



## Smithsonian Institution

*National Museum of African American History and Culture*

### Playbill for Big Deal

Extracted on Apr-18-2024 05:17:23

**The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.**

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website ([transcription.si.edu](https://transcription.si.edu)), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the National Museum of African American History and Culture as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the National Museum of African American History and Culture website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact National Museum of African American History and Culture or [transcribe@si.edu](mailto:transcribe@si.edu)

For more information on this project and related material, contact the National Museum of African American History and Culture. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

## THE WINNERS' WINNERS

[[image - black & white photograph of Vivien Leigh and another actor dancing]]  
[[caption]]Lucinda Ballard was thrilled when Vivien Leigh won a Tony for Tovarich[[/caption]]

seconds the notion of the Rivera win. "The most deserved Tony Award," he opts, "has to be the one presented to her for *The Rink*. It could as well have been an award for sustained brilliance."

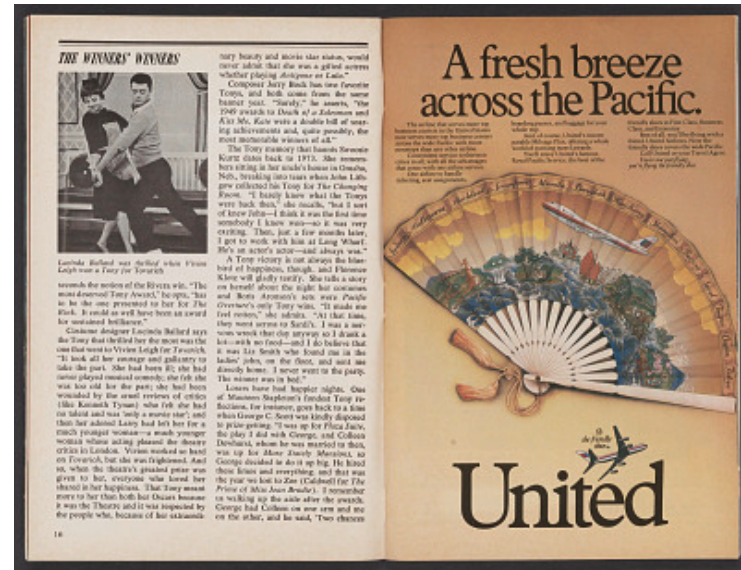
Costume designer Lucinda Ballard says the Tony that thrilled her the most was the one that went to Vivien Leigh for *Tovarich*. "It took all her courage and gallantry to take the part. She had been ill; she had never played musical comedy; she felt she was too old for the part; she had been wounded by the cruel reviews of critics (like Kenneth Tynan) who felt she had no talent and was 'only a movie star'; and then her adored Larry had left her for a much younger woman—a much younger woman whose acting pleased the theatre critics in London. Vivien worked so hard on *Tovarich*, but she was frightened. And so, when the theatre's greatest prize was given to her, everyone who loved her shared in her happiness. That Tony meant more to her than both her Oscars because it was the Theatre and it was respected by the people who, because of her extraordinary beauty and movie star status, would never admit that she was a gifted actress whether playing *Antigone* or *Lulu*."

Composer Jerry Bock has two favorite Tonys, and both come from the same banner year. "Surely," he asserts, "the 1949 awards to *Death of a Salesman* and *Kiss Me, Kate* were a double bill of soaring achievements and, quite possibly, the most memorable winners of all."

The Tony memory that haunts Swoosie Kurtz dates back to 1973. She remembers sitting in her uncle's house in Omaha, Neb., breaking into tears when John Lithgow collected his Tony for *The Changing Room*. "I barely knew what the Tonys were back then," she recalls, "but I sort of knew John—I think it was the first time somebody I knew won—so it was very exciting. Then, just a few months later, I got to work with him at Long Wharf. He's an actor's actor—and always was."

A Tony victory is not always the blue-bird of happiness, though, and Florence Klotz will gladly testify. She tells a story on herself about the night her costumes and Boris Aronson's sets were *Pacific Overture*'s only Tony wins. "It made me feel rotten," she admits. "At that time, they went across to Sardi's. I was a nervous wreck that day anyways so I drank a lot—with no food—and I do believe that it was Liz Smith who found me in the ladies' john, on the floor, and sent me directly home. I never went to the party. The winner was in bed."

Losers have had happier nights. One of Maureen Stapleton's fondest Tony reflections, for instance, goes back to a time when George C. Scott was kindly disposed to prize-getting. "I was up for *Plaza Suite*, the play I did with George, and Colleen Dewhurst, whom he was married to then, was up for *More Stately Mansions*, so George decided to do it up big. He hired these limos and everything, and that was the year we lost to Zoe (Caldwell for *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*). I remember us walking up the aisle after the awards. George had Colleen on one arm and me on the other, and he said, 'Two chances



[[end page]]  
[[start page]]

[[advertisement]]

A fresh breeze across the Pacific.

The airline that serves more top business centers in the United States now serves more top business centers across the wide Pacific with more nonstops than any other airline.

Convenient service to thirteen cities in all, with all the advantages that come with one airline service.

One airline to handle ticketing, seat assignments, boarding passes, and baggage for your whole trip.

And, of course, United's incomparable Mileage Plus, offering a whole world of exciting travel awards. You'll enjoy United's famous Royal Pacific Service, the best of the friendly skies in First Class, Business Class, and Economy.

Best of all, you'll be flying with a friend. United Airlines. Now the friendly skies covers the wide Pacific.

Call United or your Travel Agent.

You're not just flying, you're flying the friendly skies.

[[image - color photograph of a hand fan with an image of many islands in the ocean representing the different continents with a plane flying overhead. The border reads "Sydney Melbourne Auckland Singapore Manila Bangkok Hong Kong Shanghai Beijing Seoul Taipei Osaka Tokyo". Two tassels hang off the fan]]

fly the friendly skies®

[[image - drawing of a United aircraft]]

United

[[/advertisement]]

Playbill for Big Deal  
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers  
Extracted Apr-18-2024 05:17:23



## Smithsonian Institution

*National Museum of African American History and Culture*

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: [www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu)

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)