**The Band**

**Programme Notes – Act Two**

**Friday 25th May 2018 @ 5 pm**

**Denise Reeves – Audio Describer**

**Welcome back everyone to this new musical The Band. I am Denise your audio describer for Act Two which lasts for 55 minutes.**

**As the safety curtain is raised and the audience take their seats from the interval, they are greeted by an oversized poster hoarding in the centre of the screen with the night skyline of Prague in the background where the boys are playing a gig. The screen features them in a strong pose with closed and open umbrellas and much writing In Czech. They are strikingly dressed in long silver coats over black tops and trousers.**

**As the lights fade to dark the music begins. Then the lights come up to reveal a statue depicting classical sea mythology with a Neptune, mermaids and other figures on two platforms, one above the other at the back of the stage. Flanked on either side are the same large translucent screens that have featured in Act One showing images of the sea. There is much shouting and laughing as the Girls race in with floral head dresses on. excited to be in the city square in Prague. Twenty five years on, this group of friends, now in their forties try once more to fulfil their dream of meeting their heroes.**

**Heather wears flat shoes, blue skirt and top over which is a denim jacket. Rachel has on a pink T shirt, blue jeans and trainers. Zoe wears smart wide cropped green trousers, brown v necked top, a short yellow jacket and white trainers. Claire looks more casual in a purple T shirt over blue patterned leggings and trainers. They take a picture in front of the statues and a few more as they enact various poses with the different figures.**

**As they do so, they get a few surprises which leads to a slightly awkward moment. ending up with them being detained by the local policeman, who takes them to the Police Station in Prague.**

**We then move to the Prague arena where the Boys are appearing at a colossal gig. The lights shine brightly on them as they appear on stage dressed in the silver coats they are featured wearing on the poster board. Stairs are on either side of the elevated stage which the boys descend to stand in front of individual microphones, as they sing and dance to the song “The Flood” together with audience participation. The whole set is flanked by the same four large translucent screens. The strobing lights flash in sequence with the music. Thunder and lightning signals the end of their performance.**

**Unfortunately, the girls arrive just as the roadie is clearing up. With the evening not turning out as planned they decide to head back home. We next find them on the Prague night bus where they go back in time with their memories of when they were sixteen.**

**However, that night as they stand outside the airport, they realise that they are still the same girls.**

**The flight home is magical and they regain the same sense of feeling as they did at sixteen and break into song with the view that the night is young and theirs until tomorrow. As they sit in seats alongside one another and fasten their seat belts, they burst into song. The Boys appear behind them smartly dressed as Flight Attendants, in grey trousers and matching waistcoats over short sleeved white shirts and bright orange ties and run through the take-off procedure.**

**Back at Manchester the airport doors slide open to reveal Zoe, Heather, Claire and Rachel with their hand luggage, still in a rather jubilant mood. At first, none of them see Jeff who is sat waiting to surprise Rachael on one of the airport seats on the right. Above the airport doors is an illuminated yellow sign stating International Arrivals.**

**Now back in Manchester, Zoe, Claire and Heather meet up once again at the rocks behind town. They all are glammed up with Heather, hair slightly awry and puffed, in a blue midi length dress; Zoe in a similar length gold coloured dress with a handkerchief hemline; Claire wears a flattering bright purple dress. It is at this seat where they have so many memories.**

**As they await the arrival of Rachel and Jeff the boys appear dressed to kill in sharp suits of different pastel shades of blue, salmon pink, light grey, white with a blue pattern and white T shirts.**

**Rachael then arrives looking elegant in a long dress of silver lurex top with cap sleeves and silver silk skirt. Jeff is smartly dressed in a light grey suit with a red flower in the button hole, matching shirt and a pink tie.**

**The four girls then make a vow to keep in touch and relive some of those wonderful memories. As they do so the four young girls and the Boys who have been with them throughout their lives appear and together they sing that classic Take That number “Rule the World”.**

**The finale is one of celebration and total audience participation as the whole company appear in turn on the stage to take their bows. Spotlights focus on the live band as they become visible in the four poster screens. Drums on the left, keyboards on the right and two guitarists on the upper screens. The Boys lead everyone in singing “Hold up a light for me” and finally “Let it Shine”.**