

THE ACCLAIMED STAGE ADAPTATION OF
THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION
RETURNS TO TOUR THE UK FROM THIS AUTUMN
starring
JOE MCFADDEN, BEN ONWUKWE and BILL WARD



Bill Kenwright Ltd is delighted to announce that ***The Shawshank Redemption***, the acclaimed stage adaptation of Stephen King's 1982 novella *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption*, will return to theatres from this Autumn for a national UK tour beginning at The Theatre Royal Windsor from September 3.

Adapted by **Owen O'Neill** and **Dave Johns** and starring **Joe McFadden** in the role of the wrongly convicted Andy Dufresne, **Ben Onwukwe** as inmate Ellis "Red" Redding and **Bill Ward** as the corrupt prison warden Stammers, this thrilling staging examines desperation, injustice, friendship and hope behind the claustrophobic bars of a maximum-security facility.

Despite protests of his innocence, Andy Dufresne is handed a double life sentence for the brutal murder of his wife and her lover. Incarcerated at the notorious Shawshank facility, he quickly learns that no one can survive alone.

Andy strikes up an unlikely friendship with the prison fixer Red, and things take a slight turn for the better. However, when Warden Stammers decides to bully Andy into subservience and exploit his talents for accountancy, a desperate plan is quietly hatched...

The 1994 feature film of *The Shawshank Redemption*, starring Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman, was nominated for seven Academy Awards. It went on to become the one of the nation's favourite movies and a huge source of inspiration to film makers, with The National Film Registry citing the film as "culturally, historically, aesthetically significant".

Joe McFadden's television credits include *Sex, Chips & Rock'n'Roll*, PC Joe Mason in *Heartbeat* and Raf in *Holby City*. He competed in the 2017 season of *Strictly Come Dancing* winning the Glitterball Trophy with professional partner Katya Jones. On stage, recent credits include *2:22* at the Gielgud Theatre and UK tours of *The Rocky Horror Show* and Agatha Christie's *The Mirror Crack'd*.

Boasting a 30-year stage career, **Ben Onwukwe** has seen leading roles with the RSC and the Royal Court, as well as 11 years on TV as Recall McKenzie in *London's Burning* and, more recently, the role of Jackson Donckers in *Professor T*. He reprises his critically acclaimed performance as Ellis "Red" Redding in *The Shawshank Redemption*, which he first played in the production's 2016 tour.

Bill Ward is best known for his long-running performances as Charlie Stubbs in *Coronation Street* and James Barton in *Emmerdale*. Theatre credits include *Everyone's Talking About Jamie*, *Million Dollar Quartet* and *Spamalot* in the West End. Most recently he bared all as Gerald in the UK tour of *The Full Monty*.

The cast is completed by **Graham Elwell** (Bryan Hadley), **Ashley D Gayle** (Rooster), **Jeffrey Harmer** (Entwistle), **Kyle Harrison-Pope** (Tommy Williams), **Kenneth Jay** (Brooksie), **Sean Kingsley** (Bogs Diamond), **Fernando Mariano** (Rico), **Aein Nasser** (Nelson) and **Owen Oldroyd** (Dawkins).

TOUR DATES

2025

3 – 6 Sept	Windsor Theatre Royal	theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk
9-13 Sept	Darlington Hippodrome	darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk
16-20 Sept	Truro Hall for Cornwall	hallforcornwall.co.uk/
23 -27 Sept	Blackpool The Grand Theatre	blackpoolgrand.co.uk
30 Sept – 4 Oct	Belfast Grand Opera House	goh.co.uk
7 – 11 Oct	Manchester Home	homemcr.org/
13 – 18 Oct	Lichfield Garrick	lichfieldgarrick.com/
21 – 25 Oct	Hull New Theatre	hulltheatres.co.uk
4 – 8 Nov	New Brighton Floral Pavilion	floraltavern.com/

2026

14 – 17 Jan	Wales Millennium Centre	wmc.org.uk
20 – 24 Jan	Edinburgh Lyceum Theatre	lyceum.org.uk
27 – 31 Jan	Poole Lighthouse	lighthousepoole.co.uk
2 – 7 Feb	Bath Theatre Royal	theatreroyal.org.uk
24 – 28 Feb	Peterborough New Theatre	newtheatre-peterborough.com
17 – 21 Mar	Billingham Forum Theatre	forumtheatrebillingham.com
19 – 23 May	Leeds Grand Theatre	leedsheritagetheatres.com

FURTHER TOUR DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED

LISTINGS

Bill Kenwright Ltd

presents

THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION

UK Tour

Adapted for the stage by **Owen O'Neill** and **Dave Johns**

Based on the novella *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* by **Stephen King**

Directed by **David Esbjornson**

Associate Director **Tim Welton**

Design **Gary McCann**

Lighting Design **Chris Davey**

Sound Design **Andy Graham**

For more information, visit <https://www.kenwright.com/productions/shawshank-redemption-2025-tour/>

Social Media: @BKL_Productions