

Aug. 11, 2022

**ABC NEWS STUDIOS ANNOUNCES 25TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL
'CINDERELLA: THE REUNION, A SPECIAL EDITION OF 20/20' ON TUESDAY, AUG. 23,
AS PART OF DISNEY'S WORLD PRINCESS WEEK**

**Original Cast Members Brandy and Whoopi Goldberg, Plus Billy Porter, Todrick Hall, Jade Jones
and More, Reflect on the Impact of the Film**

**Following the News Special, The Wonderful World of Disney Will Air
'Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella' for the First Time on
Broadcast Television in More Than Two Decades**

[Watch The Promo](#)



ABC News Studios will air "Cinderella: The Reunion, A Special Edition of 20/20" on **TUESDAY, AUG. 23** (8:00-9:00 p.m. EDT), on ABC and stream the next day on [Hulu](#). The 25th anniversary celebration of "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella" will feature members of its all-star cast — Brandy, Whoopi Goldberg, Paolo Montalban, Victor Garber, Bernadette Peters, Jason Alexander and Veanne Cox. Following the news special, The Wonderful World of Disney will air, for the first time on broadcast television in more than two decades, a presentation of the original film (9:00-11:00 p.m. EDT), which is available to stream on [Disney+](#).

The classic Disney live-action film marked a groundbreaking moment in television history, introducing America's first Black Cinderella (Brandy) and Fairy Godmother (Whitney Houston). The ABC News Studios reunion special explores how the revolutionary made-for-television musical expanded society's view of the term "princess" and includes interviews with original cast members, as well as rare behind-the-scenes footage with Whitney Houston.

The one-hour program, airing during Disney's World Princess Week, also dives into the film's positive impact on representation in Hollywood and features interviews with stars who share a connection to the project, including Tony®, GRAMMY® and Emmy® Award-winning actor and singer Billy Porter, who played the gender-neutral fairy godmother, Fabulous Godmother, in the 2021 Amazon Original "Cinderella" reimagining; actress Jade Jones, who plays Belle in the off-Broadway tour of "Beauty and the Beast"; and singer-songwriter and choreographer Todrick Hall, a "Cinderella" superfan who has drawn inspiration from the film throughout his career.

"Cinderella: The Reunion, A Special Edition of 20/20" features interviews with the original production team from "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella," including producers Debra Martin Chase and Neil Meron, costume designer Ellen Mirojnick and more.

"We're delighted that the 25th anniversary of this landmark incarnation of 'Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella' is being celebrated on its original network," said Imogen Lloyd Webber, SVP at Concord Theatricals, on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization. "Rodgers & Hammerstein's unforgettable score is truly timeless — still enchanting listeners 80 years after their partnership began and 65 years since their 'Cinderella' first charmed the largest audience in television history."

About "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella"

"Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella" stars Brandy in the title role and Whitney Houston as "Fairy Godmother" alongside Whoopi Goldberg, Victor Garber, Natalie Desselle Reid, Bernadette Peters, Paolo Montalban, Jason Alexander and Veanne Cox.

Originally premiering on Nov. 2, 1997, to 60 million viewers on ABC's "The Wonderful World of Disney," "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella" became an instant fan favorite, acclaimed by critics and audiences alike and earning seven Emmy Award nominations. Celebrated for its diverse representation, sweeping musical acts and unforgettable songbook, the 1997 film features an incredible array of beloved and original songs by the iconic songwriting duo Rodgers & Hammerstein, including "Impossible," "In My Own Little Corner," "Ten Minutes Ago," "A Lovely Night," "Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful?" and more.

The televised movie musical debuted on Disney+ in February 2021.

In “Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Cinderella,” when Cinderella’s cruel stepmother prevents her from attending the Royal Ball, she gets some unexpected help from her Fairy Godmother. The 1997 movie was directed by Robert Iscove, written by Robert I. Freedman, and choreographed by Rob Marshall. Whitney Houston, Debra Martin Chase, Craig Zadan and Neil Meron served as Executive Producers. Chris Montan was a producer, and Robyn Crawford was an associate producer.

“Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Cinderella” was originally presented on television in 1957, and was the only musical written by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II for the medium. Starring a 21-year-old Julie Andrews, “Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Cinderella” was the most widely viewed program in the history of the medium at the time, drawing an astonishing 107 million viewers. Its recreation in 1965 starring Lesley Ann Warren was no less successful in transporting a new generation to the miraculous kingdom of dreams come true, and so was the second remake in 1997. A new Broadway version with a Tony-nominated book by Douglas Carter Beane premiered in 2013.

About ABC News Studios

ABC News Studios, inspired by ABC News’ trusted reporting, is a premium, narrative non-fiction original production house and commissioning partner of series and specials. ABC News Studios champions untold and authentic stories driving the cultural zeitgeist spanning true-crime, investigations, pop culture, and news-adjacent stories. Its subsidiary, ABC News Films, acquires and produces feature documentary films.

About Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II

After long and highly distinguished careers with other collaborators, Richard Rodgers (composer, 1902-79) and Oscar Hammerstein II (librettist/lyricist, 1895-1960) joined forces in 1943 to create the most successful partnership in American Musical Theater. Prior to joining forces, Rodgers collaborated with lyricist Lorenz Hart on musical comedies that epitomized wit and sophistication (“Pal Joey,” “On Your Toes,” “Babes in Arms” and more), while Hammerstein brought new life to operetta and created the classic “Show Boat” with Jerome Kern. “Oklahoma!,” the first Rodgers & Hammerstein musical, introduced an integrated form that became known as “the musical play.” Their shows that followed included “Carousel,” “South Pacific,” “The King and I” and “The Sound of Music.” Collectively, the Rodgers & Hammerstein musicals have earned Tony, Oscar, Grammy, Emmy, Pulitzer and Olivier Awards. The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization is a Concord Company.

About World Princess Week

This World Princess Week (Aug. 21 – 27), we are celebrating our favorite Disney Princess characters and their adventures at Disney Parks, on air, and with digital watch parties. Join us all week long on Instagram (@thedisneyprincesses) as we share trivia, fun moments, and activities for films including *Moana*, *Tangled*, *Princess and the Frog*, and *Raya and the Last Dragon*, all of which are now streaming on Disney+. Follow #WorldPrincessWeek on social all week long for fun Disney Princess moments

at Parks, a look at Princess product and activities, and a celebration of *Raya and the Last Dragon*, and stay tuned to the Disney Parks Blog (@DisneyParks) for a look at how Disney Parks around the world are celebrating World Princess Week with in-park offerings, first looks at special moments and performances, behind-the-scenes looks at Princess projects in development and more.

About Disney+

Disney+ is the dedicated streaming home for movies and shows from Disney, Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars, and National Geographic, along with The Simpsons and much more. In select international markets, it also includes the new general entertainment content brand, Star. The flagship direct-to-consumer streaming service from The Walt Disney Company, Disney+ is part of the Disney Media & Entertainment Distribution segment. The service offers commercial-free streaming alongside an ever-growing collection of exclusive originals, including feature-length films, documentaries, live-action and animated series, and short-form content. With unprecedented access to Disney's long history of incredible film and television entertainment, Disney+ is also the exclusive streaming home for the newest releases from The Walt Disney Studios. Disney+ is available as a standalone streaming service or as part of The Disney Bundle that gives subscribers access to Disney+, Hulu, and ESPN+. For more, visit disneyplus.com, or find the Disney+ app on most mobile and connected TV devices.

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For more information, download a PDF of the Rodgers & Hammerstein Reference Guide at www.rodgersandhammerstein.com/guidelines.

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