



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

Hello everyone! Welcome to the (very, VERY delayed) seventh edition of *Tick...Tick...NEWS!! Broadway Updates with Heather Power*. I was supposed to release this a while but I find that whenever I post, some huge news story always comes out in the theatre scene a few hours later. Lo and behold there are a few HUGE stories at the end of this newsletter, so I made the right decision to wait this time. Let's call this the belated **July** edition! Broadway has been really blowing up lately with news! So, stay tuned for that, and let's jump into it.

Another Hundred Closures: *Company* Plays Final Show



Let me preface this portion of the newsletter by saying: I AM SO SAD! The Marianne Elliot directed revival of *Company* closed on July 31st after a very successful run. The show won the most Tony Awards of any musical at the latest ceremony, including Best Supporting Actress for Patti LuPone (who caused a 3+ minute standing ovation after her final performance of "The Ladies Who Lunch" on July 31st) and Best Revival of a Musical. The announcement that *Company* would be closing came back at the beginning of July, mere hours after the announcement that the Broadway League had decided to remove the mask mandates on Broadway. Coincidence? It's difficult to say.

If any of you are familiar with my trials and tribulations with New York City as of late (hi, Morgan!) I was supposed to go see the *Company* revival back in May of 2020. After many cancellations due to COVID-19, it seems like it just wasn't in the cards for me to go see this show. Luckily it will live on through all the clips, recordings, and love from its fans!



Luck Be A Lady! *Guys & Dolls* To Play At The Kennedy Center

Let's move on to some really, REALLY good news everyone! It was announced just a few days ago that for its 2022-2023 season, The Kennedy Center will be putting off Loesser & Loewe's *Guys and Dolls*, a certified musical theatre classic. The show, which takes place directly in the hustle and bustle of 1950s New York, follows gamblers Nathan Detroit and Sky Masterson making big moves and winning the hearts of big, bright and loud showgirl Miss Adelaide and the bright-eyed, reserved Sarah Brown respectively. The show features some of the most iconic Broadway numbers of all time, including "Luck Be A Lady" and "Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat". The show is so widely recognizable and timeless - there was even a production here in town a few years back which was incredibly well done!



As well as announcing that Marc Bruni (*Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*) would be directing the show, the casting for the four main roles was announced as well! James Monroe Iglehart (*Aladdin*) plays Nathan Detroit, Jessie Mueller (*Waitress*, *Beautiful*) plays Miss Adelaide, and real life married couple Phillipa Soo (*Hamilton*, *The Great Comet*) and Steven Pasquale (*The Bridges of Madison County*) play

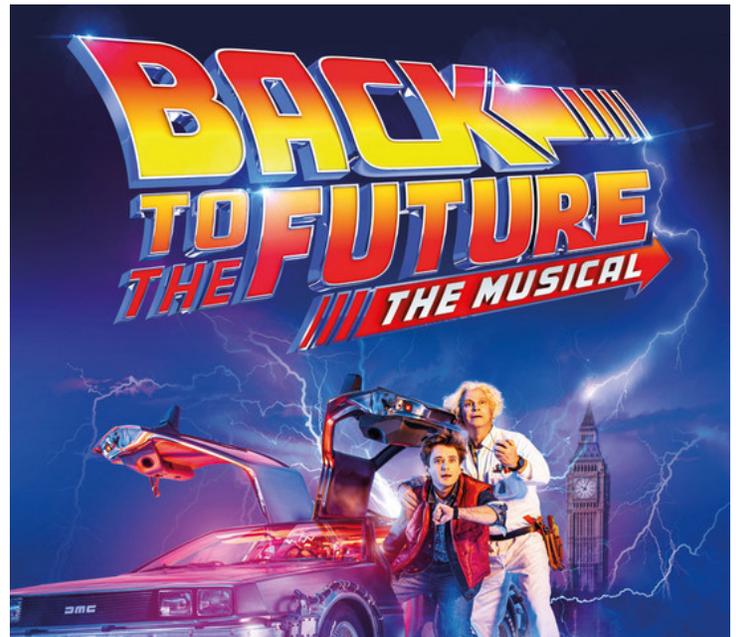
Sarah Brown and Sky Masterson! How cute is that??

Guys and Dolls will run from October 7th to the 16th at the Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theatre. Hopefully we'll get some good recordings from it. Roll the dice, get your tickets!



Great Scott! *Back to the Future* is Broadway Bound

Let's rock n roll! If you're at all familiar with the West End theatre scene, you will be familiar with the musical adaptation of *Back to the Future*. The show won the Olivier Award for Best New Musical this year. Seems like a super fun time, hey? Well, now Broadway is gonna get a taste of time travel! *Back to the Future: The Musical* will be making a transfer to Broadway for the 2023 season (which is shaping up to be a really great time!). *Back to the Future*, which features music and lyrics by Alan Silvestri



(film: *Back to the Future*, *The Avengers*) and Glen Ballard (*Jagged Little Pill*), follows the same plot as the 1985 Robert Zemeckis film - high schooler Marty McFly, while hanging out with the eccentric Doctor Emmett Brown, accidentally travels through time back to the 1950s in a modified DeLorean car. There he meets his parents, and after altering the timeline, Marty must make sure his parents fall in love or else he won't exist!



The West End *Back to the Future* cast features relative newcomer Olly Dobson as Marty McFly and Tony Award winning actor Roger Bart as Doc Brown. No word yet on whether or not the West End cast will be transferring over to Broadway, but I have a feeling that might be the case! Be on the lookout for more updates on this totally wicked musical!



No To Romeo: & Juliet To Rock The Broadway Stage

What would've happened if Juliet lived at the end of Shakespeare's classic play *Romeo & Juliet*? That's what the hit Jukebox musical *& Juliet* dares to wonder! The Canadian written musical is bound for Broadway and set to open for previews in October 2022 at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre. As I mentioned above with *Back to the Future*, this is another show that will be a part of the 2022-2023 Broadway season! As stated, *& Juliet* follows the story of what would've happened in *Romeo & Juliet* if Juliet never died (spoiler alert). This idea is suggested



by Shakespeare's wife in the show, Anne Hathaway (not to be confused with Oscar winner Anne Hathaway). The show is currently playing in Toronto with *Waitress*'s Betsy Wolfe as Anne - shoutout Betsy! - and *Kinky Boots*'s Stark Sands as Shakespeare. The show also features a non-binary character named May, which I think is pretty cool! *& Juliet*'s book is written by *Schitt's Creek* writer David West Read - as a fan of that show, that makes me think this musical must be pretty funny. The interesting thing about the music in this musical is that not only is it a Jukebox musical, but all of the music featured in the show is co-written by Swedish songwriter Max Martin. Songs featured in the show include hits from Adam Lambert ("Whataya Want From Me"), Britney Spears ("Baby One More Time", "I'm Not A Girl, Not Yet A Woman"), NSYNC* ("It's Gonna Be Me"), Backstreet Boys ("I Want It That Way", "Larger Than Life"), Katy Perry ("Teenage Dream", "I Kissed A Girl"), and more. Spears and the Backstreet Boys definitely feature most prominently throughout the show. Super impressive to see how many chart topping hits Martin has co-written throughout his career! I'll definitely be keeping an eye on this show once the 2022-2023 Broadway Season begins.



Sara Bareilles in *Waitress*, on Broadway at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre. Photo © Jeremy Daniel.

A Taste Of Something Special: *Waitress* Proshot Incoming?

Waitress fans, it's time to go back to the diner! Grammy Award winning singer-songwriter and Broadway actress, composer and lyricist Sara Bareilles took to Instagram to post an image of what appears to be a professionally recorded version of *Waitress* on Broadway, a musical Bareilles wrote and eventually starred in. The image

featured Bareilles as Jenna Hunterson, a waitress stuck in a bad marriage who ends up pregnant and falls for her obstetrician.

I've got a sneaking suspicion that this proshot is going to be from the 2021 limited Broadway engagement revival! If that's the case we can also look forward to seeing original cast members Drew Gehling as Dr. Pomatter, Eric Anderson as Cal, Christopher Fitzgerald as Ogie, and Dakin Matthews as Joe - as well as Charity Angel Dawson, Caitlin Houlahan, and Joe Tippett - in high definition! This hasn't been confirmed, but that would be my best guess! No release date has been confirmed for the *Waitress* proshot, but fans are incredibly excited to see it and if Broadway reception has anything to add, it is guaranteed to be a crowd pleaser!





Funny Girl Casting Controversy: Beanie Feldstein Out Early, Lea Michele In

All the rumours were true...Strap in, folks, because Broadway has been rocked with its biggest role-related scandal since all those Spider-Man actors got injured in *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark*. On July 11th, the *Funny Girl* official twitter announced that *Glee* alum Lea Michele would be taking over the role of Fanny Brice - a role her character Rachel Berry famously played on the aforementioned sitcom - beginning in September. This announcement came less than 24 hours after Beanie Feldstein, the current lead, announced on her instagram that



the show was “going in a different direction” and that she is to leave *Funny Girl* at the end of the month. Along with Michele, it was announced that Tovah Feldshuh (*Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*) will be taking over as Mrs. Brice, a role currently played by *Glee* star Jane Lynch. Lynch was originally set to end her run on the 25th of September but has now shortened her run to end the day before Lea Michele joins the cast (a fact which, I really have to laugh at), another unexpected early departure. It seems like this *Funny Girl* revival was truly doomed from the start, as the controversy this casting announcement has brought to a head is really heating up online. In 2020 it was reported that Lea Michele was exposed by her former *Glee* cast mate Samantha Marie Ware for mistreatment and verbal abuse on set, with racial discrimination and tyrannical behaviour being brought to the light. Other *Glee* costars and background performers seemed to co-sign Ware’s comments as well. Michele apologized shortly after this came out, but the internet was not quick to forget when this announcement was made yesterday. Many POC Broadway stars have expressed their disappointment and anger at the casting, including Hailey Kilgore (*Once On This Island*), Celia Rose Gooding (*Jagged Little Pill*) Mariah Rose



Faith Casillas (*Team Starkid*, *Mean Girls*) and Rachel Zegler (*West Side Story*). George Salazar (*Be More Chill*, *The Lightning Thief*) in particular was quite vocal on Twitter, tweeting out “What producers will do for \$\$\$\$ Oh Broadway!” and - in response to a tweet about Michele - “This is what I was referring to. Someone who is known to have caused HARM [to BIPOC] is leading...a Broadway show”. Samantha Marie Ware tweeted a statement as well, saying “Yes, I’m online today...Yes, im affected. Yes, I’m human. Yes, I’m Black. Yes, I was abused. Yes, my dreams were tainted. Yes, Broadway upholds whiteness....Yes, silence is complicity. Yes, I’m loud. Yes, I’d do it again.”



No matter what you think of the accusations, the drama, or of Lea Michele herself - whether or not she has grown or not - there is ZERO denying the inane mistreatment of Beanie Feldstein throughout her run as Fanny Brice. It is not a discussion of misplaced talent, but a discussion of mistreatment and someone being thrown completely under the bus. Ticket prices seemed to have surged to catch Feldstein before she left at least. Her final

performance was July 31st, and she absolutely went out with a bang and to thunderous applause and standing ovations! She left it all on that stage, and THAT is the the-AY-tre! The entire cast was sad to see her go but gave her a beautiful sendoff. Julie Benko plays Fanny Brice until the Michele takeover. Break a leg, Julie!



Burn For You (In Court): Netflix Sues *Bridgerton* Musical Creators

Have you ever heard of *The Unofficial Bridgerton Musical*? A couple of years ago on Tiktok, creators Abigail Barlow and Emily Bear collaborated on a musical theatre piece called [“Burn For You”](#) inspired by the characters of Netflix’s smash hit series *Bridgerton*. The song quickly blew up, becoming a viral sensation, prompting the duo to write *The Unofficial Bridgerton Musical*, an entire album of a hypothetical musical version of *Bridgerton*. The “unofficial” album was a success, and they even



won the GRAMMY for Best Musical Theatre Album - “unofficial” being the key word here, as the duo could not profit off of this work without participating in copyright infringement. I personally was quite a fan of the album, especially the song “If I Were A Man” which I found to be super boppy and fun! Well, Barlow & Bear put off a concert version of their musical at the Kennedy Center - a pretty huge deal featuring Broadway performers such as Denée Benton (*The Great Comet*) and Kelli O’Hara (*Kiss Me Kate*, *The Light in the Piazza*). They also sold merchandise for their album at this event.



This was the last straw for Netflix, who promptly filed a LAWSUIT against the composers for copyright infringement, trademark infringement, and declaratory relief. The official lawsuit document has been released to the public and anyway is free to read it, though fair warning it is very wordy and does get quite confusing! The main problem seems to be that because Barlow and Bear have now



profited, Netflix had to step in. There wasn't a problem before this! They own the trademark to *Bridgerton* for all sales, especially merchandising and live experiences. Barlow & Bear reportedly said Netflix gave them permission to put off the concert, which Netflix says is actually untrue and that the concert was not approved by them, especially not a for-profit concert. The biggest shock of this whole thing however is that Netflix states that they **OFFERED** Barlow & Bear an official licensing deal, which they **refused**, so this isn't simply a cease and desist case. It's all so confusing! No comments have been made from Barlow or Bear since the lawsuit came out, probably as advised by their lawyers. What's going on??? I have no idea, but something will come out publicly sooner rather than later.



Star of the Week: Gavin Creel

Fun fact: At one point in time this TTN edition's **STAR OF THE WEEK** was on the shortlist for the first ever SOTW in Tick Tick News history!

This is Gavin Creel - a fiercely proud gay man and Tony Award WINNER - and he has an impressive variety of musicals under his belt. Gavin is known for a plethora of roles. He has actually, SHOCKINGLY never originated a role in a new musical but has originated roles in many a revival, including his breakthrough performance in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* as Jimmy Smith, his Tony-nominated performance in *Hair* as Claude Berger, and his Tony Award WINNING role as Cornelius Hackl in the 2017 revival of *Hello, Dolly!*



He has also starred in shows such as *She Loves Me* (Steven Kodaly), *The Book of Mormon* (Elder Price), *Waitress* (Dr. Pomatter), *Mary Poppins* (Bert) and *La Cage aux Folles* (Jean-Michel). Gavin also has had a turn in the music industry, releasing the album GOODTIMENATION back in 2006. It features some incredible songs such as “Molly’s Song” and “Radio Lover”, which I recommend checking out!. A little known fact about Gavin is that he played the role of Melchior Gabor in the original New York workshop of *Spring Awakening!* Nowadays you can catch Gavin starring in the Broadway revival of *Into the Woods* as Cinderella’s Prince. It was announced on July 11th that a cast album for this revival would be coming AND that the *Into the Woods* revival would be extending its Broadway engagement, and I couldn’t be more excited personally! Another Gavin Creel addition to my musical theatre playlist is imminent.

****AUTHORS NOTE**:** Hey everyone! There is now a playlist available to listen to on Spotify featuring all the TTN Stars of the Week that have been featured so far! Check it out here: [CFPA & Tick Tick News Present: Star of the Week.](#)



Songs of the Week: Touch Me and West of Words

For the next few editions of TTN, I will be spotlighting specific composers in the **Songs of the Week** segment! Also, I loved sharing two songs each edition with everybody in June, so I've decided to stick with that from now on! Without further ado, here's our first Composer Spotlight: **Duncan Sheik**. Duncan Sheik is the composer of musicals such as *Spring Awakening*, *American Psycho*, and *Alice By Heart*. He is also the singer-songwriter behind "Barely Breathing", a song that made the top 20 on the Billboard Charts - which was also covered on Season 4 of Glee!



The first song of the week comes from his Tony Award winning musical *Spring Awakening*, and is my personal favourite song of the show. The song follows the entire cast's desire for intimacy, particularly focusing on the characters Melchior and Moritz at first. This is "Touch Me", with music (obviously) composed by Duncan Sheik, lyrics by Steven Sater, and performances by Jonathan Groff, John Gallagher Jr., Gideon Glick, Brain Johnson, Skylar Astin and the original Broadway

cast ensemble of *Spring Awakening*. Check it out here: <https://youtu.be/tDtc9ZoQLmw>.

The second song comes from *Alice By Heart*, a sort-of *Alice in Wonderland* retelling that takes place after the London Blitz of World War II in the London Underground. It is sung by Alice Spencer and her sick friend Alfred as they take shelter in the station, using the story of the beloved Lewis Carroll novel as a form of escapism. "West of Words" features music by Duncan Sheik, lyrics by Steven Sater, and performances by Molly Gordon and Colton Ryan. Check it out here: <https://youtu.be/8CA0bNCF5n8>.



Also, check out the [Song of the Week Spotify Playlist](#) here!