# Andy Nyman frames West End revival of The Producers as an act of ‘Jewish healing’ amid rising extremism



Andy Nyman’s recent interview with The Independent frames The Producers as not merely a revival of Mel Brooks’s boundary-pushing satire, but as a moment of “Jewish healing” through laughter. Nyman, who plays Max Bialystock, recalls the show’s move from the Menier Chocolate Factory to the Garrick Theatre this September, a transfer that arrives with the added pressure of the current cultural moment. He tells The Independent that the piece is as imperative now as ever—the world, he says, has changed in troubling ways, with the far right resurfacing and debates around gender and identity intensifying. He also speaks candidly about the weight of performing in Nazi imagery on stage, acknowledging the emotional complexity of playing a man who traffics in deceit while the audience confronts a painful history. The Independent notes that the production is scheduled to run at the Garrick from early September 2025 through February 2026, and that Nyman has been receiving some of the strongest notices of his career as a lead in a headline musical. According to the interview, the artistic tension around “taboo” material remains a live issue for theatre today. ([the-independent.com](https://www.the-independent.com/arts-entertainment/theatre-dance/features/andy-nyman-the-producers-musical-garrick-interview-mel-brooks-b2811001.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com), [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2025/mar/01/the-producers-west-end-mel-brooks-menier-garrick-musical?utm_source=chatgpt.com))

The West End transfer is corroborated by the Garrick Theatre’s own listings and by national coverage, which together outline the practical timetable and the principal cast. The Garrick page confirms a first preview on 30 August 2025, with the official press opening around 15 September, and a running schedule through 21 February 2026. The production will once again star Andy Nyman as Max Bialystock, alongside Marc Antolin as Leo Bloom, with Trevor Ashley, Raj Ghatak and Joanna Woodward among the principal players, in a staging directed by Patrick Marber under the Menier partnership. The move to the Garrick follows a sold-out run at the Menier Chocolate Factory and positions The Producers as the first major London revival of Brooks’s musical in the West End in years. The context for this is echoed in wider reporting, which notes that Brooks’s musical, first staged in Broadway in 2001, has become a touchstone for how theatre can confront tyranny and bigotry with caustic humour. In a separate strand of industry coverage, references to earlier, highly controversial stunts in Brooks’s orbit—such as Channel 4’s 2003 Russian roulette broadcast with illusionist Derren Brown—are cited as part of the conversation about how far stagecraft should push audiences. ([thegarricktheatre.co.uk](https://thegarricktheatre.co.uk/tickets/mel-brooks-the-producers/?utm_source=chatgpt.com), [nimaxtheatres.com](https://nimaxtheatres.com/shows/mel-brooks-the-producers/?utm_source=chatgpt.com), [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/media/2003/dec/04/broadcasting.channel4?utm_source=chatgpt.com))

Looking ahead, the West End revival sits within a broader arc of Nyman’s career, including high-profile film and stage projects that keep him in the public eye as a versatile performer capable of both horror-inspired drama and big-budget comedy. The Guardian’s March 2025 report on Brooks’s interview surrounding the Garrick transfer quotes the creator’s own reticence about turning the film into a musical, while praising Marber’s direction and the revival’s starry cast; the piece also situates The Producers as part of Brooks’s ongoing dialogue about the role of satire in an age of rising extremism. Meanwhile, WhatsonStage’s May 2024 note on Nyman’s ongoing screen and stage activity places Wicked—the film adaptation in which Nyman plays Governor Thropp—within the same career frame, underscoring his continued crossover appeal between theatre and cinema as he prepares for new West End commitments, including future stage projects. The combination of Brooks’s commentary, Marber’s leadership, and Nyman’s continued versatility signals a West End revival that aims to be both provocative and commercially resonant. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2025/mar/01/the-producers-west-end-mel-brooks-menier-garrick-musical?utm_source=chatgpt.com))

Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.the-independent.com/arts-entertainment/theatre-dance/features/andy-nyman-the-producers-musical-garrick-interview-mel-brooks-b2811001.html), [[4]](https://playbill.com/production/the-producers-st-james-theatre-vault-0000004170)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.the-independent.com/arts-entertainment/theatre-dance/features/andy-nyman-the-producers-musical-garrick-interview-mel-brooks-b2811001.html), [[2]](https://thegarricktheatre.co.uk/tickets/mel-brooks-the-producers/), [[5]](https://www.theguardian.com/media/2003/oct/07/channel4.broadcasting)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2025/mar/01/the-producers-west-end-mel-brooks-menier-garrick-musical), [[6]](https://www.whatsonstage.com/news/andy-nyman-joins-wicked-movie_1601805/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.the-independent.com/arts-entertainment/theatre-dance/features/andy-nyman-the-producers-musical-garrick-interview-mel-brooks-b2811001.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://thegarricktheatre.co.uk/tickets/mel-brooks-the-producers/> - Mel Brooks’ The Producers transfers to London's Garrick Theatre following a sold‑out run at the Menier Chocolate Factory, marking the first major West End revival of the musical. The page confirms a Garrick opening this autumn, with previews from August 30 and a official opening around September 15, 2025, continuing through February 2026. The listed cast includes Andy Nyman returning as Max Bialystock and Marc Antolin as Leo Bloom, with Trevor Ashley, Raj Ghatak and Joanna Woodward among the principal players. The production is presented under the Menier partnership, supported by Brooks’s classic, boundary‑pushing humour for a distinctly British audience.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2025/mar/01/the-producers-west-end-mel-brooks-menier-garrick-musical> - Its Guardian piece confirms The Producers is returning to London’s West End in a Garrick transfer, following the Menier Chocolate Factory run. The interview quotes Mel Brooks discussing his reluctance to adapt the film into a musical and notes the new production, directed by Patrick Marber, is due to begin previews in August 2025 with an official opening in September at Garrick Theatre. The piece also highlights the revival’s celebrated cast, including Andy Nyman, Marc Antolin and Trevor Ashley, and frames the show within Brooks’s subversive, boundary‑pushing comedy as a timely cultural counterpoint. Its popularity underscores the appeal of Brooks.
4. <https://playbill.com/production/the-producers-st-james-theatre-vault-0000004170> - The Producers on Broadway opened at the St. James Theatre in 2001, adapting Mel Brooks’s 1967 film into a stage musical that became a record-breaking hit. Playbill’s vault page lists the show's first preview in March 2001 and its official opening on April 19, 2001, chronicling a run that eventually reached 2,502 performances. The production featured Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick in the principal roles, with Susan Stroman directing and choreographing. Brooks’s musical quickly earned multiple Tony Awards and helped ignite a long-running international life, with tours and revivals continuing across the United States, the United Kingdom and beyond globally.
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2003/oct/07/channel4.broadcasting> - Channel 4’s live Russian roulette stunt featuring illusionist Derren Brown attracted extensive controversy in 2003, with police later confirming the programme used blanks and that dangers were carefully managed. The Guardian coverage explains how Brown and producers presented the act as a genuine risk, while investigators suggested the spectacle relied on illusion and misdirection. Subsequent reports detailed the Jersey filming locale and the wider debate about gun safety in entertainment. The piece underscores the lasting cultural impact of the event, illustrating how reality‑based magic stunts can polarise public opinion and raise questions about the ethics of sensational television in society.
6. <https://www.whatsonstage.com/news/andy-nyman-joins-wicked-movie_1601805/> - Andy Nyman confirmed his involvement in the film adaptation of Wicked, joining the cast as Governor Thropp, the father of Nessarose and Elphaba. The WhatsOnStage piece, published May 2024, places Nyman alongside other high‑profile cast members as filming proceeds and notes he will soon return to the West End in Hello, Dolly! It also contextualises his career across Ghost Stories, Hangmen and prior stage and screen work. The article highlights the cross‑over between Nyman’s stage and screen activities and situates Wicked within the project’s two‑part release plan, beginning in November 2024. This reflects his sustained presence across theatre and cinema.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2020/mar/03/fleabags-phoebe-waller-bridge-andrew-scott-up-for-olivier-awards> - The Guardian report on Olivier Award nominations for 2020 highlights Andy Nyman’s bid for Best Actor in a Musical for Fiddler on the Roof at the Playhouse Theatre. The piece also notes other nominations spanning & Juliet, Dear Evan Hansen and Waitress, illustrating a strong year for musical revivals. Additional context covers Trevor Nunn’s nod for direction in Fiddler and the ceremony’s date at the Royal Albert Hall. The coverage frames Olivier nominations as a barometer of West End success, with Nyman’s presence signalling continued recognition for his work across stage and screen, including his acclaimed Ghost Stories projects recently.