

Reviews:

Compiled by Catherine Wu

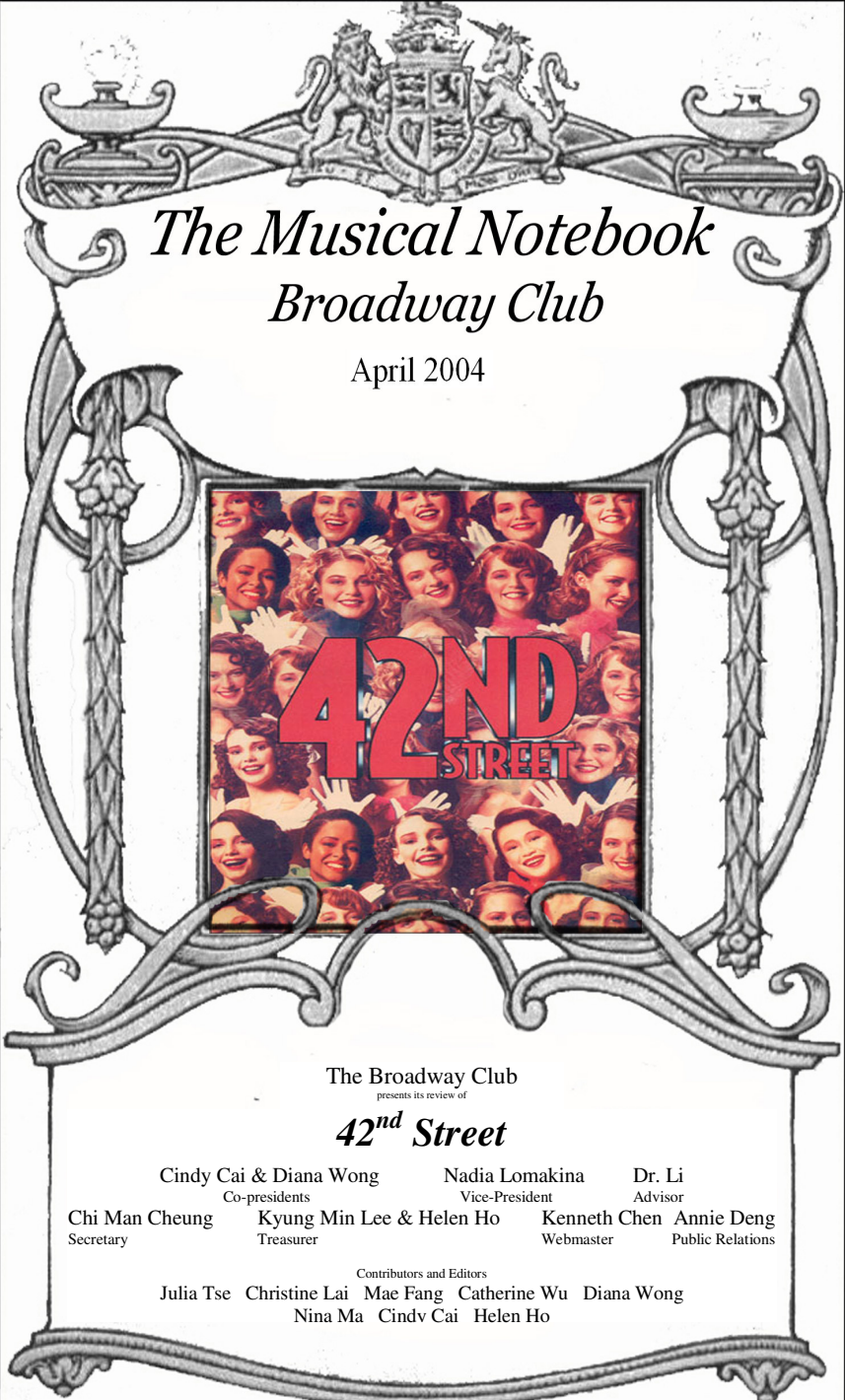
42nd Street is an extravagant musical. The glitter! The tapping! It delights your senses and leaves you amazed. I adored the amazingly complex (and hypnotically choreographed) dance sequences. The audience was equally amazed as well; the taps of the dance numbers are often accompanied by the excited applause of the crowd. *42nd Street* is a wonderful, feel-good musical which tap routines keeps you entertained. You sit back and enjoy those "dancing feet" and the "melody of *42nd Street*." --Diana Wong

The musical was superb with skillful tap dances, catchy tunes and beautiful props. Although the story plot could be a bit better if there were more twists and developments in character relationships, "*42nd Street*" was all in all a well-performed show. --Helen Ho

42nd Street is a show that excels in all areas of theater. The innocent humor, the dazzling costumes that demand the attention of your eyes, and the happy dancing feet all give the show an uplifting spirit. When I left the theater, I felt much happier than when I entered it. I recommend this show to people who need a little optimism in their lives. --Julia Tse


"*42nd Street*" is definitely a must see for all ages. The wonderful tap dancing captures the audiences' attention and the characters are delightful and entertaining. The music accompanied by the dancing and acting is brilliant and superb. Everyone should go see "*42nd Street*"! --Catherine Wu

It is the song I love, the melody of... *42nd Street*." The Broadway Show "*42nd Street*" was a blast, to say the least. What could be better than a Broadway Show about a Broadway Show? "*42nd Street*" opened with an awesome dancing scene that consisted of most of the cast. It was very well coordinated and prepared the audience for the rest of the show, which was just as great. The dancing and acting of "*42nd Street*" was admirable, and some parts were extremely humorous. Nadine Isenegger, who played the part of Peggy Sawyer, was a very talented singer, dancer, and actress. She continually amazed the audience throughout the show. My favorite cast members were Beth Leavel (Dorothy Brock) and Patti Mariano (Maggie Jones) who both made the audience laugh and applaud like lunatics. The singing and music of "*42nd Street*" were also wonderful. The songs were catchy and left me singing and humming for the next couple of hours. "*42nd Street*" is a breathtaking musical that is definitely worth seeing, especially if you enjoy being amazed and appreciate a good laugh. --Janice Hsu



The Musical Notebook
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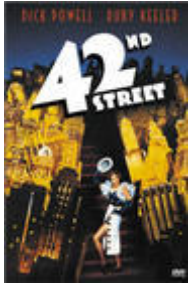
The Broadway Club
presents its review of
42nd Street

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History: The Making of 42nd Street

Julia Tse



After its first show on August 24th 1980, *42nd Street* has been a hit all around the world. It is now the second longest running American musical in Broadway history. It originally played at the Winter Garden Theater but it moved to the Majestic Theater on West 44th Street. Later, the show was moved again to the St. James Theater, where it completed its original Broadway run after 3,486 shows.

42nd Street was based on the classic 1933 movie musical with the same name by Michael Stewart and Mark Bramble. The movie made viewers feel happy despite the hard times during the Great Depression. Many years later, also during an economic recession, the Broadway musical came out with a cast of 54 people, led by Jerry Orbach and Tammy Grimes, 750 costumes and stage effects. The original production of *42nd Street* was directed by Gower Champion and produced by David Merrick. Champion was ill for a long time, and so the opening date of the musical was postponed. The set had to be completely rebuilt and technical problems further delayed the opening night. Finally, in late August, the public was able to see how wonderful this new musical really was. It was a big success, but it ended on a tragic



CELINA CARVAJAL performs the role of Anytime Annie. Her theatre résumé includes *Radiant Baby* (at the Public Theatre), the role of Demeter in *Cats* on Broadway, *Annie Get Your Gun* with the first national company, *Gentlemen Prefer Blonds*, and *On a Clear Day* (Encores!).

MICHAEL DANTUONO has been with *42nd Street* since the original production in 1987, performing the same roles in touring companies in over 100 cities and eight countries. He plays the role of Pan Denning in addition to understudying the role of Julian Marsh and other parts. His other Broadway credits includes *Zorba*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Can-Can*, and *Caesar and Cleopatra*.



RICHARD PRUITT plays Abner Dillon. His theatre résumé includes Broadway productions such as *On the Waterfront* in addition to a plethora of Off-Broadway shows such as *Bat Boy: The Musical* and *Wicked Philanthropy*. He has also been a in regional productions such as *Macbeth*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, as well as many others. He also has film and television credits.



STEVE LUKER, who plays Mac and other roles, has been in more than 75 productions, including national and European tours, including *Footloose*, as well as regional productions such as *Red, Hot and Blue!* with the Goodspeed Opera House.



GREG BECK plays Oscar in his onstage Broadway debut. He has played in the orchestra for *How to Succeed...* starring Matthew Broderick and has toured in the First National productions of *Beauty and the Beast* and *Cats*.

screen in shows including "All My Children," "Another World" and "Guiding Light."

PATTI MARIANO has been in Broadway shows since her youth; *42nd Street* is her tenth Broadway show. Her other credits include *The Full Monty*, *American Dance Machine*, *George M!*, *Bye Bye Birdie* and *The Music Man*. Ms. Mariano has appeared in over 50 regional productions as well as in television and film. She is also a choreographer.



FRANK ROOT returns to Broadway as Bert Barry in this production. His Broadway debut was Gower Champion's *Mack and Mabel*. His Off-Broadway credits include *Oh, What A Lovely War*. He has been in national productions such as *George M!* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. In addition to his numerous regional credits, his résumé includes film, *The Guru*, and television, *Designing Women*.



DAVID ELDER, who plays Billy Lawlor, most recently performed in the Broadway production of *Kiss Me, Kate*. His other Broadway titles include *Titanic*, *Damn Yankees*, *Once Upon a Mattress* (which starred Sarah Jessica Parker), *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Guys and Dolls* (featuring Nathan Lane). He has been on the national tour of *Damn Yankees* and participated in *Strike Up the Band* (City Center Encores!).



BRAD ASPEL plays Andy Lee. His Broadway credits include Lefou in *Beauty and the Beast*, Protean in the original cast of the revival of *...Forum*, and *On the Town*. Mr. Aspel has also shown his skill as a director in such productions as *Into the Woods* (Cohoes Music Hall), *Kiss Me, Kate* (New London Barn Playhouse), and *Good News*. He is also a writer and composer; he has recently finished a musical, *The Big Kahuna*. He is a part of the BMI Musical Theater Writing Workshop.



note with the announcement of Champion's death at age 60.

42nd Street was reopened to the public on May 2, 2001 at the Ford Center on 42nd Street in New York City. Its new director was Mark Bramble. The show won two Tony Awards in 2001, including the Best Revival of a Musical. There were 1,188 performances of this Broadway musical by March 14, 2004.



Plot: *The Spirit of Broadway*

Christine Lai

42nd Street is a story about the resilience and spirit of the young American dream of Broadway, set amidst the tragedies of the United States' worst depression. Peggy Sawyer, our young, beautiful, and talented protagonist, allows the audience to peek into the excitement and glamour of show business in New York City and Philadelphia during the spring of 1933.



The show opens to an overture by the orchestra and the auditioning of cast members for the new Broadway show *Pretty Lady* at the 42nd Street Theater in New York City. Anticipation fills the stage as hopeful dancers and singers try to land a role on the show directed by the legendary Julian Marsh. The first number, "Audition," with its catchy tune and fine footwork, sets the stage with the appearance of the entire company led by Andy Lee (Brad Aspel). Peggy Sawyer (Nadine Isenegger) rushes into the scene, out of breath, asking for an audition. The male lead, Billy Lawlor (David Elder), quickly strides up to her, tells her that the audition was unfortunately over, and attempts to woo her with "Young and Healthy." Peggy joins in this duet and sings astoundingly to everyone's surprise.

When Mr. Julian arrives, Peggy is thrown out. She left her purse on the piano, however, so our protagonist will have to return later. Meanwhile, Julian is determined to make *Pretty Lady* the best show Broadway has ever seen. His only concern is the leading lady, Dorothy Brock (Beth Leavel), whom he complains of being

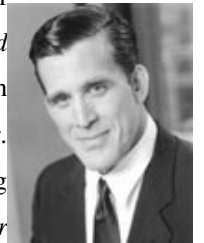
Cast: *The Stars of the Stage*

Diana Wong



BETH LEAVEL plays Dorothy Brock. Her most recent, prior theatrical role was in *The Civil War* as Mrs. Bixby. Other Broadway roles include *Crazy for You*, creating the role of Tess, in *Show Boat* as Ellie, and in the original production of *42nd Street* as Anytime Annie (which she reprised in Japan). Ms. Leavel, whose off-Broadway résumé include *The Jazz Singer* (Jewish Repertory Theatre) and *Broadway Jukebox* (John Houseman Theatre), starred in many regional performances in roles such as Rizzo in *Grease!*, Fanny Brice in *Funny Girl*, and Miss Hannigan in the HHPAC production of *Annie*. She also has television credits as Carina Levitt in "Ryan's Hope" (ABC) as well as the Mom on "Yours Truly" (Nickelodeon).

PATRICK RYAN SULLIVAN revives the role of Julian Marsh directly from the well-received tour of *42nd Street*. His Broadway experience included such roles as Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast* and Barrett and Farrell in *Titanic*. Mr. Sullivan's many roles, spanning three continents, including Victor in *Private Lives*, Bo in *Bus Stop*, Tony in *Dial 'M' For Murder*, as well as parts in *Phantom*, *I Do! I Do!*, *The Fantasticks*, etc. He was also in the critically acclaimed Showtime short film "Target Audience." In addition to acting and singing, he is also a writer and director.



NADINE ISENEGGER plays the part of Peggy Sawyer after first performing the role of Lorraine. She has performed in the companies of other shows including *Kiss Me*, *Kate* and *Cats*. Additional roles include the her current role in the national tour of *42nd Street*, the national tour of *Titanic*, Val and Cassie in *A Chorus Line* at Paper Mill Playhouse as well as many other roles. Ms. Isenegger has appeared in films including *Deconstructing Harry*, *The Cemetery Club*, and *Bob Roberts*. She has appeared in the small





The musical *42nd Street* was recently revived in 2001, bringing back the wonderful tunes not heard on Broadway for over eleven years. The music of this show was composed by Harry

Warren and the lyrics were written by Al Dubin.

Harry Warren was born in 1893 and died in 1981. His piano skills were self taught, having never taken any musical lessons before. He wrote his first hit song in 1922. He got his first big break in 1932, when he was commissioned to write a score for the new motion picture *42nd Street*, with Dubin as lyricist. This musical profoundly influenced future Hollywood movie musicals. He went on to write the music for over 75 films. His score was used for the original Broadway show in 1980 as well.

The music of *42nd Street* is very high-spirited and giddy. There are a variety of songs, such as “We’re in the Money” and “Shuffle off to Buffalo.” There is also the famous “Lullaby of Broadway,” that has become a staple when discussing songs that truly personify Broadway. And of course, there is the title song “42nd Street,” which sweeps one away in its tap dance fever. Overall, the music of *42nd Street* is high-flying and wonderful, taking one back to the big musicals.

too old for the show. However, his assistants convince him that he must use her because her lover, Abner Dillon (Richard Pruitt) is paying \$100,000 to see her as leading lady. Julian, however, forces the arrogant Dorothy to audition in “Shadow Waltz.”

Meanwhile, at the Gypsy Tea Kettle Restaurant, Maggie (Patti Mariano), one of Julian's assistants, and three other chorus girls return Peggy her purse. They advise Peggy on Broadway matters and later urge her to “Go Into the Dance.” Julian happens to pass by and sees her dancing. He needs another chorus girl anyway, so hires her on the spot.

When Peggy arrives at the theater, Billy and Dorothy are rehearsing their love scene. However, due to Abner's discontent for the kissing, they were forced to improvise in “You’re Getting To Be a Habit With Me.” Peggy then faints because she did not eat lunch. She is brought into Dorothy’s dressing room, where Pat Denning (Michael Dantuono), Dorothy’s other lover, takes care of her. When Dorothy discovers him with Peggy, her misunderstanding brews an argument. Julian, wanting no problems interfering with his show, sends some “boys” to make sure Pat is out of sight for the next couple of weeks.

The audition is subsequently moved from Atlantic City to Philadelphia (where Pat was conveniently staying as well). The entire cast sings “Getting Out of Town” at the train station leaving for Philadelphia. At the



new theater, the men sing “Dames” with flashing suits and an attractive and eye-catching backdrop. The women in their colorful dresses add to the touch. “Keep Young and Beautiful” shows pretty but extremely

difficult group formations. The girls' performance is enhanced with the imaginative use of the mirror that hovers above their heads so the entire theater can clearly see their flashy footwork and costumes. Dorothy then makes her entrance ten seconds before the blackout so she would not have to embarrass herself by dancing. She, however, was furious for her short stage time and storms off after a couple of angry exchanges with Julian.

When Julian finds Pat in Philadelphia, he sends his boys after him again. Peggy overhears and runs to warn Pat and Dorothy in her hotel suite. The hotel was creatively structured so that it would have Dorothy's room at the top floor on one side with a spiraling staircase leading down to the floor on the opposite side. By simply turning the "hotel," we would have two sets without interrupting the flow of the act. Dorothy, angry and jealous, throws both of them out of her room, but she suddenly realizes her love for Pat and sings "I Only Have Eyes for You." The song leads into the "We're in the Money." The "Act One Finale" cues Dorothy's entrance, which is interrupted with Peggy stumbling and causing Dorothy to sprain her ankle, so Act One ends with Julian's announcement of *Pretty Lady*'s cancellation.

The orchestra's Entr' Acte welcomes the audience into the second act. The doctor informs Julian that Dorothy broke her ankle and would not be able to perform. Julian immediately fires Peggy and the show is forced to close without a leading lady. The cast sings "Sunny Side to Every Situation." [Compliments to whoever came up with the creative idea to use such a simple prop as a free standing building with windows for each performer and transform it by turning on lights around individual windows when each sang.]

Fortunately, Annie (Celina Carvajal), one of the chorus girls,

comes up with an idea to save the show. She suggests that Peggy, with her brilliant voice and amazing dancing talent, should be the leading lady. Julian therefore decides to run and apologize to Peggy in order to save the show. Julian and the company go to Broad Street Station to try to convince her to stay in "Lullaby of Broadway." When Peggy agrees, rehearsals and practice quickly begin. In the reprise of "Getting Out of Town," the show springs back to life.

Pretty Lady, consequently, returns to New York City. In "Montage," Peggy diligently and quickly learns all the songs, dance routines, and the entire script. In "About a Quarter to Nine," Dorothy, with a cast on her foot, approaches Peggy about her feelings. She confesses that all she really wanted was to marry Pat and even wishes her the best of luck.



At nine, *Pretty Lady* officially opens. The opening features one of the best dance routines and the best music on Broadway, which includes "With Plenty of Money and You," "Shuffle Off Buffalo," and "42nd Street." Stairs with blinking lights glide towards front stage, bringing the cast with it. The following tap dance routine was light-footed, quick, and amazing. The Finale, with the entire company, highlights the best of the entire show: the most beautiful and well-rehearsed formation.

The *Pretty Lady* was obviously a hit. Afterwards, the entire cast, including Peggy, decides to celebrate their success. Everyone exits, leaving Julian to sing "42nd Street" alone. The show ends with Julian leaving to see and congratulate Peggy.