

3-19-2006

## Bea Arthur

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### Recommended Citation

Center for Performing Arts, "Bea Arthur" (2006). *Center for Performing Arts Memorabilia*. Book 222.  
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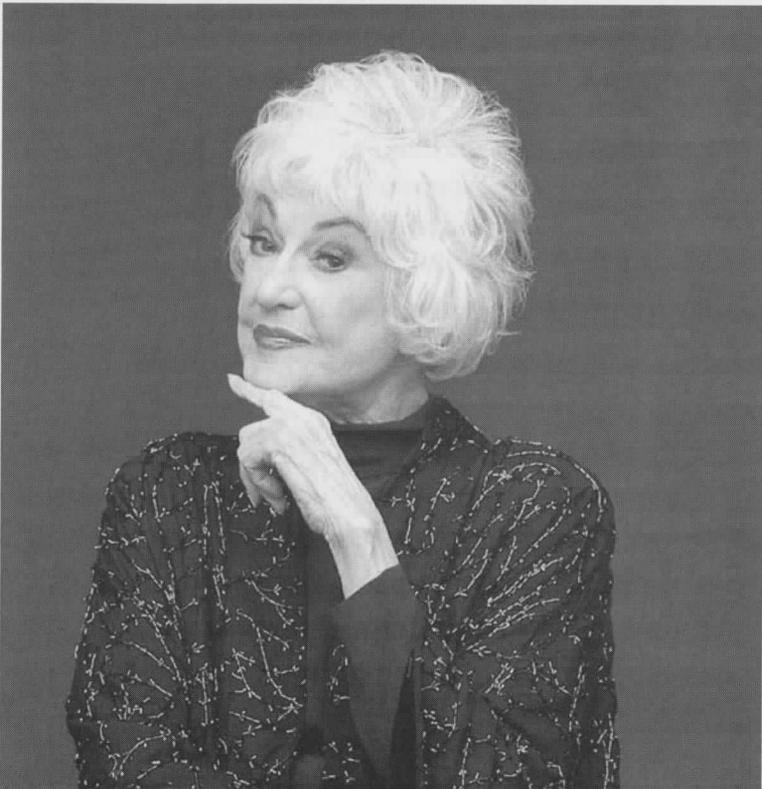
Governors State University

FOR PERFORMING ARTS

*Presents*

# An Evening With Bea Arthur

and Billy Goldenberg



**March 19, 2006**

*2005/2006 Season sponsored in part by a generous grant from:*

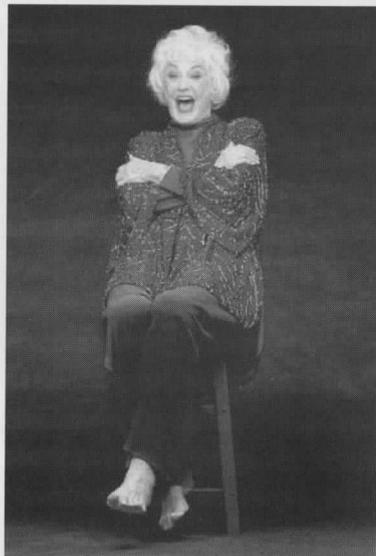


## Bea Arthur

Bea Arthur broke onto the American theatre scene in 1954 when she performed the part of Lucy Brown in the U.S. premiere of Marc Blitzstein's production of Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill's *The Threepenny Opera*. Prior to *Threepenny*, Ms. Arthur studied at Erwin Piscator's Dramatic Workshop of the New School. Following that, she auditioned as a singer for the summer theatre at Tamiment, where she worked with fellow actors Arte Johnson and Dick Shawn. Her career as a singer led to a part in the successful Off-Broadway musical *The Shoestring Revue*.

On Broadway, Arthur originated the role of Yente the matchmaker in the critically acclaimed musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, followed by the role of Vera Charles in *Mame*, opposite Angela Lansbury. She won a 1966 Tony Award for *Mame* and went on to reprise her role in the movie version opposite Lucille Ball.

Bea launched into film, appearing in the Oscar-nominated *Lovers and Other Strangers* and in Mel Brooks' *History of the World - Part 1*. She did several made-for-television films, most notably *My First Love* with Richard Kiley, and followed up with the feature films *Stranger Things* and *Enemies of Laughter* with Peter Falk. Norman Lear became aware of Bea's stage work, and felt she would be perfect for the part of Edith Bunker's cousin, Maude, in the hit television series *All in the Family*. *Maude* soon developed into its own series, and Bea won the 1977 Emmy Award for Outstanding Leading Actress in a Comedy Series. Arthur later joined the cast of *The Golden Girls* as Dorothy Zbornak, whom she played from 1985 to 1992. The role earned her a second Emmy in 1988. After years of outstanding work on television, Arthur returned to Broadway and appeared in Woody Allen's *The Floating Lightbulb*.



She has continued to give her time to numerous events, such as Jubilee and tributes to her friend Angela Lansbury, all of which raised much-needed funds for AIDS research. She has also been passionately involved in the cause for animal rights. In Los Angeles over the past few years, Bea delighted audiences in Anne Meara's *After-Play* and in Renee Taylor and Joseph Bologna's comedy *Bermuda Avenue Triangle*. Arthur also won the Comedy Ace Award for her performance in the FOX series *Malcolm in the Middle*.

She adds, "After being in the business a long time, I've done everything but rodeo and porn." *And Then There's Bea*, her first one-woman show, is the realization of a long-time dream of singing the songs she loves most and sharing so many of her favorite personal anecdotes with a live audience. Bea would like to thank Donald Saddler for not letting her quit this project, and her two sons, Matthew and Daniel, for being so supportive and cute.

## Billy Goldenberg

Billy Goldenberg (*Piano, Co-Creator*) has been working as a composer for many years. His impressive list of credits includes the scores for the movies *Play It Again, Sam*; *The Last of Sheila*; *Up the Sandbox*; *Reuben, Reuben*; *Duel*; *Eighteen Again*; and *Red Sky at Morning*. TV credits include the music for *Queen of the Stardust Ballroom*; *Helter Skelter*; *Columbo*; *Rage of Angels*; *Martin Luther King*; *The Miracle Worker*; *Miss Rose White*; *Monday After the Miracle*; *Dempsey*; *Dark Victory*; and *The Glass House*. He composed the themes for the hit series *Rhoda* and *Kojak*. He has garnered more than 30 Emmy nominations and has won the award four times. Over the years, top artists such as Gladys Knight, Barbara Streisand, Diana Ross, and Liza Minnelli have recorded his songs. Goldenberg was also the musical director and orchestrator for Elvis Presley's 1968 *Comeback Special*, and he wrote the score for Presley's film *Change of Habit*. He has been close friends with Bea Arthur for two decades and is thrilled to be working with her on her one-woman show, *And Then There's Bea*.