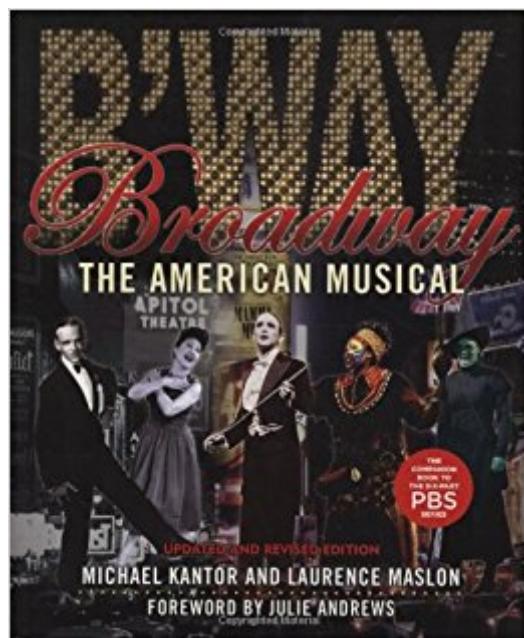


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# Broadway: The American Musical (Applause Books)



## Synopsis

(Applause Books). A companion to the six-part PBS documentary series, Broadway: The American Musical is the first comprehensive history of the musical, from its roots at the turn of the 20th century through the smashing successes of the new millennium. The in-depth text is lavishly illustrated with a treasure trove of photographs, sheet-music covers, posters, scenic renderings, production stills, rehearsal shots and caricatures, many previously unpublished. Revised and updated, with a brand-new foreword by Julie Andrews and new material on all the Broadway musicals through the 2009-2010 season.

## Book Information

Paperback: 498 pages

Publisher: Applause Theatre & Cinema Books; Upd Rev edition (May 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1423491033

ISBN-13: 978-1423491033

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 1.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #199,741 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Broadway & Musicals #118 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Musicals #132 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > History & Criticism

## Customer Reviews

A gorgeous, beautifully written coffee-table book, featuring enough detail to satisfy the most jaded Broadway-phile. *NPR* Though this nostalgia-laden tome is designed as a companion book to a forthcoming PBS series, it stands on its own as a particularly striking and comprehensive take on a uniquely American art form. The copious illustrations alone are worth the price of admission, and the meticulously researched text spans the years in six information-packed chapters. With its beguiling blend of entertainment and history, this splendid work is a must-have, whether you're a musical-comedy devotee (i.e., you know that Barbara Cook's Broadway debut was in 1951's *Flahooley*) or a neophyte (you're not sure who Barbara Cook is). --*Publishers Weekly* This gorgeous behemoth is the ultimate coffee-table book for lovers of the American musical, though it is smarter and better written than such a glib description suggests. Broadway is a great read in its own right,

consisting of Maslon's well-researched, well-written history, which draws on material from Kantor's film, supplemented by 110 years' worth of excerpts from scripts, capsule biographies of noteworthy theater people, and contemporary interviews with great stars. Just in case you can't read, hundreds and hundreds of drop-dead beautiful photographs, many of them rare and rarely reproduced, make this a great grazing-and-gazing experience, too. Booklist Plenty of books have been written on Broadway history and productions before: so what makes Michael Kantor and Laurence Maslon's *Broadway: The American Musical* stand out? Perhaps it's the in-depth color illustration packed into every page of this coverage of Broadway's musical heritage and history, or it's in-depth analysis of Broadway's influence as a cultural force through the decades. Or maybe it's in-depth narratives and handy sidebars highlighting the major stars. All these factors earn an important role as the companion volume to the six-part PBS series of the same name. All of these set *Broadway: The American Musical* high above competitors. --Midwest Book Reviews This masterly compilation would be an exciting adventure for the musical lover even without the televised series. Highly recommended for all theater collections. Library Journal Not a slavish recreation of the series, but its own animal-and an awe-inspiring animal at that-a delicious treat for anyone interested in the history of this cherished American artform. Back Stage West A wonderful, stand-alone, history of the Great White Way and essential for any lover of the American musical theatre. --Town and Country Besides bringing us up to date through the 2009-2010 season, this trade paperback edition has a new foreword by Julie Andrews. They're wondrous things to pull off, she remarks. A great musical is something to be cherished forever. The cast album becomes a friend. So will this gorgeously appointed book, rich with photos and quotes and backstage info-nuggets -- the stories behind *Oklahoma!* and *West Side Story*, to name two classics, are page-turners -- and welcoming *The Light in the Piazza*, *Spring Awakening*, and *In The Heights* to the fold. --Popdose This epic tome by Michael Kantor and Laurence Maslon adds five more years and 40 more pages to the original book, which came out in 2004 as a companion piece to their memorable six-part, Emmy-winning PBS documentary series of the same name.... Handsomely produced and intensely researched. --Playbill

Michael Kantor is a producer of documentary films such as *The West* with Ken Burns, *Lindbergh*, *Out of the Past*, and Ric Burns's *New York* series. Prior to his work in documentary film, Mr. Kantor was a freelance theater director and writer, and has been published in *Newsday*, *Theatre Week*, and *Interview*. Laurence Maslon (New York City, NY) teaches at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and has written extensively on Broadway. He also wrote the American Masters biography of Richard Rodgers and edited an edition of George S. Kaufman's comedies for the Library of America.

Beautiful book great for studying and a nice coffee table book. Lots of pictures and goes decade by decade for easy looking up and learning. I would highly recommend getting the DVD hosted by Julie Andrews as well if you plan to study with it. Highly Recommend if you are extremely interested in Musical Theatre or if you want to have a nice learning tool. This is the link to the DVD if you're interested: [Broadway: The American Musical](#)

This is the absolute finest book about Broadway history that I have ever encountered. Stunning photography, excellent design, brilliant organization, fascinating delivery of the history and evolution of Broadway. I will read this over and over and over, etc. The BEST GIFT ever for A Broadway Lover.

This is a well done companion book to the Special Broadway: The American Musical. It is a wonderful addition to the DVD set. Coffee-table size, excellent photography, and concise information make it a great value. If you are looking for information on a particular show, this is an excellent place to begin.

The PBS documentary and this accompanying book are incomparable.

Bought this book as a text book on the history of American Musical Theater. So glad I took the class, but this book is awesome without the class.

Book version of the PBS special. Full of great info and pictures; a must have for any Broadway fans or anyone wanting to get a deeper understanding of Broadway.

The book more than met our expectations. It is truly a comprehensive guide to Broadway musicals and is thoughtfully organized and contains beautiful pictures.

I loved the TV specials and this hard copy is very welcome to remind me of the musicals I've seen and heard of.

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