

PLAYBILL

A CHORUS LINE



CONCEIVED & ORIGINALLY DIRECTED & CHOREOGRAPHED BY MICHAEL BENNETT
BOOK BY JAMES KIRKWOOD & NICHOLAS DANTE
MUSIC BY MARVIN HAMLISCH - LYRICS BY EDWARD KLEBAN
CO-CHOREOGRAPHED BY BOB AVIAN

*Original Broadway production produced by the New York Shakespeare Festival, Joseph Papp, Producer,
in association with Plum Productions, Inc.*

A CHORUS LINE

By Marvin Hamlisch, James Kirkwood, Michael Bennett, Nicholas Dante and Edward Kleban

ARTISTIC TEAM

Director	Jim Guedo
Music Director	Shannon Hiebert
Choreographer	Courtney Arsenault
Vocal Coach	Doug Mertz
Set + Lighting Design	Travis Hatt
Costume Design	Robyn Ayles
Sound Design	Brian Raine
Stage Manager	Leanne Hunszinger
Assistant Stage Manager	Mil Cartwright
Assistant Stage Manager	Ethan Krieger
Assistant Director	Erin Harvey
Dance Captain	Josie Hoffarth

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I saw the original Broadway production of this amazing show on my first trip to New York.

The ultimate creator and ringmaster of this musical, Michael Bennett, had previously worked up the musical theatre ladder of success. With Hal Prince & Stephen Sondheim, he collaborated on two landmark concept musicals prior to this – *Company* & *Follies* – as a choreographer then co-director. They are two extraordinary, non-linear, authentically real but also surreal works of art.

Bennett applied what he'd taken away from those two seminal works to create another, one that captures the spirit and tension of a Broadway dance audition.

Bennett started out as a dancer, and his complex vision of what it meant to be one was the inspiration for this show. Although he was the driving force, *A Chorus Line* was born out of the frustration of many dancers who were considering quitting show business at the time. By the mid-70s, the Broadway dancer became the perfect embodiment of the state of Broadway to Michael Bennett.

No one had been affected more than the dancer by the changes in the economics of musical theatre. Gone were the days of a musical having an acting ensemble, and sizable singing & dancing choruses. To make the cut, a Broadway dancer now had to additionally sing and act as well as dance to land a spot in one chorus of maybe only ten performers. More was demanded of them. And competition was fierce.

But this show would put dancers front and centre. Coming out of a series of workshops, Michael Bennett took the raw material of Broadway hoofers – their stories, struggles, dreams – and transformed it into an innovative musical that looked at the inner lives of the chorus. Firsthand, an audience gets to hear them share their ambitions and the physical & emotional cost behind living a dancer's life. It's a brilliant fusion of song, dance, music and raw personal drama.

A Chorus Line is only one of ten musicals that won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, and was also the longest-running production in Broadway history until surpassed by...*Cats*.



MARVIN HAMLISCH

As composer, Marvin Hamlisch won virtually every major award that exists: three Oscars, four Grammys, four Emmys, a Tony, three Golden Globe awards and the Pulitzer Prize (won by *A Chorus Line*). Only Hamlisch and Richard Rodgers have won a “PEGOT” (P.E.G.O.T. = Pulitzer, Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Tony awards).

For Broadway, he wrote the music for the groundbreaking show, *A Chorus Line*, as well as *They're Playing Our Song*, *The Goodbye Girl* and *Sweet Smell of Success*.

Hamlisch was a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music and Queens College, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. He believed in the power of music to bring people together. He passed away August 6, 2012.



JAMES KIRKWOOD

James Kirkwood (1924–1989) was an American playwright, author and actor. In 1976 he received the Tony Award, the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Book of a Musical, and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his work on *A Chorus Line*.

Kirkwood began his career as an actor, appearing on television in *Valiant Lady* and *Perry Mason*, and on Broadway in *Small Wonder* and *Dance Me A Song*, among others. As an author, he penned the semi-autobiographical novel *There Must Be a Pony*, along with *P.S. Your Cat Is Dead*, *Good Times/Bad Times*, *Some Kind of Hero*, and *Hit Me with a Rainbow*. In 1970, he wrote the non-fiction *American Grotesque*, about the trial of Clay Shaw. His comedic play *Legends!* toured the United States starring Mary Martin and Carol Channing.

Kirkwood died of AIDS-related complications in 1989.



MICHAEL BENNETT

Michael Bennett (1943–1987) was an American musical theatre director, writer, choreographer, and dancer. He won seven Tony Awards for his choreography and direction of Broadway shows and was nominated for an additional eleven.

Bennett's choreography credits include *Henry*, *Sweet Henry*; *Promises, Promises*; *Coco*; and *Company*. He co-directed *Follies* with Harold Prince, and directed & choreographed *Seesaw* and *Ballroom*, among several others. In 1976, he won the Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical and the Tony Award for Best Choreography for *A Chorus Line*. Under the aegis of producer Joseph Papp, Bennett created *A Chorus Line* based on a workshop process which he pioneered. In 1982, Bennett directed and, with Michael Peters, co-choreographed *Dreamgirls*, winner of six Tony Awards, including Best Choreography.

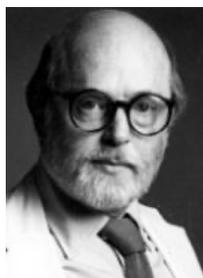


NICHOLAS DANTE

Nicholas Dante (1941–1991) was an American dancer and writer, best known for having co-written the book of the musical *A Chorus Line*. Born Conrado Morales in New York City, Dante began his career as a dancer and performer, appearing on Broadway in *Applause*, *Ambassador* and *Smith*, among others.

In 1974, Michael Bennett invited Dante to participate in interview sessions with Broadway dancers who, almost anonymously, serve as a backdrop behind star performers. Those sessions provided ample material for a Broadway musical. Collaborating with Bennett and James Kirkwood Jr., Dante created *A Chorus Line*, which earned him the 1976 Tony Award and Drama Desk Award for Best Book of a Musical and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The character of Paul, a gay Puerto Rican dancer whose early career consisted of working in a drag show, was based primarily on Dante. Sammy Williams, who originated the role, won the 1976 Tony Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical. Dante later assumed the role himself.

In 1991, at age 49, Dante died in New York City from AIDS-related complications.



EDWARD KLEBAN

Edward Kleban was the lyricist of *A Chorus Line*, for which he won the 1975 Tony Award, the Pulitzer Prize and the Drama Desk and Olivier Awards. His score for the musical *A Class Act*, produced posthumously, was nominated for the 2001 Tony and Drama Desk Awards and won an Obie Award. *A Class Act* is a musical biography of Kleban, with a score comprised of his own music and lyrics.

Mr. Kleban was a graduate of the High School of Music and Art and of Columbia College, where he wrote the music for the Varsity Show of 1960 with a book by Terrance McNally. Upon graduation from Columbia, Kleban was hired as a record producer by Columbia Records. Throughout the sixties he produced original cast albums while developing his own musicals in Lehman Engel's BMI Musical Theatre Workshop. Every song that he wrote for *A Chorus Line* was tested in the BMI Workshop. During the 1980s he carried on Mr. Engel's tradition and taught songwriting in the workshop.

Mr. Kleban died in December 1987 at the age of 48, after a two-year bout with cancer. In his will, he created and endowed The Kleban Prize, a unique grant that is bestowed not for a writer's previous achievements, but for the promise of creativity to come, chosen by a panel of Broadway's most respected artists. Recipients have gone on to garner four Tony Awards, 30 Tony nominations, 10 Drama Desk Awards and four Obies.

THE COMPANY

Zach	Zakary Matsuba
Lori	Katie Hedman
Don	Noah McKinnon
Maggie	Mana Middleton
Mike	James Allen
Connie	Felica Inostroza
Greg	Kohen Foley
Cassie	Josie Hoffarth
Sheila	Layne Labbe
Bobby	Benedict Magsambol
Bebe	Harmony B
Judy	Katie Moran
Richie	Ethan Bintu-Watt
Al	Jayden Leung
Kristine	Avery Neufeld
Val	Jenn Houle
Mark	Matthew Baba
Paul	Don Raphael Figueroa
Diana	Gigi Jiles
Lois	Erin Harvey
Tricia	Madison Kipnes
Vicki	Emily Bettenson
Renee	Sara Fedan
Butch	Devin Estey
Frank	Nicky Lumley
Tom	Liam Lorrain
Roy	Thatch Steeves

TECHNICAL STAFF

Production Manager	Gal Minnes
Assistant Production Manager	Rora Jimenez
Technical Director	Leon Schwesinger
Assistant Technical Director	Bradley Pilkey
Carpentry Lead	Aerin Gordon
Costumes Lead	Marcella Lafrenière
Costumes Second	Meg Walker
Paint Lead	Lily Bansema
Paint Second	Jacob Miller
Props Lead	Liam Arnott
Props Second	Jacob Miller
Lighting Lead / LX Board Operator	Milo Ellis
Lighting Second	Mykenzie Morrison
Audio Lead / Live Mix Operator	Alex Delaney
Audio Third / RF Tech	Katrina Morel

CREW

Audio Crew	Emely Diaz Jordan Imhoff Kylie Marshall
Carpentry Crew	Kaelen Carnegie Cole Pennycook Matt Sousa
Costume Crew	Sam Papirnik Arabella Ramos Cam Sheehan Quentin Zhang
Lighting Crew	Rionel De Mesa Magnus Grummett-Maxwell George McLaughlin Noah Rosenthal
Paint Crew	Matt Kashuba
Props Crew	Quill Nunes

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special Thanks to Day's Paint

SONG LIST

I Hope I Get It

I Can Do That

And...

At the Ballet

Sing!

Montage Part 1: Hello Twelve, Hello Thirteen, Hello Love

Montage Part 2: Nothing

Montage Part 3: Mother

Montage Part 4: Gimme the Ball

Dance: Ten; Looks: Three

The Music and the Mirror

One

Tap Dance

What I Did for Love

One (Bows)

ORCHESTRA

Keyboard 1 / Conductor Shannon Hiebert

Keyboard 2 Elsie Hoover

Keyboard 3 Jessica Robertson

Keyboard 4 Holly Kroeker

Percussion Jon Guenter

Bass Mike Lent

Brass Joel Gray

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

Music Theatre Performance Faculty

Jim Guedo
Shawn Henry
Anna Kuman
Doug Mertz
Leigh Rivenbark
Dawn Sadoway

Sessional Faculty / Coaches / Pianists

Simon Abbott
Courtney Arsenault
John Batty
Renée Brad
Josh Capulong
Ellen Chorley
Marianne Copithorne
Cathy Derkach
Elaine Dunbar
Janice Flower
Crystal Hanson
Devin Hart
Shannon Hiebert
Elsie Hoover
Brittany Kjenner-Black
Richard Lee
Andrew MacDonald-Smith
Georgina Moore
Gloria Olchowy-Rozeboom
Chantal Perron
Kate Ryan
Maura Sharkey-Pryma
Benjamin Smith
Jennifer Spencer
Vern Thiessen
David Wilson
Birkley Wisniewski
Morgan Yamada

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

Theatre Production Faculty

Josée Chartrand
Travis Hatt
Daniela Masellis
Gal Minnes
Leon Schwesinger
Scott Spidell

Sessional Faculty

John Batty
Elijah Lindenberger
Kevin Humphrey
Mitchell Labrosse
Caitlynn Legris
Rae McCallum
Ximena Pinilla
Jaclyn Segal
Ian Trace
Darcy Turlock
Alison Yanota

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

Theatre Staff

Monica Briceno
Anika Muelderings

Box Office and Front of House (FOH) Staff

Mark Stubbings - FOH Coordinator / Box Office Manager
James Hamilton - Assistant FOH Coordinator
Andrea Murphy - Assistant FOH Coordinator
Daniel Anderson
Zara Brad-Slipetz
Kevin Cambridge
Gibson Finlay
Katrina Hay
Louise Mallory
Anika Molino
Amanda Samuelson
Steven Sobolewski
Gillian Spencer
Aran Wilson-McAnally

Monitors

Kris Aasen	Connor MacDonald
Patrick Amyotte	Patrick Marchand
Caitlan Argueta	Larissa O'Hare
Adam Bucyk	Selina Painchaud
Rebecca Cypher	Tyler Patrick
Morgan Franche	Mike Patton
Jacinda Grummett	Bud Race
Mikael Gustafsson	Nick Rose
Abby Gwilt	Angie Sotiropoulos
Hannah Harwood	Meghan Wearne
Stephanie Height	Brad Weir
Ken Hoefling	Scott Weir
Curtis Jacobs	Delaney Willing
Megan Kumpula	Heather Wood
Caitlynn Legris	Alison Yanota
Kirby Liknes	Stephanie Zelman

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ALAN JAY LERNER

Original dances by
AGNES DE MILLE

Music by
FREDERIC LOEWE

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RENT OCT 28 – NOV 1, 2026

Book, Music and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson

RENT is a groundbreaking rock musical that follows a group of young artists struggling to survive and create in New York City's vibrant East Village. Set amidst the HIV/AIDS crisis, it's a powerful story of searching for connection, living with loss and finding your voice. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Musical, it features an unforgettable score that defined a generation. Raw, emotional and electrifying, *RENT* reminds us to treasure every moment and measure our lives in love.

Hunchback NOV 25 – 29, 2026

Music, Book and Lyrics by Jonathan Christenson

Originally written and produced for Catalyst Theatre by Edmonton's own Jonathan Christenson, *Hunchback* is a darkly romantic musical set amid the buttresses and shadows of Notre Dame Cathedral. *Hunchback* tells the tale of a tormented priest, a beautiful dancer and the outcast bell ringer Quasimodo, swept up in a vortex of lust, fear and the desire to control a destiny that will ultimately destroy them all. A surprising new take on Victor Hugo's famous story.

The Penelopiad MARCH 3 – 7, 2027

By Margaret Atwood

Based on the acclaimed novel by best-selling Canadian author Margaret Atwood, this powerful stage adaptation re-examines the epic myth of Homer's *Odyssey* through the eyes of the women in the story: Penelope and her twelve maids.

The play challenges audiences to consider whose stories are told, whose perspectives are heard and what heroism truly means. It shines a light on the overlooked and the silenced, giving voice to the women history forgot.

Anything Goes MARCH 17 – 21, 2027

Original Book by P.G. Wodehouse & Guy Bolton and Howard Lindsay & Russel Crouse

New Book by Timothy Crouse & John Weidman

All aboard for hilarity and hijinks on the high seas with *Anything Goes!* Set on a luxury ocean liner sailing from New York to London, this classic musical comedy features the timeless songs of legendary composer Cole Porter, including *I Get a Kick Out of You*, *You're the Top*, and *De-Lovely*. From bow to stern, this beloved Broadway favourite is packed with dazzling dancing, scandalous schemes and romantic rendezvous. Get your tickets now – this is a bon voyage you won't want to miss!

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