

**IN HERE,  
Life IS BEAUTIFUL**



**SPRING GALA 2014**

**CELEBRATING THE EXTRAORDINARY  
SAM MENDES**

Monday, March 10, 2014  
Hammerstein Ballroom



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**Life IS BEAUTIFUL**

## SPRING GALA 2014

CELEBRATING THE EXTRAORDINARY

### SAM MENDES

Monday, March 10, 2014

#### GALA CHAIRS

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Johannes (Johs) Worsoe,  
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#### LIGHTING DESIGN

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#### SOUND DESIGN

Peter Fitzgerald

#### COMPOSER

Mark Bennett

#### CHOREOGRAPHER

Josh Prince

#### VIDEO DESIGN

Benjamin Percy

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.

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Todd Haimes



## SPRING GALA 2014 PROGRAM

#### WELCOME

Johs Worsoe and Jeanne Hagerty

#### LIVE AUCTION AUCTIONEER

CK Swett

*(Auction Items listed inside)*

## CELEBRATING THE EXTRAORDINARY SAM MENDES

#### THE MENU

##### MADURA'S FARM MUSHROOM TART

Gruyere, Herb Salad, Balsamic Reduction

##### SEARED FILET OF BEEF

Saffron Orzo, Haricot Vert, Red Pepper Jus

##### BITTERSWEET MILK CHOCOLATE GANACHE

Sauce Framboise, Chocolate Cake Crumble

#### CATERING BY SONNIER & CASTLE

#### SPIRIT SPONSOR

**SVEDKA**  
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*Beautiful Vineyard.*

SINCE **BV** 1900

## LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

### 1 Original Song by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman

You surely can't stop the beat while you tap 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, Bette 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 tune just for you, delivered as sheet music!

**RESTRICTIONS:** Winner must provide song details by June 2014; Writers have until March 2015 to deliver.

**VALUE:** Priceless

**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 prep for your rockin' night with a pre-show dinner at Aureole — home to Charlie Palmer's signature progressive American cuisine. Then, head over to the Belasco Theatre and enjoy a performance of *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 and hang with one of Broadway's hottest stars!

**RESTRICTIONS:** Valid for two and a half weeks from March 31st thru April 16th 2014 on a Monday through Thursday evening.

**VALUE:** Priceless (Meal/Tickets: \$1,008)

**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 (multi-starred, by both NY Times and Michelin at Lespinasse, Les 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.

You and up to three friends will spend the morning with Christian in the green market where you will learn his secrets of how to forage through the season's bounty. Dinner that night, in your home, will be for you and 7 friends, with wines perfectly matched by Master of Wine, Charles Curtis (currently a private consultant, former Director of Wine and Spirit Education at Moët Hennessy USA, former head of Wine for Asia and the Americas at Christies, who began his professional career as a Cordon Bleu trained chef), who will be with you through the evening sharing his knowledge and insights into the fabulous wines that will be paired with your extraordinary dinner. For the food and wine lover, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity that you can't pass up.

**RESTRICTIONS:** Must be scheduled at mutually agreeable times. Must take place in Manhattan. If winner prefers, Roundabout board member, Sylvia Golden will gladly provide her Manhattan townhome for event.

**VALUE:** Priceless

**DONATED BY:** Christian Delouvrier, Charles Curtis, Sylvia Golden

## LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

### 4 Your Broadway Debut is not so Far Away Walk-On Role in Beautiful, the Musical

Places, please! It's time for your Broadway debut with a walk-on role in the new Carole 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 Bosner 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 very 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!

**RESTRICTIONS:** Not valid Christmas Week (December 24, 2014 – January 4, 2015) and Presidents Week (February 13 – February 22, 2015).

**VALUE:** Priceless (Airfare: \$16,000, Club: not available to purchase)

**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 they 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 décor, 6 seasonal flower arrangements from Lewis Miller Design will be delivered to your home.

Prior to the event, you'll have your own phone consultation with Ron Ben-Israel (world-renowned cake artist and host of Food Network's *Sweet Genius*) to come up with a perfect cake for your evening! On the day of your party, Ron will deliver the cake to your home with ALL of the accessories to decorate with friends — led by Ron himself! Once you have created your dream cake — Ron will serve it up. This is an *exclusive experience* that Ron Ben-Israel is only making available to you for this event! It doesn't get much sweeter than that.

**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 Party cannot be purchased)

**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! Light 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

### 8 An American in Paris: Eleven French Nights to Make Gene Kelly Jealous!

The beaucoup-ness of it all! Seven glorious days in Paris, four wine-drenched days in Bordeaux, plus business class transatlantic flights, plus, plus, plus.....

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

To commence, 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, two-bath 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 l'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 Aquarium of the newly-reopened Plaza Athénée with a champagne aperitif with Chef Ducasse himself (based on his availability, but you can get him if you plan your trip according to his calendar). Then, a 4-night food and wine extravaganza awaits you in Bordeaux, the world's most renowned wine region.

Join International Business and Wine President Omar Khan, who curates extraordinary wine and food occasions around the world, on a once-in-a-lifetime intimate visit to Bordeaux. This priceless experience includes private invitations to the most renowned and exclusive châteaux in the world.

The four days include two nights at the hotel at Chateau Cordeillan Bages and at the Hostellerie De Plaisance, plus private car transport, and all meals including the iconic restaurant La Tupina in Bordeaux, and Cordeillan Bages' exquisite Michelin 2-star restaurant....plus many lunches and dinners at various other chateaux. (Needless to say, exquisite wine pairings will accompany every meal!)

Visits include:

- Behind the scenes look at one of the most illustrious "super seconds" and lunch with its visionary winemaker.
- Afternoon with one of the world renowned first growths and tour of its private museum.
- Behind the scenes visit at another legendary first growth and lunch with its long-time winemaker.

- St. Emilion tasting at a top chateau (highest classification in St. Emilion), including dinner with the owner and a world champion sommelier.
- Behind the scenes at another top St. Emilion estate, one of the most beloved wineries in the world, lunch with its CEO and a world champion sommelier.
- Evening with a UK-based wine author who is recognized as the world's top expert on Pomerol...at Pomerol's most renowned winery. Dinner with one of the owners, plus a visit to a neighboring estate.

Names will be revealed by the auctioneer! You will never think of Bordeaux the same way again!

**RESTRICTIONS:** Valid through March 11, 2015. Must be scheduled for a mutually agreeable date with owners. Tickets to Theatre de l'Atelier are dependent on production schedules to be determined. Lunch or dinner at the Aquarium 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-Athenee, Le Meurice, Laura Pels, Alyce Toonk, Omar Khan and each of the Bordeaux participants, 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.

As an added bonus, go behind the camera and experience what goes into the making of a real Hollywood blockbuster. Fly yourself to visit Sam Mendes on the set anytime during shooting that fits into your schedule. It may be anywhere in the world so make sure your passport is up to date! As James Bond would expect, locations and schedules are top secret and will be shared with the winner at a later date. This once in a lifetime experience should be shaken, not stirred! Enjoy!

continued >

## LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

**RESTRICTIONS:** Winner must provide own flights to Bond film set; location to be determined. Premiere date will be non-negotiable; hotel accommodations and flights will be scheduled to coincide. One couple invited to premiere; up to 4 people allowed on film set.

**VALUE:** Priceless (Airfare/Accommodations: valued in 2015)

**DONATED BY:** Sam Mendes, Barbara Broccoli & Michael G. Wilson, Roundabout Theatre Company

### 10 You'll never get CHOPPED in Geoffrey Zakarian's Kitchen Sous Chef for a Day at The Lambs Club

Looking to test your taste buds? Spend a day in the kitchen of The Lambs Club run by renowned Chef Geoffrey Zakarian, star of *Iron Chef*, *Chopped*, and *The Kitchen*. Create a spectacular dinner menu for you and five guests. First, meet up with Chef Zakarian for a tour and to get acquainted with the facility. Then work side by side with the culinary team as you learn insider tricks of the trade and help ready your feast for that evening. Once your kitchen duties are over, head upstairs to your very own Deluxe King Guestroom (yours for the night) at the Chatwal Hotel, a gorgeous salute to the baby grand hotels of Manhattan. Then join your guests at The Lambs Club to show off your culinary creations. Geoffrey will be on hand to greet you with a cocktail and explain the menu for your meal – Bon Appetit!

**RESTRICTIONS:** Date must be scheduled at a mutually agreeable time; dinner must be scheduled after 7:00 PM and is not available in December.

**VALUE:** Priceless (Hotel: \$925)

**DONATED BY:** Chef Geoffrey Zakarian, The Lambs 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-nominee Jeanine Tesori (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*; *Shrek the Musical*) and book and lyrics by Brian Crawley (*A Little Princess*). With your own walk-on role you will experience the thrills 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 this truly powerful show like no one else – 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 will go 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 Sande!

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:** Donated by Elton John AIDS Foundation, American Airlines, Beverly Hills InterContinental

American Airlines 

continued >

## LIVE AUCTION ITEMS



PHOTO BY LORENZO CINIGLIO

### 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 student develop skills to succeed by teaching them to think creatively about how they view the world and interact with others. Education at Roundabout has reached more than 60,000 students since 2003 and with your help we will continue to reach many more. 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 send four public school students to a matinee performance

Make a donation by filling out the back of your place card. Thank you for your support!

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPRING GALA DONORS

As of March 6, 2014

### GALA LEADERSHIP TABLE

Jeanne and Tom Hagerty

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 Bill Borrelle and John Hearn  
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## A LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR TODD HAIMES



Todd Haimes

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 overstate 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.

## A LETTER FROM THE GALA CHAIRS



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 Borrelle 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 Schroko. 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

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## JASON ROBARDS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THEATRE

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.

### RECIPIENTS OF THE JASON ROBARDS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THEATRE:

#### 2014

Sam Mendes

#### 2012

Rob Marshall

#### 2011

Alec Baldwin

#### 2009

Bank of America

Douglas Durst, The Durst Organization

#### 2007

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg

Speaker Christine C. Quinn,  
Council of the City of New York

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#### 2004

John Kander

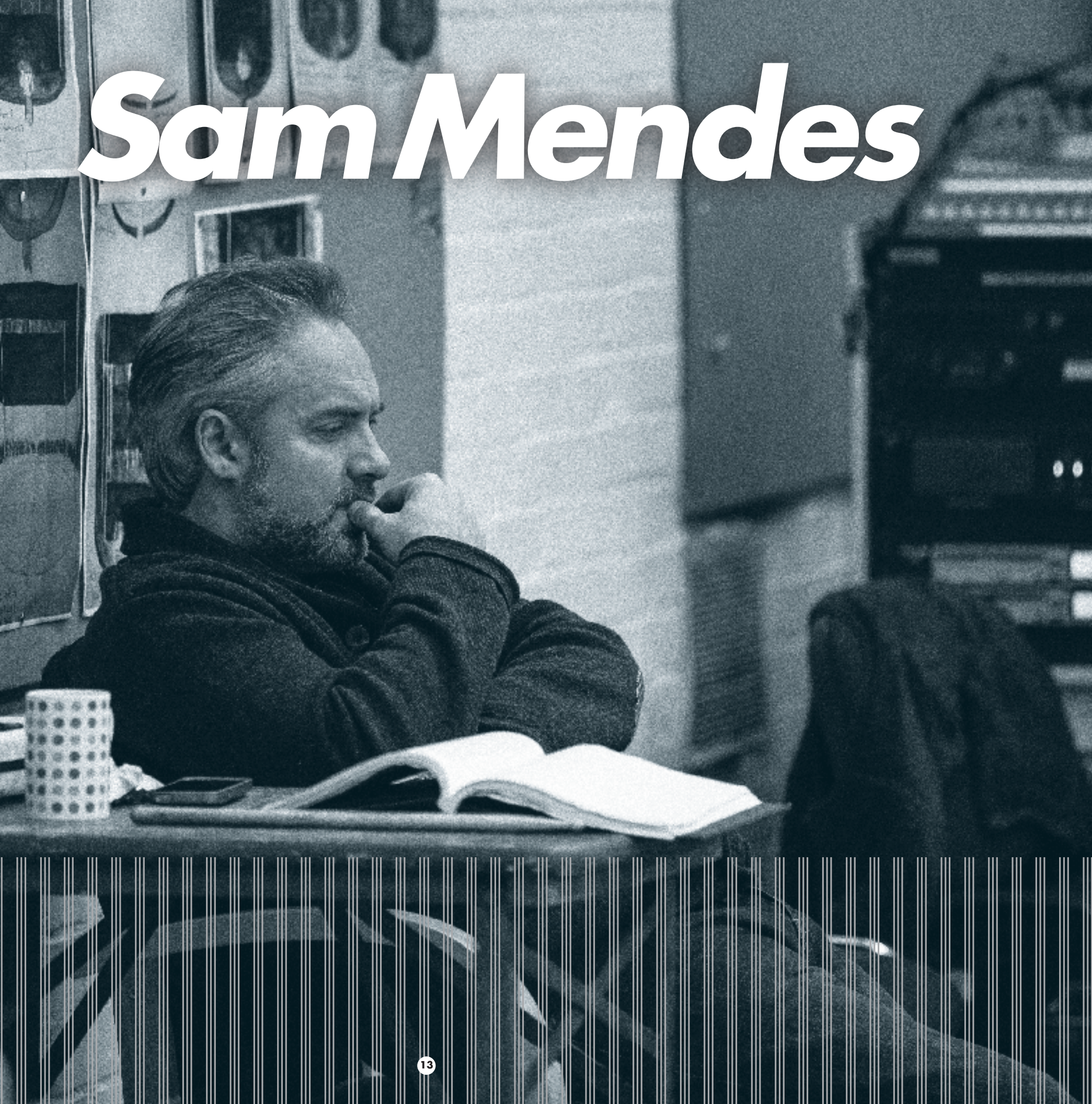
Fred Ebb

#### 2002

Christopher Plummer



# Sam Mendes



“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 Haines 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



PHOTO BY FRANCOIS DUHAMEL

PHOTO BY MARK DOUJET





PHOTO BY MARK DOUET

“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

#### 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.

“What excited me and persuaded me to do *Cabaret* with Sam for the first time in London in 1993 was his absolute insistence that we should honor the authenticity and true grit of the period.

– ALAN CUMMING, ACTOR

PHOTO BY JOAN MARCUS

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



“Spielberg said “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.

– MIKE NICHOLS, DIRECTOR

flimsy lingerie (designed by the great William Ivey Long), and an overall eerie atmosphere was created by famed lighting designer Peggy Eisenhower 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 of our generation's great directors.

## CABARET: TELLING THE STORY ANEW

As Sam's career and reputation took off, Roundabout also

*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.*

**- MICHAEL G. WILSON  
AND BARBARA BROCCOLI,  
PRODUCERS**

grew, becoming one of New York City's pre-eminent cultural institutions, mounting emboldened productions of classics and musicals as well as works by new playwrights on five separate stages. Three years ago, Todd Haimes decided to revisit the milestone production of *Cabaret* and sought out old friends and collaborators Sam Mendes and Rob Marshall (along with Alan Cumming) to again bring to the stage this remarkable production for a new generation. We are thrilled to rediscover *Cabaret*

through this excellent new cast, which includes Alan Cumming (revisiting the role of Emcee), Michelle Williams as Sally Bowles, Linda Emond as Fraulein Schneider, and Danny Burstein as Herr Schultz.

It is hard to believe that it has been twenty years since *Cabaret* was first staged. As we again offer this seminal production of *Cabaret* to a new generation of audiences and artists we are thrilled to pay tribute to our dear friend, Sam Mendes, and award him the *Jason Robards Award For Excellence In Theatre*.

*I have watched with great admiration and affection Sam's journey into the tiny group of truly great directors. It's a joy to be reminded...after so many years...what a talented man he is!*

**- JOHN KANDER, COMPOSER**

## WE THANK THE FOLLOWING WHO HELPED MAKE TONIGHT POSSIBLE

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**Drums** Eric Poland

## THE COMPLETE GALA JOURNAL IS NOW GREEN!

Please visit [www.roundabouttheatre.org/gala](http://www.roundabouttheatre.org/gala) to view our Digital Gala Journal with messages from friends and fans of Sam Mendes and Roundabout.

## ONLINE AUCTION

[www.biddingforgood.com/roundabouttheatre](http://www.biddingforgood.com/roundabouttheatre)

**BID NOW!**  
 The online auction will close at 9:00PM on Tuesday, March 11, 2014.

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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Sam Mendes.



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A stylized, layered version of the American Airlines logo, consisting of a series of overlapping, curved shapes that form the letters 'A' and 'A'. The colors transition from light gray to dark gray.

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**Jim Carter**

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

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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

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ENTERTAINMENT



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for your breakthrough  
contributions to stage  
and film.**

**And thank you for  
making life so beautiful  
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**BILL BORRELLE AND  
JOHN HEARN**





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

Love,  
Michael and Barbara

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MICHAEL G. WILSON:**

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*.



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**



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**Congratulations to  
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A giant round of applause  
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*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 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**

**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**



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and  
Continuous Success  
to  
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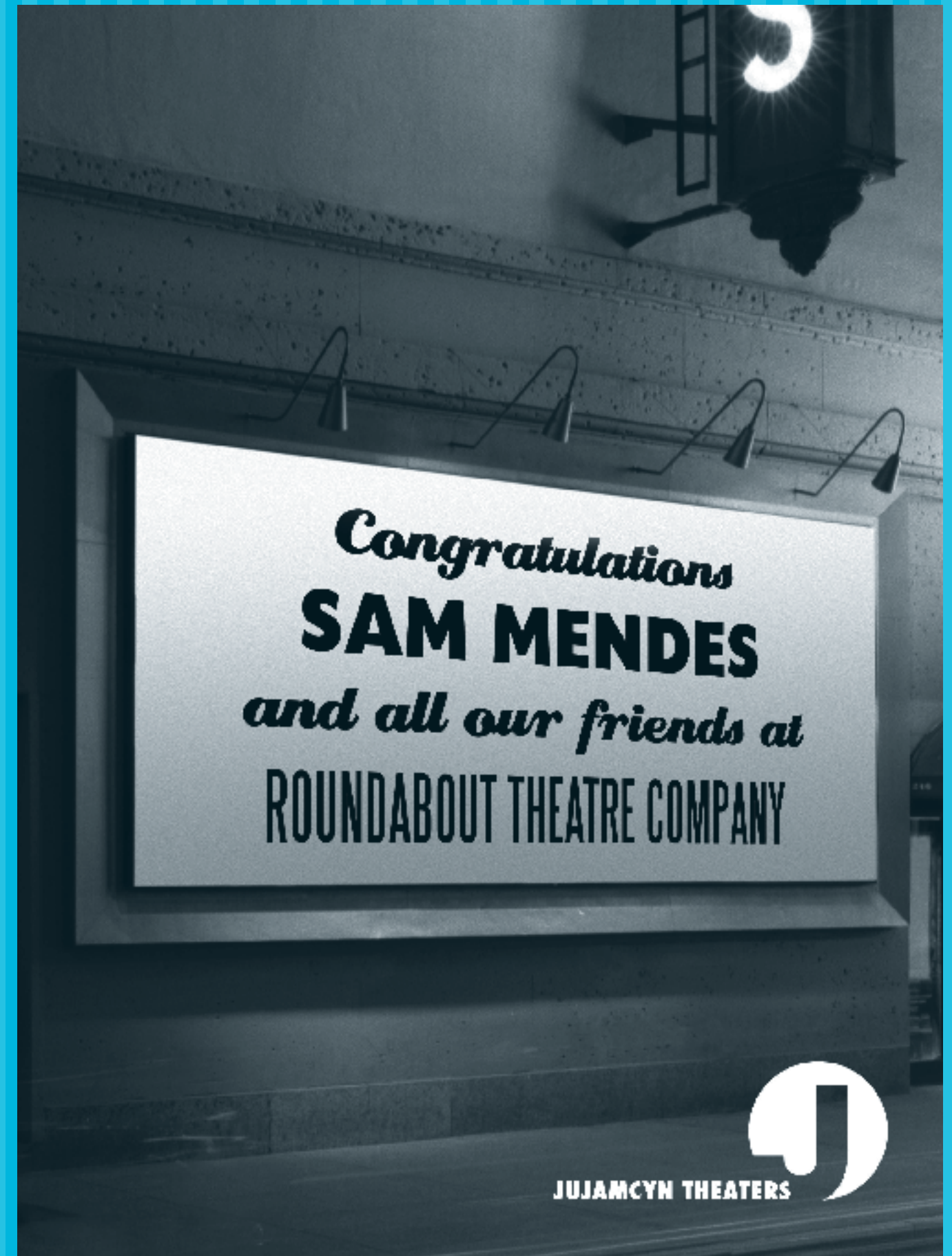
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**DOUGLAS HODGE:**

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,

*Canessa*



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## NICOLE KIDMAN:

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

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**SAM MENDES**  
for receiving the  
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Stephanie & Ron Kramer  
Congratulations on another  
Successful Gala!**

**MICHELLE AND HOWARD  
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**In Honor of  
Lisa & Gregg Rechler**

**Congratulations on another  
Successful Gala!**

**MICHELLE AND HOWARD  
SWARZMAN**

## **WILLIAM IVEY LONG:**

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.



**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!**

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**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**

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**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!'



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

*Meryl Hartzband*



Avenue Capital Group  
congratulates

**SAM MENDES**

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**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**

## JOE MASTEROFF:

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.

## STEVEN SPIELBERG

Sam:

You have made Roundabout's theatre lovers proud of all your accomplishments.

Congratulations on your Jason Robards Award.



**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.

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Here's to another  
wonderful season for  
Roundabout

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ANGRY MEN

ANYTHING  
GOES

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Congratulations to Sam Mendes on being honored at the Spring Gala 2014.

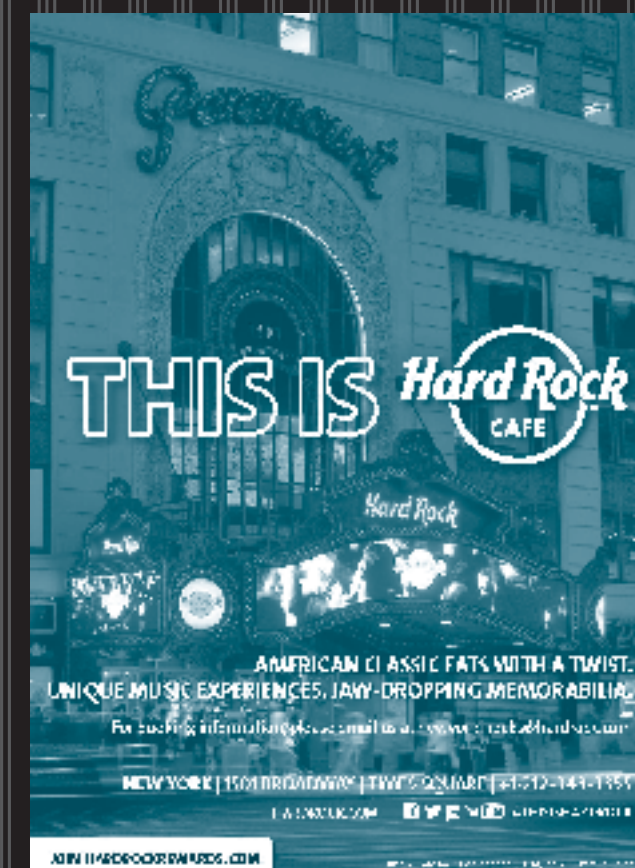
Congratulations to Henry Cooperman on being selected Chair for the Digital Gala Journal.

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Congratulations to tonight's honoree,  
Director Sam Mendes, on receiving the  
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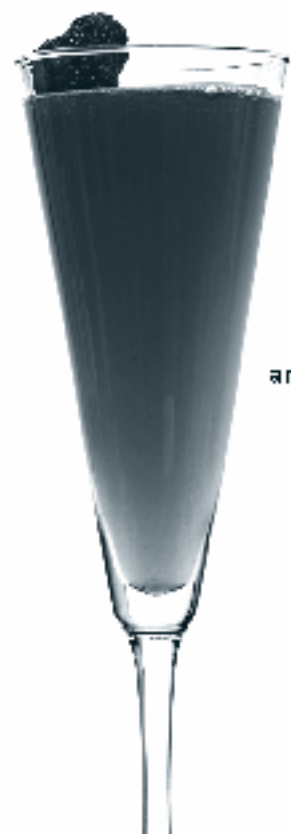


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## TOM STOPPARD:

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.



*Cheers!*

to our friends and  
colleagues at

**ROUNABOUT  
THEATRE  
COMPANY**

and this evening's honoree

**SAM MENDES**



**ROSENWACH**  
THE WATER SOURCE

CONGRATULATIONS

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TO THE REMARKABLE HONOREE

SAM MENDES

BOB BOYETT

*Robert Boyett*  
THEATRICALS