

# ALONDON

The Magazine for Israelis in London

# עלונדון

## FROM TEL AVIV TO BOLLYWOOD

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Remember the name Shimi Goodman. A young talented Israeli actor who is destined to take over the West End stage. He has all you need: he is handsome, he sings and he is covering the lead part in the musical *Bombay Dreams*. The musical is due to close soon but Shimi already has his eyes on a lead part in *Chicago*.

Shimi Goodman (26), the Tel Aviv born actor is busy performing an almost impossible mission. After training for 3 years at the Guildford School of Acting and perfecting his British accent he has to swap it for an Indian one. Our exotic actor has been playing on the West End stage for 1 year in Andrew Lloyd Webber's production of the musical *Bombay Dreams* about a slum boy from Mumbai, who turns to be a big star in the Bollywood film industry. Goodman has a part in the ensemble and is the understudy for the lead part.

His banker parents always encouraged him to pursue a serious profession. His performing dreams were on hold, while he studied at a technical school. During his service in the Israeli Army he received a special permission to develop his showbiz ambitions. After taking part in shows such as *Pinocchio* and *Carmen- a Rock Opera* with "Chich's Neighbours" he packed his bags and relocated to London. On graduating from GSA he appeared in several off West End musicals and also did some modelling. After six recalls he was offered the part in *Bombay Dreams*.



Shimi's dream: A lead part in the West End (from *Bombay Dreams*).

**How many shows a week do you perform?**Eight, three being matinees. Monday is my day off.

**When do you play the lead?**Whenever the actor who plays it is off on holiday or ill.

**At the end of the month an adaptation of *Bombay Dreams* is transferring to Broadway. Were you offered a part?**Unfortunately not, in the US production they auditioned a new American cast.

**How do you get on in the company being Israeli?**It's not a problem. There are many foreigners in the company from Italy, Spain and the US. We all get on very well.

**Do you get recognised by the audience as an Israeli?** I get a lot of Israelis coming to the stage door after the show to congratulate me on my performance. I get quite a lot of emails and fan letters.

**What do you do on you day off?**Get a good rest, decorate my new flat, meet with my friends and go to the theatre.

**What's next in the pipe line?**I have a good agent who sends me to auditions. I would love to be in the *Phantom of the Opera* or *Les Miserables*. So far I have auditioned for *Chicago* and I am waiting for an answer.



**Shimi Goodman - Hopes to get into *Chicago*.**