

Biography of

BERNADETTE PETERS

Throughout her illustrious career, Tony Award-winning actress Bernadette Peters has dazzled audiences and critics with her performances on stage and television, in concert, and on recordings. In 2003, she received her seventh Tony Award nomination for her electrifying portrayal of Momma Rose in Sam Mendes's record-breaking Broadway revival of *Gypsy*, and her brilliant performance was captured on the Grammy award-winning *Gypsy* cast recording. Bernadette Peters is a revelation! Ben Brantley of *The New York Times* declared of her star turn in the show. Peters's latest Angel Records CD, *Sondheim, Etc., Etc.: Bernadette Peters Live at Carnegie Hall (The Rest of It)*, features never-before-released highlights from her historic 1996 highly anticipated solo debut at Carnegie Hall. The concert was a benefit for Gay Men's Health Crisis. This performance was repeated in *Bernadette Peters in Concert*, her London solo debut at Royal Festival Hall, which later was telecast on PBS and is available on DVD.

A native of Ozone Park, New York, Peters began her performing career at the age of 3 with appearances on *Juvenile Jury*, the classic TV game show *Name That Tune*, and *The Horn & Hardart Children's Hour*. She made her theatrical debut in *This is Goggle*, starring James Daly and Kim Hunter, directed by the legendary Otto Preminger. Still in her teens, she appeared in *The Most Happy Fella* and *The Penny Friend* and performed in the national touring company of *Gypsy*.

Peters made her Broadway debut in 1967 in *Johnny No-Trump*, and in 1968 starred with Joel Grey in the musical *George M!*, earning a Theatre World Award for her memorable portrayal of Josie Cohan. That same year, she received a Drama Desk Award for her showstopping performance in the smash hit off-Broadway musical *Dames at Sea*, and quickly became one of the most sought-after stars in musical theatre.

One of Broadway's brightest stars, Peters received both the Tony Award and Drama Desk Award for her critically acclaimed performance in Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit musical *Song*

and Dance. In June 1999, Peters earned her second Tony Award, her third Drama Desk Award, and an Outer Critics Circle Award for her portrayal of Annie Oakley in one of Broadway's most popular musicals, the smash Tony Award-winning hit Broadway revival of *Annie Get Your Gun*. Peters also received Tony nominations for her work in the 1992 musical *The Goodbye Girl*; Stephen Sondheim's Pulitzer Prize-winning musical *Sunday in the Park With George*; the Jerry Herman/Gower Champion ode to the movies, *Mack and Mabel*; and the Leonard Bernstein/Comden and Green musical *On The Town*. In addition to these honors, Peters earned a Drama Desk nomination for her memorable portrayal of the Witch in Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods*.

While Peters is best known for her work in the theatre, her career doesn't end at the footlights. She boasts an impressive list of television credits ranging from performing arts specials such as PBS's *Evening at Pops* and *The Kennedy Center Honors* to appearances in variety shows such as *The Carol Burnett Show* and an Emmy-nominated performance on *The Muppet Show*. She appeared in the star-studded *Sondheim: A Celebration at Carnegie Hall* and also played an opera diva-on-the-verge-of-a-nervous-breakdown in Terrence McNally's *The Last Mile*, both for PBS's highly acclaimed *Great Performances* series. Other television credits include PBS's *Hey Mr. Producer!: The Musical World of Cameron Mackintosh* and the ABC-TV special *Quincy Jones: The First 50 Years*.

Peters received an Emmy nomination for her performance in FOX's hit TV series *Ally McBeal*. She portrayed the wicked stepmother in *Cinderella* with Brandy and Whitney Houston, and also starred in *What The Deaf Man Heard*; *The Odyssey* starring Armand Assante, *David, Fall From Grace* with Kevin Spacey, and *The Last Best Year* with Mary Tyler Moore. She also appeared in the Showtime movie *Bobbie's Girl* (Daytime Emmy nomination) and *Prince Charming*, a TNT movie co-starring Martin Short and Christina Applegate.

Peters recorded the original title song for the 1998 feature film *Barney's Great Adventure: The Movie*, written by famed Tony Award-winning Broadway composer Jerry Herman (*Hello, Dolly!*, *Mame*). She can also be heard as the voice of Sophie in the feature film *Anastasia*, as

Angelique in the special home video *Beauty and the Beast: Enchanted Christmas*, as Sue in *The Land Before Time: The Great Longneck Migration*, and the voice of Rita the Cat in the popular Steven Spielberg animated program *Animaniacs*.

A performer of amazing versatility, Peters has lit up the silver screen in 17 films throughout her distinguished career. She received a Golden Globe Award for her memorable performance in *Pennies From Heaven*. Film credits include *The Jerk* with Steve Martin, *The Longest Yard* with Burt Reynolds, *Silent Movie* with Mel Brooks, *Annie* with Carol Burnett, *Pink Cadillac* with Clint Eastwood, *Slaves of New York* with Mercedes Ruehl, Woody Allen's *Alice* with Mia Farrow, *Impromptu* with Hugh Grant and Mandy Patinkin, and most recently, *It Runs in the Family*, starring opposite Kirk and Michael Douglas.

In addition to numerous Grammy Award-winning Broadway cast albums including *Gypsy* and *Annie Get Your Gun*, Peters has recorded six solo albums: *Sondheim, Etc., Etc.: Bernadette Peters Live at Carnegie Hall (The Rest of It)*; *Bernadette Peters Loves Rodgers & Hammerstein* (Grammy Nomination); *Sondheim Etc.: Bernadette Peters Live At Carnegie Hall* (Grammy Nomination); *I'll Be Your Baby Tonight* (Grammy Nomination); *Bernadette Peters*; and *Now Playing*.

Peters has received numerous accolades throughout her distinctive career, ranging from the Tony Award to a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The Police Athletic League (PAL), an organization which runs 84 youth centers and 150 summer camps for New York City's neediest children, named her as Woman of the Year for 1999. A few weeks earlier, the Actors Fund of America bestowed Peters with their Artistic Achievement Award. She has received the Special Advocate Award from the City of New York for her contributions to the gay and lesbian community, and is the youngest person to be inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame. Peters also received the 2000 New York Heroes Award from the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences. In 2004, she was the Arts and Entertainment recipient of the Matrix Award from New York Women in Communications, Inc. Other honors include the Sarah Siddons Actress of the

Year Award and Harvard's Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year for her lasting and impressive contribution to the world of entertainment.

Bernadette Peters devotes her time and talents to numerous events that benefit Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and The Gay Men's Health Crisis, for whom she also performed in a benefit concert version of *Anyone Can Whistle*. Peters's pet project is Broadway Barks, an annual, star-studded dog adoption event, she founded with friend Mary Tyler Moore, benefiting animal shelters throughout New York. She resides in New York City and Los Angeles.