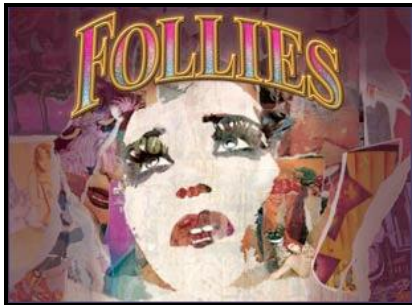


The 94th Pittsburgh Post-Gazette ShowPlane
to
New York
November 16 - 20, 2011
"Autumn in New York"



Autumn, and theater, in New York could hardly be more exciting. It is our Pittsburgh Post-Gazette ShowPlane friends' favorite time to visit the Big Apple – for brilliant Broadway openings, celebrated sights to see and, of course, marvelous pre-Holiday shopping. At our traditional Opening Night dinner, you'll have a chance to get acquainted with your traveling companions – at "very New York" venue. Between theatre offerings, you might wish to cultivate your knowledge of the city's most celebrated sights and marvelous shopping. And if that isn't enough, we'll offer you the options of a privately guided tour, as well as a *Regards to Broadway* dinner to make your time in New York even more special.

As usual, Christopher Rawson's selections for this fall reflect his ability to offer diverse and exciting theater that appeals to our ShowPlanners' tastes. Again this season, the musical is king, and ShowPlanners will see those at the top of the list. The stars of our shows are lighting the lights on Broadway, to be sure, and along the way Chris Rawson, Senior Theatre Critic of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, will show us the underpinnings of the theater with an impromptu, but private, after-show visit and introductions to some real "Broadway Babies." He'll lead us in our traditional discussion of theatre and the shows in our line-up. As for New York – this ever-evolving city will be bustling with its own unique array of activities that highlight the season. Great performances, raucous comedy, bright musicals – we hope you'll join us for what's to come. . .



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 – Departing Pittsburgh, our flight is bound for New York. Upon arrival, we are taken directly to the Millennium Broadway Hotel – located mid-town at the doorstep of theatres, fine dining, shopping and sightseeing. We'll have a little free time to get situated and plant our feet on the ground to get the feel of the area around our hotel. Then we gather for our *Opening Night Dinner* at a famous and well-respected old establishment, in the good company of our traveling ShowPlane friends. In the heart of New York's Theater District, Sardi's, founded in



Sardi's

1921, is a Broadway legend in its own right. In the comfortably expansive dining room, the walls are decorated with caricatures of celebrated stage and screen personalities, many of whom are regular clientele at this New York institution. This is the perfect theatrical spot for a preview to tonight's performance. Bernadette Peters and Elaine Page are standouts in the first full Broadway revival of Stephen Sondheim's "landmark musical," "Follies." On the soon-to-be demolished stage of the Weismann Theatre, a 30-year reunion is being held to honor shows past and the beautiful chorus girls who performed there. The once resplendent theatre is now little but planks and scaffolding – it's the night before the wrecking ball hits what was their follies' epicenter, so everybody from headliners to chorus-liners brings their own baggage for one last, wistful whirl about the stage. As the ghosts of the young showgirls slowly drift through the theatre, two of the former Follies chorines have a chance to reexamine their lives, and especially their marriages. Did they marry the wrong men? The answers begin to emerge when the ghosts of their former selves and their husbands lead them back into the Ziegfeld-like *Loveland*. Tonight, hear live the songs that, still now, fill the airwaves. . . "Losing My Mind," "In Buddy's Eyes," "The Girls Upstairs" and "I'm Still Here." What an extravagant opening night for Post-Gazette theatre-goers! Back to our hotel, across Broadway.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17 – With a free day to enjoy New York as you please, you may take advantage of the wonderful shopping on legendary Madison and Fifth Avenues not far from our hotel; roam one of the world-class museums; or just take a long walk absorbing the sights and sounds of our nation's most famous city. Need some ideas on what to see and do? Your tour escorts are available to offer a multitude of suggestions and expert guidance. Tonight we rendezvous at our theatre venue. Love blooms in unexpected places in the delightfully re-imagined world of "*On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*." Still in love with his deceased wife, a dashing psychiatrist and professor (heart throb and just plain great musical theatre actor, Harry Connick, Jr.) unknowingly takes on the case of his life with a quirky young florists' assistant. While putting him under hypnosis, the Doctor stumbles upon what he believes to be the man's former self — a dazzling and self-possessed 1940s jazz singer Melinda Wells. Instantly intrigued by Melinda, the Doctor finds himself swept up in the pursuit of an irresistible (and impossible) love affair with this woman from another time and place, who may or may not have ever existed! Making the case for living life with your eyes and heart wide open, the show's score includes, "Come Back To Me," "What Did I Have That I Don't Have Now?" and the titular, "On A Clear Day You Can See Forever." Our hotel is just a short walk across Broadway.



Harry Connick, Jr.

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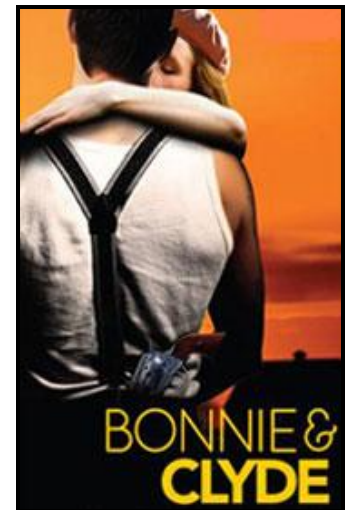
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 – You may enjoy another day in New York on your own. But for those who have chosen our *Optional Morning Tour*, we depart from the hotel by private motorcoach for a rare treat. Standing on the eastern shore of Manhattan island, on the banks of New York City's East River, United Nations Headquarters remains both a symbol of peace and a beacon of hope. To its 18 acres – declared international territory – come representatives of the earth's six billion people to discuss and decide issues of peace and justice, as well as economic and social well being. With our international docent, who will be expecting to answer our many questions, we will take a privately guided tour. Among the highlights of our walk is planned a visit to the General Assembly Room, the largest meeting room at the United Nations where the 193 members of the Organization convene to discuss global issues. Then, tour members will be led into the Delegate's Dining Room to enjoy a panoramic view of the East River, a hearty lunch and a chat about the day's event. Afterwards, our



United Nations Headquarters
along the East River
in Manhattan

motorcoach will return us to our hotel and an afternoon at leisure. Later on, we rendezvous with all group members at this evening's performance of *"Anything Goes."* Broadway favorites Sutton Foster and Joel Grey star as Reno Sweeney and Moonface Martin in the Tony Award-winning revival of Cole Porter's musical cruise across the Atlantic Ocean. The passengers on this luxury liner include an evangelist turned nightclub singer, a gangster disguised as a minister, hopeless romantics and stowaways, and a crew of singing sailors. Just a few of the many sparkling Cole Porter songs include "Friendship," "It's De-lovely," "You're the Top," "I Get a Kick Out of You," "Easy to Love," and, of course, "Anything Goes." Bon Voyage everybody! After theatre, we make the short walk to our hotel door, just a few steps from Broadway.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19 – Chris Rawson hosts his Morning Coffee Discussion of the week's theatre offerings, as well as our own mini-version of the Tony Awards. Everyone attending will have the chance to be critic-for-an-hour as we survey the current New York theatre season, including our selections. For the rest of the day, you have time to follow your own pursuits on your last day in Manhattan. Some may choose to take in a Saturday matinee independently, and we will be pleased to make suggestions and secure tickets in advance for shows offering availability. For those choosing our *Regards to Broadway Dinner Option*, we gather at a venue meant for the "see and be seen" crowd. We'll say farewell in style and in the good company of some of our traveling ShowPlane friends – and maybe we'll even spot a few celebrities before heading off to the theatre for tonight's performance. At the height of the Great Depression, two small-town kids from the middle of nowhere flaunted their notorious exploits of bank robbing and murder, and became the biggest folk heroes in all of America. Their names were *"Bonnie and Clyde."* Real-life Depression-era outlaws Bonnie Parker, a love-sick waitress, and Clyde Barrow, a troubled Texas teen, discovered that life isn't fair — but that fame kind of makes up for it. Unafraid, unashamed and irresistible, their daring story of love and crime captured the imagination of a country. Today, with Tony-winning composer Frank Wildhorn's (*Jekyll & Hyde*) and Tony-winning lyricist Don Black's (*Sunset Boulevard*) rock and blues infused music, the most infamous duo of the 20th Century has taken aim at a whole new target: Broadway! Out-of-town reviews have been solidly positive with members of the cast and the musical winning high-level awards. And, as with "Follies," the award-winning stars and the detailed refinements in place for the big opening are ramping up the action for Broadway theatre-goers. After the performance, we cross the Great White Way to our hotel.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 – We depart from our hotel by motorcoach, bound for the airport. Our flight home arrives in time to spend a beautiful autumn afternoon in Pittsburgh. (*It's a "bye" week for the Steelers, so we won't have to worry about missing a game!*)

As you can see, we have lots of events planned, and there will still be plenty of time left to your own designs. We will reside at the well-located and comfortable Millennium Broadway Hotel. And of course, we have as our favorite leader Christopher Rawson, Senior Theatre Critic of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette -- you won't want to miss Chris' commentaries!

We hope that you have an interest in what promises to be a wonderful fall theatre season in New York. We would be most pleased should you choose to share our company on this tour. If you have any questions prior to that time, pleased do call our Escorted Tours Department at 412-441-3131; or outside Allegheny County 800-848-4084.