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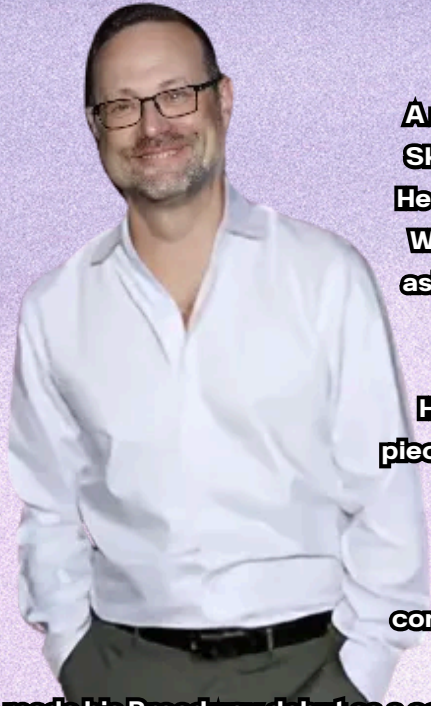
PROM



The Prom

Music

Matthew Sklar



A native of Westfield, New Jersey, Sklar is the middle child of Dr. Talbot Sklar, a pediatric dentist, and Susan Sklar, a teacher. He attended Edison Intermediate School and graduated from Westfield High School in 1991. He was active in the high school's music and drama programs, and also participated in the Westfield Summer Workshop. Sklar credits his start in composing to his music teacher, Kristine Smith-Morasso at Edison, who asked him to write a song for his 9th grade graduation. On a whim, he sent the song to the hit Disney Channel show, the All-New Mickey Mouse Club. The producers chose the song to be performed by cast member Jennifer McGill and Sklar was subsequently interviewed on the program.

He graduated with honors in 1991 from the Juilliard School Pre-College Division as a composition major. His piece Symphonics, for full orchestra, was premiered at Lincoln Center by the Juilliard Pre-College Orchestra, conducted by Sklar. He then studied at New York University from 1991 to 1995.

As an 18-year-old freshman at New York University, Sklar began playing keyboards for the Broadway production of Les Misérables, eventually conducting the show at age 21. He has also been a keyboardist, conductor, and/or arranger for many Broadway productions including Shrek, 42nd Street, Miss Saigon, Nine and Caroline, or Change. Sklar also appeared onstage as "Oscar" in the Broadway revival of 42nd Street.

He made his Broadway debut as a composer for the new musical The Wedding Singer, with Chad Beguelin writing the lyrics. He was nominated for the 2006 Tony Award for Best Original Score for The Wedding Singer. His second Broadway musical, Elf, broke box office records at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre. The show has played all over the world and has become a staple in the musical theatre repertoire.

Sklar received a 2015 Primetime Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Music Direction for the NBC stop-motion animated TV special Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas, starring Jim Parsons. He adapted and arranged the music of Marvin Hamlisch for the Emmy Award-winning documentary film Marvin Hamlisch: What He Did For Love, seen on PBS/American Masters. Sklar has contributed original songs/music to Sesame Street, Wonder Pets!, and the NBC Broadcast of The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. His music has been performed by the Atlanta, Baltimore, and Indianapolis Symphony Orchestras.

His most recent Broadway work is the original musical The Prom, winner of the 2019 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Musical. The Prom is based on a concept by Jack Viertel, the book is by Bob Martin and Chad Beguelin, music by Sklar, lyrics by Beguelin, and directed/choreographed by Casey Nicholaw. The musical premiered at the Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, Georgia, on August 18, 2018 in previews.

This out-of-town production received positive reviews. Frank Rizzo, in his Variety review, wrote that it is "a loopy, loving and joyous musical." The Prom opened on Broadway at the Longacre Theatre on November 15, 2018, with previews starting on October 23, 2018, to positive reviews, including a New York Times Critic's Pick. Jesse Green, chief theatre critic for the New York Times wrote in his review that The Prom "makes you believe in musical comedy again." For his work on The Prom, Sklar received his second Tony Award nomination for Best Original Score and the Dramatists Guild of America Frederick Loewe Award for Dramatic Composition.

The Prom Chad Beguelin

Book and Lyrics



Beguelin, a native of Centralia, Illinois, received an MFA from the graduate writing program at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

Beguelin wrote the book and lyrics for *The Rhythm Club* which was produced at the Signature Theatre, Arlington, Virginia in 2000 and was nominated for a Helen Hayes Award. He wrote the book and lyrics for *Wicked City*, which was produced at the American Stage Company and the Mason Street Warehouse, Saugatuck, Michigan, in 2004. He wrote the books for Disney's *Aladdin* and *On the Record*.

As a screenwriter, Beguelin sold a script to Grammnet Productions and also worked as a staff writer for Disney's live action film department in California.

Casey Nicholaw directed and choreographed the stage musical *Aladdin* which ran at the 5th Avenue Theatre, Seattle, Washington, July 7–31, 2011. The musical uses songs from the 1992 film *Aladdin*, with a new book by Beguelin and new lyrics by Beguelin and Alan Menken. The musical opened on Broadway on March 20, 2014, at the New Amsterdam Theatre.

Beguelin made his Off-Broadway playwrighting debut with *Harbor*, directed by Mark Lamos, presented by Primary Stages, from August 6, 2013, to September 8, 2013. *Harbor* had its world premiere at the Westport Country Playhouse, Westport, Connecticut, from August 2012 to September 15, 2012, directed by Mark Lamos.

Beguelin and Bob Martin wrote the book for a new musical based on the film *Gotta Dance*, titled *Half Time*, with music by Matthew Sklar and lyrics by Nell Benjamin, with additional music by Marvin Hamlisch. Directed and choreographed by Jerry Mitchell, the musical premiered at the Bank of America Theatre in Chicago on December 13, 2015, running through January 17, 2016. It had originally been expected to open on Broadway in the Fall of 2016, and then for the Spring of 2017. The musical instead opened at the Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn, New Jersey on May 31, 2018. The cast stars André De Shields, Georgia Engel, Donna McKechnie, and Lillias White.

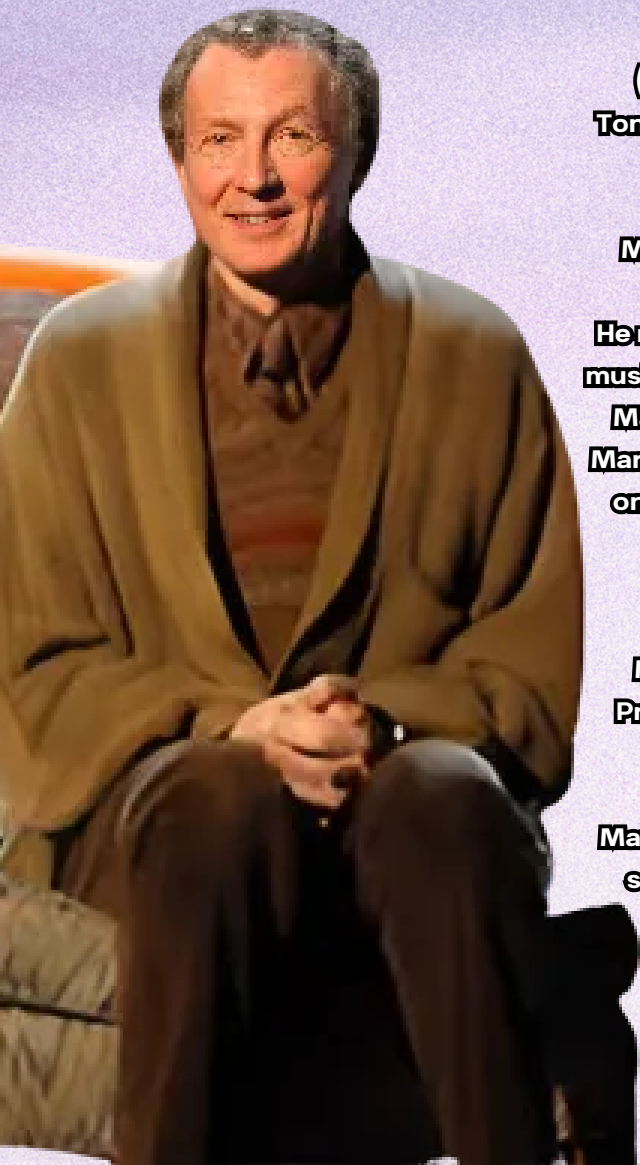
He wrote the book with Bob Martin and lyrics for a new musical *The Prom*, with music by Matthew Sklar based on an original concept by Jack Viertel. The musical premiered at the Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, Georgia on August 18, 2016, in previews, directed by Casey Nicholaw. The musical opened on Broadway at the Longacre Theatre on November 15, 2018, with previews starting on October 23,

2018.

The Prom

Bob Martin

Book



Martin began his career as an actor and director at The Second City in Toronto in 1996. He served as Second City Toronto's artistic director from 2003–2004.

In 2005, he made his Broadway debut starring as “Man in Chair” in the musical *The Drowsy Chaperone*, which he co-wrote with Don McKellar (book), and Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison (music and lyrics). He was nominated for the Tony Award for Best Actor in a Musical and won the Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical with Don McKellar. He reprised his role in London's West End production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, for which he received an Olivier nomination. Martin then kicked off the show's North American tour on its first stop in Toronto.

Martin wrote the book for the musical *Minsky's*, which premiered at the Ahmanson Theater in Los Angeles in 2009.

He returned to Broadway as co-bookwriter of *Elf* with Thomas Meehan, lyrics by Chad Beguelin and music by Matthew Sklar. *Elf* had two limited engagements for the holiday seasons of 2010 and 2012.

Martin wrote the book for a musical adaptation of the 1973 film *The Sting*, with music and lyrics by Mark Hollmann, lyrics by Greg Kotis, and direction by John Rando, who had previously collaborated on *Urinetown*. Additional music and lyrics were provided by the show's star Harry Connick, Jr. *The Sting* premiered at Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, NJ.

He collaborated with Beguelin and Sklar again for *Half Time* at Paper Mill Playhouse, which had premiered in Chicago in 2015 under the title *Gotta Dance*.

Martin reunited once more with the team of Sklar, Beguelin, and director Casey Nicholaw on *The Prom* which has its world-premiere at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta in 2016. *The Prom* opened on Broadway at the Longacre Theatre on November 11, 2018. *The Prom* received seven Tony nominations including Best Musical and Best Book of a Musical for Martin and Beguelin.

Martin is currently writing the book for a musical adaptation of *The Princess Bride* with Rick Elice, a sequel to *The Drowsy Chaperone*, a musical adaptation of *Night at the Museum* with Shawn Levy, and an adaptation of *Millions* with a score by Adam Guettel.

Martin's latest projects include writing the books for two new musicals, *Smash*, based on the television series, and *Boop! The Musical*, a new musical about Betty Boop.

The Prom

Creating the Production

The following are excerpts from an interview conducted by cast member Josh Lamon with the creative team of Bob Martin, Chad Beguelin and Matthew Sklar during a launch event for THE PROM in NYC.

Josh Lamon: From your perspective as lyricist, as co-book writer, what has the show been like going through the changes from day one around the table, to the labs and Atlanta, to now?

Chad Beguelin: "It's changed so much. I think the biggest change, I mean, we're constantly tweaking it and working on it, but the world sort of changed. We were thinking that the world has gotten so much more accepting and wondering if this was as relevant, and then the election happened, and it suddenly became so important and so relevant. All of these things we thought we were past—suddenly the show took on this new level of immediacy. I couldn't predict that would happen. It's been a great journey and having this great cast has been so much fun for all of us to write for. It's been great. We were really concentrating on this last pass of the script and the score to make sure that we didn't show the other side to be completely characterchures. We wanted to make sure that everyone was dealt with fairly—these people just had different beliefs and they had to work through them throughout the show."

Josh Lamon: One of my favorite things about THE PROM is that it is hilarious but also serious. We are talking about an actual story that happened.

Bob Martin: "Several actually. It's based on several incidents that happened and continue to happen across this wonderful country."












Josh Lamon: What was it like tacking the comedy versus the serious material?

Bob Martin: "I like the combination of making potentially unpalatable truths easier to take when they're surrounded by people like you. You're the sugar that makes the medicine go down easily. I think what's really interesting about this show is that people cry, but it's an extremely funny show. As you can see there's a mixture of very broad comedy and the very grounded, serious story at the heart of it all. It was remarkable to have people come up to us after the show and be so moved. I had this woman come with her head down and confess that she was the mother depicted in the story with tears in her eyes making this confession to us. I think it is a very moving show for that very reason."












Josh Lamon: What was unique about this process for you?

Matt Sklar: "Well, it's one of the first times I've ever really written something completely original from the ground up. Anything else I've ever written has had some kind of source material. So this was a great opportunity and I just love working with these guys [Chad Beguelin and Bob Martin] and with Casey [Nicholaw]. I think we all bring out the best in each other. The story is just so moving. Once we started outlining the story, seeing where it was going and figuring out where the songs would go, it felt like both sides complimented each other—the comedy and the dramatic aspect of it. It's been a joy to work on."

Key LGBTQ+ Terms

-  **ASEXUAL:** A term describing individuals who do not experience sexual attraction or do not have interest in or desire for sex. It is different from celibacy, which means to abstain from sex. Like LGBTQ identities, asexuality is often viewed as a spectrum – meaning there are varying levels and identities regarding someone’s emotional, spiritual, romantic, and sexual attraction. The best way to refer to the asexual community is to use the umbrella term “Ace” or “Aces” as in “the Ace Community,” which acknowledges that spectrum.
-  **BINARY SYSTEM:** A binary system is something made up of two parts that often serve as polar opposites of each other. Gender (man/woman) and sex (male/female) are examples of binary systems that society has created.
-  **BISEXUAL:** Describes someone who is attracted to men and women, or more than one gender.
-  **CISGENDER:** Someone who identifies with the sex/gender they were assigned at birth. For example, if you were assigned woman at birth and still identify as a woman, you would be cisgender.
-  **GAY:** Describes men who are only attracted to other men. Women who are attracted to other women may also use this term to describe themselves.
-  **GENDER:** A social construct based on a group of emotional, behavioral and cultural characteristics that informs how we expect people to express themselves.
-  **GENDER EXPRESSION:** How we express our gender on the outside.
-  **GENDER IDENTITY:** How we label our internal, personal sense of who we are as it relates to our gender, with terms like woman, transgender, genderqueer, man, agender, trans woman, cisgender, and many more. Gender identities aren’t necessarily static and can change with time. You don’t have to be an expert about every gender possibility but affirming someone’s gender identity is an important part of being an LGBTQ youth ally.
-  **GENDER NON-CONFORMING:** Describes a person whose gender expression is (or appears to be) different from what is expected of their assigned gender. Other similar terms include “genderqueer,” “gender variant,” or “gender non-binary.”
-  **GENDER PRESENTATION:** How the world perceives and understands our gender.
-  **GENDERQUEER:** An identity and/or expression of gender that is neither only male nor only female. Sometimes, genderqueer present their gender expression as a combination of the two or as neither.

Key LGBTQ+ Terms

-  **INTERSEX:** A sex identity for individuals whose hormones, chromosomes and anatomy are different than the medical community's standard sex binary system.
-  **LESBIAN:** A woman who is only attracted to other women.
-  **NON-BINARY:** Something that falls outside of the binary system. For example, someone who is not just male or female exclusively may identify as "gender non-binary."
-  **PANSEXUAL:** Describes people who are attracted to multiple sexes and genders.
-  **PRONOUNS:** Pronouns can be important for some people in the LGBTQ community. Just as some genderqueer or trans people might use a different name when they come out, they may want to use different pronouns that better correspond to their gender identity. We recommend making space for all students to identify their pronouns if they want to as a helpful way to cut back on assumptions about someone's gender identity or expression.
-  **SEXUAL ORIENTATION:** Describes a person's physical, romantic, emotional, and/or spiritual attraction to another person.
-  **TRANS:** Trans is often used as an umbrella term that encompasses any gender identity that falls outside of the gender binary system (male/ female).
-  **TRANSGENDER:** An umbrella term that describes people whose sex assigned at birth is different than their internal, personal sense of what their sex or gender truly is. For example, someone who is transgender may have been assigned "male" at birth but identifies and lives authentically as a woman today. There are many identities within this term; however, not all genderqueer, non-binary, and non-confirming people identify as transgender.
-  **TRANSITIONING:** Transitioning can be a large milestone in many trans people's lives, and it means different things to different people. People can transition in various ways: medically, legally, and socially. For some, medically transitioning is not wanted. Regardless of how a person transitions, it is important to respect their identity.
-  **QUEER:** A broad term that is inclusive of people who are not straight and/or cisgender. In the past this word was used to put-down LGBTQ people. Today many within the LGBTQ community identify as queer and have reclaimed this language to be an affirming word/identity. Queer also has political contexts for some individuals who use it.
-  **QUESTIONING:** Describes a person who is unsure of or is questioning their sexual orientation and/ or gender identity before labeling themselves as LGBT, queer, straight or any other identity.

Becoming an Ally

The word “ally” means someone who advocates for and supports the people within a community other than their own. By supporting the mental health and well-being of LGBTQ youth, and taking steps to build a safer environment for all students, you can become a life-affirming ally.

BE VISIBLE

- Use inclusive language that does not assume everyone is straight and/or cisgender.
- ◊ For example, say “your date” instead of “boyfriend/girlfriend.”
- ◊ Try not to assume what someone’s gender identity is or what pronouns someone uses.
- ◊ Encourage others to show their support.

BE EDUCATED

- Learn more at TheTrevorProject.org or take a Kognito Interactive Training for a deeper understanding of LGBTQ youth, suicide prevention, and ways to help.
- Explore The Trevor Project’s resources for youth, including:
 - ◊ TrevorSpace.org
 - ◊ Trevor Support Center
 - ◊ Trevor Lifeguard
 - ◊ “Coming Out As You,” a guide that supports LGBT and questioning youth.
 - ◊ The Trevor Project’s Media List for LGBTQ Young People
- Identify local resources that are LGBTQ affirming

BE AN ADVOCATE

Address others who make homophobic, transphobic or anti-LGBTQ remarks.

- Use inclusive language that does not assume everyone is straight and/or cisgender. Remember, becoming an ally is a continual process. This guide is just the beginning! A strong ally continues their education about the communities they support; they listen and respond to the stated needs of those communities; and they work to remove barriers to help that is often needed by those communities.



LGBTQ+ Resources

**Advocates
for Youth**
Rights. Respect. Responsibility.

INSTITUTE FOR
**Welcoming
Resources**

DAVIS COUNTY



 **gender
spectrum**



Youth Futures
UTAH

GLSEN

 **UTAH LGBTQ+**
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE®

 **FAMILY
ACCEPTANCE
PROJECT**
... building healthy futures for youth

GSA
NETWORK


Ogden Pride Center
Provide • Foster • Educate • Support

THE **TREVOR** PROJECT
Saving Young LGBTQ Lives


EQUALITYUTAH

UTAH
pride
CENTER


PFLAG

TSER
Trans Student Educational Resources


the **GENDER** book
www.thogenderbook.com
by mol reiff hill
and jay maya
and a whole big
beautiful community