

REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL

A RAUCOUS MUSICAL FEATURING THE HITS OF
IAN DURY AND THE BLOCKHEADS

SCRIPT BY PAUL SIRETT
MUSIC BY IAN DURY
AND THE BLOCKHEADS
DIRECTED BY JENNY SEALEY

PRESS REVIEWS

FROM THE ORIGINAL
2010 PRODUCTION

'Oi, Oi! Paul Sirett's new musical fashioned around the music of Ian Dury is rough, ready and **bloody brilliant.**'
Time Out Critic's choice ★★★★★

'It's always engaging. And in those moments when the story, the rock 'n' roll mentality and the music come together, it's unstoppable.'
The Times

'For those who have never heard of Ian Dury, this is a good show; for those who have, it's a must. It's definitely a reason to be cheerful.'
Spoonfed ★★★★★

'The commitment and passion shown by every member of the cast was faultless, the songs were performed brilliantly and the story was told in a sensitive and touching way. This is a show not to be missed. You will come out of the theatre full of joy and enthusiasm for life as well as having a greater appreciation for the power music has over us all. We all have a bit of anarchy in us and this show gives us the opportunity to let it out!'

The Public Review ★★★★★

'REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL - The Musical is a Graeae Theatre Company triumph. The BBC-banned *Spasticus Autisticus* is joyfully defiant.'

The Guardian

'It's got a heart of gold and with an excellent band, it's a must for die-hard Dury fans.'

Daily Mail

'This is entertainment that leaves no one out.'

The British Theatre Guide

'Vocalist John Kelly who actually sounds very much like the much-missed Dury.'

Ipswich 24

'The stage gives off a million volts.'

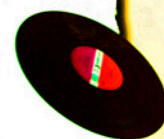
The Guardian

'THE MUSIC IS BRILLIANT and there are moments of crude punk genius.' ★★★★★
The Sunday Times



PRESS REVIEWS

FROM THE ORIGINAL
2010 PRODUCTION



'The script contains tender, sentimental and amusing moments which the strong cast handles with equal aplomb but perhaps it is Dury's enduring songs and the pulsating performance of them that seems to matter most after all.'

The Stage

'REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL is a show I can highly recommend.'

The Londoner

'It's in your face, well acted, funny, loud and drags you and your senses back down memory lane to have a great time again.'

Words of Colour

'Really hits the jackpot. (Graeae's) demand for mainstream recognition can no longer be ignored... A puckish, mind-blowing two hours... an energy and brilliance you'll seldom see bettered.'

Reviews Gate

'With its top notch cast and band of musicians and a great song book you'll leave the Theatre Royal wanting to bring Colin home in your pocket, wishing for a medical miracle for Vinnie's dad and with hope for the future. It's a toe-tapping, uplifting experience. **Go and see it!**'

BBC Ouch!

'This is a well acted story and the laughs and the punk rock soundtrack are always around the corner to make sure the audience came away with another reason to be cheerful.'

Ilford Recorder

'REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL
is a good night out.'

What's On Stage

'The energy and anarchic attitude are faultless.'

The Daily Telegraph

**'Without doubt the
finest thing I've ever
seen at the theatre.'**

Diss Express

**'This show is
not to be missed'**

**'Forget that glass ceiling.
This lot raise the roof.'**
East London Recorder



WHAT THE CELEBS THOUGHT...

FROM THE ORIGINAL
2010 PRODUCTION



'REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL is a total blast: for the nostalgics it's a truly touching and affectionate tribute to one of our great street poets; and for everyone else it's *We Will Rock You* and *Matilda* served up by the best ensemble cast I've seen in years. The instinct to get up on stage with them and dance is overwhelming. Whew!

Danny Boyle - Film Director

'I watched a show called **REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL** last night at the Hackney Empire, **beyond emotional, beyond brilliant.** Well done all involved.'

Baxter Dury

'The show is a fabulous celebration of the music of Ian Dury and the Blockheads and overwhelms the senses on so many levels that one just hangs on to their seat all the way from beginning to end. The enthusiasm and commitment of the actors and musicians in the performance is spellbinding... This is the best interpretation, to date, of Ian's songs and The Blockheads music by far... The old geezer would have loved this!'

Mick Gallagher - Blockhead

'An energetic, uplifting, funny, thoroughly enjoyable night out... Roll on the West End.'

Derek The Draw - Blockhead

'Great cast, very cool band, best night out for ages I hope it gets an extended run.'

John Turnbull - Blockhead

'The gig took me back to when I was a wee nipper trying to be a punk rocker in the eighties. The cast were energetic and all brilliant. *Hit me with your Rhythm Stick*, *Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll*, *Billericay Dickie*, *Clever Trevor* and *England's Glory* being my favourites. It's a great show to have a sing-along to and you will want to stand up and boogie or pogo till your heart's content!'

Sadie Frost - Actress

'With their incredible raw energy and unbridled talent, the guys 'n' gals of the Graeae Theatre Company have created a sexy, freebasing, rocking barnstormer of a show. I loved it... Clever bastards!'

Hugo Speer - Actor

'What an absolute resounding triumph. I haven't seen a cast with that much energy and conviction in a long time. Ian Dury fans will love it. It's a wonderful homage and people not familiar with those defining songs of the 80's will want to go straight out and get stuck in to some of the records. I loved it, totally loved it!'

Emma B - Radio DJ



'REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL is a total blast'

WHAT THE AUDIENCE THOUGHT...

FROM THE ORIGINAL 2010 PRODUCTION



'Thanks for two brilliant nights at Dundee Rep (I came on Friday with a friend and immediately rebooked to come with my kids who absolutely loved it - we all did). I could watch you all perform every night and not be bored. As well as a great tribute to Ian Dury you've raised my awareness of another fantastic theatre group. Thanks again for two amazing performances.'

Marion Todd (still singing BLOCKHEADS)

'I saw **REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL** yesterday evening. **What a brilliant show!** I would urge anyone who hasn't yet seen it to go. It's truly brilliant. With a beautifully designed set, an energetic cast who tell a wonderful story and the legendary tunes of Ian Dury, it's pretty much flawless as a piece of theatre... oh and there's the opportunity to have a bit of dance in the aisles too!'

Kay Hunt

'**Top notch performance!** The acting and musicianship were fantastic, the story by turns heartwarming and funny, and really got all of us in the audience joining in.'

Lee Roberts

'Just wanted to congratulate you on **REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL**. I watched it in Truro on Thursday with a friend and loved it so much I had to come back again on Saturday with my family. I haven't ever been so affected by a live performance before and sincerely thank each and every one of you. **You're amazing!**'

Lara Dew

'Saw **REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL** at Nottingham Playhouse earlier, best performance I've seen in years! I thought the cast and musicians were top notch, the story was heart warming and hilarious. **Loved it!**'

Lee Scoops Roberts

'Laughed, cried and cheered. Thanks to all involved. Standing ovation well deserved.' **Hugh Watson**

'One of the best, if not the best, shows I've seen this year.'

John R Wilkinson

'You were all truly **SPASTICUS FANTASTICUS** last night and rocked my birthday treat. Thank you so much for a great show. Oi Oi!'

Manic Pianic

'Tender & angry, playful & aggressive, rough but beautiful. Je t'adore, ich liebe dich; hit me hit me hit me.'

Katie Ward

**'REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL
the most joyous, riotous,
filthy musical in town. JUST GO!'**

Pete Lawson

'**We had an absolute blast** - it was brilliantly energetic and mosh-pit-tastic.' **Odette Brightmore**

www.graeae.org

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GRAEae



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