



Show Report

CODYS Productions

Fame Jr.

16 July 2026

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

PRODUCTION	Fame Jr.
SOCIETY	CODYS Productions
VENUE	St John's United Reform Church
GENRE	Musical
CAST SIZE	29
MUSICAL DIRECTOR	Emily Woodward
CHOREOGRAPHER	Lily Loftus
ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER	Janine Roberts
CODYS COMMITTEE	Jennifer Woodward, Rachel Hampson, Reggi Hennessey, Mike Pennington, Melanie Pollard, Neil Rynn, James Usher
SAFEGUARDING	Jennifer Woodward and volunteer chaperones
COSTUMES & PROPS	Reggi Hennessey, Melanie Pollard, Rachel Hampson, Emma Hampson, CODYS' parents/carers
SOUND	MJay Audio Services
SOCIAL MEDIA/PROGRAMME DESIGN	Melanie Pollard

CAST LIST

Nick	Jonas Rynn
Carmen	Aila Rigby
Serena	Connie Pollard
Iris	Emily Burns
Schlomo	Harry Brown
Tyrone	Sam Grimes
Goody	Alice Bromley
Mabel	Aria Taylor
Lambchops	Rosie Clare
Joe	Zak Harrison
Miss Sherman	Sabina Wojtasik
Miss Myers	Libby Harmer
Mr Sheinkopf	Archie Greenway
Miss Bell	Lily Faith Roberts

DANCERS

	Hettie Potter
	Katelyn Pratt
	Emma Hampson
	Sophie Grimes
	Lizzie Lewis
	Meredith Shepherd

ACTORS

	Elizabeth Usher
	William Pennington
	Sam Grimes
	Amelia Barber
	Evie Boyle

MUSICIANS

	Joseph Hampson
	Rosalie Stewart
	Will Malpass
	Gabrielle Boyle
	Alice Emery

DATE OF PERFORMANCE	Thursday 16th July 2026
DATE REPORT PUBLISHED	Saturday 18th July 2026
ADJUDICATOR ID	NSA1002
NSA LOGO ON POSTER	Yes
NSA IN PROGRAMME	Yes
PROGRAMME CLASS	Best Licensed Design

THE REVIEW

REVIEW WORD COUNT

1720

STRONGEST ELEMENTS

A character brought to life

Aria Taylor demonstrated a clear understanding of Mabel Washington, delivering a performance full of genuine emotion, confidence and thoughtful characterisation that resonated throughout the production.

Outstanding Teamwork

One of the evening's greatest strengths was the teamwork shown throughout CODY's Productions, both on and off the stage. The support and encouragement between the cast, creative team, volunteers and families was evident throughout, creating a welcoming environment that was reflected in the confidence and unity of the performance.

Outstanding Musical Direction

Emily Woodward should be commended for her musical direction throughout *Fame Jr.*. The cast tackled a demanding score with confidence, producing strong ensemble singing and harmonies that enhanced the production from beginning to end.

It was a pleasure to return to CODY's Productions to watch their production of Fame Jr. Having previously had the opportunity to see the company perform, I was looking forward to another evening of theatre, and I certainly wasn't disappointed. CODY's continues to provide its young performers with a wonderful platform to build confidence, develop their talents and, most importantly, enjoy performing. Fame Jr. is a musical full of ambition, determination and heart, making it an excellent choice for a company that clearly shares those same qualities. From the very beginning, the cast brought an infectious energy to the stage, creating a fun-filled evening that the audience couldn't help but enjoy.

Turning now to the performances, it was clear just how much commitment had gone into bringing these characters to life. Every member of the cast approached the production with enthusiasm, creating a company performance full of warmth and personality.

Laila Rigby gave a confident performance as Carmen Diaz. She had a secure knowledge of her lines throughout and appeared comfortable every time she stepped onto the stage. Her bright stage presence suited the role well, while her strong singing voice was another real asset. As Laila continues to develop, I would encourage her to explore a wider range of facial expressions

and vocal inflections to add even more depth and variety to Carmen's dialogue in the future to enhance her roles. Nevertheless, she created an engaging character and should be proud of her performance.

Harry Brown gave a heartfelt performance as Schlomo. Although he appeared a little apprehensive during his first moments on stage, he quickly settled into the role and grew in confidence as the production progressed. His emotions felt genuine, making it easy for the audience to invest in Schlomo's journey. His expressive facial expressions and strong physicality added depth to the character, while his singing voice provided another highlight of his performance.

Jonas Rynn brought plenty of enthusiasm to the role of Nick Piazza, working particularly well alongside Connie Pollard to create a believable on-stage relationship. His expressive facial expressions and reactive acting meant he remained engaged in every moment on stage. During his Romeo and Juliet monologue, we saw Nick's more serious, aspiring actor side, and I would have loved to see this characterisation carried through more consistently. As Nick is a character who sees himself as a dedicated, aspiring actor, leaning further into these qualities would have created an even stronger contrast with the comedy surrounding him. Nevertheless, Jonas gave a committed and enjoyable performance throughout.

Alongside Jonas, **Connie Pollard** brought warmth and sincerity to the role of Serena Katz. The pair shared a natural chemistry that made their relationship believable from beginning to end. Connie communicated Serena's emotions confidently, using expressive facial expressions and mannerisms to great effect, whilst her vocals blended beautifully within the musical numbers. She also demonstrated excellent stage awareness, always appearing relaxed and completely at home on stage.

Every time **Sam Grimes** appeared as Tyrone Jackson, he brought another burst of energy to the production. He commanded attention whenever he was on stage, portraying Tyrone's emotions convincingly whilst remaining fully connected to those around him through strong reactive acting. It was also lovely to see the commitment he brought to the choreography, giving every dance routine his full energy and enthusiasm.

Taking on the role of Iris Kelly was **Emily Burns**, who brought warmth and charm to the character throughout. Her expressive acting allowed Iris' emotions to shine through naturally, while her interactions with the rest of the cast created believable relationships on stage. Emily should be proud of the engaging and sincere performance she delivered.

Stepping into the role of Mabel Washington was **Aria Taylor**, who completely understood the heart of the character. As a talented dancer striving to achieve her dreams whilst battling self-doubt, Mabel's journey was portrayed with honesty and sincerity. Aria remained fully invested from beginning to end, often drawing the audience's attention even when she wasn't the main focus of the scene. Her mannerisms paid a lovely homage to the original portrayal by

Sonia Swaby, clearly showing the thought and preparation that had gone into creating the role. Her solo was delivered with confidence and genuine emotion, while her energy never dipped whenever she stepped onto the stage.

Completing the principal cast of students were **Zak Harrison** as Joe Vegas, **Alice Bromley** as Goody and **Rosie Clare** as Lambchops. Together, they added plenty of personality and enthusiasm to the production, embracing their roles with confidence and commitment. They worked well alongside the principal cast, helping to maintain the lively atmosphere of the New York High School of Performing Arts and playing an important part in the overall success of the production.

Sabina Wojtasik brought authority to the role of Miss Sherman, immediately creating a teacher the students respected. She carried herself confidently whenever she was on stage, and her strong vocal delivery suited the role well. Her singing voice was another strength of her performance. As Sabina continues to grow as a performer, I would encourage her to experiment with a wider range of facial expressions, allowing Miss Sherman's emotions to come through even more clearly. This was, however, a confident and convincing performance.

Lily Faith Roberts gave a warm and believable performance as Miss Bell. From the moment she appeared, it was clear she genuinely cared about her students, and the relationships she created with them felt completely natural. One small refinement would be to allow some of her dialogue a little more time to breathe, as this would help every line reach the audience more clearly. This is only a minor adjustment, and Lily should be proud of the caring and authentic teacher she created.

Archie Greenway gave a lovely performance as Mr Sheinkopp. He portrayed the caring music teacher with confidence and consistency, always appearing comfortable and at ease within each scene. Archie clearly understood the purpose of his character, bringing a calm and reassuring presence to the stage that suited the role very well.

Libby Harmer also gave a lovely performance as Miss Myers. She created a believable teacher who brought warmth and professionalism to each of her scenes, remaining fully engaged throughout the production. Her natural stage presence and commitment helped strengthen the atmosphere of the school, making her another valuable member of the teaching staff.

Adding further excitement to the production were the dancers, **Hettie Potter**, **Katelyn Pratt**, **Emma Hampson**, **Sophie Grimes**, **Lizzie Lewis** and **Meredith Shepherd**. They performed the choreography with confidence and commitment, bringing energy and vibrancy to every musical number. Their enthusiasm never wavered, and it was clear they had worked incredibly hard to produce polished and entertaining routines.

Supporting the principal cast were **Elizabeth Usher, William Pennington, Amelia Barber, Evie Boyle, Joseph Hampson, Rosalie Stewart, Gabrielle Boyle, Will Malpass**, and **Alice Emery**.

Together, they played a vital role in creating the busy atmosphere of the New York High School of Performing Arts. Their background reactive acting remained consistent throughout, ensuring every scene felt alive and believable. Joseph Hampson and Gabrielle Boyle were particularly engaging, remaining completely invested in every moment on stage and adding an extra layer of authenticity to the ensemble scenes.

Emily Woodward deserves a great deal of credit for her work as Musical Director. Fame Jr. is by no means an easy score, with demanding harmonies, energetic ensemble numbers and a variety of musical styles throughout. It was clear that a huge amount of time and dedication had gone into preparing the cast, who sang with confidence from beginning to end. The harmonies were particularly effective, creating a rich sound that lifted many of the musical numbers and was a real credit to Emily's musical direction.

The choreography, created by **Lily Loftus** and assisted by **Janine Roberts**, suited Fame Jr. really well. It reflected the style and energy of the 1980s, with the routines feeling fun, lively and well rehearsed. The dancers performed the choreography with confidence, and it was clear they had put a great deal of work into perfecting it. Looking ahead, I would encourage the choreography to be adapted a little more closely to the strengths of the whole cast, allowing every performer to feel equally confident and creating an even more cohesive ensemble. Overall, the choreography played a big part in maintaining the pace and enjoyment of the production.

The costumes and props, provided by **Reggi Hennessy, Melanie Pollard, Rachel Hampson, Emma Hampson** and the **CODY's parents and carers**, helped bring the world of Fame Jr. to life. The costumes were well suited to both the characters and the 1980s setting, creating a cohesive look across the company. The props were used effectively throughout, with Schlomo's piano being a particularly lovely touch, making it completely believable that he was playing live during his solo. It is often these smaller details that help create a believable world on stage, and they certainly added to the production here.

Finally, I would like to thank Jennifer and everyone at CODY's Productions for their incredibly warm hospitality. It was lovely to return and spend another evening with a company that clearly cares so much about its young performers.

One thing that always stands out whenever I visit CODY's is the sense of teamwork. It is clear that everyone involved, from the cast and creative team to the volunteers behind the scenes, works together to create a supportive environment where young people are encouraged to grow in confidence, develop their talents and, above all, enjoy performing. That is something everyone involved should be incredibly proud of.

To the cast, production team, backstage crew, volunteers and everyone who played a part in bringing Fame Jr. to the stage, congratulations on a thoroughly enjoyable production. Although theatre is an inherently ephemeral art form, the commitment, enthusiasm and hard work shown throughout the evening ensured this performance will leave a lasting impression on all those who were fortunate enough to watch it. This achievement was made even more impressive by the exceptionally warm conditions in which you have been rehearsing and performing over recent weeks. You should all be immensely proud of what you have achieved.

I wish everyone at CODY's Productions every success for the rest of the season, and I very much look forward to seeing what you bring to the stage next.

PHOTOGRAPHS





PROGRAMME



CODY'S
PRODUCTIONS
STARS OF THE FUTURE!

FAME
JR.

Conceived and Developed by
DAVID DE SILVA

Book by **JOSE FERNANDEZ** Lyrics by **JACQUES LEVY** Music by **STEVE MARGOSHES**

Title Song "FAME" written by
DEAN PITCHFORD AND MICHAEL GORE

*Originally produced at the Coconut Grove Playhouse
Arnold Mittleman, Producing Artistic Director

THURSDAY 16TH - SATURDAY 18TH JULY 2026
AT 7.30PM

MATINEE - SATURDAY 18TH JULY AT 2:30PM

PROGRAMME

NODA
For every stage

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI
www.mtishows.co.uk

