

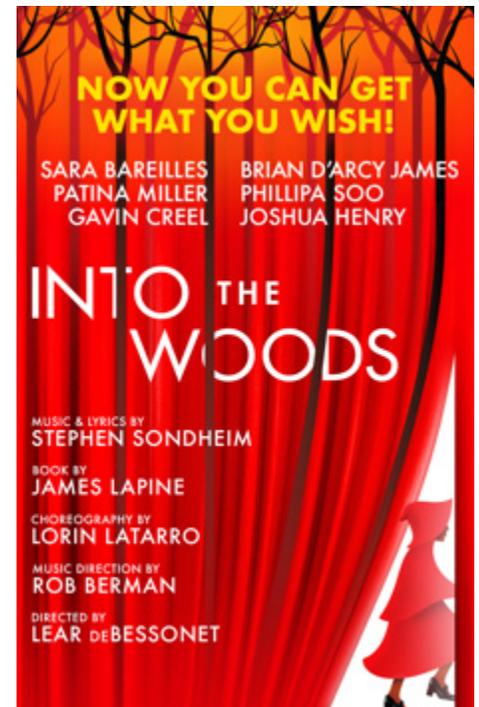
Tick...Tick...NEWS! Broadway Updates with Heather Power

Hello **CFPA**!! Welcome to the FIFTH edition of Tick...Tick...NEWS!, Broadway Updates with Heather Power. There's some really cool stuff that was announced in the last week or so! From *Stranger Things* alums to Sondheim revivals, let's jump into the latest in Broadway news. Remember to click the blue words for video links!

The Slotted Spoon Can Catch the Revival! Encores *Into the Woods* Heads to Broadway

Well guys, huge news. It's happening. The Encores! Production of *Into the Woods* is officially getting a Broadway transfer! The musical will be landing on Broadway this summer for a limited engagement, and I and many other fans couldn't be more thrilled! A few big casting changes have been announced along with the transfer announcement, presumably due to scheduling conflicts from the current crew, and I'm pretty excited about some of these too! Brian d'Arcy James will be replacing Neil Patrick Harris as The Baker, who in turn replaced Christian Borle. I'm a big fan of BDJ, and I personally think this is a really fun casting for him. Denée Benton is being replaced

by *Hamilton*'s Phillipa Soo, and this isn't the first time the two women have swapped roles! Denée replaced Pippa in *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812* when it finally went to Broadway, and she also took over as Eliza in *Hamilton* a while after Phillipa stepped down. At this point, it's almost like a fun gag for the fans when these ladies swap roles. Also joining the cast are Tony Award Winner Patina Miller, replacing Heather Headley as The Witch & *Tick Tick Boom!*'s Joshua Henry as Rapunzel's Prince, replacing Jordan Donica. The revival of *Into The Woods* runs at the St. James Theatre from June 28th to about the end of August.



Sincerely, D&D: Gaten Matarazzo To Star in *Dear Evan Hansen*



Gaten Matarazzo is continuing his Never Ending Story. The *Stranger Things* star is set to join the cast of *Dear Evan Hansen* on Broadway for a limited engagement beginning on July 19th. The 19 year old will be taking over the role of Jared Kleinman, Evan Hansen's sort-of friend who helps Evan compile letters from Connor Murphy. Gaten is taking over the role from Jared Goldsmith, who has been playing Jared on Broadway since before the Pandemic (Goldsmith even made a Cameo

video for our High School Broadway Performance Class back in 2020! Super cool guy). From what I've seen Gaten do, I think he will fit right into this character. A bit snarky, REALLY funny, and a little complicated, he'll definitely do great! I have high hopes for sure and hope anyone who wants to catch him in the role gets to see him.

While some people are calling Gaten's casting in this musical a "stunt cast", I don't really think that's entirely truthful. The idea of "stunt casting", something I've covered before in *TTN*, has mainly negative connotations, especially when used online in announcements like this. The problem with calling Matarazzo a stunt cast though, is that this talented dude got his start on Broadway! In 2011 Gaten began his career as a replacement for Benjamin in the iconic musical *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. He then went on to originate the role of Gavroche in the 2014 revival of *Les Misérables*, two years before he booked the *Stranger Things* gig! I'm personally very excited to see Gaten back to Broadway once more. Break a leg, Henderson!

Let Me Be Your Star: *Smash* Musical Has Its First Reading

Megan Hilty & Krysta Rodriguez are BACK!!!

Way back when in 2012 (10 YEARS AGO, if you can believe it) a little show premiered on NBC by the name of *Smash*. Fans of *Glee* and musical theatre immediately flocked to the show. The show followed the story of two young women, small town girl Karen Cartwright and big city powerhouse Ivy Lynn, who were vying for the lead role in a new musical about Marilyn Monroe titled *Bombshell*. The show's two seasons laid out the entire creative process of the musical, from workshops and casting to opening night and the Tony Awards, and included original songs that served as the music in the fake musical within the show. Now, it looks like the *Smash* Marilyn musical is finally really happening and getting its feet off the ground! Producers and cast, including *9 To 5*'s Megan Hilty (who played Ivy Lynn on the show) and Krysta



Rodriguez (Ana Vargas on *Smash*'s second season) gathered for a reading of the musical last week with a couple clips being shared online. I have been waiting for this musical to finally happen for about 5-6 years now so I am SO excited to see some progress! Also present for the reading were *The Prom* actors Brooks Ashmankas and Beth Leavel, as well as *Head Over Heels*' Bonnie Milligan, *Shrek & Hamilton*'s Daniel Breaker, and *Hairspray*'s Maddie Baillio among others. I personally believe "*Bombshell*" to be the best

Broadway musical to not exist, so the fact that we're actually getting it now is SO awesome. Keep your eyes peeled for the 2023 season, cause I have a feeling Norma Jean will be making her way to the Big Apple sooner rather than later!

Screeched Back In! Jenn Colella Returns to *Come From Away*

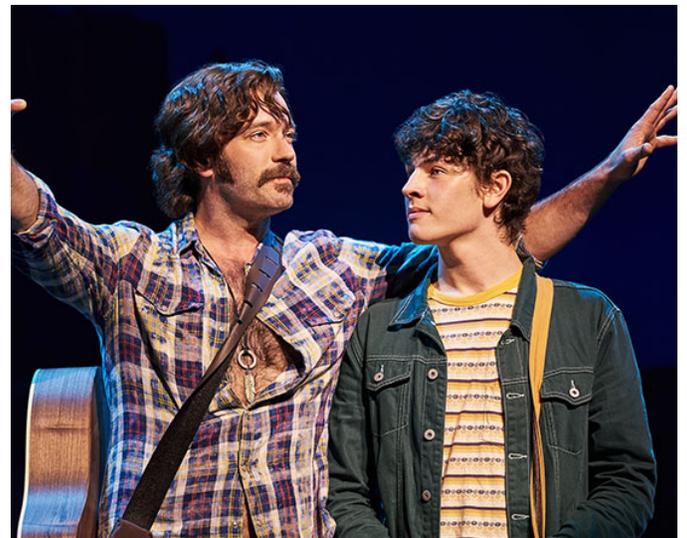


Ladies and gentleman if you look out your window, you'll see the news that Jenn Colella is back on Broadway! Colella, who originated the role of Beverley Bass, Annette, and others in the Newfoundland-oriented *Come From Away* musical is returning to the beloved show this summer. This also marks the end of Becky Gulsvig's run, as when Jenn Colella is finished up in August the West End's Rachel Tucker will be returning to the role. As a reminder to all my musical theatre fanatics, a

professional recording of *Come From Away* is available to stream on AppleTV! Still, if you want to catch Jenn Colella in the role she originated one more time live on stage, get yourself a ticket to *Come From Away* between June 21st and August 7th! Welcome back, Captain.

***Almost Famous* Sets Broadway Premiere Date & Cast**

Attention, rock n roll fans! The highly anticipated musical adaptation of *Almost Famous*, an incredible Oscar nominated coming of age movie from the year 2000, is finally making its Broadway debut! After premiering at the San Diego Old Globe in 2019, *Almost Famous* the musical is set to make its Broadway premiere this fall. The show, which features music by Tom Kitt (*next to normal*, *If/Then*) and lyrics co-written by Kitt and the film's director Cameron Crowe, follows the same plot as the movie - a young



man obsessed with rock n roll in the 1970s joins a touring up-and-coming band called Stillwater after being hired to write an article on them for The Rolling Stone (despite the protests of his mother). Along the way, he discovers the intricacies of the band and the ups and downs of being a rockstar. The cast will be composed mainly of the stars from the Old Globe production - among them *Hamilton* national tour's Solea Pfeiffer as Penny Lane (Kate Hudson in the film version) and *Waitress*'s Drew Gehling as Jeff Bebe (Jason Lee in the film). Chris Wood of *The Vampire Diaries* joins the cast as well in what will be his Broadway debut portraying Russell Hammond (Billy Crudup in the film). The musical, which will be played at the Shubert Theatre, begins previews on September 24th, with the official opening night set for October 11th. Thank God rock n roll is back on Broadway!

Maestro: Bradley Cooper Becomes Bernstein

If there's anything I love more than musicals or movies, it's movie musicals/movies about music. And guess what everyone, Bradley Cooper is catering specifically to my needs! After his directorial debut in 2018 with *A Star Is Born*, Bradley Cooper is back with another musical film, *Maestro*. The film will follow the life story of legendary composer Leonard Bernstein, the man behind *Candide*, the music of *West Side*

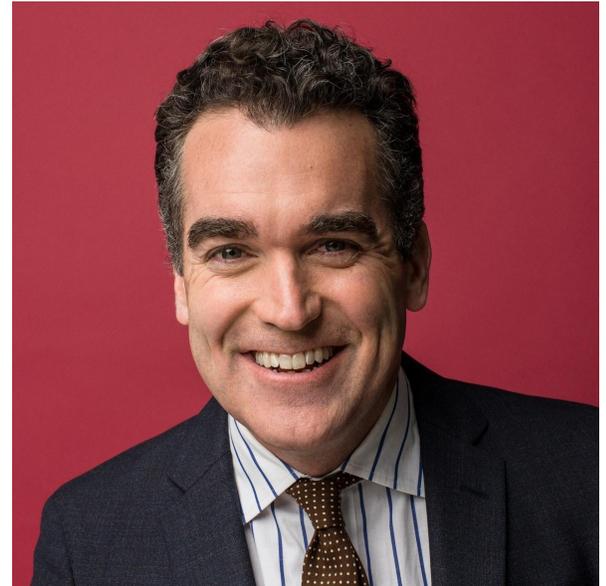


Story, and *On The Town* among many, MANY others. Bernstein was the recipient of 18 different Grammys and Tony's combined, along with a Lifetime Achievement Award and the prestigious Kennedy Center Honours for his dedication to music and theatre. Along with directing, a job handed down to him personally from Steven Spielberg, Cooper will be playing Bernstein in the film. We see him pictured above as Bernstein in the first look at the film! The film is slated for 2023, and I couldn't be more excited. Maestro!

Star of the Week: Brian d’Arcy James

Funnily enough this TTN edition’s **STAR OF THE WEEK** was almost picked a few editions ago, but now with the news of his casting in the *Into The Woods* limited revival, now seems to be a more fitting time to talk about one Brian d’Arcy James!

I have no doubt that whether you are big into musical theatre or not, you probably recognize this man’s face. On the stage, Brian d’Arcy James has played a seriously impressive plethora of roles. Most Broadway enthusiasts most likely would recognize his name and voice (though probably not his face!) as the man behind the ogre makeup in *Shrek the Musical* as the titular character. His performance in the song [“Who I’d Be”](#) is one of my all time favourites. Aside from that Tony nominated role, d’Arcy James also originated the roles of Nick Bottom in *Something Rotten!*, Burrs in the off-Broadway production of Andrew Lippa’s *The Wild Party*, and even Dan Goodman in the off-Broadway premiere of *next to normal*, a part taken over by J. Robert Spencer and eventually taken back by BDJ when it moved to Broadway (oh, how I wish we had a recording with Brian! [Here’s a clip of his incredible performance.](#)). BDJ has also played King George III (*Hamilton*) and Freddy Benson (*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*), among many other impressive roles. Non-theatre people may recognize him from any number of movies and shows he’s been in - *Thirteen Reasons Why*, *Spotlight*, *West Side Story*, *Molly’s Game*, the aforementioned *Smash*, or even the MCU’s recent *Hawkeye* show! It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to be an actor as versatile and in demand as Brian d’Arcy James, and his impressive resume and immense talent make him a perfect pick for Star of the Week, especially with his *Into The Woods* announcement! Congrats, Brian! Expect a little CFPA trophy in your P.O. Box soon.



Songs of the Week: Ring of Keys/Ten Minutes Ago

This edition of TTN has TWO songs of the week! To begin, Happy Pride Month, CFPA family!! To celebrate Pride Month, both June editions of *Tick...Tick...NEWS!* will feature songs of the week celebrating LGBTQIA+ roles/shows in the theatre. Who knows, I might actually put multiple songs per edition from now on! This edition's song is "Ring of Keys" from the autobiographical musical *Fun Home*,



based on the graphic memoir of the same name by Alison Bechdel. The song follows a young Alison as she is struck by the connection she feels to a handsome delivery woman who enters the luncheonette. With music by Jeanine Tesori and lyrics by Lisa Kron, featuring a performance by Sydney Lucas as Small Alison (and Beth Malone as an older Alison). You can check out the song right here: <https://youtu.be/pMAuesRJm1E?t=41>



The next **SOTW** comes from *Cinderella*, a dazzling show with a (very impressive for TV) movie adaptation starring two of my favourite singers, Brandy Norwood and Whitney Houston. It's on Disney+ if you've never checked it out before, I highly recommend it! Here is a performance of it from the Broadway revival in 2013, with performances from Laura Osnes & Santino Fontana (aka my beloved Greg from *Crazy-Ex Girlfriend* and Prince Hans from *Frozen!*). With music from Richard

Rodgers & lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. You can watch the performance/recording right here: <https://youtu.be/xURANH2dN5M>