Harvey Fierstein (Actor, Playwright)

Date of Birth: June 6th, 1954
Place of Birth: Brooklyn, NY

Quick Overview:

Harvey Forbes Fierstein is an American actor, playwright, and voice actor.

Fierstein has won the Tony Award for Best Actor in a Play for his own play *Torch Song Trilogy* (about a gay drag-performer and his quest for true love and family) and the Tony Award for Best Actor in a Musical for playing Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray*. He also wrote the book for the musical *La Cage aux Folles*, for which he won the Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical, and wrote the book for the Tony Award-winning *Kinky Boots*. He was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame in 2007.

Writing:

Fierstein is perhaps best known for the play and film *Torch Song Trilogy*, which he wrote and starred in both Off-Broadway (with the young Matthew Broderick) and on Broadway (with Estelle Getty and Fisher Stevens). The 1982 Broadway production won him two Tony Awards, for Best Play and Best Actor in a Play, two Drama Desk Awards, for Outstanding New Play and Outstanding Actor in a Play, and the Theatre World Award. The film adaptation earned him an Independent Spirit Award nomination as Best Male Lead. Fierstein also wrote the book for *La Cage aux Folles* (1983), winning another Tony Award, this time for Best Book of a Musical, and a Drama Desk nomination for Outstanding Book.

In 2007, Fierstein wrote the book to the musical *A Catered Affair* in which he also starred. He received a Drama Desk Award nomination for Outstanding Book of a Musical, and the show won the Drama League Award for Distinguished Production of a Musical. Fierstein wrote the book for the stage musical *Newsies*, along with Alan Menken (music) and Jack Feldman (lyrics). The musical opened on Broadway in March 2012. Fierstein was nominated for the Tony Award for Book of a Musical.

Fierstein wrote the book for a stage musical version of the film *Kinky Boots* with music and lyrics by Cyndi Lauper. The musical was nominated for thirteen 2013 Tony Awards and won six, including best musical.

His play *Casa Valentina* was produced on Broadway by the Manhattan Theatre Club at the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre, where it opened on April 23, 2014. It was directed by Joe Mantello, with a cast that featured Patrick Page as George/Valentina, John Cullum and Mare Winningham. It was nominated for 2 OCC awards, 3 Drama League awards, and 4 Tony Awards including Best Play. *Casa Valentina* recently completed a run at London's Southwark Playhouse on October 10, 2015.

Fierstein is the author of the revised the book for the smash hit production of *Funny Girl* playing at the Savoy Theatre in London, and wrote the teleplay for December's live broadcast of "The Wiz" on NBC, that will be heading to Broadway with his new book.

Acting

In addition to *Torch Song Trilogy*, *La Cage aux Folles* and *A Catered Affair*, Fierstein's Broadway acting credits include playing the mother, Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray* (2002), for which he won a Tony Award for Best Leading Actor in a Musical. He later replaced Alfred Molina as Tevye in the 2004 revival of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Besides his leading role in the film version of *Torch Song Trilogy* co-starring Matthew Broderick and Anne Bancroft, Fierstein's film roles include Woody Allen's *Bullets over Broadway*, Robin Williams' character's makeup-artist brother in *Mrs. Doubtfire*, and Merv Green in *Death to Smoochy*, in addition to parts in *Garbo*

Talks, *Duplex*, *Kull the Conqueror*, *Double Platnum*, and *Independence Day*. He narrated the documentary *The Times of Harvey Milk*, for which he won a News & Documentary Emmy Award, and also voiced characters in *Mulan* and *Mulan II*.

In 1994, Fierstein became the first openly gay actor to play a principal gay character in a television series when he appeared as fashion designer Dennis Sinclair in the short-lived CBS series *Daddy's Girls*. Additional credits include *Miami Vice*, *Murder, She Wrote*, the Showtime television movie *Common Ground* (which he also wrote), and *Cheers*, which earned him an Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series

Fierstein returned to the theatre when he reprised the role of Tevye, replacing an injured Chaim Topol in the national tour of *Fiddler on the Roof* starting in December 2009. On February 15, 2011, he replaced Douglas Hodge as Albin/Zaza in the Broadway revival of *La Cage aux Folles* playing opposite Jeffrey Tambor, who played Georges.

His television credits include "Smash," "How I Met Your Mother," "The Good Wife," "Cheers" (Emmy nomination), "The Simpsons," "Family Guy," "Nurse Jackie," "Murder She Wrote," and "Miami Vice."

Awards & Acknowledgements:

1983:
Tony Award for Best Play – *Torch Song Trilogy*
Tony Award for Best Lead Actor in a Play – *Torch Song Trilogy*
Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Actor in a Play – *Torch Song Trilogy*

1984:
Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical – *La Cage aux Folles*
Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Broadway Musical – *La Cage aux Folles*

1985:
News & Documentary Emmy Award for Outstanding Interview/Interview Program(s) – *The Times of Harvey Milk*

1994:
GLAAD Media Visibility Award

2003:
Tony Award for Best Lead Actor in a Musical – *Hairspray*
Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Actor in a Musical- *Hairspray*

2013:
Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New Broadway Musical – *Kinky Boots*

