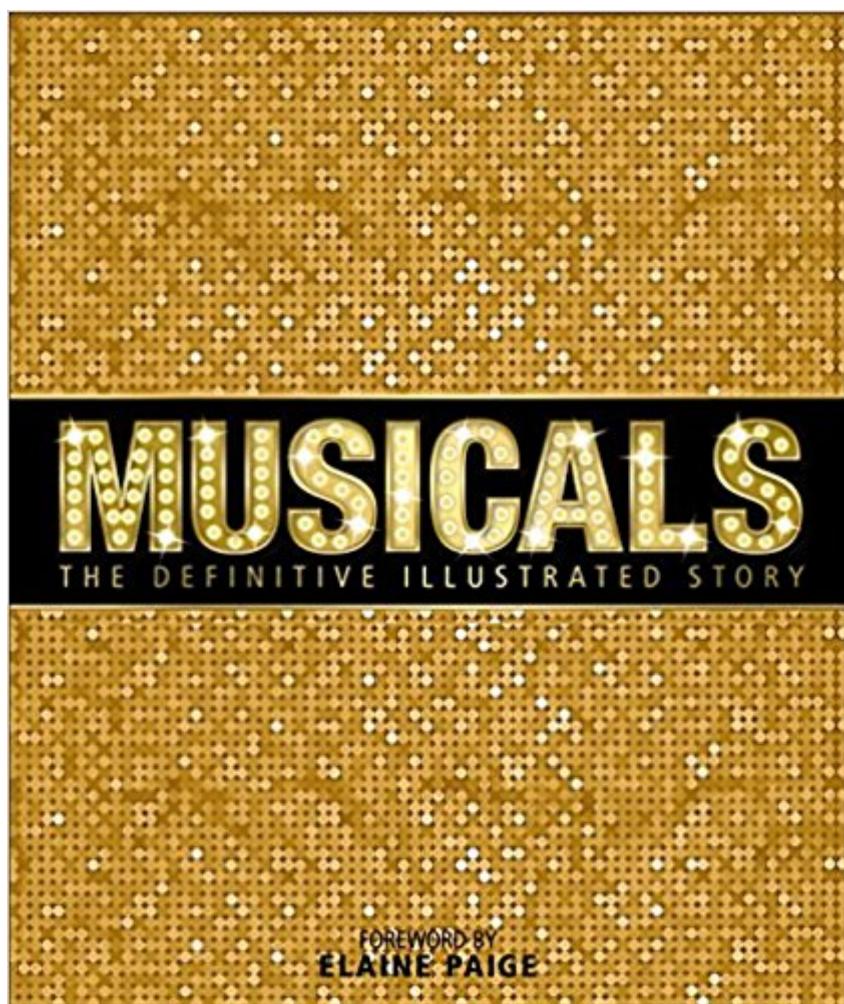


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Musicals: The Definitive Illustrated Story



Synopsis

Musicals: The Definitive Illustrated Story showcases the complete history of the musical on stage and screen, from its origins in ancient Greece to early twentieth century dance halls and vaudeville to the golden age of cinema productions to the record-breaking Broadway musicals of today. Packed with historical insights, memorabilia, behind-the-scenes gossip, and artifacts, *Musicals: The Definitive Illustrated Story* takes you on the ultimate behind-the-scenes tour of the best-loved musicals, such as *Chicago*, *Les Misérables*, *The Lion King*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *The Sound of Music*, and many more. In all, *Musicals: The Definitive Illustrated Story* features more than 140 notable stage and film productions and the stories of the people who created them. Throughout, clear infographics, rich black-and-white and color photography, and a clever, informative design make this comprehensive overview of musical theater and movie musicals a true showstopper.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Broadway hit The cast sing "One Day More" in the Broadway production of the show, which ran for 16 years and 6,680 performances, from 1987 until 2003. [View larger](#)

Gotta Dance "When Oklahoma! arrived, the theaterÃ¢Â"nay, the whole cityÃ¢Â"shook."Ã¢Â"Quentin Crisp, British writer, interviewed in *OK: The Story of Oklahoma!*, 1993 [View larger](#)

[View larger](#)[View larger](#)[View larger](#)[West Side Story](#) "The most savage,

restless, electrifying dance patterns we've been exposed to in a dozen seasons."

Ã¢Â“Walter Kerr, *New York Herald Tribune*, September 27, 1957 Chicago: Storyline In 1920s Chicago, chorus girl Roxie Hart kills her love and, despite Amos, her husband, taking the blame, goes to jail. Here she meets murderess Velma Kelly and prison matron "Mama" Morton. A Musical Revival: 2000Ã¢Â“Present Twenty years after its initial triumph on screen, *Ghost* walked again as a stage musical, in many respects looking just as it had in the cinema.

[Fred Astaire: Dancer, Actor, Singer 1899Ã¢Â“1987](#) Fred Astaire's dancing was renowned for its grace and invention, but he worked hard to achieve perfection. [View larger](#)

[Evita](#) *Evita* proved to be the final major collaboration of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. Its sung-through, big-themed operatic style came to dominate the musical on both sides of the Atlantic for two decades. [View larger](#)

"Musicals is sure to be a toe-tapping hit for fans of the footlights." â " Shelf Awareness (Starred Review)"A visual feast for theater fans and an incredible compendium of musical history and development." â " Library Journal (Starred Review)"This lavishly illustrated coffee table bookâ is a great reference for theater-lovers who want to know more about their favorite shows." â " The Buffalo News"The photos are wonderful and will bring back lots of great memories." â " Dayton Daily News"Fans can never get enough." â " Booklist

How can anyone take seriously a book of supposedly "definitive" musicals and totally omit "Company" and "Follies" yet devote two full splashy pages to "Shrek: The Musical"? Granted, the numerous authors of this useless tome are unknowns or bloggers with not much in the way of credentials, but seriously.....Stephen Sondheim does get two pages devoted to him but again in this list of his "Key Works," neither of these groundbreaking musicals are listed but, hold on, that unmitigated flop "Merrily We Roll Along" is. And so it goes throughout this useless coffee table-sized book that is, in the immortal words of Dorothy Parker, "suitable for throwing." Particularly risible is the inclusion of famous musicals like "Mame," and then ignoring the creator of the role, Angela Lansbury, and instead including pictures of Lucille Ball in what is considered one of the worst movie musicals ever made. "A Little Night Music" ignores the original Broadway cast and instead features Liz Taylor in the role that won a Tony Award for Glynis Johns. Oh, and "Oh! Calcutta!" gets a full

page, as does dreck like "Legally Blonde" and "Ghost: the Musical." "Gypsy" features a photo not of Ethel Merman but of Natalie Wood and "The Pajama Game" ignores the Broadway show entirely but presents Doris Day front and center in every photo. You get the idea.....it's as if the authors didn't trust the readers memory of the great creators of these roles and were only familiar with the, in many cases, horrid movie versions. Seriously....."Ghost: the Musical"?!?!?!?!!!

My kids love this book and going through it all the time and asking questions about who the people and songs were. And then they ask if I knew those people. And I'm thinking I don't look that old do I? Fun book!

I don't know quite WHAT to make of this.I can tell you that, being from DK it is lushly illustrated and continually fascinating... BUTA) It is in NO WAY the "definitive" ANYTHING about musicalsB) While it is a plus that the book treats film musicals as well as stage, the choices are...C) Well, let's say questionable;D) Of course the book treats many, possibly ALL the milestones of musicals... but superficially ANDE) the selection of other musicals it treats with full on entries as opposed to those it lists in the back of the book, is arbitrary at best.(enough with the Letters) Why, for instance, does a pleasant, albeit mediocre, musical like "Kismet" get a two-page spread while the brilliant "City of Angels" gets short shrift? Why do the authors recognize Carlolyn Leigh & Moose Charlap as songwriters for 1954's "Peter Pan" and not Comden/Greene/Styne who contributed almost 1/2 the score?And WHY do they illustrate virtually all the stage musicals with pictures from the (often horrible) film versions (Yes, I mean "Mame"!)In short: Not only isn't it DEFINITIVE, only a completist like me will probably find it necessary!

It is good for people who loves musicals like me

If you like musical theatre this is a mist

Great price for this book. Much cheaper than local bookstores

I bought this as a Christmas gift for my father and step-mother. They love how comprehensive and all encompassing it is. The book is beautifully designed and looks great as scoffed table book. I would definitely buy it again.

It is the best composite of musicals...I love looking at it and reading it...It makes me want to go see all of them...and those I have seen - see them again and again!! I love this book!!!

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