

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

Hello CFPA community, friends and family! Welcome to another brand new edition of *Tick...Tick...NEWS!*, our sixteenth edition and the first edition of 2023! Let's talk about some musical theatre news, shall we? On to Broadway we goes!

A New Star: Paul Mescal To Lead *Merrily* Movie Adaptation



I'll tell you what everyone - Paul Mescal is on an absolute roll! It was announced recently that Mescal (pictured left), the star of BBC's *Normal People* and recent Academy Award nominee for his performance in the indie-drama *Aftersun*, has been casted as the lead in Richard Linklater's grandiose and intricate adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's *Merrily We Roll Along*. This announcement comes shortly after the news that Mescal will be continuing to lead *A Streetcar Named Desire* in its West End revival.

The production of Linklater's film, which actually began back in 2019, will reportedly span 20 years to reflect the time covered in the musical (which means the earliest we would be seeing the film would be 2039! Woah). Originally *Glee*'s Blake Jenner was signed on to play the lead, Frank Shepard, but left after some harrowing stories came out about his treatment of his ex-wife. Mescal is now replacing him, and thank god for that! He has already reshot what he missed and joins Ben Platt (*Dear Evan Hansen*, *Parade*) and Beanie Feldstein (*Funny Girl*, *Booksmart*) in the cast. Platt is playing Frank's old friend and writing partner Charley Kringas and Feldstein is playing Mary Flynn. We will see how good the film turns out to be, but not anytime soon! Much like Linklater's film *Boyhood*, this is gonna be a doozy to film!

First Look at *Sweeney Todd*'s 2023 Revival!

Oh. My. GOD! Swing that razor high, Sweeney! Thanks to *Entertainment Weekly* we now have our first looks at the *Sweeney Todd* revival coming to Broadway in just a couple short months. In the new photos, we see Josh Groban and Annaleigh Ashford posing menacingly in front of a sickly London backdrop, Groban with a razor in hand. Josh Groban is playing the titular role in the musical - Sweeney Todd, aka Benjamin Barker, a forsaken barber who is back in London for a taste of revenge. Ashford, who looks spectacular in her poofy dress, plays Mrs. Lovett - the kooky owner of a Meat Pie Emporium underneath Sweeney's old barbershop that teams up with Todd to enact his revenge out of a fascinating obsession with him. This revival keeps looking better and better, and I can't wait for some clips to drop!



***A Doll's House* Rounds Out A Star-Studded Cast**



The new adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's poignant drama *A Doll's House*, starring Academy Award winner Jessica Chastain, has rounded out the rest of its cast. Among many talented folks, some of the people joining Chastain include Adrian Moayed of *Succession* fame as Torvald Helmer, frequent Shakespearean performer Michael Patrick Thornton as Dr. Rank, and Okieriete Onaodowan (*Hamilton*, *The Great Comet*) as Nils Krogstad. This version of the play will be a Tonys darling, that's for sure!

Thelma and Louise Musical In the Works

Get your headscarf and sunglasses ready, because a musical adaptation of the cult classic movie *Thelma and Louise* is currently in development! It was announced a week and a half ago that Amanda Seyfried (*Mamma Mia!*, *Les Misérables*) is developing the musical, though whether it is for the stage or the screen is not yet known - though it's 90% looking like a stage production! Seyfried is worshipping the musical with friend and fellow performer Evan Rachel Wood



(*Across the Universe*). Grammy Award nominated songwriter Neko Case will be crafting the score of the musical, while Halley Feiffer (*Moscow x6* and *I'm Gonna Pray For You So Hard*) will be writing the book. I am super highly anticipating this musical, both as a *Thelma and Louise* fan and an Amanda Seyfried fan!!

Here's Where He Belongs! Grey Henson Joins *Shucked!*



Calling all *Mean Girls* fans! Broadway's original Damian Hubbard, Grey Henson, is joining the now complete cast of brand new musical *Shucked*, also starring *Glee*'s Alex Newell. Henson will be playing one of the two lead storytellers in the show, which tells the story of a New York comedy writer, two Nashville music stars, and -- you guessed it -- there's a lot of corn involved. I had the privilege of seeing Grey Henson in *The Book of Mormon* back in 2016 as Elder McKinley and he was absolutely fabulous, so I cannot wait to see

what he brings to this intriguing new musical!

From Lexi to Audrey: Maude Apatow Off-Broadway

Let's keep the casting news rolling, shall we? Next week, *Euphoria*'s Maude Apatow will be joining the cast of *Little Shop of Horrors* off-Broadway as Audrey. She will be replacing current Audrey performer Lena Hall (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*) and starring alongside Matt Doyle (*Company*, who is currently out of the show due to COVID). Apatow is best known for playing Lexi Howard on HBO's *Euphoria*, and is also the daughter of Hollywood director/writer/producer Judd Apatow and actress Leslie Mann. Many people immediately reacted negatively to Apatow's casting, calling it a stunt and another result of nepotism in the industry. Only time will tell if Maude has the chops for this at times vocally demanding role, we'll have to wait and see!



Picture the Show: Parade Coming Back to Broadway!



The news story we have all been waiting for has finally broken: the HIGHLY successful New York City Centre production of Jason Robert Brown's *Parade* - [starring Ben Platt and Micaela Diamond](#) - will be making its much anticipated Broadway transfer! The limited engagement of the revival (notably the *first* ever revival of the 1998 musical) will run from its first preview on February 21st to its closing date on August 6th. The transfer has also been fully casted at this time, with Paul Nolan (*Jesus Christ Superstar*), Jay Armstrong Johnson (*Sweeney Todd*), and Sean Allan Krill (*Jagged Little Pill*) among the talented group joining Platt and Diamond.

This revival will prove to be a HUGE contender at the Tonys. Keep your eyes on it!

Star of the Week: Colton Ryan

We're back with the first **Star of the Week** of 2023! This week's **Star of the Week** Colton Ryan. Colton Ryan is a triple threat performer from Lexington, Kentucky. As an actor he is most known perhaps for playing Connor in the film adaptation of *Dear Evan Hansen*, while as a performer on Broadway he is highly known for playing Connor, Evan, AND Jared in the *Dear Evan Hansen* stage show. At CFPA though, Colton is best known for his performance as Alfred in *Alice By Heart*, a show our High School group just performed a medley of in Songs From Broadway 7! Other theatre credits of Colton's include playing Dickon in *The Secret Garden*, Freddy Eynsford-Hill in *My Fair Lady*, and recently originating the role of Gene Laine in *Girl From the North Country*.



Recently it was announced that Colton will be leading the new musical on Broadway *New York, New York* from John Kander (including music by his late writing partner, Fred Ebb) and Lin Manuel-Miranda, based on the 70s film of the same name. Colton will be playing Jimmy Doyle, a young musician looking for a purpose to his life, when he comes across aspiring singer Francine Evans -- who is being played by Anna Uzele (*Six the Musical*). Congratulations, Colton, and thanks for being so dang talented!

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: Telly & No More

This week's **Songs of the Week** share something fun in common - both these songs were cut from the movie adaptation of their respective musicals! The cuts make sense, but these two numbers are both incredibly good - and maybe even the slightest bit underrated! Let's have a listen!



The first song of the week comes from *Matilda the Musical*, and was unfortunately cut from the very recent film adaptation of the show - though not without reason! In the film, Matilda has no older brother, making her an older child. Therefore, Mr. Wormwood's song which features his son had to be cut! Nevertheless, this is one of my favourite numbers in the musical and makes for some absolutely hilarious comic relief in an already funny show. This is "Telly", with music and lyrics by Tim Minchin and performed here by *Spongebob's* Gavin

Lee: https://youtu.be/b2dsV_EiRQo.

The second song comes from *Into the Woods*, and was criminally cut from the movie adaptation (and Songs From Broadway too - sorry folks!). "No More" is sung by The Baker and the Mysterious Man - who turns out to be the Baker's father - in a moment of intense vulnerability and responsibility taking, and is one of the most underrated and moving songs from the Sondheim classic. This is "No More", with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and performances from original cast members Chip Zien and Tom Aldredge: <https://youtu.be/SpFvTmrpDyU?t=107>.

