

Sally Greene OBE



Sally Greene is an entrepreneur in the entertainment and arts field.

Her career began when she bought the lease of the Richmond Theatre from her father, Basil Greene in 1986. In 1998, having saved The Old Vic from closure, she formed The Old Vic Theatre Trust with Stephen Daldry and in 2003 she formed the Old Vic Theatre Company.

Sally Greene is the founder of Greene Light Stage and co-producer of the Tony Award-winning *Billy Elliot: the Musical*. In 2007 she also launched Greene Light Films.

Sally is the proprietor of the world-famous Soho jazz club, Ronnie Scott's. In 2004, Sally also opened the Cheyne Walk Brasserie in Chelsea, once voted restaurant of the year by Harper's Magazine and in 2019 it reopened as No. Fifty Cheyne.

Sally Greene is the recipient of an OBE and a Montblanc Arts and Culture Award, in recognition of her contribution to the arts in Britain. Sally has dedicated much of her career to supporting and promoting charitable causes, many of them aimed at youth and education in the arts. She is a Trustee of the Old Vic Theatre Trust, Criterion Theatre Trust, Ronnie Scott's Charitable Foundation and the London Music Fund.

PROFESSIONAL TITLES

Founding Trustee of Old Vic Theatre Trust 2000

Founding Director of The Old Vic Theatre Company

Managing Director and Trustee of the Criterion Theatre Trust

Founder of Greene Light Stage Plc

Chief Executive of Greene Light Films Ltd

Proprietor of Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club

Proprietor of No. Fifty Cheyne Restaurant

Trustee of Ronnie Scott's Charitable Foundation

Trustee of London Music Fund

CRITERION THEATRE

In 1992 Sally took over the Criterion Theatre, which had been dark for three years. She led the refurbishment, raising the money needed to completely restore this 150-year-old historical building on Piccadilly Circus.

When it reopened in 1993 critics called it the jewel in the crown of theatres, dubbing it the prettiest theatre in London. Sir John Gielgud and Richard Briers reopened it with a short film directed by Kenneth Branagh entitled *Swansong*. The film was nominated for an Oscar in the short film category and was shot as the restoration took place.

Sally also turned the Criterion Theatre into a Charitable Trust. In September 2010, Stephen Fry was appointed as the new Chairman, bringing a unique combination of skills to the role, with his wealth of experience as a writer, actor, comedian, presenter and director.

CRITERION PRODUCTIONS PLC

In 1993 Sally formed a production company to supply the West End with exciting and innovative productions. The company was launched under a Business Expansion Scheme and Lord Attenborough Chaired the company until 2007. In 1993 it attracted 200 investors, and the company began to produce plays in the West End, on tour in Great Britain and on Broadway.





THE OLD VIC

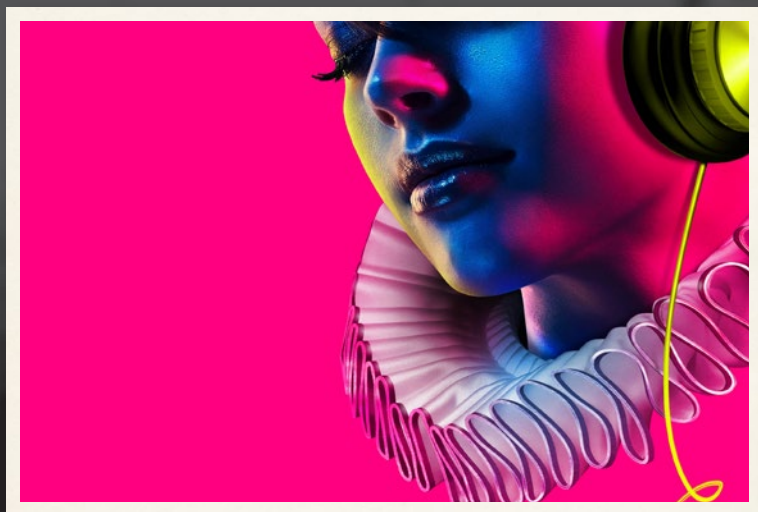
In 1998 after a plea by Lord Smith, who was Minister for the Arts at the time, Sally stepped in to save The Old Vic Theatre from closure. She revitalised the theatre, forming a Charitable Trust and asking Lord Alex Bernstein to chair it. Within four months she had raised £1.5 million towards the purchase price of £3.5 million. Over the next two years she raised a further £2.5 million to transfer ownership of the Theatre from the Canadian entrepreneur, Ed Mirvish into the charitable trust.

Sally formed a spectacular Board – Lord Attenborough, Michael Bloomberg, Sir Richard Eyre, Stephen Daldry CBE, Lady de Rothschild and Dame Judi – to help reinvigorate arguably one of the most famous theatres in the world. In 2002 she persuaded Sir Elton John to take up the Chairmanship of the Theatre after Lord Bernstein resigned.

In 2003, Sally drew upon her powers of persuasion and convinced Academy award-winning actor Kevin Spacey to become the Artistic Director of The Old Vic. The first season under Kevin Spacey's direction took place in 2004 and his 11 year tenure ended in 2015 when acclaimed British director Matthew Warchus took up the post. Matthew's seasons have featured wide ranging and daring works including Olivier and Tony nominated new musical *Groundhog Day* and Glenda Jackson's return to stage after 25 years in *King Lear*.

In 2017, The Old Vic completed the first steps in a transformational programme of investment and renewal. An ambitious £16 million multi-phased capital building project with a goal to transform the audience experience, educate and inspire the next generation and unlock new audiences and income streams, allowing it to move towards a more sustainable model of self-reliance.

In 2018 The Old Vic celebrated its 200th birthday, an opportunity to celebrate the vibrant, ever-evolving British institution. Unsurprisingly it has recently been hailed as 'London's most eclectic and frequently electrifying theatre'.



GREENE LIGHT STAGE

In 1999 Sally re-launched Criterion Productions, renaming it Old Vic Productions plc (OVP). OVP co-produced or partnered in more than 100 productions in the West End and on Broadway. In 2016, to mark the end of OVP's partnership with the Old Vic Theatre, Sally re-launched the company as Greene Light Stage (GLS) to bring it in line with her film company.

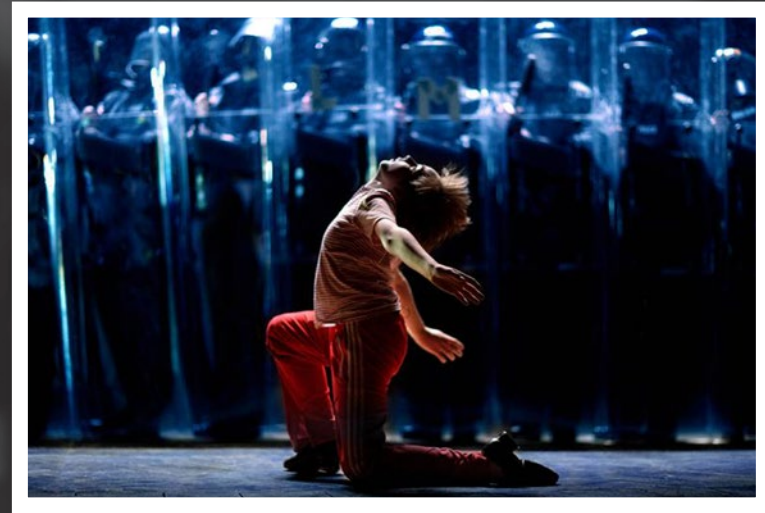
Sally was instrumental in the creation of *Billy Elliot: The Musical* in a co-production with Working Title/Universal and it continues to be GLS's most successful show to date. It garnered a staggering 14 industry awards in the first ten months of opening and the London show recouped in under a year. The show opened in Sydney, Australia in December 2007 to widespread critical acclaim, winning 8 prestigious Helpmann Awards. In November 2008 it opened on Broadway where it received an overwhelming 15 Tony nominations, and won 10. It has since toured extensively in both the UK and US.

GLS has produced, co-produced or managed over 100 shows ranging from musicals to contemporary and classic drama in the West End, on Broadway and on tour, including: *Taking Sides*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *The Reduced Shakespeare Company*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *The Weir*, *Car Man*, *Medea*, *Life(x)3*, *Benefactors*, *Elaine Stritch: At Liberty*, *Macbeth*, *Sexual Perversity in Chicago* and *Hamlet*. Recent GLS productions include *The Go-Between*, *The Mentalists*, the transfer of Hampstead Theatre's hit production of *Good People*, *The Pajama Game* directed by

Richard Eyre, *Private Lives* starring Toby Stephens and Anna Chancellor, *Passion Play* starring Zoë Wanamaker and Samantha Bond, *Sweeney Todd* starring Michael Ball and Imelda Staunton, *Noises Off*, *Clybourne Park*, *Jerusalem* starring Mark Rylance, *The Prisoner of Second Avenue* starring Jeff Goldblum, *Three Days of Rain* starring James McAvoy, *Swimming with Sharks* starring Christian Slater and Matt Smith, *Big Fish* starring Kelsey Grammer, *Glengarry Glen Ross* starring Christian Slater, *The Wider Earth* and new musical *&Juliet*, featuring music from acclaimed songwriter and producer Max Martin.

Previously, GLS produced in association with The Old Vic Theatre Company: *High Society*, *Electra*, *The Crucible*, *Clarence Darrow*, *Other Desert Cities*, *Fortune's Fool*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Sweet Bird of Youth*, *The Winslow Boy*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Democracy*, *The Duchess of Malfi*, *The Playboy of the Western World*, *Cause Célèbre*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Design for Living*, *The Real Thing*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Complicit*, *The Norman Conquests*, *Speed the Plough*, *All About My Mother*, *Gaslight* and *The Entertainer*.

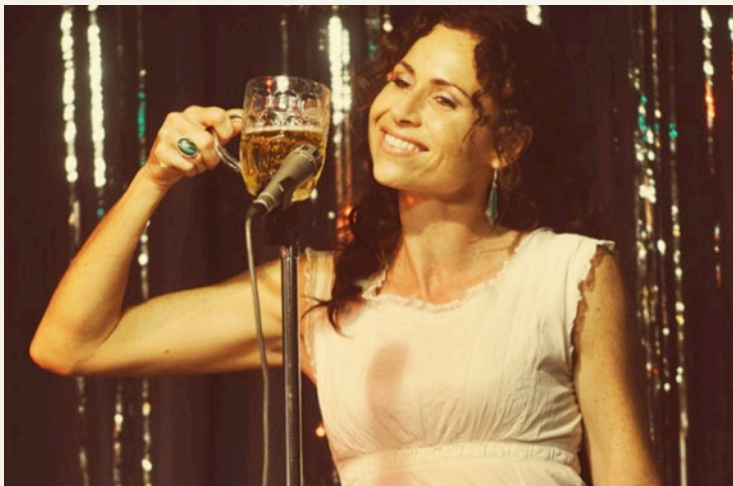
In 2016, Greene Light Stage began a new venture called Rocket Stage – a theatre production company co-founded by Elton John and David Furnish in partnership with Sally Greene. Rocket Stage is focused on developing and bringing to the stage live theatre projects that are either driven by Elton's existing musical catalogue or by new compositions from Elton and chosen collaborators. Currently, the company has several theatrical projects in development both in the US and the UK.



Photograph by Craig Sugden



Player



Hunky Dory

GREENE LIGHT FILMS

Greene Light Films (GLF) was established in 2007 with the intention for the Greene empire to utilise the creative relationships that have been formed and cemented through the work completed by the Sally's theatre companies.

PLAYER

GLF's first short film *Player* (directed by Mary Nighy, written by Sam Hodges and starring Pete Postlethwaite, Sam Hodges, Celia Imrie and Haydn Gwynne), was nominated for Best Short Film at the 2008 Raindance Film Festival and won Best Director at the 2009 St. Petersburg International Youth Film Festival.

HUNKY DORY

GLF's first feature film *Hunky Dory* (starring Minnie Driver) premiered at the London Film Festival in October 2011 and was released in March 2012.

DESERT DANCER

GLF has co-produced Richard Raymond's debut feature film *Desert Dancer* starring Freida Pinto, Reece Ritchie, Tom Cullen and Nazanin Boniadi. *Desert Dancer* opened the Santa Barbara film festival in January 2015.

JOAN & JACKIE

GLF is an executive producer for the upcoming Sony Pictures Television series based on the lives of Joan and Jackie Collins, to be written by award winning playwright Penelope Skinner.



Double Take

FREIDA PINTO
REECE RITCHIE

BASED ON AN INSPIRING TRUE STORY

DESERT DANCER

BE BRAVE. BE BOLD. BE FREE.

LOREM NOSTRUD PRESENTS A DOLOR AMET PRODUCTION A CORPER SUSCIPIT FILM CONSECTUER TUER "AUTEM VENISIT" LOBORTIS NISIL MAGNA MINIM
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RONNIE SCOTT'S JAZZ CLUB

In 2005, Sally became the owner of world renowned jazz club Ronnie Scott's, in the heart of Soho, London. Her acquisition of the club was further testament to her unfailing commitment to the sympathetic restoration and rejuvenation of some of the capital's most iconic establishments. Jacques Garcia, the famous designer of the award-winning Hôtel Costes in Paris, headed the design team and Ronnie Scott's re-opened on June 26, 2006 following a major £2.5 million and three-month refurbishment to unanimous praise.

Ronnie Scott's has played host to some of the greatest musicians in the world: Miles Davis, Dizzie Gillespie, Nina Simone, Ella Fitzgerald and Buddy Rich. Furthermore, since 2006, the club has continued to host some of the biggest contemporary jazz names including Wynton Marsalis, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Tony Bennett and Kenny Garrett, as well as giants from the world of blues, rock and soul such as Van Morrison, Jeff Beck, Ronnie Wood, Macy Gray, Jools Holland as well as Hollywood royalty, Johnny Depp.

In 2014 The Ronnie Scotts All Stars took part in the 'Zermatt Unplugged' festival, bringing its presence to the jaw dropping Alpine vistas of Switzerland. The festival presents singer-songwriters, bands and young talent from all over the world.

Also in 2014, Ronnie Scott's hosted the international star Prince, who played four intimate shows at the club over two evenings. Prince played back to back shows to allow as many of his queuing fans to see him perform as possible. The show created widespread excitement amongst celebrity fans too, and the likes of Kate Moss, Cara Delevigne, Adele and Rita Ora attended. In 2015 Lady Gaga played an impromptu gig at Ronnie Scott's after her keenly-awaited Royal Albert Hall gig was unexpectedly cancelled.

In 2019 Ronnie Scott's will celebrate its 60th birthday. The club has become internationally renowned as the place for jazz in London, honouring legends of the past while simultaneously promoting hotly-tipped rising stars, visionary artists and the next big thing.



NO. FIFTY CHEYNE

Sally Greene is the owner of the much loved Chelsea eatery No. Fifty Cheyne (formerly known as the Cheyne Walk Brasserie), which celebrated its 10th anniversary in September 2014 and was once voted restaurant of the year by Harper's Magazine.

At the end of 2018 Cheyne Walk Brasserie underwent a complete renovation and opened in 2019 as new restaurant and cocktail bar, No. Fifty Cheyne. It is overseen by former Social Eating House and Sosharu head chef Iain Smith.



CHARITABLE WORK

- Major supporter of the NSPCC's crucial FULL STOP campaign
- Major supporter of the Elton John AIDS Foundation, one of the foremost independent AIDS charities in the world
- Continuous supporter of Cancer Backup, a charity that offers advice and information on cancer treatment, symptoms and diagnosis, provided by some of the UK's leading specialists. Cancer Backup has now merged with Macmillan
- Trustee for the London Music Fund, an independent charity which offers grants to young, underprivileged children across London to develop their musical potential
- Trustee for Ronnie Scott's Charitable Foundation, which sponsors young musicians both in the UK and around the world

AWARDS

Sally is the recipient of an OBE and a Montblanc Arts and Culture Award, in recognition of her contribution to the arts in Britain.



**THE
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VIC**



NO. FIFTY
CHEYNE