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## Press Release

18 September 2007

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# **PETER KAY TO STAR IN NEW MEL BROOKS SMASH HIT MUSICAL THE PRODUCERS AT WALES MILLENNIUM CENTRE**

**PETER KAY** will perform at Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff, in the new Mel Brooks musical, *The Producers*. **KAY** will share the role of Roger Debris with **STEPHEN WELLER**. Weller will play the role from Tuesday 27 November – Saturday 1 December whilst Kay will play the role from Monday 3 – Saturday 8 December. They are joined on stage by **CORY ENGLISH** who will star as Max Bialystock and **REECE SHEARSMITH** as Leo Bloom. The cast also includes **EMMA-JAYNE APPELYARD** as Ulla, **ALEX GIANNINI** as Franz Liebkind and **ROBIN SEBASTIAN** as Carmen Ghia.

When down-on-his-luck theatrical producer Max Bialystock and his hapless accountant, Leo Bloom, hatch the ultimate theatrical scam: to raise more money than they need to produce a sure-fire Broadway disaster... and then pocket the left-over cash when the show flops - who do they turn to? The world's worst director, of course; Roger DeBris. Their guaranteed-to-fail fiasco? Springtime for Hitler - the musical!

Cory English comes direct to the tour from playing the leading role of Max in the West End. His other West End credits include the recent revival of 'Guys and Dolls' and 'Chicago'. On Broadway he has appeared in 'Gypsy', 'Damn Yankees', 'Hello Dolly!' and 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum'. Reece Shearsmith is probably best known as one third of the award-winning 'The League of Gentlemen'. His theatre credits include 'Art' and a hugely successful season as Leo Bloom in the West End production of 'The Producers'. Stephen Weller has appeared in many musicals, most notably 'Les Misérables' in the West End and the title role in the national tour of 'Martin Guerre'. Peter Kay is one of the country's best loved comedians. He has toured the UK with sell-out tours of his one man show and for TV has written and starred in 'Phoenix Nights', 'Max and Paddy' and 'That Peter Kay Thing'. Emma-Jayne Appleyard's West End credits include the musicals 'Chicago' and 'Beautiful and Damned'. She also appeared in the film 'DeLovely'. Alex Giannini's numerous West End credits include 'The Graduate', 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest' and 'Journey's End'. He has also appeared at the National Theatre in 'Guys and Dolls' and Trevor Nunn's production of Tennessee Williams' 'Not About Nightingales' which also transferred to Broadway. Robin Sebastian has appeared as

Kenneth Williams in 'Round The Horne Revisited' in both the West End and on tour and his other theatre credits include 'Private Lives', 'Lady Windermere's Fan' and 'The Importance of Being Earnest'.

Direct from the West End, this multi-award winning musical is the winner of every major Best New Musical Award including the Laurence Olivier, Evening Standard and Critics Circle Awards as well as the most Tony Awards in Broadway history, a staggering 12 in total.

**THE PRODUCERS** has a book by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan with music and lyrics by Mel Brooks. It is directed and choreographed by Susan Stroman. Scenic design is by Robin Wagner, costume design by William Ivey Long, lighting by Peter Kaczorowski, sound design is by David Ogilvy and orchestration by Doug Besterman.

**THE PRODUCERS** is presented by David Ian Productions, Live Nation (Theatrical) UK, Ambassador Theatre Group and Rocco Landesman, Rick Steiner, The Baruch/Frankel/Viertel Group

**THE PRODUCERS** will show from 27 November to 8 December. Tickets range from £15 to £37.50. To book your tickets, contact the Wales Millennium Centre ticket and information office on 08700 40 2000 or visit: [www.wmc.org.uk](http://www.wmc.org.uk)

### **Ends**

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### **About WMC (www.wmc.org.uk)**

Wales Millennium Centre opened in November 2004 and is already establishing a reputation as one of the world's most iconic arts and cultural destinations and is an award-winning national symbol for Wales. WMC operates a diverse range of activities in the two main theatres, the 1,900 seat Donald Gordon Theatre and 250 seat Weston Studio. WMC also provides catering and retail services and has an extensive public programme that comprises education, community outreach, free performances and guided tours. WMC provides a creative home to seven of Wales's leading arts and cultural organisations, who in addition to creating their own work, contribute to all aspects of the Centre's programme.

WMC was built through generous support provided by the Welsh Assembly Government (£37 million), the Millennium Commission (a £30.7 million Lottery Grant) and the Arts Council of Wales Capital Lottery Fund (£9.8 million). In addition, £10 million was kindly donated by London-based, South African businessman, Sir Donald Gordon and as a result, the main auditorium is named after him for his generous support. WMC also receives annual revenue support from the Welsh Assembly Government.