



The American Musical

By Ben West

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ABOUT

The American Musical is a comprehensive history of an American art form. It delivers a detailed and definitive portrait of the American musical's artistic evolution over the course of seven distinct, newly defined eras, with a unique perspective gleaned from research at more than twenty different archives across the United States.

Individual in both its approach and coverage, *The American Musical* traces the form's creative journey from its 19th century beginnings, through its 20th century maturation, and to the turn of the 21st century, shedding new light on a myriad of authors, directors, and craftspeople who worked on Broadway and beyond. This book actively addresses the form's often overlooked female and African-American artists, provides an in-depth accounting of such outside influences as minstrelsy, vaudeville, nightclubs, and burlesque, and explores the dynamic relationship between the form and the consciousness of its country.

The American Musical is a fascinating and insightful read for students, artists, and aficionados of the American musical, and anyone with an interest in this singular form of entertainment.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Ben West is a musical theatre artist and historian. His book, *The American Musical*, will be published by Routledge in 2024 and chronicle a detailed and comprehensive history of the art form's artistic evolution. He created twenty "Timeline Walls" for the Museum of Broadway that trace the history of the Broadway stage from 1732 to 2021 and spotlight more than 500 productions and 100 artists. He has worked in various capacities on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and regionally, and created *Unsung Carolyn Leigh* for Lincoln Center's American Songbook series. West has lectured and spoken at several institutions including Yale University, University of Michigan, and the Shubert Organization. BenWestMusicals.com