# Disney’s Hercules musical extends West End run with fresh storytelling and bold visuals



For months, the phrase “Muse Flash” has been a conspicuous feature around London, signalling the significant investment and anticipation surrounding the new musical adaptation of Disney’s Hercules. The production, opening at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane in June 2025, has already seen previews sell out months in advance, prompting an extended run until March 2026, underscoring its commercial promise. While its financial success looks assured, whether it will rival the colossal hits of The Lion King or even the recently closed Frozen remains to be seen.

Disney’s Hercules offers a unique blend of emotional storytelling, memorable songs, and a modern, comedic take on ancient Greek mythology. The original 1997 animated film, noted for its energetic tunes by Alan Menken and quirky characterisations — such as James Woods’s mischievous Hades and Danny DeVito’s gruff mentor Philoctetes — has developed a cult following over the years despite not being an immediate box office juggernaut. The stage adaptation aims to build on this foundation while expanding the narrative and exploring characters more deeply, particularly the women. Mae Ann Jorolan’s portrayal of Meg, for instance, is enriched by new scenes and songs penned by Menken, adding layers to the character’s famously skeptical and resilient persona.

At the heart of the production is Luke Brady as Hercules, who embodies the demanding role with both physical presence and vocal prowess. The creative team, led by American director and choreographer Casey Nicholaw, notably eschewed traditional theatrical tricks like actor replacements or technical transformations to showcase Hercules’s physical evolution, instead casting an actor who could convincingly portray the character’s growth from the outset. Brady’s prior experience in musical adaptations of animated tales, like DreamWorks’ Prince of Egypt, positioned him as an ideal fit. Trevor Dion Nicholas plays Philoctetes, bringing a seasoned perspective on the role’s physical demands, likening the experience to running a marathon.

The production also places a strong emphasis on the Muses, who function as narrators and infuse the show with soulful gospel and Motown influences across songs such as “A Star is Born” and “The Gospel Truth.” Their roles have been considerably expanded to enhance the storytelling and inject vibrancy. The creative freedom Disney has granted the team is noteworthy, allowing reinterpretations and reimaginings that honor the original spirit but avoid being overly reverential. Characters have been renamed or even performed using puppetry, offering fresh visual dynamics, and the show refuses to be constrained by the film’s iconic aesthetic, instead using it as inspiration while embracing a more theatrical style.

The scale of the production is impressive yet carefully calibrated. Despite Theatre Royal Drury Lane’s status as one of the West End’s largest theatres, the actual stage space used is smaller than previous Hercules productions, a choice credited with increasing the show's energy and focus. Costume design, influenced by Dolce & Gabbana’s 2019 Ancient Greece-inspired collection, features a blend of classical Grecian styles with contemporary touches, exemplified by high-top trainers decked in gold. The show’s technical complexity is extraordinarily high, with scene changes and special effects requiring precise, millisecond timing. This level of sophistication, described as “Frozen 10 times” by production staff, highlights the herculean effort invested in creating a seamless live theatre experience.

The musical officially opens on June 24, 2025, following previews from June 6, and will run until March 28, 2026. It is suitable for audiences aged six and over, with ticket prices starting at £29.00. Located in London’s Covent Garden, the Theatre Royal Drury Lane offers accessibility via the Covent Garden and Holborn Underground stations. Despite the considerable promotional campaign, the cast and creative team remain tantalisingly secretive about the full scale and spectacle of the show, fostering a sense of mystery and excitement. Trevor Dion Nicholas candidly remarked on the production’s surprises, suggesting it will deliver an experience unlike any other in live theatre, promising to both honour and transcend the beloved animated source material.

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* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/theatre-dance/features/hercules-musical-disney-west-end-b2773510.html), [[6]](https://theatreweekly.com/disneys-hercules-extends-west-end-run-at-theatre-royal-drury-lane-until-march-2026/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/theatre-dance/features/hercules-musical-disney-west-end-b2773510.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/theatre-dance/features/hercules-musical-disney-west-end-b2773510.html), [[5]](https://www.whatsonstage.com/news/see-the-cast-of-hercules-unite-at-theatre-royal-drury-lane_1662274/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/theatre-dance/features/hercules-musical-disney-west-end-b2773510.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/theatre-dance/features/hercules-musical-disney-west-end-b2773510.html), [[5]](https://www.whatsonstage.com/news/see-the-cast-of-hercules-unite-at-theatre-royal-drury-lane_1662274/), [[7]](https://www.londontheatre.co.uk/theatre-news/news/everything-you-need-to-know-about-hercules-so-far)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/theatre-dance/features/hercules-musical-disney-west-end-b2773510.html), [[5]](https://www.whatsonstage.com/news/see-the-cast-of-hercules-unite-at-theatre-royal-drury-lane_1662274/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/theatre-dance/features/hercules-musical-disney-west-end-b2773510.html), [[3]](https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/event/50729686-disneys-hercules-the-musical-tickets), [[4]](https://www.atgtickets.com/shows/disneys-hercules-the-musical/theatre-royal-drury-lane/), [[6]](https://theatreweekly.com/disneys-hercules-extends-west-end-run-at-theatre-royal-drury-lane-until-march-2026/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/theatre-dance/features/hercules-musical-disney-west-end-b2773510.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.herculesthemusical.co.uk/> - Disney's Hercules is a new musical adaptation of the 1997 animated film, set to open at London's Theatre Royal Drury Lane in June 2025. The production features music by Alan Menken, lyrics by David Zippel, and a new book by Robert Horn and Kwame Kwei-Armah. Directed and choreographed by Casey Nicholaw, the cast includes Luke Brady as Hercules, Mae Ann Jorolan as Meg, and Trevor Dion Nicholas as Phil. The show is recommended for ages 6 and above, with performances running from June 6, 2025, to January 10, 2026. Tickets are available from £29.00, with no transaction fees. The Theatre Royal Drury Lane is located at Catherine Street, London WC2B 5JF, and is accessible via Covent Garden and Holborn Underground stations. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the official website.
3. <https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/event/50729686-disneys-hercules-the-musical-tickets> - Disney's Hercules the Musical is scheduled to open at London's Theatre Royal Drury Lane in June 2025. The show is recommended for those aged six and above, with children under the age of four not admitted into the theatre. Evening performances are on Mondays to Saturdays at 7.30pm, with matinee performances on Thursdays and Saturdays at 2.30pm. The production is two hours and 30 minutes long, including an interval. Tickets are available from £37.00 per adult. The Theatre Royal Drury Lane is located on Catherine Street in Covent Garden, London WC2B 5JF, and is accessible via Covent Garden and Holborn Underground stations. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the Visit London website.
4. <https://www.atgtickets.com/shows/disneys-hercules-the-musical/theatre-royal-drury-lane/> - Disney's Hercules the Musical is set to run at London's Theatre Royal Drury Lane from June 6, 2025, to January 10, 2026. The production is directed and choreographed by Casey Nicholaw, with music by Alan Menken and lyrics by David Zippel. The cast includes Luke Brady as Hercules, Mae Ann Jorolan as Meg, and Trevor Dion Nicholas as Phil. Tickets are available from £29.00, with no transaction fees. The Theatre Royal Drury Lane is located at Catherine Street, London WC2B 5JF, and is accessible via Covent Garden and Holborn Underground stations. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the ATG Tickets website.
5. <https://www.whatsonstage.com/news/see-the-cast-of-hercules-unite-at-theatre-royal-drury-lane_1662274/> - The cast of Disney's Hercules the Musical has been announced for the London production at Theatre Royal Drury Lane. Luke Brady, a Grammy nominee, will take on the title role of Hercules. The Muses will be portrayed by Candace Furbert (Thalia), Sharlene Hector (Clio), Brianna Ogunbawo (Melpomene), Malinda Parris (Calliope), and Robyn Rose-Li (Terpsichore), with Kamilla Fernandes as Standby Muse. Mae Ann Jorolan, who originated the role of Meg in Hamburg, will make her West End debut in the same role. The production also features scenic and additional video design by Dane Laffrey, costume design by Gregg Barnes and Sky Switser, lighting design by Jeff Croiter, sound design by Adam Fisher, video design by George Reeve, special effects design by Jeremy Chernick, dance music arrangements by David Chase, hair and wig design by Mia M. Neal, and make-up design by Kirk Cambridge-Del Pesche. The show is set to begin previews on June 6, 2025, with an opening night on June 24, 2025. Tickets are on sale now.
6. <https://theatreweekly.com/disneys-hercules-extends-west-end-run-at-theatre-royal-drury-lane-until-march-2026/> - Disney's Hercules the Musical has extended its West End run at Theatre Royal Drury Lane until March 28, 2026. The production features music by Alan Menken and lyrics by David Zippel, with a new book by Robert Horn and Kwame Kwei-Armah. Directed and choreographed by Casey Nicholaw, the cast includes Luke Brady as Hercules, Mae Ann Jorolan as Meg, and Trevor Dion Nicholas as Phil. The show is recommended for ages 6 and above, with performances running from June 6, 2025, to March 28, 2026. Tickets are available from £29.00, with no transaction fees. The Theatre Royal Drury Lane is located at Catherine Street, London WC2B 5JF, and is accessible via Covent Garden and Holborn Underground stations. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the Theatre Weekly website.
7. <https://www.londontheatre.co.uk/theatre-news/news/everything-you-need-to-know-about-hercules-so-far> - Disney's Hercules the Musical is scheduled to open at London's Theatre Royal Drury Lane in June 2025. The production is directed and choreographed by Casey Nicholaw, with music by Alan Menken and lyrics by David Zippel. The cast includes Luke Brady as Hercules, Mae Ann Jorolan as Meg, and Trevor Dion Nicholas as Phil. The show is recommended for ages 6 and above, with performances running from June 6, 2025, to January 10, 2026. Tickets are available from £29.00, with no transaction fees. The Theatre Royal Drury Lane is located at Catherine Street, London WC2B 5JF, and is accessible via Covent Garden and Holborn Underground stations. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the London Theatre website.