

# BEYOND THE SCORE

ISSUE EIGHTEEN



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BRIEF HISTORY

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AND THE AWARD  
GOES TO ...

A CLOSER LOOK AT MUSICAL THEATRE

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# THE TONY AWARDS:

## A BRIEF HISTORY

**The Tony Awards became official on April 6, 1947. Eleven awards were given out that night, including notable people such as playwright Arthur Miller, actress Ingrid Bergman, and choreographer Agnes De Mille.**



So who is Tony? The awards were named after Antoinette Perry, a highly esteemed leader, actress, producer, and director. She not only co-founded the American Theatre Wing, but she also played a huge role in providing theatrical entertainment to American soldiers during World War II: Stage Door Canteens. The Tony Awards were named after her because of her faithful service and impact on the theatre community. When the Tony Awards became official, she had already passed away.

The Tony Awards have become a theatre tradition, where one night each year accomplished directors, performers, playwrights, and designers are awarded. The Tony's are a celebration of theatre and the arts community.



Click on the picture above to watch the 2018 Tony Performance from the cast of *Once on This Island*. This won the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical!



# BEHIND THE MEDALLION



During the first two years of the Tony Awards, there was no official award. The winners were given a memento and a scroll with their achievement. In 1949, the United Scenic Artists announced a contest to see who could create a design for the award. The winner, Herman Rosse, designed what we still use as the Tony Award today! The medallion itself has the comedy and tragedy mask and on the back is the recipient's name inscribed. In 1968 the award was mounted on a black pedestal along with a curved arm around the medallion.

# GOLDEN AGE AWARDS

One of the greatest achievements is when a show gets awarded for being the Best Musical. There are many Golden Age Musicals that received this award. Maybe you'll recognize a couple! Let's look at a few!

Guys & Dolls  
My Fair Lady  
West Side Story  
Bells Are Ringing  
The Music Man  
Wonderful Town  
The King and I  
South Pacific



What are some of your favorite musicals today that have won a Tony Award for Best Musical?



## SOURCES

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