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### **Personals: Schwartz's Involvement**

Question:

After seeing Personals, I wondered - how did Stephen Schwartz get involved with this show? And should we expect to see him on an episode of Friends in the near future?

Answer from Stephen Schwartz:

I supplied the music for three of the songs from PERSONALS because the show's original director, Paul Lazarus, is a friend of mine who had been instrumental in the resuscitation of WORKING (he directed the first post-B'way production and made good suggestions about cuts and revisions, and the success of that production began its comeback). So when Paul called and said they needed music for the opening of each act and the final number, I was happy to oblige. (Alan Menken supplied music for the other "bookend" -- the close of Act I.) I was also friendly with one of the lyricists, Seth Friedman, and had a great time working with him, as well as with Marta Kauffman and David Crane, who as you can imagine are very funny people. The London cast recording was the first full recording of the show, though individual songs had been recorded prior to its release. Thanks for your interest. Sincerely, Stephen Schwartz

### **Personals**

Question:

I noticed among your works that it had something called "Personals". What's that? I don't recall hearing about that before.

Answer from Stephen Schwartz:

PERSONALS was a topical revue done off-Broadway in the 80's; from the title, you can probably glean that it was about dating and relationships, using the idea of personal ads as a jumping-off place. The sketches and lyrics are by Marta Kauffman and David Crane (who went on to TV fame and fortune with "Friends" and other shows) and my talented and funny friend, Seth Friedman. Several composers contributed music, including myself and Alan Menken, so technically it is the first time Alan and I worked together, albeit on different songs. I wrote music for the opening number ("Nothing to Do with Love"), the opening of the second act ("Moving in with Linda") and the closing number ("Some Things Don't End"). For the record, Alan wrote the music for the end of Act One, so between us we sort of bookended the show. There is now a CD of the show which was recorded in London with a London cast -- I have to admit I haven't heard it, so I can't vouch for its quality.

### **Becoming Involved in Personals**

Question:

How did you become involved with the show "Personals"?

Answer from Stephen Schwartz:

I became involved with PERSONALS because a friend of mine, Paul Lazarus, was directing the original off-Broadway production. He and the lyricists -- Marta Kauffman, David Crane, and Seth

Friedman -- felt they needed some help in opening and closing each of the acts. So I wound up writing the music for the opening of the first act ("Nothing to Do with Love") the opening of the second act ("Moving in with Linda") and the end of the show ("Some Things Don't End"). Incidentally and coincidentally, the music for the end of the first act was written by Alan Menken. So in a sense it was Alan's and my first collaboration, even though we didn't actually write together. Thanks for asking. Sincerely, Stephen Schwartz