

A MOMENT OF FAME

Unionville High School grad Adam Brazier deals with fans, media while acting in Broadway musical

BY SIMONE JOSEPH
Staff Writer

As Adam Brazier left the opening night party of the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical *Woman in White*, the actor said to his girlfriend, "Imagine being Jennifer Aniston and having to do that every day?"

That night, the Unionville native experienced the high of attending a party that included 25 press people armed with cameras wanting a photo of him and the rest of the cast.



ADAM BRAZIER: Plays Walter Hartright in Andrew Lloyd Webber musical.

He realized how exhausting it would be to have to answer people's questions or requests everywhere you go.

In *Woman in White*, Mr. Brazier plays Walter Hartright, whose life is forever changed after an encounter with a mysterious woman, dressed in white, who wants to reveal a secret.

When he begins tutoring the beautiful Laura Fairlie and her half sister, Marion, in art, he sees in Ms Fairlie's face a reflection of the forlorn woman he previously met. The musical is based on the book published in 1860 by Wilkie Collins.

In one rehearsal of *Woman in White*, Mr. Brazier met Trevor Nunn, who directed the musicals, *Cats* and *Les Miserables*.

"He is one of the three most influential directors of our lifetime," Mr. Brazier said Thursday in a phone interview, with reverence in his voice.

Fame and recognition have touched Mr. Brazier, too. When he walks down the street of New York, people often recognize the actor who once attended Unionville High School and say, "Hey are you the guy from the *Woman in White*?"

But Mr. Brazier, 31, is wise to the shallowness of this attention. He knows being famous on stage is



The ensemble performs in the Broadway version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *Woman in White*.

different from being known in movies or on TV. On-screen fame lasts longer.

Mr. Brazier recognizes immediately after appearing in the show, people are eager for autographs and photos but then afterwards, "it stops. I turn the corner and it is nobody ... ultimately, nobody cares that much because it is theatre. It's just a bigger stage with more money in the production."

He is also wise to how quickly the fortunes of a thespian can change.

For example, a friend of his who won a Tony Award for best actor

was working as a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle at children's parties only three years later. But Mr. Brazier does not mind the fleeting fame that comes with stage acting.

"I appreciate that it keeps me working hard. So many actors just (rely) on the fact they are famous. I have to work for everything I do," he said.

For more information on *The Woman in White*, check out www.womaninwhite.themusical.com

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BRAZIER HAD SHAW, STRATFORD ROLES

Adam Brazier is comfortable on stage, having acted in plays at the Shaw and Stratford festivals. He also played Sky, the young groom, in the original Toronto production of *Mamma Mia!* and then went on tour across North America.

Mr. Brazier appeared on Broadway in the Tony Award-winning play *Into the Woods* and was Aladdin in the Ross Petty's Toronto Christmas pantomime version of the tale.

The George Brown College theatre school graduate also played the main role in the musical *The Likes of Us* by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice in London.

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