

SUSAN

SALUTES BROADWAY

LUCCI

By ERIN HARRINGTON



Photo Credit: Yolanda Perez/ABC

Photo Credit: Steve Ferrin/ABC



Super soap star Susan Lucci has proven yet again that she's got a gift that just keeps giving. Although she's earned her place as the unequivocal "queen of daytime" and has amassed a fan base that practically views her as royalty, Lucci remains gracious and fully committed to giving back.

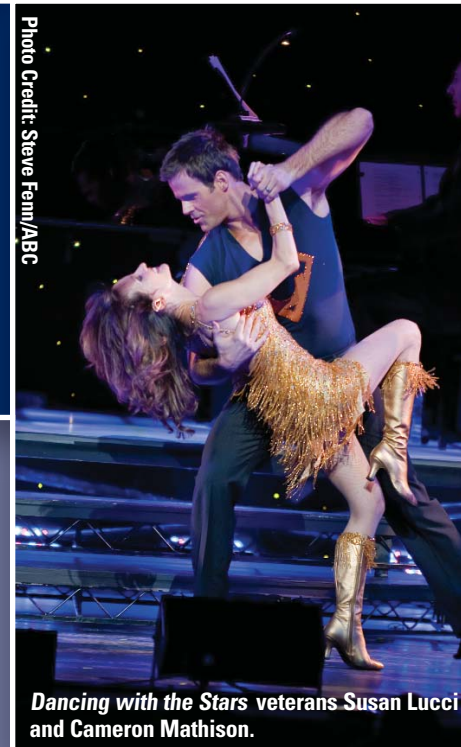
The *All My Children* icon has donated a ton of her time and talents over the years to support and raise money for humanitarian causes. Lucci's charitable works - which, to name only a sampling, have benefitted The Cancer Project, The Mother's March of Dimes National Campaign and, right here on Long Island, Little Flower Children's Services - are done quietly and without fanfare. But once a year, at the ABC & SoapNET Salute Broadway Cares fundraiser, the star comes out and fully shines for her fans to help raise sorely needed money for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. BC/EFA is the nation's largest industry-based, nonprofit AIDS fundraising and grant-making organization. Founded in 1988, the organization has distributed over \$150 million for services for people with AIDS, HIV or HIV-related illnesses.

This year's event held March 9th at Town Hall in Manhattan played to a packed house of loyal daytime devotees. Since its inception five

years ago, the ABC & SoapNET Salute Broadway Cares show has been a soap fan favorite. It's a win-win-win as the stage performance allows fans an opportunity to see their soap icons live and in-person. It's a welcome treat for the stars as well, because it provides a venue for them to connect live with their audience and an outlet to showcase their very Broadway-worthy singing and dancing abilities. And the beauty of it is that proceeds from ticket sales all go to BC/EFA. This year's performance starred over 30 cast members from ABC's *All My Children*, *One Life to Live* and *General Hospital* and brought in a record \$325,000. It was hosted by *All My Children*'s Cameron Mathison who, like Lucci, is a *Dancing with the Stars* veteran. The duo delivered the final number of the show, dancing flawlessly to "Too Darn Hot" from *Kiss Me Kate*.

Although Susan Lucci has breathed life into the fiery, complex character of Erica Kane since *All My Children* debuted, her talents have taken her beyond the boundaries of "Pine Valley." The petite, drop-dead gorgeous performer has earned accolades in many other

Photo Credit: Steve Ferrin/ABC



Dancing with the Stars veterans Susan Lucci and Cameron Mathison.

arenas. She's starred on Broadway in *Annie Get Your Gun*, performed with Marvin Hamlisch at the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center as well as in venues across the tri-state area with Regis Philbin, and has starred in many made-for-television movies. Lucci unleashed another hidden talent this past fall when she rolled up her sleeves and laced up her dancing shoes to compete - very impressively - on *Dancing with the Stars*.

No matter where you find Susan Lucci, you'll find her hard working, professional and gracious, which is why after decades in show business, Susan Lucci's starlight continues to shine so brightly.