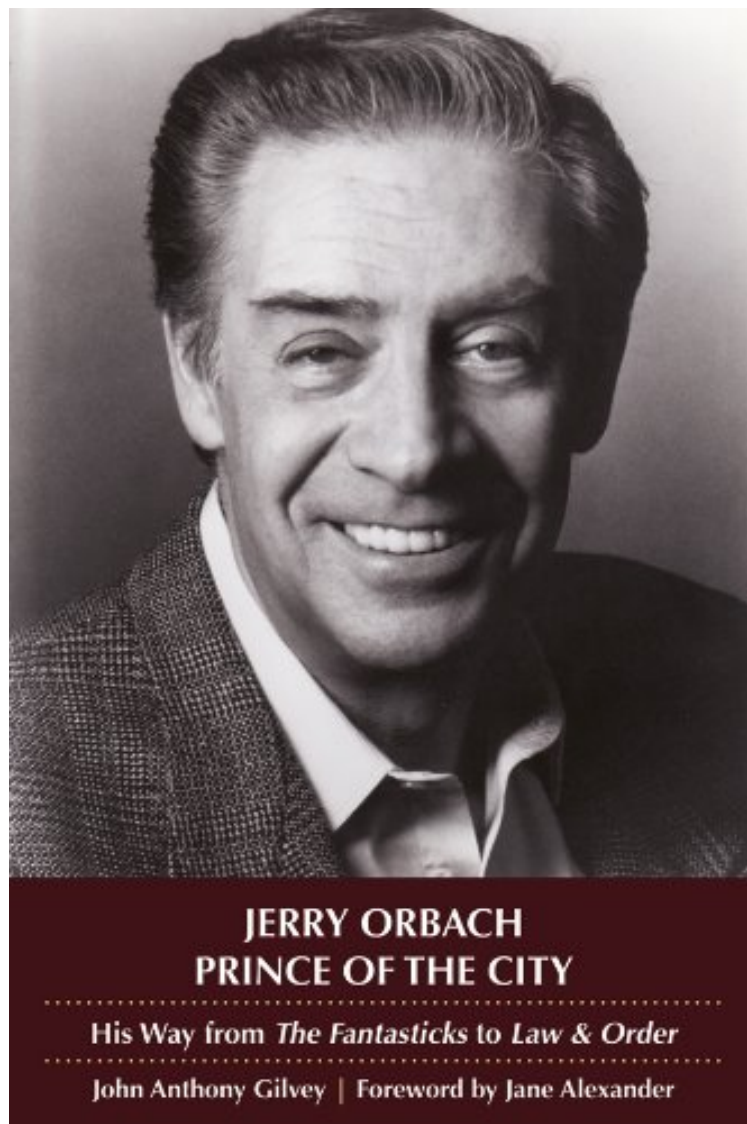


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## **Jerry Orbach, Prince of the City: His Way from *The Fantasticks* to *Law and Order*;**

*John Anthony Gilvey*

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**John Anthony Gilvey : Jerry Orbach, Prince of the City: His Way from *The Fantasticks* to *Law and Order*;** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jerry Orbach, Prince of the City: His Way from *The Fantasticks* to *Law and Order*;

18 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Excellent bio of a great actorBy Roland CalvertJohn Gilvey has two essential qualities a biographer needs: he is an excellent writer and a meticulous researcher. He tells the story of

the man whom Mayor Bloomberg called "a quintessential New Yorker," indeed one who "symbolized the city." Jerry Orbach's triumphs on the Broadway stage are recounted in detail as well as his less successful attempts to break into film and his final great success on TV as Detective Lennie Briscoe in "Law and Order." The most moving part of the book is the actor's struggle with prostate cancer for the final decade of his life. His courage and dedication to his art may well bring tears to your eyes. It is good to have the story of this gifted man so well told. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Definitive Jerry Orbach Life By David F. McBride John Anthony Gilvey's Jerry Orbach, Prince of the City: His Way from "The Fantasticks" to "Law and Order" is a masterfully penned biography of this beloved New Yorker's New Yorker. This work superbly guides the reader on the journey which was Orbach's life from his birth in 1935 to his death in 2004. The reader experiences Orbach, the child, the theatrical performer in high school all the way through the May 2004 season finale of Law and Order, the show that Orbach helped make so successful for NBC. Dr. Gilvey teaches the reader to appreciate Jerry's professional respect for the audience and through Jerry's cherishing of each and every performance of every diverse role as actor or singer throughout his varied career, especially on the live theatre stage, particularly on Broadway. Jerry won the Tony Award for Best Actor in Promises, Promises (1969). At the outset of the book the reader enjoys the lyrics to Try to Remember which Orbach performed as a young "El Gallo" in the musical, The Fantasticks. Carrying the Try to Remember theme through every stage of Orbach's life, Gilvey brilliantly titles the chapters and section headings with that signature song's stanzas! This concise and accessibly worded book is also richly illustrated with apt photos celebrating every stage of Jerry's life. The author narrates the important events in Orbach's experience as much as possible through Orbach's own reflections and words. The reader quickly learns to admire Jerry's acting and singing versatility which accompany the usually sage decisions he made throughout his career. The reader is awed by Orbach's native genius and innate sense of what the audience relates to on emotional, psychological and intellectual planes. We also come to appreciate his omnipresent generosity of spirit through his sense of humor illustrated by hilarious practical jokes with fellow cast members. The reader also suffers with Orbach his disappointments both as an actor and in his failed first marriage. However, we are often reassured that Orbach was a loving, caring and responsible parent. This book clearly demonstrates that Dr. John A. Gilvey has set a new standard of excellence in biographical writing. BRAVO!!! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. has a special touch of camaraderie about it as you can tell the author thoroughly enjoyed writing this book By Beth Hegedus There has always been something incredibly special about Jerry Orbach. From the first time my voice teacher played for me "The Fantastics" and I heard Orbach's mellifluous tones emanating from the stereo...I was hooked. I also remember listening to him in "Carnival" as I prepped for that audition too. His Broadway career is nothing but stellar. However, it was his second career in "Law Order" that showed another side of the song-and-dance man -- his acting chops. A family member was an extra on Law Order, and said Jerry Orbach could not have been nicer. Jerry Orbach's voice was unmistakable, and his theater skills were outstanding. This book, written by John Anthony Gilvey, has a special touch of camaraderie about it as you can tell the author thoroughly enjoyed writing this book, and captures the essence of what made Jerry Jerry. I highly recommend this for anyone who wants to read more about "Lennie Briscoe", Jerry Orbach, song and dance man, or a guy who just loved New York City and theater!

(Applause Books). Today the late actor Jerry Orbach (1935-2004) is best remembered as the world-weary New York City Detective Lennie Briscoe from the Emmy Award-winning NBC television series Law and Order . But that work only accounts for 12 years of a 50-year career that spanned stage, screen, and television. From the moment he landed the role of the Street Singer in the 1955 off-Broadway revival of The Threepenny Opera , he distinguished himself as a major performer in popular musicals and plays, including The Fantasticks , Carnival , Scuba Duba , Promises, Promises , 6 RMS RIV VU , Chicago , and 42nd Street . Jerry Orbach also appeared in over 40 films, with Crimes and Misdemeanors ; Prince of the City ; Dirty Dancing ; and the voice of the candlestick, Lumiere, in Disney's Beauty and the Beast topping the list. From the '60s through the '90s, he was a guest or featured actor on major TV hits like The Defenders ; Love American Style ; Murder, She Wrote ; The Golden Girls ; and Frasier . Jerry Orbach, Prince of the City is the story of this versatile performer his triumphs and tragedies public and private. Most of all, it is a study of a gifted actor's craft as told through the observations, insights, and reminiscences of those who knew him best. (a href="http://halleonardbooks.com/viewaudio.do?itemId=00314818fileName=http://s3.amazonaws.com/halleonard-closerlook/00314818/GilveyPodcast.mp3" target="\_blank") Listen to John Anthony Gilvey live at Book Expo America on the BEA Podcast. (/a)

Jerry Orbach was special. We knew it from the first minute he auditioned for The Fantasticks in 1960. Broadway audiences knew it for decades after that, and film and television audiences around the world came to know it, too. But to understand just how special he really was--how interesting, how funny, and how courageous--you have only to read this book. It is a treasure. --Tom Jones, lyricist/librettist of The Fantasticks Jerry Orbach was not only a great actor, he was a great person. There was nothing he could not do, and do superbly. Prince of the City captures him perfectly; it's a wonderful biography. --Chita Rivera, actress, Jerry Orbach's co-star in Chicago Jerry Orbach was a consummate professional, incredible performer, and one of the nicest guys in the business. He was loved by all. As Lennie Briscoe

on Law Order, he was a huge part of the show's success. John Gilvey's biography captures the essence of Jerry Orbach. --Dick Wolf, creator and executive producer of Law Order  
About the Author  
John Anthony Gilvey is an educator, and graduate of New York University's doctoral program in educational theatre. He is a noted authority on the Broadway musical and the author of Before the Parade Passes By: Gower Champion and the Glorious American Musical.