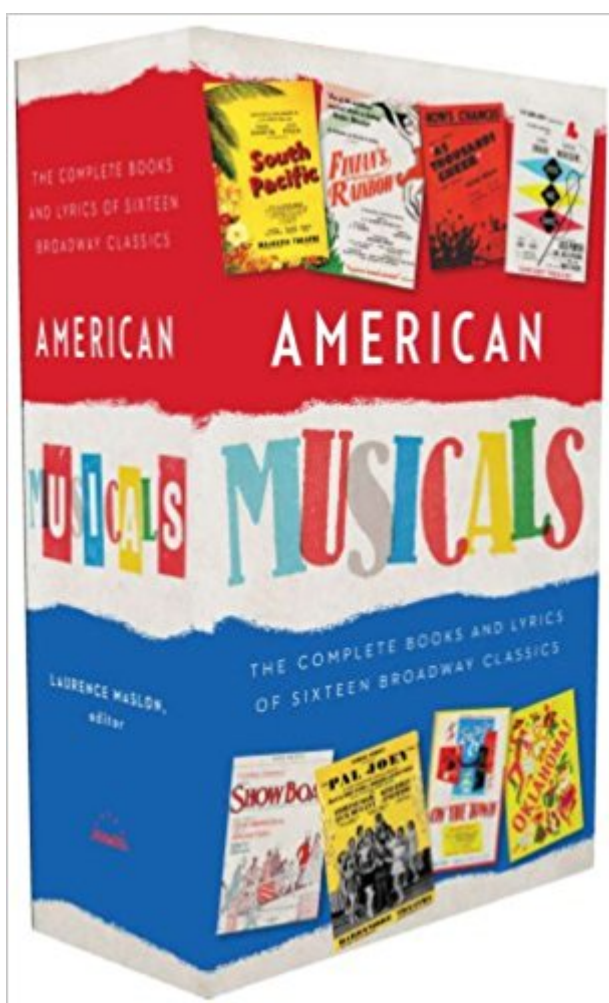


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# American Musicals: The Complete Books And Lyrics Of Sixteen Broadway Classics (Library Of America)



## Synopsis

including *Oklahoma!*, *South Pacific*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Cabaret*, and 11 other great shows, this landmark collection is your ticket to the Golden Age of the Broadway musical: The Broadway musical is one of America's great indigenous popular forms, a glorious hybrid that emerged out of our speech, our tempo, our moral attitudes, our way of moving • (as Leonard Bernstein put it). Now in a landmark two-volume collection, The Library of America presents sixteen enduring masterpieces charting the Broadway musical's narrative tradition from the groundbreaking *Show Boat* (1927) through the genre's Golden Age to its response to the turbulent 1960s with the Tony Award-winning shows *Cabaret* and *1776*. Based on new research, this historic collection presents the complete libretto of each musical in its Broadway opening night version, making these beloved stories available as never before. Irving Berlin and Moss Hart's *As Thousands Cheer* is published here for the first time. *Show Boat* and *Pal Joey* are presented in newly restored versions. Seven other shows, including *South Pacific*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *My Fair Lady*, return to print for the first time in decades. Each of these classic musicals has evolved over time, receiving many important revivals and new productions. This Library of America boxed set offers readers unprecedented insight into this living history with a selection of hard-to-find or previously unpublished supplementary items, including lyrics of songs dropped out-of-town or added in later revivals. Lavishly illustrated with 64 pages of photographs and other images drawn from the original productions, the set also contains biographical sketches of the book writers and lyricists; cast lists and other information about the shows' Broadway openings; and detailed accounts of the path each show took on the road to Broadway. As a special feature, the box includes 16 full-color postcards reproducing the original show posters.

**AMERICAN MUSICALS** contains:

- Volume I
  - Show Boat*: Book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II • Music by Jerome Kern
  - As Thousands Cheer*: Lyrics and music by Irving Berlin • Sketches by Moss Hart
  - Pal Joey*: Book by John O'Hara • Music by Richard Rodgers • Lyrics by Lorenz Hart
  - Oklahoma!*: Music by Richard Rodgers • Book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II
  - On the Town*: Book and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green • Music by Leonard Bernstein
  - Finian's Rainbow*: Music by Burton Lane • Lyrics by E. Y. Harburg • Book by Fred Saidy and E. Y. Harburg
  - Kiss Me, Kate*: Music and lyrics by Cole Porter • Book by Samuel and Bella Spewack
  - South Pacific*: Music by Richard Rodgers • Book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II
- Volume II
  - Guys and Dolls*: Music and lyrics by Frank Loesser • Book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows
  - The Pajama Game*: Book by George Abbott and Richard Bissell • Music and lyrics by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross
  - My Fair Lady*: Adaptation and lyrics by Alan Jay

Lerner    Music by Frederick Loewe    GypsyBook by Arthur Laurents    Music by Jule StyneLyrics  
by Stephen Sondheim    A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the ForumBook by Larry  
Gelbart and Burt Shevelove    Lyrics and music by Stephen Sondheim    Fiddler on the RoofBook  
by Joseph Stein    Music by Jerry Bock    Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick    CabaretBook by Joe  
Masteroff    Music by John Kander    Lyrics by Fred Ebb    1776Music and lyrics by Sherman  
Edwards    Book by Peter Stone

## Book Information

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Culture > General

## Customer Reviews

"The Library of America's American Musicals will provide fans with hours of enjoyment."    Steven  
Suskin, PLAYBILL"This handsome two-volume set . . . returns several major musicals to print for the  
first time in decades. . . . It is as valuable as it is purely enjoyable."    Charles Isherwood, The New  
York Times"Handsomely packaged, with gorgeous production photos. . . . Maslon has chosen  
cannily. . . . These volumes are a charming and unexpected outgrowth of The Library of America's  
archives. For musical-theater buffs, they are indispensable."    Critics at Large"Stunning."    Best  
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NEWSDAY, LA TIMES, SF CHRONICLE, DALLAS MORNING NEWS, GOOD HOUSEKEEPING,  
TIME OUT

Laurence Maslon is an arts professor in the Graduate Acting Program at New York University's

Tisch School of the Arts. The author or editor of several books about musical theater, including *The South Pacific Companion*, he co-wrote two episodes of the Emmy-winning *Broadway: The American Musical* with Michael Kantor, as well as the companion volume. He also wrote the acclaimed *American Masters/Thirteen* documentary *Richard Rodgers: The Sweetest Sounds*. He lives in New York.

If you love great musicals you won't be able to bypass this wonderful collection, in two volumes, of the complete book and lyrics of sixteen iconic American musicals. No excuses now for not getting the words right when you accompany your favourite Broadway performers in their renditions via CD or LP. Packed into a nice sturdy box with some postcards incorporating art from the original productions thrown in for collectors, this is an important publishing event which will have readers crying out for more as there are numerous other classic shows that deserve this sort of appreciation. At the back of each volume are extensive biographical notes on the authors of these noteworthy works plus Broadway Production Notes, additional lyrics, a nice selection of photos and art work from each show plus a comprehensive and invaluable section of explanatory notes giving each musical a very thorough and meaningful history for contemporary readers.

Very good quality set, and worth every cent. You must have this collection if you're at all a fan of musicals.

Clear and accurate

I bought this as a gift for a theatre buff. I am contemplating buying one for myself. I'm impressed by the span of shows and the thoroughness of the thing. At first, I was put off by the size of the books. I was expecting, maybe not coffee table-size, but something more than the diminutive little things they are. But I got to look at them when my fiend unwrapped them. I'm sure I'll get them, once the holidays are over and my finances improve.

I wish I'd read the description more carefully. This is two volumes - in other words, two books including the 16 librettos. I had hoped they would all be separately bound. However, this is a great collection in a nice box with beautiful postcards of the original artwork. My only legitimate complaint is that the pages are fairly thin. A great buy though!

If you're a fan of Broadway music at its best, this is a must for you. I read about it in our local newspaper and knew I had to add it to my library. Pricey but worth it!

Arrived in good condition.

It's fine. Type is small-ish. The commentaries are excellent but not all of the appendix material is accurate (number of performances of Oklahoma! for instance). A nice addition to the theater library but not one I'm likely to consult frequently.

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