

# Edinburgh casting call for young performers for *In the Willows*

Ahead of the Edinburgh run of explosive new British musical, local dancers will have the opportunity to take part in a free hip hop workshop and audition to join the cast on Scotland's biggest stage for the Festival Theatre shows.

Edinburgh audition date: Saturday 16 February, 2-3.30pm, The Studio (entrance at 22 Potterrow)

The day will begin with a free hip-hop dance workshop from leading dancer **Sheila Attah**, and will open into an audition format where young performers aged 17-25 will have the chance to be cast to star alongside actor / panto dame Clive Rowe, street dancer Chris Fonseca and some of the country's leading musical and hip-hop performers for the Edinburgh run of the show at the end of March.

This is an unpaid, voluntary opportunity.

The production is encouraging neurodiverse, D/deaf and disabled performers to apply, as the show will incorporate British Sign Language (BSL) into the choreography for a unified live experience for D/deaf and hearing audiences alike.

For full details about all of the regional workshops scheduled for the tour including the Edinburgh workshop: [www.mettatheatre.co.uk/workshops](http://www.mettatheatre.co.uk/workshops)

*Mole's first day in 'The Willows'. Her classmates look a bit scary. Surely Mr Badger will look out for her, as streetwise Rattie, rich kid Toad and cheeky Otter teach her the ways of The Riverbank. But when Toad gets locked up for joyriding, the Weasel Clan break into his (lily)pad. It's now only a matter of time before Chief Weasel reveals Mole's dark secret...*

Olivier award-winning actor, 'the nation's favourite pantomime dame', and star of BBC's *The Story of Tracey Beaker*, Clive Rowe (photographed above) will star as 'Mr Badger' in the UK tour of *In The Willows*. The cast also includes deaf street dancer Chris Fonseca ('Otter'), *Let It Shine* singer and performer Matt Knight as 'Chief Weasel', Katherine Picar as 'Bitchy Rabbit', and dancer Sean Moon as 'Snitchy Rabbit'. 'Twitchy Rabbit' and further casting to be announced soon.

*In The Willows* transforms Kenneth Grahame's well-loved tale into a thrilling new hip hop musical, written and directed by Poppy Burton-Morgan (*Jungle Book, UK & International Tour*), with music from award-winning composer Pippa Cleary (*The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Chocolate Factory; Prodigy, St James Theatre*) and groundbreaking hip-hop Composer Keiran Merrick, set and lighting design by William Reynolds, costume design by Ryan Dawson Laight (*Blak Whyte Gray, Barbican*), and with choreography from Rhimes Lecointe (Associate choreographer for Zoo Nation, and Artistic Director of Boadicea).

*In The Willows* is produced by Metta Theatre and Exeter Northcott Theatre, supported by the Arts Council Strategic Touring Fund.