

# The Drowsy Chaperone

## TIMELINE & FACT SHEET

### 1998

- **August 9** – Composer Greg Morrison and lyricist Lisa Lambert present a 40-minute series of songs and scenes called “The Wedding Gift” as a present to Bob Martin and fiancée Janet Van de Graaff at a party held at the Rivoli in Toronto.

### 1999

- **July 2** – *The Drowsy Chaperone* debuts at the Toronto Fringe Festival to rave reviews and promptly sells out.
- **November 24** – *The Drowsy Chaperone* transfers to Toronto’s *Theatre Passe Muraille* (Canada’s oldest alternative theatre devoted to the development and production of new Canadian work).

### 2000

- **April 6** – *The Drowsy Chaperone* wins “Pretty Funny Comedic Play” and “Pretty Funny Director of a Comedic Play” awards at the first annual Canadian Comedy Awards.

### 2001

- **June 7** – First complete production of *The Drowsy Chaperone* transfers to the Toronto Winter Garden Theatre produced by Mirvish Productions.

### 2004

- **October 3 - 4** – A 45-minute staging of *The Drowsy Chaperone* is presented at the National Alliance for Musical Theater’s 16<sup>th</sup> annual Festival of New Musicals at Dodger Stages in New York.

### 2005

- **November 10** – *The Drowsy Chaperone* begins previews at the Center Theatre Group/Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles and opens to strong reviews on November 18 playing a limited engagement through December 24, 2005.

### 2006

- **February 8** - *The Drowsy Chaperone* is announced for Broadway.
- **February 9** - *The Drowsy Chaperone* tops the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards with eight nominations. Nominated for Best Production, Direction (Casey Nicholaw), Musical Direction (Phil Reno), Writing (Bob Martin and Don McKellar),

Musical Score (Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison), Lead Performance (Bob Martin), Featured Performance (Beth Leavel) and Scenic Design (David Gallo).

- **March 14** – *The Drowsy Chaperone* is awarded five **Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards** including Production, Direction, Scenic Design, Leading Actor for Bob Martin and Featured performance for Beth Leavel.
- **March 15** – The cast of *The Drowsy Chaperone* meets the New York press during an open press rehearsal at New 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Studios.
- **April 3** - Previews begin at the Marquis Theatre on Broadway for an official opening on Monday, May 1.
- **April 16** – The cast heads into the studio to record the Original Cast Album.
- **April 18** – *The Drowsy Chaperone* receives a **Drama League** nomination for Distinguished Production of a Musical. Bob Martin and Sutton Foster are honored with an invitation to sit on the dais in recognition of their distinguished performances.
- **April 23** – *The Drowsy Chaperone* is nominated for six **Outer Critics Circle Awards** including Outstanding Broadway Musical, Outstanding New Score, Outstanding Choreography, Outstanding Set and Costume Design, and Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical (Beth Leavel).
- **April 27** – *The Drowsy Chaperone* leads the **Drama Desk Awards with Fourteen nominations** including Outstanding Musical, Outstanding Actor in a Musical (Bob Martin), Outstanding Actress in a Musical (Sutton Foster), Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical (Eddie Korbich), Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical (Beth Leavel), Outstanding Director of a Musical (Casey Nicholaw), Outstanding Choreography (Casey Nicholaw), Outstanding Music (Lisa Lambert & Greg Morrison), Outstanding Lyrics (Lisa Lambert & Greg Morrison), Outstanding Book of a Musical (Bob Martin & Don McKellar), Outstanding Orchestrations (Larry Blank), Outstanding Set Design of a Musical (David Gallo), Outstanding Costume Design (Gregg Barnes), and Outstanding Sound Design (Acme Sound Partners).
- **May 1** – *The Drowsy Chaperone* opens on Broadway at the Marquis Theatre.
- **May 16** – *The Drowsy Chaperone* is nominated for **Thirteen Tony Awards**<sup>®</sup>, the most of any show of the season, including Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical (Bob Martin & Don McKellar), Best Original Score (Lisa Lambert & Greg Morrison), Best Performance by a Leading Actor (Bob Martin), Best Performance by a Leading Actress (Sutton Foster), Best Performance by a Featured Actor (Danny Burstein), Best Performance by a Featured Actress (Beth Leavel), Best Direction (Casey Nicholaw), Best Choreography (Casey Nicholaw), Best Orchestrations (Larry Blank), Best Scenic Design (David Gallo), Best Costume Design (Gregg Barnes), and Best Lighting Design (Ken Billington & Brian Monahan).
- **May 21** – *The Drowsy Chaperone* wins seven **Drama Desk Awards** including Musical, Book, Music, Lyrics, Featured Actress (Beth Leavel), and Costume and Set Design.

- **May 23** – *The Drowsy Chaperone* wins the **New York Drama Critics' Circle Award** for Best Musical.
- **May 25** – *The Drowsy Chaperone* wins four **Outer Critic's Circle Awards** including Outstanding Featured Actress for Beth Leavel, Outstanding New Score, and Outstanding Set and Costume Design.
- **June 6**– *The Drowsy Chaperone* original cast recording is released by Ghostlight Records and debuts on the Broadway Billboard charts at #7 before jumping four spots to #3 in its second week of release.
- **June 6** – Bob Martin receives a **Theatre World Award** for Outstanding Broadway Debut.
- **June 11** – *The Drowsy Chaperone* is awarded five **Tony Awards**, the most of any musical of the season, including Book (Bob Martin & Don McKellar), Original Score (Lisa Lambert & Greg Morrison), Featured Actress (Beth Leavel), Costume Design (Gregg Barnes) and Scenic Design (David Gallo).
- **June 8** – Tony Award® winners Beth Leavel and Bob Martin perform the new Broadway anthem “As We Stumble Along” on ***The View***. The 5 Time Tony Award winning hit musical is the first show to perform on “The View” since the beginning of their season welcoming new host and Broadway cheerleader Rosie O'Donnell.
- **June 27** – The first season of the cult hit television miniseries "**Slings & Arrows**" co-created by *The Drowsy Chaperone's* Tony Award® winning creators Bob Martin and Don McKellar is released on DVD by Acorn Media. The six-episode comic drama about the life of a Canadian theatre festival that has parallels to Ontario's Stratford Festival airs on the Sundance Channel in the U.S. and on Showcase in its native Canada and received raves from television critics.
- **July 27** – *The Drowsy Chaperone* celebrates 100 performances on Broadway.
- **November 14** – *The Drowsy Chaperone* is awarded five **2006 Los Angeles Stage Alliance Ovation Awards**, including Best Musical, at a ceremony held at the Orpheum Theatre in Los Angeles. The show, which received its acclaimed American premiere production at the Ahmanson Theatre last fall, was awarded Ovation Awards for Best Musical (Large Theatre), Direction of a Musical (Casey Nicholaw), Lead Actor in a Musical (Bob Martin), Lead Actress in a Musical (Sutton Foster) and Set Design (Large Theatre).
- **November 23** – Tony Award® winners Beth Leavel and Bob Martin perform the new Broadway anthem “As We Stumble Along” on the CBS Thanksgiving Day parade broadcast.
- **November 26** - The five-time Tony Award® winning hit musical *The Drowsy Chaperone* recoups its initial investment on Broadway in just thirty weeks and less than seven months. *The Drowsy Chaperone* paid back its \$8 million capitalization during the week

ending November 26, 2006 following 272 performances (240 regular performances and 32 previews).

- **December 7** - The original cast recording of the five-time Tony Award® winning hit musical *The Drowsy Chaperone*'s has been nominated for a 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Grammy Award® for Best Show Album. *The Drowsy Chaperone* cast recording is produced by Grammy Award® winner and Academy Award® nominee **Joel Moss** and Sh-K-Boom/Ghostlight Records President **Kurt Deutsch**. The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Grammy Awards® will be held February 11, 2007 at Staples Center in Los Angeles to be broadcast live on CBS.

## 2007

- **January 19** – It is announced that a limited edition, vinyl album (yes...a 33 RPM long playing record!) of the Grammy Award® nominated original cast recording of the five-time Tony Award® winning hit musical *The Drowsy Chaperone* will be released by Ghostlight Records on Valentine's Day, Wednesday, February 14. The re-mastered collector's item will mark the first time in nearly twenty years that an original Broadway cast recording will be released in album format.
- **April 24** - *The Drowsy Chaperone* announces a U.S. national tour launch set for September 2007 with a return to Toronto, where it was the sleeper hit of the 1999 Toronto Fringe Theatre Festival before transferring to a hit commercial run at Toronto's Winter Garden Theatre.
- **May 1** – *The Drowsy Chaperone* celebrates its one year anniversary of opening on Broadway.
- **June 6** - The London production of *The Drowsy Chaperone* opens at The Novello Theatre in the West End. Tony Award® winning creator **Bob Martin** reprises his role as "Man in Chair" opposite internationally acclaimed actress **Elaine Paige** in the title role.
- **September 19** – The National Tour of *The Drowsy Chaperone* starts preview performances in Toronto at the Elgin Theatre.
- **September 23** – The official opening of *The Drowsy Chaperone* tour!
- **December 30** – *The Drowsy Chaperone* closes on Broadway after 674 performances.

## 2008

- **November 16** – After traveling to 31 cities, the hugely successful equity tour closes in Seattle.

## 2009

- **January 6** – *The Drowsy Chaperone*'s non-equity tour opens in West Palm Beach, Florida.

## **CREATIVE TEAM FUN FACTS**

### **Casey Nicholaw** (Original Director/Choreographer)

- 2005 Tony Award® nominee for Best Direction and Choreography.
- 2006 Drama Desk Award nominee for Outstanding Director and Choreography.
- 2006 Outer Critics Circle Award nominee for Outstanding Choreography.
- 2006 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Direction.
- 2005 Drama Desk Award winner for outstanding choreography for *Spamalot*.
- 2005 Tony Award® nominee for best choreography for *Spamalot*.
- Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for Direction for *The Drowsy Chaperone*.
- *The Drowsy Chaperone* marks his Broadway directorial debut.
- Made his Broadway debut as a performer in 1992 in *Crazy for You* and has appeared in the casts of eight original Broadway shows including *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Seussical*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Steel Pier*, *Victor/Victoria*, *The Best Little Whorehouse Goes Public* and *Crazy for You*.
- Made his choreography debut on Broadway with *Spamalot*, for which he received his first Tony Award nomination.

### **David Gallo** (Scene Design)

- 2006 Tony Award® for Best Scenic Design.
- 2006 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Set Design.
- 2006 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for Scenic Design.
- 2006 Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Set Design.
- Tony Award® nominee for *Gem of the Ocean*.
- 2000 Obie Award winner for sustained excellence in set design.
- 2000 Drama Desk and 2001 Lucille Lortel Awards for outstanding scenic design for *Jitney*.
- Contributor to the permanent collection at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.
- Lighting designer for the 135<sup>th</sup> Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus.
- 2005 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle award for Scenic Design for *The Drowsy Chaperone*.
- Recent productions include *Company* (Broadway, Fall 2006) dir. by John Doyle, *L'il Abner* (Goodspeed Opera House) dir. by Scott Schwartz and *The Wiz* (Utrecht, Holland) dir. by Glenn Casale.

### **Gregg Barnes** (Costume Design)

- 2006 Tony Award® for Best Costume Design.
- 2006 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Costume Design.
- 2006 Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Costume Design.
- Did the costume design for many shows, including: *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Sideshow*, *Flower Drum Song*, *Sinatra* (Radio City), *The Kathy and Mo Show*, *Pageant: New York's Nightly Beauty Pageant*, *The Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular*, *The Wizard of Oz*, Madison Square Garden. New York City Opera: *Cinderella*, *The Merry Widow*. National tours: Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, *South Pacific*, *Disney's Princess Classics on Ice*, *Dora the Explorer Live*.
- Tony Award® nominee for *Flower Drum Song*.
- Olivier Award nominee for the musical *Pageant*.
- First recipient of the Theatre Development Fund's Irene Sharaff Young Master Award.
- Resident designer at the Paper Mill Playhouse for nine years.

**Ken Billington** (*Lighting Design*)

- 2006 Tony Award® nominee for Best Lighting Design.
- Over 80 Broadway productions.
- Principal lighting director for Radio City Music Hall since 1979.
- Tony Award® winner for *Chicago*. Six time Tony Award nominee for *The Drowsy Chaperone* (2006), *End of the World* (1984), *Foxfire* (1983), *Sweeney Todd* (1979), *Working* (1978), and *The Visit* (1974).
- Los Angeles Drama Critics Award winner for *Sweeney Todd* and *Foxfire*.
- Ace Award winner for his television designs on “Broadway.”
- Drama Desk Award winner for *Chicago*. Three time nominee for *Grind* (1985), *Foxfire* (1983), and *Sweeney Todd* (1979).

**Bob Martin** (Book)

- 2006 Tony® Award winner (Best Book) and nominee (Best Actor in a Musical) for *The Drowsy Chaperone*.
- 2006 Drama Desk Award winner (Best Book) and nominee (Outstanding Actor in a Musical) for *The Drowsy Chaperone*.
- 2006 Theater World Award winner for Outstanding Broadway Debut.
- 2006 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for Lead Performance for *The Drowsy Chaperone*.
- 2006 Drama League Award nominee for Distinguished Performance.
- Two-time Canadian Comedy Award winner for “Pretty Funny Writing” for the popular television series “Slings and Arrows” (2005) and “Made in Canada” (2002).
- Three-time Canadian Comedy Awards nominee for his writing on “Made in Canada” (2002), “Twitch City” (2001), and “Comedy Now!” (1997).
- Three-time Gemini Award nominee:
  - 2005 for Best Ensemble Performance in a Comedy Program or Series for “Puppets Who Kill.”
  - 2004 for Best Writing in a Dramatic Series for “Slings and Arrows.”
  - 2003 for Best Writing in a Comedy or Variety Program or Series for “Made in Canada.”
  - 2004 Writers Guild of Canada Award winner for “Slings and Arrows.”
- Head writer of the sketch comedy troupe Skippy’s Rangers.
- Co-wrote and performed in four Second City revues, directing three of them including *Invasion Free Since 1812* and the critically acclaimed *Sordido Deluxo*.
- Artistic Director of Toronto Second City 2003-2004.

**Lisa Lambert** (*Music and Lyrics*)

- 2006 Tony Award® winner for Best Original Score.
- 2006 Drama Desk Award winner for Outstanding Music and Lyrics.
- 2006 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award nominee for Best Musical Score.
- 2006 Outer Critics Circle Award winner for Outstanding New Score.
- Member of Skippy’s Rangers, which received the Canadian Comedy Award for Pretty Funny Sketch Troupe in 2000.
- Nominated for a Gemini Award for Best Writing in a Comedy or Variety Program or Series in 1999 for the CBC television show “SketchCom”
- Songwriting consultant for Second City.

**Greg Morrison** (*Music and Lyrics*)

- 2006 Tony Award® for Best Original Score.
- 2006 Drama Desk Award winner for Outstanding Music and Lyrics.
- 2006 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award nominee for Best Musical Score.
- 2006 Outer Critics Circle Award winner for Outstanding New Score.
- Began his career as the musical director for the Second City touring Company.
- 15 years with Second City including stints as Musical Director and collaborator on original material.
- Canadian Comedy Award winner (1999 for *The Drowsy Chaperone*).
- 1999-2000 Sterling Award winner for Outstanding Score of a Play or Musical for *Mump and Smoot in Something Else with Zug*.
- Three-time Dora Mavor Moore Award nominations for *The Drowsy Chaperone* (2000), *Hello...Hello* (1999), and Musical for *Mump and Smoot in Something Else with Zug* (2000).

**Don McKellar** (*Book*)

- 2006 Tony® Award winner for Best Book.
- 2006 Drama Desk Award winner for Outstanding Book.
- 2006 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award nominee for Best Writing.
- Co-founder of Toronto's experimental theatre troupe The Augusta Company.
- Canadian Comedy Award winner for his direction of the film *Last Night* (1998).
- "Claude Jutra" Genie Award winner for *Last Night*.
- Five-time Canadian Comedy Award nominee:
  - 2003 for "Pretty Funny Male Performance – Film" in *Rub and Tug*.
  - 2001 for "Pretty Funny Male Performance – Film" in *Waydowntown*.
  - 2001 for "Pretty Funny Writing – Television Series" for "Twitch City."
  - 2000 for "Original Writing – Film" for *Last Night*.
  - 2000 for "Writing – Television Season" for "Twitch City."
- Cannes Film Festival "Award of the Youth" winner for *Last Night* (1998).
- 1998 Genie Award winner for Best Screenplay for *The Red Violin* and the 1994 Genie for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in *Exotica*.
- Five-time Genie Award (*Canadian Academy Award*) nominee.
- Won Toronto International Film Festival awards for Best Canadian First Feature Film (1998) for *Last Night* and Best Canadian Short Film – Special Jury Citation Award (1992) for "Blue."

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