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Playbill and Promotion

Brigadoon (2005)

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Spring 2005

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LERNER AND LOEWE'S

# BRIGADON

A MUSICAL FANTASY

DIRECTOR  
AND CHOREOGRAPHER

Brendan Byrnes

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

David Harper

SCENIC DESIGN

Michael Micucci

LIGHTING DESIGN

Eleanor Moore

COSTUME DESIGN

David Costa-Cabral

CONDUCTOR

Christopher Kelton

DIALECT COACH

Quin Gresham

15 - 17 AND 22 - 24 APRIL 401-865-2218 TICKETS

FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS AT 8 PM, SUNDAYS AT 2 PM

TICKET PRICES - \$10.00 REGULAR, \$7.00 PC EMPLOYEES/SENIOR CITIZENS, \$5.00 STUDENTS



# BRIGADOON

## Brendan

### Byrnes '92



### Director and Choreographer

Imagine living in a village where you go to sleep in one century and wake up in the next. With a blink of an eye you are now in a brand new century with very little change in your own life. Welcome to Brigadoon, one such village, whose mystical blessing keeps it "safe" from intruders and the dangers of the outside world. A few centuries prior, a clergyman from the village had prayed for a miracle to protect his village from the threat of witches. This "miracle" allows the village to vanish for 100 years at a time only to reappear for one day and repeat the cycle at sunset.

Tommy and Jeff, two Americans from New York, travel to the Highlands of Scotland. Tommy has a stable life, good job, and an attractive fiancée. But he is dissatisfied and unwilling to settle down in any sort of routine. He and Jeff stumble upon an unmarked village appearing out of the mist and discover a seemingly timeless civilization filled with a deep-rooted sense of community and tradition. In this village of Brigadoon, Tommy falls in love with Fiona, a young and graceful villager full of spirit and is torn between a desire to remain in Brigadoon or to return to his life in New York. He knows he could find happiness in Brigadoon, but it would require the sacrifice of everything that is familiar to him -- his friends, his family, and even the century he was born in.

The story of *Brigadoon* actually comes from a German short story, *Gemelshausen*, written in 1862 by a German adventurer, traveler, and writer named Friedrich Wilhelm Gerstaecker. Frederick Loewe, piano prodigy and good friend of writer Alan Jay Lerner, told Lerner about this classic short story. Lerner was immediately interested and the two continued their musical theatre partnership in what would soon be called *Brigadoon*. Lerner changed the location of German *Gemelshausen* to Scottish *Brigadoon*, due to the time period. Because the play was written soon after World War Two Lerner determined that Scotland rather than Germany would be a more appropriate setting for the action.

Lerner and Loewe engaged Agnes de Mille to choreograph the show. De Mille was known for her work on such Broadway hits as, *Oklahoma!*, *Bloomer*

*Girl*, *Carousel*, and *One Touch of Venus*. After reading through the script, De Mille "took a red pencil and crossed out whole sections, suggesting to the authors where she felt that dance could tell the story better than dialogue." The entire ending of the first act was re-worked by De Mille by subtracting dialogue and inserting meaningful dance pieces.

Robert Lewis was brought in to direct *Brigadoon* and rehearsals began in January 1947. The collaboration between Lewis and De Mille was so tight knit, that the two often swapped jobs subconsciously and Lewis would comment to a dancer on a movement while De Mille would comment to an actor on a particular scene objective.

**"It is an altogether original and inventive blending of words, music and dance"**

Overall, the production team for *Brigadoon* was atypically harmonious. And perhaps that is the reason that not one song was changed significantly from the start of rehearsal until the Broadway opening.

The show opened for performance at New Haven's Shubert Theatre on Thursday, February 6, 1947. The show was so complex in lighting and scenery that at 8:15 that evening, technicians were still writing cues for the show. A proper dress rehearsal was not possible, but the show went on without a hitch, and *Brigadoon* received rave reviews.

The New York Drama Critics Circle voted *Brigadoon* best musical, with the following accolade: "To *Brigadoon* by Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe. Because it is an altogether original and inventive blending of words, music and dance; because its taste, discretion and thoughtful beauty mark a high note in any season; and because it finds the lyric theatre at its best."

The show appealed to the masses and still does in countless revivals and performances. *Brigadoon* is not only a timeless village in Scotland safe from the dangers of the outside world, but also a timeless treasure on stage. This treasure shines a glimmer of hope that some day, somewhere, we may find ourselves living in a world that is as safe and beautiful as the village of *Brigadoon*.

Katie Hughes '06

Source: *Some Words About "Brigadoon"* by Miles Kreuger





Smith Center Dedication Ceremony, October 2004 photo by Adrienne Johnson '05

The Smith Center for the Arts is a 60,000 square-foot facility that houses the Department of Theatre, Dance, and Film and the Music Department. The 2.5 story structure is home to the 280 seat Blackfriars Theatre which is located directly opposite the main entrance, and the 110 seat Bowab Studio Theatre, off the main lobby.

The Blackfriars Theatre is equipped with state of the art lighting and sound, catwalks, stadium seating, and available room for an orchestra pit. The Bowab Theatre, for student productions, has reconfigurable seating allowing for a variety of performance options. The center also features a 275 seat Concert Hall, a dance studio, art gallery, and several classrooms, offices, and other facilities.

Located in the East campus area, adjacent to Eaton Street, the Smith Center forms a quadrangle with Fennell Hall, Howley Hall, and the Suites residence hall. Parking for events at the Smith Center is available in the Faculty/Staff lot next to the building, as well as additional nearby lots, and can be accessed through the Eaton Street Gate.

More detailed directions may be found at our website at [www.providence.edu/theatre/directions.html](http://www.providence.edu/theatre/directions.html).

Events in the Smith Center are accessible to persons with disabilities. Please call 401-865-2218 in advance.

Detach this form and return it to the Box Office for ticket orders, or reserve your tickets by calling the Box Office at 401-865-2218

LERNER AND LOEWE'S

# BRIGADON

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Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

address change or correction

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- Saturday April 16 8:00 PM
- Sunday April 17 2:00 PM
- Friday April 22 8:00 PM
- Saturday April 23 8:00 PM
- Sunday April 24 2:00 PM

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Providence College Department of Theatre, Dance and Film Presents

LERNER AND LOEWE'S

# BRICADON



*"Tremendously exciting and enchanting"*  
Brooks Atkinson, New York Times

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- Saturday April 23 8:00 PM
- Friday April 22 8:00 PM
- Sunday April 17 5:00 PM
- Saturday April 16 8:00 PM
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