

A View on Access at the Apollo theatre, Shaftsbury Avenue, London
Everybody's talking about Jamie – The touch tour and audio described performance that took Place on February 20th 2018

Click [here](#) for the Audio.

The West end in London is renowned for its diverse choice of not only theatres but the entertainment on offer. Some stay the same yet others are constantly changing and with such a wide range of theatres, plays and musicals available I'd be crazy not to want to sample some of them and discover what is available in regard to touch tours and audio description.

On February the 20th I Visited the Apollo theatre on Shaftsbury avenue for 'Everybody's talking about Jamie' A spectacular new musical all about identity and staying true to who you really are and those who may stand against us. Put together and premiered in Sheffield based on a story visualised in a documentary about a 16 year old lad in Yorkshire who caused a storm by wanting to go to his school prom in a dress. With original songs and music by Jonathon Butterell, Dan Gilespeie of the feeling and Tom McRae.

A touch tour took place at 530 pm where a party of seven gathered in the foyer and were met by describers Ruth and Clare of Vocal eyes. We were led onto stage where some of the cast were waiting to meet us along with stage crew including the costume designer and production crew, Members of the cast including leading man John McCrae as Jamie, Tasmin Carroll – Miss Hedge, and Phil Nichol – Hugo chatted with us all highlighting parts of their costumes and talking in character. This was a wonderful addition to the tours as it made the characters more three dimensional creating pictures and structure in the mind and thus providing a better understanding.

The set was so realistic and structured covering so many elements with the ability to swing into different settings at a moment's notice, like a classroom, shop, dressing room and kitchen. We all got to explore all these aspects and touch and feel it all.

The touch tour was one of the most effective and well prepared experiences I've attended so far and was enjoyed by all those involved.

The introduction was made available online on the vocal eyes website before the performance and then repeated at 7.15 pm before the show began through the headsets provided. It was clear and defined giving a very structured insight into the sets, characters, actors and design elements.

Everybody's talking about Jamie is a very visual, artistic and colourful show conveyed on two levels with the band above and the action taking place below with neon cubes of light and clever swing sets than can transition from a classroom full of desk to a cosy chat in a bedroom with a sky light setting the mood.

It's those visuals that really do call for an audio description as well as it being a show with 19 characters that all act different, dress different and behave differently.

The audio description shared by Ruth and Clare of Vocal eyes was well scripted and slickly delivered from start to finish embodying an air of authority giving an audio illustration which was flawless and thoroughly enjoyable to listen to in the process. They packed in so much detail, at the same time never making it feel intrusive and letting the words work in harmony with the dialogue and soundscape of the production.

This really is a feel good show that is high energy, very funny and full of tender moments with some very catchy toe tapping songs and impressive dance sequences and comes highly recommended.

The Apollo is a very traditional old fashioned venue full of grace and beauty and although it's a bit of a tight squeeze in your seat from time to time this can be forgiven. The staff was very welcoming and helpful and the building was accessible with a disabled toilet close to the entrance of the auditorium.

Everybody's talking about Jamie is booking all year – keep checking vocaleyeyes.co.uk for details of the next audio described performance and touch tour which will be scheduled soon.

For more information on the show either email to ask when their next AD performance is to access@nimaxtheatre's.com or visit

everybodystalkingaboutjamie.co.uk and follow on twitter
[@jamiemusical](https://twitter.com/jamiemusical)