

DREAMGIRLS



DREAMGIRLS IS AN AWARD-WINNING BROADWAY MUSICAL, WHICH OPENED ON DECEMBER 20, 1981 AT THE IMPERIAL THEATRE ON BROADWAY AND RAN FOR 1522 PERFORMANCES. THE MUSICAL FOLLOWS THE STORY OF A BLACK ALL-GIRL SINGING TRIO FROM DETROIT CALLED "THE DREAMS", WHO BECOME MUSIC SUPERSTARS.

THE ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION OF DREAMGIRLS STARRED JENNIFER HOLLIDAY AS EFFIE WHITE, SHERYL LEE RALPH AS DEENA JONES, LORETTA DEVINE AS LORRELL ROBINSON, BEN HARNEY AS CURTIS TAYLOR, JR., CLEAVANT DERRICKS AS JAMES EARLY, AND OBBA BABATUNDE AS C. C. WHITE. DREAMGIRLS PROVED TO BE A STAR-MAKING VEHICLE FOR SEVERAL OF ITS PERFORMERS, PARTICULARLY HOLLIDAY, WHOSE PERFORMANCE AS EFFIE RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT PRAISE.

DREAMGIRLS WAS NOMINATED FOR THIRTEEN TONY AWARDS, INCLUDING THE TONY AWARD FOR BEST MUSICAL, AND EVENTUALLY WON SIX: BEST BOOK OF A MUSICAL, *BEST ACTOR IN A MUSICAL (BEN HARNEY), BEST ACTRESS IN A MUSICAL (JENNIFER HOLLIDAY), BEST FEATURED ACTOR IN A MUSICAL (CLEAVANT DERRICKS), BEST LIGHTING DESIGN (THARON MUSSER), AND BEST CHOREOGRAPHY (MICHAEL BENNETT & MICHAEL PETERS). HOLLIDAY'S RECORDING OF EFFIE'S SOLO "AND I'M TELLING YOU (I'M NOT GOING)", WAS A TOP 30 HIT ON THE BILLBOARD HOT 100 IN 1982. THE CAST RECORDING PROVED TO BE CONTROVERSIAL WHEN PRODUCERS DECIDED TO PRESENT THE COMPLEX MUSICAL SEQUENCES AS SIMPLE INDIVIDUAL SONGS, ULTIMATELY CUTTING HALF OF THE SCORE.

AMOTION PICTURE ADAPTATION OF DREAMGIRLS, WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY BILL CONDON, STARTED FILMING IN EARLY 2006, STARRING JENNIFER HUDSON OF AMERICAN IDOL FAME AS EFFIE WHITE, BEYONCÉ KNOWLES AS DEENA JONES, AND ANIKA NONI ROSE AS LORRELL. FANTASIA BARRINO HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN THE TOP CONTENDER CONSIDERED FOR THE ROLE OF EFFIE.

ALSO APPEARING IN DREAMGIRLS ARE JAMIE FOXX AS CURTIS TAYLOR, JR, EDDIE MURPHY AS JAMES "THUNDER" EARLY, DANNY GLOVER AS EARLY'S MANAGER, AND SHARON LEAL AS MICHELLE MORRIS. USHER WAS TALKS TO PLAY C.C. WHITE, BUT THE PRODUCERS COULD NOT NEGOTIATE AN ACCEPTABLE DEAL WITH HIM, AND CAST KEITH ROBINSON IN THAT ROLE.

TO GIVE THE STORY MORE EXPOSURE FOR THE UPCOMING FILM RELEASE, DREAMWORKS PICTURES AND THE COPYRIGHT OWNERS OF THE ORIGINAL PLAY, TAMS-WITMARK, HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WILL PAY THE LICENSING FEES FOR ALL NON-PROFESSIONAL STAGE PERFORMANCES OF DREAMGIRLS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR OF 2006. DREAMWORKS HOPES TO ENCOURAGE AMATEUR PRODUCTIONS OF DREAMGIRLS, AND FAMILIARIZE A WIDER AUDIENCE WITH THE PLAY. THE DREAMGIRLS FEATURE FILM WILL BE RELEASED IN DECEMBER 2006. EVERYONE IS VERY EXCITED TO SEE THE UPCOMING MUSICAL AND MOVIE.

AFTER ITS SUCCESS ON BROADWAY, DREAMGIRLS HAS BEEN FREQUENTLY PRODUCED AND PRESENTED THIS MOVIE HAD WON MANY AWARDS. A 2001 CONCERT PERFORMANCE STARRING LILLIAS WHITE, AUDRA McDONALD, HEATHER HEADLEY, BILLY PORTER AND NORM LEWIS WAS RECORDED AND RELEASED IN ITS ENTIRETY ON CD.



DEENA JONES (BEYONCÉ KNOWLES, 27) SINGING 'I AM CHANGING' IN "DREAMGIRLS"

CAST (MOVIE)

JAMIE FOXX: CURTIS TAYLOR
BEYONCÉ KNOWLES: DEENA JONES
EDDIE MURPHY: JAMES EARLY
DANNY GLOVER: MARTY MADISON
JENNIFER HUDSON: EFFIE WHITE
ANIKA ROSE: LORRELL

CAST (MUSICAL)

OBBA BABATUNDE: CURTIS TAYLOR
JENNIFER HOLLIDAY: DEENA JONES
CLEAVANT DERRICKS: JAMES EARLY
BEN HARNEY: MARTY MADISON
SHERYL RALPH: EFFIE WHITE
LORETTA DEVINE: LORRELL

PERFORMANCE

FEB. 6 - FEB. 9, 2009 (CALIFORNIA)
MARCH 5 - MARCH 6, 2009 (MAINE)
MAY 9 - MAY 10, 2009 (NEW YORK)
JUNE 11 - JUNE 13, 2009 (FLORIDA)
AUG. 3 - AUG. 5, 2009 (VIRGINIA)