

# DAZZLING DAMES OF BROADWAY

Instructor: Bonnie Weiss

Email: [curtainup@mindspring.com](mailto:curtainup@mindspring.com)

## Course Syllabus

### Class I

**Ethel Merman** - a look at her life, including rare video clips of her performances in her first musical Girl Crazy, her early movie musical shorts, her frustrating stint in Hollywood, her triumph in such shows as Anything Goes, DuBarry Was a Lady, Annie Get Your Gun, Call Me Madam and Gypsy.

### Class II

**Mary Martin** - her life, her early years in films, when she was known as "audition Mary" and appeared in such flicks as "Birth of the Blues" and "Star Spangled Rhythm"; her big break in Cole Porter's Leave it to Me; and her performances in such shows as One Touch of Venus, South Pacific, Peter Pan, and The Sound of Music.

### Class III

**Julie Andrews** - her early life as a child star in England, her debut in the U.S. with The Boyfriend, her rise to Broadway stardom with My Fair Lady and Camelot, her years as a Hollywood superstar with Mary Poppins, Thoroughly Modern Millie and The Sound of Music and her recent return to Broadway with Putting It Together and Victor Victoria.

### Class IV

**Carol Channing** - her start in San Francisco, early career as a dancer, big break in Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, legendary status with Hello Dolly, and brief Hollywood stint in Thoroughly Modern Millie and her fundraising efforts with her husband to keep the arts alive in high schools..

**Gwen Verdon** - early years as a Hollywood chorus dancer, and dance coach to the stars; her big Broadway break in Can Can, her legendary career with husband/choreographer Bob Fosse, and three Tony Awards for Damn Yankees, New Girl in Town and Redhead, her Tony-nominated performance in Sweet Charity and her last stint on Broadway in Chicago. Also included will be a very rare video clip of Verdon dancing with her husband, Bob Fosse.

### Class V

**Bernadette Peters** - her work as a child performer on Broadway, her first hit with the off-Broadway spoof, Dames at Sea, her work in George M and Mack and Mabel, her Hollywood career with such musicals as Pennies From Heaven and Annie, her great triumph as a singer and dramatic actress with Sondheim's Sunday in the Park with George and Into the Woods and her Tony Award - winning performances in Song and Dance and Annie Get Your Gun.

### Class VI

**A Bevy of Dazzling Dames:** Including dancers **Chita Rivera** (West Side Story, Bye, Bye Byrdie) **Donna McKechnie** ( A Chorus Line) and **Ann Reinking** (Chicago); **Patti Lupone**, (Evita), **Angela Lansbury** (Mame, Sweeney Todd), **Barbara Cook** (The Music Man, She Loves Me). And **Elaine Stritch** (Company, Follies in Concert)

**A Look at More Recent Dames:** Marin Mazzie ("Passion", "Ragtime"), Kristen Chenoweth (Candide, Wicked)

**Bonnie's Pick for the "Most Dazzling Dame of the First Quarter of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" –**  
An in-depth look at the amazing Audra McDonald