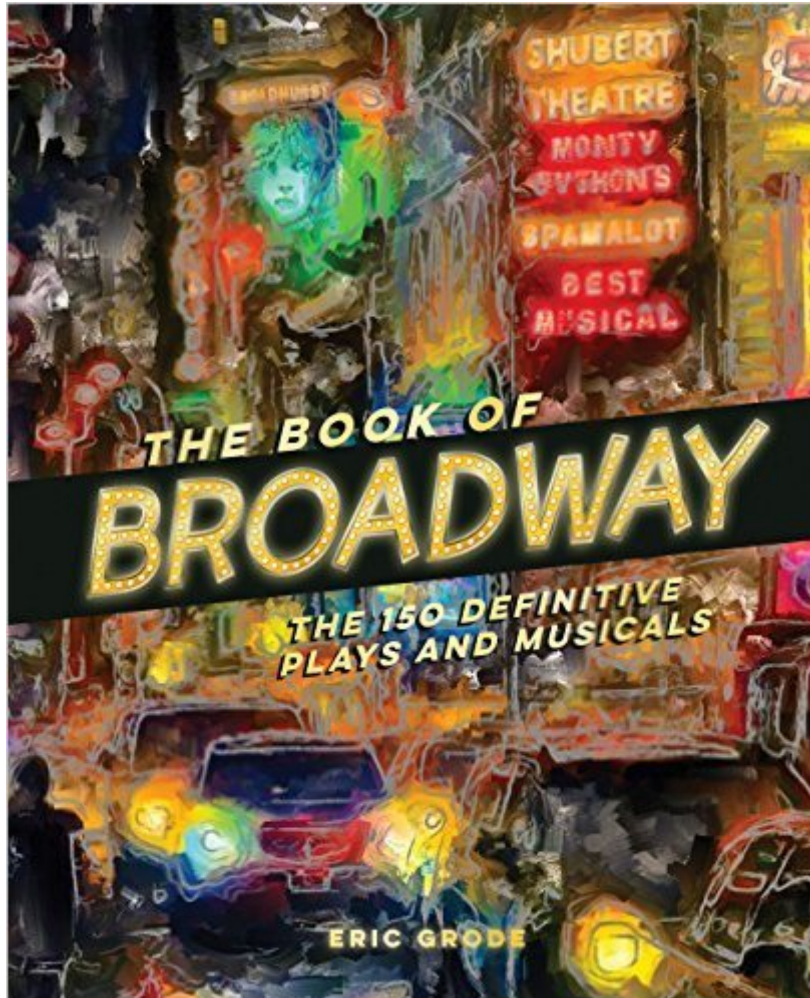


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The Book Of Broadway: The 150 Definitive Plays And Musicals



Synopsis

Relive, or discover, the Broadway productions that have enthralled, enchanted, and enraptured audiences for more than 100 years. *The Book of Broadway* is a celebratory, gorgeous tome dedicated to what is arguably the quintessential American art form: the Broadway show. The book profiles 150 of the best, biggest, most influential, and most fascinating Broadway musicals and plays ever produced, spanning the mid-nineteenth century to the twenty-first century. Shows profiled include everything from the 1860s musical *The Black Crook*, which captivated and titillated audiences for more than five hours, to the Pulitzer Prize-winning 2010 play *Clybourne Park*. The men and women who shaped Broadway history - such as Stephen Sondheim, Tennessee Williams, Bernadette Peters, Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein II, Ethel Merman, Marlon Brando, August Wilson, and Nathan Lane - are celebrated for their groundbreaking work. Photographs throughout illustrate the stunning designs of the shows profiled. Author Eric Grode - an arts writer for *The New York Times*, and author of *Hair: The Story of the Show That Defined a Generation* - has compiled this ultimate guide to Broadway shows, filled with insider knowledge. Theater fans will appreciate the fantastic Broadway trivia scattered throughout the book as well as the palpable sense of history in this encyclopedic treatment of one of our most beloved pastimes. A handful of the shows featured in this book include: *Annie*, *The Book of Mormon*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Chicago*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Grease*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Les Miserables*, *The Music Man*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Rent*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *The Sound of Music*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *West Side Story*

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Customer Reviews

I thought this topic was exhausted as but lo and behold here is a genuinely fresh perspective, well conveyed, without pretense, and thoughtfully constructed. A great book that is easy to digest and full of old friends and lesser known works. Beautifully written. Nice gift.

As both a communication and theatre professor, I am always on the lookout for foundational books that are easy to navigate, enticing enough for the younger generation, and educational enough for the classroom setting. This text is also versatile: primer, reference materials, and coffee table book all in one. Not a book students will sell back at the end of the semester, but one they'll keep for their own bookshelf!

Author Eric Grode warmly admits at the outset that the plays and musicals in this "top 150" reflect his own tastes, biases and experiences. I counted and have seen 92 of the 150 in some production and have never heard before this review of about 20 of them. I would be glad to see all of them again and more as the reader sees them through Eric's knowing words and sharp wit. Eric is a delightfully well-informed theater-goer and quick-minded critic who shares his likes and dislikes in the theater world with us in tightly written comments that enrich and add to our love and appreciation of plays and musicals. The book is almost coffee table size but includes funny anecdotes and tidbits of theater lore that are new to me so as to make it eminently readable in short doses and as a sort of reference. Any one who enjoys theater and all its myth and magic will find this book accessible, a bit outrageous and just right for even self-described jaded playgoers.

Bought this for my Grandson, a talent agent in New York, but of course I had to read it first...may buy another for MY coffee table. This is the history of the TOP 50 Broadway Shows with glorious photo's, background info on the actors and behind the scenes of the productions.

Bought this, along with Razzle Dazzle for my daughter for Chanukah! This book is a fine coffee table book and is great for reminiscing all of the shows that we've seen over the years. We have a season subscription here in Ohio so some of these haven't gotten here yet or are being re-produced from the original. It's great to read about the original ones (such as Porgy & Bess, West Side Story, and others that are back on stage after 25 or 30 years.

Just received the copy I ordered 2 months ago for a Christmas gift, and it has a rather plain brownish yellow cover with text only - no pics on it. Not nearly as nice as the cover pictured here... a bit disappointed.

Great book but when I placed my order there was a different cover showing and it was a MUCH better cover but when my shipment arrived it had the boring yellow cover instead (the image is now updated) so that is pretty disappointing.

This is much more than a coffee-table book. It's a book for your library, if you are the kind of person who enjoys having little-known details on a popular subject at your fingertips. Mr. Grode's choices reflect, he admits, his own preferences, but I found myself agreeing with him. Don't think you can get the same material by browsing the internet. I tried and couldn't. It's a wonderful history of Broadway.

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