



Samuel Payne  
Leeds West Academy  
payne.s@whiteroseacademies.org  
@LeedsWestWay

## PRESS RELEASE – For immediate release

29<sup>th</sup> February 2016

### THE LION KING JR AT LEEDS WEST ACADEMY

Rodley school stages Broadway hit with music from **Tim Rice, Elton John** and **Hans Zimmer**

**Leeds West Academy** is set to stage **The Lion King Jr** this March. The cast consists of talent from ages **11 – 18**. **Dylan Miles Davies** and **Troy Tipple** are sharing the role of **Simba**, with Sixth Form student **Shauna Nicholl** as **Mufasa**.

Head of Performing Arts, **Alison Cant**, said: "It is fantastic to see so many students part of this legendary show. For the first time we have cast a specific group of Principal Dancers, who will be involved in the more complex dance pieces in the show, as well as a group of Principal Vocalists, who will boost the harmonies in the ensemble pieces. We have a big job to beat last year's production of *Hairspray*, but we have every confidence that this year's musical will be our best ever!"

Theatre & Arts Manager **Samuel Payne** added: "There has been a huge backstage effort to bring as much production value to this show as possible, including a 3D set which has been meticulously sculpted by dozens of hands over several evenings. Audiences should expect a depth of detail which has West End aspirations."

**Erin Chapman** plays Nala: "The show has a terrific spirit to it and a great storyline. It's been really rewarding to work with so many talented and motivated people."

**Malachi Jeffrey** is behind percussion for the show: "I've been playing Djembes for the show. It's been really interesting to see how the drums work within compositions, as *The Lion King* has an interesting and diverse range of music."

**Leeds West Academy** will stage **The Lion King Jr** from **March 9<sup>th</sup> – March 11<sup>th</sup>** at **7:30pm**. Tickets cost £5 with £3 concessions. Family tickets are available for £14. Book online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/leedswestacademy](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/leedswestacademy).

**Executive Principal / CEO: Annette Hall**

White Rose Academies, Intake Lane, Rodley, Leeds, LS13 1DQ

**T:** 0113 2295454 **F:** 0113 257 2418

**E:** [info@whiteroseacademies.org](mailto:info@whiteroseacademies.org) **W:** [www.whiteroseacademies.org](http://www.whiteroseacademies.org)



Leeds City Academy



## NOTES TO THE EDITOR

**Leeds West Academy** is a mixed secondary school and part of the White Rose Academies Trust. It is sponsored by Leeds City College. The Academy is one of three sister schools within the **White Rose Academies Trust**.

Academies receive funding direct from the Government, providing independence for a diversified curriculum.

**More details found online at [www.leedswestacademy.org.uk](http://www.leedswestacademy.org.uk)**

**White Rose Academies Trust** is a local trust dedicated to raising the ambitions and aspirations of young people. It is currently comprised of three academies which occupy sites in the centre, east and west of the city. The Trust is sponsored by **Leeds City College**, one of the largest further education providers in the country which encompasses **Leeds College of Music** within its organisation.

The White Rose Academies Trust is the only truly local Leeds partnership of schools that share the same ethos and that have pathways into Further Education through a special relationship with Leeds City College. The Trust shares a mission with the college to ensure that all students attending the academies have very well-developed employability skills.

All WRAT Academies also work in conjunction with local businesses in formal relationships which commit employers to supporting young people to understand and prepare for the demands of the world of work.

The CEO of White Rose Academies Trust is Annette Hall, who is also Executive Principal of Leeds West Academy, Leeds East Academy and Leeds City Academy.

**More details about White Rose Academies can be found online at [www.whiteroseacademies.org](http://www.whiteroseacademies.org)**

For more information or images contact **Samuel Payne** at [payne.s@whiteroseacademies.org](mailto:payne.s@whiteroseacademies.org) or call 0113 229 5454 Ext. 259.