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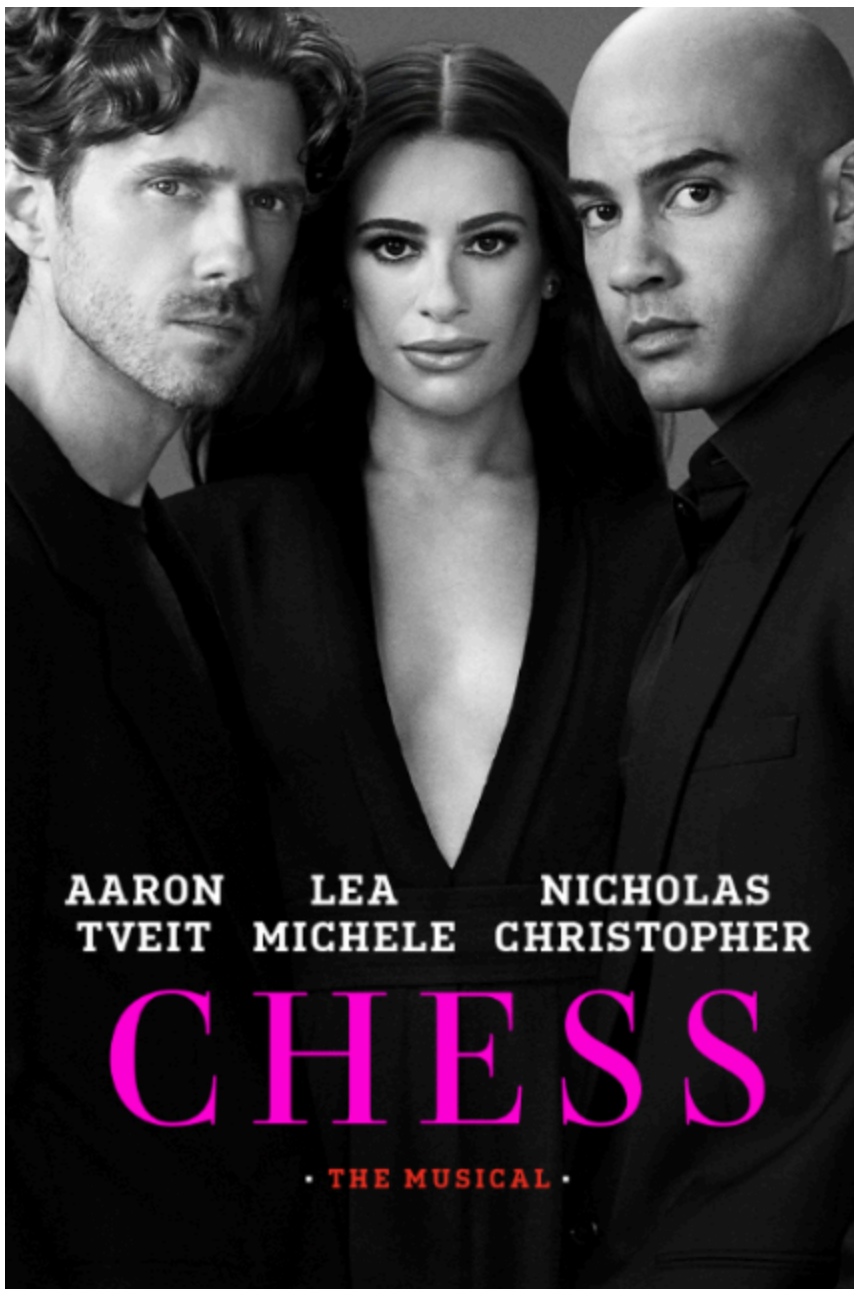
ARTS

Fall Broadway Roundup

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025 BY MIKA HIGGINS-WOO

Whether it is *Oedipus* set in the current day or beachy *Mamma Mia*, there is something for everyone in this upcoming Broadway season. It's packed with a ton of exciting shows. Excitement is in the air; Aaron Tveit and Lea Michele star in *Chess*, the perfect play for dedicated theater enthusiasts, and Neil Patrick Harris will star in *Art*, which *How I Met Your Mother* fans are bound to love. Of the fifteen shows arriving on Broadway's stages this fall, eight of them are discussed below. You'll find details about the show such as when it's opening, who's starring in it, what theatre it's in, who directed it and other miscellaneous fun facts. So whether you want a refresher or an introduction, read on!

Celebrity Show



Chess

Chess is coming to Broadway on November 16th in the Imperial Theatre (*Les Misérables*, *Smash*)! Starring Lea Michele (*Spring Awakening*, *Glee*), Aaron Tveit (*Moulin Rouge!*, *Schmigadoon*), and Nicholas Christopher (*Hamilton*, *Sweeney Todd*), *Chess* is a "Cold War love triangle." Set at the World *Chess* Championship in Bangkok, this musical tells the story of American chess champ Freddie Trumper and his Soviet opponent, Anatoly Sergievsky, as they compete against each other for the title of chess champ, as well as for the affections of the lovely Florence Vassy. As competition between the American and Soviet opponents gets more heated, the metaphor for the Cold War becomes clear, leading to plot twists of political intrigue and betrayal. *Chess* has a score by ABBA's Benny Andersson and Irish singer-

songwriter Björn Ulvaeus, with lyrics from Tim Rice (*Evita*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*), and it's being directed by Michael Mayer (*Spring Awakening*). This production is the first time the show has been on Broadway since its original run in 1988.



The Queen of Versailles

Starring Kristin Chenoweth (*Wicked*, *Schmigadoon*), *The Queen of Versailles*, a new musical, will open on Broadway on November 10th. It will be playing at the St. James Theatre, known for its past productions of *Sunset Boulevard*, *Into The Woods* and *Frozen*. Adapted from the 2012 TV series, *The Queen of Versailles* tells the story of billionaire David Siegel and his wife,

Jackie, and her outrageous attempt to build the largest American private home. However, when the financial crisis of 2008 affects their dreams of building the mansion, the family is forced to hang onto whatever genuine connections they have with each other. The musical differs from the TV show in that its focus is not on the connection between David and Jackie, but rather on Jackie, her efforts as a pageant winner, billionaire, and mother of eight, and *her* ambitious project in the musical. Chenoweth is reunited with Stephen Schwartz, who wrote the music and lyrics for this new musical, for the first time since *Wicked*. The director of this show is Michael Arden, who is known for his wildly successful Tony award-winning shows: *Maybe Happy Ending* and *Parade*.



Art

Art, a comedic play, is opening on Broadway in the Music Box Theatre on September 16th! This cast is star-studded, including famous actors James Corden (*Into the Woods* movie, *The*

Prom movie, *Cats* movie), Neil Patrick Harris (*How I Met Your Mother*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*), and Bobby Cannavale (*Glengarry Glen Ross*). The 2025 production of *Art* is the first revival of this play since its opening in 1998. It's directed by Scott Ellis (*The Marvelous Ms. Maisel*, *Pirates! of Penzance*) and originally written by Yasmina Reza (*God of Carnage*), but has been adapted for today's audiences by Christopher Hampton (*Sunset Boulevard*). *Art* tells the story of three old, rich friends. The story begins with a polite conversation, all three courteously disagreeing with each other on the aesthetics of an extremely pricey painting. What seems like an innocent dispute becomes a larger "clash of egos" as the three friends begin an unforeseen argument that will have the audience cackling with laughter.

Straight Plays



Oedipus

Oedipus will open on Broadway stages on November 13th in Studio 54 (*Days of Wine and Roses*, *Caroline or Change*). Starring Mark Strong (*Sherlock Holmes*, *Cruella*) and Lesley Manville (*Maleficent: Mistress of Evil*, *Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris*), this show won an Olivier (the British Tonys) award on the West End just last year. This interpretation of the classic Greek tragedy is unique. Instead of a Greek chorus and an amphitheater, this production of *Oedipus* sets the play at an election, tying this age-old story to the present. *Oedipus* tells the story with which most are familiar: the Greek tragedy where the man kills his father and sleeps with his mother. Written originally by Sophocles but adapted for modern audiences by Robert Icke (1984), this show imagines Oedipus as a political figure instead of a reigning monarch, moves the setting from Ancient Thebes to the present day, and uses technology such as video screens and projections to enhance the modern feel that it has embraced.



Waiting For Godot

On September 28th, *Waiting for Godot* will open at The Hudson Theatre (*The Last Five Years*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, *Merrily We Roll Along*). This production will star Keanu Reeves (*The Matrix*) and Alex Winter (*Peter Pan*, *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventures*). *Waiting for Godot*, a play that explores existentialism and the absurdity of life, is about two men who sit endlessly at a tree waiting for Godot (a mysterious man), who never arrives. This show famously uses unrelentingly repetitive dialogue in order to create a sense of aimlessness in the characters' interaction. It is most commonly referred to as a "tragicomedy," because it has both tragic and comedic aspects. Written originally in 1949 in French, the show has a long history and has captivated audiences for many decades. It has been on Broadway three times before this 2025 revival: 1956, 2009, and 2014.

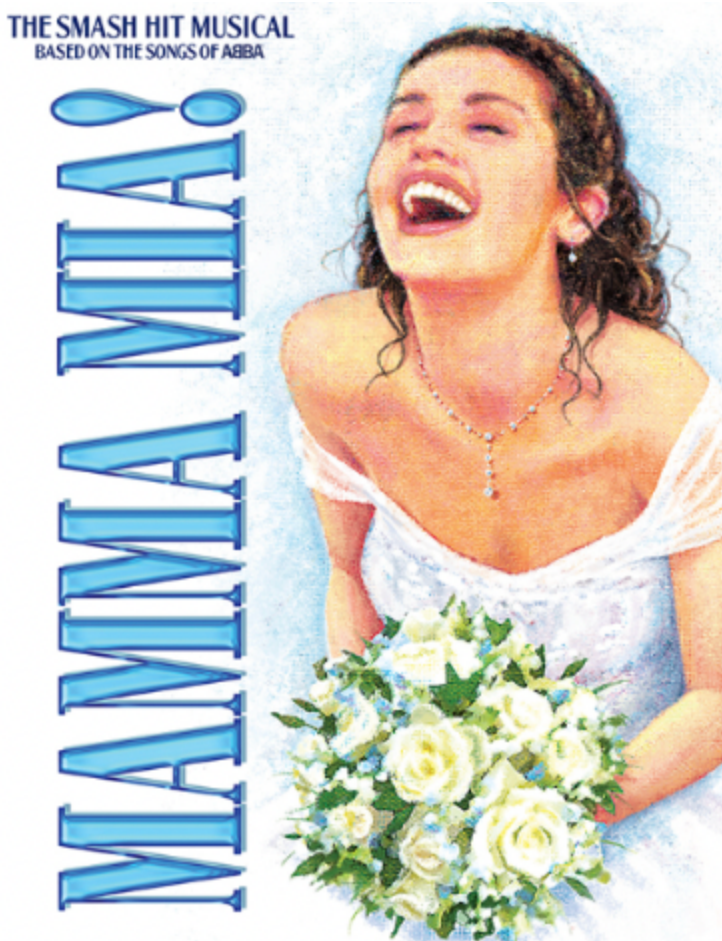
Returning Cult Classics



Beetlejuice

On October 8th, *Beetlejuice* will return to Broadway at the Palace Theatre after a short two-year hiatus! After a recent significant fan-base uptick due to the release of the sequel movie and a growing social media presence, this story is returning to Broadway after its tour of North America. Based on the 1987 original film with Winona Ryder, *Beetlejuice* chronicles the story of Lydia, a goth preteen, as she navigates moving to a new house that's haunted by the recently deceased couple that previously lived there. Lydia gets mixed up in a plot with the

iconic Beetlejuice, clad in his legendary black and white striped suit. The musical plot differs from the movie because in it, Lydia's mother has recently passed away, thus causing the move. This adds a theme of grief and healing to the comedy from the 80s. The show was composed by Eddie Perfect, and it's being directed by Alex Timbers (*Just in Time*, *Moulin Rouge!*), who directed the original show as well.



Mamma Mia

Here we go again! Returning to Broadway for the first time since its 14-year run that ended in 2015, *Mamma Mia* is back once again with all of its carefree and beachy fun. It opened officially at the Winter Garden Theatre (*Back to the Future*, *The Music Man*, *Beetlejuice*) on August 14th. The glittery *Mamma Mia* is back with the same staging, songs, and choreography. Thus, as Elisabeth Vincenelli at the New York Times points out, you can't call this one a revival; instead, it's a "return engagement of the [2015] New York staging...the closest we may ever come to a real-life time loop." Unlike most revivals, *Mamma Mia* isn't looking to reinvent the meaning and significance of the show to be relevant to current issues

or to reach audiences in a new way; instead, the producers are just looking to give the audience a good time — the same good time that they gave audiences ten years ago. With ABBA's timeless music (*Dancing Queen*, *Mamma Mia*, *Honey Honey*), *Mamma Mia* follows Sophie (Amanda Seyfried in the movie) as she prepares for her Greek island wedding. For her whole life, she hasn't known who her father is as she was raised by a single mother (Meryl Streep in the movie), who doesn't know herself. So, Sophie has invited three men her mother dated the summer before she was born to her wedding, sure that she will recognize which one is her dad at first glance. Of course, things never work out as planned, and Sophie and her mother are flung into a twisty turny plot for the ages. One noteworthy fun fact is that the actresses playing Donna, Sophie, and Rosie (three principal roles), are all making their Broadway debuts!

Lincoln Center



Ragtime

Coming to Lincoln Center this season is *Ragtime*, which is opening on October 16th at the Vivian Beaumont Theatre (*Floyd Collins*, *Camelot*). This will mark the second revival of *Ragtime* on a Broadway stage, after its original opening in 1998 and its revival in 2009. This cast is packed with stars, including Joshua Henry (*Into the Woods*, *Waitress*, *Carousel*),

Cassie Levy (*Leopoldstadt*, *Frozen*, *Les Misérables*), Shaina Taub (*Suffs*), and many other talents. *Ragtime* is a musical adaptation of a novel by E.L. Doctorow, which follows three families at the beginning of the 20th century: a Black pianist and his wife, a Jewish immigrant and his daughter, and a wealthy white woman and her family. All three of these families are in pursuit of the American Dream, but for each of them, that journey and the probability that they will achieve it are different. These three stories intertwine and explore themes of poverty, freedom, prejudice, and bias. Director Lear deBessonet was awarded for her 2022 revival of *Into the Woods* on Broadway. It is her first time directing at the Lincoln Theater space. deBessonet thinks this show is especially relevant for the current era. She told the New York Times: "I . . . feel like it would be remiss to not talk about this show and this moment in America, I cannot know what might be happening when we open, but from the beginning my thesis has been that this show holds the promise and the wound of America, and we are right inside the coexistence of those realities."

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