


BUZZ EXTRA

THE LINCOLN CENTER THEATER PRODUCTION OF
RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

SOUTH PACIFIC

February 1-13
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SPOTLIGHT

SOME ENCHANTED EVENING

An enchanted evening awaits you at PlayhouseSquare: **SOUTH PACIFIC** by Rodgers and Hammerstein arrives as part of the KeyBank Broadway Series February 1- 13.

31 AWARDS

SOUTH PACIFIC originally opened in New York in 1949. It was a smash hit, winning nine Tony Awards including Best Musical, Best Original Score and Best Libretto. The show went on to win not only the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, but also the 1950 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. It played 1,925 performances before it closed in 1954.

The revival that this National Tour



Tales of the South Pacific...
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Have you ever seen a live production of **SOUTH PACIFIC** (not the movie)?

Yes

No



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Photo Credit: Tim Gulan and the Seabees

Photo by Matt Polk

presents opened at Lincoln Center in

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Vice President of Theatricals:

Gina Vernaci

Director of Community Engagement & Education:

Colleen Porter

Director of Ticket Sales & Marketing:

Autumn Kiser

Editors:

Linda Jackson, Cindi Szymanski

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ALL ARTICLES

Home

Some Enchanted Evening

Dear Oscar

You've Got to Be Taught

Talking with Conductor Lawrence Goldberg

Tales
of the South Pacific

Enrich Your Experience:

Broadway Buzz Events

Recommended Reading from
Cleveland Public Library

Writer:

Robin Pease

Photos:

Peter Coombs, Joan Marcus, Matt Polk, Craig Schwartz

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BUZZ EXTRA

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RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

SOUTH PACIFIC

February 1-13
[Click here for tickets.](#)



 PlayhouseSquare

FEATURED ARTICLES

SOME ENCHANTED EVENING



Carmen Cusack as Ensign Nellie Forbush and the Nurses of South Pacific; Photo by Peter Coombs

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Talking with Conductor Lawrence Goldberg
[Click here to read more...](#)

ENRICH YOUR EXPERIENCE
Pre-Show Talks with Joe Garry
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The revival that this National Tour presents opened at Lincoln Center in March 2008 and closed August 2010, but not before 996 performances, eight Tony Awards (including Best Revival and Best Direction), five Drama Desk Awards, five Outer Critics Circle Awards and two Theatre World Awards.

All together, this makes 31 awards, a testament to the quality of the show and the longevity of its themes.

Playbackstl.com proclaims, "This production lived up to all of the very high praise it has been receiving since its inception on Broadway...Theater fans would do well to make time for this fabulous revival."

New York Post praises SOUTH PACIFIC as, "Simply Wonderful! Beguiling Theatrical Magic!"

In fact, critics all over have lauded this Lincoln Center revival of SOUTH PACIFIC.

The *Los Angeles Times* sings, "If 'Some Enchanted Evening' doesn't make your eyes mist during one of its reprises, please consult your doctor, as this may be a sign of a serious medical condition."

The Dallas Morning News resonates, "Rodgers and Hammerstein are peerless in capturing the American mythos....melody upon melody ... create this monument to our national optimism and generosity in spite of

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ALL ARTICLES

Home

.....
[Some Enchanted Evening](#)

.....
[Dear Oscar](#)

.....
[You've Got to Be Taught](#)

.....
[Talking with Conductor Lawrence Goldberg](#)

.....
[Tales of the South Pacific](#)

.....
[Enrich Your Experience:](#)

[Broadway Buzz Events](#)

.....
[Recommended Reading from
Cleveland Public Library](#)

prejudice.”

“If the opportunity to see SOUTH PACIFIC presents itself...drag yourself to the ...theater, whether that be by car, public transit, hitchhiking, or walking 20 miles in freezing rain. It’s a small price to pay for this theatrical masterpiece,” writes the *Chicago Theater Blog*.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette notes, “The portrayal of the human toll of war and prejudice in SOUTH PACIFIC rings as true for a 21st century audience as when it debuted in 1949.”

Phillyist.com agrees, “Rodgers and Hammerstein's message of love over hate still plays out fabulously in modern day.”

Synopsis

Setting: an island in the South Pacific during World War II.

The main characters:

- Nellie Forbush, a Navy nurse who is “in love with a wonderful guy” (French planter Emile de Becque)
- Luther Billis, a sailor who wants to visit the island Bali Ha’i where the French planters hide their daughters, because he “ain’t got dames”
- Marine Joe Cable, who arrives on the island to do some reconnaissance work against the Japanese but meets an “angel and lover, heaven and earth” in Liat, a Tonkinese native

In traditional boy-meets-girl, boy-loses-girl-fashion, chaos ensues as the ugly face of racism raises its head and changes some lives forever.

Did You Know?

Many of SOUTH PACIFIC’s songs have become popular classic standards performed by artists as part of their repertoire: “Some Enchanted Evening,” “This Nearly Was Mine,” “Bali Ha’i,” “A Cockeyed Optimist,” “A Wonderful Guy,” and “Younger Than Springtime” have been recorded by Ray Charles, Mandy Patinkin, Julie Andrews, Frank Sinatra, Harry Connick Jr., David Cassidy, The Temptations, Reba McEntire, Bing Crosby, Robert

Goulet, Chick Corea, Art Garfunkel, Blue Oyster Cult, Barbra Streisand, Percy Faith, Liza Minelli, Les Brown, Sammy Davis Jr., Dean Martin, Doris Day, Kiri Te Kanawa, Nelson Riddle, Bobby Darrin, Judy Collins, Barbara Cook, Andy Williams and many others.

For more information on SOUTH PACIFIC, visit:
<http://www.southpacificontour.com>

BUZZ EXTRA

THE LINCOLN CENTER THEATER PRODUCTION OF
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February 1-13
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DEAR OSCAR



Anderson Davis as Lt. Joseph Cable and Sumie Maeda as Liat; Photo by Peter Coombs


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Talking with Conductor Lawrence Goldberg
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Oscar Hammerstein II wrote the lyrics of the musical SOUTH PACIFIC.

Hammerstein was a great partner. He worked not only with **Richard Rodgers**, but with **Jerome Kern** (*Showboat*), **Herbert Stothart** (*Always You, Furs and Frills, Jimmie, Tickle Me*), **Otto Harbach**, (*Rose Marie, The Desert Song*), and he was a mentor to **Stephen Sondheim**!

Hammerstein has written some of the best lyrics about love and relationships of all time:

“**People Will Say We’re In Love**” from *Oklahoma*, “**Some Enchanted Evening**” from SOUTH PACIFIC, “**Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man**” from *Showboat*, “**If I Loved You**” from *Carousel*, “**Sixteen Going on Seventeen**” from *The Sound Of Music*, “**Do I Love You Because You’re Beautiful**” from *Cinderella*, “**Hello Young Lovers**” from *The King And I*, “**Don’t Marry Me**” from *Flower Drum Song*, and “**It Might As Well Be Spring**” from *State Fair*, among others.

So forget “**DEAR ABBY,**” who better to give advice on love than Oscar?

Here’s some of his advice using lyrics from SOUTH PACIFIC.

Dear Oscar:

I met this wonderful guy, but we are not alike, probably I’d bore him.
He’s a cultured Frenchman; I’m a little hick from Arkansas.
But if you’ll excuse an expression I use, I’m in love. I expect everyone of my crowd to make fun of my proud protestations of faith in romance. And they’ll say I’m naïve as a babe to believe every fable I hear from a person in pants. What should I tell my friends?

Cockeyed Optimist

Dear Cockeyed Optimist:

*Fearlessly face your friends and argue their doubts away.
Loudly sing about flowers in spring. Flatly stand on your little*

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ALL ARTICLES

Home

.....
[Some Enchanted Evening](#)

.....
[Dear Oscar](#)

.....
[You've Got to Be Taught](#)

.....
[Talking with Conductor Lawrence Goldberg](#)

.....
[Tales
of the South Pacific](#)

.....
[Enrich Your Experience:](#)

[Broadway Buzz Events](#)

.....
[Recommended Reading from](#)

[Cleveland Public Library](#)

flat feet and say, "Love is a grand and a beautiful thing!"

You shouldn't be ashamed to reveal the world famous feeling you feel.

Oscar

Dear Oscar:

I live on a lonely island, lost in the middle of a foggy sea. I long for another island, one where I know I would like to be. Where should I go?

Lost

Dear Lost:

Ever visit Bali Ha'i? Your own special hopes, your own special dreams, bloom on the hillside and shine in the streams. If you try, you'll find Bali Ha'i where the sky meets the sea. It is your special island calling you... "come to me, come to me."

Good Luck finding it and perhaps you might find love there.

Oscar

Cher Oscar:

Dites-moi pourquoi la vie est belle? Dites-moi pourquoi la vie est gai? Est-ce que parce que vous m'aimez?

Chérie:

Mais oui.

Oscar

Translation:

*Tell me why life is beautiful?
Tell me why life is gay?
Is it because you love me?
But yes.*

Dear Oscar:

I'm a bit older than the wonderful woman I just met. Younger men than I, officers and doctors, probably pursue her; she could have her pick.

But this is what I need. This is what I've longed for. Someone young and smiling, climbing up my hill!

I want to marry her. Can I ask her now? What will be her answer? Do I have a chance?

School Boy

Dear School Boy:

Some enchanted evening when you find your true love, when you feel her call you across a crowded room, then fly to her side, and make her your own, or all through your life you may dream all alone. Once you have found her, never let her go.

Oscar

Dear Oscar:

I am a sailor, stationed in the South Pacific.

I feel restless. I feel blue. I feel lonely and in grief. I feel ev'ry kind of feelin', but the feelin' of relief. I feel hungry as the wolf

felt when he met Red Riding Hood. What don't I feel? I don't feel good!

Why? I've got everything I need, the Navy takes real good care of me.

*I've got sunlight on the sand. I've got moonlight on the sea.
I've got mangoes and bananas you can pick right off the tree.
I've got volleyball and ping-pong and a lot of dandy games!
What ain't I got?*

A sailor lost in a port

Dear Sailor:

You ain't got dames.

*There is nothin' you can name that is anything like a dame!
There are no books like a dame and nothin' looks like a dame.
There are no drinks like a dame, and nothin' thinks like a
dame. Nothin' acts like a dame, or attracts like a dame. There
ain't a thing that's wrong with any man there, that can't be
cured by pullin' him near a girly, womanly, female, feminine
dame!*

Oscar

Dear Readers:

That's all for this week, don't forget...

*Keep talkin' happy talk,
Talk about things you'd like to do.
You got to have a dream,
If you don't have a dream
How you gonna have a dream come true?*

It's good idea, you like?

Oscar

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RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

SOUTH PACIFIC

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FEATURED ARTICLES

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David Pittsinger and Carmen Cusack. Photo by Craig Schwartz

It was unthinkable that a story of interracial love could become a popular musical in 1949.

Since the 1800s, interracial relationships in the United States were referred to as miscegenation, which came from the Latin words "miscere" meaning "to mix the" and "genus" (meaning "race"). Maryland was the first state to make interracial marriages illegal in 1664. Then in 1776, seven colonies banned miscegenation. Thirty-eight states still deemed interracial marriages illegal right after World War II. While states did not enforce the **anti-miscegenation laws**, these bans were still listed on the books in some states. In fact, Alabama was the last state to repeal the ban on interracial marriages in the year 2000.

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ALL ARTICLES

Home

.....
Some Enchanted Evening

.....
Dear Oscar

.....
You've Got to Be Taught

.....
Talking with Conductor Lawrence Goldberg

.....Tales
of the South Pacific

.....
Enrich Your Experience:

Broadway Buzz Events

.....
Recommended Reading from

Cleveland Public Library

Lawrence Downes, in *The New York Times*, explained that SOUTH PACIFIC was "daring then for its treatment of racism and interracial love." John Lahr wrote in *The New Yorker* that in SOUTH PACIFIC "love is brought up against...unexamined racism, which allowed the musical's daring discussion of cultural diversity: how people get lost and found in translation." Ben Brantley of *The New York Times* claimed that SOUTH PACIFIC is an "overt plea for racial tolerance."

In the musical, even though he is engaged to a blue-eyed girl back home, Lieutenant Joe Cable falls in love with a Tonkinese girl. In spite of the fact that she makes "joy invade his arms and fill his heart," he will not marry her because he couldn't bring her back home to meet his family.

Nellie Forbush, of Arkansas, tells her wonderful guy that she won't marry him because he has two mixed-race children with a Polynesian woman who has died. Nellie cannot bear to marry a man who has had children with a "colored" person.

Rejected by Nellie (who explains that she can't help feeling this way because it is born in her), Emile de Becque asks Lieutenant Cable, "Why do you have this feeling, you and she? I do not believe this is born in you."

Cable responds, "No, it is not born in you, it happens after you're born," and then sings:

*"You've got to be taught
To hate and fear.
You've got to be taught
From year to year.
It's got to be drummed
In your dear little ear.
You've got to be carefully taught.*

*You've got to be taught
To be afraid
Of people whose eyes
Are oddly made,
And people whose skin
Is a different shade.
You've got to be carefully taught.*

*You've got to be taught
Before it's too late,
Before you are 6 or 7 or 8,
To hate all the people
your relatives hate,
You've got to be carefully taught."*

People tried to talk Rodgers and Hammerstein into taking this song out of the show, but according to James A. Michener, the author of the original story, "the authors replied stubbornly that this number represented why they had wanted to do this play, and that even if it meant the failure of the production, it was going to stay in."

When the original production of SOUTH PACIFIC went on tour in 1953 to Georgia, some state legislators tried to have the show banned. This was the era of **Jim Crow**, where miscegenation was **illegal in many states**. State Representative **David C. Jones** went on record saying that a "song justifying interracial marriage was implicitly a threat to the American way of life," to which Hammerstein told *The New York Times*, "If they don't like it, that's too bad."

Right before going off on a reconnaissance mission with Lieutenant Cable, Emile de Becque explains how he feels about prejudice: "This is just the kind of ugliness I was running away from. It has followed me all this way, all these years, now it has found me." But Cable, realizing his love for Liat, decides, "If I get out of this thing alive, I'm not going back there (the States). I'm coming here (Bali Ha'i). All I care about is here."


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RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

SOUTH PACIFIC

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TALES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC



Above: Jodi Kimura and the Seabees. Below: Jodi Kimura as Bloody Mary. Photos by Matt Polk.

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SOUTH PACIFIC was based on a series of short stories by **James A. Michener**. Michener was working as a textbook editor during World War II. He left his job to enlist in the Navy where he was assigned to be a naval historian. Stationed in the south Pacific, he wrote of his experiences in a book called *Tales of the South Pacific*.

When the war was over, Michener sent his book to his former employer. It was published and won a Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1948. Upon reading the book, director Joshua Logan, a fellow World War II veteran, decided to adapt several of the stories for the stage. Logan asked Rodgers to compose the music, and Hammerstein to write the lyrics and the libretto. The show opened in 1949, won a Pulitzer Prize for drama and went down in history as one of Broadway's best musicals.

How well do you think you know SOUTH PACIFIC? Take this quiz to find out which parts of the story came from Michener's book, which from Hammerstein's libretto and which from real life. What is true and what is false about the South Pacific?

1. The island Bali Ha'i is a real place.
2. The reality TV show *Survivor* took place at Bali Ha'i.
3. Tonkinese people (Bloody Mary and Liat) are Vietnamese.
4. Bloody Mary got her name because she had thin ravines at the corners of her mouth that were filled with betel juice making her mouth look like it had been gashed with a rusty razor.
5. Bloody Mary's grass skirts usually cost "Fo'Dolla' " (four dollars).
6. Liat and Lieutenant Cable did not speak the same language.
7. Lieutenant Cable's job was to stop Bloody Mary from selling grass skirts.
8. Liat is Bloody Mary's daughter.

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ALL ARTICLES

Home

Some Enchanted Evening

Dear Oscar

You've Got to Be Taught

Talking with Conductor Lawrence Goldberg

Tales
of the South Pacific

Enrich Your Experience:
Broadway Buzz Events

Recommended Reading from
Cleveland Public Library

9. Nellie Forbush is from Arkansas.

10. Emile de Becque is a French planter who wants to marry Nellie.

11. De Becque has two French-Polynesian children.

12. Lieutenant Cable and Emile de Becque worked together to spy on the Japanese.

Answers

1. TRUE. Bali Ha'i is based on an island in the South Pacific called Ambae located in Vanuatu (formerly called New Hebrides).

2. TRUE. The 9th season of **Survivor** was filmed on **Vanuatu**, also called the Islands of Fire.

3. TRUE. Tonkin is in the northern part of Vietnam and was a French colony until after World War II.

4. TRUE. In Michener's book and the musical, Bloody Mary chews betel nuts.

5. TRUE... "Fo' Dolla' " was the cost of grass skirts and is the title of one of Michener's stories from *Tales of the South Pacific* upon which the musical is based.

6. TRUE in the musical, FALSE in the book because Liat, Bloody Mary and Lieutenant Cable communicated in French.

7. TRUE in the book. The Tonkinese were brought to the island to work with cows and coconuts as indentured servants to the French planters. However, they discovered they could make more money making and selling grass skirts to the Americans stationed on the island. Consequently, the planters passed a law stating the Tonkinese could only



sell grass skirts to the planters – who would in turn sell the skirts to the Americans. Bloody Mary, however, ignored that law and sold skirts to everyone. The planters then asked the Navy to stop her, and this became Lieutenant Cable's job. In trying to stop her sales, Cable became friends with Mary who in turn introduced him to her daughter, Liat.

8. TRUE. Liat is Bloody Mary's daughter.

9. TRUE. Nellie was from Otolousa, Arkansas in the book and from Little Rock, Arkansas in the musical.

10. TRUE. De Becque left France because he killed a man and came to the islands to start a plantation. He wants to marry Nellie.

11. TRUE in the musical where de Becque has two children. FALSE in Michener's book, where de Becque has eight daughters with different Javanese, Tonkinese and Polynesian mothers that he never married.

12. TRUE in the musical, FALSE in the novel. In Michener's book, De Becque and Lieutenant Cable never went on a reconnaissance mission.

There are 19 stories in Michener's *Tales of the South Pacific*. The two major stories that the musical SOUTH PACIFIC draws from are called "Fo' Dolla" and "Our Heroine." Other stories that served the libretto are "An Officer and a Gentleman," "A Boar's Tooth," "Dry Rot," and "A Cemetery at Hoga Point." Michener also wrote a sequel called *Return to Paradise*.

Download the book by James A. Michener at: <http://ebook68.com/tales-of-the-south-pacific.html>


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FEATURED ARTICLES

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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 SOUTH PACIFIC 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? Tune in to WCLV 104.9 FM to listen live on Tuesday, February 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Catch our Post-Show Chats with the Cast following Thursday evening performances (February 3 and 10).

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Pre-Show Talks with Joe Garry
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There is no charge for admission to Broadway Buzz events.

On February 9, join cast members from SOUTH PACIFIC as they lead a dance master class.

Participants must be advanced level high school or college students, or local professional artists. Ages 14 and up only, please. Others are welcome to observe.

Participation is free; advance registration is required.

To register:

Call Lauren Fraley at 216-771-4444 x3268 or e-mail fraleyl@playhousesquare.org.

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ALL ARTICLES

Home

.....
[Some Enchanted Evening](#)

.....
[Dear Oscar](#)

.....
[You've Got to Be Taught](#)

.....
[Talking with Conductor Lawrence Goldberg](#)

.....
[Tales
of the South Pacific](#)

.....
[Enrich Your Experience:](#)

[Broadway Buzz Events](#)

.....
[Recommended Reading from
Cleveland Public Library](#)