

## Minnelli, Tony Awards salute Broadway's best

By Steven Alan McGaw

In 1985, Liza Minnelli made her Broadway debut in the musical "Flora, the Red Menace." Her performance was recognized with the Antoinette Perry (Tony) Award for Best Leading Actress in a Musical, making Minnelli, at age 19, the youngest actress ever to be so honored.

That, of course, was just the beginning of Minnelli's phenomenal career. Today her resume includes an Oscar, two Golden Globe Awards, an Emmy, a British Academy Award and a pair of Italy's prestigious David di Donatello Awards. She has broken attendance records at both Carnegie Hall and Radio City Music Hall and been named Las Vegas' Entertainer of the Year for three consecutive years. Her recordings have proven consistent sellers, and she scored an international dance club hit and British gold record with last year's "Losing

My Mind," from the album "Results," produced by England's Pet Shop Boys.

But the honors that mean the most to Minnelli may be the two additional Tonys she has received. In 1973, she won a special prize for her highly theatrical concert engagement at the Winter Garden theater, and received another Best Actress Tony in 1977 for her performance in "The Act."

"It's my first love," Minnelli says of Broadway. "It's where I feel most at home, most alive." In 1984, she shared the stage with Chita Rivera in "The Rink," and, looking ahead, says simply, "There's always a return to Broadway in my future."

She returns, briefly, on the evening of Sunday, June 6, to serve as host of "The 47th Annual Tony Awards." From the stage of New York's Gershwin Theatre, the two-hour CBS broadcast will honor winners in 19 categories, as well as

the recipients of several special awards.

Describing her duties, Minnelli says, "I'll introduce all the presenters and do a couple of numbers. Other than that, I just have to keep things moving." One of the "numbers" Minnelli refers to is a medley of Broadway tunes with her sister, singer/actress Lorna Luft. "We've never sung together in public," she explains, "so I'm thrilled about it." Minnelli also points out that Luft is currently starring in a touring production of "Guys and Dolls," and "killing 'em on the road."

Minnelli says she first attended the Tonys in 1965, the year she was nominated for "Flora."

"I truly had no idea I was going to win," she says. "I borrowed a dress from my agent, who was also my girlfriend, 'cause I didn't own a long dress." As for her win, Minnelli de-

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