

HELLO!

NUMBER 1477 • 17 APRIL 2017 • £2.00

**THE WEDDING
OF THE YEAR**

**PRINCESS
CATHARINE'S
PARTY
PLANNERS
SECRET SUMMITS
WITH KATE
AND CAROLE**

**HOW 'TEAM MIDDLETON'
ARE FINALISING PLANS
WHEN DO ON THE SLOPES
LAST-MINUTE FASHION
DECISIONS**



1 6
9 770214 388102

SPAIN: 3,60 € CANARY ISLANDS: 3,80 € PORTUGAL: (CVT): 3,60 €

EXCLUSIVE: THE BECKHAMS' EASTER BREAK



HARPER SADDLES UP



WOWING THE WEST END THE DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE IS THE LEADING LADY AT A STAR-STUDED OPENING NIGHT

Glamorous showgirls may have surrounded her, but the Duchess of Cambridge was very much the star of the show at the opening night of London's hit new West End musical *42nd Street*.

Kate brought a touch of regal glamour to the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane in an embellished tulle midi dress by Marchesa Notte and suede pumps by Gianvito Rossi, which she accessorised with a Mulberry clutch and Kate Spade pretty poms tassel statement earrings.

A SONG AND DANCE

Showbiz and TV giant Lord Michael Grade, one of the show's co-producers, greeted the Duchess on arrival and escorted her to the royal box. Speaking exclusively to **HELLO!**, he said: "I am in no doubt she was as impressed by the show as the audience. I definitely felt her foot tapping from time to time."

"She was astonished at the level of discipline and skill and fitness of the ensemble. Most particularly, she enjoyed the 600 costumes in the show and whispered to me how amazing they were."

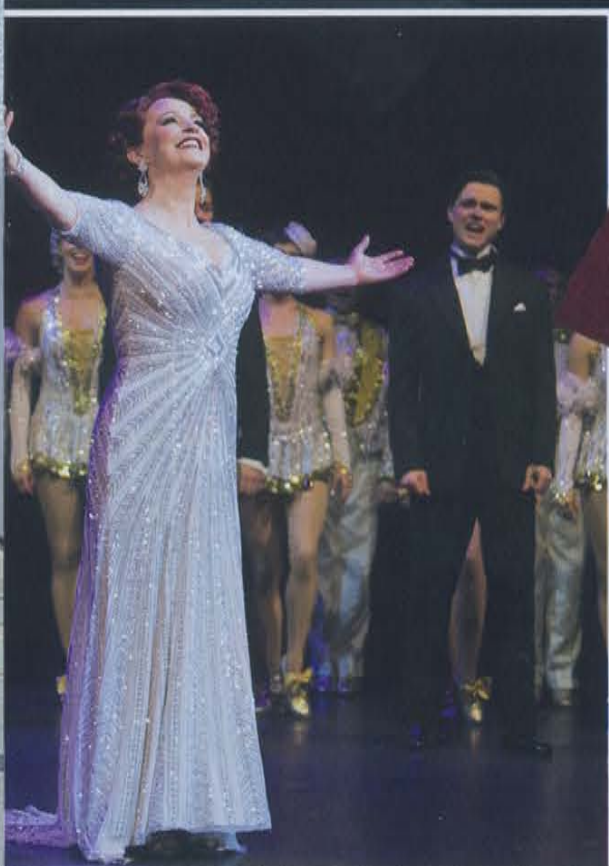
"Backstage, during the finale, as we were waiting to go on stage, she chatted enthusiastically with members of the cast. She ▶



**'I definitely felt
her foot tapping
from time to time'
Lord Grade**



Kate is escorted to her seat in the royal box by Lord Grade (above) and executive producer, Dr Johnny Hon. One of the show's stars, Sheena Easton (below), said the cast was "flattered" that Kate had spent time chatting with them



Kate waves to the crowds outside the theatre. Appropriately for the Broadway musical, the Duchess opted for a dress by New York-based label Marchesa Notte, which she had customised





Kate chats with hospice user Ollie Duell (above). First night attendees include Georgia May-Foote and boyfriend George Alford (below left), Judy Murray (below right) and Morgan Freeman and Sarah Hadland (bottom right)

'I want to talk to [the Duchess] about the hospice... I also want to tell her about Pokémon' Ollie Duell

watched the encore from the wings and was clearly having a good time."

The Tony Award-winning revival, which includes the songs *We're in the Money* and *Lullaby of Broadway*, tells the story of a young chorus girl who gets a shot at the big time when the leading lady gets injured. The original London production, which opened in 1984, went on to star a then little-known Catherine Zeta-Jones.

The current production features singer Sheena Easton, 57, whose hits include 1980's *Modern Girl*, as the injured leading lady.

Making her West End debut, the two-time Grammy Award-winner said: "It was such an honour to have the Duchess in the audience. We didn't feel any more pressure – we were just excited she was here..."

"She came backstage and was so encouraging and complimented us on how wonderful she thought the show was. It's one of the best shows around and a wonderful role for a woman my age."

STREET APPEAL

The Duchess was making her appearance in support of the East Anglia's Children's Hospices. Kate is patron of the charity, which is raising funds for a new purpose-built hospice, to be called *The Nook*, in Norfolk, where the Duke and Duchess have their country home, Anmer Hall. Launched in 2014, the appeal is halfway to its £10million target.

Lord Grade and co-producer Michael Linnet have allowed the charity to appeal

for funds in the show's programme. One generous donor has already pledged £250,000.

Shortly after arriving at the theatre, the Duchess was presented with a programme by hospice user Ollie Duell, 12, who said before meeting her: "She's very pretty and I want to talk to her about the hospice and how I like going there. I also want to tell her about Pokémon."

Kate asked Ollie, who has a complex stomach condition, what he likes about the hospice and whether he had been to the theatre before.

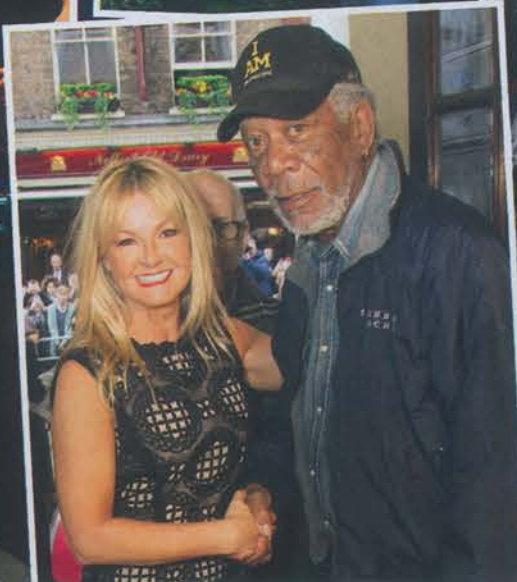
"I said the hospice was fun and that I'd never been [to the theatre] before so I was excited," said Ollie.

Following the all-singing, all-dancing extravaganza, the Duchess was invited on stage, where she was presented with a pair of gold tap shoes by the show's author and director Mark Bramble, who told her: "On behalf of everyone here at *42nd Street*, the cast, the orchestra, the crew, the wig department, the clothes department – you have no idea – but we would like to honour you with these tap shoes and we promise to support the *Nook* appeal."

One theatre-goer later told **HELLO!**: "Kate seemed to be having so much fun. She looked so happy, like she was really enjoying herself."

Other famous faces enjoying the fun were actor Morgan Freeman, actresses Sue Johnston and Bonnie Langford, Sir Andy Murray's mum Judy, *Strictly Come Dancing* dancers Neil and Katya Jones and choreographer Arlene Phillips. **H**

REPORT: TRACY SCHAEVERIEN



Bonnie Langford is greeted by showgirls as she arrives at the theatre (below). At the end of the show Kate joined the cast on stage to be presented with gold tap shoes (right)



'Kate seemed to be having so much fun. She looked so happy, like she was really enjoying herself'

