

How To Succeed At The Tonys

Tonight (or last night) was the 65th presentation of The Antoinette Perry Award for Excellence in Theatre. Once again, Neil Patrick Harris shined as the host as he poked fun at himself, Spider-Man (30 seconds of jokes about the troubled musical), and battled with Hugh Jackman to see who would be the better host. Really in his element as an entertainer.

Since I had to work until 9, I had to watch via the DVR an hour late.

Honestly, I was not overly impressed with the excerpts from the NEW musicals. Two based on movies ([Catch Me If You Can](#)... never saw the Hanks/Decrapio movie; and [Sister Act](#)... which surprisingly did not translate that well to the stage). [The Scottsboro Boys](#) is the now closed and soon to hit the road swan song of Kander and Ebb (who created *Cabaret* and *Chicago*).

The winner of Best Musical, [The Book of Mormon](#), was co-created by Trey Parker and Matt Stone (known primarily for bringing "South Park" into our lives).

I was much more impressed by the two shows battling it out for Best Revival of a Musical. Daniel and company were very fun while performing "Brotherhood of Man" from *How to Succeed*... Congrats to John Larroquette on his win for Best Featured Role by an Actor in a Musical. Sutton Foster and her cast of the classic *Anything Goes* was the odds on favorite to snag the revival award and it did not disappoint. I am still amazed that Radcliffe was not nominated for his role. It does not make sense to blame Harry Potter itself when Jackman won for *The Boy from Oz* while he was still riding high as Wolverine in the *X Men* films.

Memorable moments:

- *Spider-Man* excerpt did not do a thing to endear it to me. Re-opens Tuesday. Julie Taymor is suing for

royalties due to her after she was fired from the director's gig.

- I found bits of *The Book Of Mormon's* song, "I Believe," to sound like a mockery of "I Have Confidence" from *The Sound of Music*. What can we expect from the co-creators of "South Park?"
- Brooke Shields (soon to join the cast of *The Addam's Family*) got a big long BLEEEEEEEEEEP (or was it a long mute)
- Christie Brinkley (yet another to soon revolve into the endless cast of *Chicago*) looked like a deranged Barbie doll and sounded like a munchkin.
- "No audience members have been injured during a performance.... YET!" (30 seconds of Spider-Man jabs)
- Whatever the (what can only be best described as) **THING** was that Whoopi had on her head.

So... while the year's crop of NEW musical highlights leave something lacking, the awards and revivals were entertaining.

And please...**KEEP THE SUPERHEROES WHERE THEY BELONG! IN THE COMICS, ANIMATED SERIES, OR MOVIES!**



The Spider Or The Potter

Last week saw yet another delay in the [Spider-Man](#) musical opening. Not only another delay but a new creative team was brought in to take control of the astronomical catastrophe (ok... I had to leave that... I honestly thought it was a -y and not catastrophe... this coming from someone who misspelled p-a-j-a-m-a-s in the 6th grade spelling bee ☹). Nine years in the making and in previews for months! I'll say it again... sometimes it is best to leave things in the mediums they were meant to be. Comic books, cartoons, live action television (remember that?), movies... live theatre (?). By the time this mess is ever (IF ever) straightened out, it might be Spectacular to look at but will it mean anything beyond the \$65 million dollar+ price tag? In any case, opening night has been pushed back to sometime in the next decade (or is it this summer).

In other theatre news, Daniel Radcliffe is in previews for his singing and dancing debut in the 50th anniversary revival of the Frank Loesser classic, [How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying](#). The show itself may be extremely dated but I was fortunate enough to see the last Broadway revival in the mid 1990s. It was a fun show that I could see being done in community theatres in my neck of the woods. Perhaps by the time the rights become available again, these theatres will not be so turned off from staging musicals more than once every two years or so ☹

Why would a 21 year old straight from completing one of the most lucrative film franchises in history, choose such an undertaking? As I understand it, the former boy wizard wanted a real challenge. No dance experience, little vocal training, so maybe it was the name (KIDDING... I'd rather see a 50 year

old revival than a NEW show that has been stuck in a rut for half a year with no end in sight no matter the premise).
Break a leg, Dan!

Web-Swinging On Broadway?

If I recall, I posted on the POSSIBILITY of the world's favorite web-slinging superhero making his Broadway debut. The creative genius behind The Lion King's transformation from screen to stage is teaming with the creative genius of U2 to bring us [Spider-Man: Turn Off The Dark](#). I'm sorry, but this seems destined for failure. Julie Taymor took a well established Disney animated feature and brilliantly brought it to the stage. Bono and the Edge have had multiple hits for probably 2 decades. I know that the Last Son of Krypton made the leap to Broadway in the 60s in [It's a Bird... It's a Plane... It's Superman](#) but I'm just not sure that I would want a return to pure camp which I see this ending up becoming. If not, I will happily beg for a retraction. But for now, I'm not feeling greatly optimistic about this one.