# Andrew Lloyd Webber’s sustained renaissance at the Tonys signals new era in musical theatre



When Andrew Lloyd Webber took to the stage to accept the Tony Award for Best Musical Revival for *Sunset Boulevard*, it marked a significant moment in his illustrious career—his first recognition from the American Theatre Wing in 30 years. The Jamie Lloyd-directed production, celebrated for its fresh approach and stellar performances, was one of the highlights of this year's Tony Awards held at Radio City Music Hall, where it won three awards, including Best Revival.

This resurgence in Lloyd Webber's acclaim isn't merely a fleeting moment; rather, it's indicative of a broader renaissance in his work. Presently, his influence pervades theatre on both sides of the Atlantic. Not only is *Starlight Express* enjoying a successful revival at Wembley, but audiences can also look forward to his direction of *Evita* starring Rachel Zegler, and new projects like *The Illusionist*, inspired by the acclaimed 2006 film. Cryptic promotional messages hinting at a revival of *Phantom of the Opera* have also begun to surface in New York, further solidifying his prominent presence in contemporary theatre.

Critics are eager to declare that the renowned composer and impresario is “hot again,” but those who work closely with him are less inclined to frame it as a comeback. Michael Harrison, a producer who collaborated with Lloyd Webber in late 2022, articulated this sentiment. “I don’t think he ever went away,” he noted, highlighting how works like *Phantom* continue to thrive in London and how his productions resonate across global stages from Australia to Asia. Harrison credits Lloyd Webber’s willingness to embrace new interpretations of his work as vital to his ongoing relevance. For instance, when Jamie Lloyd proposed the idea of casting Nicole Scherzinger in *Sunset Boulevard*, Lloyd Webber welcomed the fresh perspective rather than resisting change.

At the Tonys, Lloyd Webber expressed admiration for Lloyd’s innovative approach to *Sunset Boulevard*, appreciating the “radical” reimagining that brought a new energy to the classic story. Millennial director Luke Sheppard, who has spearheaded the revival of *Starlight Express*, echoed this openness, detailing how Lloyd Webber permitted significant creative freedom. "Andrew let us explore some quite big ideas," Sheppard explained, noting the addition of new characters and songs, alongside changes in character gender representation, which helped to modernise the narrative.

The breadth of Lloyd Webber's career reveals a pattern of innovation that has long preceded the current trends in theatre. Harrison pointed out that immersive experiences, often seen as a recent development, were integral to Lloyd Webber's early works, citing the revolving audience seating in *Cats* and the transformation of the Apollo Victoria Theatre for *Starlight Express*. As the Broadway season broke records with $1.89 billion in revenue and 14.7 million attendees, this new wave of creativity is likely to bolster Lloyd Webber's legacy further, reinforcing his status as a forward-thinking artist adaptable to the evolving landscape of musical theatre.

The accolades at the Tony Awards weren't solely for Lloyd Webber; they also celebrated a diverse array of talents, with *Maybe Happy Ending* clinching the Best Musical award and Darren Criss earning Best Actor for his role in that production. Nicole Scherzinger's heartfelt acceptance speech underscored her own journey, reflecting on her experiences as an artist and the challenges of the Broadway schedule. As she becomes a pioneering presence as a leading Asian Pacific performer, her portrayal of Norma Desmond has resonated deeply with audiences, adding layers to the triumph of *Sunset Boulevard*.

With a wealth of new projects on the horizon and a revival of interest in his classics, it appears unlikely that it will take another three decades for Lloyd Webber to bask in the limelight of Broadway again.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/jun/14/andrew-lloyd-webber-is-hot-again-with-help-from-new-kids-on-musicals-block), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/tony-awards-cap-record-breaking-post-pandemic-broadway-season-2025-06-08/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/jun/14/andrew-lloyd-webber-is-hot-again-with-help-from-new-kids-on-musicals-block), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/winners-broadways-2025-tony-awards-2025-06-09/), [[5]](https://www.andrewlloydwebber.com/about)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://time.com/7291513/nicole-scherzinger-wins-first-tony/), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/winners-broadways-2025-tony-awards-2025-06-09/), [[6]](https://playbill.com/article/cynthia-erivo-will-play-title-role-in-hollywood-bowl-jesus-christ-superstar)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/jun/14/andrew-lloyd-webber-is-hot-again-with-help-from-new-kids-on-musicals-block), [[5]](https://www.andrewlloydwebber.com/about), [[7]](https://playbill.com/article/london-revival-of-starlight-express-to-welcome-new-cast)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/tony-awards-cap-record-breaking-post-pandemic-broadway-season-2025-06-08/), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/winners-broadways-2025-tony-awards-2025-06-09/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[2]](https://time.com/7291513/nicole-scherzinger-wins-first-tony/), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/tony-awards-cap-record-breaking-post-pandemic-broadway-season-2025-06-08/), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/winners-broadways-2025-tony-awards-2025-06-09/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/jun/14/andrew-lloyd-webber-is-hot-again-with-help-from-new-kids-on-musicals-block> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://time.com/7291513/nicole-scherzinger-wins-first-tony/> - Nicole Scherzinger won her first Tony Award on June 8, 2025, for Best Leading Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of Norma Desmond in Andrew Lloyd Webber's Broadway adaptation of 'Sunset Boulevard'. The award was presented at Radio City Music Hall, where Scherzinger delivered an emotional acceptance speech, expressing gratitude to her family and acknowledging the challenges of the Broadway schedule. Originally from Kentucky and of Hawaiian, Ukrainian, and Filipino descent, Scherzinger has become a leading Asian Pacific performer on stage. Formerly a pop star with the Pussycat Dolls, she drew on her own experiences in show business to connect with her character's struggles with loneliness and invisibility. Her performance received high praise, including a tribute by Patti LuPone in TIME’s 2025 list of the world’s most influential people. 'Sunset Blvd.' also announced its final Broadway extension through July 20. Scherzinger encouraged others who feel out of place to keep persevering and sharing their light with the world.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/tony-awards-cap-record-breaking-post-pandemic-broadway-season-2025-06-08/> - At the 2025 Tony Awards, 'Maybe Happy Ending,' a futuristic tale about two obsolete robots exploring love and humanity, emerged as the top musical, winning three major awards: Best Musical, Best Leading Actor in a Musical for Darren Criss, and Best Director for Michael Arden. The season marked a record-breaking $1.89 billion in Broadway revenue with 14.7 million attendees. Other notable winners included the revival of 'Sunset Blvd.,' which earned Best Revival of a Musical and Best Actress in a Musical for Nicole Scherzinger. The Pulitzer Prize-winning play 'Purpose' by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins was honored as Best Play, with Kara Young winning Best Featured Actress for her role. Sarah Snook won Best Leading Actress in a Play for her performance in 'The Picture of Dorian Gray.' Cole Escola and Sam Pinkleton won for 'Oh, Mary!' while 'Stranger Things: The First Shadow' received awards for its design and technical achievements. Rising production costs and expensive ticket prices were noted as significant challenges. The season celebrated diverse voices, and industry veteran Harvey Fierstein received a lifetime achievement award. The original 'Hamilton' cast reunited for a special performance marking the show's 10th anniversary.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/winners-broadways-2025-tony-awards-2025-06-09/> - The 2025 Tony Awards, held at Radio City Music Hall in New York City, celebrated outstanding achievements in Broadway theater. 'Maybe Happy Ending' won Best Musical, with Darren Criss earning Best Actor in a Musical for his role in the production. Nicole Scherzinger took home Best Actress in a Musical for 'Sunset Blvd.,' which also won Best Revival of a Musical. The Best Play accolade went to 'Purpose,' while 'Eureka Day' was named Best Revival of a Play. In acting categories for plays, Cole Escola won Best Actor for 'Oh, Mary!,' and Sarah Snook claimed Best Actress for 'The Picture of Dorian Gray.' Featured performance awards in plays went to Francis Jue ('Yellow Face') and Kara Young ('Purpose'). In musicals, Jak Malone received Best Featured Actor for 'Operation Mincemeat: A New Musical,' and Natalie Venetia Belcon won Best Featured Actress for 'Buena Vista Social Club.' Directing honors were awarded to Sam Pinkleton for 'Oh, Mary!' (Best Direction of a Play) and Michael Arden for 'Maybe Happy Ending' (Best Direction of a Musical).
5. <https://www.andrewlloydwebber.com/about> - Andrew Lloyd Webber's official website provides comprehensive information about his life and works. The site includes details on his musicals, awards, and upcoming projects. Notably, it highlights the London revival of 'Starlight Express,' which won seven awards at the 25th Annual WhatsOnStage Awards in 2025, including 'Best Musical Revival' and 'Best Costume Design.' Additionally, the site features information about the London revival of 'Sunset Boulevard,' which won seven Olivier Awards in 2024, including 'Best Musical Revival' and 'Best Actress in a Musical.'
6. <https://playbill.com/article/cynthia-erivo-will-play-title-role-in-hollywood-bowl-jesus-christ-superstar> - Tony winner Cynthia Erivo, currently an Oscar nominee for her performance in the blockbuster film version of 'Wicked,' will take on the title role in this summer's concert staging of 'Jesus Christ Superstar' at the Hollywood Bowl. The Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice musical will play the outdoor venue August 1-3. Additional casting, by The Telsey Office, will be announced at a later date. Tony winner Sergio Trujillo will direct and choreograph the production, which will also feature musical direction by conductor Stephen Oremus. The upcoming staging is produced in association with Neil Meron and Robert Greenblatt.
7. <https://playbill.com/article/london-revival-of-starlight-express-to-welcome-new-cast> - Andrew Lloyd Webber’s 'Starlight Express,' which officially opened June 30, 2024, at the specially designed Starlight Auditorium at Troubadour Wembley Park Theatre, has again extended its limited engagement. Luke Sheppard ('& Juliet') directs the production, which was most recently extended through June. Tickets are now on sale through March 1, 2026. Beginning June 11, the family-friendly musical will welcome Gavin Adams as Rusty, Sophie Naglik as Pearl, Olivia Ringrose as Greaseball, Asher Forth as Electra, and Georgia Pemberton as Dinah.