

Writing Musical Theater

A. Cohen, S. Rosenhaus

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A. Cohen, S. Rosenhaus : Writing Musical Theater before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Writing Musical Theater:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Best Book on of Musical Theater WritingBy
SomeGuyYouDon'tKnowI own several excellent books on writing musicals, and if I could keep only one, this is the one I'd save.Both authors are experienced teachers, which is a great benefit to the reader -- the book reads like a well-written instruction manual: clear, concise, straightforward, and practical. It explains the nuts and bolts of a good musical and how to approach them, with examples and explanations of what tends to work and what doesn't. (This is

not to say that the authors encourage formulaic writing -- the guidelines are not rigid, and they are reasoned well enough that a reader can make informed decisions). The most unique feature of this book is that the authors actually brainstormed and wrote an "example" musical and documented their procedures and decisions along the way. This is an invaluable resource which adds a very practical, hands-on dimension to what was already an excellent book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Satya J. Palit Very useful 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Musical Theater Book By Doodlebug Although I did receive some valuable tips and information from this book, I would have liked more of the author's feeling about some of the newer musicals out there. It almost seemed like they avoided any critical commentary on some of the musicals I've seen that don't have a very strong story line. However, the book is well worth buying if you are interested in writing musicals. It gives you the basics, and I was able to use some of what I learned to restructure the musical I am working on.

This guide to the modern musical covers the entire process of creating a show, from finding and working out the initial idea, through to the ways in which writers can market a finished show and get it produced. For the interested theatregoer and writers, it is written in a lively and user-friendly style and illustrated with numerous examples.

About the Author Steven L. Rosenhaus has written music and/or lyrics for several musicals, as well as incidental music for plays, film scores, and commercials. His concert works in a variety of genres have been performed throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. He has over a hundred original works and arrangements in print, and several works recorded on compact discs. Dr. Rosenhaus serves as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Composition at NYU, teaching both classical and musical theater composition, and also teaches songwriting and other subjects at Nassau Community College. Allen Cohen has written the scores for several musicals, four films, and two off-Broadway plays. He has conducted, or written dance music for, six musicals on Broadway and many shows off-Broadway and around the country. His concert music has been performed throughout the world and recorded on several compact discs. Currently Assistant Professor of Music at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Dr. Cohen is a former member of the BMI and ASCAP Musical Theatre Workshops. He is the author of "Howard Hanson in Theory and Practice" and the children's book "That's So Funny I Forgot to Laugh!," which has sold more than half a million copies.