

BARRY BUSBY

2004 Cinco Ranch High School graduate shines on Broadway as a professional choreographer

Written by Tonya Ellis and Tanya Erickson | Photography courtesy of Barry Busby



Barry Busby teaching new choreography for Irving Berlin's *Holiday Inn*, which is headed to Studio 54 on Broadway this fall

Growing up, Cinco Ranch High School graduate Barry Busby went on family vacations to New York City every year. Today, he calls the Big Apple his home and works as a Broadway choreographer.

The Big Apple

Busby moved to New York eight years ago. The city felt familiar because of all his childhood visits. "Of course, leaving family and friends back in Texas was hard," he says.

As a student at Cinco Ranch High School, Busby performed in shows such as *The Sound of Music*, *Pippin*, and *And the World Goes 'Round* and was a member of the school's Bravo Show Choir. He credits his parents, family, theatre teacher Jackie DeMontmollin, and choir teacher Dorothy Wilson for inspiring him. "They were incredibly supportive, and constantly encouraged me to better myself," he states.

Barry was also a part of Theatre Under the Stars where he met Denis Jones, who has worked on shows such as *Dreamgirls*, *The Full Monty*, and *Chicago*. Jones thought Busby was extremely talented and brought him on as his associate director. "His guidance and generosity has definitely opened many doors for me," Busby says.

A Man of Many Talents

"In this business, no day is typical. It depends on the show, the amount of dance numbers, and where we are in the process. Some days are auditions and some are 'pre-production' sessions, where we create the choreography, or discuss the technical side of things before we start rehearsals."

He also writes for broadwayworld.com in their food and wine section where he shares his love for the culinary arts with fellow New Yorkers. He credits his love for writing to his first-grade teacher at Bear Elementary School and admits that he has always enjoyed experimenting with food.

Swinging with the Stars

Last year, Busby finished up a stint as assistant choreographer, dance captain, and swing on the Broadway musical *Honeymoon in Vegas*, which featured Emmy and Golden Globe nominated actor Tony Danza. Busby and Danza are both tap dancers which created a unique bond while working together. After practice, they would play the piano and improvise tap sequences with one another.

He also says that it was great working with Danza because his personality is exactly what he portrays on television, fun-loving and spirited.

This past fall he worked as associate choreographer of *Moonshine: That Hee Haw Musical* in Dallas, which allowed him to be closer to family. The show stars Justin Guarini, runner-up to the first American Idol winner, Kelly Clarkson, and featured a score written by Grammy award-winning songwriter, Shane McAnally and Grammy nominated singer, Brandy Clark.

Texas Roots

Busby tries to get back to Texas whenever he can to visit family and old high school friends. "I have lots of nieces and nephews now as well, and spending time with them is a major priority during my visits," he shares. He has always been very close to his family so he tries to stay in contact with them in any way possible.

Busby said that he misses Texas food specialties, like barbecue and Tex-Mex since he's moved. He also says he misses being able to drive and the peacefulness that encompasses Katy. **KM**

TONYA ELLIS has never had the performance bug, but enjoys watching musical theatre.



Some of Barry's Accomplishments

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BROADWAY

Honeymoon in Vegas

OFF-BROADWAY

Popesical

Moonshine: That Hee Haw Musical

NATIONAL/REGIONAL

Grease

Spamalot

Chicago

Hairspray

Legally Blonde The Musical

Johnny Baseball

A Christmas Carol

Oklahoma

Cabaret

Thoroughly Modern Millie