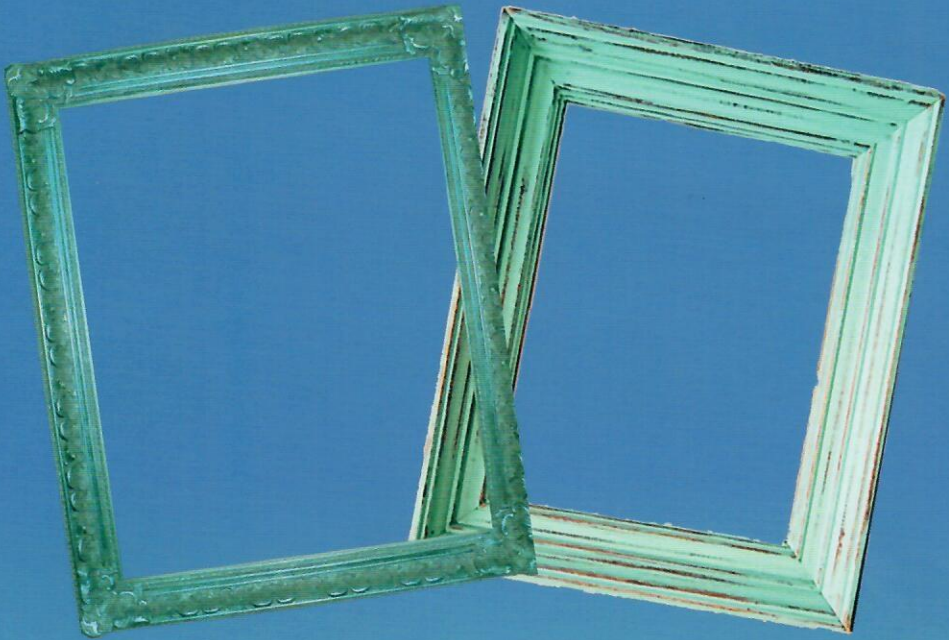


KW PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

Stephen Sondheim and George Furth's

COMPANY



UPSTAIRS AT
THE WESTERN.

24th - 29th August

The
Little
Theatre

Studio

2nd - 5th September

**"IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS WE DO TOGETHER,
THAT MAKE PERFECT RELATIONSHIPS!"**

(Joanne – From Company)



**Hello and welcome to this
performance of COMPANY!**

I am actually writing this before we've done even a full run through of the show so I feel more than an element of anticipation as to how this production will piece together. To say that I am little apprehensive at this stage is certainly true. To say that I am continually being woken up in the middle of the night with a chorus of "Bobby, Bobby Baby, Bobby Boobie, Robbo, Robbie Love..." going round and around in my head is definitely true!

Now in a blink you are reading these words. We will have ran the show, what will probably feel like several hundred times, cut lines, changed choreography, forgot the lyrics, added lines back in, fitted costumes, painted the set, cut more lines, built the set, ran technical rehearsals, bumped into the set, broken a few props and then before we realise, we are performing the show nightly. Hours and hours of work go into creating theatre and without doubt this has been one of those joyous productions that I will never forget.

Company is not often seen on the amateur circuit yet in my opinion it is one of the most accessible in the Sondheim repertoire. The story is simple yet the music hellishly complicated in places. Company is all about relationships, love and friendship and that has been the backbone to our production.

Relationships that have grown, love and admiration of each other's work and friendships we have made!

Eventually we will take a final bow, kiss each other goodbye and wonder where the time went?
Thank you for your support and enjoy!

Leigh White
Director/Musical Director

Leigh White

*Trained: The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London
Theatre includes: 'Boone' in Lloyd Webber's Whistle Down The Wind; 'Simon Simson' in Our Town; 'Larry' in Company; 'The Man' in Blues in the Night; 'Seth' in The Hired Man: In Concert and Jack And The Beanstalk.
Musical Director for: Little Shop Of Horrors; A Slice of Saturday Night; Aladdin; Cinderella; Dick Whittington; Robin Hood and the Babes In The Wood; The Hired Man; Sweeney Todd; Into The Woods; Company; Animal Farm; Bugsy Malone and Once On This Island.*

*For KW Productions: Director/
Musical Director for A Slice Of Saturday Night (2015).*

KW Productions proudly presents

COMPANY

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by George Furth

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with
JOSEF WEINBERGER LTD. on behalf of
MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL of NEW YORK.
Originally produced and directed on Broadway by Harold Prince

CAST

Robert – Keiran Whelan
Sarah – Laura Carvell
Harriet – Nikky Leigh Brooks
Susan – Emily Bale
Peter – Keir Watson
Jenny – Sarah Varnam
David – Willard Welsford
Amy – Victoria Price
Paul – Vaughan Ashcroft
Joanne – Karen Gordon
Larry – John Bale
Marta – Josie Tweddle
Kathy – Katie Draper
April – Liz Kavanagh

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director/ Musical Director – Leigh White
Choreography* – Keiran Whelan

*Choreography For 'You Could Drive A Person Crazy' – Josie Tweddle

Technical Director – Timothy Neville
Backstage and Props Coordinators – Sue and Ron Vials

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Overture	Joanne, Peter, April, Marta and Amy
Company	Robert and Company
The Little Things You Do Together	Joanne and Couples
Sorry-Grateful	Harriet, David and Larry
You Could Drive A Person Crazy	April, Kathy and Marta
Have I Got A Girl For You	Husbands
Someone Is Waiting	Robert
Another Hundred People	Marta
Getting Married Today	Amy, Paul, Sarah and Couples
Marry Me A Little	Robert

ACT TWO

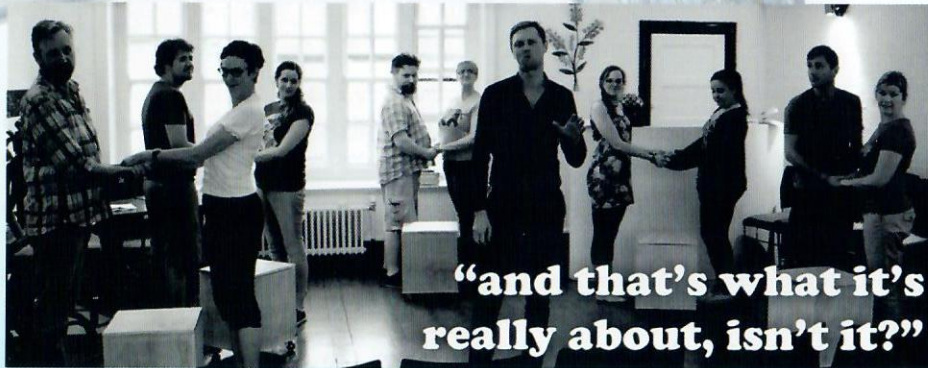
Side By Side/	
What Would We Do Without You?	Robert and Company
Poor Baby	Wives, Marta and Kathy
Barcelona	Robert and April
The Ladies Who Lunch	Joanne
Being Alive	Robert

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Present day: The action jumps backward and forward in time, from dinner dates to nightclubs, parks to terrace rooftops and a wedding - all taking place in New York City. The action returns several times to a central event: Robert's 35th birthday party. Company contains adult themes and occasional strong language that may not be suitable for under 16's.

There will be 2 acts with an interval of
20 minutes between each act.

REHEARSAL PHOTOS



KEIRAN WHELAN
-
ROBERT

Keiran works for the 'asra Housing Group' and spent most of his teenage years training with the 'Leicestershire Arts Dance Company'. In 2006, Keiran spent six months touring Majorca in the tribute band The Soutown Swingers. Keiran claims to know 99% of the words to every Sondheim musical and has been an avid Sondheim fan since he saw a production of Into The Woods at The Leicester Haymarket Theatre.

Theatre includes: 'Arthur Kipps' in Half A Sixpence; 'Tony' in The Boyfriend; 'Billy Crocker' in Anything Goes; 'Bobby Child' in Crazy For You; 'Jeff' in Straight And Narrow; 'Oscar' in Sweet Charity; 'Rooster' in Annie; 'The Man' in Lloyd Webber's Whistle Down The Wind; 'Curly' in Oklahoma!; 'Wild Bill' in Calamity Jane; a variety of roles over ten years in The Little Theatre's annual pantomime and most recently as 'Gary' in A Slice of Saturday Night at the Hinckley Concordia Theatre.
For KW Productions: 'Rick' in A Slice of Saturday Night (2014 and 2015).



LAURA CARVELL
-
SARAH

Laura works as a Planning Team Leader in Lutterworth and comes from a family of performers. She caught the 'acting bug' at a young age whilst performing with the Doris Gwilt School of Dance. Laura is also a keen sports lover and has played basketball locally, nationally and

regionally for Leicester Cannons & East Midlands since the age of eleven.

Theatre includes: 'Sarah Brown' in Guys And Dolls; 'Charlotte' in Oliver!; 'Ann' in Half A Sixpence; 'Laurey' in Oklahoma!; 'Minnie Fay' in Hello Dolly; 'Helene' in Sweet Charity; 'Katie Brown' in Calamity Jane; 'Belle' in Disney's Beauty And The Beast; 'Princess Yasmine' in Aladdin, 'Susan' in Teenager In Love with The Kirby Muxloe Players and most recently as 'Sue' in A Slice of Saturday Night at the Hinckley Concordia Theatre.
For KW Productions: 'Sue' in A Slice of Saturday Night (2014 and 2015).



NIKKY LEIGH BROOKS
-
HARRIET

Nikky was born and bred in Exeter, Devon and trained at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David in Carmarthen, where she gained a BA (hons) in Acting - a personal proud moment for her. Nikky moved to Leicestershire in February and is very happy to have joined a brilliant group of performers who share the same passion - a love of being on stage. Nikky spends most of her weekends singing in a Devon based function band.

Theatre includes: 'Ensemble/ Carabosse/ Dick Whittington/ Jasmine/ Priscilla' in Pantomonium; 'Queen Falzaseth' in The Quest; 'Various characters' in Tradition Tales/ Pirate Shows; 'Mr Mole' in Adventures of Mr Toad (all for Entertainingly Different) and 'Annie' in Round and Round the Garden with Transitions Theatre Company.



EMILY BALE
-
SUSAN

This is Emily's first show with KW Productions and, being a self confessed Sondheim enthusiast, she couldn't be more thrilled. Emily has enjoyed playing a variety of roles over the last eight years for the Masque and Playhouse Theatre companies in Northampton and has also performed in four open air Shakespeare productions. Since returning to Leicester, Emily has enjoyed dusting off her vocal chords and tying up her dancing shoes to embrace musical theatre. She is especially looking forward to sharing the stage with her Dad and dear friends old and new.

Theatre includes: 'Estella' in Great Expectations; 'Sheila' in An Inspector Calls; Teachers; Dancing at Lughnasa; The Accrington Pals; Lovesong and most recently as 'Zeitel' in Fiddler on the Roof.



KEIR WATSON
-
PETER

Keir first worked with director Leigh White several years ago on a production of Little Shop of Horrors for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and has continued performed at the Fringe in a number of productions over the past 15 years. He studied Drama at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth but this is among his first forays into the Leicester drama scene. He is glad to have been made so welcome!

Theatre includes: Various roles in Once Upon Aarrgh!; 'Fear' in Little Red; 'Tinker' in The Lost Child; 'The Insignificant

Other' in The Irrelevant Occurrences of an Insignificant Other; 'Frankenstein's Monster' in Frankenstein and 'Beatty' in Fahrenheit 451. Keir looks forward to playing 'Abanazar' in Aladdin at The Little Theatre this Christmas.



SARAH VARNAM
-
JENNY

Sarah studied at Warwick University and Royal Central School of Speech and Drama a lifetime ago. Her first professional engagement was playing 'The Nurse' in Night Must Fall, starring Barbara Jefford and directed by Phillip Franks. Sarah is also proud Principal of The Pauline Quirk Academy, Northampton. Sarah developed a taste for directing, as she likes to listen to the audience's comments about a show anonymously 'out front'. As a director and producer, productions have included; A Slice of Saturday Night; The Pirates of Penzance; Honk!; Oliver!; Low Level Panic; Bugsy Malone; Romeo & Juliet; Hello Dolly!; The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui; Steel Magnolias; Lloyd Webber's Whistle Down The Wind and Calamity Jane.

Theatre includes: 'Helena' in A Midsummer Night's Dream; 'Martirio' in Lorca's The House of Barnarda Alba; 'Elizabeth Proctor' in The Crucible; 'Miss Hannigan' in Annie, and 'Hamlet' in Hamlet (a long while before Maxine!).



WILLARD WELSFORD
-
DAVID

Will undertakes a wide variety of work in many different musical fields. He started his further education at Leicester

University and continued it at the RNCM. He has taught and teaches music from Foundation stage through to Further education, and is Artistic Director, Conductor and Choral animator for a number of different groups and agencies. Notably, Will was the Choral animator for Leicester's Curve Theatre in 2013 for The King And I and their 5th Birthday Launch. As musical director, productions include; A Chorus Line; How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying; The Witches Of Eastwick; Bugsy Malone; Oliver!; Kiss Me Kate; Return To The Forbidden Planet; Les Miserables (School Edition); We Will Rock You and The Boyfriend.

Theatre includes: 'Tenor Soloist', Haydn - Nelson Mass, Lambert - The Rio Grande and Beethoven - Choral Fantasia; 'Ralph Rackstraw' in H.M.S. Pinafore; 'Hilairion' in Princess Ida and 'Alphonse' in The Boyfriend.



VICTORIA PRICE
-
AMY

Victoria has prepared for the role of neurotic bride to be Amy by getting married herself last month! Such dedication! When she isn't busy getting hitched to Scott, she is Mum to 5 year old Inara and a teacher of 34 local primary school children.

Theatre includes: 'Peppermint Patty' in Snoopy: The Musical; 'Audrey' in Little Shop of Horrors (twice); 'Genevieve' in The Bakers Wife; 'Sharon' and 'Bridget' in A Slice of Saturday Night; 'Jean' in Separate Tables; 'Brooke Ashton' in Noises Off; 'Felicity' in The Farndale Avenue Ladies Present A Christmas Carol; 'Molly' in Tom Jones; 'Linda Swan' in Cash on Delivery; 'Rose' in A Shayna Maidel and most recently as 'Lynne', a tap dancing nurse, in Stepping Out for The Kirby Muxloe Players.



VAUGHAN ASHCROFT
-
PAUL

Vaughan first developed a taste for musical theatre playing 'Lamar' in Godspell at Bosworth College at the age of 18. Since then, he has appeared with several of Leicester's theatre societies including LAOS, KPAOS and The IDOLS.

Theatre includes: 'Danny Gilmartin' in Calamity Jane; 'Billy Bigelow' in Carousel; 'Tony' in West Side Story; 'Bert Barry' in 42nd Street; 'Steve' in Summer Holiday; 'Trevor Graydon' in Thoroughly Modern Millie; 'Evelyn Oakley' in Anything Goes; 'Jesus' in Jesus Christ Superstar and 'Sky Masterson' in Guys And Dolls. For LAOS at The Curve Theatre: 'Jerry' in The Full Monty; 'The Beast' in Disney's Beauty And The Beast; 'Glen Gulia' in The Wedding Singer and most recently as 'Pablo' in the sell out production of Sister Act.

For KW Productions: 'Gary' in A Slice Of Saturday Night (2015).



KAREN GORDON
-
JOANNE

Karen has been a member of The Leicester Drama Society for over 20 years, with one excursion to The Gilbert and Sullivan Society to play 'Pitti-Sing' in The Mikado. She has sung with Keiran before, in charity concerts produced by Debbie Turley. Karen is 'chuffed' beyond words to be working with Keiran, Leigh and the exceptional Company ensemble.

Theatre includes: 'Mrs. Robinson' in *The Graduate*; 'Titania' in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; 'Maggie' in *Hobson's Choice*; 'Gretchen' in *Boeing Boeing*; 'Elaine Navazio' and 'Jeannette Fisher' in *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*; 'Gertrude Chiltern' in *An Ideal Husband*; 'Judith Bliss' in *Hay Fever* and most recently as 'Helen Kroger' in *Pack of Lies*.



JOHN BALE
-
LARRY

John has directed many musicals in Leicester including; *Oklahoma*, *Sweet Charity* and *Fiddler on the Roof* for the Wigston Amateur Operatic Society, and *Little Shop of Horrors* for The Leicester Drama Society. John's next project is writing and directing *Aladdin*, to be performed at The Little Theatre in December - this will be his ninth Pantomime as writer and director for the LDS. Having the opportunity to perform in a Sondheim Musical is really exciting and challenging, and working alongside such a talented cast and production team is a complete joy.

Theatre includes: 'George' in *Same Time Next Year*, 'Sherlock Holmes' in *Sherlock Holmes' Last Adventure*; 'Geoffrey' in *Stepping Out*, 'Evelyn Oakley' in *Anything Goes*; 'C.S Lewis' in *Shadowlands*; *An Inspector Calls*, *The Titfield Thunderbolt*, *Crazy For You* and too many pantomimes throughout Leicestershire to mention.



JOSIE TWEDDLE
-
MARTA

Josie works for the NHS and graduated with a degree in music and dance

from Roehampton University in 2006. She comes from a family of theatre enthusiasts and has been singing and dancing from a young age. She also enjoys choreography and looks forward to choreographing *Aladdin* at The Little Theatre this Christmas.

Theatre includes: 'Calamity Jane' in *Calamity Jane*; 'Candy' in *Lloyd Webber's Whistle Down The Wind*; 'Witch Wilhelmina Watt' in *Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood*; 'Dance Sequence Laurey' in *Oklahoma!*; 'Lois/ Bianca' in *Kiss Me Kate*; 'Ronnelle' in *Little Shop Of Horrors*; 'Pitti Sing' in *Hot Mikado* and 'Val' in *A Chorus Line*.
For KW Productions: 'Sharon' in *A Slice Of Saturday Night* (2015)



KATIE DRAPER
-
KATHY

Katie spent six months working as an English teacher in China before returning to Leicester to work as a receptionist in a local doctor's surgery. Before this, Katie studied at Leicester College where she graduated with a diploma in Musical Theatre.

Theatre includes: 'Dorothy' in *The Wizard Of Oz*; 'Eliza Dolittle' in *My Fair Lady*; 'Swallow' in *Lloyd Webber's Whistle Down The Wind*; 'Maid Marion' in *Robin Hood And The Babes In The Wood*; 'Cinderella' in *Cinderella*; *Oliver!*; *The King And I*; *Boogie Nights*; *Our House* and most recently as 'Hodel' in *Fiddler On The Roof*.
For KW Productions: 'Bridget' in *A Slice of Saturday Night* (2014 and 2015)



LIZ KAVANAGH
-
APRIL

Liz began her early dance training in Leicester and went on to train professionally at Laine Theatre Arts in Epsom where she was the winner of the Jean Stokes Drama Award. A lifetime and two sons later, Liz now works for the Local Authority as a Data and Exams Manager, but enjoys an active involvement in Leicester's amateur theatre scene.

Theatre includes: 'Peggy Sawyer' in *42nd Street*; 'Mrs Meers' in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; 'Mimsie' in *Summer Holiday*; 'Tzeitel' in *Fiddler on the Roof*; 'Erma' in *Anything Goes*; 'Babette' in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*; 'Helene' in *Sweet Charity*; 'Estelle Genovese' in *The Full Monty*; 'Miss Hannigan' in *Annie* and most recently as 'Sister Mary Martin of Tours' in LAOS' sell out production of *Sister Act* at Leicester's Curve Theatre.

REHEARSAL PHOTOS



TIMOTHY NEVILLE
-
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Sound Designer for; *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Alice*, *Silent Night*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *God of Carnage*.
Live Sound for; *Fiddler on The Roof*, *A Slice of Saturday Night*, *Puss in Boots*, *Rob Beckett: LIVE!*
Lighting Designer for; *A Slice of Saturday Night*
Stage Management for; *Man of the Moment*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Forsyte Saga*, *Cranford*.
Lighting Operator for; *Body Language*, *Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood* and *Travels with My Aunt*.
Follow Spot Operator for; *The Hired Man*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Dick Whittington*, *The Producers*, *Annie*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *Rent* (Curve, Leicester).
Stage Technician for; *Cinderella*, *The Glass Menagerie*.
Audio Visual Technician for; *Cinderella*, *Travels With My Aunt* (all at The Little Theatre, Leicester).

For KW Productions: Technical Director for 'A Slice of Saturday Night' (2014 and 2015)



KW PRODUCTIONS WOULD LIKE TO THANK...

Verity Bartesch, Gary Phillipott, Sally Jack and everyone at Off The Fence Theatre Company

Phil Royley, Martin Scott and all the staff at The Little Theatre, Leicester

The theatre, bar staff and front of house team at Upstairs At The Western, Leicester and The Little Theatre, Leicester

Online Ticket Sales – Ticket Source and The Little Theatre Box Office

Costume Consultant – John Bale

Set Build and Design – Ed White and Leigh White

Lighting And Sound Assistance – David Hately and Martin Scott

Set Transportation – Leigh White, Laura Carvell and Chris Newby

Rehearsal Space – The Tudor Pub and Deana Clarke

Risk Assessment – Simon Dickens

Backstage Team and Construction - Timothy Neville, Leigh White and Keiran Whelan assisted by members of The Leicester Drama Society

Set Painting – Laura Carvell, Luke Wildbore, Josie Tweddle, Karen Gordon, Timothy Neville, Nikky Leigh Brooks and Keiran Whelan

Website Design For KW Productions – Black Owl Website Design

Programme, Leaflet and Poster Design – Ed Geraghty

Programme, Leaflet and Poster Printers – CPO, Leicester

KW Productions Logo Design – Ed Geraghty

Rehearsal Photography and Cast Portraits – Timothy Neville

Production Photography – Pamela Raith

Leaflet Dropping – Deana Clarke, Giulianna Aversano, Chris Newby and Keiran Whelan

Our Advertisers – Wigston Amateur Operatic Society (WAOS)

For their ongoing dedication to us and their last minute support – Sue and Ron Vials

Apologies to anyone who may have been missed since this programme went to print.

Past Productions

2014 – 'A Slice Of Saturday Night' (Upstairs At The Western)

2015 – 'A Slice Of Saturday Night' (Little Theatre)



KW Productions is a proud member of NODA, East Midlands.

THE STORY OF 'COMPANY'

Company, a 1970 concept musical, was based on a series of eleven one-act plays by George Furth, a collection intended as a star vehicle for actress Kim Hunter. In 1968, actor Anthony Perkins, best known for playing Norman Bates in Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho, expressed interest in directing the one-acts for Broadway. When he failed to secure funding, Perkins brought the plays to Stephen Sondheim. Intrigued, Sondheim then shared the plays with legendary producer Harold Prince, who told Sondheim he thought the plays could be transformed into a musical. Sondheim's new musical adaptation focused on two of the original one acts by Furth, and added three more.

Company is widely considered to be the first commercial "concept musical"-- a musical in which the concept or statement of the show is more important than its plot or narrative. Originally titled Threes, Sondheim's Company was composed of a series of vignettes centred around Robert, the last bachelor in his group of otherwise coupled friends. Rather than following a traditional plot structure, Company jumps backward and forward in time, returning four times to a central event: Robert's 35th birthday party. Despite its unusual structure and subject matter, Company was a huge success. As Sondheim put it, "Broadway

theatre has been for many years supported by upper-middle-class people with upper-middle-class problems. These people really want to escape that world when they go to the theatre, and then here we are with Company talking about how we're going to bring it right back in their faces."

Following an out-of-town tryout in Boston, Company opened on Broadway on April 26, 1970, at the Alvin Theatre (currently the Neil Simon Theatre), where it ran for 706 performances. The production received fourteen Tony nominations (a record at the time), and took home six including Best Musical, Best Book, Best Music, Best Lyrics and Best Scenic Design.

Since its Broadway premiere, Company has received a number of high-profile revivals, including a 1995 Broadway revival starring Boyd Gaines, a 1995 London revival starring Adrian Lester, and a 2002 revival at the Kennedy Center starring John Barrowman. More recently, John Doyle directed an actor-musician Tony Award-winning 2006 Broadway revival starring Raul Esparza. In 2011, Lonny Price directed a staged concert version with the New York Philharmonic, starring Neil Patrick Harris as Robert and Patti LuPone as Joanne.



(2006 Broadway Cast)



(2011 Concert Cast)



(Original 1970 Broadway Cast)



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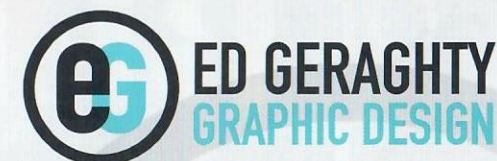
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