

1979

## ○ *In Trousers* opens at Playwrights Horizons

*In Trousers* will never appear intact within *Falsettos*, but remnants of it will become woven into the music and narrative of the show.



That first one, *In Trousers*, was done in the middle of the summer on the hottest nights of the year in my apartment, and we would hand out wet naps, because everyone was just dripping with heat. ... So that was how it all began in the apartment. **I thought it was simply a very, very personal show, that it had no commercial appeal.**

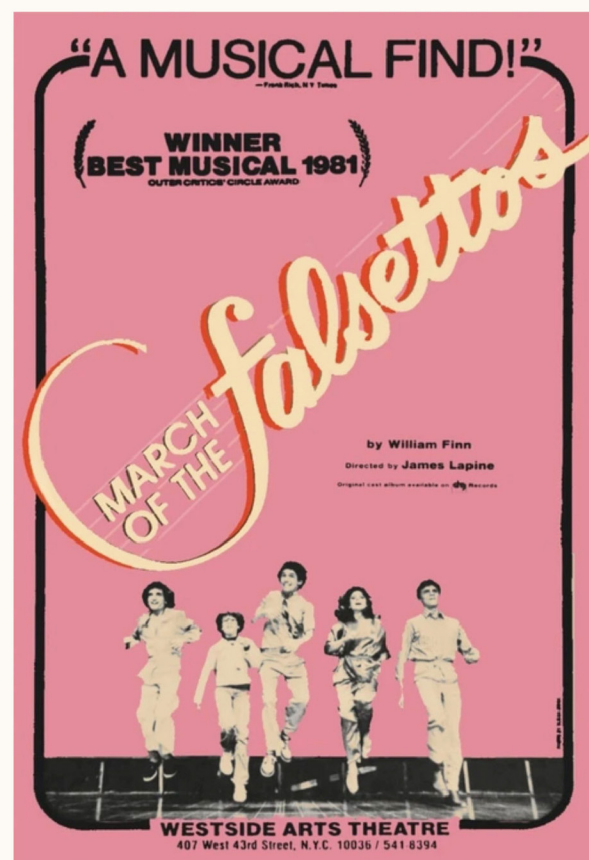
— William Finn, from an oral history memoir



The original cast of *In Trousers*: Chip Zien, Mary Testa, Joanna Green, and Alison Fraser.

Opposite: Cover of the original cast recording of *In Trousers*.

1981



Poster from the Off-Broadway production of *March of the Falsettos*, 1981.

Background: Production image from the back cover of *March of the Falsettos* cast recording album.

**OCT 13, 1981** *March of the Falsettos* transfers to the Off-Broadway Westside Theatre. It will close on January 31, 1982.

## ○ *March of the Falsettos* premieres at Playwrights Horizons

*March of the Falsettos* originally stands on its own as a one-act. Later, it will become the first act of *Falsettos*.

“The songs are so fresh that **the show is only a few bars old before one feels the unmistakable, revivifying charge of pure talent** ... just a continuous flow of original, unpredictable melodies that run from melancholy ballads to eccentric comic riffs.

— Frank Rich, from *The New York Times* review of *March of the Falsettos*

1990

## ○ *Falsettoland* premieres at Playwrights Horizons

*Falsettoland* originally stands on its own as a one-act. Later, it will become the second act of *Falsettos*.

○ **SEP 25, 1990** *Falsettoland* transfers to the Lucille Lortel Theatre. It will close on January 27, 1991, after 176 performances.



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I think what's happening is that we're developing a history.

**It seems now what's happening is we're writing a history of gay people in America.**

— William Finn, from an oral history memoir



Production photo from *Falsettoland*, featuring Stephen Bogardus and Michael Rupert.

Opposite: 1992 cartoon by Al Hirschfeld featuring a scene originally from *Falsettoland*, which would become Act Two of *Falsettos*.

1992

## ○ *Falsettos* premieres on Broadway

After seeing a production that had combined *March of the Falsettos* and *Falsettoland*, William Finn and James Lapine set out to create an official version of the merged text. It will go on to win two Tony Awards.

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To call *Falsettos* a musical about gay life in modern times is also to shortchange its tremendous appeal as **a masterly feat of comic storytelling and as a visionary musical theater work.**

— *Variety review of Falsettos, 1992*

○ **JUN 27, 1993** *Falsettos* closes on Broadway after 487 performances at the John Golden Theatre.



The Broadway production's first ad campaign used a drawing by artist Keith Haring of two adults and a child holding a heart. Haring had died of AIDS-related illness in 1990.

Opposite: Production image from the 1992 Broadway premiere of *Falsettos*.

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**WHAT DOES  
"GROWING UP"  
MEAN TO YOU?**

**USE THE QR CODE AT RIGHT TO SHARE YOUR RESPONSE to this provocative question explored at the center of *Falsettos*.**

Then visit our Online Lobby Experience (*linked on the next screen and in the Digital Program*) to see what your fellow audience members have to say!



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TIMELINE THEATRE IS KNOWN FOR EXPERIENCES THAT EXTEND BEYOND THE STAGE, encompassing interactive lobby experiences, opportunities to discuss the show with artists, ways to take action on whatever the art inspires, and much more.



**THE *FALSETTOS* LOBBY IS AVAILABLE FOR YOU ONLINE!**

Find all the resources to enrich your experience via the QR Code at left.

