

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

Hello **CFPA** friends and family, and welcome to Tick...Tick...NEWS!, a new space for me, **CFPA** student and employee Heather Power, to deliver all the latest scoops of Broadway to your screens. From show announcements to music vibes to casting thrills, I'm gonna do my best to bring you the news. Now get comfortable! For my first edition we've got a lot to talk about, so let's carry that banner as the Newsies would say and jump into it!

Phone Rings! Door Chimes! In Comes Patti!

Up first on the docket is Broadway legend Patti LuPone's triumphant return to the stage on March 9th. On February 27th, Patti announced on twitter that she had contracted COVID-19 and would be out of *Company* for 10 days because of this. For those 10 days, fellow cast member Jennifer Simard stepped in as Joanne and from what I've heard, she killed it! LuPone wasted no time getting back to prime health for her return though, because exactly 10 days later she came back to *Company* and brought the house down.



In a hilarious turn of events, an audience member threw some roses onto the stage for Patti as a sign of respect for her performance, but accidentally aimed for the head instead of the feet. When Patti bowed, the roses got her square in the noggin, which shocked the cast for a second before they all broke into laughter. You can check out the

video for yourself on fellow *Company* star Claybourne Elder's Instagram. A funny and memorable welcome back for one of Broadway's most iconic stars!

The Boy Who Lived...then came back to Broadway!

Big news for fans of Stephen Sondheim, revivals, and Harry Potter!! It was recently announced that the Sondheim musical *Merrily We Roll Along* will be getting an Off-Broadway revival starring none other than actor Daniel Radcliffe. While most people are certainly more familiar with Radcliffe's work as the titular character in the Harry Potter film franchise, or perhaps even his more obscure, indie film work in movies such as *Swiss Army Man*, *Guns Akimbo* and *Kill Your Darlings*, the actor has made a home for himself



on the Broadway stage many times in the past. He has starred in Broadway plays such as Martin McDonagh's *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and D'Agata & Fingal's *The Lifespan of a Fact*, and most notably he led the 2011 Broadway revival of the Frank Loesser musical *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying* as J. Pierrepont Finch.

It's honestly a real treat that Dan Radcliffe seems to love working in the theatre so much, and I'm very excited for his return to musicals specifically. Radcliffe will be playing Charley, one of three friends whom the story follows. So far no other cast members of the show have been announced, but I have my fingers crossed for a possible stage musical debut from Tony Winner Andrew Garfield, who I think could compliment Radcliffe's Charley quite well as the more primary protagonist Frank Shepard. Either way, I congratulate Dan and cannot wait until we can all welcome him back to the Broadway stage.

The Name On Everybody's Lips is Gonna Be...PAMELA.



There's a new bombshell felon in town...or at least there will be this April at the Ambassador Theatre. In other casting news, beginning April 12th through to June 5th, Pamela Anderson will be taking over the role of Roxie Hart in *Chicago*. Yes, THAT Pamela Anderson. *Baywatch* Pamela Anderson. This casting came as a bit of a shock to the Broadway community, but not completely as *Chicago* has been famous for its stunt casting for a good while now. For the unfamiliar, a stunt casting (sometimes grouped together with a "star casting") occurs when a famous celebrity joins the cast of a show unexpectedly, typically as a publicity stunt which also gains the show more ticket sales. We've seen them on Broadway in the past, sometimes it's a shockingly fantastic surprise, and other times it's....shocking in a different way. Some notable past stunt casts in recent years have been Colleen Ballinger and Al Roker in *Waitress* (the good), Brandy in *Chicago* (the GREAT), Cameron Dallas in *Mean Girls* (the bad), and Wendy Williams in, you guessed it, *Chicago* (the "let's forget this ever happened").

Pamela is a bit of an interesting case! I think that despite whether or not she can sing - which is like, you know, kind of necessary in a musical - the act of her playing Roxie Hart at all is super intriguing. Pam's been at the head of a few scandals throughout her career, and she's also been wronged before. Even just recently, the Disney+/Hulu show *Pam and Tommy* about her life and tumultuous relationship with Tommy Lee was made without her permission. I think it'll be cool to watch channel her own personal experiences into the role of Roxie. Fingers crossed she has the vocal pipes to bring us a new take on this classic Broadway role!

Hello Gorgeous! Funny Girl Moves Into The Theatre

Nobody better try to rain on this show's parade! The first ever Broadway revival of *Funny Girl* has finally moved into its new home at the August Wilson Theatre. The August Wilson Theatre has housed many a Broadway musical in the past, including *Jersey Boys* and *Mean Girls*. Starring *Booksmart*'s Beanie Feldstein as Fanny Brice, *The Phantom of the Opera* alum Ramin Karimloo as Nick Arnstein, *After Midnight*'s Jared Grimes as Eddie Ryan, and *Glee*'s Jane Lynch as Mrs. Rosie Brice, *Funny Girl* details the semi-autobiographical life story of a Jewish actress and comedian named Fanny Brice waiting for her big break.



This is the first time *Funny Girl* has been revived on Broadway, the first time in 58 years the character of Fanny will flourish on a Broadway stage, this time at the August Wilson rather than the Winter Garden. The show has not been performed on a Broadway stage since its original run in the 60s starring Broadway icon Barbra Streisand as Fanny Brice, a role for which she won a Tony Award and later an Oscar, so this is HUGE!! Beanie Feldstein surely has big shoes to fill, but if the infectious excitement of the cast and creatives on social media means anything this show is guaranteed to be a crowd pleaser. Personally, I could not be more excited!! The music of *Funny Girl* has always been bubbly and melodic to me, Ramin Karimloo is one of my favourite Broadway mainstays, and as a self-proclaimed Gleek, how could I not be happy to see Sue Sylvester herself (Jane Lynch) take to the stage once more?? *Funny Girl* begins previews on March 26th, with an opening night set for April 24th. Break a leg, everyone!

Star of the Week: Ariana DeBose

STAR OF THE WEEK is a segment I'm hoping to include in all of my TTN editions, highlighting different Broadway stars for their great performances, impacts on the community, legacies, and talents. The first ever Star of the Week is an incredibly deserving one, the ever impressive **Ariana DeBose**. Ariana DeBose is known by many in the Broadway community as a tour de force and triple threat, starring in shows such as *Pippin* and *Motown*, and original roles in musicals like *Bring It On* (Nautica), *A Bronx Tale*



(Jane), and *Hamilton* (Ensemble, better known as “The Bullet”). Recently DeBose has made quite the name for herself on the big screen through musical theatre movie adaptations, first starring in Netflix’s *The Prom* adaptation as Alyssa Greene and then taking on the role of Anita in Stephen Spielberg’s *West Side Story* adaptation. The latter role has made DeBose’s career skyrocket, earning her an abundance of awards including a Golden Globe, a BAFTA, a SAG award, and an Academy Award nomination (and hopefully, the win!). She is the first openly queer person of colour to ever be nominated, as well as the first Afro-Latina to be nominated for the award. I tip my hat off to her, as her performance is worthy of all the praise!

Song of the Week: America - West Side Story

Here’s a link to the 2021 movie version of America from *West Side Story*, featuring Star of the Week Ariana DeBose!! Music by Leonard Bernstein and Lyrics by Stephen

Sondheim: <https://youtu.be/hoQEddtFN3Q>