

SPOTLIGHT

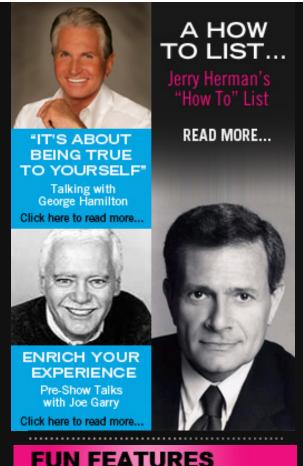
GUTS & GLITTER

"You go alone to have the evening of your life...It's a bonanza, it's a mad extravaganza,

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES", part of the KeyBank Broadway Series at PlayhouseSquare November 8 - 20. "Face life, with a little guts and lots of glitter....It's hot and hectic, effervescent and eclectic at LA CAGE AUX FOLLES."

Lyrics from "La Cage Aux Folles" from LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

"LA CAGE is riotously funny, emotionally affecting and more timely than ever! The songs ooze charm, romance and melodies that are impossible to get out of your head." Associated Press



FUN FEATURES

Have you ever embarrassed your children?

Yes

No

View results

Official La Cage Aux Folles Tour Website Follow La Cage Aux Folles on Twitter Like La Cage Aux Folles on Facebook



Photo Credit:George Hamilton as Georges in La Cage Aux Folles.; Photo by: Paul Kolnik

"You'll laugh a lot." The Wall Street Journal

Read More...

SPONSORED BY

Buzz Extra is a publication of the **Community Engagement & Education** Department at PlayhouseSquare

Senior Vice President of Theater Operations: Gina Vernaci

Vice President of Community Engager Vote Now Education:

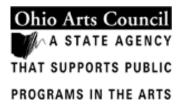
Colleen Porter

Vice President of Ticket Sales & Marketing: Autumn Kiser

Editors:







ALL ARTICLES Home Guts & Glitter La Cage Aux Folles vs. The Birdcage A Non-Traditional Family Jerry Herman's "How To" List Talking with George Hamilton Enrich Your Experience: Broadway Buzz Events Recommended Reading from Cleveland Public Library

Linda Jackson, Cindi Szymanski Writer:

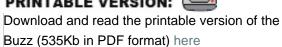
Robin Pease

Photos:

Paul Kolnik

cuyahoga arts & culture

PRINTABLE VERSION:



Archives:

Million Dollar Quartet

FEEDBACK:



We welcome your feedback and suggestions for the Buzz Extra. Please email

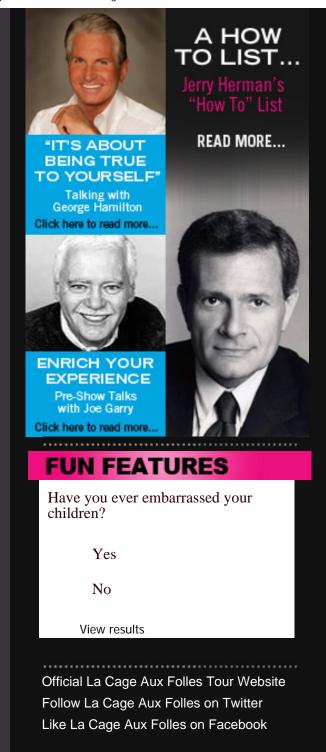
ArtsEducation@PlayhouseSquare.org



GUTS & GLITTER



Credit: George Hamilton as Georges in La Cage Aux Folles.; Photo: Paul Kolnik



"It's a bonanza, it's a mad extravaganza, LA CAGE AUX FOLLES" part of the KeyBank Broadway Series at PlayhouseSquare November 8 - 20. "Face life, with a little guts and lots of glitter.... It's hot and hectic, effervescent and eclectic at LA CAGE AUX FOLLES."

Lyrics from "La Cage Aux Folles" from LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

"LA CAGE is riotously funny, emotionally affecting and more timely than ever! The songs ooze charm, romance and melodies that are impossible to get out of your head." *Associated Press*

"You'll laugh a lot." The Wall Street Journal

"LA CAGE is (you should pardon the expression) a fairy tale, a sweet, corny story that asks us to take people (the good-hearted ones, anyway) at their own valuation...inspired, electric and a triumph!" *New York Times*

"It's funny, heartwarming and terrific." Variety

"Classic musical comedy with real punch and pizzazz." Whatsonstage.com

"A sensation! Tuneful, touching and bedazzling! LA CAGE blows the roof off the theatre! A classic of American Musical Comedy." *Time Out*

"Thrilling and gorgeous! Perhaps the best musical...all season. LA CAGE is moving, joyful and continually delightful. Director Terry Johnson's production is beautifully designed, costumed and choreographed." *New York Observer*

"They all seem to be having a swell time, as will you." USA Today

Vote Now

Awards

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES opened on Broadway in 1983. Since that auspicious production, the show has been revived twice on Broadway due to its popularity. And now, the tour brings this new production to the nation.

Over the years LA CAGE AUX FOLLES has received 11 Tony Awards, always winning in the Best Musical, Best Book and Best Score categories. It also received eight Drama Desk

Home
Guts & Glitter

La Cage Aux Folles vs. The Birdcage
A NonTraditional Family

Jerry Herman's "How To" List
Talking
with George Hamilton

Enrich Your Experience:
Broadway Buzz Events

Recommended Reading from
Cleveland Public Library

awards, one Drama League award, four Outer Critics Circle awards, two Olivier awards and one London Critics Circle award.

Synopsis

Georges runs a nightclub in San Tropez where Albin, his homosexual partner, is the star...in women's clothing.

All is well until Georges' son, Jean-Michel, decides to bring home his fiancée who is the daughter of a very conservative politician.

Jean-Michel's family thinks:

"It's appalling to confess:

Our new in-laws are a mess.

She's a prude, he's a prig,

She's a pill, he's a pig."

The Conservative in-laws think:

"This is even worse than I feared

The son is strange,

The father is weird.

To meet the wife, I'm actually afraid

I prefer that Anne remain an old maid."

Deceptions will reign.

Lifestyles will crash.

Secrets will be revealed.

At La Cage aux Folles.

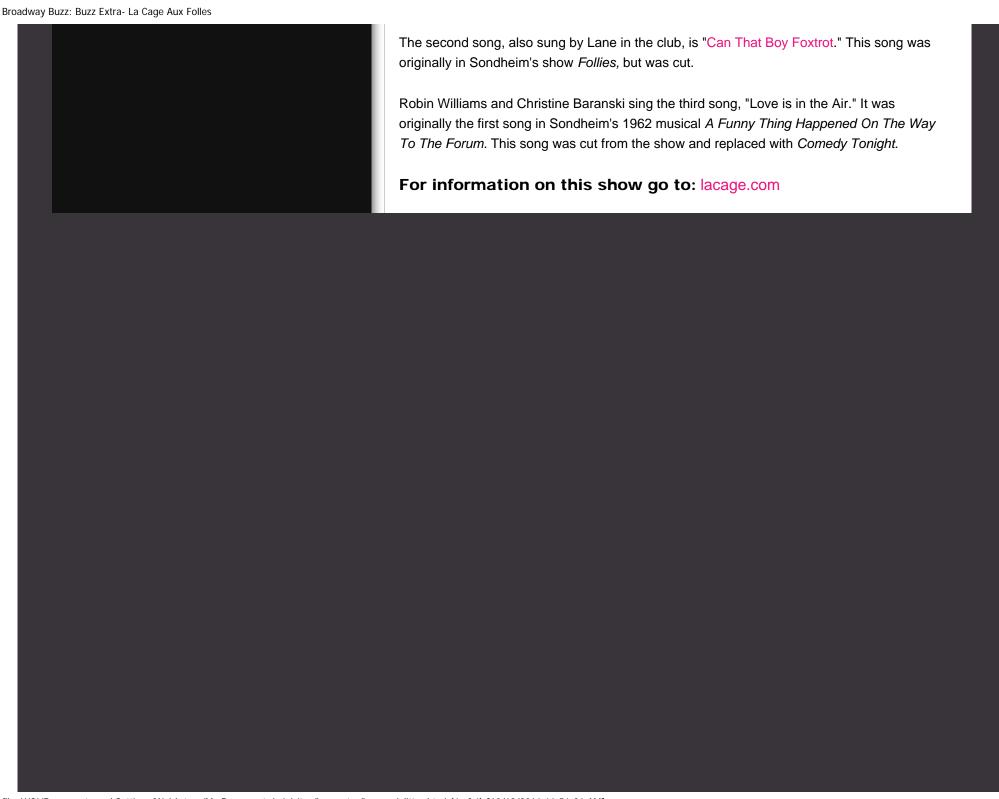
Lyrics from "Cocktail Counterpoint" from LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

Did You Know...

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES was made into a blockbuster Hollywood film starring Robin Williams, Nathan Lane and Gene Hackman called *The Birdcage* in 1996.

There were three songs written by Stephen Sondheim that appeared in the film.

The first song written for the film is called "Little Dream" and was sung by Nathan Lane in a rehearsal at the club.

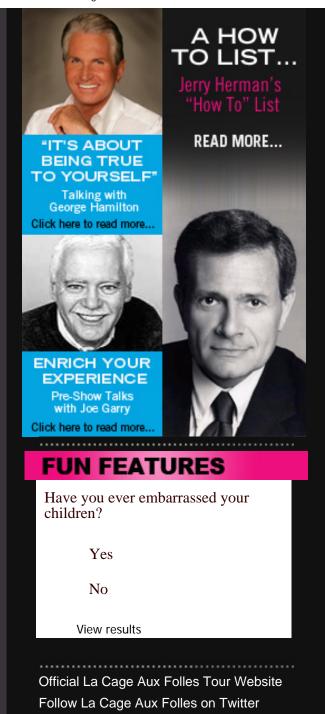




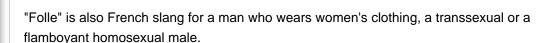
LA CAGE AUX FOLLES VS. THE BIRDCAGE

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES translated from the French into English means the cage of madwomen.





Like La Cage Aux Folles on Facebook



LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, the musical, is based on the 1973 French play of the same name by Jean Pioret.

The 1978 film, also with the same title and based on the play, was so popular it played for more than a year at an art house in New York and across the country as the number one foreign film. In this original French film, the subtitle of LA CAGE AUX FOLLES was "Birds of a Feather."

The film spawned two sequels, *La Cage Aux Folles II* in 1980 and *La Cage Aux Folles* 3: *Elle se Marient* in 1985.

The original 1983 Broadway production played 1761 performances.

The popular 1996 Hollywood film *The Birdcage*, which starred Robin Williams and Nathan Lane, grossed more than \$100 million dollars in the US alone.

This was followed by two Broadway revivals in 2004 and 2009.

This popular show has played internationally in the United Kingdom, Brazil, Mexico, Columbia, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Sweden, Russia, Portugal, Germany and the Netherlands.

Are you one of these many fans of the musical or the Hollywood film? Take this quiz to find out.

Quiz

Vote Now

Figure out which scenes and characters are from the musical and which are from the Hollywood movie.

- 1. The young fiancée believes her betrothed's father is a retired diplomat.
- 2. The potential in-laws represent the Tradition, Family and Morality party whose goal is to shut down all drag clubs in San Tropez.
- 3. The fiancée's family thinks the marriage will help the father's career by

Home
Guts & Glitter
La Cage Aux Folles vs. The Birdcage
Traditional Family
Jerry Herman's "How To" List
Talking
with George Hamilton
Enrich Your Experience:
Broadway Buzz Events
Recommended Reading from
Cleveland Public Library

- promoting family values.
- 4. The father and son redecorate the apartment to look more conservative.
- 5. The fiancée's father temporarily changes their last name to hide their Jewish ancestry.
- 6. The young fiancée's birth mother never shows up for the dinner.
- 7. The dinner is burned, so everyone goes to a restaurant called Chez Jacqueline.
- 8. The fiancée's "mother," caught up in the emotion of a performance, tears her wig off to reveal her real identity...as a man.
- 9. The fiancée confesses that his "mother" is a man.
- 10. The new in-laws sneak out of LA CAGE AUX FOLLES dressed in drag to escape the Press.

Answers

- 1. MUSICAL in the film, she knew her future father-in-law was gay and ran the drag club.
- 2. MUSICAL in the film, the future father-in-law was a senator escaping from the paparazzi and a scandal that affected his conservative party.
- 3. This was in both the MUSICAL and the FILM.
- 4. This was in both the MUSICAL and the FILM.
- 5. FILM, where the future father-in-law was prejudiced against homosexuals and Jews.
- 6. MUSICAL in the film there are several scenes with the birth mother, while in the Musical the birth mother never appears.
- 7. MUSICAL in the film, the butler makes a soup as the main course.
- 8. MUSICAL
- 9. FILM
- 10. Both.

How did you do on the quiz?

If you haven't seen the movie, you should.

Photo Credit: Christopher Sieber as Zaza and George Hamilton as Georges in La Cage Aux Folles. (Photo by Paul Kolnik)

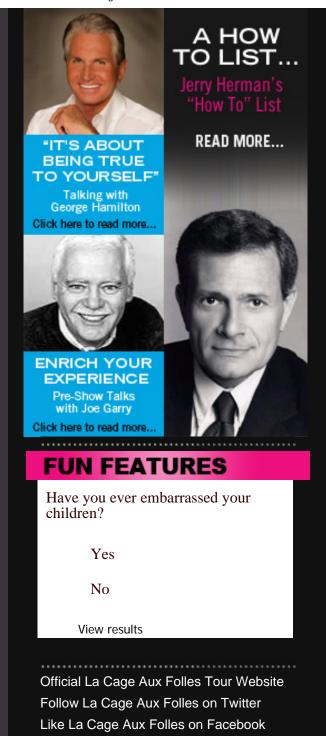


A NON-TRADITIONAL FAMILY



Phot

Credit: George Hamilton as Georges and Christopher Sieber as Zaza in La Cage Aux Folles.(Photo by Paul Kolnik)



According to the US Census Bureau, a family is "a group of two or more people who reside together and are related by birth, marriage or adoption."

How did this get to be the definition of a family?

In earlier times, marriages were arranged. Couples would join in order to improve the economic, cultural or political needs of a family. And while love was not a major consideration until the mid 1700s, the idea was that the man would be the breadwinner and responsible for the financial support of the family, while the woman would stay at home and be responsible for the household and children.

It wasn't until the 1960s, when the divorce rate and number of unwed mothers rose, that a new style of family was brought into focus. Families changed as grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings began to take charge of raising the children instead of parents.

This family unit has continued to change over the years. Gone is the time when only a mother, father and 2.5 children can be considered a family.

Families are now made of people with differences. People of different races, blended families made up of two different families joining to become one, foster parents, adoptions and yes, gay couples. Families with two mommies and no daddy, or two daddies and no mommy.

Michael Lamb of Cambridge University's Department of Social and Developmental Psychology has stated that, "children do not require both a male and female parent... children of same-sex parents are just as likely as those of heterosexual parents to be well-adjusted."

Is Jean-Michel, the son in LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, a well-adjusted young man?

"But something very odd occurs, Papa."

'Cause life is in perfect order with Anne on my arm.

It makes my shoulders broader with Anne on my arm.

Even when things won't gel, and the pieces won't fit,

I'm suddenly in, I'm suddenly on, I'm suddenly "it."

Who else can make me feel like I'm handsome and tall?

Who else can make me feel I'm on top of it all?

Home
Guts & Glitter

La Cage Aux Folles vs. The Birdcage
A NonTraditional Family

Jerry Herman's "How To" List
Talking
with George Hamilton

Enrich Your Experience:
Broadway Buzz Events

Recommended Reading from
Cleveland Public Library

I found a combination that works like a charm:

I'm simply a man who walks on the stars

Whenever it's Anne on my arm!"

Yes, he is a well-adjusted young man.

Is the relationship between Georges and Albin a good one?

"Life is a celebration with you on my arm.

It's worth the aggravation with you on my arm.

Each time I face a morning that's boring and bland,

With you it looks good.

With you it looks grand.

Like the old days, aha!

Somehow you've put a permanent star in my eye.

Even the dead of winter can feel like July.

I found a combination that works like a charm:

Whenever it's you on my arm!"

Yes, they have a good relationship, very loving to each other and to their son as well.

Are they good parents?

"How often does somebody sense

That you need them without being told?

When you have a hurt in your heart

You're too proud to disclose?

Look over there.

Somebody always knows."

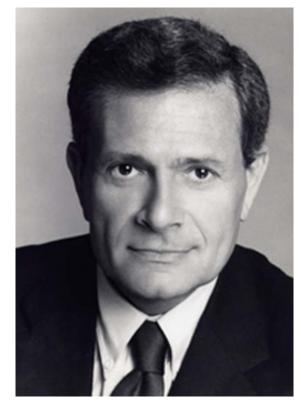
Yes, they are great parents, always aware of the needs of their son.

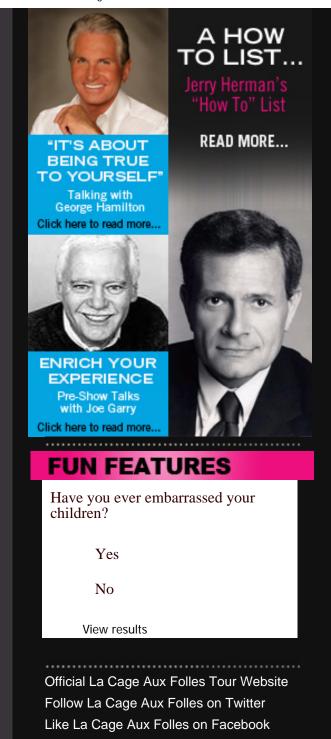
While gay parenting has existed for a long time, celebrities like Neil Patrick Harris, Elton John, Melissa Etheridge and Rosie O'Donnell have brought it into the forefront of society's norms, helping legitimize and earn it acceptance.



JERRY HERMAN'S "HOW TO" LIST

Jerry Herman has been in the musical theater business since his Broadway debut in 1960. He has written scores and lyrics for some of the most classic musicals of the 20th century. His shows usually have unconventional heroes that march to the beat of a different drum.





In addition to **LA CAGE AUX FOLLES**, his musicals include: *Hello Dolly, Mame, Milk and Honey, Mack and Mabel, Dear World* and *The Grand Tour.* His music has a joyful sound that encourages audiences to walk away humming. His songs include, "Time Heals Everything," "If He Walked Into My Life," and "Put On Your Sunday Clothes."

His lyrics espouse carpe diem... that we seize the day and discover ways to face the world.

Here is some of the wisdom of Jerry Herman from his lyrics to LA CAGE AUX FOLLES.

How to face a tough day

"We face life though it's sometimes sweet and sometimes bitter; Face life, with a little guts and lots of glitter...".

How to deal with someone different

"'Cause you'll love us once you get to know us..."

How to see the world as beautiful

"'Cause when I feel glamorous, elegant, beautiful, The world that I'm looking at's beautiful too!"

How to face problems

"When my little road has a few bumps again, And I need something level to lean upon, I put on my sling pumps again, And wham! This ugly duckling is a swan!"

Lyrics from "We Are What We Are" from LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

Vote Now

On Aging Love

"Something about sharing, Something about always. Though the years race along, I still think of our song on the sand. And I still try and search for the words I can barely remember.

Home
Guts & Glitter
La Cage Aux Folles vs. The Birdcage
A Non
Traditional Family
Jerry Herman's "How To" List
Talkin
with George Hamilton
Enrich Your Experience:
Broadway Buzz Events
Recommended Reading from
Cleveland Public Library

Though the time tumbles by,
There is one thing that I am forever
Certain of...
I'm young and in love."

Lyrics from "Song on the Sand" from LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

How to be yourself

"I am what I am
I am my own special creation.
So come take a look,
Give me the hook or the ovation."

How to feel comfortable in your own skin

"Take me as I am It's my world that I want to take a little pride in, My world, and it's not a place I have to hide in. Life's not worth a damn, 'Til you can say, 'Hey world, I am what I am'."

Lyrics from "I Am What I Am" from LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

How to be a parent

"How often is someone concerned With the tiniest thread of your life? Concerned with whatever you feel And whatever you touch? Look over there.

Somebody cares that much."

How to love

"When your world spins too fast, And your bubble has burst, Someone puts himself last, So that you can come first."

How to be loved forever

"So count all the loves who will love you From now 'til the end of your life, And when you have added the loves



Who have loved you before, Look over there. Somebody loves you more..."

Lyrics from "Look Over There" from LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

How to live today

"The best of times is now.

Now, not some forgotten yesterday.

Now, tomorrow is too far away.

So hold this moment fast,

And live and love

As hard as you know how.

And make this moment last,

Because the best of times is now."

Lyrics from "The Best of Times" from LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

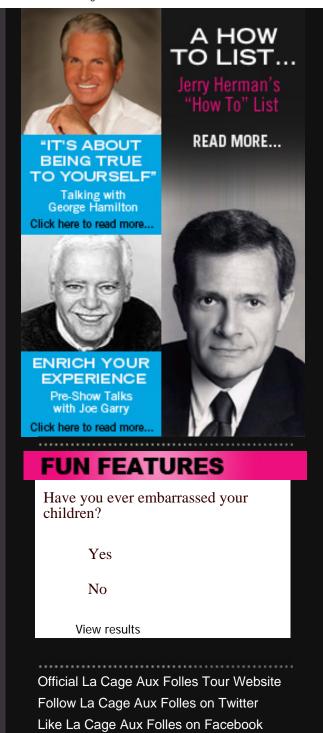
Photo Credit: Jerry Herman; Photo: Jerry Herman Website



TALKING WITH GEORGE HAMILTON

George Hamilton began his film career in 1952 and is known for his style and good looks. He has appeared in films, on the stage and on TV. His collection of works in film include Light in the Piazza; Love at First Bite; Zorro, the Gay Blade; and The Godfather Part III. On stage he has appeared in Love Letters, The Philadelphia Story, Funny Girl and Chicago. TV appearances include Columbo, Dynasty, Roots and Las Vegas. He has hung out with Elvis and performed with Olivia DeHavilland, Al Pacino, David Hasselhoff, Hillary Duff, Jennifer Anniston and Warren Beatty.





EXTRA: Everyone knows of your film and TV work, but tell us about your stage experience.

HAMILTON: I've done 26 plays and quite a while ago, I realized if I wanted to make acting more than just a hobby, I had to learn how to do it. You don't learn it in film. In film you learn camera and angles and how to be effective as a film actor.

Acting is based on timing and the only way to learn that is on stage. Once you've got your lines and the direction, you are responsible to keep the pace going and to interact with the other actors. You find things and create and it teaches you acting. And if you're really smart, you take lessons while you are working to try different techniques to see what works for you. So, I started that when I was 24.

I did *Funny Girl* with Barbara Cook. I did *Gigi*, Neil Simon plays. I did a play every year in Chicago. I did dinner theater. I did *Star Spangled Girl*. I did Vegas. On Broadway, I did *Chicago*. I did *Barefoot in the Park*, all sorts of plays. I learned a lot about stage acting and felt comfortable.

EXTRA: For musicals, did you study voice and dance?

HAMILTON: When I was about 17, I was going with this girl. I would sing Frank Sinatra songs and she said to me, "You can't sing. Just don't sing." So I just thought I couldn't sing. Then that year, when we broke up, I was asked to do the lead in the school play, it was *Brigadoon*. I said, "I'm good as an actor, but I can't sing and this part's for a singer." Now, my brother was in the play and he said, "you can sing, who said you can't sing?" I told him it was Liz, but I broke up with her. So I went out for the show and I was singing. After that I did different plays and I would sing.

EXTRA: Now for LA CAGE, you didn't have to audition, did you?

HAMILTON: No, but strangely encured to make sure the combination, the chemistry was good.

EXTRA: What do you find interesting in this show?

HAMILTON: It is about love. It's about family. It's about being true to yourself. I think these are the valid points of the show. What is the underlying universal truth that makes

Home
Guts & Glitter
La Cage Aux Folles vs. The Birdcage
A Nor
Traditional Family
Jerry Herman's "How To" List
Talkir
with George Hamilton
Enrich Your Experience:
Broadway Buzz Events
Recommended Reading from
Cleveland Public Library

people want to come see the show? Real honesty in the relationship which is a challenge to play.

EXTRA: How do you feel about movies being made into musicals? One of your early movies, *Light in the Piazza*, was made into a musical.

HAMILTON: I was doing *Chicago* when they did the score [for *Light in the Piazza*] and the orchestra leader of the show came to me and said they were doing a musical of *Light in the Piazza* and he would love if I would hear it. I said, that's just the worst idea I had ever heard in my entire life. Why would they do a musical about that? It's about a girl who is challenged and an Italian boy and why would they do that? But it was wonderful, just wonderful; I was very surprised and though it was great.

EXTRA: What other movies of yours do you think could be made into a Broadway musical?

HAMILTON: Love at First Bite would be a wonderful musical.

EXTRA: And with vampires so popular now, it would be really good.

HAMILTON: It could so easily, in a second, go on to Broadway. It's funny. It has a slight retro-70s quality. I couldn't play it, but I could produce it.

EXTRA: Have you done any producing?

HAMILTON: I produced *Zorro*, *the Gay Blade*; *Love at First Bite*; *Evel Knievel*. I produced *My One and Only* with Renée Zellweger and Kevin Bacon about my mother and a couple more.

EXTRA: What about directing?

HAMILTON: It is something I thought about many times, but I always hear that girl say to me, "you don't sing," and I think she also said, "you don't direct." It's funny how people can say things about you or to you that really last.

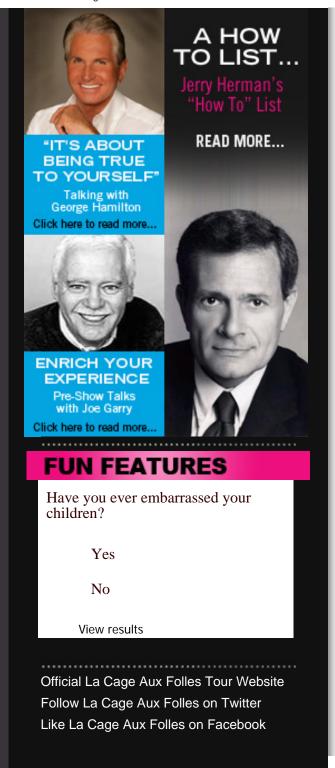
EXTRA: Obviously she was wrong...except about the directing, (laugh) but you never know



ENRICH YOUR EXPERIENCE



Want to find out even more about the show? Come get "buzzed" with host Joe Garry at the Broadway Buzz Pre-Show Talk! Join us one hour before



performances of **LA CAGE AUX FOLLES** in the Idea Center® at PlayhouseSquare.

The Idea Center is located just two doors west of the Allen Theatre at 1375 Euclid Avenue. You can enter the Idea Center quickly from the PlayhouseSquare parking garage by taking the elevator or stairs to Level 1. Exit through the red doors and cross at the crosswalk which will lead you directly into the rear entrance of the building. You also may enter the Idea Center from Euclid Avenue.

Can't make it to the Pre-Show Talk? Listen live on opening night (November 8) at 6:30 p.m. on WCLV 104.9 FM or watch live on wclv.com. The video will be available for viewing after opening night at playhousesquare.org/broadwaybuzz.

Catch our Post-Show Chats with the Cast following Thursday evening performances (November 10 and 17).

There is no charge for admission to Broadway Buzz events.

Broadway Buzz programs and the Buzz Extra online newsletter are made possible by the generosity of individual and corporate donors, foundations and sponsors.

Vote Now

ALL ARTICLES
Home
Guts & Glitter
La Cage Aux Folles vs. The Birdcage
A Non-
Traditional Family
Jerry Herman's "How To" List
with George Hamilton
Enrich Your Experience:
Broadway Buzz Events
Recommended Reading from
Cleveland Public Library