



CHARLES GILBERT

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CHARLES GILBERT is a composer, writer, director and educator who specializes in the musical theater. He has headed the Musical Theater Program at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia since its inception in 1990. His newest work for the musical stage is *Gemini, The Musical*, an adaptation of Albert Innaurato's hit Broadway comedy which opened at the Prince Music Theater in October 2004 and received a Barrymore nomination for Outstanding Original Music. Among his previous credits as a writer and composer is the 1979 musical *Assassins*, source of the idea for the Stephen Sondheim musical which premiered at Playwrights Horizons in New York in 1991 and won seven Tony Awards during its 2004 Broadway run. His original music was featured in the Arden Theater's production of *Twelfth Night* in 2003. His children's musical *A Is For Anything*, commissioned by the Delaware Institute for the Arts in Education, has been performed nearly a hundred times for thousands of children in Pennsylvania, New York and Delaware, and he wrote music and lyrics for the commedia dell'arte musical *Goosefeathers*. Other works for the musical stage include the holiday musical *A Tiny Miracle*, which had its premiere in December of 1999, the cabaret revue *Watch The Birdie*, performed at Don't Tell Mama and the Fairbanks Theater in New York and The Actors Center in Philadelphia, and *B.G.D.F.*, which was seen in New York in 1983 in a showcase starring Gregg Edelman.

Charlie made his film debut in the spring of 2004 in Kevin Smith's *Jersey Girl*, having served as Musical Theater Coordinator for that movie during its Philadelphia shoot. He created musical arrangements and musical staging for several sequences in the film, coached the film's stars (including Ben Affleck and Liv Tyler), and appears as the title character in an excerpt from the musical *Sweeney Todd*.

Charlie has music directed for many of the major theaters in Philadelphia. For the Prince Music Theater, Charlie conducted the premiere of *The Lion*, *The Witch* and *The Wardrobe* and,

more recently, Randy Newman's *The Middle of Nowhere*. He was music director for the Philadelphia premiere of *Forever Plaid* at the Cabaret Theater at Newmarket and a ten-week run of *The Fantasticks* at Peoples Light and Theater. At the Arden Theater, Charlie was music director for *Bunnacula* and received a Barrymore nomination for Outstanding Musical Direction for *A Year With Frog and Toad*.

Charlie directed the legendary Sondheim musical *Anyone Can Whistle* in January 2005 for the Prince Music Theater in a production that starred Chuck Wagner and Jane Summerhays. He directed two productions that appeared at the International Festival of Musical Theater in Cardiff, Wales: *A Lyrical Opera Made By Two* and *Songs for A New World*. He was hailed as "a premier director of contemporary musical entertainments" in recognition for his staging and musical direction for the Philadelphia Area Repertory Theater's production of *Closer Than Ever*. The production of Sondheim's *Assassins* which he directed for PART was included in the top ten productions of the 1993-94 season by the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Philadelphia City Paper. In past summers, Gilbert has directed one-act musicals which were performed outdoors at Independence Hall National Park: *The Philadelphia Sailmaker* (for which he wrote original songs), *Four Little Pages*, and *Ben Franklin's Greatest Hits*. Other recent directing assignments include the 1996 Philadelphia Music Awards, two Galas for the Prince Music Theater, the musicals *Sweet Charity*, *Carousel* and *A Chorus Line* at the Merriam Theater in Philadelphia and *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Ain't Misbehavin'* at Gretna Theater.

Gilbert holds an MFA in Directing from Carnegie Mellon University and is a former member of the BMI Musical Theater Workshop. Additional information and work samples can be found at his website, www.chasgilbert.com.