IN HERE,
Life IS BEAUTIFUL

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE REMARKABLE HONOREE

SAM MENDES

SPRING GALA 2014
CELEBRATING THE EXTRAORDINARY
SAM MENDES

Monday, March 10, 2014
Hammerstein Ballroom
Roundabout thanks all of the artists and technicians who have generously donated their time to tonight’s event and helped make this evening possible. We wish to express our gratitude to the Performer’s Unions: Actors’ Equity Association, American Guild of Musical Artists, American Guild of Variety Artists, and SAG-AFTRA through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in permitting the artists to appear on this program.

Gala proceeds benefit Roundabout Theatre Company’s Musical Theatre Fund and Education programs.
LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

1 Original Song by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman
You surely can’t stop the beat while you top your toes to your very own tune! Surprise friends and family with your own song by Tony Award-winners Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman (Hairspray, Charlie & The Chocolate Factory, Catch Me If You Can)! They have written hit songs for Mariah Carey, Batte Midler, Harry Connick, Jr. and now you! Send in the theme with details you want included. It can be about a special event (birthday, graduation, anniversary) or just a new theme song. Marc and Scott will take their time (Tony-winning work isn’t created overnight) to craft a special time just for you, delivered as sheet music!
Donated by: Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman

2 How I Met Neil Patrick Harris
Tickets to Hedwig and the Angry Inch and Post Show Cocktails with the Stars
Break out your glitter makeup and eight-tracks! Hedwig and the Angry Inch is rocking Broadway and you’re about to join the fun! You and three guests will see Hedwig, followed by an exclusive backstage tour. Your night isn’t over yet as you unwind from the excitement with post show drinks in the theatre’s lounge with Neil Patrick Harris himself! Don’t miss your chance to experience this groundbreaking musical in the theatre’s lounge with Neil Patrick Harris himself! Don’t miss your chance to experience this groundbreaking musical.
Donated by: Neil Patrick Harris, Productions 101, Anonymous

3 French Culinary Pampering at its Best Feast for Eight Prepared in Your Home by Christian Delouvrier
Renowned Chef Christian Delouvrier (multitalented, by both N.Y. Times and Michelin at Lepsicano, Las Celebritée and Alain Ducasse at the Essex House, currently Executive Chef at La Mangeoire, NYC, where he is producing a menu inspired by French country cooking, focused on ingredients and techniques that define the cuisine of the French countryside), discovered his passion for cooking at a very young age. His major inspirations were his mother and two grandmothers. Now it is his turn to inspire you as he creates a magnificent dining experience in your home.
Restrictions: Must be scheduled at a mutually agreeable time. Rentals not included. Flowers may only be delivered on Monday through Friday, excluding major holidays.
Value: Priceless (Event: $16,044, Cake Design/Decorating by Ron Ben-Israel)
Donated by: Christian Delouver, Charles Curtis, Sylvia Golden

4 Your Broadway Debut is not so Far Away Walk-On Role in Beautiful, the Musical
It’s time for your Broadway debut with a walk-on role in the new Carol King musical, Beautiful! You will receive the full Broadway experience in one day with your first rehearsal followed by a full hair, makeup and costume session. Once you make your appearance in Act One, you’ll watch the rest of the show like no one else — backstage! And don’t forget your fans — you’ll receive four tickets to the show so your friends and family can watch you shine! After the show, you and your entourage plus members of the cast will celebrate your exceptional debut with a champagne toast!
Restrictions: Walk-on participant must be 16 years or older; must take place on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between June 10 and August 28, 2014.
Value: Priceless (Tickets: $608)
Donated by: Marc Bruni, Mike Booner and the Broadway production of Beautiful, the Musical

5 Time to Hit the Slopes Private Yellowstone Club Getaway
It’s time to hit the slopes! You and three friends will take in the grandeur of the Rocky Mountains as you enjoy business class airfare from NYC and a stay at the exclusive Yellowstone Club, the world’s ONLY private ski and golf community. Located in Big Sky, Montana, Yellowstone Club offers you 4 days of skiing or snowboarding, daily breakfast, and a spectacular dinner at the Rainbow Lodge — all for you and three guests! For your first day on the slopes, you will be accompanied by your own ski guide and you’ll be a pro in no time! In addition to your 3 night stay on the mountain, you’ll receive exclusive access to the Club’s facilities which include pools, paddle courts, and a fitness center. Don’t miss your chance to revel in the treasures of this truly spectacular mountain adventure!
Donated by: Yellowstone Club, Anonymous

6 Be a Sweet Genius at Your Own Party Catered Event with a Custom Cake by Ron Ben-Israel
Don’t you want to be the life of the party? Now you will be when you host your own party planned by Leslie Price of In Any Event. Show off to 24 of your closest friends and family as you experience delicious culinary creations by Olivier Cheng Catering, a case of La Caravelle Cuvee Nina Champagne and service by In Any Event, along with custom invitations to enhance the decor, 6 seasonal flower arrangements from Lewis Miller Design will be delivered to your home.
Restrictions: Must be scheduled at a mutually agreeable time. Rentals not included. Flowers may only be delivered on Monday through Friday, excluding major holidays.
Value: Priceless (Event: $16,044, Cake Design/Decorating by Ron Ben-Israel)
Donated by: Ron Ben-Israel, Olivier Cheng Catering, In Any Event, Lewis Miller Design, Sylvia Golden

7 Children Will Listen and So Will You! Be Stephen Sondheim’s Guest at Opening Night of Into the Woods
Curtain up! Lights the lights! Get ready to celebrate “side by side by Sondheim” as you and a guest join him for the Opening Night of Roundabout’s revival of Into the Woods in Winter 2015. Everything will be coming up roses as you enjoy all the Opening Night festivities including arrivals, the show and the Opening Night party complete with lots of photo opportunities! Finally, as your unforgettable souvenir, Mr. Sondheim will autograph a piece of sheet music containing your favorite song from Into the Woods! This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will live on well past “the last midnight!”
Restrictions: Valid only on Opening Night — date to be announced.
Value: Priceless
Donated by: Stephen Sondheim and Roundabout Theatre Company

continued ➢
LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

The beauty of this it all: Seven glorious days in Paris, four wine-tasting days in Bordeaux, plus business class transatlantic flights, plus, plus, plus……

Enjoy a dreamy 11 day journey through la Belle France, filled with activities and visits normally off-limits to visitors. This is no vin ordinaire!

To commencing, you and 3 guests fly business class on American Airlines to/from Paris, and stay for a week at an apartment in an 18th Century building in the Marais district (4th Arrondissement). Your two-bedroom, twobath accommodation is right in the heart of the most romantic city in the world. For one night out, you have four tickets and a backstage tour at Theatre de I’Atelier, which opened in 1822 and was established as an historical monument in 1965. Your Paris holiday continues when you experience the very best of French cuisine. You’ll have lunch or dinner at the Acquarium of the newly-reopened Plaza Athénée is based upon availability from September 1 - December 30, 2014.

Value: Priceless (All Airfare: $26,000, Bordeaux: $28,000, Paris: $5,290)

Donated by: American Airlines, Alain Ducasse, Plaza-Athénée, Le Meurice, Laura Pels, Alice Tully, Omar Khan and each of the Bordeaux partners, Anonymous American Airlines

9 Be on Her Majesty’s Secret Service Red Carpet Treatment at the Latest Bond Film Premiere and Movie Set Visit

His name is Bond, James Bond. And you’ll rub shoulders with him at the London Premiere of the next Bond film directed by Sam Mendes. Scheduled for October 2015, you’ll have red carpet treatment and hobnob with all the celebrities including Daniel Craig, Ben Whishaw, Naomie Harris and Ralph Fiennes. Fly business class and enjoy complimentary accommodations for two nights.

Value: Priceless (Hotel: $925)

Donated by: Chief Geoffrey Zakarian, The Lamb Club Restaurant and Bar, and The Chatwal Hotel

11 Get on the Bus! Walk-on role in Violet

Enter the spotlight! This is your chance to step onto the stage of one of Broadway’s most anticipated musicals, Violet starring Sutton Foster, with music by Tony-award winning Jeanine Tesori (Thoroughly Modern Millie, Shrek the Musical) and book and lyrics by Bran Crowley (A Little Princess). With your own walk-on role you will experience the thrill of being a Broadway performer! You will rehearse before the show and then transform into your character by slipping into costume. After you make your appearance, you’ll experience the rest of the show on the same bus – from backstage! Plus, eight of your friends and family will have tickets to the performance to watch you shine! When the curtain calls are over, join your guests for an exclusive backstage tour and champagne toast with members of the cast. You’re all set home with a signed Playbill and memories that will raise you up forever!

Restrictions: Walk-on participant must be 16 years or older; walk-on must take place prior to August 10, 2014.

Value: Priceless (Tickets: $1,136)

Donated by: Roundabout Theatre Company

12 And the Winner is….YOU! Two tickets to Elton John AIDS Foundation Academy Award Viewing Party

The winner will receive two tickets to enjoy a cocktail reception, an incredible dinner beginning promptly with the Oscar telecast, an exciting live auction and the after-show party featuring a performance by a special musical guest! For the past nineteen years, this party has attracted luminaries from Hollywood’s celebrity community including Oscar winners Halle Berry, Nicolas Cage, Kevin Costner, Kevin Spacey, Denzel Washington, Catherine Zeta-Jones and more. Recent musical performances include Mary J. Blige, James Blunt, John legend, Grace Jones, Florence & the Machine and Emeli Sandé! You and a guest are flown business class on American Airlines to Los Angeles on Oscar weekend so you can attend the ceremony on Sunday, February 22, 2015. You will enjoy two-night accommodations in a Deluxe Suite at the Beverly Hills InterContinental.

Restrictions: Event date is February 22, 2015. Tickets will be held under the winner’s name at will call. Item cannot be re-auctioned or resold.

Value: Priceless (Airfare: $7,200; Accommodations: $780)

Donated by: Elton John AIDS Foundation, American Airlines, Beverly Hills InterContinental
LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

13 Education at Roundabout: Making a Difference

Providing a well-rounded education, rich in the arts, is the only way to ensure that our young people will be ready to face an ever-changing world. That’s just what Education at Roundabout is doing EVERY day of the school year. Programs like Student Production Workshop are helping develop student skills to succeed by teaching them to think creatively about how they view the world and interact with others. Every gift will impact the lives of students and improve graduation rates. Thank you for making a difference.

$20,000 Underwrites two Apprentices for a year

$10,000 Underwrites a School Partnership

$5,000 supports a child in Student Production Workshop

$2,500 provides training for one Teaching Artist

$1,000 allows one middle or high school class to attend a performance

FOR EVERY $100, you will lend four public school students a matinee ticket. Make a donation by filling out the back of your place mat. Thank you for your support!
It’s hard to imagine Sam Mendes as a relative unknown. But that’s what he was back in 1993, at least in the United States. In London he had re-introduced the underbelly of World War II Berlin in his production of Cabaret at the Donmar Warehouse. Joe Masteroff mentioned to me that there was a brilliant new production of Cabaret happening in London. I wasn’t able to see the production but Joe showed me a video and I was instantly mesmerized. I’d never seen anything like it but one thing I knew for sure – we HAD to do it.

That is how Sam Mendes joined our family and I couldn’t be more proud. Sam’s genius in theatre and film has deservedly earned him international stardom, but it’s his fierce defense of art and of artists, and his unwavering commitment to the most basic and elemental values of creativity that truly make him an extraordinary man of the theatre and an engine of greatness in our field. He brings into each production not only great vision, but a genuine care, sensitivity and integrity that makes him a conduit for catharsis for actors and audiences alike. Sam inspires loyalty, devotion, and ultimately love from his collaborators and friends, who in turn feel the same unshakeable faith from him. It is impossible to overstated the privilege I feel in knowing him as an artist, nor the pride I feel in knowing him as a friend. I am overjoyed and grateful that Sam is once again wielding his great gift in our field. He brings into each production not only great vision, but a genuine care, sensitivity and integrity that makes him a conduit for catharsis for actors and audiences alike. Sam inspires loyalty, devotion, and ultimately love from his collaborators and friends, who in turn feel the same unshakeable faith from him. It is impossible to overstated the privilege I feel in knowing him as an artist, nor the pride I feel in knowing him as a friend. I am overjoyed and grateful that Sam is once again wielding his great gift on behalf of Roundabout.

The theme for tonight’s Gala is In Here, Life is Beautiful – not only a line from Cabaret but an allusion to the genius that is Sam Mendes. How lucky are we that we get a glimpse inside his brilliance just like the Emcee inviting us to see what is behind the closed door of the Kit Kat Klub. I can’t think of anyone more deserving of this year’s Jason Robards Award For Excellence in Theatre.

There are so many important people to thank tonight including our Board of Directors, Leadership Council, staff, and our donors, subscribers, friends and theatre-goers without whose support we simply would not exist. In particular, I want to thank our incredible Gala Co-Chairs, Jeanne Hagerty and Johs Worsoe for their efforts in making this evening a tremendous success. Their leadership has been invaluable in allowing us to reach our ambitious fundraising goal for this event. I also want to thank all of the artists, directors, writers and designers who work with us each season – many of whom are in the room, as well as those artists who are here to pay tribute to Sam tonight. As one of the largest cultural institutions in the country, we rely on the support of all of you and I want to thank you for being here to celebrate both Sam Mendes and Roundabout.

We couldn’t be more thrilled to serve as Co-Chairs of Roundabout Theatre Company’s 2014 Spring Gala, In Here, Life Is Beautiful, honoring the extraordinary Sam Mendes. We have both been long-time fans of Sam’s work on stage and screen. Ask us to share our own personal stories about how Cabaret and Roundabout changed our lives! We cannot believe our good fortune to work with Roundabout, recognize Sam and be a part of Cabaret as privileged members of the Board of Directors. Todd prides himself on the fact that Roundabout Theatre Company is a place where artists are safe to explore and take risks while feeling protected, nurtured and supported. We’ve heard Todd say on numerous occasions that we are as close to a national theatre as you will find in this country. And the sense of community that Todd fosters extends beyond the stage and into the audiences—to the students and teachers in our education programs, to our donors and loyal subscribers. Being a part of Roundabout is like being a part of an extended family; attending a performance is a little like coming home. It is especially important to note that towards the end of his career, Jason Robards embraced Roundabout as his artistic home. We are sure that Mr. Robards would more than approve of honoring Sam with his namesake award tonight, and would join us in welcoming Sam home to the Roundabout Theatre Company family.

There are several other members of the Roundabout family that we want to thank for their incredible generosity in making tonight a success. Gala Vice Chairs – The Alec Baldwin Foundation, Bill Brollle and John Hearn, Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson, Michael T. Cohen, Colliers International NY LLC, Mary Cirillo-Goldberg and Jay Goldberg, Jodi and Dan Glucksman, Sylvia Golden, Kiendl and John Gordon, Stephanie and Ron Kramer, Lisa and Gregg Rechler, Janet and Marvin Rosen and Diane and Tom Tuft – have made all the difference. We also want to thank our Auction Chairs, Sylvia Golden and Janis Ing Strauss as well as our Journal Chairs, Henry Cooperman and Steve Schoko. Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, we want to thank all of you for your generosity to Roundabout both this evening and throughout the year.

Sincerely,
Gala Co-Chairs

Jeanne Hagerty
Johs Worsoe
The Jason Robards Award for Excellence in Theatre is given to individuals and organizations who have made an indelible impact on the theatre world.

It is named after the late Mr. Robards, who found a theatrical home at Roundabout Theatre Company during the final years of his extraordinary 50-year career.

In 1994, Jason Robards made his Roundabout debut in the first New York revival of Harold Pinter’s No Man’s Land with his dear friend, Christopher Plummer. Soon after, he and Chris joined Roundabout’s Board of Directors and worked tirelessly to support Artistic Director Todd Haimes’ idea to create a second, Off-Broadway stage that would be a home to new plays by today’s greatest writers. He became our distinguished Artist-in-Residence during the inaugural 1995-96 season at the Laura Pels Theatre with performances in Pinter’s Moonlight and Brian Friel’s Molly Sweeney and served as a member of Roundabout’s Board until his death in 2000. The Jason Robards Award for Excellence in Theatre is named to honor Mr. Robards’ lifelong commitment to theatre and his incredible support of Roundabout both on stage and off.

The award itself was designed by sculptor Arthur Carter, whose bronze and steel sculptures have been exhibited in New York, Paris and around the globe.
Working with Sam is like making a friend. It’s rare and unexpected and untroubled. I’m still hoping we do the pub singers vomiting version of the greatest hits of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory but with his keen nose for good business, I fear you may never see this. In the meantime please give him even more accolades than he has already got. And send him my love.

– DOUGLAS HODGE, ACTOR

SAM MENDES: EXCELLENCE IN THEATRE
Roundabout Theatre Company initiated the Jason Robards Award For Excellence in Theatre in 2002 to honor organizations and individuals who have made significant contributions to the theater community. Named after our dear friend Jason Robards, one of the great actors of his generation who made Roundabout his artistic home, this year’s awardee, Sam Mendes, stands with the very best in his overreaching influence on theater in the United States and abroad.

Sam Mendes is no stranger to the Roundabout stage. We were fortunate to work with him fairly early in his career, and have watched his artistic growth with admiration. Twenty years ago Roundabout’s Artistic Director Todd Haimes saw Sam’s directorial work in Cabaret and recognized his unique gift as a storyteller. By moving Cabaret to New York, both our history and his was forever impacted. In reaching out to others with whom Sam has worked over the years, it is clear that his gift as a director has made an undeniable impact on many.

Since his meteoric rise through theater and film, Sam has revealed that he works very hard at understanding the approach an actor takes to a given role – he listens, watches, and understands the complex process involved in relaying a believable story. It is through his ability to synthesize his vision and an actor’s performance that his artistry as a director is most evident, and it is that rare talent that we celebrate.

In Sam’s films, it’s always about script and performance first, and himself last.

– PIPPA HARRIS, PRODUCER
Fifteen years ago, I was working with a theater director named Sam Mendes and I was asking myself what exactly I’d signed up for. He and I were working on The Blue Room (and the ten different characters Iain Glen and I were to play on stage) and it was terrifying. I was terrified, I should say. Sam was wonderful and not in the least terrified. He had this crazy belief, a vision for what could be….I am eternally grateful for Sam’s belief and his brilliance because what followed was a transformative time for me. Some of the most rewarding creative experiences of my life came directly and indirectly out of my work with Sam. Sam’s love of actors and the stage, the freedom he allows and the safety he provides, has been a gift to us all. You’ll hear this from anyone he has worked with, anyone who has been moved or inspired by his work. Now, fifteen years later, it’s hard to imagine a time when I would have questioned anything Sam was up to. I would do just about anything for him.

– Nicole Kidman, Actor

In the unlikely event that you have never heard of or seen his rival of Cabaret but simply reviewed the long list of films, theater, and television he has directed and/or produced over the last twenty-five years, it would be easy to single out The Blue Room (1998), Road to Perdition (2002), Uncle Vanya (2002), Away We Go (2009) and the most recent addition — Skyfall (2012) — as typifying the wide net of projects that showcase his intuitive understanding of character development and reveal his unique perspective as a storyteller.

BECOMING A DIRECTOR
Growing up in England in the 1970s, Sam was the only child of an author and a professor and this exposure to literature from a young age clearly influenced his chosen path. Sam attended Peterhouse at Cambridge, and was a member of the prestigious Marlowe Society, a student group founded in 1907 to revive the staging of Shakespeare at Cambridge University. It was through the Society where his talent as a director began to shine, most notably with the 1988 production of Cyrano starring Tom Hollander. Also an avid cricket player, Sam played throughout his school and university years and remains a vocal fan of the sport. In fact, if truth be told, it was cricket that came first….then a love of theater.

Directly out of Cambridge in the late 1980s, Sam was involved with a string of highly-respected British theater companies (Chichester Festival Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company) directing a variety of critically received plays and musicals (Major Barbara, The Tempest). By 1992, at an impressively young age, Sam became the first Artistic Director of the newly-rechristened Donmar Warehouse, overseeing its rise to prominence among West End theaters while simultaneously directing revivals of plays and musical classics, such as Assassins and Threepenny Opera. Under his direction, Donmar Warehouse became and remains one of the standard bearers of bold new interpretation of Shakespeare classics, and new works by emerging playwrights.

CABARET – A GRITTY TAKE ON A CLASSIC MUSICAL
When Sam first collaborated with Roundabout the year was 1995. Only 4 years earlier we had arrived on Broadway in a big way, proving ourselves with several major critical successes (Anna Christie, She Loves Me, No Man’s Land, to name but a few). In 1993, Todd Haimes had seen Sam’s bold re-envisioned production of Cabaret in London’s Donmar Warehouse and was determined to bring it to New York, knowing that Sam’s visionary work would touch a chord with New York audiences. The London production (which also starred Alan Cumming in his sexually-charged turn as the Emcee) and its Director had already received serious accolades (four Olivier nominations) providing just enough excitement with the allure of this iconic show staged entirely in an actual cabaret setting. The collaboration between the two Artistic Directors — Todd and Sam — proved to be nothing short of golden.

– Alan Cumming, Actor
After over two years of initial meetings and planning which involved the logistics of locating just the right cabaret location (finding a 500 seat gritty cabaret space was a challenging endeavor for a not-for-profit theatre company in the mid-1990s), a venue was finally found in Club Xenon which was ensconced within the architectural theater gem then known as the Henry Miller’s Theatre (now the Stephen Sondheim Theatre) on West 43rd Street. This venue, which became known as the Kit Kat Klub, remained in operation as a nightclub in the after-hours when Cabaret closed each night, adding to the authenticity of the theater piece as an actual nightclub. In order to lend a Broadway-sensibility to the production, Sam teamed with multi-talented director/choreographer Rob Marshall to act as co-director. The production opened to New York audiences in March 1998, and what an opening it was.

Cabaret is a storied musical with a life all its own but Sam’s version, with its emphasis on the gritty darkness of the world at the time of the Weimar Republic, brought to the stage a fresh imagining of the bruised and battered cabaret world in Germany on the eve of Nazi occupation. The performers had haunted looks, wore little more than flimsy lingerie (designed by the great William Ivey Long), and an overall eerie atmosphere was created by famed lighting designer Peggy Eisenhoffer and set designer Robert Brill. Through the outstanding design, direction, and performances, this Cabaret captured a specific time and place that previous stagings of Cabaret had not. It was also the first time Broadway had experienced truly immersive theatre. Actors were asked to play instruments, drinks were served at the seats and no one was given a Playbill until the end of the show, all in the interest of keeping the audience fully in the world of Cabaret. The immersive trend is now widely used with new musicals, but it all can be traced back to this production of Cabaret in 1998.

As an environmental theater piece, the production had a remarkable impact on New York audiences; in fact, the New York production surpassed its London counterpart, ultimately running for six years, earning countless critical awards (Tony for Best Musical and bests for actors Alan Cumming, Natasha Richardson and Ron Rifkin; numerous Drama Desk and Outer Critics Awards) and hosted a revolving roster of stellar cast members (Neil Patrick Harris, Michael C. Hall, Brooke Shields, Raul Esparza, and Mary McCormack name but a few). After nearly a year at the Kit Kat Klub at the Henry Miller’s Theatre, the production was forced to move after a nearby construction accident closed 43rd Street.

As fate would have it, Roundabout’s Board member Douglas Durst suggested iconic Studio 54 as the next location. In record-breaking time, Cabaret moved to what would become Roundabout’s musical theatre home — Studio 54 — where it ran for an additional five years. Sam’s gutsy version of Cabaret remains one of the most memorable musical productions in New York theatre history. The far-reaching impact on Roundabout’s institutional history and the environmental theater genre is multifold: Cabaret places as one of Roundabout’s seminal productions, and 16 years later the show continues to inform approaches to theater production using the exchange between audience and environment. Cabaret brought Roundabout to the very center of Broadway, and arguably did the same for Sam Mendes in London and beyond.
TELLING THE STORY THROUGH A VARIETY OF MEDIUMS

Through Sam’s successful reimagining of the history and characters of Cabaret, in 1998 the film world took note of his standout talent, one that seamlessly portrays story, people, and place with such insight. Filmmaker/producer Steven Spielberg saw Sam’s work in Cabaret, prompting an offer to Sam to direct a DreamWorks Studios film. The film, American Beauty, featured actor Kevin Spacey as unforgettable Lester Burnham, a man falling deeply into the pitfalls of a midlife crisis. The film was the breakout winner of the 2000 Academy Awards, ultimately earning awards in best picture, actor, original screenplay, cinematography, and director categories.

While his career was expanding to include film, Sam continued as Artistic Director at Donmar Warehouse through 2001, leaving only to start an independent producing company, Neal Street Productions, with Donmar producing partner Caro Newling and childhood friend and BBC producer, Pippa Harris. By 2003, Neal Street Productions was producing (and, in several cases, Sam Mendes directing) across theatre, film and television, ultimately releasing notable projects such as: theater — The Bridge Project, a five-year transatlantic venture partnering Brooklyn Academy of Music and London’s Old Vic Theatre, touring Shakespeare and Chekhov to over fifteen countries world-wide (featuring Stephen Dillane, Rebecca Hall, Ethan Hawke, Simon Russell Beale, Juliet Rylance, and Kevin Spacey); films — Jarhead, Revolutionary Road, Starter for Ten, Things We Lost in the Fire; and original television — Call the Midwife, Stuart: A Life Backwards (the BBC’s highest rated drama since records began). Neal Street recent projects include: The Hollow Crown — an award-winning series of TV films based on Shakespeare’s best loved history plays, for the BBC/WNET Thirteen/NBC Universal; a co-production with Desert Wolf Productions of a new horror series, written by John Logan for Showtime; the 2013 Mendes-directed world premiere of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory starring Douglas Hodge; and the 2014 King Lear at the National Theatre. Sam has also signed on to direct the upcoming James Bond film (tentatively called Bond 24), solidifying his place as one our generation’s great directors.

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THE COMPLETE GALA JOURNAL IS NOW GREEN!
Please visit www.roundabouttheatre.org/gala to view our Digital Gala Journal with messages from friends and fans of Sam Mendes and Roundabout.

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Iris A. Brown Design
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Pippa Harris and Carlo Newling, Neal Street Productions
Tiffany Nixon
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Darren DeVerna, Production Resource Group
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Shane Shanahan
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THE MUSICAL TRIBUTE BAND

Piano Jim Laev
Bass Billy Sloat
Drums Eric Poland

ADDITIONAL TRIBUTE CREDITS

Production Stage Manager Peter Hanson
Associate General Manager Maggie Cantrick
Assistant Director Sharon Harlevy
Video Programmer Majid Younis
Film Editor Jesse Patch
Associate Composer Curtis Moore
Associate Sound Designer Josh Liebert
Technical Director Robert Mansmann
Production Electrician Paul Dreher
Production Carpenter Bob Weiss
Production Rigger Chris Whitacre
Writer Adam Gwon
Wardrobe Supervisor Susan Fallon

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There are only a few hours left to bid on the VIP sports packages, theatre tickets, celebrity encounters, Roundabout memorabilia, fine dining opportunities, and other exclusive items.

All proceeds from the auction benefit Roundabout’s Musical Theatre Fund and Education programs.

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Here’s to those who elevate the world around them.

American Airlines is proud to support Roundabout Theatre Company and congratulates this year’s honoree, Sam Mendes.
Special Thanks to
Jim Carter
at American Airlines

A gift to the stage,
A gift to the screen.
Congratulations
Sam Mendes

THE ALEC BALDWIN FOUNDATION
dear sam —
as i believe i said when we first met many years ago —
thank god you’re here.
much love and respect,
alan ball
Congratulations, Sam, for your breakthrough contributions to stage and film.

And thank you for making life so beautiful for Roundabout theatregoers.

BILL BORRELLE AND JOHN HEARN
We have total admiration for Sam Mendes and his extraordinary body of work both in the theatre and in film. He has great talent and vision. In the 50th year of the Bond franchise, *Skyfall* was a terrific film and we are delighted to have him back for *Bond 24*.

**BARBARA BROCCOLI AND MICHAEL G. WILSON:**

Congratulations Sam on receiving the Jason Robards Award for Excellence in Theatre

Love,

Michael and Barbara
Congratulations to Alan Cumming, Sam Mendes, and everyone at Roundabout Theatre Company for another fabulous season!

R. Martin Chavez

Goldman Sachs Gives

Congratulations to honoree Sam Mendes
And to our dear friends Todd, Julia and Harold
Thank you for all the magic of theater at Roundabout!!!

Much Love,
MARY CIRILLO-GOLDBERG
AND JAY GOLDBERG
Congratulations to
Sam Mendes

DEBORAH AND
GERALD DAVIS
A giant round of applause to Roundabout, from your friends at Dechert LLP.

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The Walt Disney Studios is proud to support

Roundabout Theatre Company

Congratulations
Sam Mendes
ALAN CUMMING:

Late in 1999 I found myself in a hotel in Vancouver, bored. I had gone there to act in a film with Sylvester Stallone and Mickey Rourke. Their climactic encounter was taking longer to shoot than anyone expected so I was on hold, awaiting their pugilistic pow-wow to conclude.

I picked up a newspaper and realized that Sam’s directorial film debut American Beauty was playing in a theater down the street, so off I went, remembering him speaking of its preparations when he came back for visits during my run in Cabaret.

The costume designer on the Sly flick, Julie Weiss, had also done American Beauty and had promised me I would be entranced. She was wrong. When I left the cinema I was overcome with pride. I emailed Sam straight away to tell him I had just seen great art: clever, theatrical storytelling combined with masterly filmic imagery and I felt truly proud to call him a friend.

Now every time I see a plastic bag surfing on a breeze, I think of him.
Congratulations to honoree Sam Mendes for receiving the Jason Robards Award! We are proud to support Roundabout Theatre Company and are thrilled to be a part of the Roundabout family.

KIENDL AND JOHN GORDON

Congratulations to Roundabout Theatre Company and its extraordinary staff! It has been such a joy and so exciting to work with you all on this project again this year. I am very proud and consider myself very fortunate to be a member of this family!

SYLVIA GOLDEN
In Sam’s films, it’s always about script and performance first, and himself last. Too often with other directors the reverse is true!

As a fellow producer, Sam has an amazing ability to step back and see the bigger picture. Often on a TV show, when I can’t see the wood for the trees, he’ll come in with one insightful note, which will transform the whole series.
Congratulations
Good Luck
and
Continuous Success
to
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Congratulations
SAM MENDES
and all our friends at
ROUNDABOUT THEATRE COMPANY
Congratulations to Roundabout Theatre Company for continued excellence.

MICHAEL KORS and LANCE LEPERE
Working with Sam is like making a friend. It’s rare and unexpected and untroubled. I’m still hoping we do the pub singers vomiting version of the greatest hits of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, but with his keen nose for good business I fear you may never see this. In the meantime, please give him even more accolades than he has already got and send him my love.
Life is a cabaret, old chum!
Much love.

Carlet
Fifteen years ago, I was working with a theater director named Sam Mendes and I was asking myself what exactly I’d signed up for. He and I were working on *The Blue Room* (and the ten different characters Iain Glen and I were to play on stage) and it was terrifying. I was terrified, I should say. Sam was wonderful and not in the least terrified. He had this crazy belief, a vision for what could be. I wasn’t so sure, but decided he knew what he was doing (and I probably did not) and I should just lose myself to the process. I am eternally grateful for Sam’s belief and his brilliance because what followed was a transformative time for me. Some of the most rewarding creative experiences of my life came directly and indirectly out of my work with Sam. Sam’s love of actors and the stage, the freedom he allows and the safety he provides, has been a gift to us all. You’ll hear this from anyone he has worked with, anyone who has been moved or inspired by his work. Now, fifteen years later, it’s hard to imagine a time when I would have questioned anything Sam was up to. I would do just about anything for him. In the meantime, I offer my gratitude and congratulations.

Love,
Nicole
Kramer Levin’s Business Immigration Group

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“extraordinary” director.

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Sam Mendes our clients.

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OLD CHUM.

LOVE,
SPOTCO

In Honor of
Stephanie & Ron Kramer
Congratulations on another
Successful Gala!

MICHELLE AND HOWARD
SWARZMAN
I am thrilled to be working with Sam again on the upcoming production of Cabaret. Sam is truly an actor’s director. His in-depth dramaturgy is only rivaled by his research, in which he embarks on a true deep-sea diving expedition, never surfacing because his proverbial tank is always full. Actors are in the best possible hands when working with Sam. It has been a challenging joy to re-explore this project with him.

MICHELLE AND HOWARD SWARZMAN

In Honor of Lisa & Gregg Rechler
Congratulations on another Successful Gala!
We salute SAM MENDES for his extraordinary talent. Thank you for bringing Cabaret back to Studio 54.

Cheers to Todd Haimes and the entire team at Roundabout.

TOM AND DIANE TUFT

Congratulations to honoree Sam Mendes and everyone at Roundabout Theatre Company for a successful Gala and another wonderful season!

CYNTHIA C. WAINWRIGHT AND STEPHEN BERGER
With appreciation to Todd Haimes for his vision in choosing iconic artists such as Alan Cumming and our honoree Sam Mendes.

Fondly,

JOAN COHEN, better known as Michael Cohen’s Mother

In honor of Stephanie Kramer and Cathy Lasry for all of their hard work. Congratulations on a successful Gala!

LISA PEVAROFF-COHN AND GARY COHN
Here’s to Roundabout Theatre Company and another successful Gala!

PATRICIA AND BERNARD GOLDSTEIN

Congratulations to Roundabout Theatre for putting Sam Mendes on the map at Studio 54.
And congratulations to Sam Mendes for putting Roundabout Theatre on the map at Studio 54.

PERRY AND MARTIN GRANOFF

We are proud to support Roundabout Theatre Company and are glad to be a part of the Roundabout family.

HARRY AND BARBARA GOULD

Congratulations to our friends Stephanie and Ron Kramer.

JILL AND JIMMY HABER
ROB MARSHALL:

Sam is my British brother. We entered a ‘pre-arranged marriage’ with Cabaret in 1997 and I have been learning from him and been inspired by him ever since. He brings brilliant artistry, humor, integrity, and wild creativity to everything he touches. Plus, he is a great friend — supportive, generous and loyal — who is always there for you. I am so proud of my amazing brother tonight. He really is... ‘perfectly marvelous!’

Meryl Hartzband

Congratulations to honoree Sam Mendes and everyone at Roundabout Theatre Company for another fabulous season!

Avenue Capital Group congratulates SAM MENDES and proudly supports our friends at ROUNDABOUT THEATRE COMPANY
We are thrilled to support Roundabout Theatre Company and congratulate Michael Cohen, the Gala Co-Chairs and their fellow Board Members for their unwavering support of the arts.

CYNTHIA R. NEIDITCH
Counsel Abstract

Dear Sam,
We have known each other for so long, going all the way back to our days in London. I am delighted to see you back at Roundabout for this marvelous play.

With my thoughts and best wishes for you and Cabaret,

LAURA PELS

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Congratulations to honoree Sam Mendes and everyone at Roundabout Theatre Company for another fabulous season!

STEVEN A. SANDERS AND MADELYN SIMON
In 1995 I flew to London—anxious to see the new production of *Cabaret* at the Donmar. It was directed by an Englishman named Sam. I’d heard it was quite good. When I entered the theater, I was informed that Mr. Mendes couldn’t be there—but would call me tomorrow. And he did. After a few uneasy seconds he asked me how I liked the show. I said something original like “Great!” “Really?” he said. “I loved it!!” I said. And he said “Let’s have lunch!!” You know the rest.

Congratulations to honoree Sam Mendes, a fantastic Board led by our friend Tom Tuft and everyone at Roundabout Theatre Company for another fabulous season!

We are thrilled to be a part of the Roundabout family.

**FERN AND LENARD TESSLER**
MIKE NICHOLS:

My family and I take a little plane sometimes when we’re going to our house on Martha’s Vineyard and once while we were waiting out a thunderstorm on the runway my cell phone rang and it was Stephen Spielberg. I said, “Hello Stephen.” He said, “Where are you?” I said, “Well actually we’re on the runway at Teterboro and we’re pulled over waiting out a thunderstorm.” And he said, “Waiting out a thunderstorm?! What is your plane?” I said “Citation XL.” He said, “Well your plane is too small!” Stifling a smile I said, “Be that as it may….you called?” He says, “Oh, yes. Listen, you’ve got to make up your mind about whether you’re going to direct American Beauty or not.” I said, “I know, I’m sorry, I need a little more time.” He said, “Well, I don’t know how much time I want to give you because if you don’t do it we’ve now got Sam Mendes.” I said, “Oh well, if you’ve got Sam don’t wait. Take him. Sam will do a wonderful job.” And so he did and Sam did and I had the dubious pleasure of wondering if I made a mistake. But when I think about the career that followed, for Sam, I think that none of us made a mistake.
Dear Sam, I’ll always remember working with you on The Cherry Orchard as one of the best of times. I wish you a great evening and good times to come.

TOM STOPPARD
IN HERE,
Life IS BEAUTIFUL

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE REMARKABLE HONOREE
SAM MENDES

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