

DID YOU KNOW?

The Tony Award is named for Antoinette Perry - actress, director, producer and dynamic wartime leader of the American Theatre Wing. She was instrumental in establishing and operating the famed Stage Door Canteen for American soldiers during World War I.

DID YOU KNOW?

The first Tony Awards were held on April 6, 1947 at the Waldorf-Astoria, consisting of dinner, dancing and the Awards ceremony. The dress code was black tie optional. Eleven Tonys were presented in seven categories. In addition, there were eight special awards. Some of the big winners that night included Jose Ferrer, Arthur Miller, Helen Hayes, Ingrid Bergman, Patricia Neal, Elia Kazan and Agnes de Mille. The entertainment consisted of performances by Ethel Waters and Mickey Rooney, among others.

DID YOU KNOW?

Although the Tony Awards were begun in 1947, there was not an award for Best Play until the following year: MISTER ROBERTS by Thomas Heggen and Joshua Logan. The Best Musical Award had to wait two years. The first went to KISS ME, KATE in 1949.

DID YOU KNOW?

Isabelle Stevenson, president of the American Theatre Wing since 1965, had a career as a dancer before she married publisher John Stevenson and joined the Wing in 1955. She made her debut in the Earl Carroll "Vanities," toured the country, performed on a bill with Bob Hope, gave a Royal Command Performance at London's Palladium and was considered the rage of Paris when she appeared at the Olympia Theatre.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Tony Awards were first telecast nationally on March 26, 1967 from the Shubert Theatre. Big winners that year were CABARET for Best Musical and THE HOMECOMING for Best Play. Robert Preston, Barbara Harris, Marian Seldes and Joel Grey were among the Tony Award winners.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Tony Awards were broadcast on ABC in 1967, then moved to NBC from 1968-1970. ABC got them back from 1971-1978. Since 1979, they have been broadcast on CBS including the 2000 Tony's which marked the 23rd year with the network and fourth year that PBS has been broadcasting the first hour.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Tony Award stands eight inches tall and weighs one pound, ten ounces.

DID YOU KNOW?

During the first two years of the Tonys, there was no official Tony Award. The winners were presented with a scroll and a compact or cigarette lighter. The United Scenic Artists sponsored a contest for a suitable design for the award and Herman Rosse's entry was selected, depicting the masks of comedy and tragedy on one side and the profile of Antoinette Perry on the other. The medallion was initiated in 1949.