

BROADWAY

Broadway

THE AMERICAN MUSICAL



Biographies

JULIE ANDREWS

Host

Julie Andrews has been a beloved and much-honored star of stage, screen and television for more than half a century. She was already a Broadway legend when she made her feature film debut in 1964's *Mary Poppins*. Andrews' iconic performance in the title role of the magical nanny brought her an Academy Award®, a Golden Globe and a BAFTA Award. The following year, she earned a second Oscar® nomination and won another Golden Globe Award for her unforgettable portrayal of Maria Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*. She received her third Oscar® nomination and another Golden Globe Award for her "dual" role in *Victor/Victoria*.

Today's film audiences most recently saw Ms. Andrews as a queen trying to train her teenaged granddaughter to be a princess in *The Princess Diaries*. She recently reprised her role in the sequel, *The Princess Diaries 2: The Royal Engagement*. She can also be heard as the voice of Queen Lillian in *Shrek 2*, the sequel to the Oscar-winning animated blockbuster *Shrek*. Her earlier motion picture credits also include *The Americanization of Emily*, *Hawaii*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Star!*, *Darling Lili*, and *10*, to name only a few.

Julie Andrews was born and raised in England, where she first came to fame as a young musical performer on stage and on radio. She was still in her teens when she journeyed across the Atlantic to Broadway, where she made her debut in 1953 in the musical *The Boy Friend*. She went on to create the role of Eliza Doolittle in Lerner and Loewe's Broadway musical *My Fair Lady*, which became an instant classic and the longest-running musical of its day. Ms. Andrews also won a New York Drama Critics Award and garnered a Tony Award nomination for her performance. She received another Tony Award nomination in 1961 when she originated the role of Queen Guinevere in the Lerner and Loewe musical *Camelot*. Thirty-five years later, Ms. Andrews returned to Broadway to star in the 1996 stage adaptation of *Victor/Victoria*.

Ms. Andrews has also been honored for her work on television, beginning in 1957 with her Emmy-nominated performance in the title role of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical *Cinderella*. She later won an Emmy Award for her own musical variety series, *The Julie Andrews Hour*, and also earned Emmy nominations for *Julie and Carol at Lincoln Center* with her close friend Carol Burnett, her appearance on *The Andy Williams Show*, and her performance in the special *The Sound of Julie Andrews*. Ms. Andrews' more recent television work includes *Eloise at the Plaza*

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and *Eloise at Christmastime*, and she also starred opposite Christopher Plummer in the CBS live production of *On Golden Pond*.

Having been featured in several *Great Performances* programs – including *Julie Andrews in Concert*, *Celebrating Oscar Hammerstein II*, *Julie Andrews Back on Broadway*, and two *My Favorite Broadway* concerts – she is known as public television’s unofficial “ambassador for the American musical.” This fall she will return to PBS as host and narrator of *Broadway: The American Musical*, the most comprehensive exploration of musical theater ever presented on television, and later in the season will host the first-ever encore of *Rodgers & Hammerstein’s ‘Cinderella’* for *Great Performances*.

The Julie Andrews Collection, an imprint of Harper Collins Publishers, was launched in October 2003 with four releases. Ms. Andrews, already an accomplished best selling author, has joined talents with her daughter, Emma Walton Hamilton, to pursue the publishing of books committed to stimulating a sense of wonder in children and young readers. The imprint will include newly discovered authors and re-purposing books out of print. The *Dumpy the Dump Truck* franchise is currently being readied (with the Sesame Workshop) as a television series for PBS. Her latest novel, *Dragon, Hound of Honor* was released in early May 2004.

Julie Andrews made her directorial debut in summer 2003 at the Bay Street Theater in Sag Harbor, Long Island, with a revival of *The Boy Friend*. In summer 2005, she will re-stage the production at the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Connecticut. Julie Andrews received her honors as a Dame of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on New Year’s Eve 1999. She was also a 2001 Kennedy Center Honoree.

MICHAEL KANTOR

Director, Producer, Writer

Michael Kantor’s most recent film, *Quincy Jones: In the Pocket*, aired in November 2001 as part of Thirteen’s award-winning PBS series *American Masters*. President of Ghost Light Films, Mr. Kantor has also created profiles of Arthur Miller and David Mamet for Thirteen’s series EGG the arts show, and co-directed (with Stephen Ives) *Cornerstone: An Interstate Adventure* for HBO. Mr. Kantor produced *The West* (Ken Burns, executive producer) and worked on programs as diverse as *Lindbergh*, *Coney Island*, *Margaret Sanger*, *The Donner Party*, and Ric Burns’ *New York* series. In the recording studio, he has directed talents such as John Lithgow, Gwyneth Paltrow, Edward Norton, and Hector Elizondo, among others. Mr. Kantor is also president of Almo, Inc., which owns and distributes the catalog of American Film Theatre titles, currently available through Kino International. These 35mm “plays on film” include performances by Katharine Hepburn in Edward Albee’s *A Delicate Balance*, Lee Marvin in Eugene O’Neill’s *The Iceman Cometh*, and Zero Mostel and Gene Wilder in Ionesco’s *Rhinoceros*. Mr. Kantor is co-author of *Broadway: The American Musical*, the companion book to the PBS series, which will be released this fall by Bulfinch Press. He has published essays and articles in *American Theater*, *Newsday*, *TheatreWeek*, *Interview*, and *College 101: A Freshman Reader*, an educational textbook. He holds a B.A. in Theater Studies from Cornell and an M.F.A. in directing from the University of California, San Diego.

JAC VENZA

Executive Producer

Director of Cultural and Arts Programs, Thirteen/WNET New York

As one of the pioneers of non-commercial television in America for over three decades, Jac Venza has been a major figure in harnessing the power of television to achieve international recognition for America's leading performing artists. Beginning with the *Great Performances* series in 1972, Mr. Venza created a new framework for the performing arts on PBS, launching the sub-series *Theater In America* and *Dance In America* to initiate television collaboration with performers and artistic companies throughout the country. *Great Performances'* vast program collection has garnered virtually every major television honor, including 58 Emmy Awards. In 1997, Mr. Venza became Thirteen's Director of Culture and Arts Programs, and the department's co-productions for PBS include Robert Hughes's six-part *Australia: Beyond the Fatal Shore* (broadcast September, 2000) and Sir Richard Eyre's six-part history of the English-language theater, *Changing Stages* (broadcast August 2001). In October 2000, Mr. Venza launched the new theater showcase *Stage On Screen* with the live telecast of *The Man Who Came to Dinner* from the Roundabout Theatre in New York City. Mr. Venza has been honored with a Personal Peabody Award, the primetime Emmy's Governors Award for Lifetime Achievement, the International Emmy Founders Award, the New York Emmy chapter's Silver Circle Award, and Corporation for Public Broadcasting's Ralph Lowell Award.

DAVID HORN

Director, Music Programming

Culture and Arts Programs, Thirteen/WNET New York

David Horn is responsible for the development, production, and programming of Thirteen's national music presentations on PBS. He has been with the *Great Performances* series for 23 years, serving as series producer for music since 1986. In 1992, Mr. Horn created *In The Spotlight*, a series of prime-time popular music specials, and executive produced *Sessions At West 54th*. For both series he received the ASCAP Deems Taylor Award. Most recently, he produced *Los Angeles Philharmonic Inaugurates the Walt Disney Concert Hall* and directed *Josh Groban in Concert, A Chanticleer Christmas* and *The Great Performances 30th Anniversary Special*. In 2000-2001, Mr. Horn received an Emmy for *La Traviata from Paris*, directed the performance sequences in *Copland's America*, and was executive producer of the world premiere television adaptation of *Little Women* from the Houston Grand Opera. Among his many other projects are *The Rodgers & Hart Story: Thou Swell, Thou Witty*, *The Music of Kander and Ebb: Razzle Dazzle*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, the Emmy-nominated *Andrea Bocelli: Sacred Arias*, and *Carnegie Hall Opening Night 1999* with the Vienna Philharmonic. In July 2000, Mr. Horn directed the live PBS telecast of the Emmy-nominated *American Dream: Andrea Bocelli's Statue of Liberty Concert*.