



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

Hello CFPA community and friends! Welcome to the 12th edition of *Tick...Tick...NEWS!* This is the Halloween edition, which means the songs of the week will be Halloween oriented! I hope everyone had an absolutely fabulous Halloween, got to dress up in their best costumes, and ate a TON of candy. I know I did! Now, without further ado, let's get into the news.

Matt Doyle Joins *Little Shop Off-Broadway*

First he was the next bride, now he'll be the next quirky floral shop employee! *Company*'s Matt Doyle will be joining the off-Broadway revival of *Little Shop of Horrors* this November as Seymour Krelborn. Seymour is the main protagonist of *Little Shop* - a lonely but wholly kind florist at Mr. Mushnik's. He has a major crush on his coworker Audrey, but is far too shy to act upon it. When he discovers a strange plant he begins to care for it as it becomes an anthropomorphic creature that feeds on humans!



Doyle joins an already stacked cast which includes Lena Hall (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*) as Audrey, Aaron Arnell Harrington (*Rent*) as Audrey II, or Twoey, Bryce Pinkham (*A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*) as Dr. Orin Scrivello, and Brad Oscar (*Something Rotten!*, *The Producers*) as Mr. Mushnik. Doyle takes over for Rob McClure, who leaves the show on November 13th. This production of *Little Shop of Horrors* has had an insanely impressive run of Seymours, including Jonathan Groff, Jeremy Jordan, Conrad Ricamora, and Skylar Astin among others. Matt Doyle certainly continues on that legacy when he joins the cast on November 15th! Break a leg, Matt, and don't feed the plants!



Sunset Boulevard Casting! Who's Joining J. Block?



You may remember a few editions back I heavily discussed the upcoming Kennedy Center production of *Sunset Boulevard* that's happening starring my absolute QUEEN Stephanie J. Block. The production will run this February in the Eisenhower Theatre at the Kennedy Center, and up until now the only casting info we had was J. Block as the leading lady Norma Desmond. Now, we've got 3 new names to add to the mix! Derek Klena, Auli'i Cravahlo, and Nathan Gunn join Stephanie this February. Klena, known for roles in *Anastasia*, *Carrie*, and *Jagged Little Pill*, and who is

currently on Broadway as Christian in *Moulin Rouge!*, will play screenwriter Joe Gillis, who gets seduced by Desmond into making a film that will hopefully reignite her stardom. Gunn, who is actually a trained Opera singer, will be playing Max Von Mayerling, Norma's first husband who now serves her as her personal butler and confidant. Auli'i Cravalho is best known to audiences as the voice behind the titular Moana in Disney's 2016 film. She also starred in *Rise* and *The Little Mermaid Live*. She will be playing Betty Schaefer in the musical, a script reader at Paramount Studios who dreams of becoming a true writer. These new additions, along with the already incredible Stephanie J. Block, are going to make for quite the show that without a doubt will be calling Broadway's name for a transfer! February cannot come soon enough!





Will *Hercules* Go The Distance At Paper Mill Playhouse?



Bless my soul, looks like Herc is on a roll! Back in 2019, a stage adaptation of the classic Disney movie *Hercules* premiered at the Delacorte Theatre in Central Park. The original production starred Jelani Alladin as Hercules, Krysta Rodriguez as Megara, and Roger Bart as Hades, and was met with mixed to positive reviews. Its composer, frequent Disney collaborator Alan Menken, said he was hoping to stage the show again in the near future. Well, three years later and *Hercules* is back in action! A revised version of *Hercules* will be playing the Paper Mill Playhouse in Milton, New Jersey during the 2022-2023 musical season.

Paper Mill Playhouse has famously housed many musicals in the past, including the world premieres of shows such as *Newsies*, *Bandstand*, and *A Bronx Tale*. The 2019 production's director, Lear deBessonet, returns to direct this updated version.

Casting announcements came out just yesterday, and I'm frankly very excited to share them! [Bradley Gibson](#) (pictured above) will be playing the titular Hercules. Gibson is best known for playing Simba in *The Lion King* on Broadway, as well as originating roles in the *Rocky* and *A Bronx Tale* musicals, and let me tell you - he is supremely talented!. Joining Gibson is Shuler Hensley (*Oklahoma!*, *Les Misérables*) as Hades, ruler of the underworld, Isabelle McCalla (*The Prom*, *Aladdin*) as Megara, and James Monroe Iglehart (*Aladdin*, *Hamilton*, pictured right) as Phil. Iglehart



originated the role of Phil in the 2019 Central Park production of *Hercules*, so this will be a role reprisal for him. I'm personally looking forward to seeing what changes have been made to this musical and what this incredible cast will bring to the table!



Patti LuPone on Broadway & Handing In Her Equity Card



Two weeks ago, Patti LuPone shocked the world when she tweeted that she was DONE with Broadway. The *Company* star wrote that she had handed in her Actor's Equity Card, a tool you need to perform professionally in major theatre roles, especially necessary on Broadway. She said she would leave the rest of the community to "figure out" what to do next, because she was sick of it. This sent fans, colleagues, and news outlets everywhere scrambling. A Broadway without Patti LuPone?? Say it ain't so!

At the premiere for her latest film *The School for Good and Evil*, LuPone explained that she is not quitting theatre entirely (she can still perform in non-Equity theatre and make guest appearances on stage), and that she could get her Actor's Equity card back whenever she wants, but that she needs a break from the stage and is unsatisfied with Broadway as it stands right now. LuPone's career on Broadway has spanned almost 50 years now, and she says that Broadway has changed considerably since she began - and for the worse. She believes that audiences have been dumbed down, with their attention spans plummeting as well, and those things are dramatically changing the way Broadway functions, along with the ridiculously high ticket prices and other obstacles that limit theatre goers. In the interview she went on to say that she believes plays won't have a long shelf life on Broadway because of this, and that Broadway has become less of an industry and more like a theme park, a mere attraction like Disney World or Las Vegas - and that doesn't sit right with her. Theatre, in LuPone's eyes, is an education! And I completely agree. Wise words, Patti. We'll see you when we see you.



Star of the Week: Phillipa Soo

For this edition of *Tick...Tick...NEWS!* I wanted to spotlight another one of my favourite (and honestly, kind of underrated!) stars on Broadway right now, Phillipa Soo! Phillipa Soo, who is also commonly referred to as “Pippa” in Broadway circles, is a Tony nominated performer who made a particular splash on Broadway in the past decade. She is probably best known for playing [Eliza Schuyler](#) in the original Broadway cast of *Hamilton*, a role that got her nominated for a Tony. Other than *Hamilton*, Pippa has had roles on Broadway in shows such as [Natasha, Pierre, & The Great Comet of 1812](#) (Natasha Rostova), *Amélie* (Amélie Poulain), *The Parisian Woman* (Rebecca), and most recently played Cinderella in the latest revival of *Into the Woods*. Soo also had a cameo role in Lin-Manuel Miranda’s 2021 movie musical *Tick...Tick...BOOM!*, an adaptation of Jonathan Larson’s musical of the same name (and this newsletter’s namesake! Woohoo!).



Currently, Phillipa Soo is singing, dancing, and winning hearts onstage at The Kennedy Center in *Guys and Dolls*. In the show she plays Sarah Brown, a Save-A-Soul missionary who begins to fall for the smooth yet risky gambler Sky Masterson. Sky is played by Soo’s real-life husband Steven Pasquale, which makes for a wholly adorable couple of numbers and adds a fun, not too often explored realism to the show. Congrats on the successful career, Pippa!

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: HALLOWEEN EDITION!!

This week's **Songs of the Week** segment is a really fun one everybody - Halloween edition! This edition's songs come from musicals that are a bit more of the spooky variety than the average musical. There's a small variety of shows like this out there, whether it be *Beetlejuice*, *Carrie*, or *Heathers*! So strap in, have a listen, and try not to get too scared!! 🎃👻



The first song of the week comes from *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* - a show about Benjamin Barker who is locked away by a cruel Judge who has a creepy infatuation with Barker's wife. Barker returns to London under a new name, Sweeney Todd, and vows revenge against the Judge - by any means necessary. He teams up with zany bake shop owner Mrs. Lovett to serve his own "justice" (and people pies!). This is "A Little Priest", with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and performances by

Christine Baranski and Kelsey Grammer: <https://youtu.be/K-KYp2YUUIA>.

The second song of the week is from the criminally underrated *American Psycho: The Musical*, which follows the same plot as the book and movie of the same name. This song comes at the end of the musical when Patrick Bateman confesses to offing a bunch of people including his coworker Paul only to be told it never happened and that Paul is alive and well. Whether or not it did or didn't happen is up to audience interpretation, Bateman figures it doesn't matter. The end song in the musical is entirely chilling and cool - I love this show! This is "This Is Not An Exit", with music and lyrics by Duncan Sheik and performances by Benjamin Walker and the company of *American Psycho* on Broadway: <https://youtu.be/maYIYffhjCI>.

