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STORY

BROADWAY  
BABY

# SIDE BY SIDE SONDHEIM

Château de Bettembourg

Weds. 28th - Sat. 31st January 2009





**Stephen Joshua Sondheim** (born 22 March 1930) is an American composer and lyricist for stage and screen, winner of an Academy Award, multiple Tony Awards (seven, more than any other composer) and the Special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre, multiple Grammy Awards, and a Pulitzer Prize. He has been described as "the greatest and perhaps best-known artist in the American musical theatre". His most famous scores include (as composer/lyricist) *"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"*, *"Company"*, *"Follies"*, *"A Little Night Music"*, *"Sweeney Todd"*, *"Sunday in the Park with George"*, *"Into the Woods"*, and *"Assassins"*, as well as the lyrics for *"West Side Story"* and *"Gypsy"*. He was president of the Dramatists Guild from 1973 to 1981.

Sondheim, the only child of well-to-do parents, was born in New York City. At ten his father abandoned both him and his mother, and it is said that his childhood was full of emotional neglect and isolation; a favourite topic in his biting, poignant lyrics.

In 1950, Sondheim graduated magna cum laude from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts. He went on to study composition with the composer Milton Babbitt. Sondheim's big break came in 1957 when he wrote the lyrics to *"West Side Story"*, accompanying Leonard Bernstein's music and Arthur Laurents' book. He went on to write the lyrics for *"Gypsy"* in 1959 but his first collaboration as composer and lyricist came in 1962 with *"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"*.

At nearly eighty, Sondheim is still dabbling with various projects, including a re-working of *"Bounce"*, a long-in-the-works musical comedy about brothers Addison and Wilson Mizner, and a book of annotations of his lyrics.

## SIDE BY SIDE SONDHEIM

is a revue and, as such, has no plot. But, for a little history on how it came to be ...

1974, and David Kernan (then playing Carl-Magnus in the original London production of Sondheim's *"A Little Night Music"*) was contacted by Cleo Laine and her husband John Dankworth, asking if he would put together a benefit revue for their theatre in Wevendon. Kernan immediately spoke to Ned Sherrin, who suggested a revue of Sondheim material. They wrote to Sondheim asking for permission and received a reply saying, "By all means try, but I can't think of anything more boring except possibly the Book of Kells".

Fortunately the audiences were far from bored and one audience member, a young Cameron Mackintosh, saw the show and decided to produce it. Sondheim agreed to come and work with the cast (Julie McKenzie, Millicent Martin, Kernan, with Ned Sherrin narrating) and the show ran for eight weeks at the Mermaid Theatre before moving to the larger Wyndham Theatre, where it ran for three years.

Hal Prince agreed to transfer the show to Broadway and persuaded Actors' Equity Association to allow the original British cast to transfer with the show. The show ran on Broadway for a total of 384 performances and is one of the few shows to have the distinction of its entire cast being nominated for Tony Awards (Best Featured Actor in a Musical and Best Featured Actress in a Musical).

The show contains songs only until *"Pacific Overtures"* (1976) and throughout the years many theatre companies have asked to "update" it with new material. While Sondheim has remained resistant to this, in 1992 he eventually agreed to compile another revue, *"Putting it Together"* which contains newer material.

**PLEASE ENSURE YOUR MOBILE PHONE IS SWITCHED OFF!**





At the beginning of its 30th anniversary year,  
Pirate Productions presents

# SIDE BY SIDE SONDHEIM

Directed by Allison Kingsbury  
Musical Director – Philip Dutton

with

Cíara Barker  
Fran Potasnik  
Maiken Thamdrup  
David Mittel  
Dominique Vitali  
Neil Johnson

Jackie Fleming and Mick Swithinbank, piano

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim with additional music by Leonard Bernstein,  
Mary Rodgers, Richard Rodgers and Jule Styne. Narration by Ned Sherrin

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with JOSEF WEINBERGER LTD  
on behalf of MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL of NEW YORK

# SIDE BY SIDE SONDHEIM

## Act I

Comedy tonight – Love is in the air..... Full company  
If Mamma was married ..... Fran and Maiken  
You must meet my wife ..... Cíara and Neil  
The little things..... Cíara and Dom  
Getting married today ..... Fran, Maiken and Neil  
I remember ..... Dom  
Can that boy foxtrot..... Cíara and Maiken  
Company ..... Full company  
Another hundred people ..... Fran  
Barcelona ..... Dom and Maiken  
Being alive ..... Neil  
The Follies Medley –  
    Beautiful Girls..... Neil  
    Ah Paree! ..... Cíara  
    Buddy's Blues ..... Dom  
    Broadway Baby ..... Maiken  
You could drive a person crazy..... Cíara, Fran and Maiken, with boys

**Interval, during which drinks and refreshments will be available.**

*Pirates would like to thank Steve Anderson, Pianos Kelly,  
Emma Simonich, Liz Turner and all those not immediately  
involved in the show who assisted with this production.*



# SIDE BY SIDE SONDHEIM

## Act II

Everybody says don't.....	Full company
Anyone can whistle .....	Neil
Send in the clowns .....	Cíara
We're gonna be all right.....	Maiken and Neil
A boy like that .....	Cíara and Maiken
The boy from ... ..	Fran
Pretty Lady.....	David, Dom and Neil
Losing my mind .....	Cíara
Could I leave you?.....	Dom
I'm still here .....	Cíara
Conversation Piece (medley) .....	Full company
Side by Side by Side .....	Full company

## Production Team

Producer .....	Pamela Carlisle
Stage Manager.....	Malcolm Turner
Lighting .....	Anthony McCarthy, Brian Parker
Sound .....	Tomas Bremin
Costume co-ordinator.....	Fiona Turner
Props.....	Zsofia Eberhard
Make-up .....	Clare Abbott
Set design & construction .....	Malcolm Turner
Rehearsal pianists.....	Philip Dutton, Jackie Fleming, Mick Swithinbank & Liz Turner
Page-turners for pianists.....	Ria Favoreel, Hilary Guerra
Poster design .....	Liz Turner
Publicity .....	Athena Teligadas
Reservations, Front of House, Programme .....	Pamela Carlisle
Photography .....	Alan Carlisle
Bar .....	Beverley Atkinson, Steve Atkinson, Alan Carlisle
.....	Steve Preston, Valerie Scott, Alex Teligadas



After training as a dancer, **Allison Kingsbury** spent a number of years treading the boards in a variety of shows ranging from musical, pantomime, jazz dance, drama and UK No.1 tours. Her high (and low) points include parts in Berkoff's *"Decadence"*, Mamet's *"Sexual Perversity in Chicago"*, Brenton's *"Bloody Poetry"*, a stint as one of Russ Abbot's "leggy lovelies", Witch of the East, Genie of the Lamp, and a Californian sun-dried raisin (don't ask!). For Pirates, Allison played Mavis in *"Stepping Out"*, stripped down to her underwear for *"Showtime"*, and was last seen doing the can-can at the grand old age of ...well, that would be telling! *"Side by Side by Sondheim"* is her first directing role for Pirates and she is honoured to be bringing the work of such a genius to Luxembourg.



After studying piano, trumpet and music theory, **Philip Dutton** spent some 20 years playing in orchestras and bands before discovering the delights of musical theatre. He was then living and working in The Hague and somehow found himself in the chorus for a pantomime staged by the AATG. He must have got the bug then because he went on to be musical director for a number of their shows in the 80s. He has since collaborated as MD, pianist or arranger for shows in the USA, UK and Luxembourg.

**Ciara Barker** has graced more stages than you've had hot dinners. From G&S to Sondheim she's sung it all, she's been demure, tarty, raunchy and on the odd occasion even politically correct. Irish-born Ciara is a natural when it comes to accents and – having already upset the Germans with a Fascinating Aida song – she's having a go at the French tonight. But her utmost talent must be the fact that she can wrap her witty bitchiness in the most melodic tones and top it all off with perfect diction. And so, for her many talents, Ciara is envied by all, detested by some and, as herself once stated: "surpassed by nobody, daaarlings!"



**Fran Potasnik** hails from Detroit, USA and is a useful person to have around ... her 17 years in Luxembourg have allowed her to work on various theatrical skills – singing, acting, directing, producing, committee-membering. And if anybody gets sick or injured, she's also a nurse! She would like to dedicate this performance to the memory of Nancy Coons, a huge Sondheim fan and fantastic lady.

The little mermaid no longer sits in Copenhagen harbour! One day, **Maiken Thamdrup** met her prince, sprouted feet and in 2002 splashed down in Luxembourg. She left behind a glittering stage career of leading roles in *"Oklahoma"*, *"Showboat"* and *"Grease"*, and then crowned it by playing Eliza in *"My Fair Lady"* ... and all in Danish!!! Unfortunately, it wasn't only her talent she imported, she also packed her tantrums and diva attitudes – to the despair of her fellow luvvies. As they quickly found to their cost, one should never leave a centre-stage unattended or it will be filled in a flash by that wailing fish-wife from Denmark. Nonetheless, in tackling Sondheim, Maiken has landed yet another whopper and will reel you in with a dazzling display of charm and talent.



**David Mittel** has been involved with Pirates since his appearance in *"Stepping Out"* in 2003. Since then he has featured in a variety of guises culminating in the role of Georges in *"La Cage aux Folles"* in 2006. Whether his past performances have led the powers that be to decide that he should narrate instead of sing is a question to which he has, so far, not received a satisfactory response. Nevertheless, he enjoys working with such a fitting and committed cast (or was that a cast fit to be committed?)

How does one begin to describe **Dominique Vitali**? Delightful, funny, witty, absurd, misguided ...? Depending on whom you ask – all of the above. This Luxembourg-born baby has risen from the slag heaps of Esch-sur-Alzette to triumphant success on both dance floor and stage – most notably last wowing audiences as Zaza in *"La Cage aux Folles"*. In *"Side by Side by Sondheim"* Dom has been forced (sometimes with difficulty) to put aside his director's hat, has risen to the challenge of ensemble work and has had to relinquish being the only star – though if you'd been privy to rehearsals you'd have witnessed a permanent struggle to grab centre stage between himself and a certain Danish chanteuse ... tonight he will tug at your heartstrings with some tender lyrics, amuse with black-hearted humour and startle with a role as a frustrated sailor. Sit back and enjoy – you're sure to be entertained.







**Neil Johnson's** first Pirates' show was the 1996 production of "*The Mikado*" where he wielded a large Japanese fan most effectively. Subsequently, he's played roles ranging from Panto baddies to upper class twits and most recently played Mowgli from *The Jungle Book* in "*Wine & Toons*", wearing nothing more than a large red nappy precariously held together with a couple of safety pins. 'I was a tad nervous about exposing my art in this manner, but the audiences seemed to love it.' He's had the honour of working with all the cast and most of the crew in several previous shows (so no-one can say he didn't know what he was letting himself in for) and it's been a joy. He hopes you enjoy the show!

**Jackie Fleming** remembers the first Pirates' show ever and became involved in helping at rehearsals in the early 80s. The only times she has actually trodden the boards was in "*The Boyfriend*", as a gormless cleaning lady (together with Pam), and in Jane Carter's 1989 remake of "*The Pirates of Penzance*" as a teenage beach belle (vivid imagination required). Jackie usually plays in the pit, where she feels at home, coming from South Wales. Like Fran, she would also like to dedicate this show to her dear friend Nancy, who introduced her to Sondheim.



Probably best known in Luxembourg as a singer of Gregorian chant and Renaissance church music with the Art of Music, **Mick Swithinbank** is also a fan of Olivier Messiaen and Captain Beefheart. Appeared with Pirate Productions in 1992 as a pig in Shelley's "*Oedipus Tyrannus*" when, having been recruited primarily as a singer, he was horrified to discover that he was also expected to dance. That is the sort of thing Pirates do, of course: hence no further involvement with them until he identified a strictly non-dancing role for himself.

**Pam Carlisle** has lived in Luxembourg since 1973, and been involved with Pirates since its inception, helping with make-up for "*The Pirates of Penzance*" in 1979. Her first Piratical appearance onstage was in the chorus of "*The Mikado*" (1981); since then she has risen to the dizzy heights of leading lady and then back down again (see Jackie's biography!). She has taken more ticket reservations than she cares to remember. As far as her grandchildren are concerned though, her greatest claim to fame is that during her career with the BBC she was a Dalek!



**Malcolm Turner** first appeared in a Pirates show in 1989, as a Pirate/Police officer in the 10th anniversary production of "*Pirates of Penzance*". Since then, his contribution to Pirates' productions have included those of performer (eight productions, from "*Hickway Dickway Dock*" in 1991 to "*Man of La Mancha*" in 2005), props/set-builder (12 shows, from "*Oedipus Tyrannus*" in 1992 to the 2008 "*Music Hall*") and he has worked backstage on eight shows. This is his fourth appearance as stage-manager.

The year is 1998 and in the lighting booth at the Château de Bettembourg stands a nervous and excited young(er) **Anthony McCarthy** eagerly awaiting the start of the show. The start of his first show. In the years that followed he honed his skills in theatres far and wide. From Llandrindod Wells to Stockholm via Hamburg and The Hague. From Shakespeare to Sondheim via Pinter and Goethe. Tonight he takes his position again. Ten years older and more than 50 productions wiser he is still a little nervous and very excited. He hopes that you enjoy the show as much as he does.



**Tomas Bremin** is married to Jeanette and they have enjoyed living in Luxembourg for the past 18 years, where their three children were born. They have one more child, and that is another story. Tomas was born in Sweden and left his heart in Westport CT (USA) as a teenager. He's looking forward to seeing you all in an upcoming gig with his band. He's not quitting his daytime job yet, however. Inbetween being married, parenthood, rock bands and work, he likes being part of the backstage crew. This is the ninth straight Pirate Productions show with him as the sound guy.

**Fiona Turner's** membership of Pirates dates back to 1981, when she sang in the chorus of "*The Mikado*". In addition to a variety of stage roles over the years she's also been known, on more than one occasion, to wield pinking shears and an iron in the name of art!



**Zsafia Eberhard** was born in Hungary with some red paprika in her blood, became a primary teacher, moved to Germany but somehow landed in Luxembourg in 2002. Since then she has been looking for new adventures. In October 2008 a pirate ship with talented pirates appeared on the horizon ... and she decided to join the crew as a helping hand.





**Pirate Productions was founded in 1979 and is Luxembourg's only English-language musical theatre group.**

Although it has its roots in the Savoy Operas of Gilbert & Sullivan – taking its name from a production of *"The Pirates of Penzance"* in 1979 – and has presented eight G&S operettas over the past 30 years (some of them more than once), Pirates has also presented such well-known large-scale shows as *"Fiddler on the Roof"*, *"Oklahoma"*, *"Me and My Girl"* and, more recently, *"La Cage aux Folles"* in addition to smaller productions such as *"The Fantasticks"*, *"Company"*, *"Stepping Out"* and *"Man of La Mancha"*. Other productions have included pantomimes, music halls and variety shows, and the popular series of *"Wine and ..."*. In addition to musical shows, the club has also organised a number of successful Table Quizzes.

Club social events include singing and dancing workshops, informal Singalongs, an annual summer barbecue and a Christmas party. A new social event in 2008 was the very successful Radio Plays Evening, organised by Philip Dutton, which we hope to repeat in the future.

Putting on any kind of musical production involves a huge number of people, both on stage and behind the scenes, and new members are always appreciated. Whatever your nationality, if you understand and speak English, you will be made welcome.

To find out more about the club, visit our website <http://www.pirates.lu> or send an email to [info@pirates.lu](mailto:info@pirates.lu).

Pirates' next show will be *"Thoroughly Modern Millie"* to be directed by Dominique Vitali with Philip Dutton as Musical Director.

Auditions for this show, which will be performed in Esch-sur-Alzette during the week beginning 19th October 2009, will take place at Gasperich Parish Hall on Sunday 8th and Sunday 15th March, between 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm on both afternoons.

Whether you are already a member of Pirates or not, if you are interested in being involved with the show, or would like further details, please contact [millieauditions@pirates.lu](mailto:millieauditions@pirates.lu) or 621 145146 (after 6.00 pm).