

BEBE NEUWIRTH NAMED SARAH SIDDON'S SOCIETY 2014 AWARD WINNER

(Chicago, IL, June 25, 2014) — The Sarah Siddons Society of Chicago recently announced two-time Tony and two-time Grammy award winner Bebe Neuwirth will be the recipient of their 2014 Artist-of-the-Year Award in a tribute entitled, ALL THAT JAZZ. The event is scheduled to be held at the Ritz-Carlton Chicago on Sunday, September 7, 2014, beginning at 11:30 am.

Actress, singer, and one of the greatest dancers in Broadway history, Bebe Neuwirth has received Tonys for her performances as Velma in CHICAGO and Nickie in SWEET CHARITY. For her role as Velma she also received the Drama Desk Award, Astaire Award, Outer Critics-Circle Award as well as the Drama League's Distinguished Performance of the Year. Ms. Neuwirth also has starred on Broadway in A CHORUS LINE, DANCIN', FOSSE, DAMN YANKEES, ADDAMS FAMILY, LITTLE ME, again in CHICAGO as both Roxie Hart, and most recently as Mama Morton—the tough-talking prison mistress of murderers' row.

Ms. Neuwirth's Off-Broadway roles include A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, HERE LIES JENNY, WRITER'S BLOCK and EVERETT BEEKIN at Lincoln Center. She has appeared in Regional theatre in WEST SIDE STORY and THE TAMING OF THE SHREW as well as KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN in London's West End.

Ms. Neuwirth has received two Emmys for her well-known performances as Lilith in CHEERS as well as an Emmy nomination for her role as Dorothy Parker in DASH AND LILY. She has appeared in popular TV shows including LAW AND ORDER: TRIAL BY JURY, THE GOOD WIFE, FRASIER, and recently on CBS's BLUE BLOODS with Tom Selleck. Her film work includes GREEN CARD, SUMMER OF SAM, CELEBRITY, LIBERTY HEIGHTS, BUGSY, JUMANJI, THE FACULTY, ADOPT A SAILOR, THE PAINT JOB, AND FAME.

"I'll never forget the night I saw Bebe in CHICAGO. It was like the show was reborn again, said Dominic Missimi, Siddons' Event Producer and Director. The great interpretations of Rivera and Verdon were there in our memory, but a new, sexier, contemporary performance was unfolding in front of us and it was equally brilliant—ferociously danced and brilliantly sung with a red-hot performance," added Missimi.

In addition to Ms. Neuwirth's accomplishments on stage, TV and film, her concertizing includes BEBE SINGS WEILL AND KANDER & EBB, STORIES WITH PIANO, and UPSTAIRS AT O'NEALS. She has released solo CDs entitled PORCELAIN featuring songs by Sondheim, ABBA, Lennon and McCartney and, recently, STORIES...in NYC. LIVE AT 54 BELOW. Ms. Neuwirth is an Honorary Ziegfeld Girl.

WTTW'S CHICAGO TONIGHT and CHICAGO SUN TIMES theatre and dance critic Hedy Weiss will introduce Ms. Neuwirth. Ms. Weiss along with Chris Jones, CHICAGO TRIBUNE theatre critic, will be honored with the Sarah Siddons Society's Recognition Award for Outstanding Contributions to Chicago Theatre.

Entertainment will feature performances by Chicago College of Performing Arts Theatre Conservatory musical theatre students directed by Luis Perez with choreography by Jane Lanier and music direction by Bonnie Shadrake—all CCPA faculty. Special performances from the Chicago theatre community feature guests Rebecca Finnegan, Heidi Kettenring and Travis Taylor.

Special guests also include Michael Halberstam, Artistic Director Writers Theatre, and CCPA faculty members Sean Kelley and Ray Frewen. Siddons' Event Producer Dominic Missimi will direct the Awards Celebration. Bill Zwecker, Chicago radio and press personality, will return as Master of Ceremonies. The Honorary Chairs include Robert C. Marks and Lori Lennon.

Siddons' mission is to provide scholarships to theatre students at major universities and colleges in the Chicago area. For the first time, deserving theatre students at the Chicago College of Performing Arts Theatre Conservatory at Roosevelt University will be recipients of the Siddons annual scholarship program.

For over 60 years, the Sarah Siddons Society has presented the award to America's most celebrated stage and film actors. Helen Hayes was the first recipient in 1953. Since then actresses such as Bette Davis, Lauren Bacall, Julie Harris, Carol Channing, Colleen Dewhurst, Jessica Tandy, Liza Minnelli, Julie Andrews, Bernadette Peters, Patti LuPone and Audra McDonald have received the award. Many of Chicago's finest actresses have received the Society's Leading Lady Award including Hollis Resnick, Barbara Robertson, Rondi Reed, Mary Beth Fisher and E. Faye Butler, to name a few.

Along with the awards ceremony and performances, the event will include a reception and luncheon. Tickets are \$175 per person. For information contact Mary Lou Bilder-Gold at 847.446.4140 or Maryloubilder@me.com.

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