

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

What's up **CFPA**!! Welcome back to Tick...Tick...NEWS!, Broadway Updates with yours truly, Heather "Heathy Pow Pow" Power. Thank you for joining us for our second edition! The reception towards our first edition really made me smile, I much appreciate it :) This week we've got Tony Awards talk, Jason Robert Brown, curtain calls and more on the mind. Let's get to it!

To The Ones Who've Left, You're Never Truly Gone: Happy Trails, Joel Hatch!!

Bittersweet news for *Come From Away* fans. Original CFA cast member Joel Hatch - AKA Mayor Claude Elliot, Mayor Derm Flynn, and every other Mayor - played his final performance in the world renowned Broadway musical on March 21st. The role has officially been taken over by Gene Weygandt, who is actually coming to Broadway fresh off of the now closed Capitol Theatre production of *Come From Away* in Sydney, Australia! Happy trails, Joel :)



A couple more announcements were made these past two weeks in regards to actors saying farewell (with some hellos!) to the Broadway shows they're in. *Moulin Rouge!* Announced that original cast members Aaron Tveit, Tam Mutu, and Ricky Rojas, as well as their "Satine" Natalie Mendoza, will all be taking their final bow on May 8th. Ensemble member/Hades understudy Timothy Hughes from *Hadestown* also takes his final bow on the "Road to Hell" April 10th. In other *Hadestown* news, it was recently announced that Lana Gordon - Amber Gray's original replacement - will be playing her

final performance as Original Broadway Cast member (and Canadian!) Jewell Blackman gears up to take over officially as Broadway's newest Persephone! Soara-Joye Ross will be taking over Blackman's original role as one of the three Fates of the Underworld.

When Billy Met Broadway: *Mr. Saturday Night* Begins **Previews**

Fans of *The Last 5 Years*, *Wicked*, and PIXAR's *Monsters Inc.* rejoice!! On March 29th, Jason Robert Brown's brand new musical comedy *Mr. Saturday Night* began previews on Broadway at the Nederlander Theatre. The show stars iconic comedian and actor Billy Crystal (*Monsters Inc.*, *When Harry Met Sally*) as Buddy Young Jr., a washed up comedian missing the glory days of his television career, who wishes to have another shot in the spotlight - and another shot at reconnecting with family - 40 years later.

The musical is written by Crystal himself - along with Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel - and based on the 1992 comedy movie of the same name, which also starred and was directed by Crystal. As previously mentioned, the music is written by three time Tony-winning composer Jason Robert Brown (*The Last 5 Years*, *13*, *Parade*) with lyrics penned by Amanda Green (*Hands on a Hard Body*). The show also features beloved Broadway star Shoshana Bean in - if you can even believe it - her FIRST original Broadway cast lead role! Previously she starred in replacement stints as Elphaba and Jenna in *Wicked* and *Waitress* respectively, and she was an original Denizen of Baltimore in *Hairspray*, but this is her first big role in an original cast. That's wild to me! *Mr. Saturday Night*'s previews end with the show's official opening on April 27th, 2022. Break a leg, all!



Five, Six, Seven, Eight!: Tony Awards Set Air Date



Annnd we're back at it! After a confusing (and let's be real, frustrating) show and schedule last year, the 75th annual Tony Awards will be taking place June 12th at the legendary Radio City Music Hall. Last year, Canadians were left out of luck when the ceremony - streaming exclusively and not being aired on TV - was only available through Paramount+ in the United States. I personally felt super sad about this, having never missed a Tony Awards myself. Luckily though this year the awards show is both streaming AND broadcasting on CBS! Nominees are set to come out on May 3rd, and some of the eligible musicals include: the aforementioned *Mr. Saturday Night*, *Funny Girl*, *Six*, *Company*, *Paradise Square*, *MJ: The Musical*, *Flying Over Sunset*, and *The Music Man*, among many more.

At this moment no host has been announced. In the meantime though, I thought it might be cool to discuss some people I would love to see! Just, no James Corden this time, okay Tony's? We need a break. If they were to do a dual host thing this year, as they've done in the past with pairs such as Josh Groban & Sara Bareilles and Kristin Chenoweth & Alan Cumming, I personally would adore it if the show were hosted by Ariana DeBose & Lin-Manuel Miranda. The pair have a great stage history with Ariana appearing in both *Bring It On: The Musical* and *Hamilton*, shows Lin wrote with Tom Kitt and by himself respectively, and they have a camaraderie that would translate super well in hosting format. Other than those two, I also wouldn't mind at all if any of the following people hosted: Jane Lynch, Brian d'Arcy James, Seth Rudetsky, Stephanie J. Block, Beanie Feldstein, Nathan Lane, Anne Hathaway, or Neil Patrick Harris (for the umpteenth time). I'm sure whoever they end up going with will be great, and I'll be sure to keep you all updated!

A Perfect Little Death: Eleri Ward's Sufjan/Sondheim Tribute

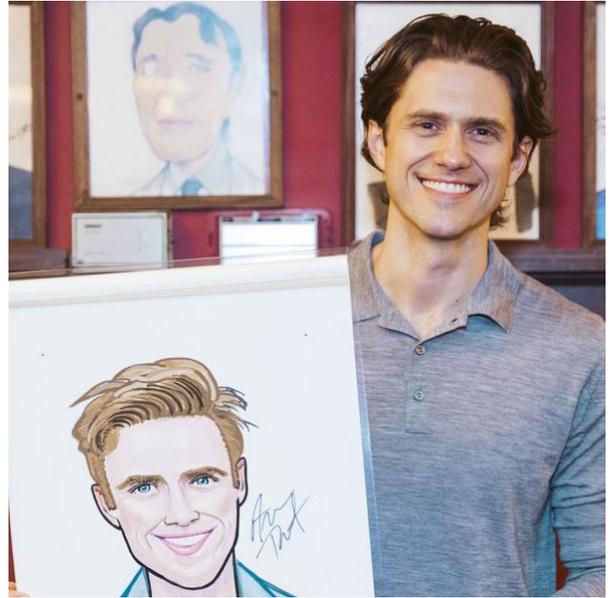
It was honestly quite a while ago when I first heard a track from Eleri Ward's *A Perfect Little Death* album. It was her cover of Pretty Women from *Sweeney Todd*, and I immediately fell in love with her arrangement. Now I've listened to the whole thing, and I'm enamoured. As she is currently working on the vinyl edition of the album - as well as album #2 - and considering the late Stephen Sondheim would have turned 92 on March 22nd, I thought now would be the perfect time to talk about it!



A Perfect Little Death is the amalgamation of two of Eleri Ward's biggest musical inspirations and idols: indie songwriter Sufjan Stevens and legendary composer Stephen Sondheim. In it, she takes some of Sondheim's most iconic musical theatre numbers - including "Johanna" from *Sweeney Todd*, "Being Alive" from *Company*, and "Send in the Clowns" from *A Little Night Music* - and rearranges them in an indie folk/alternative style made quite popular by musician Sufjan Stevens, who some of you may know for his Oscar nominated song "Mystery of Love". The arrangements are beautiful, at times haunting, and incredibly great listens when you need to calm your mind. I'm going to include a link at the end of this segment to one of her covers, "Sunday" from *Sunday in the Park with George*. Considering this was the song all of Broadway chose to sing together in Times Square for Sondheim's memorial tribute, it just feels right: [Sunday by Eleri Ward](#). I highly recommend that anyone interested in Sondheim, Sufjan, or just music in general, check this album out. My hat's off to you, Eleri Ward. A gorgeous, gorgeous tribute.

***Star of the Week:* Aaron Tveit**

Now, if any of you readers know me at all, you'll be totally and completely unsurprised to hear that Aaron Tveit is the newest **STAR OF THE WEEK**. Frankly, I am unhealthily obsessed with him. For those who aren't familiar with him, Aaron Tveit is a Tony award winning performer who has originated some absolutely iconic roles on the Broadway stage. Some of his most prominent roles have been: Gabe in *next to normal*,



normal, Frank Abagnale in *Catch Me If You Can*, Christian in *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*, Fiyero in *Wicked* and Roger in the Hollywood Bowl production of *Rent*. He also appeared in the Oscar nominated adaptation of *Les Misérables* as Enjolras and *Grease! Live* as Danny Zuko.

Last season he won a Tony award for his performance in *Moulin Rouge* (albeit, he was the only nominee due to COVID-19 interrupting the season halfway through). Still, it was a long overdue win and everyone was happy for him! While his run as Christian is coming to an end next month, some other cool things are happening for this guy! Just a few days ago, he became the first recipient of a Sardi's caricature portrait since the global COVID-19 shutdown (pictured above). Congratulations, Aaron! To celebrate, here is a link to one of Aaron's past performances on Broadway. Enjoy! [I'm Alive - next to normal](#)

***Song of the Week:* Paciencia y Fe - In The Heights**

Here's a link to a clip from the Original Broadway run of *In The Heights* of the number "Paciencia y Fe", sung by Abuela Claudia as she reflects on her life story. Performed by Olga Merediz (who was Tony nominated for the part!), with music and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda: <https://youtu.be/Lhg32I1bJmk>