

James Freeman - Theatre Director

A highly creative and experienced theatre director and actor with over 30 years' involvement in productions throughout Staffordshire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire.

I've spent the last 15 years as a director transforming local productions into high-calibre theatrical events. My musical theatre portfolio spans the timeless charm of **'Oklahoma!'** and **'Fiddler on the Roof'** to the complex, modern demands of **'Titanic'** and **'The Hunchback of Notre Dame'**. I specialise in bridging the gap between amateur passion and the professional polish demanded by progressive theatrical companies and societies.

By combining creative rigour with a supportive leadership style, I empower casts and technical teams to exceed their own expectations. My mission is to deliver the highest possible standard on the local stage while ensuring the process remains inclusive, high-energy, and genuinely fun. I believe that when a company feels supported and inspired, that joy radiates across the footlights to the audience.

Directing Achievements:

Plays:

Humble Boy

Stoke Rep Theatre 2010 Stoke Rep Theatre Players

Five Blue Haired Ladies Sitting on a Green Park Bench

Stoke Rep Theatre 2011 Stoke Rep Theatre Players

The Herbal Bed

Stoke Rep Theatre 2013 Stoke Rep Theatre Players

My Boy Jack

Stoke Rep Theatre 2015 Stoke Rep Theatre Players

Mrs Warren's Profession

Stoke Rep Theatre 2018 Stoke Rep Theatre Players

Musical Theatre:

Jane Eyre

Stoke Rep Theatre 2010 Newcastle Operatic Society

Little Women

Stoke Rep Theatre 2011 Newcastle Operatic Society

Frankenstein

Stoke Rep Theatre 2012 Newcastle Operatic Society

The Addams Family

Stoke Rep Theatre 2014 Newcastle Operatic Society
Nominated 'Best Musical'
NODA West Midlands District 3

Me and My Girl

Stoke Rep Theatre 2015 Newcastle Operatic Society

Aspects of Love

Stoke Rep Theatre 2016 Newcastle Operatic Society

Jekyll & Hyde

Stoke Rep Theatre 2017 Newcastle Operatic Society
Winner 'Best Musical'
NODA West Midlands District 3

Barnum

Stoke Rep Theatre 2017 Newcastle Operatic Society

Titanic

Stoke Rep Theatre 2018 Newcastle Operatic Society

Chicago

Stoke Rep Theatre 2019 Newcastle Operatic Society

Oklahoma!

Stoke Rep Theatre 2019 Newcastle Operatic Society

Fiddler on the Roof

Stoke Rep Theatre 2021 Newcastle Operatic Society

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Stoke Rep Theatre 2022 Newcastle Operatic Society
Nominated 'Best Musical'
NODA West Midlands District 3

The Wind in the Willows

Stoke Rep Theatre 2022 Newcastle Operatic Society

Sunshine on Leith

Stoke Rep Theatre 2025 SYMTC
Nominated 'Best Youth Production'
NODA West Midlands District 3

Upcoming Productions:**The Witches of Eastwick**

Crewe Lyceum 2026 Acton Operatic Society

To Have and to Hold

Stoke Rep Theatre 2027 Stoke Rep Theatre Players

Dear Evan Hansen

Stoke Rep Theatre 2027 SYMTC

It's a Wonderful Life

Players Theatre 2027 Nantwich Players

Reviews:

"The scale of the production... shows what a remarkable and professional team the production team made – well done to James Freeman et al for bringing together such a large and talented ensemble cast to make this happen!" Review – Sunshine on Leith

"... A director at the helm with a depth of experience, meticulous attention to detail and a gift for bringing out the best in his actors." – Principal Teacher at Stoke Youth Musical Theatre Academy.

"Having spoken to Director James Freeman after the show to collectively compliment his and the cast's work, he's obviously passionate about theatre which is evident in his direction. Something I look for and please pass this on to your cast. They were all very much engaged in their performances, this really came across to the audience who lapped it up. Very well done!"
Review – 'Barnum'

"Director James Freeman had the most challenging of tasks bringing this legendary Goliath of the sea to the Rep's stage, utilising the theatre's revolve giving different aspects of his well-designed White Star Liner bridge and deck structure to view, which was very effective."
Review – 'Titanic.'

"I call to the stand Director James Freeman, sir I put it to you that you have brought to your audience a finely crafted, beautifully stylised slick professionally presented production, in doing so have called on all of your skills and forged a strong team of fellow like-minded artisans to bring forth one hell of a show, your honour... Guilty as charged..." Review – 'Chicago'.

"Director James Freeman's vision really came across, making good use of levels and grouping, he brought out some truly excellent performances from his strong cast, eking out the humour whenever available bringing a welcome contrast to the dire situation the people were on the brink of. I really enjoyed the "nightmare" scene in particular, a perfect example of this. " Review – 'Fiddler on the Roof.'

"Director James Freeman used the revolving stage to good effect, especially in the boating scenes. A fantastic split screen scene effect using a gauze, showing Weasel mayhem in Toad Hall, whilst our intrepid heroes are planning their attack." Review – 'The Wind in the Willows.'

"Director James Freeman did a fantastic job, making great use of the multi-level set, with great songs from Disney, beautifully presented. I particularly liked 'In a Place of Miracles', featuring Quasimodo, Esmeralda, Captain and Clopin which was lit to perfection." Review – 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame'

"Director James Freeman together with his production team... have put together a beautiful, funny and thoroughly enjoyable show. The Dream Ballet section was simply exquisite to watch, like a surreal magical blend of live action and animation, lit to perfection, the scenes were washed with colour, the intensity of the performances leapt from the stage. Yes it was THAT good." Review – Oklahoma!

