

The English Theatre of Hamburg

Established 1976

**PRESENTS THE SMASH HIT
MUSICAL COMEDY**

**I LOVE YOU
YOU'RE PERFECT
NOW CHANGE**

By Joe DiPietro and Jimmy Roberts

Premiere on 26 April 2018

Preview Performances at reduced Prices:

23, 24, 25 April 2018

Weekly Performances:

Tuesday to Saturday at 19:30 hrs

Matinee Performances:

Tuesdays and Fridays at 11:30 hrs

The English Theatre of Hamburg

Lerchenfeld 14

22081 Hamburg

Tel. 040 / 227 70 89

www.englishtheatre.de

Dear Teachers, and Friends,

The English Theatre will premiere the Musical Comedy ***I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*** by Joe DiPietro and Jimmy Roberts on 26 April 2018. Bookings for the Play have already started. The Text of the Musical may be obtained at www.samuelfrench.co.uk or www.amazon.com. Teachers interested in being invited free of charge to a dress rehearsal of the Musical should contact us at marketing@englishtheatre.de.

About the Authors:

Joe DiPietro (born 1961) is an American playwright, lyricist and author.

Born in Teaneck, New Jersey, DiPietro grew up in nearby [Oradell](#), the son of Lou and Jean DiPietro. He attended Oradell Public School and River Dell Regional High School, before graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Rutgers University in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in English.

DiPietro is best known for the Tony Award-winning musical *Memphis*, as well as for writing the book and lyrics for the long-running off-Broadway show *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*.

DiPietro's first produced work was *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, written with composer Jimmy Roberts, which ran for twelve years (5,003 performances) off-Broadway at the Westside Theatre. He followed that up with 1998's comedy *Over the River and Through the Woods*, which played the John Houseman Theatre for 800 performances over two years.

DiPietro's work made its Broadway debut in 2005 with the Elvis Presley jukebox musical *All Shook Up. The Toxic Avenger*, written with Bon Jovi's David Bryan, debuted off-Broadway on April 6, 2009, and won the Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New Off-Broadway Musical.

DiPietro and Bryan's *Memphis* won the 2010 Tony Award for Best Musical. It ran at the Shubert Theatre for three years (1,165 performances) and continues in touring production all over the country. DiPietro won Tony Awards for Best Book and Best Score, and the show also received the Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Awards for Best Musical.

Nice Work If You Can Get It, a re-imagining of a Gershwin musical, starring Matthew Broderick and Kelli O'Hara, opened at Broadway's Imperial Theatre in 2012. The show, and DiPietro's book, were nominated for Tony Awards in 2012, and DiPietro won the Drama Desk Award for Best Book of a Musical.

Clever Little Lies ran in late 2013 at George Street Playhouse and debuted in New York's Westside Theatre in 2015 with Marlo Thomas and Greg Mullavey.

The musical *Chasing the Song*, which reunited DiPietro with Bryan, was workshopped at La Jolla Playhouse in the summer of 2014. 2014 also saw DiPietro reworking the Garson Kanin play *Peccadillo* into *Living on Love*, which starred the opera star Renée Fleming and was a highlight of the 2014 Williamstown Theatre Festival.

Other recent plays include *Creating Claire*, which debuted at George Street Playhouse in 2010, and *The Last Romance*, which played the Old Globe in 2010 after debuting at Kansas City's New Theatre in 2008.

Jimmy Roberts is a composer for the musical theater as well as a pianist and entertainer. His musical scores include: *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (1996) and *The Thing*

About Men (2003), both with book and lyrics by Joe DiPietro. He is a 1977 graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with the noted pianist, Constance Keene. "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," nominated for Best Musical by both the Outer Critics Circle and the Drama Desk, became the second-longest running Off Broadway musical in theater history (6,000 performances), and was translated into numerous languages, including Chinese, Korean, Spanish, German, French, Catalan, Hebrew, Czech and Hungarian. "The Thing About Men" was voted Best Musical of the 2003/2004 season, by the New York Outer Critics Circle. His children's musical, "The Velveteen Rabbit" (1986, book and lyrics by James Still), toured the United States for a decade, and he contributed individual songs to two other Off Broadway revues, "A . . . My Name is Still Alice" and "Pets!" (lyrics by June Siegel). He also composed "The Truth About Light" (2007), with British playwright/lyricist, Warner Brown, which has not yet been produced.

Among his compositions are two commissioned works: "The Heart of the Matter" (2008), with words by poet Dana Gioia, performed at the Guggenheim Museum, New York; and "I Sing, I Pray" (2007), written for Cantor Roslyn Barak, Congregation Emanu-El, San Francisco. Mr. Roberts also created and performed special piano arrangements for the Grand Piano Marathon at Merkin Concert Hall (2008), and gave a lecture/demonstration at the Newark School of the Arts for the Leonard Bernstein 90th birthday celebration.

As a pianist and performer, Jimmy Roberts devises programs that blend classical and popular music (including Gershwin and Broadway), comedy and song. He has appeared at Merkin Concert Hall, the Time Warner Center, the 92nd Street Y, Steinway Hall and the "Music at Meyer" series in San Francisco. He was guest artist at the Newark School of the Arts in New Jersey, the Cab Calloway School of the Arts, in Wilmington, Delaware, and St. Francis College (Brooklyn). In the summer of 2010, he will be guest artist at the inaugural season of the Buck Hill/Skytop Music Festival in Pennsylvania.

The original cast recordings for his shows were recorded on the following record labels: "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" (Varese-Sarabande Records); "The Thing About Men" (DRG Records). Both shows are administered by The Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization.

About the Musical

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change is a musical comedy with book and lyrics by Joe DiPietro and music by Jimmy Roberts. It is the second-longest running Off Broadway musical. The musical was nominated for the Outer Critics Circle Award as Outstanding Off-Broadway musical in 1997. The musical premiered Off-Broadway at the Westside Theatre on August 1, 1996 and closed on July 27, 2008, after 5,003 performances. Directed by Joel Bishoff, the cast featured Jordan Leeds, Robert Roznowski, Jennifer Simard, and Melissa Weil.

It was first produced in the town where playwright Joe DiPietro was born, Teaneck, NJ. This premier ran Feb 24 to March 12, 1995 at the American Stage Company Theater (Artistic Director James Vagias and Managing Director, Glenn Cherrits), a professional theatre in residence on the campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University. Teaneck, NJ. Directed by Joel Bishoff, the cast included Robert Roznowski, Robert Michael and Melissa Weil.

The musical was first produced in the UK at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, followed by a short season in the West End Comedy Theatre from July 28, 1999 to September 25,

1999. Directed by Joel Bishoff, the cast featured Clive Carter, Shona Lindsay, Gillian Kirkpatrick and Russell Wilcox. It was revived in London at the Jermyn Street Theatre, running from March 1, 2005 to March 26, presented by Popular Productions Ltd. and by Maple Giant at the Bridewell Theatre in 2011. A Mandarin Chinese version debuted in Beijing, China, on June 20, 2007, and it had been also reproduced by LANCreators, Taiwan's only group producing Broadway musicals, and performed, in English, at the Crown Theatre, Taipei, from November 3, 2007.

It has been translated into at least 17 languages, including Hebrew, Spanish, Dutch, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, Slovene, Japanese, Korean, Italian, Portuguese, German, Catalan, Finnish, Mandarin, Norwegian, Polish, French and Turkish.

It has played sit-down productions in Los Angeles, Toronto, Boston, Chicago, London, Tel Aviv, Mexico City, Guadalajara, Barcelona, Istanbul, Amsterdam, Budapest, Sydney, Prague, Bratislava, Seoul, Warsaw, Milan, Rio de Janeiro, Johannesburg, Dublin, Buenos Aires, Berlin, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, Taipei, Tokyo, Manila, Wiesbaden, Munich, Heidelberg and Christchurch.

In 2008, Kookaburra: The National Musical Theatre Company toured NSW Australia with version of the production with Australian accents and references. This production was directed by Darren Yap, and starred Hayden Tee, Katrina Retallick, Marika Aubrey and Anthony Harkin. Its near sold-out season scheduled for Sydney in April 2009 was cancelled after the sudden collapse of Kookaburra.

In 2015 I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change ran in London in the small studio space named Above The Arts in London's West End in Leicester Square. It starred Julie Atherton, Simon Lipkin, Gina Beck and Samuel Holmes

Characters:

Woman 1 (Jennifer)

Act I: Julie/Betty/Diane/Mom/Woman/Debbie/Susan/Bride

Act II: Bride/Marie/Tyler/Wife/Samantha/She/Rose

Man 1 (Robert)

Act I: Jason/Bob#1/ Chuck/Mitch/Man/Pizza Delivery Guy#1/Brad/Groom

Act II: Groom/ Fred/Dave/Noah/Guy/Husband/Video Operator

Woman 2 (Melissa)

Act I: Pat/Veronica/Jane/Karen/Attorney/Ma/Mrs.Whitewood/Clergywoman

Act II: Bridesmaid/Marlene/Emma/Connie/Wife/Muriel

Man 2 (Jordan)

Act I: Stan/Bob#2/James/Dad/Spokesman/Pizza Delivery Guy#2/Trentell/
Clergyman

Act II: Frank/Zachary/Husband/Mark/He/Arthur

Summary:

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change is presented in the form of a series of vignettes connected by the central theme of love and relationships. The play's tagline is "Everything you have ever secretly thought about dating, romance, marriage, lovers, husbands, wives and in-laws, but were afraid to admit." With few exceptions, the scenes stand independent of the others, but progress in a fashion designed to suggest an overall arc to relationships throughout the course of one's life. A first date, for example, comes before scenes dealing with marriage, and scenes dealing with marriage come before those dealing with child bearing. Despite the large number of characters, the show is typically done with a comparatively small cast: the original Off-Broadway production uses a cast of four.

Act 1

Scene 1: "Prologue"

- "Prologue"
- "Cantata for a First Date"

Scene 2: "Not Tonight, I'm Busy, Busy, Busy"

- "We Had it All"

Scene 3: "A Stud and a Babe"

- "A Stud and a Babe"

Scene 4: "Men Who Talk and the Women Who Pretend They're Listening"

- "Single Man Drought"
- "Why? 'Cause I'm a Guy"

Scene 5: "Tear Jerk"

- "Tear Jerk"

Scene 6: "The Lasagna Incident"

- "I Will Be Loved Tonight"

Scene 7: "And Now the Parents"

- "Hey There, Single Gal/Guy"

Scene 8: "Satisfaction Guaranteed"

Scene 9: "I'll Call You Soon (Yeah, Right)"

- "He Called Me"

Scene 10: "Scared Straight" Scene 11: (untitled)

- "Cantata Reprise #1"
- "Wedding Vows"

Act 2

Scene 1: (untitled)

- "Cantata Reprise #2"
- "Always a Bridesmaid"

Scene 2: "Whatever Happened to Baby's Parents?"

- "The Baby Song"

Scene 3: "Sex and the Married Couple"

- "Marriage Tango"

Scene 4: "The Family that Drives Together..."

- "On the Highway of Love"

Scene 5: "Waiting"

- "Waiting Trio"

Scene 6: (untitled)

- "Shouldn't I Be Less In Love With You?"

Scene 7: "The Very First Dating Video of Rose Ritz"

Scene 8: "Funerals are for Dating"

- "I Can Live With That"

Scene 9: "Epilogue"

- "Epilogue"
- "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change"

The current licensed version available for production includes a new song in Act I, Scene 2. The song "We Had It All" was added during the Off-Broadway run and was part of several tours of the show.

Multiple Choice Exercise

1. How many Characters are involved in total? (a. 10, b. 56, c. 43, d. 28)
2. In which year did the Musical premiere? (a. 1976, b. 2001, c. 1996, d. 2005)
3. In how many languages has the Musical been translated? (a. 17, b. 5, c. 35, d. 4)
4. After how many performances closed the Show Off Broadway? (a. 4500, b. 5003, c. 1496, d. 500)

Answering Keys:

(1. b, 2. c, 3. a, 4. b,)