



## **Tick...Tick...NEWS! Broadway Updates with Heather Power**

Gooooood afternoon **CFPA** family and welcome back to *Tick...Tick...NEWS!*, Broadway Updates with Heather Power - theatre nerd extraordinaire. Welcome to the sixth edition of *TTN*, which as I was writing it shaped up to be a fairly large edition! It seems that with summer under way musical announcements are coming out the wazoo, so strap in as we dive into the latest news! Remember to click the [blue words](#) (like these ones here, which link to a Tony Awards performance from this Sunday past!) throughout the article for links to musical theatre related videos!

### **You Will Be Found (At The Rock): Dear Evan Hansen and Come From Away Announce Broadway Closures**

Our first story starts us off with a bang: two 2017 Broadway Season darlings announced closures back to back just days before the Tony Awards Ceremony. *Dear Evan Hansen* has announced closure on Broadway AND closure in the West End, while *Come From Away* has announced a Broadway closure as well. *Tina* is also closing. *Hansen* fans were quick to point out on social media how the *DEH* closures were announced fairly close to each other as well, with the West End announcement happening at the “end of May” and the Broadway closure announced in “early June”, reflecting the show’s lyrics. At least we have the pro-shot of *CFA*! I have to wonder if the negative reception to the movie adaptation of *Hansen* played any part here. *Tina* plays its final performance on August 14th, *Dear Evan Hansen* on September 18th, and *Come From Away* on October 2nd. If you’re visiting NYC, be sure to check them out at the Lunt-Fontanne, Music Box, and Gerald Schoenfeld theatres respectively before they’re gone!





## 75th Annual Tony Awards: *Company*, *A Strange Loop* and *The Lehman Trilogy* Win Big!



The 75th Annual Tony Awards went down (almost entirely) live on CBS last Sunday, and they were a blast! Ariana DeBose, as predicted, killed it as the host of the evening's events, and there were some phenomenal wins and speeches from the winners. There was also a beautiful tribute to Stephen Sondheim, who passed away last November, led by the incredible Bernadette Peters singing one of his songs, "Children Will Listen" from *Into the Woods*.

The gender-bent revival of *Company* took home the most statues for a musical, winning 5 - including Best Supporting Actress and Actor for Patti Lupone and Matt Doyle, Best Revival, and Best Director. On the play side of things, the big winning was Sam Mendes' *The Lehman Trilogy*, which also took home 5 statues (including Best Play and Best Lead Actor for Simon Russell Beale).

Broadway newcomer Myles Frost won the award for Best Lead Actor in a Musical for playing Michael Jackson in *MJ* - his [DEBUT ROLE](#) on Broadway!!! - while *Take Me Out* won Best Play Revival and Best Featured Actor for Jesse Tyler Ferguson. The show on everyone's minds however is *A Strange Loop*, which took home the most anticipated award of the night, Best Musical. It also made Jennfier Hudson an EGOT winner! That's right, the self-proclaimed "[big, black, and queer American Broadway show](#)" won the big prize! I'm beyond thrilled for the cast and creatives (especially creator/writer Michael R. Jackson, who won for Best Book as well!) of that incredible, all around genius show.



## The Greatest Stars: Beanie Feldstein & Jane Lynch To Depart *Funny Girl*

Some shocking news from the August Wilson Theatre. It's been announced that Beanie Feldstein (Fanny Brice), and Jane Lynch (Ms. Brice) will be playing their final performances in the *Funny Girl* revival on September 25th. Unfortunately, critics seemed to have been raining on Beanie Feldstein's parade. Many critics wrote that Feldstein had the acting down pat for the role of Fanny Brice, but that her vocals could use some work. Whether or not critical reception has anything to do with Feldstein's departure is unknown, but I do know she recently had Covid and perhaps that played a part in her leaving the show. She might also be filming another



season of the show she's on or a new movie, it's too difficult to tell! When it comes to who will replace Beanie as Fanny, nothing has been solidly confirmed. There are many, MANY rumours circling about online that *Glee*'s Lea Michele might be gearing up to take over, but until the Theatre confirms, I refuse to believe it. Michele has had a bit of a rocky history in the past as to her treatment of cast members in past TV and theatre gigs, so I wonder if they would even take a chance on her. I personally would love it if Beanie's current understudy Julie Benko could take over the role. If they are desperate for a celebrity though, I would love to offer up *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*'s Rachel Bloom for consideration! As for Jane



Lynch, she will be super sorely missed as the hilarious Mamma Brice. Happy trails to them both!

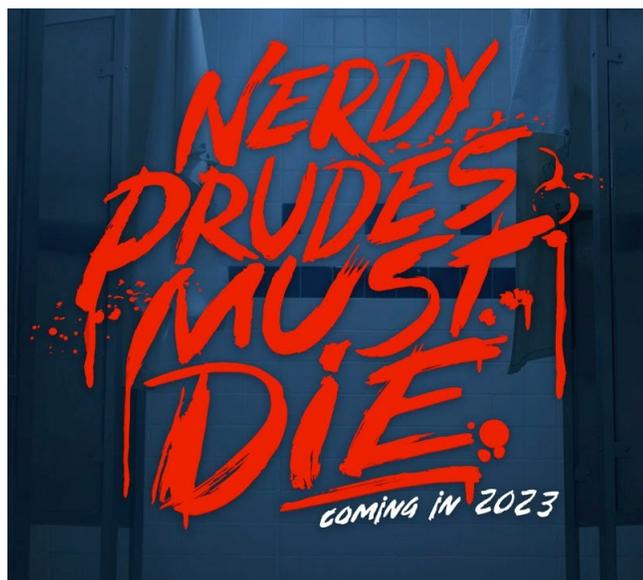


## Hatchetfield Rides Again: Team Starkid Announces New Musical!

TEAM STARKID HIVE RISE UP!! Ahem, friends and fam, I'm very, VERY excited to announce that Team Starkid - the geniuses behind shows *A Very Potter Musical*, *Firebringer*, and *Twisted: The Untold Story of a Royal Vizier* to name a few - are back with a brand new musical! For the unaware, Team Starkid is a (now Los Angeles based) musical theatre production group that was founded back in 2009 in Ann Arbor at

the University of Michigan by brothers Nick and Matt Lang, Brian Holden, and Darren Criss (who some people may recognize as Blaine Anderson on *Glee*, but this was way before his *Glee* days!).

The new show is titled *Nerdy Prudes Must Die* and is set in the Hatchetfield universe, a musical expanded universe that consists of two other Starkid shows, *The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals* and *Black Friday*. Not much is known about the musical in terms of cast or music so far, but we do know that it follows the story of two girls, Grace Chastity and Stephanie Lauter - as they fend off evil spirits that seem to have a real grudge against nerds and geeks! The aforementioned brother/co-founder duo Matt and Nick Lang have written the book for the musical, and Jeff Blim helms the music and lyrics. As I mentioned, no casting details yet, but it wouldn't be out there to assume we'll see some Starkid staples - Lauren Lopez, Joey Richter, Jamie Lyn Beatty to name a couple Starkid icons. I'm really hoping for some more Mariah Rose Faith Casillas on the Starkid stage, and perhaps the return of some of the older Starkid-alumni (Brian Holden and Meredith Stepien, anyone?). No matter who makes up the cast though, the horror-comedy musical is sure to be a wild, thrilling and chilling ride!





## **Lena Horne To Have A Theatre Renamed After Her**



Now for some Broadway theatre news. It was announced prior to the 75th Annual Tony Awards that the Brooks Atkinson Theatre - named after theatre critic Justin Brooks Atkinson and home of many musicals and plays in the past such as *Waitress*, *Noises Off*, and the Deaf West Revival of *Spring Awakening* - will be getting renamed in late 2022. The theatre is being renamed the Lena Horne theatre in honour of Lena Horne, an American theatre triple threat and civil rights activist best known for her incredible skills on her dancing feet who passed away in 2010. This is a monumental theatre name change for Broadway history, as it marks the first ever Broadway theatre to be named/renamed after a black woman. Yeah, that's history right there! Be on the lookout for the unveiling of the new marquee in late 2022.

## **Revolt-ing Children! *Matilda the Musical* Movie Trailer**

Get ready to feel a bit “Naughty”, everybody! The trailer for the film adaptation of *Matilda the Musical* dropped just days ago. It looks like an absolute blast! Fans of the musical are sure to be in for a treat. The movie drops on Netflix in December 2022 and stars newcomer Alisha Weir as Matilda, *No Time To Die*'s Lashana Lynch as Miss Honey, and (one of my favourite actresses EVER) Emma Thompson as Headmaster Trunchbull, a notable difference being here that a woman is playing the Trunchbull in the film instead of a man, who typically plays her on Broadway. I'm a fan of this change though and I have hope. Check out the trailer [right here!](#)





## Encores! 2023 Season: *Piazza*, *Oliver*, and More!



Alright everybody, the people behind *Encores!* Musical theatre productions were pleased to announce the line-up for their 2023 season in these past two weeks, and I'm pleased to talk about them now! The organization announced that their three showstopping musical productions for 2023 will be *The Light in the Piazza* (Craig Lucas & Adam Guettel), *Dear World* (Jerry Herman), and *Oliver!* (Lionel Bart). Along with this announcement, they let the world know about some casting choices that

are already set in stone for both *Piazza* and *Dear World*.

*The King & I*'s Ruthie Ann Miles will be leading the cast of *The Light in the Piazza* as Margaret Johnson, a possibly overprotective mother who must come to terms with her own problems and longing when her young daughter falls in love one summer day in Italy. The Tony winner is sure to bring her all to the part and I really hope we get a Broadway transfer out of it! Fans await patiently for the announcement of who will play the Clara Johnson to Miles' Margaret. Meanwhile, with *Dear World*, Donna Murphy will be leading as Countess Aurelia, a role originated by Angela Lansbury way back when. Donna Murphy is a powerhouse, so I know she will kill it. Of all three of these shows I am almost positive that *Piazza* will be the one everyone talks about, and if it has even the slightest amount of buzz that *Encores!*' production of *Into the Woods* got this year, a Broadway transfer won't be that far out of reach!





## Far From The “Shallow” Now: Gaga In Talks For *Joker 2*



Looks like Mama Monster is heading to the DC Universe! It has been reported that Lady Gaga has been approached to play opposite Joaquin Phoenix in the sequel to Todd Phillips’ 2019 *Joker* film, most likely as the clown prince of crime’s right hand woman Harley Quinn. After her performances in *A Star Is Born* as Ally (which she was Oscar nominated for) and *House of Gucci* as Patrizia Reggiani (Golden Globe

nominated!), this could be a super fun career choice for her!

Now, you may be wondering: “Heather, uh, why the heck are you talking about this? What exactly does *Joker* have to do with musical theatre?”. Well, dear readers, the reason I bring this up is because the *Joker* sequel is set to be a MUSICAL movie! That’s right, a musical. Is the first movie a musical? Nope! Who knows why they want to make it a musical, but I personally am thrilled that the writers have had this stroke of genius. Joaquin can sing, and Lady Gaga is LADY GAGA, so why not? The movie is currently titled *Joker: Folie A Deux* with an unknown release date. Hopefully Gaga signs on and brings some much needed flair to the bleak *Joker* story!



## **Star of the Week: Joaquina Kalukango**

This edition's **STAR OF THE WEEK** is one of the brightest shining stars on Broadway right now. Joaquina Kalukango is no stranger to the Great White Way, having her turn in her fair share of musicals and plays throughout her decades spanning career in the theatre scene. Folks most likely know her best for her turn as Nettie in the 2015 Broadway Revival of *The Colour Purple*. She also starred in *Slave Play* (as Kaneisha), *The Wild Party* (as Kate), and made her Broadway debut in *Godspell*. She is currently playing Nelly Freeman in *Paradise Square* on Broadway.



Last Sunday, Joaquina won the Tony Award for Best Lead Actress in a Musical for her *Paradise Square* performance. It comes as no surprise after seeing her INCREDIBLY emotional and poignant rendition of [a shortened version of "Let It Burn"](#) from the shows just one commercial break before the award was handed out. She brought the house completely down, and there wasn't a dry eye inside Radio City Music Hall when she did it. The woman is wildly talented, and she deserves everyone's attention.

## **Songs of the Week: What Would I Do?/I Am The One**

As promised, here's another prideful bonus song for the month! This song is from *Falsettos*, a beautiful musical that offers a look into the late 70s to early 80s queer atmosphere as well as the AIDS crisis. **\*Spoiler Alert for the Song\*** Music and lyrics by William Finn, performed by Christian Borle and Andrew Rannells. **Check it out here:** <https://youtu.be/ZscL4LOLP7Y>. The other SOTW comes from the Pulitzer Prize winning musical *next to normal*, "I Am The One". It's been stuck in my head for weeks, what can I say?? Music by Tom Kitt, lyrics by Brian Yorkey, with performances by Brian d'Arcy James and Aaron Tveit. **Listen here:** [https://youtu.be/P68z\\_LOT\\_WY?t=114](https://youtu.be/P68z_LOT_WY?t=114).