

Ann Reinking: A Biography

Writers use superlatives to describe the talents of Tony award winner Ann Reinking: *Time Magazine*, “Terpsiglorious;” *Newsweek*, “Her choreography steals the show, refashioning the dance vocabulary into a unique string of hormonal showstoppers;” *The New York Times*, “Ms. Reinking is responsible for the breeziest dancing Broadway has seen in years.”

One of seven children, Ann grew up in Seattle, Washington. She was in sixth grade when she first saw a classmate dance. She started ballet lessons and persuaded her parents to install a barre in her room so she could practice at home.

The work paid off. As a teenager, she won a Ford Foundation scholarship to study for three consecutive summers with the San Francisco School of Ballet as well as a scholarship to study with Robert Joffrey. Upon completing high school, she moved to New York City where her first job was with the Corps de Ballet at Radio City Music Hall.

Ann went on to Broadway, films and television, earning numerous accolades for her work including Tony nominations for her leading performance in Dancin’ and as best actress in Goodtime Charley with Joel Grey. Her astonishing number of awards includes the Theatre World Award for her work as Maggie in Over Here and the Clarence Derwent Award. In 1997, Ms. Reinking won the Tony Award, the Drama Desk Award, the Outer Critics Circle Award and the Astaire Award for her choreography for ENCORES production of Chicago. In 1999, Fosse, which Ann directed and co-choreographed, won the Tony for best musical.

Her film debut was as Troubles Moran in Movie, Movie, directed by Stanley Donen. She then starred in All That Jazz, directed by Bob Fosse, in Annie, directed by John Huston and in Blake Edwards Micki and Maude.

Ann is a natural teacher. She created The Broadway Theatre Project some fifteen years ago. It is a musical theatre program that brings together working professionals with gifted young people. “Musical theatre is an American art form which must be kept alive,” says Reinking. She has since resigned from that program, but continues to give master classes all over the US.

Credits include TV commercials, original ballets: The Harrison Tribute/American Ballet Theatre; Ritmo Y Ruido and Slices/Ballet Hispanico; Legends/Joffrey Ballet of Chicago; Suite Kander/Kansas City Ballet; Songs Without Words/Jeanne Ruddy Company. Co-choreographed: Caution:Side Effects/Melissa Thodos Dancers. Choreography: Here Lies Jenny with Bebe Neuwirth/Zipper Theatre; Bye Bye Birdie with Jason Alexander/ABC-TV/The Visit/Goodman Theatre; Chicago, currently in its 9th year on Broadway; Look of Love/Roundabout Theatre. Directed, co-choreographed Fosse. Directed, choreographed Tonight at 8:30/Williamstown Theatre Festival; No Strings/Encores!City Center