in partnership with Watford Palace Theatre and the RSC), the tenth anniversary UK & Ireland tour of the acclaimed National Theatre production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, the hilarious new comedy, *Death Drop*(London and UK Tour), the current 50th Anniversary World Tours of *The Rocky Horror Show* with numerous engagements in Australia and the UK, the Lincoln Center’s award-winning production of *The King and I* at the London Palladium and worldwide, and a co-production of *War Horse* with The National Theatre in Australia and Asia-Pacific.

In the West End, productions have also included *On Blueberry Hill*, The National Theatre’s *A Taste of Honey* starring Jodie Prenger, Peter Nichols’ *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* starring Toby Stephens, Claire Skinner and Patricia Hodge, *Equus* by Peter Shaffer, the hit comedy *Education, Education, Education*, the acclaimed award-winning play *Admissions* starring Alex Kingston, new British musical Tom Morris’ *The Grinning Man, Apologia* starring Stockard Channing and *Killer Joe* starring Orlando Bloom. Other co-productions have included the two sell-out ground-breaking productions: the Bush Theatre’s *Misty* and National Theatre’s *Nine Night*.

Co-productions include *Good*starring David Tennant, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Best Exotic Marigold*Hotel, *The Starry Messenger* starring Matthew Broderick and Elizabeth McGovern at Wyndham’s Theatre, *Mary Stuart* starring Juliet Stevenson and Lia Williams at the Duke of York’s, and London season of *The Messiah* starring Hugh Dennis and *The Height of The Storm* at Wyndham’s Theatre starring Jonathan Pryce and Dame Eileen Atkins.

**About the Barbican**

The Barbican is a catalyst for creativity, sparking possibilities for artists, audiences, and communities. We showcase the most exciting art from around the world, pushing traditional artistic boundaries to entertain and inspire millions of people, create connections, provoke debate, and reflect the world we live in.

We are an international arts and events centre rooted firmly in our own neighbourhood, collaborating with local communities and putting the City of London on the map as a destination for everybody. Central to our purpose is supporting emerging talent and shaping opportunities that will accelerate the next generation of creatives.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, including our principal funder the City of London Corporation. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and pound earned supports our arts and learning programme and enables the widest possible range of people to experience the joy of the arts.

Opened in 1982, the Barbican is a unique and audacious building, recognised globally as an architectural icon. As well as our theatres, galleries, concert halls and cinemas, we have a large conservatory with over 1,500 species of plants and trees, a library, conference facilities, public and community spaces, restaurants, bars, and a picturesque lakeside oasis.

We are the home of the London Symphony Orchestra, and a London base of the Royal Shakespeare Company. We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our other partners and associates: the Academy of Ancient Music, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Boy Blue, Britten Sinfonia, Cheek by Jowl, Drum Works, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Serious and We Are Parable.

For more information, visit our [website](https://www.barbican.org.uk/) or connect with us on [Instagram](http://tracking.barbican.org.uk/tracking/click?d=C_LcOAEiFammbcN9d1wzlvoHUG8xMgN2gk7cf_jV4xIpHT95q2b6MaPezKubdtjUv9KuzanntN-XIbhgPcJBOghIullKzV_GSVpR8S8h8Zfj55rzJuxylUDBjIDazGl451iGlU5PMBrqGMVCCeYb-X81) | [Twitter](http://tracking.barbican.org.uk/tracking/click?d=YxrwqmAN_KwTHCUchykvioTVUqRlwwQD1WgP9a6Bj75xTE0UeQyN8f6wgDjeX56yGP_rafq4dqkYLjzufj7wYs10j8IVmxcmX2_sVZmjpnJklwNPtkG3ihECmGYKiNYQyA1KwzcIZO3iSwllImukBkI1) | [Facebook](http://tracking.barbican.org.uk/tracking/click?d=mmA_GD5bDhOpy5-M7Y6kk2acIYZN8ZnldsWxhHuZRLqA0GgYtCnsgxeTvdDg2z7B4ITpUiu3fAH__oev9hOtQh_B-Uid4qMhSOC8wrH0cKPtJj_yWzuLO7v1EZauV3MtYtjvb_Cf7GlnbTFuN-w3uto1) | [YouTube](http://tracking.barbican.org.uk/tracking/click?d=jFmMraam-JwFLgKGhaj32XSaxwHFpnx8Byr7moU_VQJQUEhYRLbhyDuyQ7-Alk7VqWsdIdpgSKQU4HcRDhIMbwFTGqq_ldChg4D9h1JrZoOuZsslrXnqyQBLegGH1v8FlxxQ6XBivIP0eC88d089QZA1) | [Spotify](http://tracking.barbican.org.uk/tracking/click?d=VCc8iBn6M3M5uUQekGBfYpWGwEIyVm8LiiNfYleR_xUsg0dLgVUHXZ8NCVZNUd4pVaClYi4qElv8RaRzkL-LlCLkwXqSXbYNB9vBi-JFrbYpWrYd58kpYwLlIK2xHYmw-_oge8cZbEmc94bIAGbhixOhkpihXYgBrPxMWuh-6GFq0) | [LinkedIn](https://uk.linkedin.com/company/barbican-centre)