

Annual Report of Activities

for Fiscal Year 2011

Linda Eder © Powerline Entertainment

THE TOWN HALL



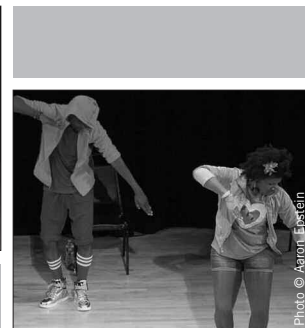
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HALL

The Town Hall has played a central role in New York City's cultural life since January 1921. This historic landmark was built by the League for Political Education, a suffragist organization, after the 19th Amendment was ratified in 1920. Women had won the right to vote, and the League saw to it that there was a place where important issues could be discussed in an open forum.

The Town Hall building itself is a symbol of the expansion of democracy in the early 20th century. Celebrated architects McKim, Mead and White designed The Hall auditorium with no separate box seats and no obstructed views, to reflect the League's commitment to equality, civic pride and public discourse. The Hall's absolute support for free speech made it the site of a number of important historical events in the city's history including a 1921 speech by Margaret Sanger which led to the activist's removal from the stage, and a controversial second anniversary memorial of the execution of Italian immigrants Sacco and Vanzetti in 1929.

Although originally serving as a forum for the free exchange of ideas, it wasn't long before the Hall's legendary warm acoustics revealed themselves. From the Hall's first musical performance in 1921, a concert by Spanish violinist Joan Manen, it became apparent that "The People's Hall" was the ideal place for a musical performance. Since then, The Hall has staged performances in music, dance, and theatre, in addition to hosting lectures and debates. With its intimate 1,500-seat house and unobstructed sightlines, The Town Hall has provided a showcase for everyone from Eleanor Roosevelt to Elvis Costello over the past nine decades.

The Town Hall enjoyed many years of success, becoming known for performances by some of the world's most respected entertainers, as well as a Peabody Award-winning radio show, *America's Town Meeting of the Air*, which featured internationally broadcast debates about major social issues. In the late 1970s, however, The Town Hall fell on hard times, and was near the point of closing its doors. In 1979, current Board of Trustees President Marvin Leffler and the present leadership took over The Hall's management, attained historic landmark status for the building, and refurbished the Hall inside and out. The Hall also started a course of imaginative artistic programs combined with conservative financial management that put the Hall back on the right track. The Town Hall continues to be one of our city's most respected cultural institutions, with an annual visitorship of approximately 200,000 people.



The Town Hall Annual Report of Activities for Fiscal Year 2011

The Town Hall's fiscal year (September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011) was highlighted by a celebration of its 90th anniversary with a sensational season that advanced its mission to:

- ◆ Provide affordable world-class entertainment by new and established artists to a diverse audience.
- ◆ Inspire the youth of our community to appreciate and participate in the arts at The Town Hall and in schools through its Educational Outreach Program.
- ◆ Preserve and enhance The Town Hall as a historic landmark venue for the enjoyment and cultural enrichment of generations to come.

In Fiscal Year 2011, both loyal and new patrons attended phenomenal performances ranging from revivals of rarely performed Broadway show tunes to beloved folk legend Don McLean.

As a way to give back to the community, The Town Hall distributed thousands of free tickets and invited 4,500 students from New York City to enjoy a free concert at The Hall in celebration of Black History Month.

The Town Hall offered arts education to approximately 3,300 students in grades K-12 in 23 New York City public schools.

The Hall gratefully acknowledges the generous support received from its Trustees, members, subscribers, and friends in the philanthropic community—all of the individuals, corporations and foundations that help this historic landmark venue fulfill its mission.

THE TOWN HALL ARTS-IN-EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

Through its arts-in-education programming, which includes events both at The Hall itself and in schools, Town Hall reaches out to thousands of children per year and introduces the arts to new generations of young people.

The Town Hall/Con Edison 15th Annual Black History Month Celebration

Founded in 2005 by step artist Maxine Lyle, ***Soul Steps*** tells its urban story through the rhythms and percussive dance movements of stepping, an art form which traces its roots to the 1920s, when African-American sororities and fraternities used stepping as a means to express solidarity among its members. Currently, dance icons ranging from such artists as Savion Glover and Debbie Allen to the much lauded gumboot dancers of South Africa influence and inspire every shout, slap of the thigh, twist of the hip, turn of the foot, and jump in the air that comprise the performances. By increasing the art form's presence in the art and entertainment industries, ***Soul Steps*** aims to revitalize stepping for generations to come, as well as create opportunities for cultural exchange among diverse communities. Its high-energy performances have delighted audiences in performance venues throughout the northeast.

Children who attended the performances were eligible to participate in the annual poster and essay contest. Winners received a cash prize at an award ceremony at Town Hall that was attended by their parents and teachers. Their entries were displayed at The Town Hall gallery and on its website. The poster contest winners were: Fateha Chowdhury, P.S. 50 (Queens); Christopher Williams, P.S. 94 (Manhattan); and Moses Villanueva, P.S.



Photo © Kyra Poppiel

◀Little Shop of Horrors



Photo © Kyra Poppiel



Photo © Peter N. Jumper

▶Teaching artists ▶

◀Oedipus Rex at Wagner High School



Photo © Kyra Poppiel

151 (Brooklyn). Essay contest winners were: Joanna Bello, P.S. 179 (Bronx); and Yubeuly Conde, M.S./I.S. 238 (Queens).

THE TOWN HALL EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

An established arts-in-education and arts instruction program, The Town Hall's **Educational Outreach Program (EOP)** has served New York City public schools since 1998 with enriching courses and electives that enhance academic classes and supplement the study of subjects in the core curriculum. The EOP invigorates student learning by relating principles of theatre/musical theatre and stagecraft to pupils' schoolwork and daily lives. Students also find their creative voice through the variety of courses offered, which fully represent the five artistic disciplines mandated by New York State—dance, the moving image, music, theatre, and visual arts—with emphasis on theatre and dance. The Town Hall's EOP also addresses the problem of public schools not meeting New York State arts education requirements. We are proud to serve as an important resource in this effort.

The EOP is customized to fit the needs and capabilities of each school in terms of staff time, space restrictions, and available equipment. Students primarily participate in our program several times a week in classes averaging 25 in size. Classes are run by a Town Hall teaching artist and a classroom teacher, allowing the strengths of each instructor to be utilized in both teaching students and writing lesson plans. The EOP primarily uses The Town Hall's Magic of Theater curriculum, which uses artistic principles as a vehicle for developing academic, social, and leadership skills. The curricula are integrated into standard academic courses when requested by classroom teachers. The Magic of Theater curriculum covers grades K-12. Regardless of grade level or availability of school resources, a number of the programs use the co-teaching model and the group-learning method, which foster a spirit of collaboration.

Town Hall teaching artists again ushered EOP students through a wide range of enriching courses this year. One of the most innovative was a puppetry course for one of the schools' production of *Oedipus Rex*. The Town Hall teaching artist commenced the course by introducing students to puppetry techniques from different cultures, among them shadow puppets, silhouettes, live-hand puppets, Javanese stick puppets, Japanese bunraku, and marottes. Students considered the various possibilities and decided on masks and stick-controlled hands for the chorus. The Sphinx comprised a number of independent parts. Students then improvised movements with various ordinary objects. They identified which movements made the prop seem more "expressive" and learned that dissociation is the key element to achieving this quality. Lastly, students created the puppets and served as puppeteers in the culminating performance.

The Town Hall enlisted the consulting services of Ms. Barbara Pollard as its manager of special projects. Her impressive academic credentials include an M.A. in Organizational Leadership and Education Administration from Teachers College as well as an M.A. in Art History from the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University. She has extensive experience in the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of school and public programs. Ms. Pollard has also developed timelines, programmatic goals and outcomes for such prestigious organizations as the Metropolitan Opera Guild, Lincoln Center Institute, and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. She was interim head of the arts-in-education division of the New York State Council on the Arts. Ms. Pollard designed The Town Hall's **Educational Outreach Program** brochure, which highlights the range of artistic disciplines offered by the organization. She has added new teaching artists to The Town Hall roster and will offer them professional development workshops in the future. Ms. Pollard has increased the number of schools that



◀ Alice Ripley
▼ Michael Cerveris



▲ Tom Wopat



▼ Betty Buckley

contracted our program, and her frequent visits to participating schools have strengthened our partnership with the New York City Department of Education.

High school students who participate in the EOP during the school year and wish to further their study are eligible to apply to The Town Hall **Summer Internship Program**, which places students in paid summer internships at professional theaters and arts organizations, where they can work up to 30 hours a week for six weeks. The Town Hall EOP administrators ensure that internship supervisors offer students meaningful work in theater production or arts administration. Interns execute box office and administrative duties, implement fundraising and promotional strategies, handle costumes and props, take care of technical aspects of production, and perform in productions. They also submit reflection stems to Town Hall staff, participate in job readiness workshops at The Hall, and embark on field trips to observe other interns at work. Each year, up to 30 students are placed in internships. In July/August 2011, we placed 27 interns in seven host organizations: Annabella Gonzales Dance Theater, The Drilling Company Theatre/Shakespeare in the Parking Lot, Gina Gibney Dance, Mabou Mines, Mint Theater, Pearl Theatre Company, and Theater for the New City.

Repertory Company High School for Theatre Arts

The Hall continues to house the **Repertory Company High School for Theatre Arts** on its premises. It enrolls over 200 students each year and teaching artists from our EOP work with students and faculty at this school on two yearly productions. In the fall, the school presented *Grease* and in the spring, *The Crucible*. Students performed and also assisted behind the scenes by building and painting theatrical flats, cubes, and platforms. Classmates, teachers, school officials, friends and family attended the performances. Post production, students organized, inventoried, cataloged, and stored the various scenic elements.

THE TOWN HALL 2011 PRESENTING SEASON

The Town Hall presented a lively mix of eclectic programs including the *Summer Broadway Festival*, *Broadway Cabaret Festival*, *Broadway by the Year*®, *Spring Series*, and *Feature Film Seminar Series*. The 2011 season comprised:

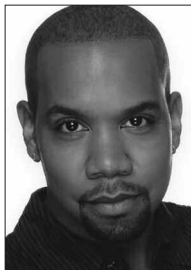
The sixth annual **Broadway Cabaret Festival**'s three-night extravaganza in October featured:

Broadway Melody Makers. This new addition to the **Broadway Cabaret Festival** featured an elite cast of Broadway stars that performed songs penned by some of America's most beloved composers. Tony winners Alice Ripley (*Next to Normal*) and Michael Cerveris (*In the Next Room or the Vibrator Play*, *Assassins*), Tony nominees Mary Testa (*Xanadu*, *On the Town*) and Tom Wopat (*A Catered Affair*, *Annie Get Your Gun*), Theatre World Award winner Nellie McKay (*Three Penny Opera*), *Saturday Night Live*'s Ana Gasteyer (*Royal Family*), and a host of others celebrated the music of such masters as Irving Berlin, Richard Rodgers, Cole Porter, Stephen Sondheim, Harold Arlen, Jule Styne, Cy Coleman, and more.

An Evening with Betty Buckley. Tony award-winner **Betty Buckley** made her Town Hall debut in 2008 to much popular and critical acclaim. This legendary performer, whose Broadway credits comprise *Sunset Boulevard*, *Cats*, *Pippin*, *1176*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, and others, once again delighted The Town Hall audience with her crystalline voice and sumptuous interpretations of jazz standards, musical theatre favorites, and more. William Crystal of *New York Calling Cabaret* gushed about Buckley's rendition of her signature song, *Memory (Cats)*, with the claim that "nobody sings that like Betty."



◀Linda Eder & Robert Cuccioli



▲Lilius White
◀Darius DeHaas



▼Scott Coulter & Christiane Noll

Broadway Originals! The finale of the **Broadway Cabaret Festival** featured a dazzling array of artists reprising songs they introduced either in the original Broadway production or revival with the exception of surprise guest star Marilyn Maye, who sang numbers she recorded before they went to Broadway. Directed by two-time Tony nominee Michele Lee, the program showcased the star power of Lucie Arnaz (*They're Playing Our Song*), Jo Sullivan Loesser (*The Most Happy Fella*) and Tony nominees Christiane Noll (*Ragtime*), Stephanie D'Abruzzo and John Tartaglia (*Avenue Q*), among others.

The Town Hall's signature series, **Broadway by the Year®**, which has as its lead sponsor the Bank of America and receives additional support from the Edythe Kenner Foundation, celebrated its 11th season. Broadway and cabaret artists perform songs from Broadway musicals from a highlighted year. Broadway impresario Scott Siegel serves as host and provides the historical context.

Broadway Musicals of 1921

The season kicked off in February with *Broadway Musicals of 1921* in anticipatory celebration of The Town Hall's 90th year of existence. Stephen Mo Hanan, who starred in and co-wrote the off-Broadway show *Jolson & Company*, opened with a rousing rendition of *Toot Toot Tootsie (Bombo)* and later followed with the ever popular *April Showers*, also from that show. Another standout performance featured Liz Lark-Brown as the irrepressible Fanny Brice singing *Second Hand Rose (The Ziegfeld Follies of 1921)*. Tap dance sensation Kendrick Jones (*The Scottsboro Boys*) wowed The Town Hall audience with the classic *I'm Just Wild About Harry (Shuffle Along)*, which included 10 high-kicking chorines named The *Siegfeld Folly Girls* as a tongue-in-cheek tribute to series producer Scott Siegel.

Broadway Musicals of 1932

As commented by host Scott Siegel, the Great Depression left an indelible imprint on Broadway in 1932. Many of the songs written reflected the hardships of the period while others aimed to distract and entertain. Bill Daugherty captured the former with his deeply felt rendition of *Brother, Can you Spare a Dime (Americana)*. In contrast, Meredith Patterson and Jeffry Denman sang and danced to *Let's Have Another Cup of Coffee (Face the Music)* while tap dance favorite Kendrick Jones and singer Jason Graae added optimism with *You Must be Born With It*, also from that show. Jason Graae later delighted The Town Hall audience with the Cole Porter favorite *Night and Day (The Gay Divorcée)*. Songs from *Earl Carroll's Vanities*, *Flying Colors*, *Music in the Air*, *Take a Chance, Through the Years*, and *Walk a Little Faster* were also performed by the stellar cast.

Broadway Musicals of 1982

The third show featured songs from *Cats*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Nine, A Doll's Life, Is There Life after High School?* and *Rock 'N Roll! The First 5,000 Years*. *Cats'* veterans Liz Callaway and Stephen Mo Hanan recreated their roles, Grisabella and Gus the Theatre Cat, respectively, and reprised their signature songs, *Memory* and *Gus the Theatre Cat*. The Mark Stuart Dance Theatre, in its *Broadway by the Year®* debut, rendered an eye-catching interpretation of *Macavity: The Mystery Cat*. Nine fellow-cast members Karen Akers and Barbara Walsh also reunited and offered audience-pleasing renditions of *Be On Your Own* and *My Husband Makes Movies* (Ms. Akers) and *Unusual Way* (Ms. Walsh). Ms. Akers and Ms. Walsh then teamed up for *Fran & Janie (Is There Life After High School)*. Series newcomer Kenita Miller soared with *Blues in the Night*, while series regular Kevin Earley demonstrated his leading man bravura with *Close Every Door to Me (Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat)*. He later teamed with Ron Bohmer in *Sobbin' Women (Seven Brides for Seven Brothers)*.



◀ Don McLean

▼ Dar Williams



▲ Ben Vereen

Romulo Larrea Tango Ensemble ▼



Broadway Musicals of 1997

Original cast members from several 1997 Broadway musicals reunited for the *Broadway by the Year*[®] season finale. Directed by Christiane Noll and choreographed by Jeffrey Denman, cast members included Noll, Denman, Robert Cuccioli and Linda Eder (*Jekyll and Hyde*); Chuck Cooper and Lillias White (*The Life*); Christine Andreas (*The Scarlet Pimpernel*); and Karen Ziemba (*Steel Pier*). Other cast members included Christina Bianco, David Burnham, Erin Denman, Drew Humphrey, Tyler Maynard, and Jennifer Rias, who performed songs from *The Lion King*, *Titanic*, *Side Show*, *Triumph of Love*, and *Dream*.

Launched in 1988, The Town Hall's 2011 **Spring Series** once again lived up to its "something for everyone" reputation with the following programs:

Preeminent song-and-dance man **Ben Vereen** captivated The Town Hall audience with his self-titled show, ***An Evening with Ben Vereen***. Crafted to showcase his artistic versatility, Mr. Vereen opened the show with an excerpt from his latest project, *From Brooklyn to Broadway*. He then paid tribute to Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr. in a retrospective entitled *My Heroes* with such classics as *Mr. Bojangles*, *My Life*, and many others. With 11 Broadway shows to his credit, including his Drama Desk and Tony Award-winning performance in *Pippin*, Mr. Vereen's homage to the Great White Way—most notably Andrew Lloyd Webber and Bob Fosse—included such Broadway favorites as *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Defying Gravity*, and others.

The ***Capitol Steps*** is a musical political satire troupe whose hilarious performances are guaranteed to tickle the funny bone. It began as a group of Senate staffers who set out to satirize the very people and places that employed them. In the years that followed, many of the Steps ignored the conventional wisdom ("Don't quit your day job!"), and although not all of the current members of the Steps are former Capitol Hill staffers, taken together the performers have worked in a total of eighteen Congressional offices and represent 62 years of collective House and Senate staff experience. The ***Capitol Steps*** elicited uproarious laughter from The Town Hall audience with its hilarious antics, which included such musical numbers as *Cash for Codgers*, *We AARRRRR the World*, and *Juan Nation*, among others.

Don McLean with Special Guest Dar Williams. **Don McLean** is one of America's most enduring singer-songwriters. With 40 gold and platinum records to his credit, this Songwriter's Hall of Fame inductee enchanted audience members with performances of classic hits such as the autobiographical *American Pie* and the hauntingly beautiful *Vincent (Starry, Starry Night)*. Mr. McLean combined forces with one of the most acclaimed talents of the current folk-pop scene, **Dar Williams**. Together they ushered The Town Hall audience on an intimate musical journey replete with personal reflections and thought-provoking social and political commentary.

After sold-out presentations of *Tango First Century* and the international success of *Spotlight on Tango*, the Romulo Larrea Tango Ensemble presented the world premiere of ***TANGOS from Gardel to Piazzolla***. This magnificent new production featured three couples of tango dancers, a musical ensemble comprising bandoneon, strings, and piano, and singer Verónica Larc. Together they paid tribute to Maestros Gardel and Piazzolla and ushered The Town Hall audience on a captivating journey into the heart of a century-old tradition.

Peter Yarrow & Friends: A Children's & Family Sing Along. Peter Yarrow, of *Peter, Paul and Mary* fame, delighted audience members with his repertoire of contemporary folk songs and such family favorites as *Puff the Magic Dragon*. He was joined by his daughter Bethany, of the cello and vocal duo, Bethany & Rufus, and spe-



◀Jeff Harnar & Andrea Marcovicci



▲Kelli O'Hara
◀Linda Eder

▼DeeDee Bridgewater



cial guest Billy Jonas, a veritable one-man band who fashions musical instruments from ordinary objects such as recycled buckets, tubs, trash cans, and soup tins. Together they led The Town Hall audience in a jubilant sing along.

An Evening with Kelli O'Hara featured three-time Tony nominee **Kelli O'Hara** celebrating the release of her new album, *Always*, with her Town Hall appearance. Ms. O'Hara charmed audience members with her vocal versatility and varied repertoire, ranging from Broadway to country, and included such favorites as *I Could Have Danced All Night (My Fair Lady)*, *Something Wonderful (The King and I)*, and *This Nearly Was Mine (South Pacific)*, as well as rock numbers from The Beatles and Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young. The biggest surprise of the performance was a self-penned song, *They Don't Let You In the Opera (If You're a Country Star)*.

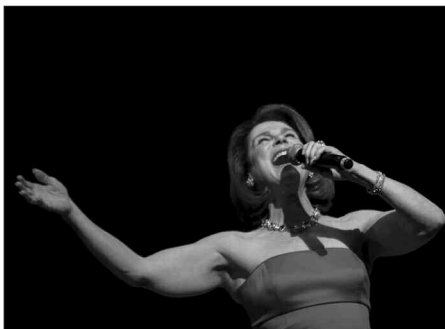
Drama Desk Award-winning **Linda Eder** returned to The Town Hall in **An Evening with Linda Eder** to celebrate the release of her new album, *Now*, for which she reunited with composer Frank Wildhorn. Ms. Eder mesmerized The Town Hall audience with her transcendent voice and lush, imaginative interpretations of music spanning the genres of Broadway, standards, pop, country, and jazz. Her Town Hall appearance marked the first in many dates of a coast-to-coast tour.

Easy to Love: Andrea Marcovicci & Jeff Harnar Sing Cole Porter. Widely recognized as two of the foremost interpreters of the Cole Porter songbook, **Andrea Marcovicci** and **Jeff Harnar** painted a musical portrait of the maestro's trajectory from Broadway to Hollywood with such favorites as *I've Got You Under My Skin*, *I Get A Kick Out of You*, *Night and Day*, and more. This tribute to Cole Porter, which fell on his birthday, also showcased Ms. Marcovicci and Mr. Harnar's infectious chemistry, and their profound understanding of this beloved American composer's clever lyrics, intricate rhythms, and unforgettable melodies.

Dee Dee Bridgewater: To Billie with Love: A Love Celebration of "Lady Day." Tony and three-time Grammy Award-winning jazz singer **Dee Dee Bridgewater** enthralled The Town Hall audience with her tribute to the legendary Billie Holiday. As featured in her recent Grammy-winning CD, *Dee Dee Bridgewater Eleanor Fagan (1915-1959): To Billie with Love from Dee Dee*, Ms. Bridgewater placed her unmistakable stamp on timeless classics immortalized by Billie Holiday, including *God Bless the Child*, *All of Me*, *Lady Sings the Blues*, and others. The evening opened with Grammy Award-winning R&B/soul singer-songwriter, **Chrisette Michele** who paid tribute to the three jazz icons she considered her strongest influences Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday and Sarah Vaughn.

The Town Hall at 90

The Town Hall celebrated its 90th anniversary year with a cocktail reception and benefit concert that were held on May 2nd. Written and hosted by Scott Siegel, and directed by Scott Coulter, the evening's impressive cast featured Tony Nominee Tovah Feldshuh, who kicked off the festivities with her witty parody, *A Town Hall Medley*. Emily Skinner followed with *Sleepy Man*, and Jason Robert Brown performed a self-penned song from a musical he's writing based on the movie *Honeymoon in Las Vegas*. Father/son guitar duo Bucky and John Pizzarelli performed a medley that included *In a Mellow Tone*, *I Thought About You*, and *Honeysuckle Rose*. Norm Lewis, who flew in from London for the occasion, sang the plaintive *Bring Him Home* from *Les Misérables*. Dancing duo Jeffry Denman and Noah Racey delighted audience members with their choreographed rendition of *Necessity (Finian's Rainbow)*. Town Hall favorite Liz Callaway paid tribute with Stephen Sondheim's *Another Hundred People*, (special lyrics by Lauren Mayer). The evening's festivities concluded



▲John & Bucky Pizzarelli
◀Tovah Feldshuh

▼Broadway's Rising Stars



with a fetching Tovah Feldshuh performing *Neverland* from *Peter Pan*.

Summer Broadway Festival In its fifth year, the Festival featured:

Broadway Winners: The Award-Winning Music of Broadway! III Opening night of the **Summer Broadway Festival** featured a bevy of musical theatre stars that each wowed The Town Hall audience with songs that had won an award or were from an award-winning show. Among the talent and shows represented were Scott Coulter, who offered a delicate and sensitive interpretation of *The Sound of Music*, and newcomer Oakley Boycott, who wowed the audience with a hilarious send-up of *He Was My Boyfriend* (*Young Frankenstein*). Tom Wopat performed an unplugged version of Sondheim's *Send in the Clowns* (*A Little Night Music*), and Marc Kudisch raised The Town Hall roof with his booming baritone with *If I Were a Rich Man* (*Fiddler on the Roof*). Special guest Larry Gatlin performed *Bring Him Home* (*Les Misérables*), accompanying himself on the guitar. The evening's show stopper featured powerhouse Christina Bianco, who did impressions of seven singers doing *Cabaret*, including Barbra Streisand, Judy Garland, Patti LuPone, Kristin Chenoweth, Julie Andrews, Bernadette Peters and Celine Dion.

Broadway's Rising Stars, now in its fifth year, highlights the future of Broadway with a special night designed to launch the careers of tomorrow's superstars. Hundreds of students and recent graduates from some of the nation's finest theatrical institutions participated in a competitive audition process. The top 19, two of whom hailed from South Korea, were rewarded with a Town Hall debut and an invitation to audition for parts in future Town Hall productions. The entire company opened the show with a dazzling rendition of *One* from *A Chorus Line*. Pursuing what Scott Siegel called their "mad and wonderful dream," the "rising stars" then delivered stand-out performances of songs that ranged from classic Broadway—*Carousel*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *Ragtime*—to more contemporary works such as *Les Misérables*, *Footloose*, *The Little Mermaid*, and others. The ensemble concluded the show with *The Impossible Dream* (*Man of La Mancha*).

All Singin' All Dancin' again closed the **Summer Broadway Festival's** fifth season with a bang. Choreographed and directed by Lorin Lotarro (*American Idiot*) and Mark Stuart, who made his Town Hall debut in Broadway *Musicals of 1982*, ***All Singin' All Dancin'*** thrilled a packed house with "breathtaking acrobatic flings, rhythmic taps, sliding soft-shoes, and soaring leaps, accompanied by polished signing..." as reported by William Wolf of the *Wolf Entertainment Guide*. The evening's highlights included Mark Stuart and Jaime Verazin in an original interpretation of *Libertango* (*Tango Argentino*) that smoldered with sensuality. Valarie Pettiford sizzled with *Fever* (*Million Dollar Quartet*), backed by dancers Mark Stuart, Jaime Verazin, Michele Camaya, Sara O'Gleby, and April Berry. Lorin Lotarro and Todd Burnsed danced as Lillias White soared in Cy Coleman's *I Walk a Little Faster*. The evening's crowd pleaser featured Julia Murney in *My Baby Just Cares for Me* (*Whoopie!*), who was also graced by three Lorin Lotarro dancers and later joined onstage by their toddlers. As Darius de Haas sang *Satin Doll* (*Dream*) and *I Got Rhythm* (*Girl Crazy*), the Mark Stuart Dancers "abandoned themselves to Cirque du Soleil moves that were interwoven," enthused Suzanna Bowling in the *Times Square Chronicles*.

The Town Hall Feature Film Seminar Series

The Feature Film Seminar Series screens twelve pre-release films, followed by seminar discussions lead by film industry notables such as David Duchovny, Peter Bogdanovich, Luc Besson, Nia Vardalos, and NY1 entertainment reporter/film critic Neil Rosen. Both domestic and foreign films are screened. This season featured domestic and international films including: *Rare Export: A Christmas Tale* (Oscilloscope Pictures), *Applause*



◀Rosie O'Donnell



▲Garrison Keillor
◀Andre Agassi

▼Paco Peña



(Koncern Film), *Certifiably Jonathan* (Filmdada), *Desert Flower* (Fox Searchlight), *Empire of Silver* (Arc Light Films), *Meeting Spencer* (Paladin Studios), *The Colors of the Mountain* (Film Movement), *Lebanon, PA* (Reconstruction Pictures), *The First Grader* (Six Sense Origin Pictures), *Love, Etc.* (Walnut Hill Media), *Bride Flight* (Music Box Films), and *A Little Help* (Freestyle and Secret Handshake Entertainment).

Eclectic Programming

The Town Hall hosts many of the world's most acclaimed artists encompassing a full range of genres in approximately 200 performances a year. A sampling of performers and events from the 2011 season include: comedians Aziz Ansari, Rosie O' Donnell, Gabriel Iglesias, and Sandra Bernhard; recording sensation Josh Groban; famed children's performer Laurie Berkner; legendary jazz saxophonist and composer Wayne Shorter; a host of singer/songwriter: Richard Thompson, John McLaughlan, Marc Cohen and Suzanne Vega, Randy Newman, David Crosby and Graham Nash; classical pianists Hélène Grimaud and Garrick Ohlsson. Special performances included the reuniting of *Rent's Adam Pascal and Anthony Rapp*; The Metropolitan Opera Guild's *Met Mastersingers Present René Pape*; *A Special Evening with Andre Agassi*; *Buddy Valastro: The Cake Boss in The Bakin' with the Boss Tour*. World music was represented by the *Queen of the Afro-Peruvian Song*: Eva Allyon; a rare concert *AfroCubism: "The original idea for the Buena Vista Social Club;"* and dance sensations The Paco Peña Flamenco Dance Company. The New York City Gay Men's Chorus performed their annual holiday concert; and *Garrison Keillor's A Prairie Home Companion* returned for its live-broadcasts from NYC's Town Hall on National Public Radio.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Fundamental to The Town Hall's mission is to ensure that our cultural offerings are accessible to the public by offering tickets at low or no cost to as many New Yorkers as possible. Through the *Ticket Access Program*, The Hall distributes thousands of free and discounted tickets to children, social service and health agencies, senior citizen centers, community centers, housing agencies, colleges and universities. Participants in 2011 included The Carter Burden Center for The Aging/Cultural Connections, the International House, the Woodstock House, and many others.

The Town Hall also offers rental subsidies and assistance with marketing, promotion, box office operations, and technical services to new artists, nonprofit organizations, and smaller performing groups through its *Helping Hands Program*. Participants in 2011 included Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, the Peoples' Symphony, Theatretworks/USA, and the World Music Institute, among many others.

BALANCED BUDGET

Assisted by contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations, The Town Hall has balanced its budget each year for the 32nd consecutive year. All of us associated with this historic institution are grateful and encouraged by this steady show of support.

Marvin Leffler, President

Acknowledgements

The Board of Directors, staff and artists of The Town Hall are deeply appreciative of the inspirational and gratifying support we receive from the following foundations, corporations and government institutions.
Thank you.

Achelis Foundation
American Portfolios
Bank of America
Booth Ferris Foundation
Charina Endowment Fund
JPMorgan Chase Foundation
Consolidated Edison Company of New York
Jean and Louis Dreyfus Foundation
Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation
Durst Organization
Anne and Gordon Getty Foundation
Goldfarb & Fleece
Harkness Foundation for Dance
Hearst Foundation
Joan Hornig Jewelry
Hyde and Watson Foundation
Jewish Communal Fund
The Karma Foundation
Edythe Kenner Foundation
Lemberg Foundation
McGraw-Hill Companies
MetLife Foundation
New York City Council
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
New York State Council on the Arts
Henry Nias Foundation
Peek Family Foundation
Royal Realty Company
Rudin Foundation
Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation
Shubert Foundation
TD Charitable Foundation
Ticketmaster

The Town Hall

Board of Trustees

Officers

Marvin Leffler, *President*
Robert F. Wright, *Executive Vice President*
Douglas Durst, *Vice President*
Alfred H. Horowitz, *Vice President*
Honorable Michael Presser, *Secretary*
Tom Wirtshafter, *Treasurer*
Steven A. Sanders, *Assistant Treasurer*

Board

Phyllis Barasch
Salil Donde
Eugene J.T. Flanagan
April Hattori
Geoffrey Hess
Bruce S. Leffler
Elise Marie Lelon
David Lesser
Claire G. Miller
Justin D. Miller
Honorable Milton Mollen
Donald Rabinovitch
Kathleen Rosenberg
Richard P. Rubinstein
Lynn A. Shafran
Malcolm Thomson
Ira T. Wender

Life Trustees

Leona Chanin
Richard H. Low

Advisory Council

Claire G. Miller, Chair
Nancy Berman
Dianne Davis
Judy Tobias Davis
Vera T. Ende
Celeste Holm
Sandy Horowitz
I. Stanley Kriegel
Evelyn Lear
Martin E. Segal

Arts in Education Advisory Council

Dr. Charlotte K. Frank, *Chair*
Sharon Dunn
Bel Kaufman
Barbara Pollard
Dr. Jerrold Ross

The Town Hall Staff

Executive/Artistic Director

Lawrence C. Zucker

Director of Development

Mary Chen

Director of Marketing

Ellen Ann Kafkalas

Director of Subscriptions & Membership

Helen Morris

Manager of Special Projects

Barbara Pollard

Educational Arts Coordinator

Peter Nicholas Trump

Development Associate

Hilda Cabrera

Director of Film Membership & Children's Events Coordinator

Elizabeth Del Castillo

Box Office Manager

Linda Meier

Technical Director

William Dehling

THE TOWN HALL

123 West 43rd Street
New York, NY 10036
212-997-1003
www.the-townhall-nyc.org