

Something Borrowed to Something New: The Musical Adaptation of THE WEDDING SINGER

The Wedding Singer is all the things you love about a BIG Broadway musical: big musical numbers, big white puffy wedding gown sleeves and even bigger hair. However, the love story of the wedding reception entertainer and waitress did not originate on the Great White Way.

Contrary to the recent trend of hit-Broadway musicals becoming blockbuster films, including “Les Misérables” (2012), “Jersey Boys” (2014) and “Into the Woods” (2014), *The Wedding Singer* made its debut at movie theaters in 1998, starring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore.

The romantic comedy was written by Tim Herlihy, an American actor and screenwriter who rose to fame writing the books for comedies such as “Billy Madison” and “Happy Gilmore.” Herlihy and Sandler worked with one another numerous times before coming together to create *The Wedding Singer*. The two actually met as roommates at New York University. Other notable collaborations include “The Waterboy” (1998), “Big Daddy” (1999) and “Mr. Deeds” (2002).

In its opening weekend at the box office, “The Wedding Singer” came in second, just behind the blockbuster smash, “Titanic.” Audiences fell in love with the delightful love story and enjoyed the throwbacks to the ‘80s, helping the film to gross \$123.3 million worldwide.

After garnering much success in theaters, this love story later caught the attention of American playwright Chad Beguelin, who was interested in writing a musical version. He paired up with Herlihy to co-write the book and asked Matthew Sklar to write the music. Two songs from the film made it into the musical, and both were co-written by Sandler and Herlihy – “Somebody Kill Me” and “Grow Old with You.”

The Wedding Singer debuted on Broadway at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre April 27, 2006. It was nominated for five Tony Awards®, including Best Musical and Best Choreography by Pittsburgh CLO alumnus Rob Ashford. The infectious musical starred Stephen Lynch as Robbie Hart and Laura Benanti as Julia Sullivan.

After the First National Tour, hit productions of *The Wedding Singer* were enjoyed in Spain, across the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Australia, Austria, the Philippines and Germany.

This feel-good musical will have Pittsburgh audiences singing and dancing out of their seats like it is 1985, July 24-August 2 at the Benedum Center!