

BROADWAY SPRINGS INTO A LIVELY 89

An unlucky 13 productions hit Broadway in the 88 portion of the current 1988-89 season: the first half of the season was bookended by spectacular musical catastrophes that people still talk about with wonderment: *Carrie*, a musicalization of the famous Stephen King novel (and movie) about a telekinetic teen, staged by the RSC's Terry Hands, sank after four performances and \$7 million last May. In late December, *Legs Diamond*, a splashy 1920s-era gangster musical composed by and starring entertainer Peter Allen, opened after two months of agognized previews and was gunned down by the critics. Much like the West End's *Ziegfeld* — a similarly lavish but essentially empty show — the producers kept *Legs* staggering on for awhile.

Eight revivals made up the bulk of the summer and fall season.

Neil Simon scored another boulevard success with his new farce, *Rumors*, all about a dinner party gone amok.

The most-eagerly awaited show, bowing in late February after an

unprecedented 22-week rehearsal period, is the \$7 million production, *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*. In his first Broadway show since *Fiddler on the Roof*, the master director-choreographer is recreating the show-stoppingest moments from his greatest successes.

As well as being a notable Robbins retrospective, the show also recreates the original designs of the eminent likes of Oliver Smith, Jo Mielziner, Alvin Colt, Irene Sharaff, Miles White, Raoul Pene du Bois, Boris Aronson, Tony Walton, Patricia Zipprodt, and others, supervised by Robin Wagner and Joseph G. Aulisi. Jennifer Tipton lights the production.

Two West End successes bloom on Broadway in the spring and neither are musicals — for a change. *Lend Me a Tenor*, with a new cast of American actors, is being plushly remounted in a 1930s screwball movie-style by designers Tony Walton, William Ivey Long, and Paul Gallo. Ray Cooney stars in his marathon hit *Run for Your Wife* with expatriate British and Canadian actors, and an American design team

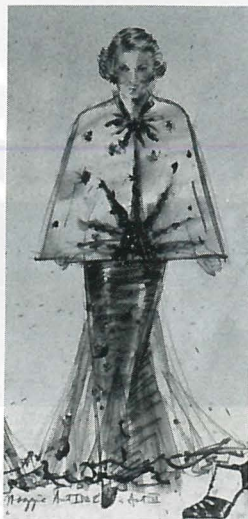
of Michael Anania, Joseph G. Aulisi, and Marilyn Rennagel.

In director/adaptor Stephen Berkoff's *Metamorphosis*, Mikhail Baryshnikov makes his stage acting debut in the same role that Roman Polanski took in the recent Paris production. Roland Petit's original designs are being reconceived; still stark, but the palette is being lightened from black to a penitence white.

A number of big-budget musicals loom on Broadway's horizons in April and May. Among them are *Mike*, all about legendary 1940s-50s showman Mike Todd; *Queenie Pie*, a fantasy about a 1920s Harlem hairdresser that stars pop diva Patti LaBelle singing a never-heard score by the late Duke Ellington; and a stage version of the popular movie and television series *Fame*. Among the well-known designers lending their talents to these shows are the eminent likes of Robin Wagner, Ken Billington, Patricia Zipprodt, Alexander Okun, and Tharon Musser.

MICHAEL SOMMERS

UNITED STATES/BROADWAY



Broadway 1988-89 has seen some of the industry's best designers at work. Willa Kim's costumes for *Legs Diamond*, and William Ivey Long's costumes for the British import *Lend Me a Tenor*, all contributed to create a season of glorious successes (*Jerome Robbins' Broadway*) and spectacular failures (*Carrie*).



World Light Show 89. Hanover Fairgrounds, Hanover, West Germany. April 5-12. Contact: Terence Coe, Hanover Fairs USA, Inc., 103 Carnegie Center, Princeton, NJ 08540, 609/987-1202.

SIEL 89. Parc de la Porte de Versailles, Paris. April 9-12. Contact: Bernard Becker Communications, 161 Boulevard Lefebvre, 75015 Paris, France, 145/33-74-50.

SIB/MAGIS. Rimini Trade Fair, Rimini, Italy. April 10-13. Contact: Ente Autonomo Fiera di Rimini, 47037 Rimini, CP 300, Rimini, Italy, 0541/782000, FAX: 0541/774313.

Pub, Club, and Leisure Show. Olympia 2, London. April 11-13. Contact: Bill Morris, Angex Ltd., Europa House, St. Matthew St., London, England SW1P 2JT, 01/222-9341, FAX: 01/222-1248.

United States Institute for Theatre Technology Annual Conference and Stage Expo. Calgary Convention Centre, Calgary, Canada. April 12-15. Contact: USITT Alberta Section, 2500 University Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 1N4, 403/220-4905.

Lux Pacifica. a Pacific Basin lighting congress, Shanghai Science Hall, Shanghai, China. April 17-19. Contact: Illuminating Engineering Society of North America, 345 E. 47 St., New York, NY 10017, 212/705-7926.

Expo Musica. Madrid, Spain. April 19-22. Contact: Josefine Gomez Prada, IFEMA, Avda de Portugal, s/n Casa de Campo, 28011 Madrid 1101, 470/10-14, FAX: 1/464-33-26.

Shanghai Festival of International Scenic Arts. Shanghai, China. April 22-28. Contact: Gong Bo-An, Shanghai Festival of International Scenic Arts, 238 Yan An Xi Lu, Shanghai, China. Tel: 513323. Telex: 085 30299.

Lighting for the Theatre. Bloomsbury Theatre, London. April 20. Contact: The International Philips Centre for Lighting Education and Research, Bartlett School of Architecture and Planning, University College, 22 Gordon Street, London WC1H 0QB. Tel: 01/387 7050.

Showlight 89. Hilversum studios of the Netherlands Broadcasting Services, Amsterdam, Holland. May 15-17. Contact: Maureen van Woudenberg, NOB PR Department, Postbus 10, 1200 JB Hilversum, The Netherlands, 035/775115, FAX: 035/773049.

Association of British Theatre Technicians Trade Show. Riverside Studios, Hammersmith, London. May 18-20. Contact: ABTT, 4 Great Pulteney St., London W1R 3DF, England, Tel: 01/434-3901.

OISTAT Scenographic Commission Meeting. Sydney, Australia. June 7-11. Contact: Andrew Blaxland, OISTAT commissioner general/Australia, Tel: 61 2 969 5709, or Derek Nicholson, Theatre Studies Services Unit, The University of Sydney, Sydney NSW 2006 Australia, Tel: 61 2 692 3635, Fax: 61 2 319 1001.