

**BROADWAY TO DIM ITS LIGHTS
TONIGHT
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27th
AT 8:00 PM**

**IN MEMORY OF PROLIFIC STAGE AND SCREEN ACTOR
CHARLES DURNING**

(New York, NY) December 27, 2012 -- The Broadway community mourns the loss of acclaimed actor **Charles Durning**, who passed away on Monday at age 89. The marquees of Broadway theatres in New York will be dimmed in his memory tonight, Thursday, December 27th, at exactly 8:00pm for one minute.

Charlotte St. Martin, Executive Director of The Broadway League, said, "Charles Durning was a memorable figure on Broadway who delighted audiences in thousands of performances. It made no difference if he was an ensemble player or leading man, his talent enabled him to show the truth and reveal the story of any role. He will be greatly missed."

Mr. Durning's portrayal of Big Daddy, the bullying, dying plantation owner in a 1990 Broadway revival of Tennessee Williams's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, brought him a Tony Award® for best featured actor in a play. In his breakout performance in 1972, he drew praise as a small-town mayor seeking re-election in *That Championship Season*, Jason Miller's Tony-winning drama about the reunion of a high school basketball team.

He went on to appear in a pair of 1973 Broadway productions — David Rabe's *Boom Boom Room* and Hugh Leonard's *Au Pair Man*, in which he co-starred with Julie Harris — and, three years later, in Jules Feiffer's comedy *Knock Knock*.

In 1996 he fought a courtroom duel with George C. Scott in a Broadway revival of *Inherit the Wind*. The next year Mr. Durning starred with Julie Harris in a Broadway revival of *The Gin Game*, D. L. Coburn's Pulitzer-winning play about two nursing home residents whose game of cards becomes a clash of wills. In 2000, in a retitled revival called *Gore Vidal's 'The Best Man,'* he played an ailing former president who tries to mediate a power struggle between two candidates.

With appearances in over 100 films, Mr. Durning's memorable roles include police officers in the Oscar-winning *The Sting* (1973) and crime drama *Dog Day Afternoon* (1975), along with the comedies *Tootsie*, *To Be or Not To Be* and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, the last two of which earned him Academy Award nominations for Best Supporting Actor.

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The Broadway League, founded in 1930, is the national trade association for the Broadway industry. The League's 700-plus members include theatre owners and operators, producers, presenters, and general managers who present in nearly 200 markets in North America, as well as suppliers of goods and services to the theatre industry. Each year, League members bring Broadway to nearly 30 million people in New York and on tour across the U.S. and Canada. For more information, visit www.BroadwayLeague.com, or follow The Broadway League on Twitter [@TheBwayLeague](https://twitter.com/TheBwayLeague) or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BroadwayLeague. Download the free [ILoveNYTheater app](#) and free [IBDB app](#) for iPhone, iPad, and iTouch on iTunes.

Broadway theatres are filled with an exciting array of new and classic musicals and plays, providing the perfect experience for every audience. Great seats are available at every price point and are easy to buy online, by phone, or in person at theatre box offices. It's always the perfect time to see a show. Broadway performs every day of the week at multiple curtain times to accommodate every schedule.

The Broadway League annually presents the Antoinette Perry "Tony" Awards,[®] one of the most coveted awards in the entertainment industry, with The American Theatre Wing.