



For nearly two decades, Les Misérables has played at the Palace Theatre in London's West End. Recently, with the theatre in need of repair, the entire production moved from the Palace to the smaller Queen's Theatre down the road.

The necessity of the move, however, did give producer Cameron Mackintosh the chance to revamp the 18-year-old production. In doing so, he reunited the entire original creative team that includes lighting designer David Hersey, sound designer Andrew Bruce, and designer John Napier. "Nearly 20 years on, it is a wonderful opportunity for every department in Les Misérables to create the show afresh at the Queen's using revolutionary technology," says Mackintosh.



Andrew Bruce

The size of the new venue presented challenges for all departments but also allowed the inventiveness of the production team to come to the fore. The costume department had little time to make any major changes as the production was still running at the Palace in the evenings while rehearsals were taking place at the Queen's during the day.

The Sound designer Autograph's Andrew Bruce have decided to change the main sound system to LDS speakers. The system comprises of LDS800 ribbon loudspeakers, stacked four high (almost from floor to ceiling) with an additional two in the gallery.



The barricade is built and the revolutionaries defy an army warning that they must give up or die. Gavroche exposes Javert as a police spy. In trying to return to the barricade Eponine is shot and killed. Valjean arrives at the barricades in search of Marius. He is given the chance to kill Javert, but instead lets him go.

The cabinets are a diversion from Autograph's usual choice of Meyers and are totally integrated into the part of the set that forms the proscenium and, along with the rest of the audio install, are all but invisible to the audience.

Andrew Bruce also notes that the LDS800s have been so successful that the remaining Meyer stalls delays are not actually used.

By moving the production and reuniting the original creative team, Mackintosh injected a new life into the production and allowed the design team to realize visions that only advances in time and technology could allow.