



Celebrity Series of Boston
Engaging • Entertaining • Enriching

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For Immediate Release

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High-resolution photos:

http://www.celebrityseries.org/Photo_Galleries/1006-StephenSondheim_Gallery.htm

Celebrity Series of Boston
Martha H. Jones, President and Executive Director
Presents
An Evening with Stephen Sondheim
An Onstage Conversation with Frank Rich
A Life in the Theater
on Saturday, November 14, at 8pm
at Sanders Theater

(Boston) Celebrity Series of Boston will present musical theater composer **Stephen Sondheim** and New York Time columnist and former theater critic **Frank Rich** in a candid, wide-ranging onstage conversation entitled ***A Life in the Theater*** on Saturday, November 14 at Sanders Theatre, Memorial Hall, Harvard University, 45 Quincy Street, Cambridge.

This is Stephen Sondheim's **Celebrity Series of Boston** debut. Frank Rich made his Celebrity Series debut in 2006 after the publication of his book *The Greatest Story Ever Sold*.

Over the past 50 years, **Stephen Sondheim** has collaborated on over a dozen landmark musicals, countless songs now considered standards, and is considered one of the most forward-looking lyricists and composers. Sondheim was born in 1930 in New York and is a graduate of Williams College. He studied musical composition with the composer Milton Babbitt, but learned the rules of musical theater from Oscar Hammerstein II, a family friend who started mentoring him when he was in his teens.

While still in his 20s, Sondheim collaborated with playwright Arthur Laurents on two of the most enduring and innovative post-war musicals: *West Side Story* (1957; music by Leonard Bernstein) and *Gypsy* (1959; music by Jule Styne). With such collaborators as the director Harold Prince, the director-playwright James Lapine and the playwrights John Weidman, James Goldman, Hugh Wheeler, Burt Shevelove and George Furth, Sondheim went on to create a remarkable succession of groundbreaking musicals: *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (1962), *Company* (1970), *Follies* (1971), *A Little Night Music* (1973), *The Frogs* (1974), *Pacific Overtures* (1976), *Sweeney Todd* (1979), *Merrily We Roll Along* (1981), *Sunday in the Park with George* (1984), *Into the Woods* (1987), *Assassins* (1990) and *Passion* (1994). His most recent show, *Bounce* (2003), was produced in a revised version, titled *Road Show*, at the New York Shakespeare Festival in late 2008.

Outside of Broadway, Sondheim wrote music for the 1966 TV musical *Evening Primrose*, and collaborated with Anthony Perkins on the nonmusical mystery film *The Last of Sheila* in 1973. Sondheim also wrote the scores for the Alain Resnais film *Stavisky* (1974) and Warren Beatty's *Reds* (1981) as well as songs for Beatty's *Dick Tracy* (1990). He was most recently involved in Tim Burton's film adaptation of *Sweeney Todd* in 2007.

(more)

Frank Rich became a *New York Times* Op-Ed columnist in 1994 after serving for thirteen years as the newspaper's chief drama critic. He first made his mark as a journalist with an essay on Sondheim's musical *Follies* in the Harvard Crimson, where he was then the editorial chairman. Rich has written about culture and politics for many other publications. He was on the staffs of *Time*, the *New York Post*, and *New Times* magazine. Rich began his career as a founding editor of *The Richmond Mercury*, a weekly newspaper, in the early 1970s. He is the author of *Ghost Light*, a childhood memoir; *Hot Seat: Theater Criticism for The New York Times*, 1980–1993; and *The Theatre Art of Boris Aronson*, coauthored with Lisa Aronson. His most recent book is *The Greatest Story Ever Sold: The Decline and Fall of Truth from 9/11 to Katrina*, published in 2006.

TICKETING INFORMATION

Remaining tickets for *An Evening with Stephen Sondheim* are priced at \$56, and are available by calling CelebrityCharge at (617) 482-6661 Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., online at www.celebrityseries.org, or at the Harvard Box Office, Holyoke Center, 1350 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge.

About Celebrity Series of Boston

Celebrity Series of Boston is New England's leading presenter of music, dance, and the performing arts from around the world. Founded in 1938, the Series incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation in 1989. Each year, the Celebrity Series brings to Boston's major concert halls performances by instrumental and vocal soloists, symphony orchestras, chamber ensembles, dance companies, jazz and popular music performers, folk and ethnic performance groups, and other performing artists. The Celebrity Series' Arts, Education and Community Program was initiated in 1984. The program reaches thousands of students annually in Boston area schools and communities. The program includes the award-winning AileyCamp Boston, a six-week summer dance program for Boston middle school students, and ACT 2, an after-school initiative for former participants of AileyCamp Boston. For more information on Celebrity Series of Boston, call (617) 482-2595 or visit us online at www.celebrityseries.org.

The Celebrity Series receives generous support from; The Little Family Foundation; Tufts Health Plan; Foley & Lardner LLP; Charlesbank Capital Partners; Comcast; PTC; Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Massachusetts Cultural Council; New England Foundation for the Arts.

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