

# In constant search of the right kind of attention

Mark KENNEDY *The Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Laura Benanti has been on a bit of a roll since she showed up drunk at the Tony Awards. That was Benanti, mournfully holding a bottle of booze, onstage with Smash star Megan Hilty and former The New Normal star Andrew Rannells to skewer theatre stars who seek fame on TV.

“Both my shows were cancelled, it’s true – no joke. Not one show, but two!” declared the actress, whose shows Go On and The Playboy Club were yanked. “And so I raise a bottle to you – television sucks!”

Since that bit of comedy, Benanti has gone on to perform in front of more than 20 million people in NBC’s live version of The Sound of Music, record the CD In Constant Search of the Right Kind of Attention and booked a bunch of concerts. She also has a recurring role on Nurse Jackie.

“People are getting to see a little more of who I am and what makes me tick and what my sense of humour is,” the actress recently said from Los Angeles, where she was auditioning for TV pilots.

Her career’s rise is all the more meaningful since her heart was broken at the time of the Tonys show: Her marriage to fellow Broadway star Steven Pasquale had ended, and the chance to laugh at the Tonys was perfect.

“I really needed that. I needed to be amongst all of those people that I love in that room and get to be funny and silly and self-effacing. I felt like from then on it was this upward trajectory. I felt the angels were really looking out for me.”

Benanti, who won a Tony in the Broadway revival of Gypsy alongside Patti Lupone, also earned Tony nominations for her work in Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown, Into the Woods and Swing.

On her new CD, she fuses theatre standards with pop music and original songs. Recorded live at the club 54 Below, the album showcases her immense charm, like the revelation that she was such a musical theatre nerd as a kid that she went trick-or-treating dressed as Fosca from Stephen Sondheim’s Passion.

She talked about her CD and The Sound of Music in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

**AP:** You’ve left the fun, goofy stuff you talk about during your cabaret show between songs on the CD. Why?

**Benanti:** I want people who weren’t able to get to New York to get to share the show. This way you’re able to really experience it as if you were there. You just don’t get to see me make idiotic faces. You can get to hear me be an idiot.

**AP:** Do you feel you’ve been getting more attention since The Sound of Music?

**Benanti:** Yes. It definitely felt like I was an overnight success after 16 years. I gained probably 6,000 Twitter followers and had a lot of people congratulating me. Being out in Los Angeles for this trip feels extremely different than it’s ever felt. I feel like people are like, ‘Oh, we get you now.’ I felt frustrated before, like they didn’t really know what to do with me.

**AP:** Was it fun doing a live show on television?

**Benanti:** I had a wonderful experience doing that



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show. It’s everything that I like to do. It’s singing, it’s acting. It’s a period piece, which I’m super comfortable doing. And it was on television. So it’s everything that I enjoy at once – and it’s live.

**AP:** Any downside?

**Benanti:** What I get frustrated with is when I feel like people in the theatre community were horribly cruel to Carrie [Underwood]. No. 1, we have to remember that she’d never done anything like that before. Her learning curve was incredibly steep. From the first day of rehearsal to the performance, she grew in leaps and bounds. I think it takes tremendous heart and courage to come back to work every single day knowing that maybe you’re not that good yet. She came to work every day and cracked her heart open and was like, ‘Teach me. I want to learn.’ I think she did a beautiful job.

**AP:** Was it more stressful than anything you’ve done?

**Benanti:** Weird things happen to me when I get incredibly nervous. I become incredibly calm. It’s very weird. If I’m a little bit nervous, it’s not a good situation. If I’m extremely nervous, something takes over and I am like a Buddha. So I was nervous and certainly when my skirt got stepped on, I was thrown for a minute but – and not to sound like Daniel Day-Lewis or anything – I was in that character and so my response was to respond like her, which was like smiling on the outside but on the inside it’s like ‘Bring me that man’s head on a platter.’

**AP:** The next live one will be Peter Pan. Would you do it if asked?

**Benanti:** Yeah. I mean, look, I would do it every year. I would love to be part of a troupe of actors that does this every year. I will do it as many times as they ask me to do it, especially if they do My Fair Lady.

I would really like to do that. But it’ll probably be Ke\$ha as Eliza Doolittle! And I’ll be in the background, selling roses.

# Apology needed for forgiveness

**Dear Annie:** Thirty years ago, my husband’s sister-in-law made a pass at him. They worked at the same place, so when he turned her down, she made his life a living hell. He ended up quitting the job, and we left town.

She and my brother-in-law are divorced now, but we see her occasionally at family gatherings.

This woman has been hospitalized twice for breakdowns. Most of the family is cordial to her, knowing that a lot of what she did in the past was due to her illness. When her meds are working and she is feeling stable, she reaches out to those she has hurt to make amends. She reached out to my husband, tearfully admitting that she knows she is the reason we left, and has asked for forgiveness.

She now thinks everything is just fine. The problem is, she has never reached out to me to apologize for the way she upended my life. She doesn’t know my husband told me what happened. Even after all these years, I have a hard time smiling and pretending everything is hunky-dory.

I have forgiven her, but forgetting is something else, and every time I see her, the old anger comes back. My husband agrees that nothing would be gained by bringing these things up again.

Any suggestions for moving past this in a positive way?

— Wronged but Silent in Wisconsin

**Dear Wronged:** You haven’t actually forgiven her, because her presence still makes you angry. If you believe an apology from her would make a difference, you should calmly let her know. But if you don’t think it matters one way or the other, please consider talking this through with a professional who can help you let go of the past completely.

**Dear Annie:** We have five-year-old twins. We enrolled them in a swimming class last year.

Our son had a bad experience and didn’t want to continue. Our daughter, however, loved



it and is doing great. After a couple of months, our son decided to return to classes.

[We think he was jealous of his sister’s achievement.] Naturally, he is a level behind her. He now cries and wants to be on her level.

We think it would be unfair to hold our daughter back for a while so her brother can catch up. However, if we do hold her back, we can enroll them in semi-private lessons together, saving money as well as transportation time. It also solves the problem of our son’s jealousy. Should we do it? — Swimmers Parents

**Dear Parents:** As a general rule, it is never a good idea to force kids to accomplish anything at the same speed, moving them forward and back so one isn’t jealous of the other. This is a recipe for a lifetime of craziness and resentment. If you wish to put both children in the same class because you want to save money and time, that is a different issue and certainly justifiable.

If the lessons are semi-private, your daughter should be able to move ahead at her own speed, which is not the same as holding her back.

**Dear Annie:** I believe you overlooked something in your response to Getting This Off My Chest.

The writer stated that he is positive his wife got pregnant intentionally. It takes two. Even if she assures him that it is a safe time of the month, that’s no guarantee. Other precautions should be taken. It’s a shared responsibility. — Albany, N.Y.

Annie’s Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie’s Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254.

## New doc looks at violent Canadian student protest

MONTREAL (CP) — Acclaimed filmmaker Mina Shum has started shooting a new National Film Board of Canada documentary on one of the most violent student protests in Canadian history.

Filming of The Ninth Floor coincides with the 45th anniversary of the infamous Sir George Williams riot where about 100 people were arrested and cards from the university computer lab were sent fluttering to the street in a blizzard of paper as it was trashed.

The protest erupted after six black students alleged racism against a white professor.

The occupation began after angry students walked

out of a hearing where the complaints against the professor were dismissed.

The sit-in lasted almost two weeks and appeared to reach a negotiated conclusion until the deal fell apart at the last minute.

Police were called in on Feb. 11, 1969, and the incident exploded into a riot where a fire broke out and people were nabbed as they fled.

One of those arrested was Anne Cools, who was sentenced to four months in prison but later pardoned. She became a prominent women’s rights advocate and the first black person appointed to the Senate.

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## PREMIUM TRUCK & TRAILER INC.



Friday, February 14, 2014

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH **TANNAH HIRSCH & BOB JONES**  
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### MADALA'S DEFENSIVE GEM

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ A K 10 5  
♥ 10 9 4  
♦ 10 8  
♣ K 7 4 2

**WEST**  
♠ Q J 9 8 7 3  
♥ K Q 6  
♦ A 9 7 6  
♣ Void

**EAST**  
♠ 6 2  
♥ J 8  
♦ Q J 4 2  
♣ J 8 6 5 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ 4  
♥ A 7 5 3 2  
♦ K 5 3  
♣ A Q 10 9

The bidding:  
**EAST** 1♥  
**SOUTH** 2♣  
**WEST** 1♠  
**NORTH** 4♥  
**Pass** 2♣  
**Pass** 2♦  
**Pass** 4♥

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

West was Augustin Madala, a brilliant young player from Argentina, now living in Italy and playing on the top Italian team.

North's double is a bit curious, perhaps just showing values. He leaped to game at his second turn expecting his side club fit to be a bonus. Was it enough?

South won the opening spade lead in dummy and played a club to his ace. Madala realized that he would be endplayed if he ruffed this, so he discarded a spade. Had he ruffed, he would have had to continue with the trump king. South's trump continuation would force Madala to play spades or diamonds giving away the contract in either case. Declarer now cashed the ace of trumps and Madala, fearing the same endplay, followed with the trump queen! Declarer played a low trump from hand and Madala ducked his king, continuing his same defense, which was basically praying for a miracle. When East was able to win this trick with the jack, Madala's prayers had been answered! East quickly shifted to the queen of diamonds and the contract was defeated with two diamond tricks.

Madala's defense was brilliant, but could declarer have done better? South fell on his own sword when he played a club at trick two. Instead, he should have led the 10 of trumps from dummy, running it if East played low. Ace and another trump later would endplay Madala. Should East cover the 10 with the jack, declarer wins and continues trumps. There is nothing Madala can do to avoid the endplay short of giving away one of his trump tricks, and the contract would come home.

(Tannah Hirsch and Bob Jones welcome readers' responses sent in care of this newspaper or to Tribune Content Agency, LLC., 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, TX 75001. E-mail responses may be sent to tcaeditors@tribune.com.)

## UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

		4		2				3
		1		9	3			
		6	1				7	
2				6			8	
	8						3	
	6			1				4
	7				1	8		
			5	8		3		
9				3		2		

478279 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Sudoku Puzzle Solution in Today's Prince George Citizen Classified Pages

2/14

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