

BARNFORD PRODUCTIONS LIMITED



NEWS RELEASE

DATE

## **‘Mersey Moon’ musical set to shine this February**

A new stage musical by two Merseyside songwriters is set to make its debut in February 2025 at the Floral Pavilion in New Brighton.

‘Under the Mersey Moon’ tells the story of a struggling country musician from Liverpool who is inspired by his ailing grandfather to embark on a make-or-break trip to Nashville in the hope of being discovered. The trip proves a very different journey of discovery, as he learns things about his grandfather and himself that eventually turn his life around.

The two songwriters behind the musical are Jimmy Rae and Pete Davies, both well known to local roots and acoustic music fans through their respective duos, Tennessee Waltz and The Good Intentions.

Liverpool-born Pete is also known to followers of Granada TV’s landmark ‘Up’ documentary series, which has followed his life, along with that of 13 other children born the same year, since 1964.

The musical includes 13 original songs which will be performed by a 10-strong cast of local acting talent, including Merseyside radio legend Billy Butler and his actress wife Lesley, backed by a live six-piece band on stage.

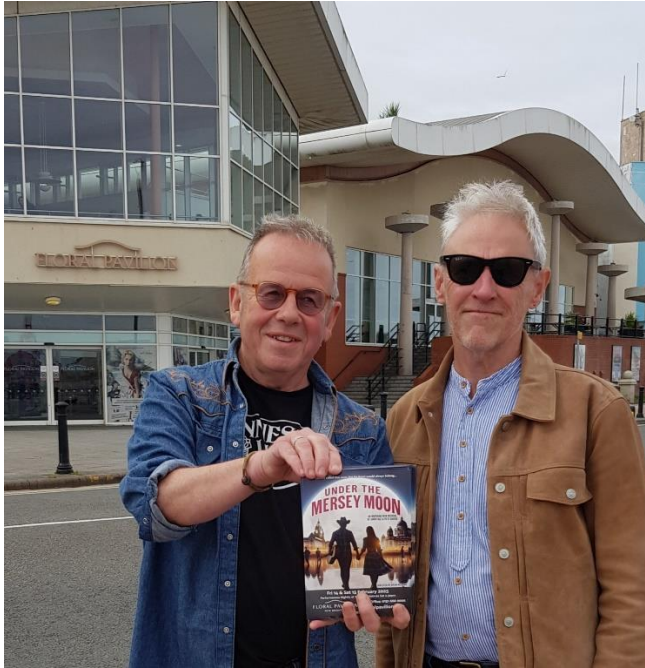
Wirral-born Jimmy Rae says the show is an exciting new venture for the two writers, having performed together in the past but never collaborated on a stage musical before. “Pete and I had been talking about writing a musical together for a few years” he said, “and then last year we just decided to stop talking and get on with it! We really enjoyed conjuring up the characters and the storyline and then the script itself took about six months to write. We are so excited to think that the show will make its debut here on Merseyside and we hope that this short run will just be the start, and we can take it on to other theatres around the region, including Liverpool of course!”

Pete Davies added: “I’ve spent the last couple of years writing my first novel ‘Valediction Records’ which was published earlier this year, which was really satisfying but quite a lonely process. Writing with Jimmy was great fun because we both had a shared vision of how we wanted the story to take shape and we were excitedly bouncing ideas off each other right from the start. I like to think we’ve crafted something really special, with the right mix of emotion and humour to appeal to local theatre lovers.”

Directed by Birkenhead's Brian McCann, Under the Mersey Moon will be performed on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February at the Floral Pavilion Blue Lounge in New Brighton at 7.30pm with a matinee at 2.30pm on Saturday 15th. Tickets are just £25 from the Floral Pavilion Box Office (tel: 0151 666 0000 or [www.floralpavilion.com](http://www.floralpavilion.com)) and you can find more information about the show at [www.merseymoon.com](http://www.merseymoon.com).

**ENDS**

**For more information contact Jimmy Rae on 07919 156432.**



**PHOTO: Jimmy Rae (left) and Pete Davies, co-writers of UNDER THE MERSEY MOON outside the Floral Pavilion, New Brighton.**