

Nominations of the Pulitzer Prize Jury in Drama for 1985

In alphabetical order:

THE DINING ROOM by A. R. Gurney, Jr.

A dining room, rich in memories, is the locale and central metaphor for A. R. Gurney's rueful comedy, which both celebrates an American way of life and laments its passing. First produced in New York in 1981-82, it has gone on to become one of the most popular works in resident theaters across the country, admired for its technical virtuosity and for its compassionate moral values. Productions in Los Angeles, Louisville, Albany, and other cities during 1984-85<sup>th</sup> year make it, in our view, eligible this year under the current Pulitzer rules.

THE GOSPEL AT COLONUS Conceived, Adapted and Directed by Lee Breuer, Music Composed, Arranged and Directed by Bob Telson

This joyously reverent work of musical theater recreates Oedipus at Colonus, the last tragedy of Sophocles, in terms of the Gospel music and inspired preaching of black American churches. Produced at the Brooklyn Academy of Music at the end of 1983, and at Arena Stage in Washington in late 1984 (thus making it eligible), it is not a play in the conventional sense, but in an undistinguished season we offer it to round out the required three nominations.

SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Book by James Lapine

This subtle and innovative musical play concerns itself with the costs and agonies of artistic creation. It shows an American artist experiencing a crisis of faith in his own creativity, and finding strength and courage in a renewed connection with the past, with the supranational tradition of art, symbolized by Georges Seurat and his great painting, A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte. The craftsmanship, with song, spectacle, and dialogue inextricably and purposefully woven together, is worthy of the theme. It is heartening that so serious and formally inventive a work should have achieved such a high degree of popular acceptance. Sunday in the Park with George is the jury's unequivocal first choice.

Julius Novick, Chairman  
David Richards  
Dan Sullivan