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**QUESTION:** Do you think the Stamford high schools' security tip lines make a difference?



## 'Billy Elliot' takes 7 early Tonys; Lansbury wins

By Michael Kuchwara  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — "Billy Elliot" dominated Sunday night's Tonys, collecting seven awards, including director of a musical, book of a musical and choreography, but the show and its composer Elton John were upset for best score.

That award was taken by "Next to Normal" — which seemed to stun "Normal" composer Tom Kitt and lyricist Brian Yorkey.

Still, the director award to Stephen Daldry of "Billy Elliot" was a big one.

"I have been blessed in my life to spend the majority of last 10 years of my life working on the story of 'Billy Elliot,'" said Daldry, who called it "a long, extraordinary journey."

He said the award belonged to everyone connected to the show and especially to "three great gifts of Broadway, our three little Billys."

"Billy" also received design prizes for sets, lighting, sound and a tie with "Next to Normal" for best orchestrations, which Kitt shared with Michael Starobin.

Angela Lansbury received her fifth Tony, this time for her performance as the dotty medium Madame Arcati in a revival of Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit." Her win in the featured-actress category tied the record for acting prizes held by Julie Harris, who has five plus a special lifetime achievement award given in 2002.

"Who would have thought," Lansbury began, drowned out by a standing ovation. "Who knew that this time in my life that I should be presented with this lovely, lovely award. I feel deeply grateful."

Roger Robinson's portrayal

of a mystical shamanlike character in "Joe Turner's Come and Gone" was honored with the featured-acting prize.

"It has taken me 46 years to come from that seat, up these steps, to this microphone," said Robinson, who thanked his mother in Bellevue, Wash., "who's 98 years old . . . who encouraged me and raised seven children single-handedly."

"Billy Elliot" and "God of Carnage," whose director Matthew Warchus also won, were the biggest attractions in a Broadway season that finished with a flourish on stage and, despite the economic downturn, at the box office.

The Tonys twittered this year, with Mark Indelicato of "Ugly Betty" as the night's uber-tweeter from backstage at Radio City Music Hall. He offered such timely nuggets as "NPH's (host Neil Patrick Harris) favorite beverage while warming up for the start of Tonys? RED BULL, natch!" Jane Fonda, nominated for lead actress in a play, offered: "The trick is to be Zen about it. Winning is sometimes not the prize."

Bret Michaels, star of the reality show "Rock of Love," took to the stage with his hair-metal band Poison during the telecast's opening production number, featuring performances from the season's Broadway musicals.

They performed "Nothin' But a Good Time" with the cast of "Rock of Ages," and as Michaels exited the stage, a descending set piece smacked him on the head and knocked him — splat! — to the ground.

Tonys spokeswoman Christina Stejskal said the rocker "missed his mark." Though it looked it, he did not break his nose. Stejskal did



SETH WENIG/AP PHOTOGRAPHER

Angela Lansbury reacts as she accepts her Tony Award for Best Performance by a Featured Actress in a Play for her role in 'Blithe Spirit' Sunday at the Tony Awards in New York.

not immediately know the extent of his injury.

"Rock of Ages" celebrates the 1980s hair music and features songs by Journey and other bands. It stars Constantine Maroulis as an aspiring rock star.

Broadway had a surprisingly robust 2008-2009 season.

And the spring was exceptionally busy, with stars such as Nathan Lane, Bill Irwin, David Hyde Pierce, John Goodman, Matthew Broderick, Allison Janney

and Brian Dennehy all arriving in the last week of April.

Attendance during the 2008-2009 season slipped a bit (to 12.15 million from 12.27 million the previous year) but not as much as was feared because of the recession. And grosses for plays and musicals actually were a bit higher than a year earlier, setting a record of \$943.3 million.

Forty-three shows opened during the season, the highest number of new productions since 50 opened during the 1982-83 season.

## 'Up' edges 'Hangover' for box-office crown

By David Germain  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Two live-action comedies were unable to bring down the animated adventure "Up."

Disney and Pixar Animation's "Up" reeled in \$44.2 million to remain on top of the box office for the second weekend in a row, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Warner Bros. bachelor-bash comedy "The Hangover" came in a close second with a \$43.3 million debut. Will Ferrell's action comedy for Universal, "Land of the Lost," had to settle for a distant third with a \$19.5 million opening.

"Up" was the first movie of Hollywood's busy summer season to take the No. 1 spot for two straight weekends. But overall revenues fell for the second weekend in a row, putting the brakes on what has been shaping up as a record revenue year for the movie business.

The top 12 movies took in \$164 million, down 6 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Kung Fu Panda" opened on top with \$60.2 million, according to box-office figures compiled by Hollywood.com.

For the year, Hollywood has taken in \$4.3 billion, up 12.5 percent from 2008 revenues. But studios have been unable to maintain the red-hot pace of the year's first four months.

"Definitely, things have slowed," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "But there are some potential saviors on the horizon."

Three big sequels — "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs" and "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" — open within three weeks of one another starting June 24.

With \$137.3 million in the bank after just 10 days, "Up" is streaking toward the \$200 million mark achieved by such previous Pixar hits as "WALL-E," "Ratatouille," "Cars" and "Toy Story 2."

Revenues for most big movies typically drop 50 percent or more in the second weekend, but the audience for "Up" was down only 35 percent from its opening.

That puts it in line with "Finding Nemo," the top-grossing Disney-Pixar animated tale, said Chuck Viane, head of distribution for Disney.

"Up" likely will finish in the top three among Pixar flicks, Viane said. Leading the Pixar slate now are "Finding Nemo" with \$339.7 million, "The Incredibles" with \$261.4 million and "Monsters, Inc." with \$255.8 million.

"The Hangover" features Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms and Zach Galifianakis as pals on a wild Las Vegas bachelor party, during which they mis-



AP PHOTO, DISNEY/PIXAR

Animated characters Russell, left, and Carl Fredricksen are shown in a scene from the film, 'Up.' The movie earned \$44 million this weekend to again top the box office.

place the groom (Justin Bartha) and run into all manner of misadventures.

Warner Bros. had expected "The Hangover" to finish

at No. 3 behind "Up" and "Land of the Lost." But the movie found a broad audience split almost evenly between men and women.

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