

# Showtime A History Of The Broadway Musical Theater

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the broadway musical has greatly influenced american and world culture such shows as oklahoma and annie get your gun are as american as apple pie while the long runs of imports like cats the phantom of the opera and les misérables have broken records broadway has produced such cultural icons as ethel merman yul brynner and julie andrews and

composers and lyricists such as irving berlin george gershwin cole porter richard rodgers oscar hammerstein leonard bernstein stephen sondheim andrew lloyd webber and many others have had their melodies sung on its stages visionaries like george abbott agnes de mille jerome Robbins bob fosse tommy tune and susan stroman have brought productions to life through their innovative direction and choreography since the latter part of the 19th century the broadway musical has remained one of the most popular genres in entertainment and its history is related in detail in the a to z of the broadway musical through a chronology an introductory essay a bibliography and 900 dictionary entries on broadway shows playwrights directors producers designers and actors this handy desk reference offers quick information on the many aspects of the broadway musical

in this lively book stacy wolf illuminates the women of american musical theater performers creators and characters from the start of the cold war to the present day creating a new feminist history of the genre moving from decade to decade wolf highlights the assumptions that circulated about gender and sexuality at the time and then looks at the leading musicals stressing the aspects of the plays that relate to women the musicals discussed here are among the most beloved in the canon west side story guys dolls cabaret and many others with special emphasis on wicked

brimming with advice and techniques this essential reference for book and songwriters clearly explains the fundamentals of the three crafts of a musical book music and lyrics using copious examples from classic shows frankel has created the quintessential musical writers how to among the topics definitions of musical theater differences between musical books and straight plays and between poetry and lyrics what a score is and how it develops how to write for the voice and how to audition musicals for producers with a new introduction and revised text frankel s work is ready to guide a new generation of aspiring writers

this new second edition of enchanted evenings offers theater lovers an illuminating behind the scenes tour of some of america s best loved most admired and most enduring musicals readers will find such all time favorites as show boat carousel kiss me kate guys and dolls my fair lady west side story sweeney todd sunday in the park with george and phantom of the opera geoffrey block provides a documentary history of each of the musicals showing how each work took shape and revealing at the same time how the american musical evolved from the 1920s to today both on stage and on screen the book s particular focus is on the music offering a wealth of detail about how librettist lyricist composer and director work together to shape the piece block also includes trenchant social commentary and lively backstage anecdotes jerome kern cole porter the gershwins rodgers and hart kurt weill rodgers and hammerstein lerner and loewe frank loesser leonard bernstein stephen sondheim andrew lloyd webber and other luminaries emerge as hardworking craftsmen under enormous pressure to sell tickets without compromising their dramatic vision the second edition includes a greatly expanded chapter on sondheim a new chapter on lloyd webber and two new chapters on the film adaptations of the main musicals featured in the text including such hard to find films as the original 1936 version of anything goes and the 1959 film adaptation of porgy and bess packed with information including a complete discography and plot synopses and song by song scenic

outlines for each of the fourteen shows enchanted evenings is an essential reference as well as a riveting history a solid and fascinating work that should become a model of how to investigate and report on the evolution of a musical block s research is persuasive and his writing vivid indispensable for anyone who cares to know more about broadway musicals than playbill can provide steven bach the los angeles times book review

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