

SHOW INTEL

Season 2023–2024 | Issue 1: *Pretty Woman: The Musical*

Big. New Musical. Big. Huge.
PRETTY WOMAN
 THE MUSICAL

FUN FACTS

- The film and show's titles are based on the 1964 song, "Oh, Pretty Woman" by Roy Orbison, which was Orbison's biggest hit.
- Screen & stage influences for *Pretty Woman* (film): *Pygmalion* (1913), *Wall Street* (1987), *The Last Detail* (1973).
- The original production first opened in Chicago, then on Broadway in 2018, directed and choreographed by Jerry Mitchell (*Legally Blonde: The Musical*, *Kinky Boots*, *On Your Feet! The Story of Emilio & Gloria Estefan*).
- A seat in the Nederlander Theatre, the show's Broadway home, was dedicated in Garry Marshall's honor.
- *Pretty Woman: The Musical* won three Broadway.com Audience Awards in 2019.
- The West End production opened in 2020.
- The U.S. national tour was set to launch in late 2020, but the pandemic delayed its start until October 2021.

SYNOPSIS

Based on the film of the same name, *Pretty Woman: The Musical* tells the story of Vivian Ward and millionaire Edward Lewis, whose lives are transformed when they spend a week together. Beginning with a business arrangement and developing into a deeper relationship, this grown-up fairy tale flips the Cinderella-like story to pose the question, who needs rescuing more, Vivian or Edward?

LOOKING "PRETTY"

Costumer Gregg Barnes is an award-winning Broadway costume designer whose recent shows include *Some Like It Hot*, *Mean Girls*, *Something Rotten*, and *Kinky Boots*. In *Pretty Woman: The Musical*, he pays homage to several of Vivian's iconic looks from the movie, including Vivian's opening scene mini skirt, boots, and jacket, and her glamorous red opera dress. While the stage and film version of the red dresses are different, they both evoke the same timeless elegance and sophistication.



Photo Credit: Morris Mac Matzen

FROM SCREEN TO STAGE

Screenwriter J.F. Lawton wrote the original screenplay, which was at first conceived as a gritty fable about Los Angeles in the 1980s. Titled *3,000* for the payment Edward gives Vivian, the initial script contained controversial themes and did not have a feel-good ending. Once the production was moved under the Disney umbrella and given to successful screenwriter and director Garry Marshall, the script underwent several changes, including a new title and an ending that better suited its stars' (Julia Roberts and Richard Gere) onscreen chemistry.

Garry Marshall had long wanted to adapt the romantic comedy into a stage musical. In 2014, he and original screenwriter J.F. Lawton began together on the book for the show. Rock musician Bryan Adams, together with frequent writing partner Jim Vallance, wrote the music and lyrics. Marshall passed away in 2016, but his dream of bringing the film to the stage continued in the hands of Lawton, Adams, and Vallance, with Tony Award-winning® director and choreographer Jerry Mitchell at the helm.

Watch the trailer for *Pretty Woman: The Musical*



SPOTLIGHT ON GARRY MARSHALL

(1934–2016)

Garry Marshall was a prolific screenwriter, actor, director, and producer.

- He wrote for dozens of TV sitcoms, including *The Lucy Show*, *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, and *Laverne & Shirley*. He also created several successful TV shows, such as *The Odd Couple* and *Happy Days*.
- He directed and produced many films, including *The Flamingo Kid*, *Beaches*, *Pretty Woman*, *Runaway Bride* and *The Princess Diaries*.
- In addition to numerous prestigious nominations and awards throughout his career, he was awarded the Women in Film Lucy Award (1996), inducted into the Television Hall of Fame in 1997, and the Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2012.

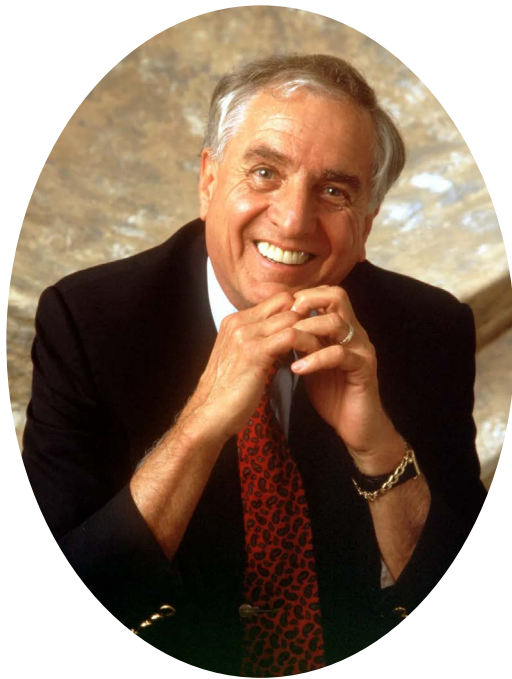
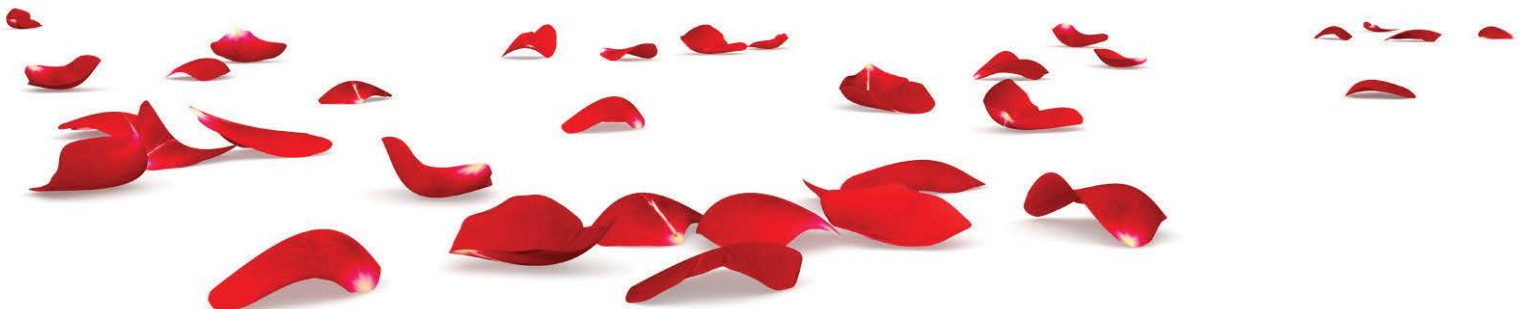


Photo Credit: Matt Mendelsohn, USA TODAY



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