



PRESS RELEASE  
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## Putting It Together

A Feast of Sondheim Favorites Performed by the Best of Broadway



Book, Lyrics and Music by Stephen Sondheim  
Conceived by Stephen Sondheim and Julia McKenzie  
Directed and Choreographed by Rajendra Ramoon Maharaj  
Musical Direction by Dianne Adams McDowell

January 27-February 15, 2009

JOHN D. ARCHBOLD THEATRE at SYRACUSE STAGE

Previews: January 27-29 Press Open: January 30 Close: February 15

(SYRACUSE, NY)—A swanky Manhattan cocktail party provides the setting for a cast of five who use Stephen Sondheim's exquisite songs to examine the ups and downs of two relationships. The stellar cast of Broadway performers includes Tony Award-winners Lillias White and Chuck Cooper (Best Actress and Best Actor in *The Life*, 1997), Tyler Hanes (Broadway's *A Chorus Line*, *Sweet Charity* and *Hairspray*), Andre Ward (*Xanadu*, *The Producers*) and Stephanie Youell (*Curtains* starring David Hyde Pierce). *Putting It Together* is sponsored by Constellation Energy, Time Warner Cable and WAER 88.3. Syracuse Stage season sponsors are *The Post-Standard* and Time Warner Cable. Tickets are available at the Syracuse Stage Box Office at 820 East Genesee Street, by telephone at 315-443-3275 or [www.SyracuseStage.org](http://www.SyracuseStage.org).

*Putting It Together* showcases 30 of Sondheim's most beloved songs from such musicals as *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Assassins*, *Company*, *Merrily We Roll*

*Along, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, A Little Night Music, Sweeney Todd* and others. Many of the classic Sondheim songs are presented in a context entirely different from that for which they were written, so the show is billed as a "review" of the composer's work.

"It is always wonderful working on material by Stephen Sondheim, one of the most important American theatre artists," said Director Rajendra Ramoon Maharaj. "I love the idea behind *Putting It Together*, where one couple well into their marriage 'tests' a younger couple full of hope and newness. Theatregoers will experience an evening that's contemporary New York—sophisticated, elegant, thought-provoking and funny."

*Putting It Together* premiered in Oxford, England at the Old Fire Station on January 27, 1992, directed by McKenzie, and starring one of England's great leading ladies, Diana Rigg. The show was next seen Off-Broadway at Manhattan Theatre Club, featuring Julie Andrews, Rachel York, Michael Rupert and Christopher Durang. Five years later, it was mounted at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. The cast included Carol Burnett, Susan Egan, Bronson Pinchot and Michael Nouri. The 1999 Broadway production at the Barrymore Theatre included Carol Burnett and Bronson Pinchot from the Los Angeles cast, joined by Ruthie Henshall and Sondheim veteran George Hearn.

"I think [Sondheim's] legacy will be to leave some of the greatest songs of the 20<sup>th</sup> century," said Cameron Mackintosh, producer of the original *Putting It Together* in Oxford, England. "The composer's output bears constant repeating. Unlike work which fades with age, his actually mature, like very good wine."

#### TICKET PRICES

**Adult:** \$24-\$48

**40 Below:** \$20 with ID

**Rush:** \$15-\$25 day of performance, \$9 for students with ID

*\*Discounts available for seniors, students, groups and subscribers*

#### HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS

**Online:** [www.SyracuseStage.org](http://www.SyracuseStage.org)

**Call:** 315-443-3275

**In person:** 820 East Genesee Street

**Groups:** 315-443-9844

*\*Rush tickets available by phone (\$5 fee) or in person (no fee)*

#### CAST

**Chuck Cooper** (Man 1) is a veteran of nine Broadway plays and musicals as well as numerous television guest leads and film appearances over the span of his 30 year professional acting career. He won the 1996 Tony Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical for his portrayal of Memphis in *The Life*. His other Broadway credits include:

*Lennon; Caroline, or Change* (Audelco Award: Best Featured Actor); *Chicago; Passion; Someone to Watch Over Me; Rumors; Amen Corner; and Getting Away with Murder*. National tours: *The Tap Dance Kid; Eubie; and Whistle Down the Wind*. Off-Broadway: *Caroline, or Change* (the Public Theatre); *Thunder Knocking on the Door* (Minetta Lane, Audelco nomination); *Marco Polo Sings a Solo* (Signature Theatre); *Avenue X; Police Boys; Four Short Operas* (Playwrights Horizons); *Colored People's Time* (Negro Ensemble Co.); *King Island Christmas* (SIR Studios). Regional theatre: *Hamlet* (The Shakespeare Theatre); *Being Alive* (Westport Country Playhouse); *Dance of the Holy Ghosts* (Yale Rep); *The World Beyond the Hill* (Berkshire Theatre Festival); *Robeson* (Passage Theatre); *Thunder Knocking on the Door* (Trinity Repertory); *Othello* (New Jersey Shakespeare Festival); *Julius Caesar* (Philadelphia Drama Guild); *The Doctor is Out, Coriolanus, Timon of Athens, Two Trains Running* (The Old Globe Theatre, San Diego Critics Circle Award); *The Tempest, American Dreams Lost and Found* (Alliance Theatre). Television credits: *3 LBS; Hack; 100 Centre Street; Law & Order; Law & Order SVU; Oz; Strangers with Candy; NYPD Blue; Cosby; The Cosby Mysteries; New York Undercover; I'll Fly Away; The Bold and the Beautiful; As the World Turns*. Film credits: *Noise; Evening; American Gangster; Find Me Guilty; Three Days of Rain; Our Song; The Hurricane; The Opportunists; Gloria; The Peacemaker; The Juror; North; Criminal Justice*. Mr. Cooper is a Beinecke Fellow at the Yale School of Drama. Favorite role: Eddie, Alex and Lilli's father.

**Tyler Hanes** (Man 2). Broadway: Larry in *A Chorus Line* (original Broadway revival company), *Hairspray*, Charlie in *Sweet Charity*, *The Frogs*, *The Boy From Oz*, *Urban Cowboy*, and *Oklahoma!* Other theatrical credits include Johnny Boyle in *Juno* (NY City Center Encores!), Chad in *All Shook Up* (Marriott Theatre), Jackie in *The Studio* (Signature Theatre), Link Larkin in *Hairspray* (Sacramento Music Circus), Ren McCormick in *Footloose* (Chicago, Jefferson nomination), and *Fosse* (first national tour). Film: *Phoebe in Wonderland* starring Felicity Huffman and Bill Pullman, *In the Blood* (Out Takes Film Festival: Best Actor Award), and *Rose*. TV: *One Life to Live* (recurring), *The Tony Awards*, *The Ellen Degeneres Show*, *Good Morning America*, *Today*, and *The View*. He can be heard on the Broadway cast recordings of *A Chorus Line*, *Sweet Charity*, *The Frogs*, and *The Boy From Oz*. [www.tylerhanes.com](http://www.tylerhanes.com)

**André Ward** (Man # 3). Broadway: *Xanadu, Saturday Night Fever, The Producers, The Apple Tree* (City Center Encores). National tours: *Pippin* (Leading Player), *The Producers, Dreamgirls* and *Cinderella*. Off-Broadway: *God's Ear* (workshop). Regional: *Ragtime* (Chicago company), *Kept* (Theatreworks, Palo Alto), *Lucky Duck* (Old Globe), *Jelly's Last Jam* (Alliance Theatre, Atlanta), *Elegies* (Barrington Stage). Television/film: *One Life to Live, Lipstick Jungle* (pilot), *Without a Trace, Lifelines, The Big Gay Musical* and Oliver Stone's *World Trade Center*.

**Lillias White** (Woman 1) has been recognized on Broadway with the Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, Friends of New York Award and Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical (Broadway's Prestigious Quadruple Crown) for her 1997 role as Sonja in *The Life*. In 1990 she won The Obie Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of Hennie in *Romance in Hard Times*. In addition, she won The Drama League Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her role in the national tour

of *Dreamgirls*. Ms. White's other Broadway credits include: *Chicago* (Mama Morton), *How to Succeed in Business . . .* (Jonesy), *Dreamgirls* (Effie), *Cats* (Grizzabella), *Once on This Island*, *Rock 'N Roll-The First 5,000 Years* (Aretha Franklin), *Barnum* and *Carrie*. Off-Broadway: *Purlie* (Missy), *Crowns* (Velma, Vivian Robinson AUDELCO Award), *The Vagina Monologues*, *Dinah Was* (Dinah Washington), *Waiting for Godot* (Vladimir), *The Princess and the Black-Eyed Pea* (Queen Zauba).

National/international tours: *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Tintypes* and *The Wiz*.

Television/film: *Game 6* with Michael Keaton, *Pieces of April* with Katie Holmes, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Gloria*, *North*, Voice of Lead Muse in Disney's animated *Hercules*, *Law & Order*, *Law & Order SVU*, *NYPD Blue*, *The Jury*, the HBO pilot *Pryor Offenses* (The Richard Pryor Story), opposite Eddie Griffin. In 1992 Ms. White won an Emmy Award for her role as Lillian Edwards on *Sesame Street*. Recordings:

*Dreamgirls: The Concert*, *Too Hot to Handle* (Gospel version of Handel's *Messiah*), Cy Coleman's most recent record (featured with Tony Bennett), *From Brooklyn to Broadway*, in addition to recordings for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and The Actors Fund of America. Ms. White regularly appears in concert at The Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and appeared as Bloody Mary on the PBS *Great Performances* presentation of *South Pacific*. Lillias is proud to have been chosen to perform for President Barack Obama and our veterans at the *2009 Heroes Red, White & Blue Inaugural Ball*.

**Stephanie Youell** (Woman #2). Broadway: *Curtains* (Niki u/s). National tour: *Mamma Mia* (Sophie u/s). Regional credits: *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Christine Colgate, Cape Playhouse), *Singin' in the Rain* (Lina Lamont, St. Louis MUNY), *Aida* (Amneris, Westchester Broadway), *Cats* (Jellylorum, Houston TUTS), *The Hot Mikado* (Pitti-Sing, Fulton Opera and Westchester Broadway), *Oklahoma!* (Fulton Opera), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Fruma Sarah, Pittsburgh CLO), *Joseph . . . Dreamcoat* (Narrator u/s, Fulton Opera). She has been a soloist with the Tokyo, Cincinnati, Seattle, and Portland symphonies. BFA in Musical Theatre from Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.

## CREATORS

**Stephen Sondheim** (Book, Music & Lyrics), one of the most influential and accomplished composer/lyricists in Broadway history, was born in New York City and raised in New York and Pennsylvania. As a teenager he met Oscar Hammerstein II, who became Sondheim's mentor. Sondheim graduated from Williams College, where he received the Hutchinson Prize for Music Composition. After graduation he studied music theory and composition with Milton Babbitt. He worked for a short time in the 1950s as a writer for the television show *Topper*; his first professional musical theatre job was as the songwriter for the unproduced musical *Saturday Night*. He wrote the lyrics for *West Side Story* (1957), *Gypsy* (1959) and *Do I Hear A Waltz?* (1965), as well as additional lyrics for *Candide* (1973). Musicals for which he has written both music and lyrics include *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* (1962), *Anyone Can Whistle* (1964), *Company* (1970 - 1971 - Tony Award: Music and Best Lyrics), *Follies* (1971 - 1972 - Tony Award: Score and New York Drama Critics Circle Award; revised in London, 1987), *A Little Night Music* (1973 - Tony Award: Score), *The Frogs* (1974), *Pacific Overtures* (1976 - New York Drama Critics' Circle Award), *Sweeney*

*Todd* (1979 - Tony Award: Score), *Merrily We Roll Along* (1981), *Sunday in the Park with George* (1984 - New York Drama Critics Circle Award; 1985 Pulitzer Prize for Drama), *Into The Woods* (1987 - Tony Award: Score), *Assassins* (1991) and *Passion* (1994 - Tony Award: Score). He composed the songs for the television production *Evening Primrose* (1966), co-authored the film *The Last of Sheila* (1973) and provided incidental music for *The Girls of Summer* (1956), *Invitation to a March* (1961) and *Twigs* (1971). *Side By Side By Sondheim* (1976), *Marry Me A Little* (1981), *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow* (1983; originally presented as *A Stephen Sondheim Evening*) and *Putting It Together* (1993) are anthologies of his work. He has written scores for the films *Stavisky* (1974) and *Reds* (1981), and composed songs for the film *Dick Tracy* (1990 - Academy Award for Best Song). He is on the Council of the Dramatist Guild, the national association of playwrights, composers and lyricists, having served as its president from 1973 until 1981, and in 1983 was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 1990 he was appointed the first Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre at Oxford University. He was also the recipient of a Kennedy Center Honor in 1993.

**Julia McKenzie** (Conception). Directing: *Stepping Out* (Duke of York's Theatre), *Just So* (Watermill Theatre), *Steel Magnolias* (Lyric Theatre), *Putting It Together* (Manhattan Theatre Club). Stage appearances: *Maggie May* (Adelphi Theatre), *Mame* (Drury Lane Theatre), *Company* (Her Majesty's Theatre), *Side by Side by Sondheim* (Music Box Theatre), *Hobson's Choice* (Lyric Hammersmith Theatre), *Guys and Dolls* (Olivier/National Theatre), *Follies* (West End Theatre), *Into the Woods* (Phoenix Theatre). Film: *For Richer, for Poorer*, (1977, Laurie Hamilton), *Ike* (Sybil Bryan), *Dear Box Number* (Betty Wilson), *Hotel du Lac* (Jennifer Pusey), *Jack and the Beanstalk* (Voice of Mavis).

## ARTISTIC

**Rajendra Ramoon Maharaj** (Director & Choreographer) is the Associate Artistic Director of Syracuse Stage. His regional directing credits include: Syracuse Stage, Freedom Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, St. Louis Black Rep, Arkansas Repertory Theatre, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Prince Musical Theatre, Theatre of the Stars, The Goodman Theatre and Alliance Theatre. His New York City credits include: the Public Theatre, Classical Theatre of Harlem, Lark Play Development Center, New Federal Theatre, Second Stage, Rebel Theatre, Making Books Sing, and HERE. He has held artistic residencies with The Public Theatre, Freedom Theatre, Alliance Theatre, Kennedy Center, Crossroads Theatre, Lark Play Development Center, Arkansas Repertory Theatre, and Amas Musical Theatre. Written work: *It Happened in Little Rock*, *Mississippi Night*, *Diss Diss & Diss Dat*, *Twenty-Five*, *Gray*, *Children of the Dream* and *BlackfootNotes*. He is a founding member and the Producing Artistic Director of Rebel Theatre. Maharaj is the recipient of several prestigious grants and awards including National Endowment for the Arts/Theatre Communications Group Career Development Program for Directors, TCG New Generations Grant in partnership with the Arkansas Repertory Theatre, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Nathan Cummings Foundation, Brooklyn Arts Council grant, Puffin

Foundation, Time Warner Diverse Voices Fund, and the Van Lier Directing Fellowship. He is also the recipient of the Woodie King, Jr., Award for Outstanding Direction and four Vivian Robinson AUDELCO awards for his direction and choreography. He was the Assistant to the Director on the Tony Award-winning Broadway revival *A Raisin in the Sun*, and has been featured in *American Theatre Magazine*, *Yale Review*, *The New York Times*, *The NAACP Crisis News*, *The Chicago Sun Times*, *Ebony*, *Arkansas Times*, *Uptown Magazine*, *Amsterdam News* and *Variety* for his work in the American theatre.

**Dianne Adams McDowell** (Musical Director) returns again to Syracuse Stage, where she has taken part in the following productions: *A Christmas Carol*, *The Butterfingers Angel*, *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*, *The Dragonslayers*, *The Wind in the Willows*, *Peter Pan*, *Oliver!*, *West Side Story*, *Constant Star*, *The Wizard of Oz*, the 1999-2005 Hospice Benefits, *Big River*, *The Sound of Music* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Dianne has served as composer/lyricist, arranger, and musical director in a variety of mediums. Her award-winning musical, *The Wind in the Willows* (adaptation by Gerardine Clark), had its NYC premiere at The New Victory Theatre, and was written with long-time husband/collaborator, James McDowell. Their most recent musical, *Bookends*, co-authored with Katharine Houghton, recently premiered at NJ Repertory Theatre to great critical acclaim. Dianne has composed for Radio City Music Hall, was musical arranger/supervisor for the world premiere of *Jam and Spice*, and served as associate conductor/vocal arranger of Broadway's Tony-nominated *Starmites*. Dianne's vocal arrangements have been performed at regional theatres and on stages throughout the country, including Avery Fischer Hall, Lincoln Center, Hartford Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Cleveland Play House, and TheatreWorks in Palo Alto, among others. She was nominated for the 2002 Helen Hayes Award in the category of Outstanding Musical Direction for the production of Tazewell Thompson's *Constant Star* at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. Dianne was also the recipient of the 2004 Barrymore Award (Philadelphia) and the 2006 Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP award.

**Gregory Daniels** (Associate Choreographer), a Syracuse native (Jamesville-Dewitt graduate), is thrilled to be at Syracuse Stage. He has choreographed such shows as *Anything Goes* (Theatre Under the Stars, Houston), *All Shook Up* (Papermill Theatre, nominated for 7 New Hampshire Theatre Awards including Best Musical), *Hello Dolly!* (New Candlelight), and *Forever Plaid*, *I Do! I Do!*, *Dear World* and *The Spitfire Grill* (Bristol Riverside Theatre). He also had the rare honor of creating an original number for the World Famous Rockettes at New York's famed Radio City Music Hall. Other choreography credits include the Coors Cold Revolution Industrial, and the award winning short film *I Love You, I'm Sorry, and I'll Never Do It Again*. Associate choreographer: *My Fair Lady* (national tour), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Mill Mountain Theatre), *Evita* and the world premiere of *Camilla* (Walnut Street Theatre). [www.GregoryDaniels.net](http://www.GregoryDaniels.net).

## SYRACUSE STAGE

Syracuse Stage is Central New York's premier professional theatre. Founded as a not-for-profit theatre in 1974 by Arthur Storch, Stage has produced more than 220 plays in

35 seasons including numerous world and American premieres. Each season upwards of 90,000 patrons enjoy an exciting mix of comedies, dramas and musicals featuring the finest professional theatre artists. In addition, Stage maintains a vital educational outreach program that annually serves over 30,000 students from 24 counties. Syracuse Stage is a constituent of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, and a member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT). In addition to ticket sales, Syracuse Stage performances are made possible by funds from Syracuse University, the Central New York Community Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts, The Shubert Foundation, Onondaga County, and corporate, foundation and individual donors.

Fact Sheet:

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Show Sponsors:

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**Time Warner Cable**

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Season Sponsors:

**The Post-Standard**  
**Time Warner Cable**

PRODUCTION:

Felix Cochren (Scenic Design)  
Maria Marrero (Costume Design)  
Josh Bradford (Lighting Design)  
Jon Herter (Sound Design)  
**Brian Westmoreland (Stage Manager)**

CAST:

**Chuck Cooper (Man #1)**  
**Tyler Hanes (Man #2)**  
**Andrew Ward (Man #3)**  
**Lillias White (Woman #1)**  
**Stephanie Youell (Woman #2)**

The names in bold are actors and stage managers who are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

TICKET PRICES:

**Adult: \$24-\$48**

**40 Below: \$20 with ID**

**Rush: \$15-\$25 day of performance, \$9 for students with ID**

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Show Calendar: January/February

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	26	27	28	29	30	31
		7:30 P	7:30 P	7:30 P	8:00 O	3:00 7:30
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2:00			2:00 7:30	7:30	8:00	3:00 8:00
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2:00 7:00 D		7:30 S	7:30	7:30	8:00	3:00 8:00
15						
2:00						

P=Preview    O=Opening    S=Signed    D=Discussion

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Syracuse Stage | Producing Artistic Director: Timothy Bond | Managing Director: Jeffrey Woodward  
 820 E. Genesee St. | Main: 315-443-4008 | Box Office: 315-443-3275 | [www.syracusestage.org](http://www.syracusestage.org)