

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

Hello CFPA community and friends! Welcome to the fifteenth edition of *Tick...Tick...NEWS!* This is the final edition of 2022. We'll see you once again in the New Year! In the meantime, let's take a look at the last few Broadway stories of the year. Happy reading!

### **Shut Down Too Soon: *KPOP* Musical Closes Abruptly**



At the beginning of the month it was announced that *KPOP*, a new original Broadway musical about KPOP idols putting it all on the line for a special concert extraordinaire, would be closing its doors abruptly - only two weeks after the show's opening night - after 44 preview performances and only 17 regular performances. This closing is especially heartbreaking considering it served as the Broadway debut for a total of eighteen performers, their big breaks ripped away from them far earlier than they were expecting. The show received mixed reviews after opening, including

one seemingly casually racist review from The New York Times that sparked controversy.

The closing of *KPOP* brings up a rather daunting question: What is it going to take for original musicals to survive on Broadway as it stands right now? A Broadway economy built currently upon Jukebox musicals, movie adaptations, revivals and stunt castings leaves little room for original and diverse stories to succeed. That isn't to say that those aforementioned things are necessarily bad, just overly produced. Between the unexpected closures of *KPOP* and the play *Ain't No Mo*, which was miraculously extended thanks to celebrity and audience support, these closures mark a dark time for the Broadway community.

## **Almost Made It: *Almost Famous* Sets Closing Date**

Unfortunately, the closure announcements don't end with *KPOP* and *Ain't No Mo*. The producers of *Almost Famous*, the musical adaptation of Cameron Crowe's 2000 film, announced that the show will be closing on January 8th, just a couple short months after its previews first began. By January 8th, *Almost Famous* will have played 77 performances and 30 previews, a shockingly low amount for a musical based on such a beloved movie. Unfortunately, the musical did not get the greatest reviews from critics and was not making



enough money to stay open. Luckily, we will still be getting a cast recording in March of 2023! Hats off to the cast and hopefully they can enjoy the final weeks of their run.

## **Willkommen! West End *Cabaret* Recording On the Way!**



Now, for some good news, let's turn to the West End. In news from Broadway's English counterpart, the intensely yearned for and highly suspected revival recording of *Cabaret* is finally, actually coming out! Starring Jessie Buckley as Sally Bowles and Eddie Redmayne as the Emcee, the 2021-2022 revival will be releasing an Original Revival Cast Recording on January 20th, 2023. At this time, both Buckley's incredible rendition of ["Mein Herr"](#) and Redmayne's version of ["Willkommen"](#) are available to listen to online! I am

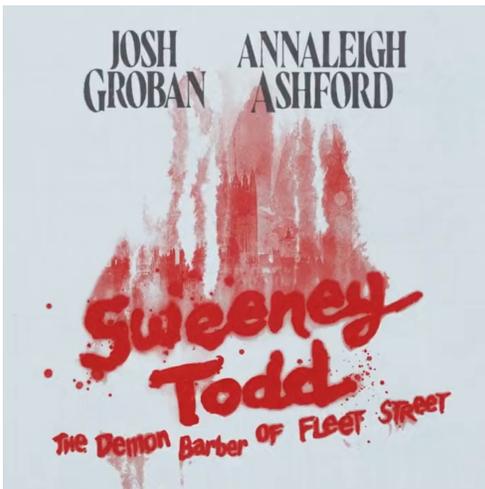
intensely looking forward to this recording and seeing how it compares to the *Cabarets* of the past!

## **Beautiful Movie Adaptation Finds Its Carole King**

I felt the earth move this past week, did you? *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, which starred Tony Award winning Jessie Mueller on Broadway and documents the life and times of singer-songwriter Carole King, is being adapted into a movie. It was revealed just before Christmas that *Normal People*'s Daisy Edgar-Jones will be playing the role of Carole King in the film adaptation. It does perplex me that they would cast a non-Jewish woman as the famously Jewish Carole King, born Carole Klein. As far as musical theatre goes, the British actress does not have very much experience at all - however, she did sing herself in her recent limited series *Under the Banner of Heaven*. I'm really not sure how to feel about this casting, but if Carole approves, I will give her a shot!



## **Sweeney Todd Revival Rounds Out Cast**



We now know who will be joining Josh Groban and Annaleigh Ashford in the 2023 revival of Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. Jordan Fisher (*Dear Evan Hansen*) will be playing Anthony Hope, Gaten Matarazzo (*Stranger Things*) plays Tobias Ragg, Ruthie Ann Miles (*The King and I*) is set to play the Beggar Woman, and Jeanna de Waal (*Carrie*) will be standing by as both Mrs. Lovett and the Beggar Woman. This is only a handful of the incredible cast, and I absolutely cannot wait until we get our first look at this revival in action! February cannot get here soon enough.

## ***Star of the Week:* Bernadette Peters**

We're back with the final **Star of the Week** of 2022! This week's **Star of the Week** is the incredible, the absolutely legendary Bernadette Peters. Beginning her Broadway career in 1959 at only 10 years old as Tessie in *The Most Happy Fella*, the Tony Award winning actress Bernadette Peters has had an incredibly prolific and extensive career on the Broadway stage. Some of her most notable roles include (but are absolutely not limited to): The Witch (*Into the Woods*), Dot/Marie (*Sunday in the Park With George*), Annie Oakley (*Annie Get Your Gun*), Sally Durant Plummer (*Follies*), Dolly Gallagher Levi (*Hello, Dolly!*) and Rose (*Gypsy*). Outside of musical theatre, Peters has created a successful film and television career consisting of roles in films such as *Annie*, *The Jerk*, *Pennies From Heaven*, and *Anastasia*, and TV shows such as *Smash*, *Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist*, *Animaniacs* and *Mozart in the Jungle*.



It is no secret to any musical theatre fan that Bernadette Peters was one of the late Stephen Sondheim's most frequent collaborators and muses, performing in a hefty handful of original casts and original revival casts for his musicals. Just yesterday, Peters was one of many musical theatre, film, and television stars who performed in the special *Old Friends*, a tribute to Stephen Sondheim, on the BBC. Congratulations on such an illustrious career, Bernie! Thank you for everything you do to inspire young performers.

**Remember to check out the “Tick...Tick...NEWS!” playlists on Spotify!:**

**[CFPA & Tick Tick News Present: Star of the Week](#)**

**[CFPA & Tick Tick News: Song of the Week!](#)**

## Songs of the Week: Christmastown & Seasons of Love

This week's **Songs of the Week** celebrate the holiday season - both the passing holidays and the upcoming New Year! Between these two shows -- entirely unlike in tone -- the spirit is right up!



The first song of the week is from a little short-lived Broadway show, and one of the only Christmas oriented ones in existence - *Elf!* This musical is, of course, based on the classic Will Ferrell movie of the same name which follows Buddy the Elf as he searches for his father and teaches everybody the true joys surrounding the Christmas season. This opening number is “Christmastown”, with music by Matthew Sklar, lyrics by Chad Beguelin, and performances by George Wendt and Sebastian Arcelus: <https://youtu.be/aE0f2iWb46M>.

The second song of the week works as a reflection of our lives throughout a singular year - “Seasons of Love” from *Rent*. Going into the New Year, we reflect on what has happened in our lives in those 525,600 minutes we spent with friends, loved ones, and even alone with our own selves for company. The musical *Rent* was Jonathan Larson’s final gift to the world before he passed away, making this Act II opener all the more poignant. This is “Seasons of Love” from *Rent*, with music and lyrics by Jonathan Larson and performances by Gwen Stewart, Marcus Paul James, and the company of *Rent*’s final Broadway performance: <https://youtu.be/PgBjMZ4IeKY>.

