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## West End Eurovision 2019 – Adelphi Theatre

By [Admin](#) on Thursday, 2 May, 2019 in [Onstage](#), [Review](#)



The cast of *The Phantom of the Opera* perform at West End Eurovision. *Picture: Gaz Sherwood PBG studios.com*

**West End Eurovision 2019** at the Adelphi Theatre, London.

This year **West End Eurovision** saw seven West End shows compete (using original songs from the *Eurovision Song Contest*), while entertaining a lively audience and panel of celebrity judges.

It was pretty impressive that the acts were able to stun the audience – from the side-splitting (***Only Fools and Horses The Musical***) to the soul-stirring (***The Phantom of the Opera***) – on top of continuing their typical seven-shows-a-week schedule.

With audience votes equating to £1 donations, the focal point of the night was to raise funds for the Make a Difference Trust, to support HIV and AIDS projects in the UK and Sub-Saharan Africa.

The production opened with a countdown of past West End Eurovisions, parodying the excessive build-up to TV competitions like *X Factor* and *Britain's Got Talent*.

'Fierce' competition was rife amongst the acts and audience members alike, and it was this energy that made West End Eurovision such a good watch.

The involvement of Graham Norton, celebrity judges like Bonnie Langford and Wayne Sleep, and the iconic 1998 Eurovision winner Dana International also made it a great night of entertainment from the get-go.



he more comedic acts ranged from the tinfoil-esque costumes and shouty vocals of ***Only Fools and Horses The Musical*** to the sass and explosive gymnastic routine from ***Everybody's Talking About Jamie's*** Layton Williams.

However, precision and professionalism were favoured by the judges. A slick three-woman performance from ***Follies*** and the brooding silhouettes and soaring vocals of 'Grande Amore' from ***The Phantom of the Opera*** gained the best comments and standing ovations from the audience.

Alternatively, ***Wicked's*** performance of 'Wild Dances' was perhaps the most provocative. Draped in red cloaks and white bonnets to emulate women in *The Handmaid's Tale*, strong vocals and choreography were abundant with powerful leaps and spins.

The show's cast threatened to upstage ***Phantom of the Opera***, but in the end it was the latter who came out on top with 88 collective points, winning the contest for the second year in a row.

The novelty of ***West End Eurovision*** is expecting the unexpected. With the casts taking on *Eurovision* songs and adapting them to fit their essence – whether that be the slapstick comedy of ***Only Fools and Horses The Musical*** or the spectacle that is ***Phantom of the Opera*** – it is refreshing to see something new from West End productions both old and new.

***Jessica Lochan-Jenkinson***

*This was the first time in the nine-year history of West End Eurovision that the top prize has been won by the same show in successive years.*

***The Phantom of the Opera*** was also awarded the new Outstanding Gorgeousness prize, judged by award winning set and costume designer Fly Davies and Jamie Campbell, whose story inspired ***Everybody's Talking About Jamie***.

*The Best Creative prize – decided by the judging panel of West End star Bonnie Langford; dancer, choreographer, director and actor Wayne Sleep; Blue Peter legend Tim Vincent; and Love Island winner Amber Davies (currently playing Judy Bernly in ***9 to 5*** at the Savoy Theatre) – went to the cast of ***Wicked*** performing 'Wild Dances'.*

*The third trophy of the night, theBest Ident, voted for by public text vote, was won by **Everyone's Talking About Jamie.***