

MAMMA MIA!

I HAVE A DREAM

CONTESTANT PRESS PACK

EMBARGOED UNTIL MONDAY
16th OCTOBER AT 21:00

THAMES
A Fremantle Label


LITTLESTAR

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THE SOPHIES

**EMBARGOED UNTIL MONDAY
16th OCTOBER AT 21:00**

DESMONDA



AGE: 27

FROM: Indonesia

What is your favourite ABBA song?

'Thank You for the Music'. It means a lot to me because I had a farewell fundraising cabaret that my friend organised for me in Indonesia, to be able to move to London, and the concert was called 'Thank You for the Music.' It's the last song I sang in the show. The song is very much me and the lyrics, particularly when it says: "I'm nothing special, in fact I'm a bit of a bore, If I tell a joke, you've probably heard it before, But I have a talent, a wonderful thing, 'Cause everyone listens when I start to sing." That's very me!

Why do you want to play the role of Sophie?

It's about MAMMA MIA! itself because musical theatre is not a big thing in Indonesia. Movie musicals on the other hand, are super popular. People love MAMMA MIA! It's one of the most recognisable movie musicals ever. I really wanted to be a part of that. Something that is so recognisable. It's such a big part of pop culture known around the world. I grew up watching it and I want to be a part of that universe.

Tell us about your musical theatre journey up until now.

About 11 years ago in high school I started to take a real interest in musical theatre. When I started at Uni I looked for an amateur dramatics group. I co-founded a musical theatre community called Jakarta Performing Arts Community and performed amateur productions. And that's where it all started. Since then, I've been lucky enough to have had a couple of jobs after moving to London.

What does appearing on MAMMA MIA! I Have a Dream mean to you?

ITV is one of the biggest TV networks and reaches far beyond the musical theatre world. What I really want to show from my involvement, is that people can see that there is this Indonesian girl striving to be on the West End and as an Indonesian, we've not yet had that Indonesian West End musical theatre star. I just want to represent my people I guess and show another thing that we can strive towards. There's a place for us in musical theatre.

ESME



AGE: 22

FROM: Chester

What is your favourite ABBA song?

My absolute favourite ABBA song is and has always been 'The Winner Takes It All'. Every time I hear the intro, I get goosebumps and I especially love Meryl Streep's version from the first film because I think she gave the most moving performance. I think an ABBA song that would most describe me most would be 'Dancing Queen', for no other reason other than the fact I will always be up for a good dance!

Why do you want to play the role of Sophie?

I think most people in musical theatre dream of being part of MAMMA MIA! as it is such a great feel good show! However I never thought I would get a chance to even be considered for the part of Sophie though I had always wanted to play this role! Sophie is a character that goes through so much in the show and her character goes on such a journey. She is such a fun bubbly character, yet she has so many struggles that as an actor, would be so interesting to get to explore. In my whole time training I was never typecast as the romantic lead so I never believed I could play any parts like Sophie, but I would love to prove that I can.

Tell us about your musical theatre journey up until now.

My musical theatre journey started when I was around 12 and I watched the Les Misérables film for the first time. I also remember watching a pantomime and I couldn't believe people get paid to sing and dance and have the most fun on stage. I left school at 16 to go train in musical theatre at a college in Liverpool, and this is where I really found my love for the industry.

What does appearing on MAMMA MIA! I Have a Dream mean to you?

I don't think I will ever have the words to describe quite what this experience means to me. I never believed I could be the type of person that this opportunity would happen to. After two years out in the industry and facing rejection after rejection I was almost starting to lose hope, and when the auditions for this came along, I almost didn't apply. I will forever be grateful that I didn't give up and I kept pushing on and believing that one day something would happen.

LEAH



AGE: 20

FROM: Redcar

What is your favourite ABBA song?

My favourite ABBA song is 'Does Your Mother Know' because as soon as the song starts you have the bass that kicks in and then the guitar riff! It gives me such a thrill and also Christine Baranski killed it in the movie! It's such a catchy song and you cannot be sad listening to it. My endorphins will be running wild when it comes on!

The ABBA song that I can relate to is 'Slipping Through My Fingers' because growing up it was always me and my Mum. She brought me up as a single mother and we were constantly together until I moved across the country to University in Liverpool. Before I left, I actually watched MAMMA MIA! and it really spoke to me, I understood how my mum was feeling.

Why do you want to play the role of Sophie?

I would love to play Sophie for many reasons, one of them is that it would be a full circle moment for me! I grew up watching MAMMA MIA!, my inner child would be screaming! I would also love to play Sophie because she is very far from me as a person and roles that I would usually go for. It would be a challenge that I am totally up for!

Tell us about your musical theatre journey up until now.

My musical theatre journey has been fun but tough. I started out at a local dance school, I was there for a while but it eventually got really expensive, so my mum took me out. However, not long after that we managed to find an affordable Performing Arts Group and I attended every week for a few years. I then went to college to study performing arts and I met some of my best friends and we are now at University together. Then one day after work I checked my emails and found one about MAMMA MIA! I Have a Dream auditions. My first thought was I wouldn't get it but then I thought why not try and if not, then at least I've had some audition experience and now here I am a second year musical theatre student on this amazing show!

What does appearing on MAMMA MIA! I Have a Dream mean to you?

Being on this show means the entire world to me! This industry is full of rejections from jobs, and this was my first audition and I very luckily got a yes. This show gives me hope and it makes me very grateful to be able to have worked with incredible people and to be a part of the wonderful MAMMA MIA! family. This is also very educational for me as it's my first professional look into the industry.

MADDY



AGE: 20

FROM: Bolton

What is your favourite ABBA song?

'Chiquitita', because it's about holding on to hope when everything seems lost and as a person, I'm always trying to stay positive in the face of adversity. I feel like that's a nice one that encourages me a lot.

Why do you want to play the role of Sophie?

I would love to play the role of Sophie because I admire her a lot as a character, as she's always so bubbly and headstrong and she cares a lot about the people she loves! It would be such a fun role to play, and it'd be a dream to be in such an iconic show.

Tell us about your musical theatre journey up until now.

I've recently graduated from Urdang, so I'm very fresh into the industry. I started musical theatre quite late; I didn't do it when I was little, but I've always done music. When I wanted to go to college, I thought I might as well give it a go. So it was only when I was 17 that I decided to do musical theatre.

What does appearing on MAMMA MIA! I Have a Dream mean to you?

Appearing on the show is just an incredible opportunity to have! It means to world to be able to learn from others and to simply enjoy being a part of it all.

MAISIE



AGE: 22

FROM: Margate

What is your favourite ABBA song?

This is quite easy one for me as it's always been my favourite. 'My Love, My Life.' It was featured in the MAMMA MIA! sequel and it was such a beautiful and emotional way to end the movie. It's about Sophie and Donna's relationship and I'm very close to my mother so I could relate. I covered the song on my YouTube channel and have had loads of lovely messages. The song is very special to me.

Why do you want to play the role of Sophie?

I've loved the character ever since I first watched the movie. I loved her bubbly personality and adventurous spirit. She has a close relationship with her mum that I can relate to. It's the ultimate feel-good role and I can imagine it's so much fun being up on-stage doing that role every night and I would love to do it.

Tell us about your musical theatre journey up until now.

I have three sisters and when I was younger my mum put us all into musical theatre classes and I absolutely fell in love. My sisters realised it wasn't for them, but I

begged my mum to keep me in the classes and when I started performing in local amateur dramatics, I would try and do every show in the area no matter how big or small. I just wanted to be on stage. I spent all my free time in rehearsal!

What does appearing on MAMMA MIA! I Have a Dream mean to you?

Opportunities like this don't come around often for amateur dramatic performers like myself. As someone that's had no formal training or contacts in the industry, it would be impossible for me to get an audition for anything professional, so I'm just so grateful to be given the opportunity.

STEPHANIE



AGE: 22

FROM: St Albans

What is your favourite ABBA song?

My favourite is either 'Dancing Queen' or 'Money Money Money'. Songs I have sung forever and ones that always make me smile as they're so iconic.

Why do you want to play the role of Sophie?

I have always wanted to play the role of Sophie, as I grew up with ABBA and the musical itself, always playing their music in our garden on summer barbecue days. It would just be a dream come true!

Tell us about your musical theatre journey up until now.

I started performing when I was very young - always dancing and singing Disney songs with my sister in our living room. We used to dress up in princess outfits and perform for my parents. I used to love dancing and gymnastics. I followed in my sister's footsteps and joined Tring Park School of the Performing Arts in 2012 for seven years, which taught me so much about musical theatre. Then I attended the Guildford School of Acting for three years, graduating in 2022 which was the most incredible experience. I learnt so much about myself, honed my skills and built my confidence significantly which prepped me well for the professional industry.

What does appearing on MAMMA MIA! I Have a Dream mean to you?

To see a musical set in Greece showing Greek traditions is so nostalgic to me and to make my family proud doing what I love with my heritage would just be incredible. I have worked so relentlessly throughout my life, training to get even get an audition for anything musical related, so to be considered for the role of Sophie in the West End is so ridiculous to me. I am eternally grateful for the creatives taking a chance on me.

STEVIE



AGE: 22

FROM: Glasgow

What is your favourite ABBA song?

It's 100% 'Thank you For The Music.' That's mostly because of the lyrics. It's about the relationship between a child and her mother.

Why do you want to play the role of Sophie?

It's always been a dream role for me. It's probably one of the first musicals I was introduced to and also it's a big musical for my family. They all know it, they all love it and for me to play Sophie would mean a lot to them as well.

Tell us about your musical theatre journey up until now.

I didn't start musical theatre until I was 15, when I auditioned for the Musical Theatre Course at The Dance School of Scotland, after performing in my first amateur school show - We Will Rock You. I had never done a musical before and I only went along as my friends thought it would be fun. I was given the lead role of Scaramouche which was a shock and terrifying, but I quickly realised I was going to be addicted to performing. I actually didn't get into The Dance School the first time I auditioned, and it was at that moment I realised how badly I wanted to do this career.

I was on holiday and my sister said she could hear me crying in the hotel room from the pool.

Thankfully I got in the next year and trained there for two years before successfully auditioning for Arts Ed in London where I trained for three years and just graduated!

What does appearing on MAMMA MIA! I Have a Dream mean to you?

When I told my family I was moving to London, no one was surprised. I've always been quite ambitious, but this is something I could never have imagined. Wee Stevie singing and dancing around the house with her mum and sister would be crying right now.

A dramatic sky with a blue-to-orange gradient and scattered clouds. The top half is a deep, clear blue, while the bottom half transitions into a warm, golden-orange glow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. Wispy white and light blue clouds are scattered across the sky, with some larger, more defined clouds on the left and right sides.

THE SKYS

**EMBARGOED UNTIL MONDAY
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CALLUM



AGE: 22

FROM: Oxfordshire

What is your favourite ABBA song?

My favourite ABBA song is 'Waterloo' – It's so upbeat. 'Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!' is a tune that lights up a room!

Why do you want to play the role of Sky?

Having the opportunity to play a lead role in the West End is something that actors dream of – and on a London stage like the Novello theatre where you're acting alongside amazing people. It's also an amazing opportunity to get to play Sky alongside a Sophie you've met on this TV show – that makes it special. I had just come out of drama school with no expectation when I did that first audition and now I'm here.

Tell us about your musical theatre journey up until now.

My musical theatre journey is relatively limited up until now. This feels like dipping my toes into the musical theatre world for the first time. Not to say I haven't done any musicals - I have at school and when I was younger. After that I narrowed my focus slightly away from musical theatre to acting.

I went to Drama School and did three years training at Rose Bruford, we did songs within plays and there was music involved but auditioning for MAMMA MIA! I Have a Dream was my first ever musical theatre audition.

I performed at the Edinburgh Fringe when I was 18. That was a really cool experience!

What does appearing on MAMMA MIA! I Have a Dream mean to you?

It's been a learning experience for me. The makers of the show picked me to take part because they thought I had something. They knew I had little experience and yet they still decided that I was someone who they wanted on their show, and they saw my potential. Going on the show is this massive opportunity to learn as much as I can from all of these fantastic people like musical directors and choreographers. There is some pressure because I've got to showcase my skills and what I can do and when you know that people will be watching you on the TV at home. It's a huge opportunity to show what I can do, singing and acting.

CRAIG



AGE: 26

FROM: Perthshire

What is your favourite ABBA song?

'Voulez-Vous' - I think it's a tune!

Why do you want to play the role of Sky?

It's such an iconic role - Sky is a chilled guy and I'm excited about the energy the TV show is going to give to the stage show and want to be a part of that. I have friends who have been in the stage show and they have always spoken so highly of the experience.

Tell us about your musical theatre journey up until now.

I started training after school when I was six or seven and I did that all the way through school and high school and decided at some point along the way that I wanted to give it a crack and continue to do that. I went to Guildford School of Acting and graduated in 2018 and went to perform on a cruise ship for a year... I've also been a part of UK and international tours. My goal has always been to sustainably have a career in something that I love doing.

What does appearing on MAMMA MIA! I Have a Dream mean to you?

I've not done a West End gig and this is an amazing opportunity to learn, gain experience and improve. I am proud of the experience I've already gained but there is always more to learn and achieve.

DARCY



AGE: 23

FROM: Hampshire

What is your favourite ABBA song?

My favourite Abba song is definitely 'Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!' – if you're on a night out, the moment that beat hits you know it's going to be a great night!

Why do you want to play the role of Sky?

The role of Sky appeals to me because of how fun it is. I like his journey as a character, he goes completely out of his comfort zone to move somewhere away from home so that's similar to what we were trying to do for this show.

Tell us about your musical theatre journey up until now.

I've always been part of amateur dramatics, doing local pantomimes in Hampshire. As I grew up and through sixth form, I realised I wanted to pursue performing so went to the London College Music for three years to do Musical Theatre. Since I left there, I've been auditioning ever since!

I'm a Jack of all trades – on the side of auditioning, I worked in events with my best friends, did some landscaping with my Dad and now work in a gym.

I want to be successful in musical theatre, anyone's dream in this industry is to constantly keep working. I'm from a hard graft background, I'm never going to give up. Everyone dreams of their big break – I want to keep working and don't want to stop!

What does appearing on MAMMA MIA! I Have a Dream mean to you?

For me it's all about proving to my younger self that I was right when I questioned whether I was following the right pathway. I'm doing something out of my comfort zone and showing that anything is possible. It's about defying the odds!

MARCELLUS



AGE: 36

FROM: High Wycombe

What is your favourite ABBA song?

'Voulez-Vous'. It is the baddest and the best, it's electrifying, it's soul, it's everything.

Why do you want to play the role of Sky?

To get a principal role, that would be good. It would be a great achievement for me but more importantly I want to inspire others to never give up on their dreams.

Tell us about your musical theatre journey up until now.

I've had a strong career so far being in musical theatre and plays in so many diverse roles and great shows. The journey has been amazing for me but I've never quite reached the peak of where I want to be yet. That for me would be playing a leading role on stage, on screen, both. I'm so grateful for where I am but I feel like this could be a big break for me.

I made a decision in 2016-17 to never work unless it was performing. I said that if I love it that much, if I want it to work then I'm going to go in. I've been performing ever since, sometimes on, sometimes off, but I keep going.

What does appearing on MAMMA MIA! I Have a Dream mean to you?

Appearing on the show for me feels like a career highlight. It feels like such an achievement and I'm so excited to show that to the world.

OWEN



AGE: 25

FROM: Belfast

What is your favourite ABBA song?

I love 'Voulez-Vous' I think it's one of the best anthems ever. When I watch the movie, 'Slipping Through My Fingers' makes me cry every time. Maybe that's because of my mum. My mum is a single parent and I resonate with the moment that they have in the movie.

Why do you want to play the role of Sky?

MAMMA MIA! itself is so fun, it's such a feel-good show. I would quite like to steer Sky in a different direction with this show. I think there's more depth to Sky so why not play him differently with a different edge and I think I have that capability.

Tell us about your musical theatre journey up until now.

I went into singing lessons when I was about 13, 14 and we sang musical theatre songs. A few months after starting singing lessons, my mum took me on a trip to London, we went to Leicester Square to pick a West End show to see and went to see Phantom of the Opera. I absolutely fell in love and I just knew that was what I wanted to do. A couple of years passed, I kept up with singing lessons, did some classical and musical theatre and school musicals.

I did my first amateur dramatic production when I was 18 and that was Phantom and I played Phantom in that which I was very proud of. I auditioned for acting and musical theatre schools and on my second audition, Italia Conti, I got in and it was unbelievable and I took it. I graduated this year.

I have done swing gigs around Belfast, at weddings and private functions – I do a lot of [Michael] Bublé, Rat Pack kinda stuff!

What does appearing on MAMMA MIA! I Have a Dream mean to you?

The ten year old boy who was scared to tell his mates in his classroom that he'd seen MAMMA MIA! three times at the cinema would be beside himself! It means the world. For so many people who have backed me over the years, I owe it not only to myself but all of them as well. It would be an incredible feeling to win.

TOBIAS



AGE: 22

FROM: Somerset

What is your favourite ABBA song?

'Does Your Mother Know.' Between jobs I work at Archer Street which is a bar in Soho where you sing on the tables and that is one of my favourite songs to perform. In terms of song that sums me up, I think 'Take A Chance' because it's quite cheeky!

Why do you want to play the role of Sky?

MAMMA MIA! is timeless isn't it, it's one of the biggest shows in the West End and has been on for ages. Auditioning for that is an exciting thing. Not only that, but they are putting on this massive TV show with amazing people behind it, on and off screen. It's one of those things you think, 'That would be so cool to do!' It's a show I love, the music is incredible, I thought I'll apply and try my best and we'll see... and then here we are!

Tell us about your musical theatre journey up until now.

I went to the Guildford School of Acting at 18 and I studied there for three years, on the Musical Theatre course. I then worked in a bar for a few months while I searched for my first job then went to do a pantomime show. I then worked for the Strictly Theatre Company

on Giovanni Pernice's tour, 'This Is Me' where I was a lead male vocalist and dancer. I learned a lot on that job because I am not a Latin dancer at all...learning that was cool!

I've performed West Side Story at the Ljubljana Festival in Slovenia and went into Heathers in London and then the opportunity on MAMMA MIA! I Have a Dream came up.

What does appearing on MAMMA MIA! I Have a Dream mean to you?

It really does mean a lot. It's quite a scary thing to get up and sing and act in front of people, to put yourself out there in front of a nation sat in front of their TV... but it means a lot to me to know that I got onto the show. It's a nice reminder that I'm actually alright at doing what I'm doing. I'm excited for everyone to see the show, to see how amazing everyone is, to show what I can do. My family are always very supportive of what I do, both my parents did amateur-dramatics when they were young and still dabble in it now!

ZACHKIEL



AGE: 21

FROM: London

What is your favourite ABBA song?

'Take a Chance On Me' – that is the Abba song that most sums me up.

Why do you want to play the role of Sky?

I'm excited to bring a new essence, a new flair to the character. I want to respect the character – MAMMA MIA! is so famous, everyone has an idea of what Sky and Sophie are like and you can stick to what people know, that's fine, but you're also allowed to create and I want to add my own spin to it – to be the Sky that everybody knows and loves but to add coolness and fun.

Tell us about your musical theatre journey up until now.

I started performing musical theatre when I was about seven at a Saturday School and then I did acting shows there. I did LAMDA exams when I was younger, getting a distinction in my first one, so my acting teacher encouraged me to pursue acting. I was invited to a Musical Theatre Summer School where you were taught by West End casts. We had to learn really fast so that experience has really helped me with learning lines.

I went to the BRIT School for four years and studied musical theatre there, in my third year I was chosen to do a professional job with Drew McOnie, choreographer of In The Heights and I got to open the Evening Standard Awards. I was encouraged to audition for drama school and got into Emil Dale academy in Hertfordshire. I finished three years and just graduated before taking part in MAMMA MIA! I Have a Dream.

What does appearing on MAMMA MIA! I Have a Dream mean to you?

I don't want to be cliché and say 'everything' but everything about the experience has been amazing to me. It's surreal. I love it. There is nothing like it! It's a completely new opportunity and has been amazing. The show is making me a better performer with the challenges, opportunities and working with the professionals.