



Press Contact:  
O&M Co.  
Rick Miramontez / Molly Barnett / Elizabeth Wagner  
rick@oandmco.com / molly@oandmco.com / elizabeth@oandmco.com  
(212) 695-7400

**FOR RELEASE ON MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2010**

**STEPHEN SONDHEIM  
GUESTS ON SPECIAL 250<sup>th</sup> EDITION  
OF “DOWNSTAGE CENTER,” NOW ONLINE**

**AMERICAN THEATRE WING  
ANNOUNCES NEW ONLINE EDITIONS OF  
“WORKING IN THE THEATRE”, “DOWNSTAGE CENTER” & “IN THE WINGS”**

**New York, NY** – The **American Theatre Wing** has announced that legendary composer and lyricist **Stephen Sondheim**, currently represented on Broadway by *A Little Night Music* and soon to be featured in the title role(s) of Roundabout Theatre Company’s *Sondheim on Sondheim*, is the guest for the **250<sup>th</sup> interview** on the popular audio program, “**Downstage Center.**” Hosted by American Theatre Wing Executive Director **Howard Sherman**, “Downstage Center” is an unrivaled source of in-depth theatrical conversation, featuring weekly hour-long interviews with the leading artists and professionals working on stage today. Mr. **Sondheim’s** interview is available online and as a podcast beginning today (Monday, 1/4) through iTunes or an RSS feed. Click <http://americantheatrewing.org/downstagecenter> to listen or subscribe. The program features a candid Sondheim offering unique insights into his remarkable career, from his earliest days under the tutelage of Oscar Hammerstein II through the upcoming, two-volume compendium of his lyrics, as the theater world celebrates his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday year.

As the home for America’s largest free online archive of media focused on how theatre is made, in the words of the very people who make it, in the past month, ATW has released two new online episodes of the television program “**Working in the Theatre**”:

- Beyond Broadway: International Theatre with **Simone Genatt** (Chairman, Broadway Asia), **Robert Nederlander, Jr.** (President/CEO, Nederlander Worldwide Entertainment) and **Alan Wasser** (General Manager, Alan Wasser Associates), moderated by **Gordon Cox** of *Variety*.
  - [http://americantheatrewing.org/wit/detail/beyond\\_broadway\\_10\\_09](http://americantheatrewing.org/wit/detail/beyond_broadway_10_09)
- Amazing Affinity: Actors 2009 with **Danny Burstein**, **Malcolm Gets**, **Bill Pullman**, and **John Douglas Tompson**, moderated by **Gordon Cox**
  - [http://americantheatrewing.org/wit/detail/actors\\_11\\_09](http://americantheatrewing.org/wit/detail/actors_11_09)

In addition to today's new Stephen Sondheim program, four other new editions of the podcast "**Downstage Center**," have made their debut:

- Actor **Hunter Foster**, from *Ordinary Days* at Roundabout Underground's black box
  - [http://americantheatrewing.org/downstagecenter/detail/hunter\\_foster](http://americantheatrewing.org/downstagecenter/detail/hunter_foster)
- Actor **Jim Norton**, currently appearing in Broadway's *Finian's Rainbow*
  - [http://americantheatrewing.org/downstagecenter/detail/jim\\_norton](http://americantheatrewing.org/downstagecenter/detail/jim_norton)
- **Bernard Gersten**, Executive Director of Lincoln Center Theater
  - [http://americantheatrewing.org/downstagecenter/detail/bernard\\_gersten](http://americantheatrewing.org/downstagecenter/detail/bernard_gersten)
- Actress **Beth Leavel**, *Mamma Mia!*'s newest leading lady
  - [http://americantheatrewing.org/downstagecenter/detail/beth\\_leavel](http://americantheatrewing.org/downstagecenter/detail/beth_leavel)

ATW premiered two editions of the new backstage video podcast, "**In The Wings**":

- "Dialect Coach" featuring **Stephen Gabis** of *The 39 Steps*
  - [http://americantheatrewing.org/inthewings/detail/dialect\\_coach](http://americantheatrewing.org/inthewings/detail/dialect_coach)
- "Fight Director" featuring **Rick Sordelet** of *Superior Donuts & The Royal Family*
  - [http://americantheatrewing.org/inthewings/detail/fight\\_director](http://americantheatrewing.org/inthewings/detail/fight_director)

ATW also added to its collection:

- Conversations from the **SDCF "Masters of the Stage"** series, including programs with **Sarah H. Schulman, Zoe Caldwell, Gerald Freedman** and **Stuart Vaughan**
  - <http://americantheatrewing.org/sdcfmasters/>
- Classic editions of **The Broadway League's "This is Broadway"** with **Joseph Abaldo, Jessica James, James Earl Jones, Jerry Orbach** and **Marge Redmond**
  - <http://americantheatrewing.org/thisisbroadway/>

Published on December 1, *The American Theatre Wing presents The Play That Changed My Life: America's Foremost Playwrights on the Plays that Influenced Them*, is in stores now. The 178-page paperback, published by Applause Theatre & Cinema Books and edited by **Ben Hodges** (*Theatre World*), features an Introduction by **Paula Vogel** and essays and interviews from nineteen of America's most distinguished playwrights on the plays that transformed their lives, and is available from all major book outlets.

**The American Theatre Wing** (Theodore S. Chapin, Chairman, Board of Directors; Howard Sherman, Executive Director) is a not-for-profit organization best known as the creator of the Antoinette Perry "Tony" Awards®, which it presents annually with The Broadway League. In addition to "Downstage Center," "In The Wings," "Working in the Theatre," and a host of other online resources, The Wing sponsors many activities, all dedicated to recognizing excellence and supporting education in theatre. Visitors to [americantheatrewing.org](http://americantheatrewing.org) can listen to, watch or download from ATW's extensive media collection, and learn more about all of its programming for students, aspiring and working professionals, and audiences who want to learn more about the making of theatre. Follow ATW on [Facebook.com/TheAmericanTheatreWing](https://www.facebook.com/TheAmericanTheatreWing) and [Twitter.com/TheWing](https://twitter.com/TheWing).

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