

GUENEVERES THROUGH THE YEARS

BY REBECCA HODGE

JULIE ANDREWS

ORIGINAL BROADWAY GUENEVERE



"I thought Guinevere was a wonderfully spunky woman who happened to love two men equally. Not how it's supposed to go, but sometimes you can't help it."

Dame Julie Andrews is an English actress noted for both her work on stage and screen. She rose to stardom in 1954 by creating the role of Eliza Doolittle in the Lerner and Loewe musical *My Fair Lady*, and would go

on to win an Academy Award for the titular role in *Mary Poppins* (1964).

Between those two major roles in her career, Lerner and Loewe created the role of Guenevere in *Camelot* specifically for Andrews. Her performance was well-received, and she was nominated for the Tony Award for Best Leading Actress in a Musical in 1961.

Andrews went on to become a beloved star and was made Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2000.

SALLY ANN HOWES

ORIGINAL BROADWAY REPLACEMENT GUENEVERE



"This is my fourth Lerner and Loewe musical, but it's the only one I've never appeared in. So I'm having to learn the role from scratch."

Sally Ann Howes is an English actress born to a show business family comprised of actor father Bobby Howes, mother Patricia Malone, and Broadway director grandfather Captain J.A.E. Malone. Her first starring role was in *Paint Your Wagon*, and she later took over for

Julie Andrews in *My Fair Lady* in 1958.

She received a 1963 Tony Award nomination for her starring turn in *Brigadoon*, and then replaced Julie Andrews in *Camelot*. In 1968 she starred in the hit film *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* with Dick Van Dyke.

In succeeding decades, she appeared on many television series and returned to the stage. She is known today as one of the grand dames of musical theatre for her work.

VANESSA REDGRAVE

1967 FILM GUENEVERE



"[Redgrave] said that bringing all the knights together from all over Europe was imperialistic. But, I said to her, the whole idea of Camelot was imperialistic. She gave in, reluctantly." - Joel Freeman, associate producer of *Camelot* (1967)

Vanessa Redgrave was born on January 30, 1937, as her father Michael Redgrave was performing in of *Hamlet* - and lead Laurence Olivier announced her birth to the audience.

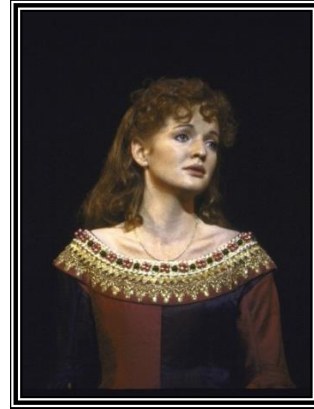
Born to actors, Redgrave and her siblings were immersed in performance early. She was noted for her many performances on the London stage in the 1960s, and then went on to appear in films such as *Morgan!* (1966) and *Blow-Up* (1966).

Director Joshua Logan then cast her in the film adaptation of *Camelot*, where she would meet her future husband Franco Nero, who was playing Lancelot. The film did fairly well at the box office, but received mixed to negative reviews, with some praise for Redgrave's performance.

Redgrave's revolutionary socialist politics led her to be outspoken about various issues. Redgrave has gone on to have a successful and varied career in stage, screen, and television, winning the Oscar, Emmy, Tony, BAFTA, Olivier, Cannes, Golden Globe, and Screen Actors Guild awards.

CHRISTINE EBERSOLE

1980 REVIVAL GUENEVERE



"It's very fly by night, learn Guinevere in Camelot in three days—which I did early in my career.

Christine Ebersole was born on February 21, 1953 in Chicago, Illinois. She has found success both on stage and on screen, including in the 1980 Broadway revival of *Camelot* alongside original Arthur Richard Burton.

She appeared in many television series such as *Saturday Night Live*, *Will & Grace*, and *The Cavanaughs* and films such as *Tootsie* (1982) and *Amadeus* (1984).

In 2001 she received a Tony Award for Best Leading Actress in a Musical in *42nd Street*, and then in 2006 won the same award for her work in *Grey Gardens*. She continues to appear on stage and screen in many productions.

ALEXANDRA SILBER

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY GUENEVERE



"What I really love about Guenevere is that she's human: flawed, loving, petty, hilarious, loyal, disloyal — nuanced. One of the things that T.H. White says about her is that Guenevere was 'simply herself.' She was all of these things; she was a 'real person.'"

Alexandra Silber is an American actress born in Los Angeles. She made her Broadway debut in 2011 in the play *Master Class*, playing alongside Tony Award winner Tyne Daly. She

has also appeared in the 2015 Broadway revival of *Fiddler on the Roof*, playing Tzeitel.

In 2018 she played Guenevere in Washington D.C. Shakespeare Theatre Company's record-breaking production of *Camelot*. The production received positive reviews, with praise for Silber's performance.

Silber continues to appear on stages around the country, has written several plays and books, and works as a blogger and educator.

NATALIE REDER

BURNING COAL THEATRE COMPANY GUENEVERE



"The story of Camelot is one that has captured our collective imagination for centuries. Guenevere's role in the story is particularly interesting as her intentions and motivations are mysterious and complicated. We are still left considering what the nature of her relationship was with Lancelot and King Arthur, and this, makes the story timeless."

Natalie is a native of Ohio and lives in Apex with her husband and two dachshunds. She's been acting at Burning Coal since 2012 with her debut as Fiona in *Brigadoon*. Since then she's also performed the role of Dot in *Sunday in the Park with George* and loves the Burning Coal Theatre so much, she chose to hold her wedding reception there in 2018.

Natalie is a proud graduate of the University of Cincinnati - College Conservatory of Music where she performed Ruth Sherwood in *Wonderful Town*. Regionally, she has also been Maria in *West Side Story*, Julie Jordan in *Carousel*, and Marguerite in the *Scarlet Pimpernel*.

When she's not performing, she loves to finish the furniture her husband builds, cook food doused in butter, and run an occasional race with friends.

Sources: [Alexandra Silber, "The Big Interview: Julie Andrews" By Richard Ouzounian, Encyclopaedia Britannica \(Julie Andrews\), IMDb \(Christine Ebersole, Sally Ann Howes, Vanessa Redgrave\), "Interview: Alexandra Silber, 'Camelot's' Guenevere" by Nell Minow, "Interview: Christine Ebersole" by DramaQueenNYC, "Interview with Joshua Logan" by Roger Ebert, "Look Back at Christine Ebersole and Richard Burton in Camelot on Broadway" by Hannah Vine and Marc J. Franklin, Masterworks Broadway \(Sally Anne Howes\), "STC welcomes Alexandra Silber as Guenevere"](#)