Ogle the Bare, Record-Breaking Talents of Broadway Beauties [VIDEO]

The annual “Broadway Bares” burlesque revue raised over $2 million for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

June 19, 2019 By Caroline Tien

The hard work of the 192 performers in last Sunday’s Broadway Bares paid off in a big way. The two back-to-back shows brought in a combined total of $2,006,192—the largest amount raised in the event’s 29-year history. All the funds benefit the HIV/AIDS-focused nonprofit Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (BCEFA), which provides a number of services to people living with HIV across the United States.

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Fuel Your Wanderlust at Broadway Bares: Take Off Now Boarding at 9:30 pm and Midnight on Sunday,

June 16 Produced by and Benefiting Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS #BroadwayBares Photo: Andrew

Eccles Design: SpotCo Makeup: The M A C Pro Team Hair: Will Vicari Costumes: Rob Younkers

A post shared by Broadway Cares (@bcefa) on May 1, 2019 at 2:29pm PDT

This year's show, titled Broadway Bares: Take Off, was built around a globe-trotting travel theme, which the cast and crew interpreted in a deliciously libidinous way. Set pieces in the modern burlesque included a sexy Day of the Dead celebration, a suggestive stroll through Amsterdam's infamous red-light district and a "vigorous and vivacious" party in the style of the carnivals of Brazil, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. The last stop on the travel itinerary? The legendary Stonewall Inn in New York's Greenwich Village—a fitting destination because the Stonewall uprising, widely viewed as pivotal to the modern gay rights movement, celebrates its 50th anniversary this month.

Triple threat Billy Porter (of TV's Pose and Broadway's Kinky Boots) closed out the show with a stirring rendition of his brand-new single, "Love Yourself." On cue, the entire cast appeared onstage and danced frenetically—in a Bares tradition known as the "rotation," during which the audience is encouraged to tip. According to a BCEFA press release, the rotation alone raised $25,665.

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Check out our Instagram Story for amazing moments from #BroadwayBares: Take Off! #pride

#stonewall50 #worldpride

A post shared by Broadway Cares (@bcefa) on Jun 16, 2019 at 7:37pm PDT

Not all the action took place onstage. The Stripathon, an online fundraising campaign in which cast members compete against one another to earn the most money, raked in $1,066,129, marking the first year the campaign has generated over $1 million. Top Stripathon earners included Mark MacKillop ($51,755, a new record), L. Steven Taylor ($43,529), Josh Cotham ($28,001) and Steve Bratton ($19,397).

Other sources of revenue included a donation by MAC Cosmetics to the tune of $200,000. What's more, over 70 MAC makeup artists volunteered their time to create the show's incredible looks.

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????VIDEO on our IGTV. ???? At #BroadwayBares: Take Off, a brief delay on the tarmac in the heat of the day caused the airport's rugged, all-male ground crew to sweat through their shift - and their clothes. @adammperry (@frozenbroadway) led a team of buff baggage handlers, choreographed by @therealandrewturteltaub. Choreographer: Andrew Turteltaub Costume Designer: Matthew C. Hampton Hair Designer: Kevin Thomas Garcia Key Makeup Artists: Matthew Drohan, Alan Alamada Video Designer: Tristan Fuge Performers: Adam Perry with @daveaugustdesign, @mattyluvs, @jf9109, @nabate9,

@_shannongiles, @ahhhjc, @jpzotto, @drew056, @csapp03, @justjaquez, @mykelvaughn and @dariusawright. This year's Broadway Bares put the lust in wanderlust, offering a tantalizing twist on world travel. The show celebrated Carnival and Day of the Dead, explored the strength and sensuality of Spain and Japan, teased the potential shenanigans of long flights and triumphantly landed at the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, the birth of the modern LGBTQ-rights movement. The event raised $2,006,192 for @bcefa. Photo by @billybcreative.

A post shared by Broadway Cares (@bcefa) on Jun 19, 2019 at 7:10am PDT

In related POZ articles, check out our profile on top Stripathon earner Josh Cotham, "Beyond Burlesque: Stripping Away HIV Stigma," and read our 2012 cover story on Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, "The Show Must Go On."

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