



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Playbill for Big Deal

Extracted on Apr-16-2024 10:50:01

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), 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

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.

Dear Playbill . . .

Dear PLAYBILL: Can you tell me where and when the first Tony Award ceremony was held?
-Darla Nunzio
Tampa, Fl.

The first Tony Awards were made at a dinner in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria on Easter Sunday, April 6, 1947.

* * *

Dear PLAYBILL: When the late Gower Champion won a Tony Award for The Happy Time, he made an amusing comment about the critic Clive Barnes, but I can't remember what he said.
-Benjamin J. McCloskey
Clifton, N.J.

In 1968, Gower Champion won two Tonys one for direction and one for choreography for The Happy Time. When accepting his Tony for choreography, Mr. Champion said: "I don't know how to break this to Clive Barnes." (Mr. Barnes, in his review of this musical, criticized Champion for attempting to do a "proper ballet" in the show. "Mr. Champion might do best," he wrote, "to stick to staging at which he is a master and leave choreography to someone else.")

* * *

Dear PLAYBILL: Some letters have appeared in Dear PLAYBILL about shows, such as the current musical, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, that allow the audience to vote for the murderer. Back in 1937, at the Imperial Theatre (where Edwin Drood is housed), there was a musical called Between the Devil about a bigamist who had a wife in

MASTER THEATRE QUIZ - #5

What famous choreographer has stated that "Commitment brings substance to dance"? (a) Jerome Robbins (b) Twyla Tharp (c) Gower Champion

London and another in France. At the end of the show, the audience was asked to decide which wife he should keep and which he should renounce.
-Nick Sedelnik
Stratford, Ct.

That's correct. We thank you for refreshing our memory about that Howard Dietz/Arthur Schwartz musical.

* * *

Dear PLAYBILL: In the February Dear PLAYBILL column, you answered a question about the origin of the term "Break a leg" - that it started in Germany as a good luck wish on opening nights. I have heard that the saying is related to the bending (i.e., "breaking") of the leg during an



actor's bow. "Break a leg," therefore, conveys a wish for much applause, and hence, reason to bow.
-Karen K. Jacobsen
New Haven, Ct.

There are numerous explanations for the derivation of this theatrical greeting. The one we quoted was published in Supernatural on Stage by Richard Huggett.

* * *

Dear PLAYBILL: In the PLAYBILL for Jesus Christ Superstar at the Mark Hellinger Theatre in 1971, Harvey Milk is listed as the assistant to the show's director, Tom O'Horgan. Is this possibly the same Harvey Milk who was murdered by Dan White in San Francisco and who is remembered in the play Execution of Justice, recently at the Virginia Theatre?
-Talbot Elliman
Islip, N.Y.

Leo Stern, the Press Representative for Jesus Christ Superstar states that Harvey Milk, who was murdered, is the same Harvey Milk who assisted Tom O'Horgan at the Mark Hellinger Theatre.

[[line]]
Have a question about the theatre? Write to PLAYBILL, Dept. D.P. 71
Vanderbilt Avenue, Suite 320, New York, N.Y. 10169

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

[[advertisement]]
The Art of Making Things Easy
Whether shopping for yourself or for someone else, we make it personal, pleasant and a great deal easier with a wonderful host of shopping and gifting services. And they're just a phone call away.

AT YOUR SERVICE
Personal shopping for your unique identity. Susan Guth, and her expert staff will help plan every detail of your wardrobe. Call 705-3135.

AT HIS SERVICE
The time-saving service for the modern man. Business attire and off-hours sportswear looks assembled for you by our professionals. Call 705-3030.

FOREIGN INFORMATION
Foreign language interpreters are available for shopping convenience and communication. Contact the information desk on 1.

THE BRIDAL REGISTRY
This is a computerized Gift Registry that records all your gift choices at every Bloomindale's branch. Call Ann Keating 705-2800.

THE TASTING BAR

Sumptuous savories from around the world prepared with requisite skill.
Enjoy many exotic delights on the lower level.

BEATRICE DALE

Your resource for corporate gift giving, gift certificates, escorted shopping and more. Call Joan Cuomo at 705-2378.

INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICE

Our skilled ASID professionals will design your perfect solution. Call 705-2590.

LE TRAIN BLEU

Continental cuisine in a delightful French ambience. Brunch, Afternoon Tea, and Early Dinner await you, on 6, or call 705-2100 for reservations.

bloomingdales

And we've got lots more ways to make your life easier! Call 355-5900 for more information.
[/advertisement]]

Playbill for Big Deal
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Apr-16-2024 10:50:01



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

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

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