



Show Tunes: The Songs, Shows, and Careers of Broadway's Major Composers

By Steven Suskin



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Show Tunes fully chronicles the shows, songs, and careers of the major composers of the American musical theatre, from Jerome Kern's earliest interpolations to the latest hits on Broadway. Legendary composers like Gershwin, Rodgers, Porter, Berlin, Bernstein, and Sondheim have been joined by more recent songwriters like Stephen Schwartz, Stephen Flaherty, Michael John LaChiusa, and Adam Guettel. This majestic reference book covers their work, their innovations, their successes, and their failures. *Show Tunes* is simply the most comprehensive volume of its kind ever produced, and this newly revised and updated edition discusses almost 1,000 shows and 9,000 show tunes. The book has been called "a concise skeleton key to the Broadway musical" (*Variety*) and "a ground-breaking reference work with a difference" (*Show Music*)-or, as the *Washington Post* observed, "It makes you sing and dance all over your memory."

The eagerly anticipated Fourth Edition, updated through May, 2009, features the entire theatrical output of forty of Broadway's leading composers, in addition to a wide selection of work by other songwriters. The listings include essential production data and statistics, the most extensive information available on published and recorded songs, and lively commentary on the shows, songs, and diverse careers. Based on meticulous research, the book also uncovers dozens of lost musicals-including shows that either closed out of town or were never headed for Broadway-and catalogs hundreds of previously unknown songs, including a number of musical gems that have been misplaced, cut, or forgotten. Informative, insightful, and provocative, *Show Tunes* is an essential guide for anyone interested in the American musical.



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Editorial Review

Review

"Three valuable appendixes list the shows chronologically, give data on all collaborators, and offer a bibliography with advice on how to locate the music....the author's comments...provide an excellent narrative about the selected composers....A popular addition for all large collections serving upper-division undergraduates through faculty, professionals, and general readers."--Choice

"All the classics are present in Steven Suskin's dazzlingly thorough catalogue raisonn , Show Tunes, along with other musicals that have taken the stage since 1904, from 'Fascinating Flora' (1907) and 'Fluffy Ruffles' (1908) to 'Bar Mitzvah Boy' (1978)." --The New Yorker

"Suskin's commentary for the majority of cited shows is chattily informative, conjoining anecdotes with facts about why a musical did or didn't succeed. He has clearly studied and loves the genre....The first edition of Suskin's work became an indispensable resource; expanded, updated volumes make Show Tunes all the more valuable."--Show Music

"Virtually a musical theatre encyclopedia, chock full of details and rich analyses of the theatre's most celebrated (and less celebrated) lyricists and composers and their shows and songs."--Encore

"Convenient, and easy to lay your hands on...never dry or dull." --Talkinbroadway.com

"Estimable and essential...Invaluable for reliable fact and for the chasing of references." --Times Literary Supplement

"Suskin does his job well, with balanced essays." --Choice

"An infectious love of musical theatre infuses every passage...meticulously researched exploration." --Second Pages/Planman

About the Author

Steven Suskin is the author of *The Sound of Broadway Music: a Book of Orchestrators and Orchestrations* [OUP, February 2009], *Second Act Trouble*, the *Opening Night on Broadway* series and a half-dozen other books about the Broadway musical. He has also written hundreds of columns and reviews for *Playbill*, *Variety* and other publications. He began his theatrical career as a teenaged assistant at the David Merrick office, followed by twenty-five years as a manager and producer.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Celia Norton:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive currently, people have to do something to make them survive, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a reserve your ability to survive boost then having chance to stand than other is high. For you who want to start reading the book, we give you this kind of Show Tunes: The Songs, Shows, and Careers of Broadway's Major Composers book as beginning and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

Melinda Anderson:

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