

BILLY PORTER is a Tony® and Grammy® Award-winning actor, singer, director, composer, and playwright.

His Broadway credits include his Tony and Drama Desk Award-winning performance as “Lola” in *Kinky Boots*, as well as the critically acclaimed *Shuffle Along*, *Miss Saigon*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Grease*, *Smokey Joe’s Café*, and *Dreamgirls*. He has also been seen on off-Broadway and regional stages in productions like *Angels in America*, *Romance In Hard Times*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Jelly’s Last Jam*, *Songs for a New World*, and many more. He premiered his one man show, *Ghetto Superstar: The Man That I Am*, at The Public Theater in New York City, in conjunction with Pittsburgh’s City Theatre. For this production he was nominated for a 2005 GLAAD Media Award, and was named “Pittsburgh’s Performer of the Year 2003-2004” by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Billy is also a director of theatre, most recently helming a revival of George C. Wolfe’s *The Colored Museum* at the Huntington Theatre in Boston. He conceived and directed the musical revue *Signed, Sealed, Delivered: The Music of Stevie Wonder* starring Chaka Khan at The Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas. Porter won the NAACP Theatre Award for Best Direction of a Musical for his *Once On This Island* at Reprise Theatre Company. Porter has directed productions of *Topdog/Underdog*, *The Wiz*, conceived and directed the revue *The Soul of Rodgers*, and has directed concerts featuring Shoshana Bean, Eden Espinosa, Patina Miller and Stephen Schwartz, among other productions he has directed.

Porter wrote an autobiographical play entitled *While I Yet Live*, which had a highly successful world premiere at the Duke Theater off-Broadway, presented by Primary Stages.

Porter has appeared on film and television in films such as Barry Levinson’s *The Humbling* opposite Al Pacino, Sundance Film Festival features *Broken Hearts Club* and *Intern*, and television programs such as Ryan Murphy’s *Pose*, Baz Luhrmann’s *The Get Down*, *Another World*, *Twisted*, *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *The Big C*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *A Very Rosie Christmas*, *The Tonight Show* and *The Rosie O’Donnell Show*.

Porter’s concert performances include appearances at Carnegie Hall, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Buffalo Philharmonic, The Philly Pops, opening for Rosie O’Donnell and Aretha Franklin, soloist for President Bill Clinton, and benefits across America.

Porter is a graduate of The Professional Program in Screenwriting at UCLA and Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Drama, where he is an adjunct professor and has directed productions of *Company* and *Letters From ‘Nam*. He is also the recipient of an honorary doctorate from Washington & Jefferson College.