

# From “Godspell” to “Wicked”: The Musicals of Stephen Schwartz



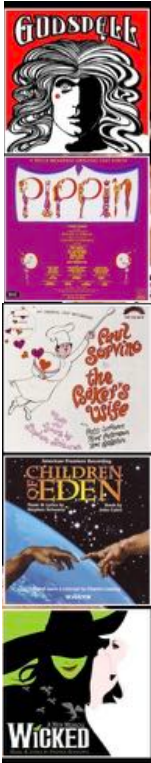
**Class 4: “No one really wants to be alone in whatever time we have.”**  
*The Children of Eden* (1991) • *The Prince of Egypt* (1998) • Film Songs  
OLLI at Duke Spring Term 2024 • Alan Teasley, Instructor

## Today’s Opening Number



[4:40]

# Today's Focus



## You will know:

- The creative partners, books and songs of *The Children of Eden* (1991, with John Caird) and *The Prince of Egypt* (film, 1998; stage 2017)
- Three film score collaborations with composer Alan Menken: *Pocahontas*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *Enchanted* (1995-2007)
- The critical, popular and financial success of these works
- Selected songs from these shows & films

## You will understand:

- Why you may not have heard of these stage shows, or paid serious attention to these animated films

## You will enjoy some great songs . . .

- And consider adding them to your list of favorites!

## Stephen Schwartz: Works 1985-

1985 *Personals* (3 songs, 265 performances)

1986 *Rags* (lyrics only, with Charles Strouse, 4 performances)

1991 *Children of Eden* (London: 100 performances)

1995 *Pocahontas* (lyrics only, with Alan Menken)

1996 *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (lyrics only, with Alan Menken)

1999 *Der Glöckner von Notre Dame* (Berlin, 3 years)

1998 *The Prince of Egypt* (music & lyrics)

2017 *The Prince of Egypt* (stage version)

2007 *Enchanted* (lyrics only, with Alan Menken)

Off-Broadway Broadway Film Other

# Outline of Class 4



- ***Children of Eden* (1991)**
  - History/background
  - Collaborator: John Caird
- **Film Collaborations with Alan Menken**
  - *Pocahontas* (1995)
  - *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1996)
  - *Enchanted* (2007)
- ***The Prince of Egypt***
  - On screen (1998) and stage (2017)

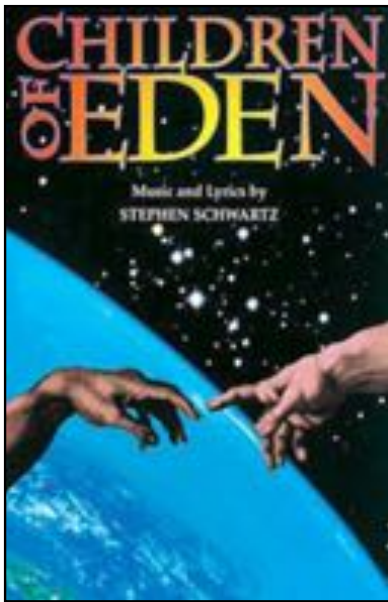
## Stephen Schwartz in the 1980s



### AFTERMATH OF *WORKING'S* FAILURE

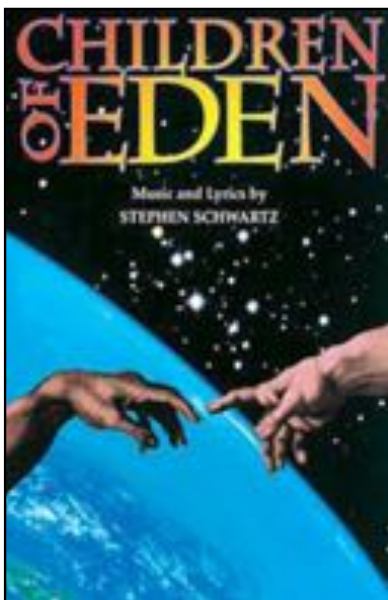
- Very discouraged—wanted to avoid what he considered to be the toxic atmosphere of working on Broadway
- In 1985 provided three songs for *Personals*, an Off-Broadway revue
- Wrote *The Trip*, a children's musical later revised as *Captain Louie*
- Released two albums of songs as “singer-songwriter”—*Reluctant Pilgrim & Uncharted Territory*
- With composer Charles Strouse, he wrote the lyrics for *Rags* (1986)
- Approached by Charles Lisanby for an adaptation of Genesis, called *Family Tree*

# ***Children of Eden: Development History***



- 1983 Charles Lisanby has the concept (*Family Tree*); approaches Schwartz
- 1986 Performance of 11 musical numbers at “Youth Sing Praise” Conference in Belleville, IL
- Schwartz approaches John Caird; development shifts to London
- 1991 (Jan) *Children of Eden* opens in London to negative reviews & 100-performance run
- 1991 (summer) Schwartz analyzes the reviews; he and Caird make revisions
- 1991 (Nov) Ernie Zulia directs American premiere at Mill Mountain Theatre in Roanoke, VA
- 1996 Excerpts performed at National Alliance for Musical Theatre
- 1997 Production at Paper Mill Playhouse in NJ

## ***Children of Eden* (Paper Mill Playhouse, 1997)\***



### **KEY MEMBERS OF THE CREATIVE TEAM:**

- Producers: Paper Mill Playhouse (The State Theater of New Jersey)
- Music & Lyrics: Stephen Schwartz
- Book: John Caird (based on a concept by Charles Lisanby)
- Director: Robert Johnson
- Choreographer: Dawn DiPasquale
- Scenic Design: Michael Anania
- Costume Design: Gregg Barnes
- Lighting Design: Jack Mehler
- Actors: Stephanie Mills, William Solo, Adrian Zmed, Darius deHaas, Kelli Rabke

**\*1998 RCA Recording**

## John Caird (1948-)



### EARLY LIFE & EDUCATION:

- English stage director and writer of plays, musicals, and operas
- Born Edmonton, Alberta to English parents
- Moved to Oxford, England, in 1959
- Attended Magdalen College 1959-67
- Studied acting at Bristol Old Vic Theatre
- Worked as actor and stage manager before embarking on career as a director
- Joined Royal Shakespeare Company as assistant director in 1977
- Directed over 20 productions for RSC

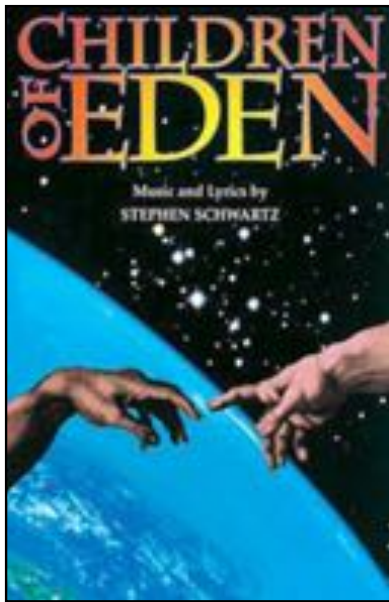
## John Caird (1948-)



### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- With Trevor Nunn, co-directed four productions at RSC, including *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby* (1980) and *Les Misérables* (1985)—both of which transferred to Broadway
- Wrote and directed *Children of Eden*, which debuted in the West End in 1991.
- Since its publication in 1998, *Children of Eden* has had over 2000 separate productions worldwide.
- In 2022 he directed his own theatre adaptation of Hayao Miyazaki's animated film *Spirited Away*

## ***Children of Eden: The Book***



### **ACT I**

- The Creation
- Father places Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden—with just one prohibition
- The Snake tempts Eve
- Eve eats the forbidden fruit as does Adam
- Father expels them
- Eve bears two sons: Cain kills Abel

### **ACT II**

- Noah, his wife and sons build the ark, assemble the animals
- The Flood comes
- The waters subside for a “new beginning”

## ***Children of Eden:* Papermill Playhouse Production (1997)**



Stephanie Mills (Eve) • William Solo (Father) • Adrian Zmed (Adam)

## ***Children of Eden:* Papermill Playhouse Production (1997)**



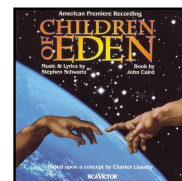
**Eve (Stephanie Mills ) with Snake & with Adam (Adrian Zmed)**

## ***Children of Eden (1991): Songs\****

### **ACT I:**

- “Let There Be”
- “The Tree of Knowledge”
- “The Naming”
- “Grateful Children”
- “Father’s Day”
- “Perfect”
- “The Spark of Creation”
- “In Pursuit of Excellence”
- “The End of a Perfect Day”
- “Childhood’s End”
- “A World Without You”
- “The Expulsion”
- “The Wasteland”
- “Lost in the Wilderness”
- “Close to Home”
- “A Ring of Stones”
- “The Death of Abel”
- “The Mark of Cain”
- “Children of Eden”

**\*as listed on the 1998 RCA cast recording  
of the 1997Paper Mill Playhouse production**

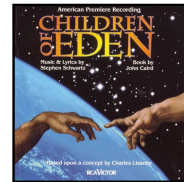


# ***Children of Eden (1991): Songs\****

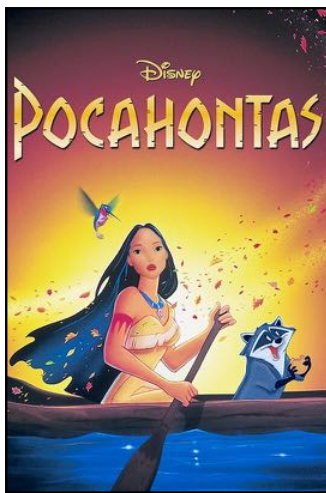
## **ACT II:**

- “Generations”
- “The Gathering Storm”
- “A Piece of Eight”
- “The Return of the Animals”
- “Noah’s Lullaby”
- “Stranger to the Rain”
- “In Whatever Time We Have”
- “The Flood”
- “What Is He Waiting For?”
- “Sailor of the Skies”
- “The Hardest Part of Love”
- “Words of Doom”
- “The Hour of Darkness”
- “Ain’t It Good?”
- “Precious Children”
- “In the Beginning”

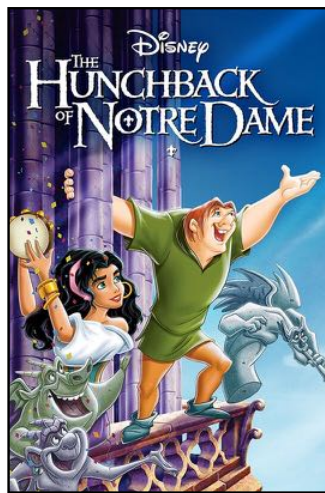
\*as listed on the 1998 RCA cast recording  
of the 1997 Paper Mill Playhouse production



## **Movie Collaborations with Alan Menken**



1995



1996



2007

# Alan Menken (b. 1949)

## EARLY LIFE & CAREER:

- Born in Manhattan; father was a “boogie-woogie piano-playing dentist” and his mother “an actress, dancer, and playwright” (Wikipedia)
- Took piano and violin lessons; began composing at an early age
- In high school, made up his own Bach fugues and Beethoven sonatas “because I was bored with the piano and didn’t want to practice”
- Graduated from NYU in 1972
- Attended BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop, which sold him on writing musicals



# Menken & Howard Ashman

## FIRST COLLABORATIONS:

- Met at the BMI Lehman Engel Workshop
- Their first successful collaboration was an adaptation of Kurt Vonnegut’s *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater* (1979)
- After a well-received run at the “off-off-Broadway” WPA Theatre, the show transferred to a larger theater, where it closed after six weeks.
- After this experience, Ashman vowed to limit his shows to a cast of 8, leading to *Little Shop of Horrors* in 1982



## Alan Menken After *Little Shop* . . .



### **BROADWAY:**

- 1994 *Beauty and the Beast*
- 1994 *A Christmas Carol* (Madison Sq Garden)
- 2008 *The Little Mermaid*
- 2011 *Sister Act*
- 2012 *Newsies The Musical*
- 2012 *Leap of Faith*
- 2014 *Aladdin* (still running)
- 2016 *A Bronx Tale The Musical*

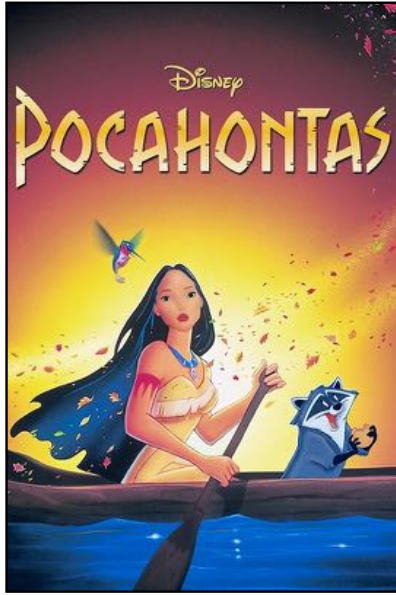
## Alan Menken After *Little Shop* . . .



### **HOLLYWOOD:**

- 1992 *Newsies*
- 1995 *Pocahontas*
- 1996 *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*
- 1997 *Hercules*
- 2007 *Enchanted*
- 2010 *Tangled*
- 2022 *Disenchanted*

# ***Pocahontas* (1995)**



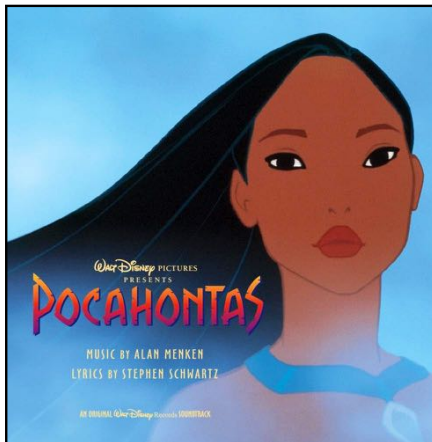
## **KEY CREDITS:**

- **Producer:** Walt Disney Pictures
- **Music:** Alan Menken
- **Lyrics:** Stephen Schwartz
- **Written by:** Carl Binder, Susannah Grant, Philip LaZebnik
- **Directors:** Mike Gabriel, Eric Goldberg
- **Voice Actors:** Mel Gibson, Linda Hunt, Christian Bale, David Ogden Stiers, Russell Means
- **Singing Voice:** Judy Kuhn, Jim Cummings

**BOX OFFICE:** \$346M (Budget: \$55M)

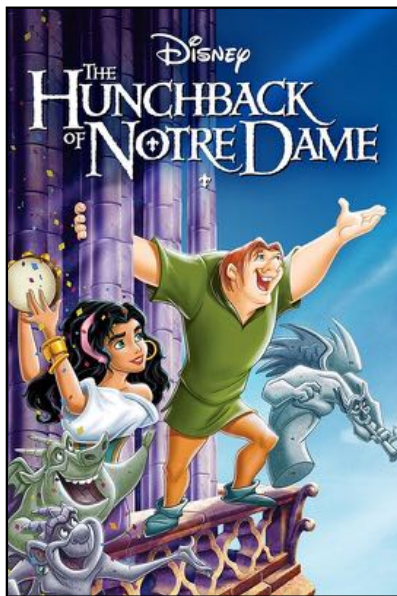
**AWARDS:** 2 Academy Awards: Best Score, Best Song (“Colors of the Wind”)

# ***Pocahontas* (1995): Songs**



- “The Virginia Company”
- “Steady as the Beating Drum”
- “Just Around the Riverbend”
- “Listen with Your Heart”
- “Mine, Mine, Mine”
- “Colors of the Wind”
- “Savages”
- “If I Never Knew You” (end credits)

# ***The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1996)***



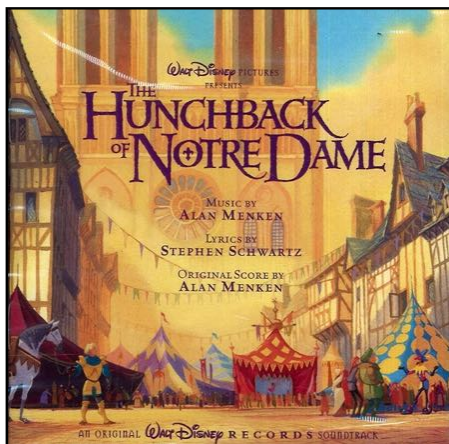
## **KEY CREDITS:**

- **Producer:** Walt Disney Pictures
- **Music:** Alan Menken
- **Lyrics:** Stephen Schwartz
- **Written by:** Tab Murphy, Irene Mecci, others
- **Directors:** Gary Trousdale, Kirk Wise
- **Voice Actors:** Tom Hulce, Demi Moore, Jason Alexander, Kevin Kline, David Ogden Stiers, Mary Wickes, Paul Kandel
- **Singing Actors:** Tom Hulce, Heidi Mollenhauer, Paul Kandel, Tony Jay

**BOX OFFICE:** \$325M • **Budget:** \$100M (est)

**AWARDS:** Academy Award Nomination: Best Music, Original Musical or Comedy Score

# ***The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1995): Songs***



- **“The Bells of Notre Dame”**
- **“Out There”**
- **“Topsy Turvy”**
- **“God Help the Outcasts”**
- **“Heaven’s Light/Hellfire”**
- **“A Guy Like You”**
- **“The Court of Miracles”**
- **“Sanctuary”**
- **“And He Shall Smite the Wicked”**
- **“Someday”**

# ***Enchanted* (2007)**



## **KEY CREDITS:**

- **Producer:** Walt Disney Pictures
- **Music:** Alan Menken
- **Lyrics:** Stephen Schwartz
- **Written by:** Bill Kelly
- **Director:** Kevin Lima
- **Cast:** Amy Adams, Patrick Dempsey, James Marsden, Susan Sarandon, Timothy Spall, Idina Menzel, Rachel Covey

**BOX OFFICE:** \$340M • **Budget:** \$85M (est)

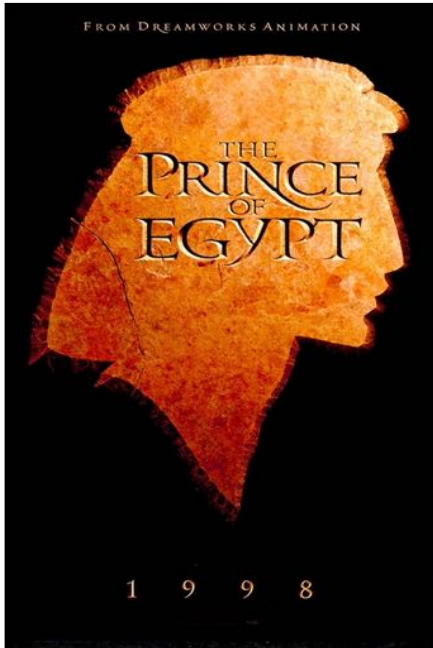
**AWARDS:** 3 Academy Award Nominations for Best Song: "Happy Working Song," "That's How You Know," & "So Close"

# ***Enchanted* (2007): Songs**



- "True Love's Kiss"
- "Happy Working Song"
- "That's How You Know"
- "So Close"
- "Ever Ever After"

## ***The Prince of Egypt (1998)***



### **KEY CREDITS:**

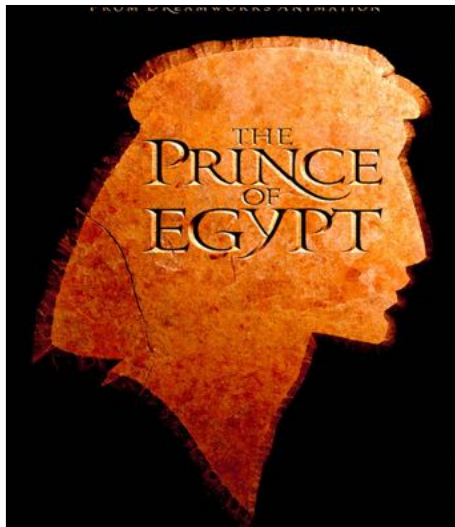
- **Producer:** DreamWorks
- **Music & Lyrics:** Stephen Schwartz
- **Writers:** Philip LaZebnik, Nicholas Meyer
- **Directors:** Brenda Chapman, Steve Hickner, Simon Wells
- **Voice Actors:** Val Kilmer, Ralph Fiennes, Michelle Pfeiffer, Sandra Bullock, Jeff Goldblum, Danny Glover, Patrick Stewart, Helen Mirren, Steve Martin, Martin Short
- **Singing Actors:** Ofra Haza, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Eden Riefel (also Martin, Short, Fiennes, & Pfeiffer)

**BOX OFFICE:** \$219M • **Budget:** \$70M (est)

**AWARDS:** Two Academy Award Nominations: Best Music, Original Musical or Comedy Score; Best Song ("When You Believe")\*

\*winner

## ***The Prince of Egypt (1998): Songs***



- "Deliver Us"
- "All I Ever Wanted"
- "Goodbye Brother"
- "Through Heaven's Eyes"
- "Playing with the Big Boys"
- "Cry"
- "The Plagues"
- "When You Believe"
- "I Will Get There"