Lupone, Patti (1949-) Encyclopedia Article

Lupone, Patti (1949-)

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Lupone, Patti (1949—)

One of the finest singing actresses of the late twentieth century, Patti LuPone has carved a place in cultural iconography as one of the finest late twentieth century exponents of a great American art form, the Broadway musical. Her voice, at once full and strong, lyrical and smooth, also has a distinctive, instantly recognizable steely quality that thrills audiences. Her remarkable vocal technique, combined with her parallel strength as a dramatic actress, has immeasurably enhanced her interpretation of the heavyweight roles that her talents have brought her way. Juilliard-trained, Lupone rose to Broadway stardom as *Evita* (1979), winning Tony and Drama Desk awards for her riveting portrayal of Eva Peron. Other highlights of her career include creating the role of Fantine in *Les Miserables* for the Royal Shakespeare Company in London—the city to which she returned to create Norma Desmond in Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical version of *Sunset Boulevard.* And it was in London, too, in 1997, that she played the dramatic role of Maria Callas in Terence McNally's play *Master Class.* Her star quality at home was confirmed with the Lincoln Center revival of *Anything Goes* (1987), and the revival of *Pal Joey* (1995), while her versatility has brought her work in film and on television, notably as Libby Thatcher in ABC's *Life Goes On* (1989-93).

Further Reading:

Gans, Andrew. "My Heart Belongs to Patti." *Playbill.* Vol. 14, No. 1,October 31, 1995, 50-53.