



The Guide to Musical Theatre

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

A musical in 2 acts: libretto by Terrence McNally; music by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman based on the film of the same name.

5th Avenue Theatre, Seattle - July 28 - August 16, 2009
Neil Simon Theatre, Broadway - 10 April, - 4 September, 2011 (170 perfs - 32 previews)

SYNOPSIS

Act I

In the 1960s, Frank Abagnale, Jr., a young con man, is cornered at the Miami International Airport by FBI Agent Carl Hanratty and his team. Hanratty asserts that there's no use in running, as his men are trained to shoot. Before his arrest, Frank pleads Hanratty to allow him to inform the people in the airport why they're shooting at him, though Hanratty only wants to know how he passed the bar exam in New Orleans to pose as a lawyer. Frank promises he will tell him all his secrets if they allow him to tell his story. A reluctant Hanratty agrees.

In a home in New Rochelle, New York, Frank lived with his parents Frank Abagnale, Sr., and Paula Abagnale. He explains that his parents met in Paris, France, during World War II. Paula was performing at a dinner, and noticed Frank, Sr. among the soldiers in the audience marrying him soon after. Due to money shortages, Frank is unable to attend private school, nonetheless wearing his school jacket to public school. He is taunted there as looking like a substitute teacher, which gives Frank an idea; a few days later, the principal informs his parents that Frank has been teaching French class at the school while their teacher is absent.

One day, Frank walks home from school to find his mother dancing with one of Frank, Sr.'s friends. She pleads him not to tell Frank, Sr., but a distraught Frank is soon in court, with Paula and Frank, Sr. fighting over custody of him. Frank decides to run away. He soon learns how to create fake cheques, cashing them at banks across the country and successfully conning millions of dollars.

While entering a New York City hotel, Frank notices several attractive women, all of them stewardesses; he decides to become a pilot. After creating a fake ID card, he finds a co-pilot job at Pan American World Airways. The workers express the joys of a life in the skies. Hanratty finds several fake cheques on his desk in Washington, D. C.; he and Agents Branton, Dollar, and Cod assigned to track down the writer of these fake cheques.

Frank is enjoying his pilot job, remembering how his dad always said that "women love a man in uniform". Feeling homesick, he goes to visit Frank, Sr., upset to find out that he had to close his store to save money. Frank offers him several cheques to improve his financial situation, but Frank, Sr. disagrees, believing that Frank should be happy with his success and not worry about him. Meanwhile, Hanratty sorts through leftover items from the hotel Frank had just stayed at, looking for clues as to his whereabouts.

Frank attends a holiday party for the airport staff but ultimately feels lonely, calling Hanratty on a pay phone for comfort. Hanratty, realising the culprit is just a kid, reveals that he, too, has no one to spend Christmas with.



Act II

Frank comes across another staff party, this time for a hospital. When asked what his job is by one of the doctors, Frank lies that he is a paediatrician at the Death Valley Children's Hospital, working with "snot-nosed kids" and calling himself "Dr. Connors". Feeling sorry for him, the doctor finds him a job at the Atlanta General Hospital, surrounded by nurses.

Hanratty is still searching for Frank, going through missing person reports. He eventually finds the house of Paula and her new husband, questioning her on the whereabouts of Frank. She tells him not to worry, as does Frank, Sr. Both plead with Frank. While talking to Frank, Sr. at a bar, Hanratty realises that both men had overbearing fathers.

Meanwhile, Frank has fallen in love with one of the nurses, Brenda Strong, though she finds him intimidating. He tells her that he has seen the seven wonders of the world, but that none of them compare to her beauty. Brenda brings Frank to meet her family in New Orleans, where he lies that he's a lawyer, a doctor, and a Lutheran to impress her father. Her father does not believe him, but gives him permission to be with Brenda after Frank admits how much he loves her. Brenda's parents, Carol and Roger Strong, tell Frank that they have a family sing-along each night after dinner. Frank proposes to Brenda and she accepts.

Shortly before the engagement ceremony, Frank discovers that Hanratty has figured out where he is. He admits the truth to Brenda, telling her his real name: Frank William Abagnale, Jr. He promises to return after escaping from Hanratty. Just as he leaves, Hanratty enters, asking Brenda where Frank went. She laments that she loves Frank and would never tell on him but is tricked into doing so shortly thereafter.

The story returns to the opening scene, where Frank is cornered in the airport. The agents escort passengers out of the area, as Frank threatens to run. Hanratty states that he doesn't want to use force, but would have to if Frank ran. Hanratty informs Frank that his father is dead; a drunken Frank, Sr. had fallen down stairs at the bar, breaking his neck. Realising he has nobody, Frank surrenders to Hanratty. Although sentenced to fifty-five years in prison, Frank is released after seven. Shortly after his release, he is hired by Hanratty and the FBI to track down others who committed crimes like his. Hanratty and Frank embrace, noting that their partnership is strange. Before the curtain closes, Hanratty makes Frank keep his promise, telling him how he passed the New Orleans bar exam. Frank tells a surprised Hanratty that he didn't cheat: "I studied."

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

1. "Live in Living Colour" – Frank Jr. and Company
2. "The Pinstripes Are All That They See" – Frank Sr., Frank Jr, and Ladies
3. "Someone Else's Skin" – Frank Jr. and Company
4. "Jet Set" - Frank Jr. and Company
5. "Live in Living Colour (Reprise)" - Frank Jr.
6. "Don't Break the Rules" – Hanratty and Company
7. "The Pinstripes Are All That They See (Reprise)"† – The Ladies
8. "Butter Outta Cream" – Frank Jr. and Frank Sr.
9. "The Man inside the Clues" – Hanratty
10. "Christmas Is My Favourite Time of Year"† – Partygoers
11. "My Favourite Time of Year" – Hanratty, Frank Jr., Frank Sr., and Paula

Act II

12. "Doctor's Orders" – Nurses
13. "Live in Living Colour (Reprise)"† - Frank Jr.
14. "Don't Be a Stranger" – Paula and Frank Sr.
15. "Little Boy Be a Man" – Frank Sr. and Hanratty
16. "Seven Wonders" – Frank Jr. and Brenda
17. "(Our) Family Tree" – Carol, Roger, Brenda, Frank Jr., and Strong Family Singers

18. "Fly, Fly Away" – Brenda
19. "Goodbye" – Frank Jr.
20. "Strange But True" – Frank Jr. and Hanratty

CAST

- Frank Abagnale, Jr.
- Carl Hanratty
- Frank Abagnale, Sr.
- Paula Abagnale
- Brenda Strong
- Carol Strong
- Roger Strong
- FBI Agent Johnny Dollar
- FBI Agent Bill Cod
- FBI Agent Todd Branton