

26 YEARS 1974-2000



1994

Tommy Tune
Top Hat Award Winner



1997

London: Covent Garden
Musical Arts Festival

In San Francisco on June 7, 1974, Steve Silver produced a small show in the back room of the Savoy Tivoli Restaurant.

There were 214 seats crammed into the tiny space—prime seating was anything within ten feet of the ten coveted cocktail tables up front. The floor was covered with two tons of sand; a lifeguard tore tickets at the door and sprayed the backs of peoples' hands with Coppertone*. For \$2.50, audience members got a 45-minute show with four main performers, a chorus line of hula-dancing middle-aged housewives doing card stunts, a band dressed as poodles, one lighting man on top of a lifeguard stand manipulating Folger's† coffee can lights, and a whole lot of laughs.

The show was to run for six weeks. That was twenty-six years ago...

After a brief stint in the fall of 1974 at Club Olympus, the show opened at Club Fugazi—the date was June 25, 1975.

The show became an expanded version of the Tivoli and Olympus shows. But it now included more characters, grander sets, a larger cast, and what was to become a trademark of the show, BIGGER HATS!

Through the years, there have been many versions of *Beach Blanket Babylon*, but some things have remained consistent—outrageous humor, wacky characterizations, unexpected parody, and the biggest hats in the world, along with the element of surprise.

Beach Blanket Babylon was invited to perform at the White House, performed before Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, and had a successful run in Las Vegas. It also was spotlighted in a costume exhibit at San Francisco's de Young Museum. *Beach Blanket Babylon* was featured in the BBC presentation of *Tales of the City*, in a PBS documentary, in a UPN-TV special *Steve Silver's Beach Blanket Babylon: A Silver Anniversary Salute*, in the film *The World of Steve Silver* and a book, *Beach Blanket Babylon: A Hats-Off Tribute to San Francisco's Most Extraordinary Musical Revue*. A guest of the 1997 Covent Garden Musical Arts Festival, *Beach Blanket Babylon* played to enthusiastic audiences and rave reviews in London. And it continues today to sell out in San Francisco.



1982



1986



1975

1987



*Coppertone is a registered trademark of Schering-Plough.
†Folger's is a registered trademark of The Folger Company,
a subsidiary of Proctor & Gamble.