

The Maximum Insider

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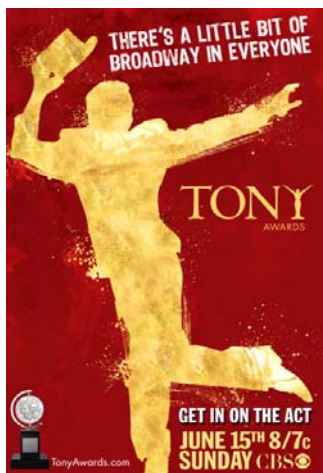
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Hello! And welcome to this edition of *The Maximum Insider*. As many of you know, this year's race to the Tony Award's was a good, hard rush to the finish line. The awards celebrated top notch performances that have stood out among the rest in Broadway's 2007-2008 season. Who took home the statuettes and top honors? It's all inside *The Insider* thanks for checking in with Maximum Entertainment for all your Insider Broadway news! We look forward to sharing news of the 2008-2009 Broadway season with you; look for your next issue of *The Insider* soon!

Everything's Coming Up Roses in the Heights.



Time to get buzzing theatergoers, it's post-Tony time, so get your tuxes, ties and furs back in the closet and take a look at your predictions. How'd you make-out? Predictable, yet crowd-pleasing, the 2008 Tony Award's did not hold many surprises in many of its winners. The awards celebrated top honors to the best of the Broadway 2007-2008 season and was hosted by film and theatre veteran, Whoopi Goldberg. The ceremony began shortly after the Creative Arts Awards, which honored behind-the-scenes crews and designers, and were also hosted by Tony-Award winners Michael Cerveris (*Sweeney Todd*, *LoveMusik*, *Assassins*) & Julie White (*The Little Dog Laughed*, *From Up Here*, *Six Feet Under*). The evening included a presentation of the Special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in the

Theatre to multi-time Tony Award winner and composer, Stephen Sondheim. The Pre-Show also awarded The Chicago Shakespeare Theater with the Regional Theatre Tony Award.

Lincoln Center Theater's luxuriant revival of *South Pacific* swept the most awards throughout the night: seven. *August: Osage County* followed with five and *In the Heights* with four.

In the Heights mixed it up a bit, inviting audience goers to a new-Broadway sound; including hip-hop, rap and Caribbean-influenced music. It, like many of the musicals this season, is viewed as a traditional feel-good musical, telling the lives and struggles, along with ideals of community and family, surrounding members of the Latin community in Washington Heights. The family dysfunctions of *August: Osage County* brought in both critical and audience raves, proving true to their pre (and now post) Tony Award win. It was the least

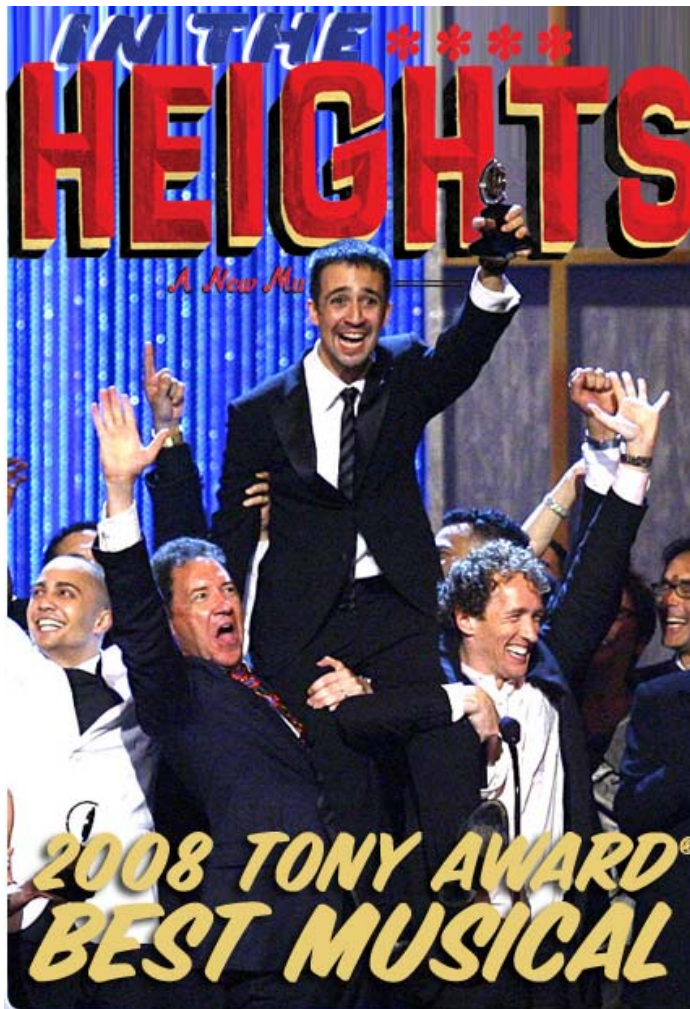
surprising win of the evening for Best Play. Tracy Letts' has already won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for his multi-layered comedic drama about three-sisters reuniting with their pill-popping, verbally abusive mother at their childhood home. The talk of the night was Letts' acceptance speech, recognizing the fact that the producers committed to produce an "American play on Broadway with theatre actors rather than movie stars or TV names." Three of the Gypsy cast members took big awards home, including Best Actress in a Musical (Patti LuPone), Best Featured Actor in a Musical (Boyd Gaines) and Best Featured Actress in a Musical (Laura Benanti). Not a surprise, after receiving critical acclaim at City Center Encores! last summer season, the Broadway run has even had Ben Brantley chewing his words. Rumors of the stellar cast proved true in the live presentation of 'Everything's Coming Up Roses' on The Radio City stage, where LuPone was given a 5 minute long stand-ovation.

Presenters included Gabriel Byrne, Julie Chen, Harry Connick, Jr., Laurence Fishburne, Mandy Patinkin, David Hyde Pierce, Lily Tomlin, John Waters, Alec Baldwin, Kristin Chenoweth, Glenn Close, Richard Griffiths, Laura Linney, John Lithgow, Liza Minnelli, Mary-Louise Parker, Daniel Radcliffe, Brooke Shields, Marisa Tome, Barry Bostwick and Duncan Sheik.

Musical performances from 13 currently running Broadway shows, tickled Tony viewer's tummies. Performances included numbers from Best Musical & Best Revival nominees *Cry-Baby*, *In the Heights*, *Passing Strange*, *Xanadu*, *Grease*, *Gypsy*, *Sunday in the Park With George* and *South Pacific*. Musical numbers from *A Catered Affair*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Young Frankenstein*, *The Lion King* and *Rent* were also featured. A memorable homage to Jonathan Larson was held by original cast members and current cast members of *Rent*, and Disney's *The Lion King* opened the show. Host Whoopi Goldberg also brought along her constant comedic charm, making a late entrance dressed as Sebastian the crab from *The Little Mermaid*.

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Full Tony Award Winner-List



Best Musical: *In the Heights*
 Best Performance By a Leading Actress in a Musical: Patti LuPone, *Gypsy*
 Best Performance By a Leading Actor in a Musical: Paulo Szot, *Rodgers and Hammerstein's South Pacific*
 Best Revival of a Musical: *Rodgers and Hammerstein's South Pacific*
 Special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre: Stephen Sondheim
 Best Play: *August: Osage County*
 Best Performance By a Leading Actress in a Play: Deanna Dunagan, *August: Osage County*
 Best Performance By a Leading Actor in a Play: Mark Rylance, *Boeing-Boeing*
 Best Direction of a Play: Anna D. Shapiro, *August: Osage County*
 Best Performance By a Featured Actor in a Musical: Boyd Gaines, *Gypsy*
 Best Performance By a Featured Actress in a Musical: Laura Benanti, *Gypsy*
 Best Original Score: *In The Heights*, Music & Lyrics: Lin-Manuel Miranda
 Best Direction of a Musical: Bartlett Sher, *Rodgers & Hammerstein's South Pacific*
 Best Performance By a Featured Actor in a Play: Jim Norton, *The Seafarer*
 Best Performance By a Featured Actress in a Play: Rondi Reed, *August: Osage County*
 Best Scenic Design of a Musical: Michael Yeargan, *Rodgers & Hammerstein's South Pacific*
 Best Scenic Design of a Play: Todd Rosenthal, *August: Osage County*
 Best Sound Design of a Musical: Scott Lehrer,

Rodgers & Hammerstein's South Pacific
 Best Sound Design of a Play: Mic Pool, *The 39 Steps*
 Best Costume Design of a Musical: Catherine Zuber, *Rodgers & Hammerstein's South Pacific*
 Best Costume Design of a Play: Katrina Lindsay, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*
 Best Lighting Design of a Musical: Donald Holder, *Rodgers & Hammerstein's South Pacific*
 Best

Lighting Design of a Play: Kevin Adams, The 39 Steps Best Revival of a Play: Boeing-Boeing Best Book of a Musical: Passing Strange, Stew Best Choreography Andy Blankenbuehler, In The Heights Best Orchestrations Alex Lacamoire & Bill Sherman, In the Heights Special Tony Award Robert Russell Bennett (1894-1981), in recognition of his historic contribution to American musical theatre in the field of orchestrations, as represented on Broadway this season by Rodgers & Hammerstein's South Pacific. Regional Theatre Tony Award: Chicago Shakespeare Theater

Curiouser & Curiouser

It's back and bolder than ever! Broadway Cares/ Equity Fights AIDS' signature event, Broadway Bares, is pulling out all the stops by venturing down the rabbit hole with Alice and her scandalous crew. The event is full of enough eye candy for the audience to feast on, and it is one of the most highly anticipated Broadway events of the year. It incorporates the naughtiness of burlesque and the razzle-dazzle of Broadway and has been a smashing success since its inception in 1992. Broadway Bares 18: Wonderland, is set for June 22 at the famed Roseland Ballroom, at both 9:30 pm and midnight.



Created and executive-produced by Tony winner Jerry Mitchell, the fundraiser will feature Hairspray star Mary Birdsong as Alice, Little Mermaid's Titus Burgess as The White Rabbit with appearances by Xanadu's Cheyenne Jackson, South Pacific's Matthew Morrison and Tony winners Nathan Lane and Andrea Martin. It will also be directed by Legally Blonde's Denis Jones.

According to Press Notes, Broadway's most delectable evening will include "over 200 of Broadway's hottest bodies traveling 'through the looking glass' to bring some of 'Wonderland's classic characters to life. Along the way, Alice [Birdsong] will encounter a White Rabbit [Burgess] that will make audiences blush, a Mad Tea Party featuring a sexy Mad Hatter and a tempting March Hare, and a Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum that only Broadway Bares] could deliver."

The event will also have Shrek's Christopher Sieber and Junie B. Jones' Jennifer Cody will be this year's rotation masters and the show will also feature material by [title of show]'s Hunter Bell and Jeff Bowen. Special performances include NATEkid, the acrobatic troupe AntiGravity and the aerial performance group The Living Art of Armando.

Last years 17th annual Broadway Bares was another record-breaker, raising \$743,787 for BC/EFA. To date, Broadway Bares has raised nearly \$5 million for BC/EFA.

Tickets to the Bares fundraiser are on sale by calling (212) 840-0770, ext. 268 or by visiting www.BroadwayCares.org

The Future of August: Osage County



As Best Actress in a Play, Deanna Dunagan said that a year ago, when August: Osage County bowed at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company, no one suspected that the three - and - a - half

-hour comic drama would become a Broadway sensation. Dunagan plays the pill-popping, matriarch Violet, who repeatedly verbally wounds her grown children and members of her extended family. Her final performance in the play was June 15. Estelle Parsons succeeds her June 17. Rondi Reed, the 2008 Best Featured Actress in a Play for playing Aunt Mattie Fae in August, exited the show Sunday, June 15th.

The producers of the Broadway run of the lauded Steppenwolf Theatre production announced June 11 that the tour will launch at the Curran Theatre Aug. 11-Sept. 6, 2009. Subsequent engagements will be announced shortly. No casting for the tour has been announced. Be sure to check out with the Insider for exclusive details on this touring production, among many others!

- *Hamlet*, produced by the Public Theater, will open at the Delacorte Theater June 17th, for the Shakespeare in the Park Summer Season.
- Could there be a Cameron Mackintosh produced *My Fair Lady* film? There are rumored talks with *Atonement* star and Academy Award nominee Keira Knightley for *Eliza*.
- November ends in July.
- Public Theater's 2008-2009 season to include: Stephen Sondheim's *Bounce*, the world premiere of John Guare's *A Free Man of Color* and Tracy Scott Wilson's *The Good Negro*.
- 2008 Sundance Film Festival hit film, *Hamlet 2*, top open August 27, 2008. Be sure to keep your eyes peeled for numerous Broadway stars!
- *Bash'd* makes it Off-Broadway premiere Jun 13 at the Zipper Factory Theater.
- Joans Rivers will star in one woman show at *The Cutting Room*, June 25th-June 27th.

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