



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

August 11, 2006

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to join everyone attending today's renaming of West 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Broadway as "Al Jolson Way."

Born Asa Yoelson, Al Jolson is remembered as The World's Greatest Entertainer. He achieved incredible fame during a three-decade career on Broadway, and his appearance in *The Jazz Singer* unofficially ushered in the age of "talking pictures." His accomplishments on stage and screen are without parallel, yet they pale in comparison to an even stronger dedication to helping his fellow man. A proud American who gave comfort and laughter to our soldiers in four wars, and a humanitarian whose extensive contributions to charity continue to enhance our quality of life, Jolson lived by the philosophy that he should leave the world better than he found it.

As theatre and film audiences, performers, and hopefuls pass under this sign in the years to come, they will be well-served to remember not only the way Al Jolson performed, but also the way he lived his life – with a talent and a charm that were only exceeded by his boundless generosity. On behalf of the City of New York, please accept my best wishes for a memorable event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Bloomberg".

Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor