

For Immediate Release

**BROADWAY TO DIM ITS LIGHTS  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT 8PM**

**IN MEMORY OF STAGE AND SCREEN ACTRESS  
JEAN STAPLETON**

(New York, NY) June 4, 2013 -- The Broadway community mourns the loss of celebrated film, stage, and television actress **Jean Stapleton**, who passed away on Friday at age 90. The marquees of Broadway theatres in New York will be dimmed in her memory tomorrow, June 5<sup>th</sup>, at exactly 8:00 p.m. for one minute.

"The theatre is where Jean Stapleton started, and she often returned to the stage throughout her lengthy and multi-faceted career. While we all feel like we knew her, thanks to her iconic television role playing Edith Bunker in "All in the Family," the Broadway community claims her as one of our family," said Charlotte St. Martin, Executive Director of The Broadway League. "Her decades portraying a variety of roles on our Broadway and Off Broadway stages revealed her brilliance in believably playing many different characters. The range of her talent was also evident in that she could triumph in both musical comedies and serious dramas. She will be missed."

Ms. Stapleton began her career in summer stock theatre, and went on to become an accomplished theatre actress. She was in the original casts of *Bells are Ringing* on Broadway in the 1950s and *Funny Girl*, with Barbra Streisand, in the 1960s. Other Broadway credits include: *In the Summer House*, *Damn Yankees*, *Rhinoceros*, *Juno*, and *Arsenic & Old Lace*. In addition to numerous roles Off-Broadway and regionally, she guest starred in many television series and was seen in many feature films. In the movies, Ms. Stapleton reprised her roles in "Bells Are Ringing" and "Damn Yankees." She was celebrated for her role as lovable and sweetly naive Edith Bunker in the hit CBS sitcom, "All in the Family."

Her husband, William Putch, whom she married in the late 1950s, operated the Totem Pole Playhouse in Pennsylvania, where she performed for more than 20 years.

She is survived by her two children and several grandchildren.

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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](http://www.BroadwayLeague.com), or follow The Broadway League on Twitter @TheBwayLeague or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BroadwayLeague](http://www.facebook.com/BroadwayLeague).

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.

[BROADWAY.ORG](http://BROADWAY.ORG) is the League's new official on-line headquarters for Broadway in NYC and on tour. Download the free Broadway.org mobile app for [iOS](#) or [Android](#), and the free IBDB mobile app for [iOS](#) or [Android](#).

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

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