



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

Hello CFPA community, welcome to the 9th edition of *Tick...Tick...NEWS!! Broadway Updates with Heather Power*. On the topic of welcome backs, I'd like to welcome you all back to another year at CFPA! This year is certain to bring all the fun times we love and fantastic, show stopping performances from all the amazing students! We've got some fun stories in this edition, as well as another Composer Spotlight and Star of the Week. I also wanted to take a second to **CONFIRM** a rumour from the previous edition: the *Sweeney Todd* revival with Josh Groban and Annaleigh Ashford is officially happening! On that note, let's get into the news.

Give Em The Old Razzle Dazzle, Brandon Victor Dixon!



Who would've thought - more *Chicago* casting news! *Hamilton* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* actor Brandon Victor Dixon and *Chicago* veteran Amra-Faye Wright have joined the company of the long-running Broadway musical this past week as Billy Flynn and Velma Kelly. They join another newbie to the cast who had started a little while prior, *POSE*'s Angelica Ross. Ross has become

the first trans woman to play Roxie Hart in *Chicago*'s run's history! Very cool. They also join *Waitress*'s Charity Angel Dawson as Matron Mama Morton. There's never a dull moment at the Ambassador Theatre, that's for sure!



Hey, Mr. Arnstein! Here She Is: Lea Michele Makes *Funny Girl* Debut

On September 6th, it was raining - not only was it raining here in Newfoundland, but it was *also* raining in New York City! So...I guess the universe decided to Rain on Lea Michele's Parade. On September 6th the divisive former *Glee* star made her debut in the revival of *Funny Girl* on Broadway at the August Wilson Theatre. This is not Michele's first time on the Great White Way - having spent the majority of her childhood on the stage as well as playing Wendla Bergman in the original cast of *Spring Awakening* - but it is her first time appearing in a role on a Broadway stage since 2006.



Despite the incredible amount of controversy surrounding Michele's casting - which I covered a few editions ago in *Tick...Tick...NEWS!* - the actress's first night was a massive success. The audience reportedly gave Michele a standing ovation 7 times throughout the performance - which, personally, feels like a bit much, but I guess it isn't too much when you consider the 16 year gap between her last Broadway standing ovation and now. I do find myself almost happy for her for getting to play her dream role (because, I personally would love to play my dream roles someday too) but I cannot help but think about how the bad treatment and disposal of Beanie Feldstein led us to this moment. The overwhelming welcome back and reception to her performance once again brings up a question among audiences: How much do you work for a second chance? Unfortunately, Michele had to leave the role two days in due to COVID-19 - luckily for her she's back in the theatre this week. Michele shares many similarities to her *Glee* character Rachel Berry - Let's just hope for her sake she doesn't continue down Rachel's road and give up on her *Funny Girl* dreams for a bad TV show.



***The Phantom of the Opera* Ends Legendary Broadway Run**



It's over now...the music of the night. *The Phantom of the Opera*, [New York City's longest running Broadway show](#) - nearly 34 years in the making- has announced it will be closing its doors in February of 2023. Honestly? It's difficult to express just how sad I am about this news! At first I was just shocked, then slightly amused, but now that I've sat on it for a few days I'm just super

devastated for all the cast and creatives who reportedly didn't even know of the closure until it was announced.

I personally think this closure sparks a lot to say on the topic of Broadway's current economy. *The Phantom of the Opera* is the staple Broadway show - it's the show every tourist goes to see, every school on their field trips, every old person looking for a fun night out - and that's not a dig! [The Phantom](#) makes money, so the fact that it's, I guess, not making enough money to stay open says a lot about the current economic state of the Great White Way. Simply put, it's too expensive to see Broadway shows nowadays. Prices were already in the long process of skyrocketing before 2020, and once the Pandemic hit it became even worse. The average theatre-goer can't afford to go see Broadway productions for the price they are in the time we're living in. *Phantom* isn't the only show to announce closure lately either, with *The Music Man* announcing its final show date for January 2023 and the *other* ghost with the most bowing out too (you'll be able to read about that in the next *Tick Tick News* edition). There's no doubt in my mind though, despite all of this, that *The Phantom of the Opera* won't get a proper sendoff. I'd pay a ridiculous amount of money to go to that final show. Then again, maybe that's precisely what the producers want...!!



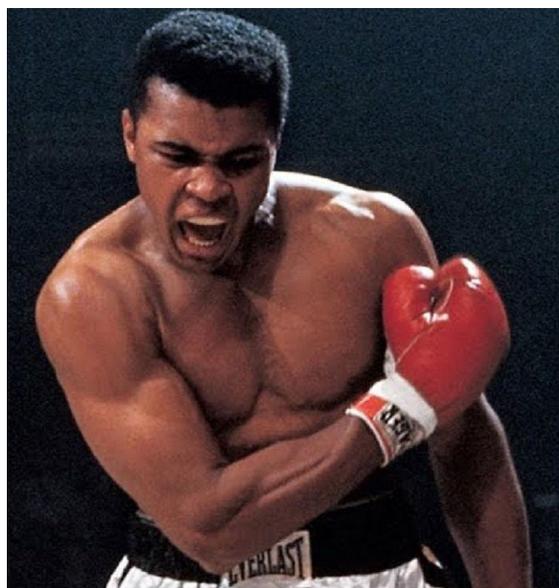
“Tammy Faye” Musical Hits the West End Next Month

Praise the Lord, because the *Tammy Faye* musical is making its world premiere on London’s West End in October! The musical will follow the life and career of, you guessed it, Tammy Faye Messner, previously Bakker. For those unfamiliar with this lady, Tammy Faye was an evangelist television host and gospel singer who created a televangelist network called The PLC with her then husband Jim Bakker in the 1970s. Honestly, it’s



kind of a difficult story to explain, but I highly recommend watching the 2021 biopic *The Eyes of Tammy Faye* starring Jessica Chastain if you’re interested! The biographic musical stars Katie Brayben (*Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, *American Psycho*) as the titular Tammy Faye and Broadway favourite [Andrew Rannells](#) (*Falsettos*, *The Book of Mormon*) as Jim Bakker. The musical’s lyrics are written by Scissor Sisters’ lead singer Jake Shears while the music has been composed by the legendary Elton John. I’m personally very excited for a new, campy score from the Rocketman himself! *Tammy Faye* premieres on October 13th, 2022, and will run until the beginning of December.

Float Like A Butterfly, Sting Like A Bee! Ali On Broadway



In other new musical and biopic musical news, a Muhammad Ali musical is currently in development for the Broadway stage. Now, the goal according to the producers is for this show to enter the ring in late 2024, so we’ve got a long way to go until “The Greatest of All Time” gets the musical treatment. In the meantime, it’s nice to know his widow is all for the musical’s development. No doubt the focus will be on not only Ali’s incredible career in the boxing ring, but also his activity as a civil rights activist.



White Girl In Danger To Make Its World Premiere in 2023

If you caught the last Tony Awards, you'll be familiar with the work of Michael R. Jackson. He is the creator behind the Best Musical winning show *A Strange Loop*, which dominated the original musical categories this year. Well, there's no stopping him now! Jackson will be premiering his next musical, *White Girl In Danger*, off-broadway in 2023. The plot revolves around the portrayal of the experiences of black people both onscreen and in real life, centering around the fictional town "Allwhite" where Keesha and the other "Blackgrounds" are relegated to backburner stories of slavery & police violence. Keesha is determined to break into Allwhite's brightest stories. She'll try to handle the Allwhite attention while an Allwhite town Killer is on the loose. Personally I'm really excited to see what comes of this show! *White Girl In Danger* will begin shows in March 2023 with casting announcements to come!



How Very! Heathers: The Musical on Roku TV Review

In case you missed it, I'll let all you lovely readers know that a pro-shot of the fan favourite *Heathers: The Musical* has been [released for free on Roku TV](#)! The recording was filmed at The Other Palace Theatre in London with its newest cast. I've been a fan of *Heathers* for a long time, and I'll be honest that some of the West End changes really bother me. But for the most part the performances are all great and it's a lovely little production! I'd give this particular recording a 7/10 and recommend it to any fans of the show! And hey, it's

FREE! Can't get better than that! Give it a watch this weekend if you get the chance.





Star of the Week: Nathan Lane

This is another **STAR OF THE WEEK** I think readers will be familiar with on some level! Nathan Lane is a Three-Time Tony Award winning actor with an incredibly impressive resume on both stage and screen. A Broadway darling since the 1980s, Lane has played roles in shows such as *Guys and Dolls* (Nathan Detroit), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Pseudolus - he won a Tony for this one!), *The Addams Family* ([Gomez Addams](#)), *The Producers* (Max Bialystock - he won a Tony for this one too!) and *Angels in America* (Ray Cohn - another Tony!!). On



screen he has performed in a variety of movies and shows, including *The Birdcage*, the film adaptation of *The Producers* where he reprised his Broadway role, *Modern Family*, *The Good Wife*, and [the Disney classic *The Lion King*](#) as everyone's favourite meerkat, Timon.

This past week, Nathan won a Primetime Emmy Award! His win was in the category Outstanding Guest Actor in a Comedy Series for his work on the Hulu/Disney+ Original Series *Only Murders in the Building* as Teddy Dimas. This win, combined with his previous 3 Tony wins, makes Nathan Lane halfway to the EGOT! An EGOT, for those who aren't familiar, is the Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony. It is considered a very prestigious and impressive feat to win an award in all four of these ceremonies. Congratulations to Nathan for being halfway there! One Grammy and one Oscar to go!

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: One Second and a Million Miles/A Part of That/If I Didn't Believe In You

Time for another edition of the **Composer Spotlight**! This week's composer is **Jason Robert Brown** - he's composed a variety of Broadway favourites, including arguably his most popular show *The Last 5 Years*, *Songs For A New World*, *13: the Musical*, and *Mr. Saturday Night*. I'm gonna be cheating a little bit this week by showing 3 songs - specifically because I feel like I can't showcase a Jamie song from *The Last 5 Years* without showcasing a Cathy song too!



The Last 5 Years follows five years in the life of young couple, Jamie & Cathy. My pick for Cathy's song is the underrated "A Part Of That". Check it out here, performed by Anna Kendrick in the movie adaptation: <https://youtu.be/TL-2YrEwv2A>. Jamie's comes later in the musical and represents a huge fight they have that serves as one of the many stepping stones to their eventual divorce (which isn't a spoiler - don't worry) This is "If I Didn't Believe In You" performed by the West End's Jamie, Jonathan Bailey (you know, Anthony Bridgerton!): <https://youtu.be/QaYkbc-9eo8>.

The third SOTW (only time I'll do this, I promise!) is from Robert Brown's musical *The Bridges of Madison County*, a musical adaptation of the novel of the same name which also happens to be a Meryl Streep movie. It follows a whirlwind love affair between a photographer and a housewife. In this song, "One Second and a Million Miles", they consider running away together. Watch it here, performed by Kelli O'Hara and Steven Pasquale: <https://youtu.be/GAoFhRoJYms?t=42>

