



HISTORY

Steve Silver's Beach Blanket Babylon is the longest running musical revue in theater history. This musical spoof of pop and political culture, internationally known for its extravagant costumes and outrageous hats, was created by the genius of Steve Silver, whose vision continues under the guiding hand of producer Jo Schuman Silver.

Beach Blanket Babylon started when Steve Silver and a group of his friends began performing, in costume, on the streets of San Francisco and eventually moved to the Savoy Tivoli in North Beach in June 1974. The show became so popular that it moved to a larger theater at Club Fugazi, a North Beach Landmark, which became its permanent home. Beach Blanket Babylon has performed over 34 years and continues to dazzle audiences at Club Fugazi in North Beach.

Highlights of Beach Blanket Babylon's eventful history include a performance before Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, an invitation to the White House by President Reagan, a successful 18-month run in Las Vegas, an appearance with the San Francisco Opera (with the largest hat ever to appear on stage) and a performance on the Academy Awards. Most recently, Prince Charles and Camilla, the Duchess of York, were the honored guests at Beach Blanket Babylon.

The prestigious de Young Museum presented an 11-week exhibition, "Beach Blanket Babylon – 15 Years of Hats and Costumes," curated by Steve Silver. On May 24, 1994, Steve Silver celebrated the 20th Anniversary of Beach Blanket Babylon at the San Francisco Opera House with a sold-out gala charity performance benefiting the San Francisco Main Library and the AIDS Memorial Grove. Each organization received \$100,000. Beach Blanket Babylon also participated in the UN 50th celebration, as well as the grand re-opening of the San Francisco Main Library (1996) which houses the Steve Silver Beach Blanket Babylon Music Center. Later that year, the city of San Francisco renamed Green Street, the home of Beach Blanket Babylon since 1975, to "Beach Blanket Babylon Boulevard."

In 1997, Beach Blanket Babylon became the first American production ever presented at the BBC Covent Garden Music Festival in London, England. In June of 1999, Beach Blanket Babylon celebrated its 25th Anniversary at Herbst Theatre and gave special benefit performances for 25 different Bay Area charities, each receiving \$10,000. In 2002, The Steve Silver Foundation and Beach Blanket Babylon started an annual "Scholarship for the Arts" program for Bay Area high school students.

In continuing Steve Silver's philanthropic legacy, the 30th anniversary performances, held in 2004, benefited arts organizations in the Bay Area with over \$400,000 in donations from the Steve Silver Foundation and Beach Blanket Babylon. The beneficiaries included the American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, San Francisco Ballet, San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Symphony, and San Jose Repertory Theatre.

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