

A BRIEF HISTORY OF

BUGS BUNNY

ON BROADWAY

2006-2007 Season

Since its creation in 1990, *Bugs Bunny On Broadway* has become one of the world's most popular -- and enduring -- symphony orchestra concert productions, having played repeated sold-out performances not only on Broadway, but at The Hollywood Bowl, The Sydney Opera House, Moscow's Kremlin Palace, The Philadelphia Orchestra, The San Francisco Symphony in Davies Hall, Wolf Trap with The National Symphony, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, London's Royal Festival Hall with The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Bugs Bunny On Broadway was created by Emmy Award-winning conductor George Daugherty, who felt that the extraordinary animation scores by legendary Warner Bros. Studios composers Carl Stalling and Milt Franklyn were not only perfect for the cartoons for which they were composed, but in addition, were spectacular flights of fancy for the symphony orchestra itself.

Daugherty felt it was no accident that, by far, the most popular and enduring of the classic Warner Bros. Studios cartoon scores were those that had taken familiar classical pieces as a jumping-off point for wildly original animated antics. So it was this fascinating synthesis of cartoons and classicism that, in turn, served as the impetus for the creation of this unique concert . . . one which has turned out to be one of the most surprising musical hits in recent memory.

Almost entirely based upon classical music war horses, Looney Tunes like *What's Opera, Doc?*, *The Rabbit of Seville*, *Corny Concerto*, *Baton Bunny*, *Rhapsody Rabbit*, *High Note*, and *Zoom and Bored* were not only exceptional examples of a unique American art form -- the cartoon short (by such legendary directors as Chuck Jones, Friz Freleng, and Bob Clampett) -- but were also incredible musical scores themselves; scores which had introduced millions of children (and adults) to classical music for four decades through the brilliance of the Warner Bros. Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies cartoons.

With a unique combination of the visual (the cartoons themselves projected on a giant screen) and live music (the original scores played in perfect synchronization by a live symphony orchestra), the production had its world premiere in June of 1990, in a sold-out test performance with the San Diego Symphony at the San Diego Civic Theatre. The reaction of that deafeningly enthusiastic audience gave creator/conductor/producer

Daugherty and Emmy Award-winning producer David Wong the needed impetus to take ***Bugs Bunny On Broadway*** to Broadway, and it became an instant hit, playing a sold-out, extended run at New York's Gershwin Theatre.

“They applauded, they stomped, they cheered, they hooted, they hollered, they whistled,” reported The Hollywood Reporter. “That was the reaction of the sold-out, opening-night audience at the 2,000-seat Gershwin Theatre on Wednesday night for the debut of ***Bugs Bunny On Broadway***, a genuinely joyous concert of vintage Warner Bros. cartoons accompanied by live orchestra. Without question, Bugs has become Broadway’s best-selling rabbit since “Harvey” took the Great White Way by storm back in the 1940’s.”

An additional critical sampling reveals the response to this utterly original entertainment experience: The New York Times called it "Hilarious!" "Spectacular" chimed The New York Post while Newsday crowned it "The giddiest entertainment happening between West 44th and 52nd Streets. Four carrots, highest rating!"

Response was so extraordinary that the next step was all but inevitable: Daugherty and company took their act on the road.

Since then, it has played to sold-out houses and rave reviews all over the world, including its legendary repeated sold-out Hollywood Bowl engagements with The Los Angeles Philharmonic, as well as at Davies Hall with The San Francisco Symphony, Washington D.C.'s Wolf Trap with The National Symphony, L.A.'s The Greek Theatre, The Philadelphia Orchestra at Mann Music Center, Detroit's Meadowbrook, Cleveland Orchestra's Blossom Festival, The New York Philharmonic's Saratoga Center for The Performing Arts, Pittsburgh Symphony's Heinz Hall, The Atlanta Symphony, The Houston Symphony, The Vancouver Symphony, and in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Denver, Detroit, Chicago, Milwaukee, San Diego, Orange County, Fort Worth, Winnipeg, and dozens of other American and Canadian cities.

Bugs Bunny On Broadway also embarked on a world-wide concert tour in 1996 with an international debut, and sold-out one-week engagement, at the famed Sydney Opera House in Australia, followed by a second sold-out Sydney run, and subsequent sold-out international performances with The Royal Philharmonic in London’s Royal Festival Hall, and in Mexico City at the Auditorio Nazionale. In November of 1999, the production made history when it played six sold-out performances, to a total audience of almost 40,000, in Moscow’s legendary Kremlin Palace.

Not to be locked in the 20th Century, Bugs, Elmer, Daffy, and the rest of Warner Bros. ensemble again made history in the 21st Century with simultaneous New Year's Eve Millennium Concerts in both Japan (in Tokyo and Osaka with six sold-out concerts with Seiji Ozawa’s The New Japan Philharmonic, conducted by George Daugherty) and Toronto (at prestigious Roy Thomson Hall, conducted by Leo Marchildon) all on the same night.

And, the 21st Century proves that Bugs is still one of the most popular and enduring stars on screen, stage, AND concert platform. The new millennium finds ***Bugs Bunny On Broadway*** in return sold-out performances at The Hollywood Bowl (eight sold-out runs now to date, with a cumulative audience of almost 200,000), another sold-out week at The Sydney Opera House, Wolf Trap with The National Symphony Orchestra (seven sold-out runs now to date), The Philadelphia Orchestra (three sold-out runs to date), The Cleveland Orchestra, The San Francisco Symphony at Davies Hall, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, The Houston Symphony at The Woodlands, Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall, The Melbourne Symphony at The Victorian Arts Centre, and prestigious international debuts in China, South Korea, New Zealand, Wales, and many other prestigious countries and venues.

The 2005 schedule kicks off with a five week Australian/New Zealand tour with performances at The Sydney Opera House, Melbourne Arts Centre, Adelaide Festival, and The Edge in Auckland, followed by a one-week engagement in the U.K.'s and Europe's most exciting new opera house and performing arts center, The Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff, Wales.

In 2005-06-07, "Bugs Bunny On Broadway" returns to The Los Angeles Philharmonic at The Hollywood Bowl, The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom (where it has set two all-time attendance records of almost 30,000 audience members combined), The San Francisco Symphony, The Seattle Symphony, The Houston Symphony, The Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra at Bass Hall, The Nashville Symphony, The Phoenix Symphony, The Memphis Symphony, The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Spokane Symphony, The Rochester Philharmonic, and other major American orchestras.

BUGS BUNNY

Bugs Bunny is one of the most recognized cartoon characters in the world, whose signature phrase "What's Up, Doc?" has long since entered the English language.

Bugs' first 'reel' appearance in front of his soon-to-be-adoring public was in 'A Wild Hare' directed by Tex Avery. Since then, Bugs' zany antics in hundreds of cartoon favorites have made him a legend throughout the world.

This cool, collected, carrot-chomping rabbit is the unequivocal superstar of the Looney Tunes family. With never a 'hare' out of place he always manages to outsmart his adversaries, whoever they may be. He's a real American icon who has graced the TV and cinema screens the world over.

Twice Bugs Bunny's cartoons have been nominated for Academy Awards, and his 'Knighty Knight Bugs' won a coveted Oscar. Bugs has starred in four films in addition to his many animated shorts and 21 prime time television specials.

GEORGE DAUGHERTY

Conductor George Daugherty is one of the classical music world's most diverse artists. In addition to his 25-year conducting career which has included appearances with the world's leading orchestras, ballet companies, opera houses, and concert artists, Daugherty is also an Emmy Award winning / five-time Emmy nominated creator whose professional profile includes major credits as a director, writer, and producer for television, film, innovative and unique concerts, and the live theater.

He is Music Director and Conductor of London's new world-class chamber and symphony orchestra Sinfonia Britannia, which made its world premiere at Easter 2005 during a one week engagement at the newly-opened Wales Millennium Centre, in the presence of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales. The orchestra made its U.S. tour debut in San Francisco in February 2006, and made its London West End debut in September 2006 in concert at Cameron Mackintosh's newly renamed Novello Theatre, formerly the legendary Strand Theatre.

Mr. Daugherty has also been a frequent conductor of London's Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra.

As conductor of The Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, Daugherty conducted "A Royal Christmas," a 15 city U.S. and Canadian concert tour with the orchestra and guest artists Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer, Charlotte Church, The Westminster Choir and Bell Ringers, and ballet dancers from The Royal Ballet, Bolshoi Ballet, Kyev Ballet, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and other major international companies. The tour played sold-out performances in such major North American cities as Boston, Toronto, Pittsburgh, Ottawa, and the New York City area.

Daugherty made his debut with the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra in London's Royal Festival Hall in 1999, and has also since conducted the orchestra on tour throughout The United Kingdom. His performances with the RPCO have received rave reviews from such diverse international publications as The Times of London, The Boston Globe, and The Ottawa Citizen.

Daugherty's 2006 conducting schedule includes return performances with The Los Angeles Philharmonic, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and The Cleveland Orchestra.

As a frequent guest conductor of The Los Angeles Philharmonic, Daugherty has conducted eight engagements with the Philharmonic at the legendary Hollywood Bowl, and returns for a ninth in 2006. He also made his Dorothy Chandler Pavilion debut with the orchestra in December, 1994. He has also conducted four performances with The Hollywood Bowl Orchestra.

Daugherty, a San Francisco resident, has also been a popular guest conductor with The San Francisco Symphony since his debut with the orchestra in 1998, performing with the

SFS frequently in Davies Symphony Hall, as well as numerous performances around the Bay Area.

In 2000, Daugherty also made a highly successful conducting debut with The Philadelphia Orchestra, and returned again to conduct the orchestra in 2001, 2002, 2004, and 2006, conducting such repertoire as Mendelssohn's "Midsummer Night's Dream" with Shakespeare's text, as well as major works by Wagner, Rossini, Elgar, Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky, and other composers. He has also guest conducted The Houston Symphony and National Symphony in numerous concerts over the past few seasons.

He has been a frequent guest conductor at The Sydney Opera House since 1996, and in 2002 and 2005, he returned to guest conduct The Sydney Symphony for one week engagements at the Sydney Opera House. He also made his debut with The Melbourne Symphony in Melbourne's Victoria Arts Centre in 2002, and returned for a one week engagement in 2005, followed by debuts with The Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and The Auckland Philharmonic. His international conducting appearances have ranged from Moscow's Kremlin Palace to Shanghai's Grand Theatre.

Daugherty has appeared with numerous other major American and international symphony orchestras, ballet companies, and opera houses, including American Ballet Theatre, The Sydney Opera House Orchestra, The Munich State Opera Orchestra, The Munich State Opera Ballet, The Pittsburgh Symphony, The National Arts Centre Orchestra, The Atlanta Symphony, The Cincinnati Symphony, The Vancouver Symphony, The Buffalo Philharmonic, The Louisville Orchestra, The Indianapolis Symphony, The Moscow Symphony, Seiji Ozawa's New Japan Philharmonic, The Shanghai Radio Orchestra, The Seoul Philharmonic, The Kremlin Palace Orchestra of The Russian Federation, The Kiev Ballet, The Nashville Symphony, The Grant Park Symphony Orchestra, The Columbus Symphony, The RCA Symphony Orchestra, The Saddlers Wells Royal Ballet, Mexico City's Bellas Artes Opera House, The Montreal Symphony, The Winnipeg Symphony, The Ft. Worth Symphony, The Rochester Philharmonic, The New Orleans Symphony, The Venezuela Symphony, Mexico's Xalapa Symphony, The Oklahoma City Philharmonic, The National Arts Centre Orchestra, and major Italian opera houses in Rome, Florence, Turin, and Regio Emilia.

In addition to his appearances with American Ballet Theatre and other major ballet companies, he has also served as Music Director of The Louisville Ballet, The Chicago City Ballet, and Ballet Chicago, where he conducted the world premiere of Daniel Duell's "Glazunov Violin Concerto" ballet, performed by violinist Cho Liang Lin. In addition to his appearances with American Ballet Theatre and other major ballet companies, he has also served as Music Director of The Louisville Ballet, The Chicago City Ballet, and Ballet Chicago, where he conducted the world premiere of Daniel Duell's "Glazunov Violin Concerto" ballet, performed by violinist Cho Liang Lin. Daugherty has also conducted for some of the ballet world's greatest stars, including Mikhail Baryshnikov, Gelsey Kirkland, Suzanne Farrell, Natalia Makarova, Alicia Alonson, Merrill Ashley, Amanda McKerrow, Marianna Tcherkassky, Lis Jeppesen, Cynthia Gregory, Marcia Haydee, Merle Park, Kevin MacKenzie, Richard Cragun, Galina Panova, Cynthia

Harvey, Anthony Dowell, Patrick Dupond, Valentina Kozlova, Leonid Kozlov, Sean Lavery, Adam Luders, Ib Andersen, Robert Hill, David Wall, John Meehan, Eleanor D'Antuono, Yoko Morishita, Ann Marie De Angelo, Danilo Radojevic, David Peregrine, and many others. He has conducted virtually all of the major full-length story ballets, as well as works by most of the ballet world's major contemporary choreographers. He was privileged to work directly with the legendary George Balanchine on productions of "Mozartiana" and "Tzigane," both danced by Suzanne Farrell. Daugherty was music director for three consecutive years for the major world-class ballet galas at the International Cervantes Festival in Guanajuato, Mexico, danced by the ballet world's greatest dancers.

As a director, writer, and producer of music-based television programs, Daugherty has created several major productions for the ABC Television Network project, including a primetime animation-and-live action production of Sergei Prokofiev's *Peter and The Wolf*, which he created, co-wrote, and directed (and for which he conducted the score with The Utah Symphony.) *Peter and The Wolf* starred Lloyd Bridges, Kirstie Alley, and *Sleepless in Seattle's* Ross Malinger (as Peter), along with new characters created by legendary Warner Bros. animation director Chuck Jones. The production -- and Daugherty -- earned a coveted Emmy Award when *Peter and The Wolf* was named Outstanding Primetime Children's Television Program. He also received a second Emmy nomination for Outstanding Music Direction for the production, as well as a Writers Guild of America / WGA Award nomination.

He collaborated with *The Joy Luck Club* author Amy Tan on a television adaptation of her celebrated children's book *The Chinese Siamese Cat*. The Emmy Award-winning series debuted on PBS in the fall of 2001 as a daily-animated children's television series, propelled by PBS' unprecedented advance order for 80 segments. Daugherty executive produced, and wrote a large number of the animated tales.

Daugherty also received an Emmy nomination for *Rhythm & Jam*, his ABC television network of specials which taught the basics of music to a teenage audience. He has now received five Emmy nominations to date.

Daugherty also directed the 1991 Warner Bros. documentary *The Magical World of Chuck Jones*, celebrating the career of the legendary animation director on his 80th birthday, and featuring interviews from a stellar group of artists whose work had been influenced by Jones' legendary comedic creations, including Whoopi Goldberg, Steven Spielberg, Ron Howard, George Lucas, Matt Groening, Danny Elfman, Joe Dante, and many others.

In 1990, Daugherty created, directed, and conducted the hit Broadway musical *Bugs Bunny On Broadway*, a live-orchestra-and-film stage production which sold-out its extended run at New York's Gershwin Theatre on Broadway, and has since played to critical acclaim and sold-out houses in thirteen different Los Angeles engagements, as well as at Washington D.C.'s Wolftrap, Philadelphia Orchestra's Mann Music Center, Detroit's Meadowbrook, Cleveland Orchestra's Blossom Festival, The New York

Philharmonic's Saratoga Center for The Performing Arts, Pittsburgh Symphony's Heinz Hall, and in Vancouver, Denver, Detroit, Chicago, San Diego, Orange County, and elsewhere. ***Bugs Bunny On Broadway*** embarked on a worldwide concert tour in 1996 with an international (and sold-out) one week engagement at the famed Sydney Opera House in Australia, and subsequent international performances in London, Wales, Central and South America, Russia, Japan, China, and Korea.

Daugherty recently received the biannual Indiana Governor's Arts Award from the state of his birth, in recognition for his artistic contributions not only in Indiana, but also throughout the rest of the country. In receiving the award, Daugherty joined an exclusive list of previous Hoosier honorees, including composers Cole Porter and Hoagy Carmichael, conductors Raymond Leppard and John Nelson, cellist Janos Starker, violinists Joshua Bell and Josef Gingold, architect Michael Graves, designer Bill Blass, and novelist Kurt Vonnegut Jr. In 2005, he was also named a Sagamore of The Wabash by the late Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon, the highest award which can be bestowed upon a performing artist from the state governor.

In 2005, Daugherty was also named a Library Laureate of The San Francisco Public Library for his contributions to children's books, reading, and literature, joining a distinguished list of authors who have been awarded the title.

DAVID KA LIK WONG

Executive Producer

Bugs Bunny On Broadway Executive Producer David Ka Lik Wong was awarded with a coveted Emmy Award for his work as producer on *Peter and The Wolf* in 1996, and was also nominated for an Emmy in 1994 for his work as producer of *Rhythm & Jam*, the ABC series of Saturday morning music education specials for children.

He teamed with George Daugherty as principal producer for the *Peter and The Wolf* project, the animation and live-action production starring Kirstie Alley, Lloyd Bridges, *Sleepless In Seattle's* Ross Malinger, and the new animated characters of legendary animation director Chuck Jones. He also produced the interactive CD-ROM version of the production for Time Warner Interactive.

He was also the senior Producer for the Warner Bros. documentary film *The Magical World of Chuck Jones*, directed by George Daugherty and starring interviews by Steven Spielberg, Whoopi Goldberg, George Lucas, and Ron Howard, among many others.

He has been Producer for the Warner Bros. touring production *Bugs Bunny On Broadway* since 1991, as it has toured the world, and co-produced the audio CD album and tape for Warner Bros. Records. Mr. Wong has also produced innovative symphony orchestra concerts for some of the worlds leading orchestras, including The National Symphony,

The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Royal Philharmonic, The Sydney Opera House, The San Francisco Symphony, The Los Angeles Philharmonic, and many others.

Most recently, Mr. Wong has teamed with George Daugherty, Amy Tan, and the legendary Sesame Workshop to produce and create the new Emmy Award winning PBS / Sesame Workshop children's television series *Sagwa, The Chinese Siamese Cat*, based on the book by Ms. Tan, which premiered on PBS in the fall of 2001, and has since been one of the most highly rated children's television series on all broadcast networks.

Mr. Wong was born in Hong Kong, and moved to San Francisco with his family as a teenager.

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