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Broadway Throws A Concert Before The Tony Nominations
DIAL UP BROAD BAND

The Broadway community gave itself a pat on the back Sunday night at a concert at Lincoln Center celebrating the musical season before the Tony Awards nominations. NY1's Stephanie Simon filed the following report.

It was an evening of musical celebration -- Broadway style. On Sunday night, members of the Broadway community gathered together at Jazz at Lincoln Center on the Upper West Side to toast the closing of the 2007-2008 season by performing selections of various shows that will be eligible for the best musical or best musical revival categories at the Tony Awards.

"We've been wanting to have an event that celebrates the season that we could share with a very broad audience, which is what this event is going to enable us to do," said Charlotte St. Martin, executive director of The Broadway League.

Broadway newcomer Mario Lopez, who currently plays Zach in Broadway's revival of "A Chorus Line," served as the event's emcee.

"I was invited to host the Tony Awards preview show, which is great because I haven't had the opportunity to see many

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musicals,” said Lopez, “so I’m getting to see a whole plethora of musicals in one night -- at least standout performances -- and get a preview of what’s to come at the Tony Awards.”

With a season that included 23 plays and 12 musicals, typically only four shows will be nominated for the categories of Best Musical, Best Play, Best Revival of a Musical, and Best Revival of a Play.

Faith Prince, who received a Tony in 1992 for her portrayal of Adelaide in the revival of "Guys and Dolls," performed the song "Only Daughter" from one of the season's new musicals, "A Catered Affair".

“I’m more blessed to be 50 years old and still passionate about what I do and just loving the audiences, loving the show, loving the message that it gives,” said Prince. “I feel like I’m serving my life purpose. So, if some Tonys can come our way -- great!”

Broadway stars offered NY1 some last-minute thoughts before the Tony nominations Tuesday morning.

“I’m really hoping that ‘South Pacific’ does well,” said Loretta Ables Sayre of “South Pacific.”

“My biggest thought is just sleep, because I’m so tired,” said Eisa Davis of "Passing Strange."

Sierra Boggess of “The Little Mermaid” laughed and said, “I have no thoughts about that.”

Remember to tune in to NY1 at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday for live coverage of the announcement of the 2008 Tony Awards nominations.

- Stephanie Simon

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