

Bruce Springsteen plans Broadway return of his one-man show

NEW YORK, June 8, (AP) — The Boss just can't quit Broadway. Bruce Springsteen will return to Broadway this summer for a limited run of his one-man show "Springsteen on Broadway." Performances at the St. James Theatre begin June 26 with an end date set - at least for now - for Sept. 4.

"I loved doing 'Springsteen on Broadway' and I'm thrilled to have been asked to reprise the show as part of the reopening of Broadway," the rocker said in a statement.

"Springsteen on Broadway" debuted in 2017 and was extended three times, finally closing in late 2018. Columbia Records put out a two-disc soundtrack of "Springsteen on Broadway" and a filmed version of the show is on Netflix.

In the show, Springsteen performs 15 songs - including "My Hometown," "Thunder Road," and "Born in the USA" - and tells stories about growing up in New Jersey. Some of the stories will be familiar to readers of his autobiography, and he even reads from it. His wife, Patti Scialfa, accompanies him for "Brilliant Disguise."

Audience members will be required to provide proof of full COVID-19 vaccination in order to enter the theater.

The Albanian beach site had everything in one place: pine trees, sand, sea, nearby mountains and days of nonstop music.

"It's very rare that you got all of those things together at one time," said the director of the open-air Unum music festival, **Grego O'Halloran**. As an Englishman living in **Ibiza, Spain** — another magical beach music scene — he knows what he is talking about.

"Albania is the hidden gem of Europe," he added. "(It's) an hour, two hours, from almost all of **Europe** and it's so beautiful and undiscovered."

Restrictions

Organizers sold all 10,000 tickets for the June 3-7 festival featuring 50 international and local musicians, as people jumped at the chance to hear nonstop music for five days at Thrown Sand beach, 75 kilometers (45 miles) northwest of the capital, **Tirana**.

Organizers claimed that everyone at the festival was free of COVID-19 but offered no proof for those claims and no virus checks were apparent.

The main stage near the beach was on top of a sailboat, while another was under the pine trees close to the beach. Tattoos were not required for fans but many sported one or more. Fans came from all across Europe, even as far away as **Uruguay**.

Last year the festival was cancelled due to the pandemic. This year organizers found it difficult to get musicians from around the Europe due to virus restrictions, but they prevailed.

"(It's) awesome ... crazy ... insane to see so many people in one place ... (after) sitting in one room in your apartment alone in lockdown," said German fan **Katia Mueller**.

The event was possible because of Albania's low contagion rate. It recorded only two new infections on Saturday. The Foreign Ministry noted there were no pandemic restrictions for anyone wanting to come to Albania.

Albania has many pristine beaches on its 480-kilometer (300-mile) coastline along the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, and during the last few years tourism has turned into a key industry for one of Europe's poorest countries.

Neighboring Albanians from Kosovo remain the main source of tourists so far, often accompanied by Polish and Czech groups, Serbs and Belarusians.

Franco Rodrigues of Uruguay follows a lot of music and knew many of the musicians at the festival, which he hoped was the beginning of a worldwide return to live events.

"It's great that finally we can come back and play again," he said.

The motto of the festival was for people to become "One" and unite over music. Some said music was more important than most people realized.

"It was necessary for our mental health," said **Ron Kurtolli**, a DJ from Kosovo. "People don't pay much attention to mental health, but it's really important for the well-being of everything."



Variety



This image released by Gravitas Ventures shows Ellen Burstyn in a scene from 'Queen Bees.' (AP)

Film

'Queen Bees' actor on her acting life, not retiring

Burstyn still a fierce screen presence

By Jake Coyle

That Ellen Burstyn plays a woman who recoils at the very mention of a retirement community in the upcoming film "Queen Bees" is extremely appropriate.

Rarely has an actor been as good for as long as Burstyn has. She is still, at 88, tireless, her vitality almost preternaturally undiminished. As intense as her early career was - Lee Strasberg's The Actors Studio in the late 1960s followed by '70s classics like "The Last Picture Show," "The Exorcist" and "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore" - her later years have been no less probing or challenging - "Requiem for Dream," "Interstellar," last year's "Pieces of a Woman."

She has the awards to show for it. A six-time Oscar nominee and one-time winner (for "Alice," a movie she might have directed until she picked a young filmmaker, Martin Scorsese, to do so instead), she has a Tony and two Emmys, too. And while "Queen Bees," in theaters Friday, is more of fun diversion, Burstyn remains a magnificent and fierce screen presence. She plays a proudly independent senior temporarily staying at a retirement community that turns out to be as rife with comical cliques and romantic possibility as "Mean Girls." The cast includes James Caan, Ann-Margret, Jane Curtin, Loretta Devine and Christopher Lloyd.

Burstyn's own retirement plans aren't just unmade. They're unfathomable. When she turned 80, she decided to move from Rockland County, up the Hudson, into the city. "Time for a little action," she explained in a recent interview by phone.

She has since lived in an apartment overlooking Central Park, which she strolls in daily. "It's my garden," she says. During the pandemic, Burstyn has mostly laid low, spending time with friends

in the Catskills and at a condo on the Connecticut waterfront.

"Otherwise, I've been in the city. I've been in my apartment," says Burstyn. "I am absolutely a cooped-up person ready to hit the road again."

Remarks have been slightly edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: What do you attribute your longevity to?
Burstyn: I must have some good genes. I was sort of wild in my 20s and 30s. When I got into my 40s, I started dropping bad habits slowly. First hard liquor went, then wine went, exercise began, changing my diet and giving up meat. Marijuana was also part of the mix. I just gave it up all up. I think it really paid off.

AP: I imagine your "Queen Bees" character wasn't a far journey since her attitude about retirement aligns with yours.
Burstyn: I can't picture my retirement. (laughs) I can't picture wanting to retire. The only thing I can picture is if some day I'm being retired because I don't get work. But volunteering to retire? I can't picture that.

AP: What drew you to the movie?
Burstyn: I love it when the movie industry shows women past 60 still having interest in life and not retiring. I read so many scripts from the time I was 50 that were all about: Should we put grandma in the nursing home? And how do we tell her? It was always like putting her out to pasture. This is quite different. It happens in a retirement home but there's lots of life going on in there, a lot of mating. So I liked it. It's a story about, let's say, elderly lusty people.

AP: You've lived through a patriarchal era in Hollywood. Do you ever wonder how your career and life might have been different without those roadblocks?
Burstyn: I've done a lot of studying about the

patriarchy, which has been in effect for thousands of years. Only now is it really being challenged. I think that's what's so scary to a lot of fellas, that they're not going to know how to function if they're sharing the cat-bird seat with a woman. I think it affects our politics. I think what the country is going through right now is a fear, for some people, that if the white man is not in power that that would be a bad thing. I don't share in that opinion. I think we have been slowly in my lifetime opening up the throne to the other sex and the other color and the other religion -- the other. I don't think about how my life had been different. I'm just glad I was able to make some films like "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore" that's really about that, and affected it in some way.

AP: In your memoir, "Lessons in Becoming," you wrote about how your third husband, after separating, broke into your home and raped you. It's his name you have. Do you wish you didn't?
Burstyn: (Laughs) Well, I try not spend time on wishing for anything that I can't change. That's my name, however I came to it. It surprised me, but that's what I got. But I know I was very honest as I wrote that book. Every time I came to a new chapter in my life, I'd go, "Well, I can't write about that." Finally, I said: Honey, if you're going to tell the story, tell the story.

AP: You could tell in that book you view your life as an ever-ongoing spiritual journey. Where would you put yourself on that journey now?
Burstyn: The way I understand life is that you come on Earth to learn something spiritually, and everything that happens is a spiritual lesson if you view it that way. I'm still on the path of trying to be as honest and sensitive and open and kind as I can possibly be. So I hope I'm growing that way. (AP)

Features

ARABO TIMES
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NEW YORK: J.K. Rowling is praising the longtime head of the US publisher of her "Harry Potter" books as an ally and early defender of the beloved fantasy series. **Richard Robinson**, who led Scholastic Inc for more than 40 years, died on June 5 at 84.

"Dick was a wise, kind and humane man, who leaves behind him an extraordinary legacy in the world of children's literature," Rowling said in a statement Monday. "He was an early champion of Harry Potter and a stalwart support to me through the twenty-four years we knew each other."

Other Scholastic writers are also mourning Robinson, a champion of literacy and free expression who in 2017 received a National Book Award for lifetime achievement and was honored two years later by PEN America.

Brian Selznick praised the "the power of his leadership and the clarity of his mission," and **Ruby Bridges**, who as an author drew upon her experiences as the first Black child to attend an all-white **New Orleans** elementary school, called Robinson a "friend and mentor."

"Captain Underpants" creator **Dav Pilkey**, whose books often were targeted by censors, said in a statement that Robinson was "more than just a visionary and a publisher. He was a brave explorer who didn't worry about risks."

"He opened the door for us to dream big," Pilkey said. "He was a writer and artist himself and fought for the equality and acceptance of all people. I will miss his sharp wit, forward vision, and the overwhelming love he gave to me and my family." (AP)

NEW YORK: The Los Angeles Times on Monday said that **Kevin Merida**, who built ESPN's The Undeclared into a multi-media presence and spent a lengthy career in newspapers before that, will be its new executive editor.

Merida, 64, is being challenged by the newspaper's owners, **Patrick and Michele Soon-Shiong**, to speed its transition into a digital news leader.

"Kevin possesses a clear understanding of the rigor neces-

sary for independent journalism and how to translate that journalism to multiple platforms," the newspaper's owners said in a statement. "He also shares our passion for the unique opportunity we have to build the LA Times into a media enterprise with a distinct West Coast point of view."



Merida Rowling

Merida is moving to Los Angeles from **Washington**, where he spent 22 years at the Washington Post before joining ESPN in 2015. He also worked at the Dallas Morning News and Milwaukee Journal. The Post is searching for its own new leader following the retirement of **Marty Baron**.

Merida replaces **Norman Pearlstine**, who stepped down late last year.

The Times chose a Black editor as its leader following a period where the newspaper and other journalistic institutions have taken tough looks at their own diversity in both staffing and in who and what they cover.

Last September, the newspaper published a lengthy apology for having "a blind spot, at worst an outright hostility" toward Los Angeles' nonwhite population.

The newspaper said then that 38% of its editorial journalists were journalists of color, and that "we know that is not nearly good enough." (AP)