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AMERICAN THEATRE WING AND BROADWAYHD KICK OFF SUMMER WITH A CELEBRATION HONORING THEATRE COMMUNITY TIMED TO TONY SUNDAY

BROADWAYHD MAKING AMERICAN THEATRE WING CENTENNIAL GALA CONCERT AVAILABLE BEYOND PAYWALL FROM JUNE 13-19, 2021 AND WILL ALSO PRESENT RAIL OF PAST TONY-AWARD WINNING PRODUCTIONS FOR SUBSCRIBERS

FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY HEATHER HEADLEY, BRIAN STOKES MITCHELL, BETH MALONE, NORM LEWIS, LAURA OSNES, REBECCA LUKER, AND MORE

New York, NY (June 9th, 2021) — In honor of what is usually Tony Sunday, the American Theatre Wing is proud to be associated with BroadwayHD, the premier streaming service for live theater, in making the Wing's Centennial Concert that celebrates the theatre community available to all viewers beyond the paywall from June 13-19, while raising awareness for the Wing's programming. Footage of the concert will be available on BroadwayHD's website as well. In addition, to extend the festivities, BroadwayHD will be featuring a special rail of Tony Nominees and Winners of yesteryear for subscribers including *Billy Elliot, Kinky Boots*, and *Memphis* among other productions.

As Broadway comes back, The American Theatre Wing and BroadwayHD want to highlight its history, memories, and some of the great works that have graced its stages. The Wing's centennial concert highlights the myriad of composers whose works have influenced the American theatre over the last century. Tony Award® winner BRIAN STOKES MITCHELL kicks off the show with the Stephen Sondheim showstopper "Being Alive" from Company. NORM LEWIS, the first African American to star on Broadway as the title role in The Phantom of the Opera, sings the iconic "Music of the Night." BETH MALONE recreates her Tony Award® nominated performance from Fun Home, recognizing Jeanine Tesori and Lisa Kron, the first female writing team to win the Tony Award® for Best Original Score. HEATHER HEADLEY brings down the house with "What I Did for Love" from A Chorus Line. Hits from Showboat, The Fantasticks, South Pacific, and West Side Story are also performed.

TONY BENNETT makes a surprise appearance recounting his fond memories of the support offered to him by the American Theatre Wing as a young GI returning from World War II, before the evening wraps to "Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In" from *Hair*.

Fans can access the concert by visiting bit.ly/ATWCentennial or heading to the Tony Awards® Legacy Playlist on their BroadwayHD app and clicking the American Theatre Wing Centennial Concert.

Bonnie Comley and Stewart F. Lane, co-founders of BroadwayHD, said, "We're thrilled to be collaborating with the American Theatre Wing to fete the theater world during what is usually Tony Awards' season. As fans get excited for Broadway re-opening in the fall, we hope they enjoy this special presentation of the American Theatre Wing Centennial concert."

Heather Hitchens, President & CEO of the American Theatre Wing said, "As the founder of the Tony Awards on what has historically been Tonys weekend, we are proud to join forces with BroadwayHD to give you inspiring performances of some Broadway's most noteworthy musical numbers. We hope this free presentation of our Centennial concert and gala, whets your appetite to come back to Broadway or to theatre in your hometown. The Wing looks forward to continuing to contribute to the theatre landscape by providing opportunities and access that will help Broadway and the entire industry come back better."

The American Theatre Wing advances the full breadth of American theatre – commercial and nonprofit, on Broadway, off-Broadway and throughout the nation. Through the Tony Awards® and our suite of linked programs, the Wing aims to create equitable opportunities for diverse theatre-makers nationwide to discover the art form, deepen their knowledge, build networks of support, launch careers, and celebrate achievement. Viewers who tune in to this star-studded event are encouraged to learn more about the Wing and how they can get involved by visiting https://americantheatrewing.org/support-us/.

BroadwayHD introduces award-winning theater from all across the globe with both classic and modern productions. Fans can expect to see the full works of Shakespeare from the Royal Shakespeare Company, awe-inspiring performances from Cirque du Soleil and a selection of the world's greatest musicals including *Kinky Boots, Cats, 42- Street, She Loves Me, Rodgers & Hammerstein's The King and I, The Sound of Music,* and *An American in Paris.* All performances are adapted specifically for streaming audiences to maximize the entertainment experience. To learn more about BroadwayHD, visit www.broadwayhd.com.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN THEATRE WING

The American Theatre Wing is a not-for-profit organization, founded on the eve of America's entry into WWI by 7 suffragists and theatre makers who came together to support the nation by harnessing the power of theatre. More than a century later, ATW's vital work continues to be driven by the fundamental belief that theatre is essential to our economic, educational, and social and emotional well-being as a society.

Through a powerful suite of programs that address all aspects of the national theatre ecology, ATW encourages the discovery of theatre by people of all ages, nurtures talent on stage and off, creates pathways for success for students and young professionals, and encourages the development of the art form itself by recognizing and supporting innovative and excellent work with awards and grants. Building a just, equitable and inclusive American theatre is a guiding principle of all of ATW's work and programs.

ATW's Andrew Lloyd Webber Initiative provides discovery, training, and career launching support to under-served young people. The Musical Theatre Songwriting Challenge gives high school songwriters the opportunity to professionally record their original songs. SpringboardNYC provides a bridge from college to career for young actors working to establish themselves on Broadway. The digital Masterclass offerings for rising creative professionals provide free access to advice, insight, and training by theatre's top creative professionals. The Network for Emerging Leaders of the Theatre creates a pathway for young aspiring theatre administrators to have successful careers in the theatre by providing inside information, technical assistance, networking opportunities, and mentoring. ATW incubates innovative theatre throughout the country with the National Theatre Company Grants and through the Jonathan Larson® Grants, which support emerging musical theatre writers with significant unrestricted support. ATW gives students, professionals and audiences alike a virtual backstage pass through the five-time Emmy-nominated "Working in the Theatre" documentary series which illuminates the creative process.

ATW is the founder and co-presenter (with The Broadway League) of the Tony Awards®, and the home to OBIE Awards.

Visit <u>AmericanTheatreWing.org</u> to learn more about the extensive programming and grant opportunities for students, theatre professionals, and audiences. For the latest updates and news, follow the Wing on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter.

ABOUT BROADWAYHD

BroadwayHD, founded in 2015 by Tony in Award®-winning producers Stewart F. Lane and Bonnie Comley, is the only streaming service offering premium full-length stage plays and musicals captured specifically for multi-platform viewing to theatre fans across the globe. In addition to exclusive live-streamed content of the world's best productions, BroadwayHD offers subscribers unlimited on-demand access to a library of more than 300 theatre productions from Broadway, The West End and beyond. If You Can't Get to Broadway, Get to BroadwayHD.