

Paw Paw's Jerry Mitchell

Broadway Choreographer, Dancer and Fight Choreographer

Born in Paw Paw, Michigan, Mitchell's early Broadway credits were as a dancer in *The Will Rogers Follies* and revivals of *Brigadoon* and *On Your Toes*. Mitchell's first production as sole choreographer was the 1999 revival of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, which he followed with *The Full Monty*.

Mitchell created and for many years directed the annual *Broadway Bares* benefit for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. In addition to the theatre, he has choreographed for films such as *Camp, In & Out* and *Drop Dead Gorgeous*. He garnered an Emmy Award nomination for his work on *The Drew Carey Show*. In 2003 Mitchell was named one of Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch". His most recent project, for which he serves as both director and choreographer, is *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, which opened in April 2007, and currently serves as a mentor on Bravo's reality competition "Step It Up and Dance".



Still calling Paw Paw his hometown, Jerry was a chorus boy who made the successful transition to choreography.



Currently (as of August 2008), Jerry continues to work on (he's a judge) television's *Step it Up and Dance*. Mitchell is also discussed as the director for the upcoming musical stage production of the 2005 British comedy film titled *Kinky Boots*.

Award Winner

Mitchell was nominated for an Emmy Award in 2000 (and won an American Choreography Award) for

choreographing an episode of *The Drew Carey Show*.

2001: Tony Award nomination for Best Choreography, *The Full Monty*

2003: Outer Critics Circle nomination for Outstanding Choreography, *Hairspray*

2003: Astaire Award nomination for Choreography, *Hairspray*

2003: Drama Desk nomination for Outstanding Choreography, *Hairspray*

2003: Tony nomination for Best Choreography, *Hairspray*

2005: Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Choreography, *La Cage aux Folles*

2005: Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Choreography, *La Cage aux Folles*

2005: Tony Award nomination for Best Choreography, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*

2005: Tony Award for Best Choreography, *La Cage aux Folles*

2007: Drama Desk Award nomination for Outstanding Director of a Musical, *Legally Blonde*

2007: Drama Desk Award nomination for Outstanding Choreography, *Legally Blonde*

Quotable Quotes:

"Even when I was a kid dancing in school, I was the one who put together the combinations. I choreographed the pom-pom girls in high school, the flags in the band, stuff in college."--Mitchell on his early start as a choreographer, to Broadway.com (05/01)



"Agnes de Mille looked over and said, 'He's big. He can be a clan leader. Let's hire him.'"--Mitchell on getting cast in *Brigadoon* right out of college, to Broadway.com (05/01)

Jerry's Creation: Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS (BC/EFA) is the nation's leading industry-based, nonprofit AIDS fundraising and grantmaking organization. By drawing upon the talents, resources, and generosity of the American theatrical community, BC/EFA raises funds for AIDS-related causes and other critical illnesses across the United States. BC/EFA is the major supporter of seven programs at The Actors' Fund—including The AIDS Initiative, The Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative, The Al Hirschfeld Free Health Clinic at The Aurora in New York City, The Dancers' Resource, and two supportive housing residences. BC/EFA also awards grants to more than four hundred AIDS and family service organizations yearly.
www.broadwaycares.org

Jerry Mitchell on the TV Show *Step it Up and Dance!*: As a choreographer, Broadway and film veteran Jerry Mitchell has guided the dainty footsteps of a dragged-out Harvery Fierstein in *Hairspray*, and a blind Al Pacino in *Scent of a Woman*. He scored a Tony for his work on the 2004 revival of *La Cage Aux Folles* and he directed and choreographed the current Broadway smash hit *Legally Blonde*. What's Jerry say about the show...
"Anything that promotes dance to a national audience, I'm behind 100%. We're the stepchild of entertainment. We're always at the bottom of the barrel. So, I love that dance is getting so much coverage on television. And people respond to dance like you respond to a bird flying — it's something you want to do but very few can."

Stage Credits:			
SHOW	ROLE	THEATER	YEAR
<i>A Chorus Line</i>	Cast Member	National Tour	1979
<i>Brigadoon</i>	Dancer	Majestic Theatre (Broadway)	1980
<i>On Your Toes</i>	Cop/Joe McCall/Ensemble	Virginia Theatre (Broadway)	1983
<i>One Two Three Four Five</i>	Choreographer	Manhattan Theatre Club	1987
<i>Jerome Robbins' Broadway</i>	Assistant to the Choreographer	Imperial Theatre (Broadway)	1989
<i>The Will Rogers Follies</i>	Will Rogers Wrangler/Indian of the Dawn	Palace Theatre (Broadway)	1991
<i>Lips Together, Teeth Apart</i>	Fight Director	Manhattan Theatre Club	1991
<i>Lips Together, Teeth Apart</i>	Fight Director	Lucille Lortel Theatre	1992
<i>You Could Be Home Now</i>	Choreographer	Public Theater	1992
<i>The Years</i>	Fight Director/Coordinator	Manhattan Theatre Club	1992
<i>Jeffrey</i>	Choreographer	WPA Theatre	1992
<i>Seconds Out</i>	Choreographer	Public Theater	1993
<i>Jeffrey</i>	Musical Staging	Minetta Lane Theatre	1993
<i>Three Men on a Horse</i>	Fight Choreographer	Lyceum Theatre (Broadway)	1993
<i>Grease</i>	Associate Choreographer	Eugene O'Neill Theatre (Broadway)	1994
<i>Hedwig and the Angry Inch</i>	Musical Staging	Jane Street Theatre	1998
<i>Corpus Christi</i>	Musical Staging	Manhattan Theatre Club	1998
<i>Follies</i>	Choreographer	Paper Mill Playhouse	1998
<i>Captains Courageous</i>	Musical Staging	Manhattan Theatre Club	1999
<i>You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown</i>	Choreographer	Ambassador Theatre (Broadway)	1999
<i>Jekyll and Hyde</i>	Choreographer	National Tour	1999
<i>The Full Monty</i>	Choreographer	Eugene O'Neill Theatre (Broadway)	2000
<i>The Rocky Horror Show</i>	Choreographer	Circle in the Square Theatre (Broadway)	2000
<i>Hairspray</i>	Choreographer	Neil Simon Theatre (Broadway)	2002
<i>Imaginary Friends</i>	Choreographer	Ethel Barrymore Theatre (Broadway)	2002
<i>Gypsy</i>	Choreographer	Shubert Theatre (Broadway)	2003
<i>La Cage aux Folles</i>	Choreographer	Marquis Theatre (Broadway)	2004
<i>Dirty Rotten Scoundrels</i>	Choreographer	Imperial Theatre (Broadway)	2005
<i>Legally Blonde</i>	Director/Choreographer	Golden Gate Theatre (San Francisco, CA)	2007
<i>Legally Blonde</i>	Director/Choreographer	Palace Theatre (Broadway)	2007