



The
Pied Pipers
Musical Theatre Club
presents

GREEN DAY'S ★ ★
american
IDIOT



26th - 30th March 2019



Music by
Green Day

Lyrics by
Billie Joe Armstrong

Book by
**Billie Joe Armstrong
and Michael Mayer**



**PIED PIPERS
MUSICAL THEATRE
CLUB**

Welcome!

And thank you for coming to watch *American Idiot* !

Megan Stickler-Sell
Director

I have always loved the music of Green Day and have seen the band perform several times. When the musical was first announced it was a no-brainer for me that this was something I needed to see. From there, my love grew for the show and for the music even more as I heard the complex harmonies and saw some incredible choreography. From the moment I left the theatre, I started to dream I would be able to take on the show one day and put my own spin on it. I was fortunate that the Pied Pipers somehow agreed with this and let me take the reins.

From the moment the audition process started I knew we were going to have a phenomenal show on our hands. It brought together a group of effortlessly talented individuals I couldn't wait to work with. I have worked with Bryony before and am always in awe of her choreography, and Sam has been an absolute delight to get to know and work with. He has brought out the best of this group's voices and helped them to understand and perform harmonies more complex than anything I have seen before.

I hope you enjoy the show as much as we have enjoyed the process of putting it together!

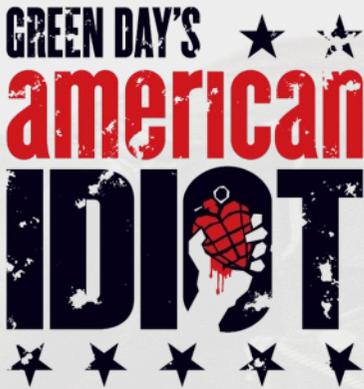
Megan

GREEN DAY'S **american** IDIOT



Cast

Johnny	Alex Stokoe
Tunny	Chip Colquhoun
Will	Maxim Thompson
St. Jimmy	Adam Bond
Heather	Emily Garner
Whatsername	Lucy Farrow
Extraordinary Girl	Chlo Kitteridge
Favorite Son	Tom Greenhalgh
Ensemble:	Alex Armstrong Andreas Bedorf Catherine Betts Emma Harpley Emma Robinson Jane Presland Leonie-Rose Garner Owen Chambers
Band:	Sam Wells - Keyboards Owen Chambers - Guitars Tom Dowling - Guitars Daniel Bradshaw - Bass Guitar Christopher Burret - Drums Antonia Burton - Cello Elizabeth Tattersall - Violin Bruce Godfrey/Cath Davies - Viola



Synopsis and Musical Numbers

Set in the recent past, a group of suburban friends are living unhappily in "Jingletown", USA. Fed up with the state of the union and saturated with TV, the company explodes in frustration (*American Idiot*). One of the youths, Johnny, wallows with his friend Will (*Jesus of Suburbia*). Tunny joins them; they party 'til the beers are gone, then go to get more at the 7-Eleven. Tunny exposes the do-nothing, go-nowhere quicksand of their lives (*City of the Damned*).

Johnny leads the gang in an explosion of frustration (*I Don't Care*). Will's girlfriend, Heather, appears - she is pregnant and doesn't know what to do (*Dearly Beloved*). The trio prepare to escape suburbia. Heather tells Will she is pregnant. Torn between his loyalties, Will decides to stay (*Tales of Another Broken Home*). Johnny and Tunny leave for the city (*Holiday*).

Johnny wanders the city streets and a stunning woman catches his eye (*Boulevard of Broken Dreams*), while Tunny struggles to adjust to city life and is seduced by a tv ad for the army (*Favorite Son*). Tunny realizes his generation has become so numbed and apathetic that nothing - not even the bright lights of the city - can excite him (*Are We the Waiting*). He enlists in the army.

Frustrated, Johnny conjures a rebellious, powerful image of himself - St. Jimmy - and shoots heroin for the first time (*St. Jimmy*). Back in Jingletown, Will sits on the sofa as Heather's pregnancy progresses. He drinks beer and begs for release. Meanwhile, Tunny is deployed to a war zone, where he is shot and wounded (*Give Me Novacaine*).

Now smitten with the woman he met on the street - Whatsername - Johnny wants to celebrate, but St. Jimmy has other plans (*Last of the American Girls/She's a Rebel*). Johnny and Whatsername go to a club and shoot drugs. By this time, Will and Heather's baby girl has been born; Will is oblivious as Heather focuses on her baby (*Last Night on Earth*). Heather has had enough of Will's pot-and-alcohol-fueled apathy; she takes the baby and walks out on him (*Too Much, Too Soon*).

Tunny is lying in a bed in an army hospital bed (*Before the Lobotomy*); he falls victim to the hopelessness he has seen at war and hallucinates. He falls in love with his nurse, Extraordinary Girl (*Extraordinary Girl*). His hallucination disappears and he's left with his fellow soldiers in agony (*Before the Lobotomy (Reprise)*).

Back in the city, Johnny reveals the depth of his love for Whatsername as she sleeps (*When It's Time*). The temptation of drugs, however, is too great; St. Jimmy whips Johnny into a frenzy making Johnny threaten Whatsername with a knife (*Know Your Enemy*). Whatsername tries to talk about Johnny's behavior, while Extraordinary Girl comforts Tunny and Will sits on the sofa alone again (*21 Guns*).

Johnny leaves a note for Whatsername, saying he has chosen St. Jimmy and drugs over her. Frightened and fed up, Whatsername tells Johnny some home truths and leaves him (*Letterbomb*). Hurt, Johnny, Will and Tunny all reflect on times gone by (*Wake Me Up When September Ends*). St. Jimmy tries to get Johnny's attention, but that part of Johnny has died, leading to the metaphorical suicide of St. Jimmy (*The Death of St. Jimmy*). Johnny gets a desk job but realizes he doesn't belong in the city (*East 12th Street*). Will, alone with his TV, wallows (*Nobody Likes You*). Heather appears with her show-off rockstar boyfriend (*Rock and Roll Girlfriend*). Will heads to the 7-Eleven and is surprised to find Johnny there. Tunny returns from the war with Extraordinary Girl and Heather greets Will with the baby in an apparent truce. The gang is reunited (*We're Coming Home Again*).

A year later, Johnny laments that he lost the love of his life. He finds acceptance and with it, hope (*Whatsername*).

Production Team

Director: Megan Stickler-Sell

Musical Director: Sam Wells

Choreographer: Bryony Garner-Sullivan

Technical Director: Michael Darvell

Stage Manager: Andrew Booker

Set Designer: Michael Darvell

Set Construction: The Penguin Club

Lighting Designer: Jaime Hidalgo

Sound Designer: Paul Malpas

Crew : The Penguin Club

Publicity Manager: Chip Colquhoun

Business Manager: Megan Stickler-Sell

Costume Designer: Carol Bye

Assisted by: Jan Brown

Make-up and Hair: Emma Sutcliffe

Front of House: Madeline Harmer

Poster/Programme: Chip Colquhoun
David Bone

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with
Music Theatre International (Europe)

All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe

www.mtishows.co.uk

ADC Theatre

England's oldest University playhouse is administered and maintained by the University
Cambridge.

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Operations Manager: James Darby

Production Manager: Ellie Mitchell

Technical Manager: Nathaniel Davies

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The ADC Theatre is a non-smoking venue.

Patrons are reminded that in accordance with Cambridgeshire County Council regulations, the
consumption of drinks in glasses is not permitted in the auditorium.

Tonight's performance will include a 15 minute interval



Sam Wells Musical Director

I first came by *American Idiot* a few years ago in the West End. I have always loved Green Day's music and musical theatre, but the combination of the two, for me, was magical - once I heard the soundtrack I was hooked.

I am an MD from London, currently studying music at The London College Of Contemporary Music. I studied Musical Theatre at The BRIT School of Performing Arts, and while there I worked on a number of shows, including *Hair* and *13 The Musical*. From there I knew it was what I wanted to do. Last year I MD'd a musical adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and now *American Idiot*.

This show has so much light and shade in it - the way the music conveys the mood, it feels like it was written just for musical theatre. The powerful music and lovely harmonies really move me and I hope they move you as well. It's been so much fun to be a part of the cast and the creative team have been amazing, really making this an enjoyable experience for me. I hope you enjoy the show!

Bryony Garner-Sullivan Choreographer

Having been involved with Pied Pipers for the majority of my life, I was hugely excited when they announced this production of *American Idiot*. Throughout my years of dance training, firstly at Prime Movers School of Dance in Cambridge, my associate years at the Urdang Academy, my undergraduate degree in Winchester, and my Masters degree in Bedford, I have touched on a wide range of styles and disciplines.



This show has really enabled me to show a different side of my choreography to the musical theatre audiences of Cambridge - something which I have wanted to do for a number of years. The show is very fast-paced; there is very little space for the cast to take a breath. During the rehearsal process, and on top of the already intense dance rehearsals, we used the skills of the fabulous Emily Garner to make sure the cast were feeling fit and ready, as she delivered Pound classes (a workout session with drumsticks - very apt!) at the beginning of our extended rehearsals. It was great to see all the cast throw themselves into the process so wholeheartedly - there has been a lot of fun and laughter (and swearing!), a *lot* of sweat, and a lot of hard work, and I sincerely hope the results blow you all away.



Ensemble



Alex Armstrong



Ensemble



Andreas Bedorf



Ensemble



Catherine Betts



St. Jimmy



Adam Bond





Ensemble



Owen Chambers



Tunny



Chip Colquhoun



Whatsername



Lucy Farrow



Ensemble



Leonie-Rose Garner





Heather



Emily Garner



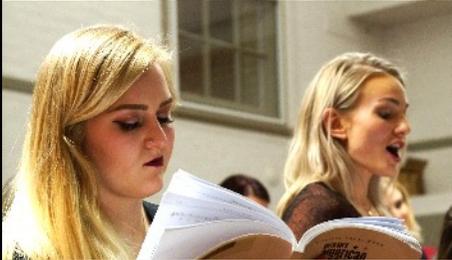
Favorite Son



Tom Greenhalgh



Ensemble



Emma Harpley



Extraordinary Girl



Chlo Kitteridge





Ensemble



Jane Presland



Ensemble



Emma Robinson



Johnny



Alex Stokoe

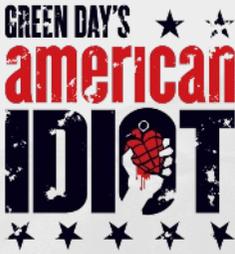


Will



Maxim Thompson





An Anthem for a Generation

It's been announced that President Donald Trump will make another trip to the UK soon, and it's probably fair to say some people aren't too thrilled about it.

His last visit in the summer of 2018 prompted the title song of this show, *American Idiot*, to make a renewed assault on the charts, after a Facebook campaign was launched to get the song to UK number one.

But why was the anthem originally written? Before the musical, *American Idiot* was released in August 2004 from Green Day's concept album of the same name, One of two explicitly political songs on the album - the other being *Holiday* - *American Idiot* deals with themes of fear and xenophobia and accuses the mass media of using propaganda to stir up paranoia and hysteria.



The song was written under the presidency of George W. Bush, who led America into the Iraq War following the 9/11 terrorist attack.

Frontman Billie Joe Armstrong is believed to have found a distaste for cable TV's coverage of the war and has been quoted as saying: "They had all these Geraldo-like journalists in the tanks with the soldiers, getting the play-by-play".

Despite the song taking place during Bush's reign, Armstrong says it wasn't just about Bush. "I would never think of *American Idiot* as being about the Bush administration specifically, it's about the confusion of where we're at right now".

With the band themselves revealing the song was written out of anger about not being represented by the world's leaders, it's not hard to see why *American Idiot* has become relevant once again.

14 years on Billie Joe Armstrong is just as angry about the political situation in his country and has been particularly vocal about Donald Trump being in the White House. He said "I went to bed and everyone kinda thought the right side was going to win.



"Then at 6am I wake up choking - like this is kinda gross, like when you inhale spit. I'm thinking 'oh my god why am I coughing?'

"And of course the first thing I do is think 'I'll check and see what happened'. So I go to my phone and I look and I have 50 messages. And I was like 'this is not good'. 'Cause usually I get four every day."

He added: "All my friends and family are freaked out because they just elected a fascist into the White House for the first time in American history."



If you needed any more proof on where Green Day lie on the businessman and celebrity turned politician, the band released the visuals for their *Troubled Times* video, which saw clips of Donald Trump interspersed between images of violence and inequality.

While *Troubled Times* acts as an *American Idiot* for the

millennial generation, it seems *American Idiot* still speaks to audiences of all ages today.

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ctc

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Lyrics by
Tim Rice

Music by
Andrew Lloyd Webber

Originally Produced by
Harold Prince

An amateur production by arrangement with The Musical Company Ltd.



THU 30 MAY – SAT 8 JUNE 2019

7.45PM SAT MATINEE AT 2.30PM

TICKETS: £11–£14 (THU 30 MAY £9–£12, FRI/SAT £12–£15)

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The Penguin Club

Next time you come to a show would you like to be behind the scenes? The Penguin Club provides backstage help from set construction to stage management for shows in the Cambridge area, and is always on the look out for new volunteers - previous experience is not required! If you're interested in knowing more, get in touch with us at: clubcontact@penguinclub.org.uk

Find out more at: penguinclub.org.uk,
Facebook: Penguin Club Twitter: @TheatrePenguins



The Pied Pipers Musical Theatre Club always welcomes new members.

If you are interested in becoming involved, whether performing on-stage or helping behind the scenes, then please e-mail us with your contact details at:

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