

# Your guide to the Tony Awards

**On Broadway.** It's theater's biggest night of the year.

Ah, Tony Award season: when we kick ourselves for all of the shows we didn't get to see, fondly recall the ones we loved (and sometimes lost too soon) and shake our fists at the sky about nominations given and withheld (ahem, "The Realistic Joneses").

Whether you're hosting a huge viewing party or just flipping channels so that you can stay topical at the office water cooler, what follows is all you need to know about the 68th Tony Awards, which will be held at Radio City Music Hall and airing live at 8 p.m. on CBS.

Here's what to expect:

**1 Host:** Sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but Neil Patrick Harris is not going to be wooing you with his remarkable talent, rapier wit and classic good looks this year. Instead, we're stuck with Hugh Jackman's remarkable talent, rapier wit and classic good looks. Oh, wait — that's not bad news at all! Carry on.

**2 Best Musical:** "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder"



With 10 nominations, new musical "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" is one to watch this year. / JOAN MARCUS

swept this year's nominations with 10 nods. That could make it a hot contender for Best Musical, in part because two of its leads are pitted against one another for Best Actor. That Sophie's Choice could be avoided by tossing the win to someone else entirely (say, Neil Patrick Harris), and as a sort of replacement, "Gentleman's Guide" would get the hat-tip here. On the flip side, though, up to seven wins might end up generously spread out among other categories, justifying a competitor, for example "Beautiful," for

this big one. The decision will make a huge impact on the future of Broadway, determining whether we can expect to see more new and unique musicals or another slew of "safe" jukebox hits in the coming years.

**3 Lead Actress in a Musical:** After 10 long years, Tony Award winner Idina Menzel has made her way back home to the Broadway stage, and we want to reward her good behavior, right? Besides, "If/Then" is not that great of a show, so if we're going to throw it a bone,

this is a safe bone to throw. So does it matter whether her performance was actually better than, say, the charismatic Jessie Mueller as Carole King? Oh, but wait, we're totally overlooking someone, as usual: Kelli O'Hara has been nominated four times before, and it's really about time she gets her freakin' statue for "The Bridges of Madison County." (If not, well, there's surely going to be another chance next year, or the year after — it's such a dependable rain check we can practically see those gray clouds rolling in now.)

## See the shows

### Win tickets to Broadway

Nexus, the Official Beauty Partner of the Tony Awards, is offering a chance to win two tickets to one of the nominated shows. Visit Duane Reade and purchase \$20 worth of Nexus Salon Hair Care products, and

you'll receive a unique code that you can use to enter to win at [www.nexustonycontest.com](http://www.nexustonycontest.com). (Then you can use those products to show up to the theater in style!) But the fun doesn't end after the statues are handed out Sunday: There will be a winner every day from now until June 18.

## \$12 billion

### Broadway gives back to NYC

Broadway isn't just a fun time for rich people and theater geeks. It's a hugely profitable industry that benefits the city as a whole. In 2012-2013, per a report released last week by The Broadway League, Broadway contributed nearly \$12 billion dollars to NYC. It's interesting to note that although productions themselves spent less money this year than the year prior, an influx of international tourists and the money they spent while attending a show managed to keep the total economic input at 2 percent higher than last year, while 97 percent of the roughly \$11.9 billion came from "new" money.

## By the numbers

# 87K

Broadway also supports 87,000 employees and generates \$500 million in taxes from costs such as show expenses, capital expenses and tourism dollars.

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## Critic's picks

Metro's theater critic lists her predicted (\*) and desired wins for this year's top categories. (Visit [Metro.us](http://Metro.us) on Sunday for T. Michelle Murphy's Tony Awards coverage from the media room.)

### Best Play

- "Act One"
- "All the Way"
- "Casa Valentina"
- "Mothers and Sons"
- "Outside Mullinger"

### Best Musical

- "After Midnight"
- "Aladdin"
- "Beautiful — The Carole King

### Musical\*

- "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder"

### Best Revival of a Play

- "The Cripple of Inishmaan"
- "The Glass Menagerie"
- "A Raisin in the Sun"
- "Twelfth Night"

### Best Revival of a Musical

- "Hedwig and the Angry Inch"
- "Les Miserables"
- "Violet"

### Best Performance by a Lead Actor in a Play

- Samuel Barnett, "Twelfth Night"
- Bryan Cranston, "All the Way"

- Chris O'Dowd, "Of Mice and Men"
- Mark Rylance, "Richard III"
- Tony Shalhoub, "Act One"

### Best Performance by a Lead Actress in a Play

- Tyne Daly, "Mothers and Sons"
- LaTanya Richardson Jackson, "A Raisin in the Sun"
- Cherry Jones, "The Glass Menagerie"
- Audra McDonald, "Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill"
- Estelle Parsons, "The Velocity of Autumn"

### Best Performance by a Lead Actor in a Musical

- Neil Patrick Harris, "Hedwig

### and the Angry Inch"

- Ramin Karimloo, "Les Miserables"
- Andy Karl, "Rocky"
- Jefferson Mays, "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder"
- Bryce Pinkham, "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder"

### Best Performance by a Lead Actress in a Musical

- Mary Bridget Davies, "A Night with Janis Joplin"
- Sutton Foster, "Violet"
- Idina Menzel, "If/Then"
- Jessie Mueller, "Beautiful — The Carole King Musical"
- Kelli O'Hara, "The Bridges of Madison County"



"Hedwig" could earn a first Tony for star Neil Patrick Harris.

JOAN MARCUS

# Broadway's getting bigger

## Tony Awards.

Neil Patrick Harris opened up last night's awards show with a bang.

For the fourth (nonconsecutive) year, consummate host Neil Patrick Harris helmed the Tony Awards. The 67th annual ceremonies kicked off with an opening number dedicated to the many children who are currently taking the stage nightly on the Great White Way, ranging from the four young girls who share the lead in "Matilda" (who jointly received Tony Honors for Excellence in the Theatre) to the orphans of "Annie" and seemingly dozens of others. Harris sang of "so many child actors high on Red Bull and endorphins" and wondered, "Is there a Tonys daycare where all of you go?"

The first trophy of the night went to Courtney



Neil Patrick Harris and Mike Tyson? Just another great Tonys show. / ANDREW H. WALKER, GETTY IMAGES

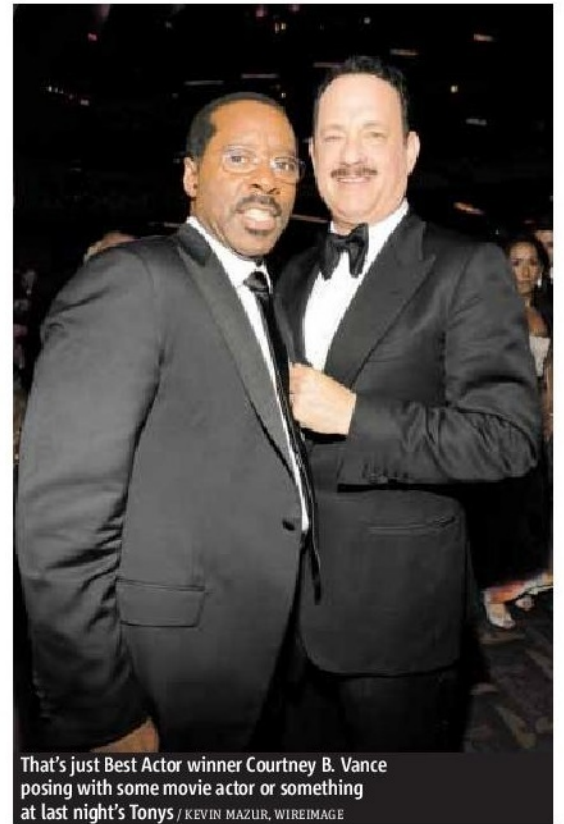
### Online

For a complete list of winners, visit [www.metro.us](http://www.metro.us)

B. Vance for Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Role in a Play for "Lucky Guy."

Later, Judith Light won as the featured actress in the same category for "The Assembled Parties." Other standouts as of press time were technical wins for "The

Nance" (costume design and sound design of a play) and "Kinky Boots" (sound and orchestration for a musical). "Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella" took home a Best Costume Design Award, while Dennis Kelly won for writing the book to "Matilda."



That's just Best Actor winner Courtney B. Vance posing with some movie actor or something at last night's Tonys / KEVIN MAZUR, WIREIMAGE

Big name presenters included Scarlett Johansson, Alan Cumming, Liam Neeson, Oliver Platt, Zachary Quinto and Audra McDonald. But most of the evening's awards were given out by actors currently onstage on Broadway, in full costume, including the current leads Guy and Girl from last year's big winner, "Once." Mike Tyson (present) and Shia LaBeouf (not present) were lampooned for the former's one-man tribute

show and the latter's sudden departure from "Orphans" this season.

Live performances included a mash-up of songs from "Matilda" (sporting 12 nominations, including for Best Musical), "Bring It On" (two nods) and "Cinderella" (nine nominations). Diane Paulus won the award for Best Direction of a Musical, for "Pippin."



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mytonys

## Few big surprises at the Tony Awards

Known host and safe humor ease transition for Tonys Christianity and homosexuality running themes 'Book of Mormon' racks up awards

Last night, the 65th annual Tony Awards aired live on CBS. Despite concerns over a new venue, this year marked a successful transition from Radio City Music Hall, a 5,933-seater where the show's been since 1997, to Beacon Theatre, a former movie theater with half the house capacity. Neil Patrick Harris hosted for the second time — kicking off with a traditionally tongue-in-cheek number about how, with Mormons and nuns and businessmen and superheroes, "Broadway's not just for gays anymore."

### Winners

- ▶ **Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Role in a Play:** John Benjamin Hickey, "Normal Heart"
- ▶ **Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role in a Musical:** Nikki M. James, "Book of Mormon"
- ▶ **Best Direction of a Play:** Marianne Elliot and Tom Morris, "War Horse"

SEE ALL THE WINNERS:  
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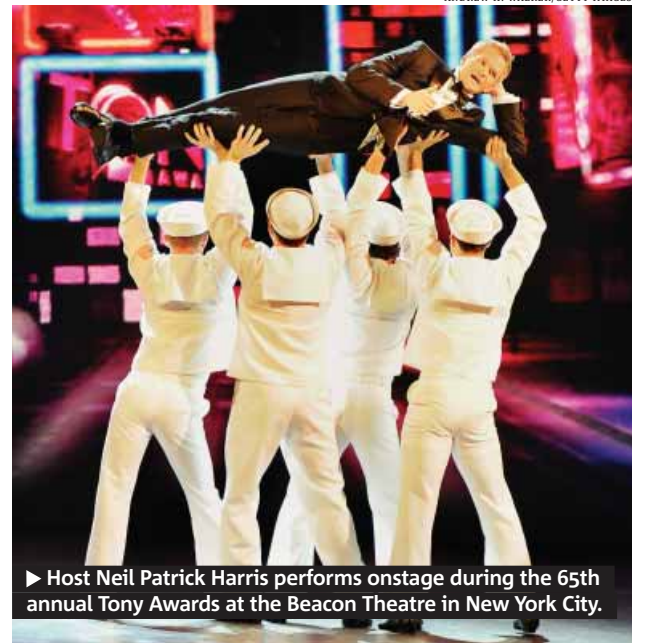
At press time, American Theatre Wing award recipients for featured roles in a play were Ellen Barkin (presented by Alec Baldwin) and John Benjamin Hickey (presented by Viola Davis), both starring in "The Normal Heart." Winning directors were Casey Nicholaw and Trey Parker for musical "The Book of Mormon" as well as Marianne Elliot and Tom Morris for the play "War Horse."

The first half of the program showcased musical numbers from "How to Succeed in Business Without

Really Trying," "Catch Me If You Can" and "Scottsboro Boys." Other sequences included comedy from John Leguizamo (currently starring in "Ghetto Klown") and six obligatory "Spider-Man" jokes in 30 seconds by Neil Patrick Harris.

A showdown between NPH and former host Hugh Jackman and performances from "Sister Act," "Anything Goes" and "The Book of Mormon," up for a 14 Tonys, rounded out the show.

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▶ Host Neil Patrick Harris performs onstage during the 65th annual Tony Awards at the Beacon Theatre in New York City.

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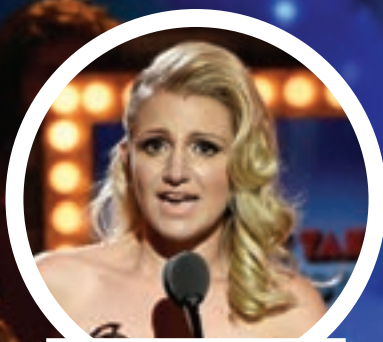
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# Stars don't shine quite so bright

**Awards.** Broadway went with lower-wattage co-hosts for this year's Tonys.

This might have been the highest-grossing year for Broadway. But despite having two hosts take on the Tony Awards at Radio City Music Hall, or perhaps because of them, it actually felt like a smaller awards show than usual. Neither Kristin Chenoweth nor Alan Cumming were able to shine the way that former hosts like Neil Patrick Harris and Hugh Jackman usually do. Why two hosts, anyway? They explained that it was such a big year that it "requires a man and a woman" (Cumming: "I can relate").

In that vein, the duo stuck to mild banter, mocking each other's shows: "This is the last time I'll sing this," Cumming said about the opening strains of "Willkommen" from "Cabaret," while Chenoweth flatly stated "shut up" when her partner tried to make a joke about the lasting "popularity" of "Wicked." They quickly stepped aside for the opening number, which was "A Musical" from "Something Rotten." Unusually, neither host participated in the song and dance. In addition to hosting, Chenoweth was nominated



ANNALEIGH ASHFORD WON FOR "YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU."



CHRISTIAN BORLE ACCEPTING HIS TONY FOR "SOMETHING ROTTEN."

Kristin Chenoweth and Alan Cumming were great and all, but they're no Neil Patrick Harris or Hugh Jackman. / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

for her leading role in a musical for "On the Twentieth Century," which also brought her to the stage last night to perform.

It also felt like a quiet year because there were no upsets, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. Front-runner and fan favorite "Fun Home" had already

taken away three wins, out of a leading 12 nominations, as of press time.

Major awards included Best Actress in a Leading Role in a Play (Helen Mirren, "The Audience"); Best Original Score (Jeanine Tesori and Lisa Kron, "Fun Home"); Best Actor in a Featured Role in a Play

(Richard McCabe, "The Audience"); Best Book for a Musical (Lisa Kron, "Fun Home"); Best Actor in a Featured Role in a Musical (Christian Borle, "Something Rotten"); Best Actress in a Featured Role in a Musical (Annaleigh Ashford, "You Can't Take It With You"); and Best Di-

rection of a Musical (Sam Gold, "Fun Home").

Aside from "Something Rotten" and "On the Twentieth Century," performances for the evening included numbers from "The King and I," "On the Town" and "Gigi." The most highly anticipated is the intimate and

emotional solo "Ring of Keys," from "Fun Home," starring 11-year-old Sydney Lucas, who was herself nominated for Best Actress in a Featured Role in a Musical.



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"Hamilton" doesn't have a lock on all the buzz at the Tony Awards, airing Sunday at 8 p.m. on CBS. GETTY IMAGES

# Thoughts on the 70th Tonys

Here's what everyone will be talking about on Broadway's biggest night.



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This Sunday, the 70th Tony Awards will be held at the Beacon Theatre — but don't call it the #HamilTonys just yet. While "Hamilton" is certainly the buzzword on everyone's lips, with a record-breaking 16 nominations, here's a closer look at the important themes that will come into play throughout the night.

## Back at the Beacon

This year's broadcast will look a bit different, because the show has moved back from Radio City Music Hall to the Beacon Theatre, where it was staged in 2011 and 2012. As a smaller space, the venue offers a great deal of charm and intimacy, which is bound to change how the production numbers are presented. Plus, the show will be emceed by first-timer James Corden, host of "The Late Late Show."

## Is diversity a trend?

It's wonderful that "Hamilton" deliberately chose a multiracial cast to tell its story. But will Sunday's awards acknowledge shows about people of color? This

strong season included "Eclipsed" (about the Second Liberian Civil War) and "Shuffle Along" (about the Great White Way's first nonwhite hit). "The Color Purple" and "Fiddler on the Roof" are also powerful revivals for minority voices. Yet George Takei's "Allegiance," a semi-autobiographical show about the actor's childhood in a Japanese internment camp, received no nods. So we'll have to see where the awards fall.

## Originality rules

It's been an exciting season for new shows. "Hamilton," yes, but also "The Humans," "King George III" and "Bright Star," among others. We're eager to see which new shows will be rewarded against the similarly strong tide of revivals and adaptations.

## New sounds

One exciting trend has been new musical genres breaking onto Broadway stages. Pop artists like Cyndi Lauper ("Kinky Boots") paved the way for Sara Bareilles ("Waitress") and Edie Brickell ("Bright Star," with Steve Martin) to make their mark outside of the jukebox musical model.

## A youthful season

"Hamilton" has drawn younger audiences to Broadway. But will

they see anything else? When it comes to playwrights, all four 2016 Best Play nominees were written by talents under 40. And it's just been announced that "Dear Evan Hansen" — a show about an awkward teen written by Benj Pasek, 30, and Justin Paul, 31, that sold out its downtown run — will hit Broadway in 2017. Will the Tonys acknowledge these younger voices and audiences?

## The play's the thing

"Hamilton" may have a presumptive lock on the musical categories, but it's also been an exceptionally strong season for plays, with "The Humans," a mood play about a dysfunctional family, widely considered a shoo-in. There were also two avant garde Arthur Miller pieces directed by Belgium's Ivo Van Hove ("A View From the Bridge," "The Crucible"), plus the innovative speculative future play "King George III."

## Looking ahead

It's going to be telling how much the Tonys address the future of Broadway — whether it's previewing new shows or discussing how the industry is adapting to new audiences. This broadcast will reveal whether the Broadway community will write off "Hamilton" as a fluke, or use it to justify taking new risks.

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