The Ultimate Broadway Musical List Book

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Synopsis

From Showboat to Hamilton, American musical theater has long held the imagination of the nation’s theatergoers. Those who love Broadway musicals always have their favorites—their all-time bests, their most reviled shows, and the ones that are absolutely unforgettable. The Ultimate Broadway Musical List Book considers the history of the Broadway musical from the unique perspective of the list—the bests and worsts of various eras, the groundbreaking shows and the forgotten gems. Author Steven M. Friedman explores the musicals of the last ninety years, taking apart favorites and flops alike in numerous creative ways. These lists offer facts and background that stimulate laugh and discussion, provoke passionate reactions, and provide tons of fun for any Broadway enthusiast. Offering a new twist on the subject, this collection explores Broadway musicals and their history and provides intriguing background for music theater aficionados of all levels.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I agree with the other review... The concept is great, and the content is also very good. But I just can't get past the numerous, glaring grammatical errors. If I was the employer of this editor he or she would be fired. I hope the author pulls this edition, hires a better editor and rereleases it.

It's an enjoyable book. The list format makes it move quickly and is great for reading on the go. (I hate having to stop and use the bookmark mid-chapter.) It feels like a conversation I might have with friends, but slightly better researched. I'm enjoying the familiar tone, but this is not a serious theater book. There are quotes from critics with harsh critiques of some shows, but the author’s individual tastes show through as more important than critic's or audience’s opinions. That can be a negative,
or it can add to the feeling of an emotional connection with the author. As other commenters said, it appears that no one bothered to proofread (hence my review title.) For example, in one list the author mentions a show that flopped and suggests that audiences objected to a dance sequence with "lude acts." I truly do not understand how the book was published with so many glaring errors.

There are not only many typos (who’s "Fontine"), but factual errors. In the chapter on "flops" it mentions shows like CAMELOT, 110 IN THE SHADE and THE BOY FROM OZ. These were all hits, despite their flaws. The Failed Star Turns also mentions shows that had short runs but were hits because of their stars.

Enjoyed this book but it would have benefitted with some editing. The lists are fine but after each list is an explanation of its inclusion on said list. Unfortunately several musicals made several lists - so much of the material is repetitive - Case in point Sweeney Todd one of the author’s favorites. Enjoyable but I wouldn’t buy it again.

The editing, proofreading and/or writing are on a junior high level. It’s difficult to determine where the blame lies. There are also factual errors. It was CA”>Read more

From one Broadway musical fan to another, definitely knows the musical cannon and was a very enjoying read! However, the multitude of grammatical errors and run on sentences made it extremely distracting!! Definitely came across as an unedited first edition of the book that went straight to a self publishing company. Regardless, I would recommend it to future musical fans if Friedman could fix the grammatical errors and publish a second edition!

I hate it that this book has so many typos and grammatical errors. I think should have a warning label when a book is not proofed.

I bought this sight unseen, without reading reviews, and it was a big mistake. I purchased it because it has a great concept, one that hasn’t been done before. However, perhaps the best thing I can say about it is that the author is enthusiastic. Otherwise, the book is poorly written (you won’t be able to make it through some sentences, and won’t be able to figure out others), poorly researched (spellings vary wildly), poorly (or not) edited, and very poorly proofread (the quotation marks alone will make you want to scream). If you’re familiar at all with Broadway musicals, you will be tempted
by the concept, but stay away. You will not learn anything substantial (or reliable) that you don’t know now. While the author’s passion for the subject is admirable, to charge this much money for this kind of shoddiness is ridiculous.

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