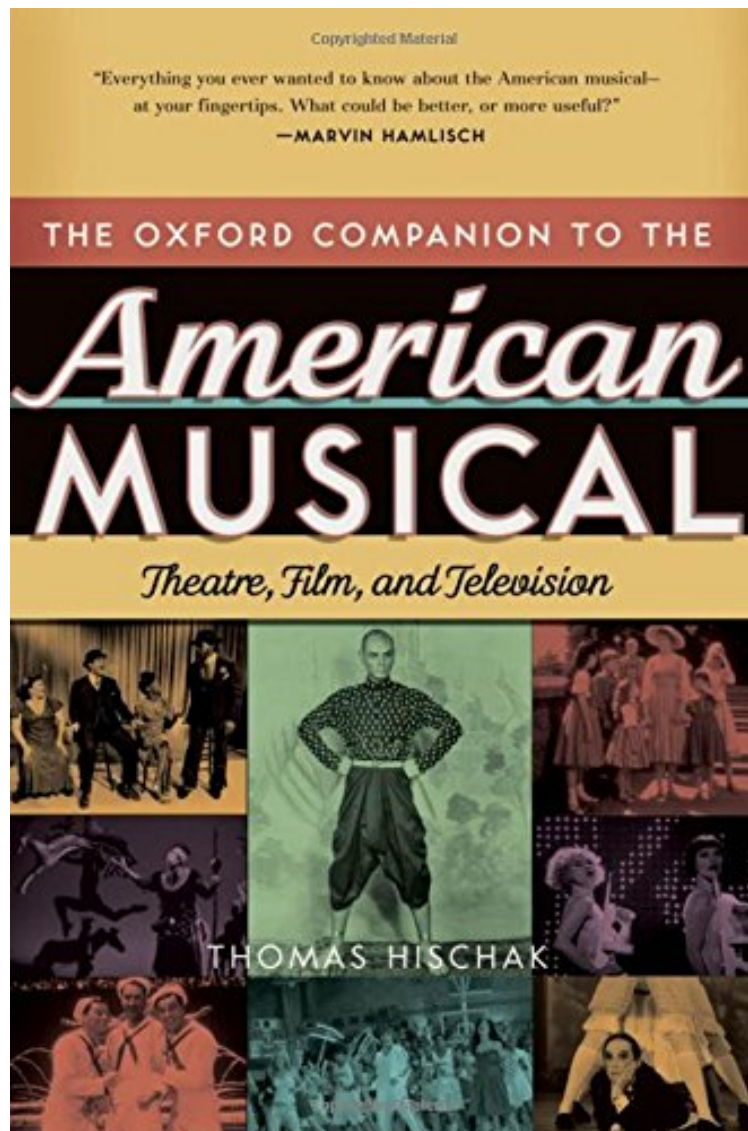


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## The Oxford Companion to the American Musical: Theatre, Film, and Television (Oxford Companions)

Thomas S. Hischak

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**Thomas S. Hischak : The Oxford Companion to the American Musical: Theatre, Film, and Television (Oxford Companions)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Oxford Companion to the American Musical: Theatre, Film, and Television (Oxford Companions):

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By Lester B. Weintraub  
This book fills a giant void. It covers every major Broadway Musical (and some minor ones), most important musical movies and even most musical TV specials. It has biographies of thousands of performers, directors, choreographers, composers, etc. Filled with informative charts and lists. Well Done! Is it complete? Of course not, but it's still the best source I know. Does it have any mistakes? A few, but nothing important. Is it interesting? You bet, I'm reading it page by page.  
I own the Oxford Companion to the Theater and this volume is far superior. Any serious fan of American Musicals has got to have it!  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By yessy  
I love the setup of this book, everything is organized alphabetically by last name!!!  
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Outstanding reference

From the silver screen to the Great White Way, small community theatres to television sets, the musical has long held a special place in America's heart and history. Now, in *The Oxford Companion to the American Musical*, readers who flocked to the movies to see *An American in Paris* or *Chicago*, lined up for tickets to *West Side Story* or *Rent*, or crowded around their TVs to watch *Cinderella* or *High School Musical* can finally turn to a single book for details about them all. For the first time, this popular subject has an engaging and authoritative book as thrilling as the performances themselves. With more than two thousand entries, this illustrated guide offers a wealth of information on musicals, performers, composers, lyricists, producers, choreographers, and much more. Biographical entries range from early stars Fred Astaire, Bing Crosby, Mary Martin, and Mae West to contemporary show-stoppers Nathan Lane, Savion Glover, and Kristin Chenoweth, while composers Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Richard Rodgers, and Andrew Lloyd Webber all have articles, and the choreography of Bob Fosse, Tommy Tune, and Debbie Allen receives due examination. The plays and films covered range from modern hits like *Mamma Mia!* and *Moulin Rouge!* to timeless classics such as *Yankee Doodle Dandy* and *Show Boat*. Also, numerous musicals written specifically for television appear throughout, and many entries follow a work—*Babes in Toyland* for example—as it moves across genres, from stage, to film, to television. The Companion also includes cross references, a comprehensive listing of recommended recordings and further reading, a useful chronology of all the musicals described in the book, plus a complete index of Tony Award and Academy Award winners. Whether you are curious about *Singin' in the Rain* or *Spamalot*, or simply adore *The Wizard of Oz* or *Grease*, this well-researched and entertaining resource is the first place to turn for reliable information on virtually every aspect of the American musical.

From School Library Journal  
Grade 9 Up  
From *The Beggar's Opera* (1750) and *The Black Crook* (1866) to *Wicked* (2003) and *High School Musical 2* (2007), this volume offers a clearly written, comprehensive overview of the American musical theater on the stage, silver screen, and small screen. The 2000-plus entries are brief but detailed accounts of plots; production histories; careers of actors, dancers, musicians, lyricists, composers, choreographers, and directors; organizations; and genres (animated musicals, frontier musicals). Small icons identify the title entries as stage, film, or TV shows. Cast lists in shaded text boxes include members of different productions of the same work. Other boxes list songs from many of the best-known shows and information such as "Longest-Running Off-Broadway Musicals" and "Musicals Nominated for the Best Picture Academy Award." Related biographies and autobiographies are listed at the end of the personal entries. Black-and-white captioned photographs are scattered throughout. The opening "List of Entries" helps make this a browsing delight for casual fans, while appendixes that include "Awards," "Guide to Recordings," and a bibliography of general works about musicals make it a valuable tool for researchers. This thorough work provides enjoyable reading for anyone interested in American theatrical history in general and musicals in particular.  
Ginny Gustin, Sonoma County Library System, Santa Rosa, CA  
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From Booklist  
Hischak, author of 16 books on theater, film, and popular music, offers an informative look at American (and some non-American) musicals as they have been presented on stage, screen, and television. In his preface, he illustrates how the American musical has evolved over the past 140 years from the five-hour-long extravaganza, *The Black Crook*, in 1866, to the popular teenybopper television event, *High School Musical 2*, in 2007. Entries are well researched and written. Among the 2,000-plus entries are those for composers, performers, directors, choreographers, etc., and for individual musical works. The personal entries feature basic biographical information and chronicle the works the artists helped create in a readable narrative style. The remaining entries are for musical-theater works, with particular emphasis on those produced in more than one medium (e.g., *The King and I*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, etc.) Informative histories of the musicals are followed by separate entries for productions in different media, helping the reader to focus attention on the history of each, and Hischak notes the similarities and differences and highlights the advantages or pitfalls of one medium over the other. He precedes each work entry with a theater, film, or television icon for easy identification. Hischak also lists cast members for the major musicals, including the important stage, television, and film performers, along with dates of the productions; and in some cases, he lists the important songs. Useful appendixes include *Chronology of Musicals*, *Awards*, and *Guide to Recordings*. There are many encyclopedias on Broadway and musical-theater themes, most notably *The Virgin Encyclopedia of Stage and Film Musicals* (1999), *Encyclopedia of the Musical Theatre* (2d ed.,

2001), and Broadway Musicals, 1943-2004 (2006). Hirsch's new volume adds to this group admirably by offering more up-to-date works and expanding beyond Broadway. Recommended for public and academic libraries. --Steven York "A magnificent new book about the American musical."--Playbill "Kudos to Thomas Hirsch for The Oxford Companion to the American Musical. Resources such as these are extremely important, not only as historic and academic records, but for future generations of artists who need to understand the legacy they have inherited."--Carol Channing "Everything you ever wanted to know about the American musical--at your fingertips. What could be better, or more useful?"--Marvin Hamlisch "Enjoy as I did this wonderful book as you discover the place of the musical in history and its gift for the future."--Jonathan Pryce "I can't imagine a more comprehensive and useful book for anyone who works in musicals or who simply loves them. It's a great research tool, but also a book to read for the sheer pleasure of finding out anything and everything there is to know on the subject. I'll be referring to it constantly." -Lynn Ahrens "How wonderful it is to have the entire history of the American musical theater, both on stage and on film, now available in one handy volume. Amazingly comprehensive and thoroughly researched, The Oxford Companion to the American Musical is a must for any theater professional or any theater fan." - Stephen Flaherty "Join us, leave your fields to flower and journey through this explosive, informative book that is keeping our legacy of the arts alive." - Ben Vereen "How wonderful it is to have the entire history of the American musical theater, both on stage and on film, now available in one handy volume. Amazingly comprehensive and thoroughly researched, The Oxford Companion to the American Musical is a must for any theater professional or any theater fan."--Stephen Flaherty, Tony and Drama Desk award-winning composer of Ragtime, Once on this Island, and Seussical "[A] brightly written and handsomely laid-out single-volume reference guide The Oxford Companion's strength lies not only in the breadth of its research but in the ability to capture both minor and major artists and musical projects in just a few words."-Robert Viagas, American Theatre "The Oxford imprint has long been associated with solidly researched, intelligent reference works. The Oxford Companion to the American Musical is no exception. Whether you buy it as a gift for a friend or yourself, it's too much fun to pick up for quick browsing and too full of interesting facts to gather dust on the bookshelf."--CurtainUp.com "This is an impressive single-volume resource targeting this beloved American form....While some of the facts can be found in other sources...this title is considerably more comprehensive....Recommended for all music aficionados, students, public, and academic libraries."--Library Journal "This volume is an essential reference work on the shelves of all performing arts collections, large public libraries, academic libraries, and the personal libraries of individuals committed to the American musical."--American Reference Books Annual Online