

Sunday in the Park with George (1984)

Produced at Playwrights Horizons Off-Broadway in 1983

Original Broadway Production:

Opening Night: May 2, 1984

Closing Date: October 13, 1985 (35 previews, 604 performances)

Creative Team of the Original Broadway Production

Music & Lyrics by: Stephen Sondheim

Book by: James Lapine

Directed by: James Lapine

Movement directed by: Randolyn Zinn

Scenic Design: Tony Straiges*

Lighting Design: Richard Nelson

Costume Design: Patricia Zipprodt &
Ann Hould-Ward*

Orchestrations: Michael Starobin

**Set & costume design adapted from the Seurat painting
from the Art Institute of Chicago**

Casts of Selected Productions

Role (Act I/Act II)	Original Broadway Cast (1984)	West End/ Broadway Revival (2005/2008)	Encores/Broadway Revival Cast (2017)
George/George	Mandy Patinkin	Daniel Evans	Jake Gyllenhaal
Dot/Marie	Bernadette Peters	Jenna Russell	Annaleigh Ashford
Old Lady/Blair Daniels	Barbara Bryne	Mary Beth Piel	Penny Fuller
Yvonne/Naomi Eisen	Dana Ivey	Jessica Molaskey	Erin Davie
Jules/Bob Greenberg	Charles Kimbrough	Michael Cumpsty	Robert Sean Leonard
Louise	Danielle Ferland	Kelsey Fowler	Mattea Conforti
Louis/Billy Webster	Chris Groenendaal	Drew McVety	Jordan Gelber
Boatman/Charles	William Parry	Alexander Gemignani	Philip Boykin
Franz/Dennis	Brent Spiner	David Turner	David Turner
Soldier/Alex	Robert Westenberg	Santino Fontana	Clayborne Elder
<i>Director:</i>	<i>James Lapine</i>	<i>Sam Buntrock</i>	<i>Sarna Lapine</i>

Awards

The Original Broadway production won 2 Tony Awards in 1984: Scenic Design (Straiges), Lighting Design (Nelson), **It was also nominated for 8 additional awards:** Best Musical, Book of a Musical (Lapine), Original Score (Sondheim), Direction of a Musical (Lapine), Actor in a Musical (Patinkin), Actress in a Musical (Peters), Featured Actress in a Musical (Ivey), and Costume Design (Zipprodt & Hould-Ward).

***Sunday in the Park with George* won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1985.**

The 2008 Broadway revival was nominated for 9 Tony awards but won none: Best Revival of a Musical, Actress in a Musical (Russell), Actor in a Musical (Evans), Direction of a Musical (Buntrock), Orchestrations (Jason Carr), Scenic Design (David Farley, with projections designed by the Knifedge Creative Network & Timothy Bird), Costume Design (David Farley), Lighting Design (Ken Billington), and Sound Design of a Musical (Sebastian Frost).

Declaring that the production “stands most appropriately outside of any awards competition,” the producers of the 2017 revival removed it from consideration for any awards.

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Synopsis

Setting: Act I: A series of Sunday afternoons from 1884-1886, a park on an island in the River Seine just outside Paris, and George's studio. Act II: An American art museum and the island in the Seine, 1984.

For a detailed synopsis of the plot, visit the show's Wikipedia page:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunday_in_the_Park_with_George#Synopsis

Song Lyrics

“Finishing the Hat”

George: [Looking through his sketches]
Mademoiselles...
You and me, pall...
Second bottle...
Ah, she looks for me...
Bonnet flapping...
Yapping...
Ruff!...
Chicken...
Pastry...

Yes, she looks for me--good.
Let her look for me to tell me why she left me--
As I always knew she would.
I had thought she understood.
They have never understood,
And no reason that they should.
But if anybody could...

Finishing the hat.
How you have to finish the hat.
How you watch the rest of the world
From a window
While you finish the hat.

Mapping out a sky.
What it feels like, planning a sky.
How it feels when voices that come
Through the window
Go.
Until they distance and die.
Until there's nothing but sky.

And how you're always turning back too late
From the grass or the stick
Or the dog or the light,

How the kind of woman willing to wait's
Not the kind that you want to find waiting

To return you to the night,
Dizzy from the height,
Coming from the hat.
Studying the hat.
Entering the world of the hat.
Reaching through the world of the hat
Like a window,
Back to this one from that.

Studying a face,
Stepping back to look at a face
Leaves a little space in the way like a window.
But to see--
It's the only way to see.

And when the woman that you wanted goes,
You can say to yourself, "Well, I give what I give."
But the woman who won't wait for you know
That however you live,
There's a part of you always standing by,
Mapping out the sky,
Finishing a hat...
Starting on a hat...
Finishing a hat...
Look I made a hat...
Where there never was a hat.

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“We Do Not Belong Together”

[DOT, spoken]

Yes, George, run to your work. Hide behind your painting. I have come to tell you that I am leaving because I thought you might care to know – foolish of me, because you care about nothing.

[GEORGE, spoken]

I care about many things.

[DOT, spoken]

Things – not people.

[GEORGE, spoken]

People, too. I cannot divide my feelings as neatly as you, and I am not hiding behind my canvas – I'm living in it.

[DOT]

What you care for is yourself

[GEORGE, spoken]

I care for this painting. You will be in this painting.

[DOT]

I am something you can use

[GEORGE]

I had thought you understood

[DOT]

It's because I understand that I left
That I am leaving

[GEORGE]

Then there's nothing I can say
Is there?

[DOT]

Yes, George, there is
You could tell me not to go
Say it to me
Tell me not to go
Tell me that you're hurt
Tell me you're relieved
Tell me that you're bored
Anything, but don't assume I know
Tell me what you feel

[GEORGE]

What I feel?
You know exactly how I feel
Why do you insist
You must hear the words
When you know I cannot give you words?

Not the ones you need

There's nothing to say

I cannot be what you want

[DOT]

What do you want, George?

[GEORGE]

I needed you and you left

[DOT]

There was no room for me

[GEORGE]

You will not accept who I am
I am what I do
Which you knew
Which you always knew
Which I thought you were a part of

[DOT]

No
You are complete, George
You are your own
We do not belong together
You are complete, George
You all alone
I am unfinished
I am diminished
With or without you

We do not belong together
And we should have belonged together
What made it so right together
Is what made it all wrong

No one is you, George
There we agree
But others will do, George
No one is you and
No one can be
But no one is me, George
No one is me
We do not belong together
And we'll never belong

You have a mission
A mission to see
Now I have one too, George
And we should have belonged together

I have to move on

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“Move On”

[DOT, spoken]

It is good to see you, George. Not that I ever forgot you. You gave me so much.

[GEORGE, spoken]

What did I give you?

[DOT, spoken]

You taught me about concentration. At first I thought that meant just being still, but I was to understand it meant much more. You meant to tell me to be where I was, not some place in the past or future. I worried too much about tomorrow. What about you? Are you working on something new?

[GEORGE, spoken]

No. I am not working on anything new.

[DOT, spoken]

That is not like you, George.

[GEORGE]

I've nothing to say

[DOT, spoken]

You have many things.

[GEORGE]

Well, nothing that's not been said

[DOT]

Said by you, though, George

[GEORGE]

I do not know where to go

[DOT]

And nor did I

[GEORGE]

I want to make things that count
Things that will be new

[DOT]

I did what I had to do

[GEORGE]

What am I to do?

[DOT]

Move on

Stop worrying where you're going

Move on

If you can know where you're going

You've gone

Just keep moving on

I chose and my world was shaken

So what?

The choice may have been mistaken

The choosing was not

You have to move on

Look at what you want

Not at where you are

Not at what you'll be

Look at all the things you've done for me

Opened up my eyes

Taught me how to see

Notice every tree

[GEORGE]

Notice every tree

[DOT]

Understand the light

[GEORGE]

Understand the light

[DOT]

Concentrate on now

[GEORGE]

I want to move on

I want to explore the light

I want to know how to get through

Through to something new

Something of my own

[GEORGE & DOT]

Move on

Move on

[DOT]

Stop worrying if your vision

Is new

Let others make that decision

They usually do

You keep moving on

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“Move On” (cont.)

[DOT] Look at what you've done
Then at what you want
Not at where you are
What you'll be
Look at all the things
You gave to me

Let me give to you
Something in return

I would be so pleased

[GEORGE]
And the color of your hair
And the way you catch the light
And the care
And the feeling
And the life
Moving on

[DOT]
We've always belonged
Together

[GEORGE & DOT]
We will always belong
Together

[DOT]
Just keep moving on

Anything you do
Let it come from you
Then it will be new

Give us more to see

[GEORGE]
Something in the light
Something in the sky
In the grass
Up behind the trees

Things I hadn't looked at
'Til now
Flower in your hat
And your smile

“Sunday”

Sunday
By the blue
Purple yellow red water
On the green
Purple yellow red grass
Let us pass
Through our perfect park
Pausing on a Sunday

By the cool
Blue triangular water
On the soft
Green elliptical grass
As we pass
Through arrangements of shadows
Towards the verticals of trees
Forever

By the blue
Purple yellow red water
On the green
Orange violet mass
Of the grass
In our perfect park

GEORGE]
Made of flecks of light
And dark

[MEN]
And parasols

[ALL]
People strolling through the trees
Of a small suburban park
On an island in the river
On an ordinary Sunday
Sunday
Sunday

[GEORGE, spoken]
“White. A blank page or canvas. His favorite. So many possibilities...”