



List of the longest-running West End shows



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This is a list of long running shows (3,000 performances or more) in the West End, a well known professional theatre district in London.

List

Unless otherwise states, the number of performances listed is for the original West End production of the show. **M** denotes a musical, **P** denotes a straight play, **R** denotes a revue, **D** denotes a dance musical, and **S** denotes a special case. An asterisk indicates an announced closing date for a currently-running show. All currently-running shows are updated as of 8 January 2018, unless otherwise stated.

#	Title	Genre	Opening date	Closing date	Performances	Comment
1	<u><i>The Mousetrap</i></u>	P	25 November 1952		27,174	<p>Currently running at the <u>St. Martin's Theatre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 October 1952 – Production premiere at the <u>Theatre Royal, Nottingham</u> 25 November 1952 – Opened in the West End at the <u>New Ambassadors Theatre</u> 13 September 1957 – Longest-running West End play 12 April 1958 – Longest-running West End show overall, 2239 performances 9 December 1964 – 5,000 performances 23 March 1974 – Closed for 2 days to transfer to the St. Martin's Theatre, retaining <i>initial run</i> status 17 December 1976 – 10,000 performances 16 December 2000 – 20,000 performances 18 November 2012 - 25,000 performances 1965 & 1999 – Sets, costumes and props replaced
2	<u><i>Les Misérables</i></u>	M	8 October 1985		13,341	<p>Currently running at the <u>Queen's Theatre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opened at the Royal Shakespeare Company's Barbican Theatre. Transferred to the Palace Theatre on the West End on 5 December 1985. Transferred to the Queen's Theatre in April 2004, where it is still running.
3	<u><i>The Phantom of the Opera</i></u>	M	9 October 1986		13,008	Currently running at <u>Her Majesty's Theatre</u>
4	<u><i>The Woman in Black</i></u>	P	7 June 1989		11,704	Currently running at <u>Fortune Theatre</u>
5	<u><i>Blood Brothers</i></u>	M	28 July 1988	10 November 2012	10,013	
6	<u><i>Cats</i></u>	M	11 May 1981	11 May 2002	8,949	Opened in London at the <u>New London Theatre</u>

#	Title	Genre	Opening date	Closing date	Performances	Comment
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The show closed on its 21st anniversary, where it was broadcast in <u>Covent Garden</u> for those who couldn't acquire a ticket It held the record for longest running West End Musical for four years before it was overtaken by <i>Les Misérables</i>, the current record holder.
7	<u>Mamma Mia!</u>	M	6 April 1999		7,871	<p>Currently running at <u>Novello Theatre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the longest running jukebox musical Opened at the <u>Prince Edward Theatre</u> Moved to the <u>Prince of Wales Theatre</u> on 9 June 2004 Moved to Novello Theatre in September 2012
8	<u>The Lion King</u>	M	19 October 1999		7,634	Currently running at <u>Lyceum Theatre</u>
9	<u>Starlight Express</u>	M	27 March 1984	12 January 2002	7,406	
10	<u>No Sex Please, We're British</u>	P	3 June 1971	16 January 1987	6,761	
11	<u>Stomp</u>	D	25 September 2002	7 January 2018	6,512	<p>Opened at the <u>Vaudeville Theatre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved to the <u>Ambassadors Theatre</u> on 27 September 2007
12	<u>Chicago</u>	M	18 October 1997	1 September 2012	6,187	<p>This is the longest running revival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show opened at the <u>Adelphi Theatre</u> Moved to the <u>Cambridge Theatre</u> in April 2006 Moved to the <u>Garrick Theatre</u> in November 2011
13	<u>Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story</u>	M	12 October 1989	3 March 2002	5,140	<p>Opened at the <u>Victoria Palace Theatre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved to the <u>Strand Theatre</u> (now the <u>Novello Theatre</u>) in October 1995
14	<u>Wicked</u>	M	27 September 2006		4,746	Currently running at <u>Apollo Victoria Theatre</u>

#	Title	Genre	Opening date	Closing date	Performances	Comment
15	<i><u>We Will Rock You</u></i>	M	25 September 2002	31 May 2014	4,659	
16	<i><u>Billy Elliot the Musical</u></i>	M	11 May 2005	9 April 2016	4,566	
17	<i><u>Miss Saigon</u></i>	M	20 September 1989	30 October 1999	4,264	
18	<i><u>Jersey Boys</u></i>	M	18 March 2008	26 March 2017	3,787	
19	<i><u>Thriller - Live</u></i>	R	26 January 2009		3,745	Currently running at <u>Lyric Theatre</u>
20	<i><u>The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)</u></i>	P	7 March 1996	3 April 2005	3,744	
21	<i><u>The 39 Steps</u></i>	P	14 September 2006	5 September 2015	3,731 ^[note 1]	
22	<i><u>Jesus Christ Superstar</u></i>	M	9 August 1972	23 August 1980	3,357	
23	<i><u>Me and My Girl</u></i>	M	12 February 1985	16 January 1993	3,303	This is a revival of the 1937 musical.
24	<i><u>Evita</u></i>	M	21 June 1978	18 February 1986	3,176 ^[note 2]	

Oh! Calcutta! which opened in the West End on 30 September 1970 and closed in either January or February 1980, would have approximately 3,800 performances, but no closing date is known, so proper ranking cannot be made.^[note 3]

The next longest running play is *There's a Girl in My Soup* (1966–1973). The next longest running musical is *Oliver!* (1960–1966).

See also

- Long-running musical theatre productions
- List of the longest-running Broadway shows

Notes

1. According to the show's official Facebook. Source (<https://www.facebook.com/The39StepsPlay/posts/10152997871192041>)
2. Exact number came from musicalheaven.com (<http://www.musicalheaven.com/e/evita/>) and This Is Theatre (<http://www.thisistheatre.com/londontheatre/princeedwardtheatre.html>); 2900 given by Society of London Theatre is an estimate.

3. The Duchess Theatre's next production was *Private Lives*, which was reviewed in *The Times* on 8 March 1980; therefore *Oh! Calcutta!* must have closed in the first two months of 1980.

References

- "Longest running shows in West End history" (<http://solt.co.uk/about-london-theatre/facts-and-figures/>). *Society of London Theatre*. 4 July 2017. Retrieved 31 July 2017. {{cite web}}: Cite has empty unknown parameter: |dead-url= (help)

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