

WHEN MIDNIGHT STRIKES

Book and Lyrics by
Kevin Hammonds
Music by
Charles Miller

*"This is ensemble theatre at it's very best...
I can sum this show up in one word - Brilliant!"*

Steve Stubbs
BackStage Pass



Plays To See



Jonathan Baz



Backstage Pass



Ham & High



The Public Reviews



One Stop Arts

When Midnight Strikes Synopsis

New York, New Year's Eve 1999 - the dawn of a new millennium - and Jennifer West's intimate dinner party for close friends and family begins to fall apart upon the discovery that her husband has been having an affair. To make matters worse, she realizes that the unknown mistress is one of eleven party guests. As the hosts confront their unraveling marriage, new resolutions, past mistakes, and an uncertain future merge into an explosive and life-altering evening.

Kevin Hammonds' book is in turn hilarious and moving, the plot keeping the audience on tenterhooks until the finale. With a score by Charles Miller packed with original show-stopping songs, *When Midnight Strikes* gives a remarkably accurate sense of the brittle gaiety of a New Year party, with all the tensions so often seething beneath the surface.

What the Critics said about When Midnight Strikes:

Critic's Choice – Time Out
Critic's Choice – Sunday Express
***** Plays To See
***** Jonathan Baz
**** Time Out
**** Evening Standard
**** What's On Stage
**** The Public Reviews
**** LBC
**** MusicOMH
**** Ham & High
**** Backstage Pass
Best Musical Nomination The Offies for 2014

"In the parched environment of original indigenous new musicals in London, WHEN MIDNIGHT STRIKES offers a genuine wake-up call for the homegrown musical, proving that it's still possible to be musically adventurous and offer audiences things that they are not, for once, already familiar with. Literate, witty songs that inform and illuminate character attached to a book that creates believable situations and conflict"

"a welcome brand-new staging of WHEN MIDNIGHT STRIKES... A very strong ensemble cast of 12 strike musical theatre gold with... I wish more theatres did new & recent shows."

Mark Shenton
Theatre Critic for Sunday Express

"When Midnight Strikes offers a musical treat, albeit one for those who appreciate acerbic songs with a twist of Sondheim and an ability to smash through the thin ice of social nicety. Yet one of the many strengths of this sophisticated new show from the increasingly impressive pairing of Charles Miller and Kevin Hammonds is that the whole thing wouldn't collapse even if the songs were removed, so well drawn are the characters... An enterprising producer would do well to take a closer look."

Fiona Mountford, Evening Standard

“When Midnight Strikes is a well-executed new musical which manages to maintain tension and suspense.”

“...an intriguing musical with a clever whodunnit structure.”

**Rebecca Gordon,
Musical Theatre Review**

“This is ensemble theatre at it's very best... I can sum this show up in one word - Brilliant!”

“Don't wait for midnight to strike to get a ticket as they will sell out quick, go and see without delay! Fingers crossed it transfers to the West End as soon as possible...”

“...the interval conversations in the bar are rife with guesses of who it could be, which just goes to show the power and thought-provoking piece this is.”

“When Midnight Strikes is a very welcome addition to the London theatre scene, and I am delighted it is here, because it means new writing gets to be performed by a cast and creative team who are there to entice and excite, and audiences are in for treat.”

“a beautifully thought out piece of work”

**Steve Stubbs
BackStage Pass**

“At a time when the future of the new British musical is bemoaned, it is a wonder that this score isn't better known. Miller marries a pop sensibility to the rigours of a book musical and has produced something that flows with a vibrancy and urgency through Hammonds' story, hooking us in with swirling balladry, perky comedic numbers, and a genuine sense of the storytelling power of this form.”

**Ian Foster,
The Public Reviews**

“...a stellar performance... a sexy whodunit”

TikiChris

“Kevin Hammonds' Book is witty and engaging and at times quite moving, while his delicately constructed lyrics are perfectly adorned by Charles Miller's highly melodic score. The songs not only work perfectly within the piece, advancing the plot and developing character but also stand out in their own right, leaving the listener wanting to hear them again... A genuinely classy, fresh, articulate musical with a score that leaves you wanting more.”

BroadwayWorld.com

“hilarious and wonderfully executed”

Isabelle Coy-Dibley, PlaysToSee.com

“In When Midnight Strikes London-based Charles Miller and New York-based Kevin Hammonds have borrowed the baton from the likes of Sondheim and created a rare thing - a witty and entertaining piece of musical theatre that is also a treat for the brain. It's enough to restore one's faith in the genre!”

“...the music carries much of the emotion of the piece which is touching, intriguing and sometimes hilarious”

The British Theatre Guide

“For musical lovers out there it is definitely not worth missing”

What’s Peen Seen

“The musical intertwines humour, satire and bitter heartbreak with a dénouement ending.”

Isabelle Coy-Dibley, PlaysToSee.com

“The skill that Hammonds displays, in segueing so effortlessly from hilarity to heartbreak is a rare craft indeed and almost suggests a mash up of Stephen Sondheim with Edward Albee”

“If you like your romance wry, with just a twist of bitter irony, then there are few finer shows to be found in London... One can offer no criticism at all.”

Jonathan Baz

“Wilford dazzled as she sang her character’s heartbreak.”

“A great stage team, not to mention a fantastic cast.”

Tiki Chris

“When Midnight Strikes is a really neat package – convincing performances, powerful voices, catchy tunes and flawless costuming”

Pete Stean, Londoneer.com

“Matt Ramplin’s musical direction wisely keeps the orchestra to his piano and Marta Tobar’s cello and together, they create a glorious sound.”

Ian Foster, The Public Reviews

“The skill that Hammonds displays, in segueing so effortlessly from hilarity to heartbreak is a rare craft indeed and almost suggests a mash up of Stephen Sondheim with Edward Albee”

“These songs are unusually tuneful and completely appropriate and beautifully sung by the 12-strong cast”

“Miller is a musical magician producing brilliant numbers”

Aline Waites, Ham & High