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Broadway's double threats

It's a theatrical twofor:
Twin brothers
behind the scenes at
'Promises, Promises'
vow to wow

BY JOE DZIEMIANOWICZ

Twins are in at "Promises, Promises." The title contains a set. The design team, too — identical twins Scott and Bruce

Pask. Scott's scenery summons early-'60s New York for the romantic musical comedy by Neil Simon (book), Burt Bacharach (music) and Hal David (lyrics) based on the Oscar winner "The Apartment."

Bruce, whose day job is covering fashion at The New York Times, dressed Sean Hayes, Kristin Chenoweth, Tony Goldwyn and two dozen more actors in Kennedy-era cool. Heady stuff for guys from Yuma, Ariz. "Theater wasn't an option," says Scott, "not even to watch it."

"Promises, Promises," now in previews at the Broadway Theatre, opens April 25.

Who's the big brother?

Bruce: Scott's three minutes older than me. That older-brother dynamic has been a constant all our lives. Always.

Did you dream of showbiz as kids?

Scott: Our dad thought we'd grow up to be lawyers. We could talk our way out of anything — whether we were out playing and came home late or we got caught throwing dirt clods. That's what you do in Arizona.

Any "Parent Trap"-like switcheroos when you were done hurling soil?

Bruce: I remember trying something in kindergarten. We traded classrooms for like two minutes.

Scott: People could tell us apart. Our parents were really good about not having us wear the same clothes. And not naming us Billy and Bobby. In our high school, there were twin girls — Kerry and Kelly.

Both athletes. Dressed alike. So weird. We're so not that.

And now — Bruce is the whisky one.

Bruce: Yes. I grew a beard about 10 years ago, and I kept it. I don't like shaving.

Scott: Every once in a while I'll have a scrabble. But he's kind of claimed that.

What did you study in college?

Scott: Architecture at the University of Arizona.

Bruce: Art history at William & Mary.

How are you most alike?

Scott: We're both very organized. I credit our mother for insisting that we make our beds every day. But we're very different people. We run in different circles. Bruce is in fashion, I'm in theater. This is a moment when those two things have happily converged.

It's not the first time, is it?

Bruce: It's the first time on Broadway. We worked together on "The Dumb Waiter" and "Zoo Story" in Williamstown in 2001. We did a fashion story together. Scott built the set for that feature. I did the wardrobe.

Talk about your work in "PP."

Scott: It's my job to create emotion in three dimensions. The set is lyric and airy and has a lot of room for the characters to come through. Rob Ashford, the director-choreographer, is treating the musical like a play. It's not about amplified characters.

Bruce: It's my first musical, which has been terrifying and exciting. Kristin is in blues and golds. The girls are in jewel tones. The palette for the men includes brown and olive. It's a bright show, but it's true to the period.



cool jobs

Scott Pask (r.) & Bruce Pask

Age: 42

Titles: Set designer and costume designer

Time on the job: Since 1998, Scott has done 28 shows and won two Tonys. In 2001, Bruce did "Design for Living."

The leading lady is Lilliputian-size. A challenge?

Bruce: She is an itty-bitty thing. We were looking in the mirror yesterday together and she said, "I kind of look like an Amazon." It's all about scale. She and I joke about how we're going to start this fashion line called Scale It Down! It makes a difference, even on a French cuff. Just scale it down,

man. Everything. Except her high heels.

Do you have a favorite song from the show?

Scott: It changes daily. Today it's "Wanting Things," which Tony Goldwyn sings.

Bruce: "Knowing When to Leave." C'mon, it's Kristin. Singing about heartache. I'm tearing up already.

ROBERT MECIA