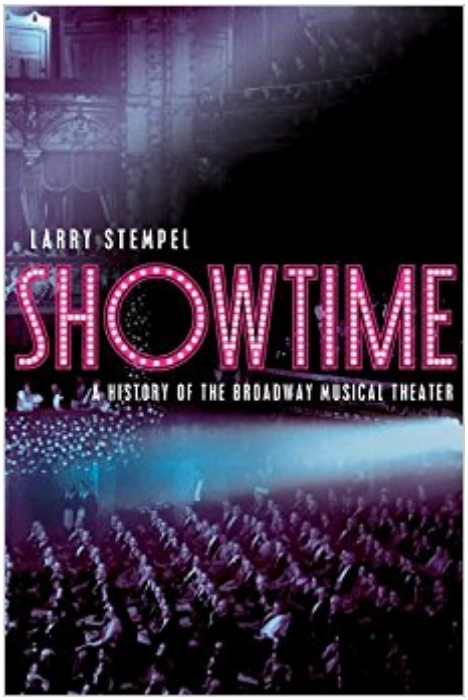
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Showtime: A History Of The Broadway Musical Theater (College Edition)



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Synopsis

A definitive, accessible, and comprehensive history of the Broadway musical. Here for the first time is the whole history of the musical, on Broadway and off. Stempel combines original researchÃ¢â ¬â ¢including a wealthy of primary sources and archival holdingsÃ¢â ¬â ¢with deft and insightful analysis, and explores the rich strands of musical theater by genre and type, looking at not only how musicals work but also how they serve as barometers of social concerns and bearers of cultural values. Beginning with the scandalous Astor Place Opera House riot of 1849, Stempel traces the growth of musicals from minstrel shows and burlesques, through the golden age of Show Boat and Oklahoma!, to such groundbreaking works as Company and Rent. Stempel examines musicals in their cultural and historical context and includes detailed portraits of all the influential figuresÃ¢â ¬â ¢the creators, directors, and performersÃ¢â ¬â ¢who made it all possible.

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Theater buffs will be delighted to find that this scholarly, definitive work is also a hugely entertaining read.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Publisher's WeeklyÃ¢â ¬Å“Large in spirit as well as scope, and as precise, humble, and wise as that Sondheim lyric with which it begins.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Lloyd Rose, The Washington PostÃ¢â ¬Å“This book is a home run: it is by far the best book ever written about Broadway, a magisterial critical history which will be required reading for virtually anyone interested in musical theater.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Kim Kowalke, The Eastman School of MusicÃ¢â ¬Å“A substantial work of American music history. Scrupulous but not fussy, learned but not pedantic, Stempel is a

fine storyteller who delights in clarity and knows a good joke when he sees one. The precision of his thinking and writing gives the book an aura of authority keenly attuned to the tradition he critiques and celebrates.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Richard Crawford, University of Michigan, emeritus, and author of AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Musical Life: A HistoryÃ¢â ¬Å“Stempel has hit the trifecta: for academics, itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a definitive work of scholarship; for students, itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s the perfect textbook; for ordinary lovers of musical theater, itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a treat to savor at the end of a long day.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Rose Rosengard Subotnik, Brown University

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Best (actually ONLY) textbook on the musical theatre would make this invaluable, but add that it is delightful and readable makes this part of my permanent bedside reading collection. Mr. Stempel’s knowledge and love of the subject is clear throughout the book. The organization and chapter headings make it ideal for teaching and learning the historical development of the genre. I love this

book and give it as a gift frequently to fellow lover’s of musical theatre. Congratulations and gratitude for writing this wonderful book, Mr Stempel.

I expected more showbiz, bright lights and fun than this survey provides. Stempel’s book is academic, fact-filled and heavy going. Little of the joy of the Broadway musical transcends the pedestrian prose. Nevertheless, it’s a worthy catalogue of shows, many of which I’d seen and enjoyed.

This is a very thorough and well-written review of the history of the Broadway musical. It is highly recommended for those interested in the theater.

Still reading it. Great history of the stage and interesting information.

If you’re a musical Historian this is the book for you

At this point, there are a few books covering the history of music theater. Some present it as dry statistics, some take a chronological approach, and some take a very editorialized chronological approach (American Musical Theater: A Chronicle comes immediately to mind). I think the only way to get a grasp on the progress of the musical is to read as many of these as possible and synthesize their thoughts. So, add to that pile this excellent book. It uses a conceptual angle. So there is a chapter on Off-Broadway, a chapter on concept musicals, a chapter on post-modern "antimusicals", etc. This is an effective, entertaining, and interesting way to go about it. The reason there are only four stars instead of five is that the book tends to leave out shows that were more obscure or had short runs. But, going back to the beginning of this review,Ã Â Strike Up the Band: A New History of Musical TheatreÃ Â andÃ Â Off-Broadway Musicals Since 1919: From Greenwich Village Follies to the Toxic AvengerÃ Â will cover the ground left over and give you a pretty decent comprehensive review.

my little gird did a project on Broadway and this book sure helped

The absolute BEST book I have ever read about Musical Theatre.I grew up reading Stanley Green’s WORLD OF MUSICAL COMEDYand have read almost every book about Musicals in my 64 yearsbut this book truly stands out as superbly researched, everything isbrilliantly discussed and

(for a change) I found not one factual error!Also a very thoughtful and intelligent approach to very old musicals and the very new musicals.A sensational job by an excellent writer who I had not know of previously.

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