

Billboard

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the beat

GROBAN'S GUIDE TO BALLING ON BROADWAY

Josh Groban's greatest love — after music, of course — is The Great White Way. His new LP, *Stages* (due April 28 on Reprise/Warner Bros.), features covers of show tunes from *A Chorus Line*, *Carousel* and other classics. A former musical theater major who has starred in two one-off *Chess* revivals, the singer, 34, maps out his perfect night on Broadway. —CHUCK ARNOLD

BEST PLACE FOR A PRE-SHOW DRINK
Russian Samovar, 256 W. 52nd St. "I love good vodka. This place has got 50 infused ones that they make right there. There's always someone playing the piano. I've been known to go up there and sing, surrounded by really old-school Russian guys."

BAR CENTRALE

BEST POST-SHOW HANGOUT
Bar Centrale, 324 W. 46 St. "I go there afterwards rather than before because all the casts converge there. It's great people-watching, and they make great drinks."

BEST THEATER TO CATCH A SHOW
The New Amsterdam Theatre, 214 W. 42 St. "It's gorgeous, and they renovated it [in 2014]. That's where I did an Actors Fund concert of *Chess*. We rehearsed for a week, so I really got to know the ins and the outs of the theater."

BONUS PRO TIP
Favorite intermission snack "Red wine and Raisinets! Beggars can't be choosers with the snack bar."

BEST PLACE FOR A PRE-SHOW DINNER
Blue Fin, 1567 Broadway "I went there nightly when I was rehearsing *Chess*. They've got good sushi, good seafood, and they play jazz. It's in the W Hotel right in Times Square — tourist central. New Yorkers avoid it, but if you're seeing a show, it's nice to walk through and take it in. It's so electric and alive."

