



“ONE OF THE TOP 10 PLAYS IN LONDON!”

“Sandra Dickinson gives the performance of the decade”

BroadwayWorld



Showered with rave reviews and following two sold-out runs in 2016, Lee Tannen’s incredibly personal, funny, bitter-sweet play **“I Loved Lucy”** about his 10-year relationship with TV comedy legend Lucille Ball is to transfer to London’s Arts Theatre for a strictly limited 7-week season from Wednesday 19 July

Critically acclaimed Sandra Dickinson returns as Lucy
Broadway leading man Matthew Scott makes his London debut as Lee



**“Sandra Dickinson gives a sublime, fabulous, *tour de force* performance.
I Loved Lucy is a love letter penned by Lucy’s number one fan”**

Stage Review

“Sandra Dickinson - a brilliant, touching performance”

The Upcoming

“A brilliant study of a showbiz legend”

Everything Theatre

“Achingly funny”

The Stage



Following an acclaimed UK premiere at Jermyn Street Theatre in 2016, where it had a second run due to overwhelming public demand, **I Loved Lucy** is to transfer to London's Arts Theatre for a strictly limited 7-week season from Wednesday 19 July to Saturday 2 September.

Press night is Monday 24 July at 7.00pm.

I Loved Lucy is a personal portrait of an iconic comedic entertainer whose public face is all too well known. But what was Lucille Ball really like? And how did she choose to live at the end of her life? Out of the spotlight. Based on his best selling memoir, Lee Tannen's funny, bitter-sweet play reveals the real-life Lucy and what it was like being her friend to the end. Most people who have written about Lucy never even met her. They have relied on others to fill in the blanks. Lee relied solely on Lucy. And he paints a rich personal portrait that can only add to our love of a Hollywood legend. Lee Tannen first met Lucille Ball as a child but cemented their close and enduring friendship as an adult. During the last 10 years of Lucy's life - years mostly spent out of the spotlight, and much of it around a backgammon table - Lee became Lucy's confidante, spending time in her Beverly Hills and Palm Springs homes, travelling with her and entertaining her on his turf in New York City.

Sandra Dickinson returns to her acclaimed role as Lucille Ball - "*A miracle to watch, Sandra Dickinson gives a blazing performance*", The Stage. Born in Washington DC, Sandra Dickinson found fame in the UK in the 1970s as the star of Birds Eye beefburger TV adverts. They established her in a succession of American 'dumb blonde' roles, and it was many years before she was able to shake that image. She has since enjoyed a prolific career on stage and screen. Her West End shows include *Singin' In The Rain*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Not About Nightingales* (NT and Broadway) and *Orpheus Descending* (Donmar Warehouse). Her films include Steven Spielberg's 2018 release *Ready Player One*, *Malice In Wonderland*, *Supergirl* and *Superman III*. Among many TV roles she is probably best known as Trillian in the cult sci-fi TV series *The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy*. She can be heard voicing various roles in *Gumball*, *Counterfeit Cat* and she is the voice of Grandma Tracy in ITV's *Thunderbirds Are Go*.

Matthew Scott is making his London acting debut as Lee. He recently starred as Adam Hochberg in *An American in Paris* on Broadway. His other Broadway credits include *Sondheim On Sondheim*, *A Catered Affair* and the original company of *Jersey Boys*. His other theatre credits include: *The Light In The Piazza* (Philadelphia Theatre Company), for which he won the Barrymore Award; *Saturday Night* (The York Theater Co); *Beaches*, *Company*, *ACE* and *Side By Side By Sondheim* (all at the Signature Theatre); *Chaplin* (La Jolla Playhouse); *First You Dream: The Music of Kander & Ebb* (The Kennedy Center); *A Wonderful Life* (Goodspeed Opera House); *Eden* and *Unknown Soldier* (The O'Neill Theatre Center); *Ragtime*, *My Fair Lady* and *Carousel* (all at Paper Mill Playhouse); *West Side Story* (The Muny); *Legally Blonde*, *Swing!*, *Les Miserables* and *Sunset Boulevard* opposite Liz Callaway (all for the Pittsburgh CLO).

Lee Tannen - Playwright

Lee's memoir became an instant best seller. In 2010, he adapted it for the stage where it premiered at The Laguna Playhouse. Lee's other work includes a new libretto in 2007 for the stage adaptation of the classic children's story *Dr. Dolittle*, starring and directed by nine-time Tony Award winner Tommy Tune. A year earlier, Lee was a contributing writer for the Drama-Desk-nominated musical *The Audience*. In 2003, Lee was writer and Associate Director for *Paparazzi*, an original musical for Holland America Line directed by Tommy Tune. In 2001, Lee wrote and directed *All The World's a Stage*, a star-studded benefit for Variety Club at Carnegie Hall starring, among others, Barbara Cook, Nathan Lane and Tommy Tune and hosted by Jane Powell. Lee has also written special material for Joan Rivers, Elizabeth Taylor and Shirley MacLaine.

Anthony Biggs - Director

Anthony is Artistic Director of the award-winning Jermyn Street Theatre. His recent productions include Lillian Hellman's *The Autumn Garden* (**** Fiona Mountford, Evening Standard), Eugene O'Neill's *The First Man* (**** Claire Allfree, Daily Telegraph), and Charles Morgan's *The River Line* (***** Critics Choice in Time Out, The Times, Daily Telegraph, WhatsonStage, and Independent). He was Associate Director to Trevor Nunn on Jermyn Street Theatre's production of Samuel Beckett's *All That Fall* starring Eileen Atkins and Michael Gambon, which transferred to the West End and New York. Biggs's final production at JST will be Maxim Gorky's *The Last Ones* which opens on 7 June. He joins the new The Playground Theatre in West London as Co-Artistic Director in September.

Set and Costume Designer Gregor Donnelly
Lighting Designer Tim Mascal
Sound Designer Gareth McLeod
Casting Director Jane Deitch

Produced by Gary DiMauro

General Management: Hartshorn - Hook Productions



Lucy and Lee in Colorado, 1987



Lucy and Lee in Beverly Hills

LISTINGS INFO

I LOVED LUCY
by Lee Tannen

Arts Theatre
Great Newport Street
London WC2H 7JB

Box office: 020 7836 8463
www.artstheatrewestend.co.uk

Wednesday 19 July
– Saturday 2 September

Performances:

Wednesday 19 July 7:30pm
Thursday 20 July 2:30pm
Thursday 20 July 7:30pm
Friday 21 July 7:30pm
Saturday 22 July 2:30pm
Saturday 22 July 7:30pm
Sunday 23 July at 3pm

Monday 24 July 7.00pm
PRESS NIGHT

Please note: there is no show
Tuesday 25 July

Then:
Tuesday – Saturday 7.30pm,
Thursday & Saturday
Matinees 2.30pm
Sunday 3.00pm

Ticket Prices:
£15.00 Slips
£26.50 £33.50 £39.50
£55.00 premiums
Previews:
£20.00 £25.00 £29.00

Social:
Twitter: @ILovedLucyUK
Facebook: ILOVEDLUCY

Running Time:
2 hours (including interval)

★★★★★
"ONE OF THE TOP 10 PLAYS IN LONDON...
SANDRA DICKINSON GIVES THE PERFORMANCE OF THE DECADE"
BROADWAYWORLD

I Loved Lucy

A PLAY BY
LEE TANNEN

SANDRA DICKINSON
IS LUCY

MATTHEW SCOTT
IS LEE

★★★★★
"A SUBLIME, FABULOUS
TOUR-DE-FORCE"
STAGE REVIEW

★★★★★
"A BRILLIANT, TOUCHING
PERFORMANCE AS
LUCILLE BALL"
THE UPCOMING

"A BRILLIANT STUDY OF
A SHOWBIZ LEGEND"
EVERYTHING THEATRE

"ACHINGLY FUNNY"
THE STAGE

STRICTLY
LIMITED
SEASON

ARTS
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www.artstheatrewestend.co.uk
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FROM
19 JULY

**ARTS
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