

150 Years of Broadway Musicals

College of Seniors, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)

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Part I covers the time period from 1860 to the 1950s (Winter Term 2020); Part II covers the time period from the late 1950s to the 2010s. Enjoy short clips of Broadway musicals and some renditions of show tunes on the piano. The short clips come from a variety of sources including performances in community theaters and revivals staged in schools. Experience the fascinating development of the musical from its infancy through the Golden Age of maturity and from the Golden Age to today.

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Corner of 7th Avenue and West 47th Street in Times Square, Credit Line: [Matt H. Wade at Wikimedia](#)

A list of selected musicals follows next. The list serves as a unique compilation of shows for our course. We will not necessarily cover all these in class. The list includes 1) all 101 shows from our Ken Bloom and Frank Vlastnik reference book (see last page), 2) all shows from *The Best Broadway Songs Ever* (Hal Leonard, 1985), and 3) some added by me.

Selected Musicals from 1860-2015

Date	Musical or Description	Music (m), Lyrics (l)	Book (l = lyrics also)
1860	The Seven Sisters	Unknown	Unknown
1866	The Black Crook	Miscellaneous Writers	Charles M. Barras
1874	Evangeline	Edward E. Rice (m,l)	John Cheever Goodwin
1878	The Mulligan Guard Picnic	David Braham (m) Ned Harrigan (l)	Ned Harrigan (l)
1879	The Pirates of Penzance	Arthur Sullivan (m) William S. Gilbert (l)	William S. Gilbert (l)
1891	Robin Hood	Reginald DeKoven (m) Harry B. Smith (l)	Harry B. Smith (l)
1898	Clorindy, the Origin of the Cakewalk	Will Marion Cook (m,l)	Paul Laurence Dunbar
1903	In Dahomey	Will Marion Cook (m) Paul Laurence Dunbar	Jesse Shipp
1903	Babes in Toyland	Victor Herbert (m) Glen MacDonough (l)	Glen MacDonough (l)
1904	Little Johnny Jones	George M. Cohan (m,l)	George M. Cohan (m,l)
1906	The Red Mill	Victor Herbert (m)	Henry Blossom (l)
1907	The Merry Widow	Franz Lehár (m) Adrian Ross (l)	Basil Hood (uncredited)
1917	Oh, Boy!	Jerome Kern (m) P. G. Wodehouse (l)	Guy Bolton and P. G. Wodehouse (l)
1919	Ziegfeld Follies of 1919	Irving Berlin (m,l) and others	Sketches: Gene Buck and Rennold Wolf
1920	Sally	Jerome Kern (m) Clifford Grey (l) and others	Guy Bolton
1921	Shuffle Along	Eubie Blake (m) Noble Sissie (l)	Flournoy E. Miller Aubrey L. Lyles
1923	Runnin' Wild	James Price Johnson (m) Cecil Mack (l)	Flournoy E. Miller Aubrey L. Lyles
1924	Lady, Be Good!	George Gershwin (m) Ira Gershwin (l)	Guy Bolton Fred Thompson
1924	Rose-Marie	Rudolf Friml (m) Herbert Stothart (m) Otto Harbach (l) Oscar Hammerstein II (l)	Otto Harbach (l) Oscar Hammerstein II (l)
1924	The Student Prince (in Heidelberg)	Sigmund Romberg (m) Dorothy Donnelly (l)	Dorothy Donnelly (l)
1925	No, No, Nanette	Vincent Youmans (m) Irving Caesar (l)	Otto Harbach Frank Mandel
1926	Oh, Kay!	George Gershwin (m) Ira Gershwin (l)	Guy Bolton P. G. Wodehouse
1926	The Desert Song	Sigmund Romberg (m) Otto Harbach (l) Oscar Hammerstein II (l)	Otto Harbach (l) Oscar Hammerstein II (l) Frank Mandel

Date	Musical or Description	Music (m), Lyrics (l)	Book (l = lyrics also)
1927	A Connecticut Yankee	Richard Rodgers (m) Lorenz Hart (l)	Herbert Fields, based on the Mark Twain novel: <i>A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court</i>
1927	Funny Face	George Gershwin (m) Ira Gershwin (l)	Paul Gerard Smith Fred Thompson
1927	Good News!	Ray Henderson (m), B. G. DeSylva (l), Lew Brown (l)	Laurence Schwab B. G. DeSylva (l)
1927	Show Boat	Jerome Kern (m) Oscar Hammerstein II (l)	Oscar Hammerstein II (l)
1928	The New Moon	Sigmund Romberg (m) Oscar Hammerstein II (l)	Oscar Hammerstein II (l) Frank Mandel Laurence Schwab
1930	Girl Crazy	George Gershwin (m) Ira Gershwin (l)	Guy Bolton John McGowan
1930	Strike Up the Band	George Gershwin (m) Ira Gershwin (l)	Morrie Ryskind
1931	Of Thee I Sing	George Gershwin (m) Ira Gershwin (l)	George S. Kaufman Morrie Ryskind
1931	The Band Wagon	Arthur Schwartz (m) Howard Dietz (l)	George S. Kaufman Howard Dietz (l)
1932	Gay Divorce	Cole Porter (m,l)	Dwight Taylor Film Version: <i>The Gay Divorcee</i> (1934)
1933	As Thousands Cheer	Irving Berlin (m,l)	Moss Hart (sketches based on newspaper headlines)
1933	Roberta	Jerome Kern (m) Otto Harbach (l)	Otto Harbach (l), based on the Alice Duer Miller novel <i>Gowns by Roberta</i>
1934	Anything Goes	Cole Porter (m,l)	Guy Bolton, P. G. Wodehouse, Howard Lindsay, Russel Crouse
1935	Porgy and Bess	George Gershwin (m) DuBose Heyward (l) Ira Gershwin (l)	DuBose Heyward (l)
1935	Jubilee	Cole Porter (m,l)	Moss Hart
1935	Jumbo	Richard Rodgers (m) Lorenz Hart (l)	Ben Hecht Charles MacArthur
1936	On Your Toes	Richard Rodgers (m) Lorenz Hart (l)	R. Rodgers (m), L. Hart (l), and George Abbott
1936	Red, Hot and Blue!	Cole Porter (m,l)	Howard Lindsay Russel Crouse
1937	Babes in Arms	Richard Rodgers (m) Lorenz Hart (l)	Richard Rodgers (m) Lorenz Hart (l)
1938	The Boys from Syracuse	Richard Rodgers (m) Lorenz Hart (l)	George Abbott

Date	Musical or Description	Music (m), Lyrics (l)	Book (l = lyrics also)
1938	Knickerbocker Holiday	Kurt Weill (m) Maxwell Anderson (l)	Maxwell Anderson (l)
1939	Very Warm for May	Jerome Kern (m) Oscar Hammerstein II (l)	Oscar Hammerstein II (l)
1940	Pal Joey	Richard Rodgers (m) Lorenz Hart (l)	John O'Hara George Abbott (uncredited)
1941	Lady in the Dark	Kurt Weill (m) Ira Gershwin (l)	Moss Hart
1943	Oklahoma!	Richard Rodgers (m) Oscar Hammerstein II (l)	Oscar Hammerstein II (l)
1943	One Touch of Venus	Kurt Weill (m) Ogden Nash (l)	S. J. Perelman Ogden Nash (l)
1944	Bloomer Girl	Harold Arlen (m) E. Y. Harburg (l)	Sig Herzig Fred Saidy
1944	On the Town	Leonard Bernstein (m) Betty Comden (l) Adolph Green (l)	Betty Comden (l) Adolph Green (l)
1945	Carousel	Richard Rodgers (m) Oscar Hammerstein II (l)	Oscar Hammerstein II (l)
1946	Annie Get Your Gun	Irving Berlin (m,l)	Herbert Fields Dorothy Fields
1947	Brigadoon	Frederick Loewe (m) Alan Jay Lerner (l)	Alan Jay Lerner (l)
1947	Finian's Rainbow	Burton Lane (m) E. Y. Harburg (l)	E. Y. Harburg (l) Fred Saidy
1948	Kiss Me, Kate	Cole Porter (m,l)	Samuel Spewack Bella Spewack
1949	Gentlemen Prefer Blondes	Jule Styne (m) Leo Robin (l)	Joseph Stein Anita Loos
1949	Lost in the Stars	Kurt Weill (m) Maxwell Anderson (l)	Maxwell Anderson (l)
1949	South Pacific	Richard Rodgers (m) Oscar Hammerstein II (l)	Oscar Hammerstein II (l) Joshua Logan
1950	Guys and Dolls	Frank Loesser (m,l)	Abe Burrows
1951	A Tree Grows in Brooklyn	Arthur Schwartz (m) Dorothy Fields (l)	George Abbott Betty Smith
1951	The King and I	Richard Rodgers (m) Oscar Hammerstein II (l)	Oscar Hammerstein II (l)
1953	Kismet	Robert Wright (m,l) George Forrest (m,l) based on Alexander Borodin	Charles Lederer Luther Davis
1953	Wonderful Town	Leonard Bernstein (m) Betty Comden (l) Adolph Green (l)	Joseph Fields Jerome Chodorov
1954	Fanny	Harold Rome (m,l)	S. N. Behrman Joshua Logan

Date	Musical or Description	Music (m), Lyrics (l)	Book (l = lyrics also)
1954	Peter Pan	Mark Charlap (m) some Jule Styne (m) other songs Carolyn Leigh (l) Betty Comden (l) Adolph Green (l)	Basis: The play by James Barrie. Book is credited to James Barrie.
1954	The Pajama Game	Richard Adler (m,l) Jerry Ross (m,l)	George Abbott Richard Bissell
1954	The Threepenny Opera	Kurt Weill (m), 1928 Bertolt Brecht (l, Ger., 1928)	Marc Blitzstein (l), English version of the Brecht (German)
1955	Damn Yankees	Richard Adler (m,l) Jerry Ross (m,l)	George Abbott Douglass Wallop Richard Bissell (uncredited)
1956	Bells Are Ringing	Jule Styne (m) Betty Comden (l) Adolph Green (l)	Betty Comden (l) Adolph Green (l)
1956	Li'l Abner	Gene de Paul (m) Johnny Mercer (l)	Norman Panama Melvin Frank
1956	My Fair Lady	Frederick Loewe (m) Alan Jay Lerner (l)	Alan Jay Lerner (l)
1956	The Most Happy Fella	Frank Loesser (m,l)	Frank Loesser (m,l)
1957	The Music Man	Meredith Wilson (m,l)	Meredith Wilson (m,l)
1957	West Side Story	Leonard Bernstein (m) Stephen Sondheim (l)	Idea: Jerome Robbins Book: Arthur Laurents
1959	Fiorello!	Jerry Bock (m) Sheldon Harnick (l)	Jerome Weidman George Abbott
1959	Gypsy	Jule Styne (m) Stephen Sondheim (l)	Arthur Laurents
1959	The Sound of Music	Richard Rodgers (m) Oscar Hammerstein II (l)	Howard Lindsay Russel Crouse
1960	Bye Bye Birdie	Charles Strouse (m) Lee Adams (l)	Michael Stewart
1960	Camelot	Frederick Loewe (m) Alan Jay Lerner (l)	Alan Jay Lerner (l)
1960	Do Re Mi	Jule Styne (m) Betty Comden (l) Adolph Green (l)	Garson Kanin
1960	The Fantasticks	Harvey Schmidt (m)	Tom Jones (l)
1961	Carnival	Bob Merrill (m,l)	Michael Stewart
1961	How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying	Frank Loesser (m,l)	Abe Burrows
1962	A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum	Stephen Sondheim (m,l)	Burt Shevelove Larry Gelbart
1962	I Can Get it for You Wholesale	Harold Rome (m,l)	Jerome Weidman, based on his 1937 novel
1962	Little Me	Cy Coleman (m) Carolyn Leigh (l)	Neil Simon

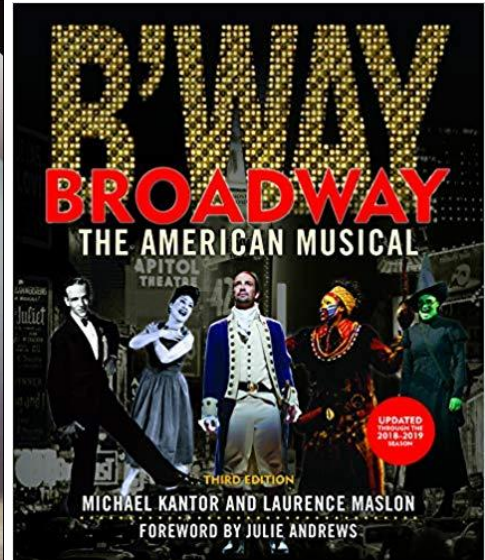
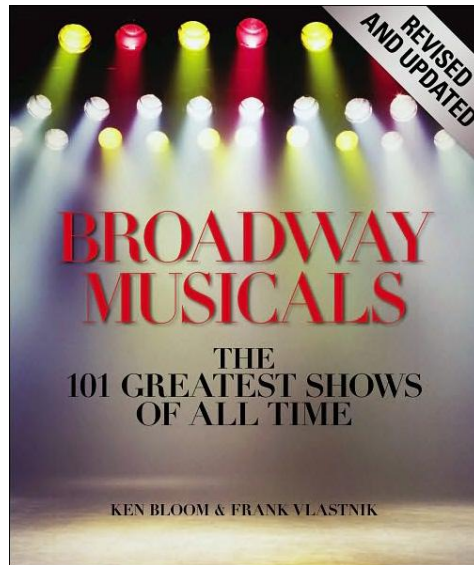
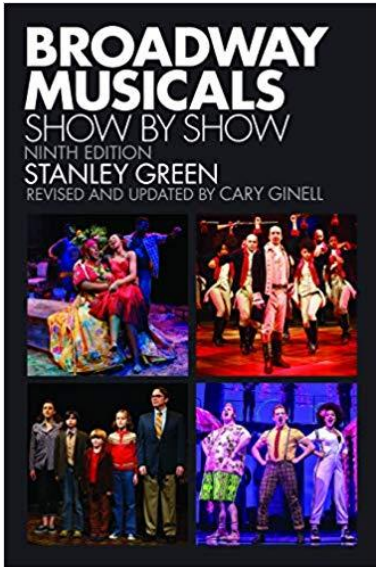
Date	Musical or Description	Music (m), Lyrics (l)	Book (l = lyrics also)
1962	Oliver!	Lionel Bart (m,l)	Lionel Bart (m,l) based on <i>Oliver Twist</i> by Dickens
1962	Stop the World - I Want to Get Off	Leslie Bricusse (m,l) Anthony Newley (m,l)	Leslie Bricusse (m,l) Anthony Newley (m,l)
1963	She Loves Me	Jerry Bock (m) Sheldon Harnick (l)	Joe Masteroff
1964	Fiddler on the Roof	Jerry Bock (m) Sheldon Harnick (l)	Joseph Stein
1964	Funny Girl	Jule Styne (m) Bob Merrill (l)	Isobel Lennart
1964	Hello, Dolly!	Jerry Herman (m,l)	Michael Stewart
1965	On a Clear Day You Can See Forever	Burton Lane (m)	Alan Jay Lerner (l)
1965	Man of La Mancha	Mitch Leigh (m) Joe Darion (l)	Dale Wasserman
1965	Pickwick	Cyril Ornadel (m) Leslie Bricusse (l)	Wolf Mankowitz, based on <i>The Pickwick Papers</i> by Charles Dickens
1965	The Roar of the Greasepaint - The Smell of the Crowd	Leslie Bricusse (m,l) Anthony Newley (m,l)	Leslie Bricusse (m,l) Anthony Newley (m,l)
1966	Cabaret	John Kander (m) Fred Ebb (l)	Joe Masteroff
1966	Mame	Jerry Herman (m,l)	Jerome Lawrence Robert Edwin Lee
1966	Sweet Charity	Cy Coleman (m) Dorothy Fields (l)	Neil Simon
1968	Hair	Galt MacDermot (m) Gerome Ragni (l) James Rado (l)	Gerome Ragni (l) James Rado (l)
1968	Promises, Promises	Burt Bacharach (m) Hal David (l)	Neil Simon
1968	Zorba	John Kander (m) Fred Ebb (l)	Joseph Stein
1969	1776	Sherman Edwards (m,l)	Peter Stone
1969	Dear World	Jerry Herman (m, l)	Jerome Lawrence Robert Edwin Lee
1970	Applause	Charles Strouse (m) Lee Adams (l)	Betty Comden Adolph Green
1970	Company	Stephen Sondheim (m,l)	George Furth
1971	Follies	Stephen Sondheim (m,l)	James Goldman
1971	Jesus Christ Superstar	Andrew Lloyd Webber (m) Tim Rice (l)	Idea: Tom O'Horgan, based on the Passion of Christ
1972	Grease	Jim Jacobs (m,l) Warren Casey (m,l)	Jim Jacobs (m,l) Warren Casey (m,l)
1972	Pippin	Stephen Swartz (m, l)	Roger O. Hirson
1973	A Little Night Music	Stephen Sondheim (m,l)	Hugh Wheeler

Date	Musical or Description	Music (m), Lyrics (l)	Book (l = lyrics also)
1973	Gigi	Frederick Loewe (m) Alan Jay Lerner (l)	Alan Jay Lerner (l) based on the novel by Colette
1974	Mack & Mabel	Jerry Herman (m, l)	Michael Stewart
1975	A Chorus Line	Marvin Hamlisch (m) Edward Kleban (l)	Idea: Michael Bennett Book: James Kirkwood and Nicholas Dante
1975	Chicago	John Kander (m) Fred Ebb (l)	Fred Ebb (l) Bob Fosse
1976	Godspell	Stephen Schwartz (m,l) and Episcopal Hymns	John-Michael Tebelak, based mostly on the Gospel of St. Matthew
1977	Annie	Charles Strouse (m) Martin Charnin (l)	Thomas Meehan
1978	Ain't Misbehavin'	Fats Waller (m) Various Lyricists	Idea: Murray Horwitz and Richard Maltby, Jr., a tribute to black musicians of the 1920s and 1930s
1978	On the Twentieth Century	Cy Coleman (m)	Betty Comden (l) Adolph Green (l)
1979	Evita	Andrew Lloyd Webber (m) Tim Rice (l)	Based on Mary Main's biography of Eva Perón
1979	Sweeney Todd	Stephen Sondheim (m,l)	Hugh Wheeler
1980	42nd Street	Harry Warren (m) Al Dubin (l)	Michael Stewart and Mark Bramble, based on the 1933 film
1981	Dreamgirls	Henry Krieger (m)	Tom Eyer (l)
1981	Sophisticated Ladies	Duke Ellington (m) Various Lyricists	Idea: Donald McKayle, based on the music of Duke Ellington
1982	Cats	Andrew Lloyd Webber (m) Additional: Trevor Nunn (l) Richard Stilgoe (l)	Lyrics based on T. S. Eliot
1982	Nine	Maury Yeston (m,l)	Arthur Kopit Mario Fratti
1983	La Cage Aux Folles	Jerry Herman (m,l)	Harvey Fierstein
1984	Sunday in the Park with George	Stephen Sondheim (m,l)	James Lapine
1985	Song and Dance	Andrew Lloyd Webber (m) Don Black (l) Contributions by Richard Maltby, Jr. (l)	Second Part is a ballet composed by Webber & brother Julian based on Paganini's <i>Caprice No. 24</i>
1986	Me and My Girl	Noel Gay (m) Douglas Furber (l) L. Arthur Rose (l)	Douglas Furber (l) L. Arthur Rose (l) Revised by Stephen Fry and Mike Ockrent (1980s) Orig. 1937, Film 1939: <i>The Lambeth Walk</i>

Date	Musical or Description	Music (m), Lyrics (l)	Book (l = lyrics also)
1987	Les Misérables	Claude-Michel Schönberg (m), Herbert Kretzmer (l)	Idea: Boublil, Schönberg (m) Orig. French: Boublil, Natel Adaptation: Nunn, Caird
1987	Into the Woods	Stephen Sondheim (m,l)	James Lapine
1988	The Phantom of the Opera	Andrew Lloyd Webber (m) Charles Hart (l) Richard Stilgoe (l)	Richard Stilgoe (l) Andrew Lloyd Webber (m)
1989	City of Angels	Cy Coleman (m) David Zippel (l)	Larry Gelbart
1989	Grand Hotel	Robert Wright (m,l) George Forrest (m,l) Maury Yeston (m,l)	Luther Davis based on Vicki Baum's <i>Grand Hotel</i> (1929)
1991	Miss Saigon	Claude-Michel Schönberg (m), Richard Maltby, Jr. (l) Alain Boublil (l)	Claude-Michel Schönberg (m), Alain Boublil (l), based on Puccini's <i>Madame Butterfly</i>
1992	Crazy for You	George Gershwin (m) Ira Gershwin (l)	Ken Ludwig Basis: <i>Girl Crazy</i> (1930)
1993	Kiss of the Spider Woman	John Kander (m) Fred Ebb (l)	Terrence McNally, based on the Manuel Puig novel
1994	Beauty and the Beast	Alan Menken (m) Howard Ashman (l) Tim Rice (l)	Linda Woolverton, who also did the animation screenplay for the 1991 Disney Movie
1994	Sunset Boulevard	Andrew Lloyd Webber (m) Don Black (l) Christopher Hampton (l)	Don Black (l) Christopher Hampton (l) Basis: The 1950 film <i>Sunset Boulevard</i>
1994	Passion	Stephen Sondheim (m,l)	James Lapine, based on the film <i>Passione d'Armore</i>
1996	Rent	Jonathan Larson (m,l)	Jonathan Larson (m,l) Basis: Puccini's opera <i>La bohème</i>
1997	Jekyll & Hyde	Frank Wildhorn (m,l) Leslie Bricusse (l) Steve Cuden (l)	Leslie Bricusse (l), based on <i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> by Robert Louis Stevenson
1997	The Lion King	Elton John (m,l) Tim Rice (m,l), and more music/lyrics by Lebo M., Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin, Julie Taymor, Hans Zimmer	Roger Allers, Irene Mecchi adapted from screenplay by Irene Mecchi, Jonathan Roberts, Linda Woolverton, based on 1994 Disney Film
1998	Ragtime	Stephen Flaherty (m) Lynn Ahrens (l)	Terrence McNally

Date	Musical or Description	Music (m), Lyrics (l)	Book (l = lyrics also)
2000	Aida	Elton John (m) Tim Rice (l)	Linda Woolverton Robert Falls David Henry Hwang Basis: Verdi's <i>Aida</i>
2001	Mamma Mia!	Björn Ulvaeus (m,l) Benny Andersson (m,l) Stig Anderson (l)	Catherine Johnson Basis: Songs of ABBA
2001	The Producers	Mel Brooks (m,l)	Mel Brooks (m,l) Thomas Meehan
2002	Hairspray	Marc Shaiman (m,l) Scott Wittman (l)	Mark O'Donnell Thomas Meehan Basis: The 1988 film
2003	Avenue Q	Robert Lopez (m,l) Jeff Marx (m,l)	Idea: Lopez and Marx Book: Jeff Whitty
2003	Wicked	Stephen Schwartz (m,l)	Winnie Holzman based on novel by Gregory Maguire
2005	Jersey Boys	Bob Gaudio (m) Bob Crewe (l)	Marshall Brickman Rick Elice
2005	Monty Python's Spamalot	John Du Prez (m) Eric Idle (m,l) Neil Innes (m)	Eric Idle (l) Basis: The 1975 film <i>Monty Python and the Holy Grail</i>
2005	The Light in the Piazza	Adam Guettel (m,l)	Craig Lucas, based on the 1960 novella by Elizabeth Spencer
2006	Mary Poppins	Richard M. Sherman (m,l) Robert B. Sherman (m,l) Additional songs by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe	Julian Fellowes, based on the 1964 Disney Film
2006	Grey Gardens	Scott Frankel (m) Michael Korie (l)	Doug Wright, based on the 1975 Documentary
2006	The Drowsy Chaperone	Lisa Lambert (m,l) Greg Morrison (m,l)	Bob Martin Don McKellar
2007	Curtains	John Kander (m) Fred Ebb (l) Additional lyrics by John Kander and Rupert Holmes	Rupert Holmes, based on the 2006 book by Peter Stone
2008	The Little Mermaid	Alan Menken (m) Howard Ashman (l) Glenn Slater (l)	Doug Wright, based on the 1989 Disney Film
2011	The Book of Mormon	Trey Parker (m, l) Robert Lopez (m, l) Matt Stone (m, l)	Trey Parker (m, l) Robert Lopez (m, l) Matt Stone (m, l)
2015	Hamilton	Lin-Manuel Miranda (m,l)	Lin-Manuel Miranda (m,l)

References



Broadway Musicals: Show by Show, 9th edition, Stanley Green, revised and updated by Cary Ginell (Applause Theatre & Cinema Books, Milwaukee, WI, 2019).

Broadway Musicals: The 101 Greatest Shows of All Time, Ken Bloom and Frank Vlastnik (Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers, New York, 2010).

Broadway: The American Musical, Michael Kantor and Laurence Maslon, 3rd edition (Applause, New York, 2020). Companion to the PBS Series, *Broadway: The American Musical*. Updated through the 2018-2019 season.

Musical Theatre: A History, 2nd edition, John Kenrick (Bloomsbury Methuen Drama, London, 2017). Also by John Kenrick is his marvelous website musicals101.com.



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