

The starting point for this panel is chair Melissa Errico's 2018 New York Times article [available here](#).



Melissa Errico, Ali Ewoldt, Judy Kuhn, Victoria Clark, Shereen Ahmed

Melissa Errico

Panel Chair

"The Maria Callas of American musical theater," as Opera News has called her, referencing both her silken voice and dramatic, expressive intensity, Melissa Errico is an actress, singer, and author. First known for her starring roles on Broadway (*My Fair Lady*, *Anna Karenina*, *High Society*, *Amour*, *Dracula*, *White Christmas*, *Les Miserables*), her latest album Sondheim Sublime was called by The Wall Street Journal "The best all-Sondheim album ever recorded." Nothing in her work has been more constant than her association with Michel Legrand. Having starred in his sole Broadway show, *Amour*, she was asked to write his eulogy by The New York Times—where she is a frequent contributor—and was then invited to become the sole American performer to participate in the extraordinary two-day memorial to Legrand held in April at Paris's Le Grand Rex Theatre, work that led one critic to announce that, "Errico is, and will continue to be, the premier interpreter of the musical legacy of Michel Legrand." This fall 2019, Ghostlight Records reissues her symphonic album, which Legrand arranged & conducted, as *Legrand Affair Deluxe Edition*.

Panel

Shereen Ahmed

Shereen Ahmed is currently starring as Eliza Doolittle in the National Tour of *My Fair Lady* after understudying the role in the Lincoln Center Theatre's Broadway production. She was seen most recently starring as Esther Smith in the Off-Broadway production of *Meet Me in St. Louis* at the Irish Repertory Theatre. Shereen was spotlighted by the Arab America Foundation as one of '40 Under 40' accomplished Arab Americans in the United States for her work in the theatre. She has studied human rights at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, and holds a Bachelor's of Science in Sociology & Anthropology with a Concentration in Criminal Justice from Towson University. Her artistic collaborations inspire conversations on representation, inclusion, and equity through her art, activism, and meaningful conversation. @shereen_ahmed | shereenahmed.com

Victoria Clark

Victoria Clark maintains a wonderfully diverse acting career, equally at home in plays, musicals, film, television, and the concert stage. As a stage director, her work spans from original musicals to opera, to educational programming for all ages. Victoria graduated Cum Laude from Yale University with a B.A. in Music, and attended New York University's prestigious Graduate Musical Theater Writing Program as a stage director. After booking the original production of *Sunday in the Park With George*, her journey as a professional actor has led her to twelve Broadway plays and musicals, several off-Broadway plays and musicals, and many films and television appearances. Highlights include *The Light in the Piazza* on Broadway at Lincoln Center Theater for which she was awarded the Tony Award for Leading Actress in a Musical, and starring roles in the original casts of *Gigi* (revival), Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, and *Sister Act*, for which she received Tony nominations. Victoria was scheduled to direct *Love Life* by Kurt Weill/Alan Jay Lerner at NY City Center Encores starring Brian Stokes Mitchell and Kate Baldwin in March, 2020 but was postponed mid-rehearsal due to the pandemic. Ms. Clark is an avid teacher and educator. She served on the faculty at Yale University and as Artist-in-Residence at Pace University in 2014 and 2020, and teaches at conservatories and universities worldwide, as well as in her private studio in New York City.

Ali Ewoldt

Born outside Chicago and raised 45 minutes north of New York City in the small town of Pleasantville, Ali has loved performing for as long as she can remember. She made her Broadway debut as Cosette in the 1st Broadway Revival of *Les Miserables* and is currently starring as Christine in *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway. Ali has starred as Maria in the 1st National Tour of *West Side Story* directed by Arthur Laurents and David Saint and played Luisa in the *The Fantasticks* Off-Broadway, the world's longest running musical. She has been featured on *The Michael J. Fox Show*, the short film *Yield* and *DRAMA: The Webseries* and has performed at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall and Town Hall, and across the country and world! Ali also has a BA in Psychology from Yale University, which has proved surprisingly relevant to her career.

Judy Kuhn

Judy Kuhn is a four-time Tony Award nominee who most recently starred in the critically acclaimed Trevor Nunn directed production of *Fiddler on the Roof* in London's West End for which she received her 2nd Olivier Award nomination. On Broadway she starred as Helen Bechdel in *Fun Home* (Tony & Drama League Award Nominations) a role she created in the original Public Theater production for which she won a Lucille Lortell Award. Other Broadway includes the 2016 revival of *Fiddler on the Roof*; the Roundabout's hit revival of *She Loves Me* (Tony Nomination); and the original Bway productions of *Chess* (Tony & Drama Desk Nomination); *Les Miserables* (Tony & Drama Desk Nomination); *Rags* (Drama Desk Nomination); *Two Shakespearean Actors* (Lincoln Center Theatre), Alan Menken & Tim Rice's *King David*; and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Along with many other theatre credits, Judy sang the title role in Disney's *Pocahontas* as well as in the sequel *Pocahontas II: Journey To A New World*. Other film and television appearances include *Enchanted*, "Elementary"; "Hope & Faith"; "Law & Order". Judy has performed on concert stages around the world including Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, The Hollywood Bowl, The Royal Albert Hall in London and has recorded four solo CD's, most recently Rodgers, Rodgers & Guettel (PS Classics).