

## THE PRODUCTION AND THE CREATIVE TEAM

### FROM PAGE TO STAGE: THE "RAGTIME" CHRONOLOGY

"We complement each other in every way...Though we lead different lives, we have similar sensibilities...my tendency is to leap forward without thinking, and Stephen's instinct is to pull back and think first. He saves me from making mistakes, and at the same time, I drag him forward."

Lynn Ahrens, Lyricist

"We work in the same room at the same time, and it's okay. She sits two feet away from me honing a lyric. We improvise around character and situation. She'll ask for a musical ambience, which I'll give her, then that will give me an idea for a bridge. It's like a ball game, tossing it back and forth..."

Stephen Flaherty, Composer

#### **July 1975**

E.L. Doctorow's novel is published by Random House, and is an immediate bestseller.

#### **November 1981**

A motion picture adaptation of ***Ragtime***, directed by Milos Forman and starring James Cagney (in his final screen appearance), Mary Steenburgen, Howard Rollins Jr. and Mandy Patinkin, is released by Paramount Pictures.

#### **February 1982**

The film version of ***Ragtime*** garners eight Academy Award nominations.

#### **January 1994**

Livent Inc. acquires the worldwide theatrical rights to the Doctorow novel.

**August 1995**

Three dozen of Canada's and Broadway's finest musical performers participate in a reading of the first draft script and musical score at York University in Toronto.

**December 1995**

A second draft reading, again featuring familiar names and voices from the world of musical theatre, is presented at York University.

**May 1996**

A six-week workshop production is mounted at Toronto's Joey & Toby Tanenbaum Opera Centre.

**December 1996**

The World Premiere Engagement of **Ragtime** opens to international critical acclaim at Toronto's Fort Centre for the Performing Arts.

**June 1997**

**Ragtime** has its Los Angeles Premiere at the Shubert Theatre in Century City.

**January 1998**

**Ragtime** will have its much anticipated Broadway Premiere at the new Ford Center for the Performing Arts.

**August 1999**

**Ragtime** launches its national tour at Jones Hall in Houston.