


# BUZZ EXTRA

# CHICAGO THE MUSICAL

January 12-24 at PlayhouseSquare  
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## FEATURED ARTICLES



### THE PLAY + THE MUSICAL = REAL LIFE!

"Murder, greed, corruption, violence, exploitation, adultery, treachery."

### "I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO COMING. I LOVE CLEVELAND"

Talking with Bianca Marroquin  
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### The real story becomes a play & the play becomes a musical...

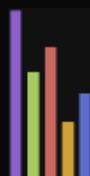
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## SPOTLIGHT

### GET READY FOR SOME RAZZLE DAZZLE



Original Broadway Cast. Photo: Paul Kolnik

"Come on Babe, why don't we paint the town and all that jazz" at **CHICAGO**, part of the KeyBank Broadway Series at **PlayhouseSquare** January 12-24, 2010. This is a show that will "razzle dazzle 'em, an act with lots of flash in it." According to Ben Brantley of *The New York Times* CHICAGO is "a musical for the ages. The sexiest, most sophisticated dancing seen on Broadway in years. CHICAGO flies us right into musical heaven. If there's any justice in the world, audiences will be exulting in the parade for many, many performances to come."

#### Awards

CHICAGO received six 1997 Tony Awards including Best Musical Revival, Direction, Choreography, Actor, Actress, and Lighting Design. It is also the winner of

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*Paul Kolnik and Len Prince*

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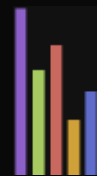
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CHICAGO received six 1997 Tony Awards including Best Musical Revival, Direction, Choreography, Actor, Actress, and Lighting Design. It is also the winner of five Drama Desk Awards, five Outer Critics' Circle Awards, two Astaire Awards, a Drama League Award, a Helen Hayes Award, a Critics Circle Award, two Joseph Jefferson Awards, and the 1998 Grammy for best Broadway show music, just to name a few of the kudos the show has received in *this* country.

A worldwide phenomenon, CHICAGO continues to amaze audiences on every continent. It has received the following international awards: two Oliver Awards in London, three Asociación Mexicana de Críticos de Teatro Awards, four Guldmasken Awards in Sweden, two Helpman Awards in Australia, and two Premio Qualidade Brasil Awards.

CHICAGO has been performed in Dutch, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Korean, French, Swedish, Italian and Danish. In 13 years, more than 18 million people around the world have seen the show at more than 16,000 performances.

No wonder *People Magazine* says the show is "Insanely entertaining!" and syndicated columnist Liz Smith pronounces CHICAGO is "still the best damn show in town."

*Los Angeles Times'* Laurie Winer proclaims the show to be, "Terrific! Each one of the show's 22 numbers is a polished gem."

"Good, isn't it, grand isn't it, great isn't it, swell isn't it, fun, isn't it?" CHICAGO it is!



Bianca Marroquin. Photo by Paul Kolnik.

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Synopsis

The place is Chicago, Illinois. The time is the roaring 20s. "Welcome. Ladies and Gentlemen, you are about to see a story of murder, greed, corruption, violence, exploitation, adultery, and treachery - all those things we all hold near and dear to our hearts." CHICAGO is the story of Velma Kelly and Roxie Hart, two women accused of murder, who discover that being a celebrity can manipulate the criminal justice system to their advantage.

Did you know...

That many stars of film and TV have appeared on Broadway in CHICAGO? Stars of CHICAGO have included: Grammy award winner R & B singer **Usher**, *Whose Line Is It Anyway* comedian **Wayne Brady**, *A Chorus Line* Revival Tony award winner **Charlotte D'Amboise**, Oscar winner for *Cabaret* **Joel Grey**, *Working Girl* Golden Globe winner **Melanie Griffith**, People's Choice winner **Brooke Shields**, HBO's *Dexter* Golden Globe winner **Michael C. Hall**, Grammy Award winner **Huey Lewis**, Backstreet Boys' Grammy Winner **Kevin Richardson**, TV's **Paige Davis** of *Trading Spaces*, *NYPD Blue*'s **Sharon Lawrence** and *The Sopranos*' **Vincent Pastore** just to name a few. Everyone wants to be a part of CHICAGO!

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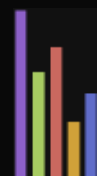


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CHICAGO characters Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly are based on the real life murderesses of Cook County Jail.

In 1924, the *Chicago Tribune's* front page reported two sensational crimes. **Beulah Annan**, often called 'the most stylish of murderess row,' was indicted for bumping off an intruder. Cabaret singer **Belva Gaertner**, referred to as 'the beauty of the cellblock,' was accused of murdering of her husband.

**Gin and Guns**  
Tribune journalist **Maurine Dallas Watkins** covered the trials, where accused murderer Belva Gaertner told her, "gin and guns - either one is bad enough, but together they get you in a dickens of a mess, don't they?"



A scene from "CHICAGO" on Broadway at the Ambassador Theatre.  
[www.ChicagoTheMusical.com](http://www.ChicagoTheMusical.com). Photo: Paul Kolnik.

Playing up the men, jazz, and booze aspects of the crimes, Watkins' stories sold a lot of papers.

Does this sound like a musical?  
Annan testified at her trial that before she shot the intruder, they struggled and both reached for the gun. Then she told her husband that she had killed a man who tried to make love to her.

Just like in the musical, there was a media frenzy. One of the women claimed to be pregnant and slick lawyers helped both women get exonerated. It was believed the sob story coverage of the crimes in the *Chicago Tribune* contributed to the acquittals.

Shortly after the verdicts, Watkins covered the infamous **Leopold and Loeb** case, which quickly pushed the merry murderesses off the front page. There was a new sob story in the *Chicago Tribune* to catch the eye of the masses. While Roxie and Velma's 15 minutes of fame had passed, their story was not over.

The Real Story Becomes a Play  
Watkins left the Tribune to pursue playwriting at **Yale University**, telling the story of the two murders she had covered for the newspaper. Her play was originally called *The Brave Little Woman*, then the title was changed to *Chicago, or, Play Ball*. It opened on Broadway in 1926 playing 172 performances. It then toured for 2 years starring an unknown Clark Gable.

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1927 saw a silent film version of the popular play directed by **Cecil B. DeMille**, followed by the 1942 film *Roxie Hart* starring Ginger Rogers.

The Play Becomes a Musical

Then in 1956, **Gwen Verdon** read the play and asked **Bob Fosse** to make it into a musical for her. Fosse approached Maurine Watkins, but was refused the rights for 13 years. She had become religious and it was speculated that she felt guilt for helping get the women exonerated, or she was tired of being recognized for only one play.

It wasn't until after her death in 1969 that her estate gave Fosse the rights to adapt the play. Real life had finally become musical theater. Then in 2002, real life became reel life as the musical won an Oscar for **Best Picture**.

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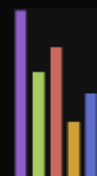
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## ARE CELEBRITIES ABOVE THE LAW?



The cast of Broadway's Tony Award-winning hit musical CHICAGO. Photo: Paul Kolnik.

CHICAGO characters Velma Kelly and Roxie Hart committed serious crimes. They murdered a husband, a sister and a lover. They are arrested for their crimes, but somehow getting their 15 minutes of fame in the newspapers manages to get them off the hook with the justice system. Could this really happen? Yes.

Celebrities today often get off the hook. Sometimes their charges are dropped, they receive a slap on the wrist, a reduced sentence or a get out of jail free card. It's not surprising that the characters in CHICAGO may remind you of the tabloid press today.

### Case In Point ...

Actress, **Lindsey Lohan**, was arrested for DUI and cocaine possession and sentenced to one day in jail, 21 days community service and 3 years probation, but served only 84 minutes.

Actor **Daniel Baldwin** allegedly stole a SUV but was released without bail.

The case was all over the newspapers: "**Lizzie Borden** took an axe gave her mother 40 wacks, when she saw what she had done, gave her father 41." She was found not guilty.

Daughter of singer Lionel Richie, **Nicole Richie**, with a prior drunken driving arrest, was arrested for DUI, then served only 82 minutes in jail.

Musician **Fred Durst**, of the band *Limp Bizkit*, tried to run down two people with his car and got a 120 day suspended jail sentence.

Actor **Matthew McConaughey** was detained for possession of marijuana and resisting arrest. The drug charges were dropped and he was fined \$50 for violating the city's noise ordinance.

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*The Doors'* lead vocalist **Jim Morrison** was arrested for immoral exhibition, resisting arrest and breach of peace. After the first two charges were dropped, Morrison had to pay a fine of only \$25.

Rapper **Foxy Brown** attacked two manicurists in a nail salon over her refusal to pay a bill for services. She received 3 years probation and anger management classes. Brown has been arrested previously with no serious criminal consequences for hitting a neighbor with her Blackberry and almost running over a baby in a stroller with her Range Rover.

Actress **Winona Ryder**, convicted of the felony charges of vandalism and grand theft for shoplifting items from Sax 5th Avenue, received three years probation and community service.

Director **John Huston** killed a pedestrian with his car but no charges were filed against him.

Actress **Natasha Lyonne** was arrested for attacking her neighbor, breaking her neighbor's mirror and threatening to molest the neighbor's dog. She received one night in jail and after failure to appear in court, was sentenced to conditional discharge.

Would any of these people have gotten off if they were not celebrities? Would you have gotten the same outcome if you had committed the same crime?

When talking about CHICAGO, Roy C. Dicks of *The News and Observer* had it right when he said, "now, more than a decade later, the musical's sardonic swipes at celebrity lawbreakers, the fickle press, and an easily manipulated legal system ring truer than ever."

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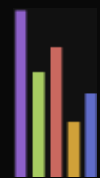


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## CHICAGO TRIVIA



The cast of Broadway's Tony Award-winning hit musical CHICAGO. Photo: Paul Kolnik.

CHICAGO is one of the longest running musicals on Broadway and was called one of the great musicals of all time by T. Wallinger of the *Colorado Springs Gazette*. Did you know these facts about the show?

John Kander wrote the music and Fred Ebb wrote the lyrics.

Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse co-wrote the script.

Gwen Verdon got a throat infection by inhaling a feather and Liza Minelli took her place in the show for five weeks.

Bob Fosse, original director/choreographer, was born in Chicago.

Bob Fosse created CHICAGO for his third wife, Gwen Verdon.

Ann Reinking took over the role of Roxie Hart from legend Gwen Verdon in 1977.

Ann Reinking went on to star in the film musical *All That Jazz*, which took its title from CHICAGO.

CHICAGO is based on the 1926 play *Chicago*, directed by George Abbot.

Ginger Rogers starred in a 1942 film called *Roxie Hart*.

Catherine Zeta-Jones played Velma Kelly in the film *Chicago*.

Taye Diggs played the bandleader in the film.

The late *Law and Order* star and Broadway veteran Jerry Orbach was the original Billy Flynn on Broadway.

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Ann Reinking choreographed the 1997 revival of CHICAGO in the style of Bob Fosse.

A section of Paulina Street in Chicago is now called "[Bob Fosse Way](#)."

[Bebe Neuwirth](#) received a 1997 Tony Award as Best Actress in CHICAGO.

[Joel Grey](#) made an appearance in *The Muppet Show* singing the song "Razzle Dazzle" from CHICAGO.

[James Naughton](#) won a 1997 Tony Award for his portrayal of Billy Flynn.

[Chita Rivera](#) and [Gwen Verdon](#) were the original co-stars of the show.