LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

ALSO PLAYING… FENCES • THE THREE MUSKETEERS
Some subjects do not go away. Even the ones you think might. Take La Cage aux Folles. First it was a French play (1973, which makes it almost 40 years old), then it became a French-Italian film co-production (1978), then it commanded a sequel, La Cage aux Folles 2 (1980) and, inevitably in America, we had to have La Cage aux Folles the musical, a 1983 adaptation of the original play.

Really?

Really. There have been other iterations, such as another film, La Cage aux Folles 3: ‘Elles’ Se Marient (1985, translation: ‘The Girls’ Are Getting Married) and an American-made film in 1996 called The Birdcage which is plainer English for… you guessed it. But the stage musical is the one that has enjoyed the greatest popularity and remains the only musical to win the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical twice (2004 and 2010), and the only show that has won a Best Production Tony (Best Musical and Best Revival of a Musical) for each of its Broadway outings.

How come such durability in a single piece of broad comedy material?

“There is so much heart in this show,” says Christopher Sieber, the actor who plays Albin, the flashier of the two leads. “There’s a line: ‘You’ll love us once you get to know us.’ Yes, these are gay characters, and yes, it is about a gay family, but it’s bigger, more universal than that. The show has an amazing score, and it is so well written that you start to care and get invested in these characters.”

Attribute that to the Tony award-winning book by Harvey Fierstein who knows a thing or two about writing, but also about being gay. (Fierstein was most recently nominated for another Tony for his book for the musical Newsies.) This, after all, is the tale of gay partners, Georges (played by the ever-dashing George Hamilton) and Albin (Sieber), who operate a nightclub in Saint-Tropez that offers drag entertainment and where Albin is the lavishly plumed and sequined Zaza, the show’s unquestioned star attraction.

These two have been happy together for years. But trouble arises when Georges’ biological son Jean-Michel announces he’s engaged to be married and plans to bring his bride and very conservative future in-laws to Saint-Tropez to meet his “parents.” He implores the long-time partners to please, please try to behave like “normal” folks, which means not at all like themselves. Fearing the worst, he goes so far as to ask Georges to make Albin—dear Albin who is utterly devoted to Jean-Michel—go away for the duration of the visit.

Easier said than done, but the mayhem that follows—the insanity, the laughter, the bathos, tenderness, comedy and humanity—brings out everyone’s pain and everyone’s worst and best behavior. Especially Albin’s.

“Chris [Sieber] is so good in this,” says Hamilton. “Every night, I bow to him. I think he’s terrific, and I love working with him. Albin is such a fabulous, flamboyant character. It’s seductive to want to be the farceur. [Chris] gets bored with doing the usual, so he will change things around [in a scene]. My job is to be organically anchored to this—I’ve got to direct traffic through this whole story. I’m torn between my son and Albin. But if I’ve done my job correctly, the piece takes on a profundity that’s got to be there.”

Heart and profundity. That’s what’s so impressive, especially when you remember that this unabashedly gay-themed venture was born at a particularly homophobic time—the early 1980s—when the AIDS epidemic was still a new and staggering event and not always viewed with much, or even appropriate, empathy.
The success of this venture was anything but assured. It suffered a false start when film producer Allan Carr, who decided to musicalize the movie of La Cage, put together an impressive Broadway team before getting any of the rights or hiring executive producers.

First, Carr failed to secure the rights to the movie and had to settle for musicalizing the original French play by Jean Poiret. Second, the exec producers he hired—Barry Brown and Fritz Holt—fired everyone Carr had hired, causing more than a little consternation.

Brown and Holt then put together their own creative team consisting of Fierstein (book), Jerry Herman (music) and Arthur Laurents (direction). At first, Laurents was something of a holdback (as opposed to holdout), remaining skeptical about the wisdom of mounting a gay musical at such a sensitive time, as well as about the producers’ ability to raise adequate money. When he found out Fierstein and Herman were on board, he relented slightly.

Laurents’ assessment, however, was not wrong. This was still a project fraught with possibilities for disaster. The mass firing of the original team invited several lawsuits. Each replacement brought to the project a new set of concerns as well as strengths. There was the matter of collaborating; learning to play well with others imposes unforeseen pressures and potential for friction. In addition, the producers decided to try out the show in Boston, by any measure a very conservative town. Finally, there was the high risqué factor of creating a humorous drag musical while a rampaging plague was decimating gay ranks in America.

Not an encouraging scenario, and yet… That bastion of propriety, Boston, loved the show. The production’s subsequent run was not only a smash hit, but it helped make the 1983 Broadway season particularly strong. According to theatre historian John Kenrick, after La Cage in 1983 and Big River in 1985, it would be the “first time since Oklahoma! [1943] that a full decade would go by before a new American musical would pass the 1,000-performance mark.”

So here we are, some 40 years later, with La Cage still enchanting and entertaining audiences. Applause wanted to know what the actors playing the two leads derived from the experience of touring in this show.

“Back in the day,” says Sieber, “it was a huge risk, but things have changed so much that now we’re just out there. The show always starts with a little tension from the audience, because they’re not sure what’s going to happen. Not bad tension, just ‘Ho, ho, ho, here we go!’ But about a third of the way through it you can feel everybody just… relax.”

Sieber had previously performed the role of Georges on Broadway to Harvey Fierstein’s Albin. Jeffrey Tambor, cast as Georges, had left the show to have hip replacement surgery, and Fierstein requested Sieber to step in on an emergency basis. “Seven days later,” says Sieber, “I’m starring on Broadway!” Months later, when he was asked if he’d like to tour with La Cage, Sieber said yes, assuming he’d be touring with Fierstein. But Fierstein was moving on, Hamilton was asked to step in as Georges, while Sieber was offered the role of Albin.

“I never auditioned for these roles,” says Sieber, astonishment still in his voice. “They fell in my lap. I hadn’t expected to be in the show playing Georges, but I really never expected to play Albin and Zaza!”

Hamilton, who only heard about the Tambor saga after agreeing to tour as Georges, quipped, “I had a knee replacement, so I’ll match his hip with my knee,” adding, “I didn’t really realize how difficult this is. Not only is it daunting in the amount of time you’re on stage, but also with all you have to do.”

Sieber, who has now played both roles, favors each depending on the day. “There are days when playing Albin is just exhausting—physically, emotionally, vocally, all of it,” he says. “Those are days when I wish I were playing Georges. Basically, you have three costumes and you just have to walk, talk and sing. You don’t have to dance or wear heels. But… playing Albin is so rewarding… There is so much there.”

Besides, times have changed.

There is a strange political climate out there now, with everybody talking about gay marriage and all that other stuff. There is much more acceptance. I use that as fuel for the last song, ‘I Am What I Am.’ It’s such an anthem. It has such a strong message: that you can’t change people and you can’t legislate love.

“I meet wonderful people in every city. I talk with people all the time. People are not the weirdos. It’s the politicians and the talking heads.”

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—George Hamilton

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In Association with George Hamilton Productions, Inc.

Present the MENIER CHOCOLATE FACTORY Production of

GEORGE HAMILTON  in  CHRISTOPHER SIEBER

in

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

MUSIC & LYRICS BY JERRY HERMAN  BOOK BY HARVEY FIERSTEIN

BASED ON THE PLAY “LA CAGE AUX FOLLES” BY JEAN POIRET

Starring

KATIE DONOHUE  DALE HENSLEY  MICHAEL LOWNEY  JEIGH MADJUS

GAY MARSHALL  BERNARD BURAK SHEREDY  CHERYL STERN

WILSON BRIDGES  SUELLEN ESTEY  JULIE KAVANAGH  TODD THURSTON  DANNY VACCARO

And featuring the notorious and dangerous Cagelles

MATT ANCTIL  CHRISTOPHE CABALLERO  TREvor DOWNEY  LOGAN KESLAR  TERRY LAVELL  TODD LATTIMORE  MARK ROLAND  DONALD C. SHORTER, JR.  LAUREN SPRAGUE

Scenic Design TIM SHORTALL

Costume Design MATTHEW WRIGHT

Lighting Design NICK RICHINGS

Sound Design JONATHAN DEANS

Wig & Makeup Design RICHARD MAWBEY

Associate Scenic Designer BRYAN JOHNSON

Associate Lighting Designer VIVIEN LEONE

Associate Sound Designer BRIAN HSIEH

Costume Coordinator JESSICA WORSNOP

Original Chocolate Factory Set Design by DAVID FARLEY

Assistant Director KRISTEN HARRIS

Associate Choreographer NICHOLAS CUNNINGHAM

Music Supervisor TODD ELLISON

Music Coordinator JOHN MILLER

Music Director RICHARD CARSEY

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Orchestrations & Dance Arrangements JASON CARR

 Choreography by LYNNE PAGE

Directed by TERRY JOHNSON

This production premiered at the Menier Chocolate Factory November 23, 2007 and transferred to the Playhouse Theatre October 30, 2008.

Sponsored by Comcast  NBCUniversal
CAST
(in order of appearance)

Georges ................................................................. GEORGE HAMILTON
“Les Cagelles”
Angélique ............................................................ MATT ANCTIL
Bitelle ................................................................. LOGAN KESLAR
Chantal .............................................................. DONALD C. SHORTER, JR.
Hanna ................................................................. MARK ROLAND
Mercedes .......................................................... TERRY LAVELL
Phaedra ............................................................. TREVOR DOWNEY
Francis .............................................................. DALE HENSLEY
Babette .............................................................. SUELLEN ESTEY
Jacob ................................................................. JEIGH MADJUS
Albin ................................................................. CHRISTOPHER SIEBER
Jean-Michel ....................................................... MICHAEL LOWNEY
Anne ................................................................. KATIE DONOHUE
Colette .............................................................. JULIE CAVANAGH
Etienne .............................................................. WILSON BRIDGES
Tabarro ............................................................... DANNY VACCARO
Jacqueline ........................................................ SUELLEN ESTEY (9/04-9/09)
................................................................. BERNARD BURAK SHEREDY
M. Renaud ........................................................ BERNARD BURAK SHEREDY
Mme. Renaud .................................................. CHERYL STERN
M. Dindon ........................................................ BERNARD BURAK SHEREDY
Mme. Dindon .................................................. CHERYL STERN
Waiter .............................................................. TODD THURSTON

SWINGS
CHRISTOPHE CABALLERO, TODD LATTIMORE, LAUREN SPRAGUE

DANCE CAPTAIN
CHRISTOPHE CABALLERO

ASSISTANT DANCE CAPTAIN
MATT ANCTIL

UNDERSTUDIES
Understudies never substitute for listed players unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance.

For Georges: DALE HENSLEY, TODD THURSTON; for Albin: DALE HENSLEY, DANNY VACCARO; for M. Dindon/M. Renaud: TODD THURSTON, DANNY VACCARO; for Mme. Dindon/Mme. Renaud: SUELLEN ESTEY, JULIE KAVANAGH; for Francis: CHRISTOPHE CABALLERO, TODD THURSTON; for Anne: JULIE KAVANAGH, LAUREN SPRAGUE; for Jean-Michel: WILSON BRIDGES, LOGAN KESLAR; for Jacqueline: SUELLEN ESTEY, JULIE KAVANAGH; for Jacob: CHRISTOPHE CABALLERO, DONALD C. SHORTER, JR.
MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Scene 1 La Cage Aux Folles Nightclub
“We Are What We Are” ............................................................ Georges, Cagelles

Scene 2 Georges and Albin’s Apartment
“A Little More Mascara” ......................................................... Albin, Cagelles

Scene 2a La Cage Aux Folles Nightclub

Scene 3 Georges and Albin’s Apartment
“With Anne on My Arm” ......................................................... Georges, Jean-Michel
“With You on My Arm” ......................................................... Albin, Georges

Scene 4 The Promenade
“Song on the Sand” .............................................................. Georges

Scene 5 Backstage at La Cage Aux Folles

Scene 5a La Cage Aux Folles Nightclub
“La Cage aux Folles” ............................................................ Albin, Cagelles and Company

Scene 6 Backstage at La Cage Aux Folles

Scene 6a La Cage Aux Folles Nightclub
“I Am What I Am” ................................................................. Albin

ACT TWO

Scene 1 The Promenade
“Song on the Sand” (Reprise) ................................................... Albin, Georges
“Masculinity” ................................................................. Albin, Georges, M. Renaud, Mme. Renaud, Tabarro

Scene 2 Georges and Albin’s Apartment
“Look Over There” ............................................................. Georges
“Cocktail Counterpoint” .................................................... Anne, M. Dindon, Mme. Dindon, Georges, Jacob, Jean-Michel

Scene 3 Chez Jacqueline Restaurant
“The Best of Times” .............................................................. Company

Scene 4 Georges and Albin’s Apartment
“Look Over There” (Reprise) .................................................... Georges, Jean-Michel

Scene 5 La Cage Aux Folles Nightclub
Finale .............................................................................. Company

THERE WILL BE ONE 20-MINUTE INTERMISSION

TOURING MUSICIANS
Music Director/Synthesizer: Richard Carsey
Associate Conductor/Synthesizer: Ryan Cantwell
Drums/Percussion: Brad Flickinger
Trumpet: Jeff Kievit

The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.
WHO’S WHO in the CAST

GEORGE HAMILTON (Georges) is everything Hollywood we know and love—dashing, debonair, and full of tenacity. Vincent Minelli’s Home from the Hill sparked Mr. Hamilton’s career and 51 years later he has illuminated every aspect of the entertainment industry. Best known for his silver screen work in Light in the Piazza; The Victors; Your Cheatin’ Heart; The Man Who Loved Cat Dancing; Love at First Bite; Zorro, The Gay Blade; The Godfather: Part III; Woody Allen’s Hollywood Ending; Doc Hollywood; and Crocodile Dundee. Television appearances include Dynasty, Columbo, The Bold and the Beautiful, and Dancing with the Stars. He has produced five feature films including My One and Only, based loosely on his life story and is the author of two books, Don’t Mind If I Do and Life’s Little Pleasures. He has also appeared in the Broadway smash hit Chicago three times as “Billy Flynn.” His achievements have garnered much praise, two best-sellers, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and a Golden Globe. Hamilton’s infectious vigor and verve permeate all his endeavors and keep him living life to its fullest!

CHRISTOPHER SIEBER (Albin). Broadway: La Cage as Georges with Harvey Fierstein, Shrek (Tony, Drama Desk, Drama League, Outer Critics nominations), Spamalot (New York and West End Tony Nom), Chicago, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Into the Woods, Beauty and the Beast, Triumph of Love, A Christmas Carol. Off-Broadway: The Kid (Drama League, Drama Desk Noms), Avow, The Boys in the Band. TV/Film: Morning Glory, See You In September, Pushing Daisies, It’s All Relative, Two of A Kind, Sex And The City, Ed. Mr. Sieber has not appeared on Law and Order.


MICHAEL LOWNEY (Jean-Michel) Broadway: La Cage Aux Folles (Etienne; Jean-Michel u/s Regional: Les Miserables (Jean Prouvaire) at The MUNY, Oklahoma (Slim) and White Christmas (Mike) at PCLO. TV: “The Guiding Light.” Michael is a proud graduate of The University of Michigan. Special thanks to Duncan, Benton and the La Cage family as well as his own biological family for their endless love and support.

JEIGH MADJUS (Jacob) is thrilled to make his U.S. debut! Toronto credits: Altar Boyz (Mark), Dora Award nomination; Myths and Hymns (Man 3); Spelling Bee (Chip); Film: Servitude. I am truly blessed. Thanks to everyone in the La Cage family, Duncan Stewart And Co., Talent House and my amazing, loving and supportive family/friends!

GAY MARSHALL (Jacqueline) 9/04-9/09 My life in 40 words or less. I need more than that to order a cocktail, so go to www.gaymarshall.com – click on bio then click on buy my CD. Oh NEW CD coming out this fall! See? I’m already over 3 words. Yikes. (4)

BERNARD BURAK SHEREDY (M. Dindon, M. Renaud). NYC: Dinah Was (w/Lillias White); Waiting for Lefty (w/Marisa Tomei); The Woodsman (Walter, Actors Studio premiere). Regional: Guthrie, CenterStage, Shakespeare Theatre (DC), Actors Theatre (Louisville), Denver Center. Favorites: The Chosen (Saunders), 1776 (Adams), Hamlet (Claudius), Guys & Dolls (Nathan), and Meet the Parents (improvising w/Ben!). MFA, Yale Drama.

CHERYL STERN (Mme. Renaud/Mme. Dindon) Broadway: La Cage (2010...

TREVOR DOWNEY (Phaedra) is stumped on how to fit ALL of his BROADWAY credits in such a short bio! Love to Mom, Dad, Cara, Troy, Jan, Lucky, Kylee, Ella, and the rest of my AMAZING and INSPIRING family and friends. Missing my baby.

SUELEN ESTEY (Jacqueline 9/11-9/16, Babette, u/s Mme. Dindon/Renaud). Broadway: Sweeney Todd (Beggar Woman); State Fair (Melissa Frake); Barnum (Jenny Lind); Phantom of the Opera (Madame Giry) Hamburg. Highlights: Pygmalion (Mrs. Eynsford Hill) Alley Theatre; Doubt (Sister Aloysius); Follies (Sally Durant); Sunday in the Park with George (Yvonne) Arena Stage; 42nd Street (Dorothy Brock). Plus, 100 others. www.SuEllenEstey.com

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JULIE KAVANAGH (Colette, u/s Anne, u/s Jacqueline, u/s Mme. Dindon/Renaud) National Tour Debut! Regional: Avenue Q (Theatre Aspen), 42nd Street (Merry-Go-Round Playhouse), Chicago (Northern Stage), Joseph...Dreamcoat (Maltz Jupiter Theatre), A Chorus Line (Stages St. Louis), Les Miserables (MUNY). Proud CCM Grad! Thanks to Duncan Stewart & Co, DGRW, Mom, Dad, Honey, and Stephen for your love and support. www.juliekavanagh.com

LOGAN KESLAR (Bitelle, u/s Jean-Michel). Broadway: La Cage Aux Folles (2010 Revival, OBC recording); West End: West Side Story 50th Anniversary Production. Regional: On the Town (Paper Mill Playhouse); Dreamgirls, A Chorus Line (TUTS); Footloose (Kansas City Starlight); West Side Story (TOTS); La Cage (Riverside Theatre, Maltz Jupiter Theatre). TV: TONY Awards, Today Show, GMA, Regis and Kelly. For Jeff. @logankeslar

TODD LATTIMORE (Swing, u/s Cagelle). I would like to thank my friends and family for always believing in me and supporting me – the Lattimores, Tennants, Merrills and O’Donells. My husband Brian you are the best! You can find me on Facebook at Lili Whiteass or Todd Lattimore.

TERRY LAVELL (Mercedes) Broadway: La Cage aux Folles (2010 Best Revival Tony, OBC recording); tours: Hairspray (Seaweed), Las Vegas; Smokey Joes Cafe (Adrian). Regional: Aida, Boys from Syracuse, Forum. TV/film: Happy Life, “Dave Chapelle show.” Former member of “ITCOD” modern dance company. Check out my single “Born this Way” available on iTunes, amazon.com and YouTube. Follow me on twitter @tdlavell. To God be the Glory!

MARK ROLAND (Hanna). National Tour Debut!! Regional: State Fair, Promises, Promises (Stages St. Louis) La Cage Aux Folles (Riverside and Maltz Jupiter Theatres) Dirty Rotten Scoundrels (Cape Playhouse) White Christmas (Denver Center Theatre Co.) Li’l Abner (Goodspeed Opera House) Mark would like to thank his friends and family, especially his momma, for the love and support.

DONALD C. SHORTER, JR. (Chantal, u/s Jacob) “I am so...
happy to be able to throw glitter in this show!” Shorter was last seen on stage in the 1st national tour of A Chorus Line (Richie). Other credits include Hairspray Tour (Duane/Thad), Bill T Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company. Thanks to GOD, Family, and Friends for all their love and support!!

LAUREN SPARGUE (Swing, u/s Cagele, u/s Anne, u/s Colette) National Tour Debut!! Regional: PCLO, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Cape Playhouse, Riverside Theatre. Proud CCM Grad. Love and thanks to Duncan Stewart, DGRW, my wonderful family and fiance Michael! laurensprague.com

TODD THURSTON (Waiter, u/s Georges, u/s M. Dindon/ Renaud, u/s Francis). Broadway: Ragtime (Orig. Prod. & Cast); Tours: Les Miserables (1st National), Little House (w/ Melissa Gilbert); Regional: Long Wharf, Goodspeed, Barrington, St. Louis Rep. Asolo, Berkshire, Pioneer, Wichita. Favorite shows/roles: Ragtime (Father), Follies (Ben), Gypsy (Herbie), 1776 (Dickinson), Sound of Music (Von Trapp), Music Man (Harold Hill).

DANNY VACCARO (Tabarro, u/s Albin, u/s M. Dindon/ Renaud). Bway/Off: Wizard of Oz (Tinman), Nunsense A-Men (Sr. Robert Anne), Streakin’ (Tripp); Regional: Tuesdays with Morrie (Mitch), Diary of Anne Frank (Otto), The Foreigner (Charlie): TV- L&O (SVU). NU Alum. Love to Mom and Dad.

JERRY HERMAN (Music and Lyrics) is the first composer/lyricist in history to have had three musicals which ran more than 1,500 consecutive performances on Broadway. His shows include Milk and Honey; Hello, Dolly!; Mame; Dear World; Mack & Mabel; The Grand Tour; and La Cage. With two of his classic songs the emotional heart of Disney- Pixar’s WALL-E, only last year’s Lifetime Achievement Tony could top his endless string of awards and honors.

HARVEY FIERSTEIN (Author) is a four-time Tony Award and Drama Desk Award-winning writer and actor. His plays include Torch Song Trilogy, A Catered Affair, Legs Diamond and Spookhouse. He won the Humanitas Award for his HBO animated special, “The Sissy Duckling,” which is also available as a children’s book. His film and TV acting credits include Mrs. Doubtfire, Independence Day, Nurse Jackie, Cheers. On Broadway he’s starred in Hairspray, Fiddler on the Roof, Torch Song Trilogy and Safe Sex. Mr. Fierstein was inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame in 2008.

TERRY JOHNSON (Director). London’s West End: Prisoner of Second Avenue, End of the Rainbow, The Rise and Fall of Little Voice, Rain Man, Whipping It Up, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, Hitchcock Blonde, Entertaining Mr. Sloane, Dead Funny, Hysteria, Elton John’s Glasses, The Memory of Water. Royal National Theatre: The London Cuckolds; Cleo, Camping, Emmanuelle and Dick; Sparkleshark. Nine major British theatre awards, including two Oliviers and two Evening Standard Awards. Film: Not Only But Always, Cor Blimey!, Insignificance.

LYNNE PAGE (Choreographer) Winner (Best Choreographer) of What’s on Stage and an Olivier nomination for La Cage Aux Folles. Other theatre credits: Broadway/West End: A Little Night Music; West End: Little Shop of Horrors, Tell Me on a Sunday, Bat Boy. The Royal National Theatre: The Merchant of Venice. TV and film: So You Think You Can Dance (BBC), Fred Claus (Warner Bros), Hippie Hippie Shake (Working Title). 2009 music industry tours: Pet Shop Boys, Kanye West and Muse.

TODD ELLISON (Music Supervisor) Broadway: La Cage, Spamalot, Lestat, Amour, 42nd Street, Wild Party, On the Town, Once Upon a Mattress, How to Succeed..., She Loves Me, Cats, Starlight Express, Annie 2, Encores! Incidental music: A Class Act, Taller...Dwarf. International: Vienna Konzerthaus, Jerry Hadley, Dawn Upshaw, Carnegie Hall. Accompanied: Nicole Kidman, Barry Manilow, Meryl Streep. 143, G.

JOHN MILLER (Musical Coordinator). Broadway and Off Broadway: Follies; Godspell; On A Clear Day You Can See Forever; Jersey Boys; La Cage Aux Folles; Rock of Ages; Priscilla Queen of the Desert; Sister Act; Death Takes A Holiday; Baby It’s You; Catch Me if You Can; Beauty and the Beast; Hairspray; Sweeney Todd; The Producers; Movin’ Out; Caroline, or Change; Little Shop of Horrors; Thoroughly Modern Millie; Urinetown; Nine; La Bohème; Oklahoma!; The Rocky Horror Show; Seussical; The Music Man; Fosse. Studio musician (bass): Michael Jackson, Madonna, Portishead,


MATTHEW WRIGHT (Costume Designer). Matthew’s costumes for the Broadway production of La Cage Aux Folles won the Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle awards and received a Tony nomination; he also received an Olivier nomination for the original London production. Other theatre credits include costumes for Road Show, Invisible Man (Menier – costumes), Sweet Charity (Menier/West End – costumes), Shadowlands, The Glass Menagerie, On The Ceiling (West End), Speaking Like Magpies (RSC/West End), Blackbird (Johannesburg), Evita (UK/International Tour) and Clouds (UK Tour).


JONATHAN DEANS (Sound Designer). More recent Broadway credits include Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, Spiderman, La Cage Aux Folles, Young Frankenstein, Pirate Queen. His work with Cirque du Soleil include LOVE, Viva Elvis, OVO, Ka, Zumanity, O, Mystere, La Nouba, Corteo. He was nominated for a Tony award in 2010 for La Cage Aux Folles.


DUNCAN STEWART AND COMPANY (Casting) Duncan Stewart & Benton Whitley are responsible for casting the national tour of La Cage Aux Folles, current B’way, London & int’l touring companies of Chicago, U.S. casting of Thriller Live (West End), Radio City Christmas Spectacular, and U.S. casting for London’s Menier Chocolate Factory. Other B’way & West End credits include 2010 Tony-winning revival of La Cage Aux Folles (Harvey Fierstein, Kelsey Grammer), Neil LaBute’s Fat Pig (ATG co-production) and upcoming U.S. casting For UK’s Stanhope Productions (Jacques
Michael McGoff (Production Stage Manager) has served as company manager on several National and International tours, including Jersey Boys (Chicago Company), 42nd Street, Blast!, Titanic, The King and I starring Hayley Mills, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying starring Ralph Macchio, and most recently, Chicago.

Alicia Parker (Executive Producer) also serves as executive producer of all worldwide productions of Chicago and Priscilla, Queen of the Desert on Broadway. She is the Secretary/ Treasurer of the Broadway League and the proud mother of Michael, a sophomore at Washington University.

Kary Walker (Executive Producer) Prior to joining NETworks, Mr. Walker was Executive Producer for Marriott Lincolnshire Theatre in Chicago for 2 decades. Under his leadership, Marriott became a musical theatre and developed the largest musical theatre subscription audience in the U.S. Mr. Walker is a founding board member of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre and former President of the League of Chicago Theatres. For NETworks he has served as Executive Producer for tours of Kiss Me, Kate; Seussical; Contact; Cabaret (Korea/Japan); Annie; Rent; Sweeney Todd; The Drowsy Chaperone; A Chorus Line (U.S./Japan) and Spring Awakening.

N E T W O R K S PRESENTATIONS (Producer) Since 1995, NETworks has produced and managed over 45 touring productions in the U.S., U.K. and internationally. Current productions include Disney’s Beauty and the Beast, Young Frankenstein, Rodgers and Hammerstein’s South Pacific, Blue Man Group National Tour, La Cage Aux Folles, Shrek The Musical, Billy Elliot The Musical and The New 25th Anniversary Production of Les Misérables. Future productions include Disney and Cameron Mackintosh’s Mary Poppins, Flashdance the Musical and The National Theatre of Great Britain’s production of War Horse touring the U.S.

Sonja Friedman Productions Ltd. (Producer) has initiated and produced more than 100 new productions in the West End and Broadway over the past 15 years. Recent and current productions include The Mountaintop, Jerusalem, Much Ado About Nothing, The Book of Mormon, Legally Blonde (West End), La Cage Aux Folles, Private Lives, Betrayal, Arcadia, Clybourne Park (West End), No Man’s Land, La Bete, The Children’s Hour, All My Sons (West End), A View from the Bridge, A Little Night Music, The Norman Conquests, Boeing-Boeing, The Seagull, Rock ‘N’ Roll, Faith Healer.

David Babani (Producer) is the founder and artistic director of the Menier Chocolate Factory.

Barry and Fran Weissler (Producer) With a producing career that spans 40 years, they are the recipients of six Tony Awards, including the worldwide hit Chicago, the longest-running American musical on both Broadway and the West End.

Edwin W. Schloss (Producer). Tony-winner for La Cage and the recipient of four nominations for Grey Gardens, Wonderful Town, Sweet Charity and Buried Child. He was the associate producer of Kiss Me Kate; Full Gallop; The World of
Ruth Draper; and June Recital featuring Brenda Currin.

ROBERT/ BEVERLY BARTNER AND NORMAN/ ALICE TULCHIN (Producers) have won Tony Awards for Book of Mormon, La Cage Aux Folles, The Norman Conquests, Boeing-Boeing, and Company. In the West End they have won Oliviers for Clybourne Park, Legally Blonde, La Cage Aux Folles, The Mountaintop, and Guys and Dolls.

BROADWAY ACROSS AMERICA (Producer) is owned and operated by British theatre producer John Gore (CEO) and entertainment industry veteran Thomas B. McGrath, and is part of the Key Brand Entertainment family of companies which includes Broadway.com. Broadway Across America is a leading Broadway producer and the foremost presenter of first-class touring productions across North America.

MATTHEW MITCHELL (Producer) has produced more than 17 plays and musicals in the West End. Current projects include a major feature film. info@matthewmitchell.org


ACTORS’ EQUITY ASSOCIATION (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 48,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. www.actorsequity.org


ALLEN SPIVAK (Producer) holds a place along Philadelphia’s Walk of Fame, produced the Live Aid Concert for famine relief. Current shows on Broadway: Chicago, The Addams Family. Touring: Colin Quinn’s Long Story Short.

THE MENIER CHOCOLATE FACTORY (Originating Theatre) is eight years old and has transferred eleven productions to the West End. Broadway transfers include Sunday in the Park with George (2008), A Little Night Music (2009) and La Cage (2010). Its work has garnered seven Olivier Awards, three Evening Standard Awards and four Tony Awards. Current productions include the world premiere of Terrible Advice by Saul Rubinek, directed by Frank Oz and starring Scott Bakula.
National Artists Management Company

Chief Financial Officer ............................................ Bob Williams
General Manager .................................................... B.J. Holt
Associate General Manager ............................... Hilary Hamilton
Assistant General Manager ................................. Stephen Spadaro
International Manager ........................................ Nima Skriflof
Assistant to Commercial Manager .................... Brett England
Pastoral Associate to Barby Weisler ............ Irene Cabrera
Assistant to Barby Weisler .............................. Laura Sink
Assistant to B.J. Holt ................................. Katharine Hayes
Receptionist ................................................................. Michelle Coleman
Executive Assistant to Sonia Friedman ............ Victor Ruiz

Sonia Friedman Productions

Producer ................................................................. Sonia Friedman
General Manager ................................................... Diane Benjamin
Head of Production ....................................... Pam Skinner
Literary Associate ..................................................... Jack Bradley
Associate Producer (Development & Marketing) .............................. Lucie Lovatt
Production Coordinator ............................... Forna Stewart
Assistant General Manager .......................... Emma Lauger
General Manager Assistant ........................................ Ben Canning
Assistant to Sonia Friedman ......................... Sarah Hammond
Production Assistant (funded by City Stage) .............. Sarah Brocklehurst
Production Accountant ........................................<Meshure Hay
Chief Executive Officer - New York .................. David Lazar
New York Assistant (SPF) ............................................. Valerie Steinberg

Sonja founded SFP, a subsidiary of the Ambassador Theatre Group, in 2002

SFP Board ............................. Helen Enright, Howard Panter, Rosemary Squire

Menier Chocolate Factory

Artistic Director ......................................................... David Bahani
General Manager ...................................................... Tom Siracusa
Sales & Marketing ...................................................... Jason Maddocks
Marketing & Production Coordinator ................. Lucy McNelly
Marketing & Production Assistants .................. Amanda Holland

Jenny Pearce
Head Chef ................................................................. Anthony Falla
Restaurant Manager ................................................ Minna Pawluczky

Credits

Sound equipment by PRG Audio; Lighting equipment provided by Epic Productions; Scenery Constructed by Proof Productions; Costumes Constructed by Jennifer Love Costumes, Studio Rouge, and Timberlake Studios. Rehearsed at Pearl Studios NYC.

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