

Covenant House Florida Presents

BROADWAY UNDER THE Stars



Neil Berg
(Composer/Lyricist/Producer)

Short Bio:

Neil Berg is the composer/co-lyricist of award-winning new rock musical *THE 12*, written with Pulitzer Prize/Tony-winning playwright, Robert Schenkkan, which premiered at the Denver Center. His other shows include the new Broadway-bound musical *Grumpy Old Men*, which opened to rave reviews for its U.S. Premiere at The Ogunquit Playhouse in Maine, the hit Off-Broadway musical *The Prince and the Pauper, Tim and Scrooge*, which ran at the Westchester Broadway Theatre in NY, and *The Man Who Would Be King*. Neil is the creator/co-producer of the #1 Broadway touring concert in America, *Neil Berg's 100 Years of Broadway*, as well as *Neil Berg's 50 Years of Rock & Roll* and *Neil Berg's Pianomen*. He is the co-producer of the Off-Broadway Alliance Award-Winning revival of *Closer Than Ever*. www.neilberg.com

Full Bio:

Neil is currently the composer/co-lyricist, along with Pulitzer Prize/TONY winning playwright Robert Schenkkan, of the award-winning new rock musical *The Twelve*. It opened at the Denver Center to unanimous rave reviews and won the HENRY Award for best new play or musical.

Neil Berg is also the composer/lyricist of the hit Off-Broadway musical *The Prince and the Pauper*, which ran for two years at the Lambs Theater in New York City. The New York Times raved *Prince and the Pauper* "[soars] on wings of theatrical fun." The original cast CD is released internationally on Jay Records, sheet music published by Hal Leonard, and licensing by Samuel French Inc. Songs from this show are also featured with many other classic songs in the official *Off-Broadway Songbook*, published by Hal Leonard.

Neil is the composer for the musical version of *Grumpy Old Men: The Musical*, based on the Warner Brothers movie classic starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau, which is set to have its official U.S.

Premiere this summer at The Ogunquit Playhouse in Maine. It had its out-of-town tryout at the Royal Manitoba Theater Centre in Winnipeg, starring John Rubenstein and John Conrad Schuck. The developmental readings have featured Academy Award-winning actor F. Murray Abraham, TONY Award winner George Hearn, Marilu Henner, Carole Kane, Ken Page and Vicki Lewis. For more information go to www.grumpyoldmenthemusical.com.

Neil's holiday musical *Tim and Scrooge*, with book and lyrics by Nick Meglin (former editor of Mad Magazine), garnered rave reviews at the Westchester Broadway Theater in NY. *Tim and Scrooge* explores what happens ten years after *A Christmas Carol* and was voted "one of the best musicals" of the inaugural NYMF festival in NYC, and garnered a glowing review in the NY Times after it opened at The Queens Theater in the Park, starring TONY nominee Bobby Steggert. It was also presented as a special reading at the Criterion Theater in the London's West End.

Neil's musical *The Man Who Would Be King*, written with DJ Salisbury, was produced at the NYMF Festival in NYC, and at the University of Buffalo. It had a developmental reading/workshop at The Village Theater in Issaquah, WA, directed by Tony Award winner Brian Yorkey (*Next To Normal, If/Then*). This followed a staged reading at the Rubicon Theater in CA. This show has been developed with dramaturgical guidance by Moises Kaufman of the Teton Theater Project. The fully-orchestrated CD recording, featuring Brian d'Arcy James, Marc Kudisch and Mandy Gonzalez can be purchased at www.neilberg.com.

Neil is also currently working with writer Jonathan Feldman (*Swing Kids* movie) and Producers Ray Wu (Broadway's *Elfand Misery*) Mark Gordon (*Grey's Anatomy, Saving Private Ryan*), on a new contemporary musical called *Never Grimm*. A New York City workshop was recently done in NYC, directed by Leigh Silverman (*Sweet Charity*).

Neil also composed the musical *Heidi*, book by Julia Jordan and commissioned by Douglas Love and the Walden Family Theater. *Heidi* ran for over eighty performances in its regional premiere in Denver.

His musical *Hexed in the City*, with book by Tom Mills, played Off-Broadway at the Zipper Theater, produced by The Sonnet Repertory Theater.

Other commissioned works include *Percy Penguin* for the Penguin Repertory Theater (Joe Brancato, Artistic Director), *Threads* for the Helen Hayes Theater in Nyack, NY, and *False Profits* at The Theater Off-Park in NYC.

As a film composer, Neil recently scored, and was the Musical Supervisor for the 2013 released film "Once upon a Time in Brooklyn," starring Armand Assante, Ice-T, William DeMeo, and Cathy Moriarity.

It is released theatrically by Grindstone, the Independent division of Lions Gate. Neil was also the composer/music supervisor on the feature film "Searching For Bobby D" featuring Carmen Electra, Sandra Bernhard, and Mario Cantone.

Neil was also the recipient of the 1995 Bistro Award for Best Musical for his show *Asylum in the Night*, a revue of Neil's theater music. Neil had an evening dedicated to his music at Joe's Pub, produced by BroadwayWorld.com, and returned to Feinstein's for a two-week engagement in July 2011 after a sold-out performance in 2010. Neil studied musical composition with Robert Printz, Sue Peters, and is a product of The BMI Musical Writer's Workshop, mentored by Maury Yeston and Skip Kennon.

As a Producer, Neil is the creator and co-producer, along with his producing partner Adam Friedson, of *Neil Berg's 100 Years of Broadway*, which is now the number one Broadway touring concert in the United States, playing in over 120 cities a year for the past decade. You can find a current schedule at www.neilberg.com. Many new plays, musicals, and concerts are in the works, including new plays by world-renowned writer Jordi Galceron, and their latest concert sensations, *Neil Berg's Rock and Roll*, *Neil Berg's Piano Rocks* (great piano rock songs), and *Neil Berg's Piano Men* (the songs of Elton John and Billy Joel).

Neil was also one of the lead producers and driving force of the award-winning 2013 Off-Broadway revival of Maltby and Shire's *Closer Than Ever* at The York Theater. Neil's guidance brought the show first to Queens Theater in the Park and The Bristol Riverside Theater with original stars, Lynn Wintersteller and Sally Mayes, before recasting the show when it came into NYC, with Christiane Noll, Jenn Colella, George Dvorsky, Sal Viviano, and Rita Harvey. Reviews were some of the strongest in the 2012-2013 NYC theater season and led to winning the Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best Musical Revival.

As owner of Lefffield Productions, Inc., an entertainment Company based in Nyack, NY, Neil has produced over a thousand Broadway concerts worldwide with such legends as Michael Crawford, Bernadette Peters, Ben Vereen, Audra McDonald, Betty Buckley, Rita Moreno, Donna McKechnie, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Jeremy Jordan, Norm Lewis, Liz Callaway, as well as Alice Ripley, Stephanie Block, Mark Kudisch, Capathia Jenkins and many others.

Neil also produced a concert version of the Broadway musical *The Secret Garden*, in association with its composer, Lucy Simon. He has also produced concert versions of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (NYC), *Chess* (John Houseman Theater), and *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Neil was the Producing Artistic Director of The Broadway Series at the world-famous China Club in NYC. Over the past 25 years, Neil has been the musical director/entertainment coordinator for such great organizations as Covenant House and The Leukemia Society of America. He has produced

countless corporate events all across the world for Goldman Sachs, UBS/Paine Webber, Deloitte Touche, John Hancock, Marriott Corporation, IBM, The United Hospice Organization, The American Red Cross, and many others.

Neil was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for his artistry and dedication to community service, including helping to raise over \$20 million dollars for the homeless youth at Covenant House with his Broadway Concerts. Neil was also honored with the Distinguished Citizen's Award, along with Academy Award-winning actress Ellen Burstyn, by The Rockland Family Shelter for his efforts on behalf of abused women. Neil was also honored in 2001 as The American Red Cross Man of the Year and was honored again in 2003 by The United Hospice Foundation. In 2008, Neil was awarded Artist of the Year by the Arts Council of Rockland County.

Neil also toured the U.S. with the rock band Joe D'Urso & Stone Caravan and played on their past seven CDs as well as performed with them on the recent "100 Year Anniversary Tour" for Harley Davidson. Neil was also heard on radio around the country with his jingle for Shock Coffee.

Neil is the proud co-founder, with John Asselta, of the SJR Theater Workshop, a theater camp for students in Montvale, NJ, which instructs over 200 young actors/singers a year. This program is now run year-round. For more information please go to www.sjrtheater.com.

Neil is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild and can be reached at www.neilberg.com.

Neil is married to actress Rita Harvey, and dedicates everything to their son, Lucas David Berg