

A W A R D S

"For a minute, I thought that was really Clinton," Biden said, at the after-party for the award show at the Plaza Hotel. In an interview, he said he had enjoyed both Spacey and the ceremony, even though he hadn't had time to see this year's nominated shows yet. Biden - whose wife, Jill, introduced the military veteran-themed "Bandstand" at the ceremony and got a standing ovation - was clearly a major draw at the party, causing a bottleneck of admiring partygoers begging for selfies with him. He stopped to chat with Keegan-Michael Key and also Josh Groban, the singer who stars in "Natasha, Pierre."

Groban reminded the former vice president that Biden had once told him he has him on his iPod playlist, and he'd never forgotten that. "I still have you on there," Biden said, and quipped, "I probably ruined your reputation." At the party, nominees, celebrities and other guests wandered through the hotel's food stalls, munching on everything from filet mignon to avocado gazpacho to lobster rolls to chocolate macaroons. Groban, who lost out to Platt, said he'd been "pinching myself all night" at being a nominee, and being "part of this Broadway season that has been so vibrant and brilliant. And then to be representing my show and performing tonight - I just had the best time." — AP



Bette Midler accepts the award for best performance by an actress in a leading role in a musical for "Hello, Dolly!"



Scott Rudin, center, and the cast of "Hello, Dolly!" accept the award for best revival of a musical.



Rebecca Taichman, winner of the award for Best Direction of a Play for "Indecent" poses in the press room.

WINNERS

- Best Musical:** "Dear Evan Hansen."
- Best Play:** "Oslo."
- Best Original Score (Music and/or Lyrics):** "Dear Evan Hansen."
- Best Revival of a Play:** "August Wilson's Jitney."
- Best Revival of a Musical:** "Hello, Dolly!"
- Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Play:** Kevin Kline, "Present Laughter."
- Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Play:** Laurie Metcalf, "A Doll's House, Part 2."
- Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Role in a Play:** Michael Aronov, "Oslo."
- Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role in a Play:** Cynthia Nixon, "Lillian Hellman's The Little Foxes."
- Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Musical:** Ben Platt, "Dear Evan Hansen."
- Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical:** Bette Midler, "Hello, Dolly!"
- Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Role in a Musical:** Gavin Creel, "Hello, Dolly!"
- Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role in a Musical:** Rachel Bay Jones, "Dear Evan Hansen."

— AP



Cynthia Nixon accepts the award for best performance by an actress in a featured role in a play for "Lillian Hellman's The Little Foxes".



Kevin Kline accepts the award for best performance by an actor in a leading role in a play for "Present Laughter".



Laurie Metcalf accepts the award for best performance by an actress in a leading role in a play for "A Doll's House, Part 2".



Kevin Spacey performs at the 71st annual Tony Awards.



Cynthia Erivo, left, and Leslie Odum, Jr. perform "New York, New York" with the Rockettes.



James Earl Jones, right, walks on stage to accept the special Tony award for Lifetime Achievement.



Andy Karl and the cast of "Groundhog Day The Musical" perform at the 71st annual Tony Awards.



Gavin Creel, right, accepts the award for best performance by an actor in a featured role in a musical for "Hello, Dolly!"



Ben Platt poses in the press room with the award for best performance by an actress in a leading role in a musical for "Hello, Dolly!"

5 takeaways from the Tonys, including leave Bette alone

Don't mess with Bette: It takes real bravado to even attempt to shoo off Bette Midler when she's winning her first competitive Tony. Producers tried on Sunday - and failed miserably. The Divine Miss M, who won best actress for "Hello, Dolly!" was not going to be denied and signaled she was in a feisty mood early: "I'd like to thank all the Tony voters - many of whom I've actually dated," she joked. When the orchestra tried to goose her along with swelling instruments, Midler was not having it. "Shut that crap off!" she said. The orchestra went wisely silent.

Two presidents: Host Kevin Spacey managed to portray two US leaders in one telecast - former president Bill Clinton and Frank Underwood, the fictional president he plays on Netflix's political thriller "House of Cards." His Clinton joked about food and his wife's email problems, while his fictional one - accompanied by fictional wife Claire Underwood (Robin Wright) - admitted he wanted to leave before Midler started to thank anyone else.

No technical snafus: There were none of the technical or human accidents during the telecast - at least any non-Midler-related - that have marred previous awards shows, including the wrong winner announced at this year's Oscars and sound issues at the Grammys. Spacey talked about the show's accountants and said: "You guys do not have to worry about them tonight, at all!"

The peril of leading: After the Tony nominations in May, the smart money must have been on "Natasha,



Kevin Spacey, from left, Michael Kelly and Robin Wright appear as their characters from "House of Cards" as they present Lin-Manuel Miranda with the envelope for best musical.

Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812," which had snapped up a leading 12 nods and looked strong in every category. But a month later, that show was singing the blues. The musical, lifted from Leo Tolstoy's "War and Peace," won just two technical awards on Sunday.



Josh Groban and the cast of "Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812" perform at the 71st annual Tony Awards.

Where's the diversity?: A year after everyone on Broadway was proud to point to the diversity of the winners, a long list of white men and women walked up to collect their trophies. No person of color won an acting award, though some of the acting categories featured a diverse list

of nominees. Some non-white nominees, like set designer Mimi Lien and orchestrator Alex Lacamoire, won trophies, and the cast of "Jitney" - mostly African-American - helped it win the revival Tony. But might we start seeing #TonysSoWhite? — AP