

## Streets of New York notes and credits

Off-Broadway in the late 1950s throughout the 1970s was nothing like the off-Broadway of today. It was its own unique thing, producing many hits, including the longest-running musical of all-time, *The Fantasticks*. It was a thriving, vital part of the New York theatre scene for both plays and musicals.

On October 28, 1963, one of the most tuneful and delightful off-Broadway musicals opened at the Maidman Playhouse (later the John Houseman). It was called *The Streets of New York* and it captivated audiences and critics alike. The reviews were stellar, with *Newsweek* calling it, “The brightest musical of this season and maybe next, with a lilting score which often engages the ear with a contrapuntal complexity Broadway musicals never dare.” The book and lyrics were by Barry Alan Graef, who was, at the time, also an up-and-coming actor. The score was by Richard B. Chodosh, who’d been trying to break into musical theater all during the 1950s. They began working on the show in 1959. Director Joseph Hardy, himself an up-and-comer, loved it and found the producers.

The company made a cast album in April of 1964, but it was a very hard to find LP, even then. But even more importantly – and this is where my little bit of history with this show comes into play – it was taped for what was then Pay TV in 1964. No one seems to remember this, but I do because we had our Pay TV subscription and box atop our TV and I paid to watch it about five times (I think the cost was somewhere between fifty-cents and a dollar-fifty) and I absolutely adored it, so much so that I lugged my Webcor reel-to-reel tape recorder into the den and taped it, so I could listen over and over again, as I knew not that an LP had been done. In fact, I would continue to be in the dark about the LP until the late 1980s, when I saw a copy at Footlight Records. One does wonder if anyone has a copy of that Pay TV broadcast. Certainly, none of my musical theatre fanatical friends know anything of it.

This show served as a launching pad for Joseph Hardy, who would go on to helm such plays and musicals as *Play It Again, Sam* (starring and written by Woody Allen), *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Child’s Play*, *Gigi*, and *Romantic Comedy*. Choreographer Neal Kenyon would go on to another huge off-Broadway success as director and choreographer of *Dames at Sea* and had the distinction of directing two huge Broadway musical flops, *Frank Merriwell* and *Smith*. Actor Ralston Hill would go on to memorably play Charles Thomson in the musical *1776* on Broadway and then in the film version, and David Cryer would also go on to do *1776* on Broadway, as well as *Phantom of the Opera* and *Evita*, as well as appearing in several well-known films. And, most interestingly, the show’s standbys included some folks who’d go on to have rather significant careers: Julia Migenes and John Shuck.

Today, *The Streets of New York* is pretty much a “forgotten musical” but it shouldn’t be. The score is tuneful and appealing, and the book is witty and clever. The fact is that up until the previous CD release was issued in 1995, I hadn’t heard a note of the score since that Pay TV airing, and yet I could sing several of the show’s songs thirty years after the fact – and I was note and lyric perfect once I played the CD. That CD has been long out of print and was not especially well mastered, so it’s a pleasure to revisit this wonderful score and to help the sound a bit. Finally, in six degrees of whatever, one of the show’s pianists, Lanny Meyers, would end up musical directing and orchestrating about sixty albums for me, as well as orchestrating several new musicals I’ve directed over the years.

Bruce Kimmel

This CD produced by Bruce Kimmel

Mastered by James Nelson at Digital Outland

Art Direction and Package Design by Doug Haverty for Art & Soul Design

Original recording produced by Miles Kreuger  
Recorded at Gotham Studios on April 28, 29, 1964

The Streets of New York  
A New Musical Comedy

Book and Lyrics by Barry Alan Grael  
Music by Richard B. Chodosh  
based on Dion Boucicault's play

#### CAST

Gideon Bloodgood Ralston Hill  
Badger Barry Alan Grael  
Captain Fairweather Ian Brown  
A Guide Ken Roberts  
Mr. Puffy Don Phelps  
Alida Bloodgood Barbara Williams  
Edwards Fred Cline  
Mark Livingstone David Cryer  
Lucy Fairweather Gail Johnston  
Bridget Joan Kroschell  
Kathleen Ann Clements  
Moirra Eleanor Bergquist  
Mrs. Fairweather Margot Hand  
Mrs. Puffy Janet Raymond  
Mexicans Ian Brown, Ken Roberts, Tom Urich  
Maids Eleanor Bergquist, Ann Clements, Joan Kroschell  
A Police Officer Robert Edwards  
Tourists, The Poor, Guests at Delmonico's, Porters, Etc: Eleanor Bergquist, Ann Clements, Joan Kroschell, Ian Brown, Fred Cline, Robert Edwards, Ken Roberts, Tom Urich

Entire Production Directed by Joseph Hardy  
Choreography and Musical Numbers Staged by Neal Kenyon  
Musical Direction and Arrangements by Jack Holmes  
Setting and Lighting by Howard Becknell  
Costumes Designer by W. Thomas Seitz

At the Two Pianos: Lanny Meyers and Mr. Holmes

#### Musical Numbers

Prologue Bloodgood, Badger, Captain Fairweather, 2 Porters  
Tourist Madrigal Bloodgood, Mr. Puffy and the Ensemble  
He'll Come to Me Crawling Alida  
If I May Lucy, Bridget, Kathleen and Moira

Aren't You Warm? Lucy, Mark and Mrs. Fairweather  
Where Can the Rich and Poor Be Friends? Mrs. Fairweather, Mr. and Mrs. Puffy, Mark, Lucy,  
Bloodgood, 2 Toughs  
California Badger, Mexicans and Bloodgood  
Act One Finale Alida, Bloodgood, Badger, Edwards and Ensemble  
Christmas Carol Mr. and Mrs. Puffy, Mark, Badger, Bloodgood and Ensemble  
Laugh After Laugh Alida and Ensemble  
Arms for the Love of Me Lucy  
Close Your Eyes Lucy, Mrs. Fairweather and Badger  
Love Wins Again Lucy and Mark  
Act Two Finale The Entire Company

The Streets of New York opened at the Maidman Playhouse on October 28, 1963