

PATRICK JOSEPH WILSON

Doctor of Fine Arts

Presented by Gerald Moshell, Professor of Music

Escorted by John Platoff, Professor of Music

Patrick Wilson, you are a multifaceted artist whose broad range includes the stage, film, and music. You have the capacity to move audiences in settings as varied as a somber Arthur Miller play or a sprightly Broadway musical. You have followed your childhood dream to an ever more successful career in a highly competitive industry and have done so while keeping both your humility and your moral compass.

Born in Virginia and raised in St. Petersburg, Florida, you enjoyed success early, appearing in a variety of media and garnering a trove of awards almost from the day in 1995 when you graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with your Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

In 1996 you launched your career on the stage, earning accolades in the national tours of *Miss Saigon* and *Carousel*. Three years later, you won a Drama League Award and were nominated for a Drama Desk Award for your performance in the off-Broadway production of *Bright Lights, Big City*. That same year, you made your Broadway debut, earning another Drama League Award for your performance in Gershwin's *Fascinating Rhythm*.

In 2000, you appeared in *Tenderloin*, and the following year your work in *The Full Monty* earned you your first Tony Award nomination. You also won a Drama League Award for that performance and Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations. In 2002 you were nominated for a Tony for your portrayal of Curly in the Broadway revival of *Oklahoma*.

In 2006 you starred in the Broadway revival of *Barefoot in the Park*. And in 2008 you appeared with John Lithgow, Dianne Wiest, and Katie Holmes in the revival of Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*.

Your work has not been limited to the stage. Indeed, you once said, "I refuse to acknowledge the gap between theatre and film. I want to do both, on both coasts." Fortunately for all of us, you have been successful on both coasts. While building your theatrical résumé, you have also done impressive work on television and in feature films. For example, in HBO's highly acclaimed 2003 adaptation of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, you earned Emmy, Golden Globe, and Satellite nominations.

You have also appeared in 20 films, including *The Switch*, *Barry Munday*, *The A-Team*, *Evening*, *Lakeview Terrace*, *Passengers*, *Watchmen*, *Life in Flight*, *Purple Violets*, *Running with Scissors*, *Hard Candy*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Alamo*, and the critically-acclaimed drama *Little Children*. You were nominated for Satellite awards for your work in *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Little Children*.

Between appearing in plays and film productions, you have also worked in a wide range of other settings. In 2001, for instance, you sang "The Street Where You Live," from *My Fair Lady* when Julie Andrews was honored at the Kennedy Center. In 2006, you narrated the PBS documentary *Tampa Bay: Living Legacy*. And last fall you sang "God Bless America" during the seventh inning stretch of game four of the American League Championship Series at Yankee Stadium.

For your performances in a wide range of plays and media and for your commitment to your craft, I have the honor of presenting you, Patrick Joseph Wilson, for the degree of Doctor of Fine Arts, *honoris causa*.

X

Commencement Address

PATRICK JOSEPH WILSON