University of Florida Performing Arts

presents

Marvin Hamlisch &
Joel Grey

Saturday, October 13, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by


**BIOGRAPHIES**

**MARVIN HAMLISCH**

Marvin Hamlisch’s life in music is notable for its great versatility as well as substance.

As a composer, Hamlisch has won virtually every major award that exists; four Grammys®, four Emmys®, a Tony® and three Golden Globe awards; his groundbreaking show *A Chorus Line*, received a Pulitzer Prize.

Among the Broadway shows Hamlisch has composed are *They’re Playing Our Song, The Goodbye Girl, Sweet Smell of Success* and *Imaginary Friends*. Hamlisch is the composer of more than 40 motion picture scores including his Oscar-winning score and song for *The Way We Were* and his adaptation fo Scott Joplin’s music for *The Sting*, for which he received his third Oscar. His prolific output of scores for films include original compositions and/or musical adaptations for *Sophie’s Choice, Ordinary People, The Swimmer, Three Men and a Baby, Ice Castles, Take the Money and Run, Bananas, and Save the Tiger.*

Hamlisch holds the position of Principal Pops Conductor with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra as well as with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C. This is the first time that anyone has held such a position with the National Symphony.

Hamlisch was Musical Director and arranger for Barbra Streisand’s 1994 concert tour of the United States and England, as well as for the television special, *Barbara Streisand: The Concert*, for which he received two Emmys®. He served in the same capacities for her Millennium concerts.

Hamlisch is a graduate of both Julliard and Queens College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. Hamlisch believes in the power of music to bring people together. Hamlisch says “Music can make a difference. There is a global nature to music, which has the potential to bring all people together. Music is truly an international language, and I hope to contribute by widening communication as much as I can.”

Hamlisch and his wife, Terre, reside in New York City.

**JOEL GREY**

Creating the role as the Wonderful Wizard of Oz in the hit Broadway musical *Wicked*, Joel Grey celebrated 50 years on the New York stage - from performances at the legendary Copacabana on East 60th Street to The Palace on Broadway; from the Public Theatre downtown to Lincoln Center uptown. In a career that was launched in the early 1950s (his theatrical debut, however, was at age nine as Pud in the 1941 Cleveland Playhouse production of *On Borrowed Time*), Joel Grey has created indelible stage roles each decade since: as the iconic M.C. in *Cabaret* (1966, Tony Award®), as song and dance man George M. Cohan in *George M!* (1967, Tony® nomination), as Charley VII in *Goodtime Charlie* (1975, Tony® nomination), as Jacobowsky in *The Grand Tour* (1979, Tony nomination®), as Olim in New York City Opera’s *Silverlake* (1981), as Amos Hart in the landmark revival of *Chicago* (1996) and in *Wicked* (2004), his fourth smash Broadway show.

Born Joel David Katz on April 11, 1932, Joel Grey has won acclaim in virtually every medium of entertainment: stage, screen, recording, concerts and television. About his diverse career and interests, Grey says, “At age nine, I fell head-over-heels in love with
the theatre. Though the career has taken me on many different paths, the stage has always been my main love, and I always return to it.”

It was at age 16 that Grey appeared in his father’s (the comedian Mickey Katz) revue where he was discovered by Eddie Cantor, who introduced young Joel on his television show The Colgate Comedy Hour. Grey remembers, “I suppose the Cantor show appearance would be what you call a ‘big break’ because it launched a very successful variety career that was, unfortunately, at odds with my passion for the theatre.” Indeed, Grey had become an entertainer of international stature, performing in nightclubs and concert halls from Las Vegas to London.

A sensational debut at the famed Copacabana brought him closer to his dream of Broadway, and Grey pounded the Manhattan pavement until he won a string of roles in television stage productions, among them Forty Weeks of Uncle Tom (Kraft Television Theatre, 1954) and Jack and the Beanstalk (Producers Showcase). He appeared off-Broadway in the Phoenix Theatre’s Littlest Revue (1956) and made his Broadway debut as a replacement in Neil Simon’s first comedy hit, Come Blow Your Horn (1961). “I call these years my ‘replacement period,’” he remembers. Grey followed with starring roles in the Broadway musicals Stop the World I Want to Get Off (succeeding Anthony Newley in 1963) and Half A Sixpence (following Tommy Steele in 1965). He also appeared with Dustin Hoffman in the original production of Harry, Noon and Night (1965) at the American Place Theatre.

Thinking back to 1966, Grey recalls, “Things were not going as I’d hoped and I was seriously thinking about quitting the business. I remember this time as ‘the summer of my discontent.’ But, as luck would have it, I received a call from Hal Prince. He had seen me in Stop the World and offered me the role of the M.C. in his upcoming production of Cabaret. This would, among other things, mark the first time I got a part without having to audition.” The rest, as they say, is history. For his performance in the 1972 film version (directed by Bob Fosse), Grey received the Academy® Award, the Golden Globe and the British Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor. Grey also reprised his role once again under Hal Prince’s direction, for the 20th Anniversary Broadway production (1987), followed by a cross-country national tour. “I’ve really been a lucky guy to have been part of the musical theatre through so many periods, trends and changes. To this day, when the curtain goes up, my heart beats a little faster, whether in front of or behind the curtain,” he muses.

Grey’s dramatic stage roles include John Guare’s Marco Polo Sings a Solo (1975) at the Public Theatre; the Williamstown Theatre Festival production of Chekhov’s Platonov (1978); Larry Kramer’s seminal The Normal Heart (1986) at the Public Theatre; the American Repertory Theatre’s production of Ibsen’s When We Dead Awaken (1991) at the Sao Paulo Biennale, directed by Robert Wilson; Herringbone at the Hartford Stage (1992); John Patrick Shanley’s A Fool and Her Fortune (NY Stage and Film, 1992); and in the Roundabout Theatre production of Brian Friel’s Give Me Your Answer, Do! (1999), for which he received a Drama Desk Award nomination.

In addition to Cabaret, Grey’s film credits include Frank Perry’s Man on A Swing (1974), Robert Altman’s Buffalo Bill and the Indians (1976); Herbert Ross’ The Seven Percent Solution (1976); Remo Williams: The Adventure Begins (1985, Golden Globe Nomination); Steven Soderbergh’s Kafka (1991; Altman’s The Player (1992); Phillip Haas’ The Music of Chance (1993); Michael Ritchie’s adaptation of The Fantasticks (2000); and Lars von Trier’s Dancer in the Dark (2000) with Bjork and Catherine Deneuve.
Last season, he returned to television, in a provocative appearance as an evil doppelganger in the ABC series, *Alias*, followed by a guest-starring role on *Crossing Jordan*. He earned an Emmy® Award nomination for his appearance on CBS-TV’s *Brooklyn Bridge*, and was acclaimed for his role in the final six episodes of the HBO series *Oz* and NBC’s *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*.

In 2003, his first book of photographs, *Pictures I Had to Take* (powerHouse Books) was published. The monograph, coinciding with his debut photographic exhibition at the Staley Wise Gallery in New York, is a highly personal visual memoir of Grey’s experiences while living and traveling in Europe, Asia, South and Central America, and the United States over the past 25 years. Says Grey, “This more inward, private experience of photographing has proved a great addition to my life offstage.” His debut European solo exhibition took place in fall 2004 at the Galerie Einstein, Unter den Linden, Berlin.

Joel Grey is one of only eight actors to have won both Tony® and Academy® Awards for the same role. In 1984, he was inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame and has received his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He is also the recipient of the Distinguished Artist Award from the Los Angeles Music Center. In 1993, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis presented Joel Grey with the Municipal Arts Society medal naming him a Living New York Landmark. He is the father of Jennifer and James, and the grandfather of Stella.