

script musical south pacific

****Exploring the Script of the Musical South Pacific: A Timeless Classic****

script musical south pacific immediately evokes images of sun-drenched islands, sweeping romance, and unforgettable melodies. This beloved musical, first brought to life by Rodgers and Hammerstein, remains a staple in theatre repertoires around the world. But beyond its iconic songs lies a rich and compelling script that captures complex themes of love, war, prejudice, and human connection. Whether you're a theatre enthusiast, a student of musical theatre, or simply curious about how this classic production works on a textual level, understanding the script of South Pacific offers a fascinating glimpse into one of the most enduring works in American musical history.

The Heart of the Story: Understanding the Script Musical South Pacific

South Pacific's script is based on James A. Michener's Pulitzer Prize-winning book **Tales of the South Pacific**, which is a collection of interconnected stories set during World War II. The musical's book, written by Oscar Hammerstein II, weaves these narratives into a cohesive story centered around two main love stories: the romance between Nellie Forbush, a Navy nurse, and Emile de Becque, a French plantation owner, and the bond between Lt. Joseph Cable and Liat, a young islander.

What makes the script musical South Pacific so compelling is its ability to balance tender, romantic moments with heavier social commentary. It tackles issues such as racial prejudice and the impact of war, which was somewhat groundbreaking when it premiered in 1949. The dialogue and scenes skillfully reveal the characters' inner conflicts and growth, making the story both personal and universal.

Character Development in the South Pacific Script

One of the strengths of the South Pacific script is its nuanced characterizations. Nellie Forbush, for example, starts as a naïve and somewhat prejudiced woman who confronts her own biases as she falls in love with Emile. Emile's character brings depth through his mysterious past and his own struggles with identity and love. Lt. Cable's storyline further explores themes of cultural barriers and moral dilemmas.

The script's dialogue is carefully crafted to reflect the era while still feeling accessible to modern audiences. Through conversations and monologues, the characters reveal layers of vulnerability, hope, and resilience, which adds emotional weight to the musical numbers that punctuate the story.

Key Themes and Messages in the Script Musical South Pacific

South Pacific is renowned not just for its romantic plotlines but also for its bold engagement with themes of race and tolerance. The script doesn't shy away from addressing the racial prejudices that existed during the 1940s, particularly within the U.S. military and American society at large.

Racial Prejudice and Social Commentary

One of the most memorable moments in the script comes from the song "You've Got to Be Carefully Taught," which directly confronts the learned nature of racial hatred. The script sets up this song within a scene where Lt. Cable struggles with his feelings for Liat and the societal pressures against interracial relationships.

This candid approach was quite daring for its time and continues to resonate today. The script's treatment of these issues encourages audiences to reflect on their own attitudes and the ongoing challenges of racial discrimination.

Love and War Intertwined

The backdrop of World War II is more than just a setting in South Pacific; it actively shapes the characters' lives and decisions. The script expertly portrays how war creates urgency and intensity in relationships, while also highlighting the fragility and uncertainty of life during conflict.

The juxtaposition of the idyllic island setting with the harsh realities of war is a recurring motif throughout the script, symbolizing both escape and confrontation. This duality enriches the narrative and offers multiple layers of interpretation.

How the Script of South Pacific Shapes the Musical Experience

While the music and lyrics by Rodgers and Hammerstein are often the star attractions, the script is the backbone that holds the entire production together. It provides context, pacing, and emotional depth, making the musical numbers more impactful.

Script and Song Integration

The transitions between dialogue and song in South Pacific are seamless, largely due to the script's intelligent construction. Each song is rooted in a clear narrative moment, advancing

the plot or deepening character emotions rather than serving as mere entertainment breaks.

For example, “Some Enchanted Evening” is not just a beautiful ballad; it emerges naturally from Emile’s expression of love and longing, framed by the script’s setup of his relationship with Nellie. Similarly, “Bali Ha’i” invites audiences into the mystical and exotic world of the island, reinforcing the atmosphere created by the script’s descriptive scenes.

Adapting the Script for Modern Audiences

Directors and theatre companies often face the challenge of balancing authenticity with contemporary sensibilities when staging *South Pacific*. The script, while a product of its time, offers opportunities for thoughtful interpretation and adaptation.

Some productions choose to emphasize the script’s messages about racial equality more explicitly, sometimes updating language or staging to resonate with today’s viewers. Understanding the nuances of the original script is crucial for these adaptations to maintain the integrity and spirit of the musical.

Tips for Working with the Script Musical South Pacific

If you’re involved in a production or study of *South Pacific*, here are some helpful insights:

- **Focus on Character Arcs:** Pay close attention to how the script develops each character’s journey, especially with regard to their personal growth and struggles with prejudice.
- **Emphasize the Social Themes:** Don’t shy away from the script’s social commentary. Use it to create meaningful discussions and deepen audience engagement.
- **Balance Dialogue and Song:** Practice smooth transitions between spoken lines and musical numbers to maintain narrative flow.
- **Research Historical Context:** Understanding the World War II era and societal attitudes of the time can enrich your interpretation of the script.
- **Respect the Text While Being Creative:** The script provides a strong foundation, but thoughtful directorial choices can bring fresh perspectives to the story.

Where to Find the Script and Additional Resources

For those interested in reading or performing South Pacific, the official script is typically available through theatrical licensing agencies such as Rodgers & Hammerstein Theatricals. Additionally, many libraries and bookstores offer versions of the script or the original Michener stories for deeper context.

Exploring scholarly analyses and historical critiques can also enhance your appreciation of the script's cultural significance and artistic achievements.

Delving into the script musical South Pacific reveals why this production continues to captivate audiences decades after its debut. Its rich storytelling, memorable characters, and courageous themes combine to create a work that is both entertaining and thought-provoking. Whether on stage or page, South Pacific's script offers a timeless journey into love, courage, and the quest for understanding across cultural divides.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the plot of the musical South Pacific?

South Pacific is a musical set during World War II that follows the romantic relationships between an American nurse and a French plantation owner, and a young Marine and a Tonkinese woman, exploring themes of love, war, and racial prejudice.

Who wrote the script for South Pacific?

The script, or book, of South Pacific was written by Oscar Hammerstein II, adapted from James A. Michener's book 'Tales of the South Pacific.'

When did South Pacific premiere on Broadway?

South Pacific premiered on Broadway on April 7, 1949, at the Majestic Theatre in New York City.

What are some famous songs from South Pacific?

Some famous songs from South Pacific include 'Some Enchanted Evening,' 'Bali Ha'i,' 'I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair,' and 'There Is Nothin' Like a Dame.'

How does the script of South Pacific address racial

issues?

The script addresses racial issues through its characters' relationships and dialogue, highlighting the prejudices and challenges faced during the time, especially in the songs 'You've Got to Be Carefully Taught' and the interracial romance subplot.

Has the script of South Pacific been adapted into films or other media?

Yes, South Pacific has been adapted into a 1958 film directed by Joshua Logan and various stage revivals and television productions, maintaining much of the original script and score.

Who are the main characters in the South Pacific script?

The main characters include Nellie Forbush, a U.S. Navy nurse; Emile de Becque, a French plantation owner; Lt. Joseph Cable, a young Marine officer; and Bloody Mary, a Tonkinese woman.

What themes are explored in the South Pacific musical script?

The script explores themes such as love and romance during wartime, cultural clashes, racial prejudice, identity, and the impact of war on individuals and society.

Additional Resources

Script Musical South Pacific: An In-Depth Exploration of Rodgers and Hammerstein's Timeless Masterpiece

script musical south pacific serves as the backbone for one of the most celebrated and enduring works in American musical theater. Since its original Broadway debut in 1949, the musical South Pacific has captivated audiences with its compelling narrative, memorable characters, and a poignant exploration of complex social themes. The script, crafted by Oscar Hammerstein II and Richard Rodgers, is a pivotal element that harmoniously blends storytelling with music, creating an immersive theatrical experience that remains relevant decades later.

The Narrative Structure and Thematic Depth of the South Pacific Script

The script musical South Pacific is distinguished by its layered storytelling, which intertwines personal romance with broader societal issues. Set against the backdrop of World War II in the South Pacific islands, the narrative juxtaposes two central love stories: the romance between Nellie Forbush, a spirited American nurse, and Emile de Becque, a French plantation owner; and the relationship between Lieutenant Joseph Cable and Liat, a

young Tonkinese woman. These parallel plots are not mere romantic escapades but vehicles through which the script explores themes of racial prejudice, cultural conflict, and the human cost of war.

Hammerstein's script adeptly balances the intimate with the epic, using character-driven dialogue and carefully paced scenes to maintain dramatic tension while advancing the plot. The dialogue is notable for its naturalistic tone and emotional authenticity, which helps ground the musical's more idealistic moments in relatable human experiences. This narrative approach was innovative for its time, as it challenged the conventions of musical theater by addressing uncomfortable social realities through the medium of entertainment.

Character Development and Dialogue

A close examination of the script musical *South Pacific* reveals a sophisticated approach to character development. Nellie Forbush, for instance, is portrayed with nuanced contradictions—her innocence and vivacity contrast sharply with her ingrained prejudices, which she must confront and overcome. Emile de Becque's character carries the weight of past personal tragedy, adding depth and gravitas to his interactions with Nellie. The dialogue between these characters is crafted to reveal internal conflicts and societal pressures subtly but effectively.

Similarly, the subplot involving Lieutenant Cable and Liat offers a poignant commentary on cross-cultural relationships and the barriers imposed by race and colonial attitudes. The interplay between characters is marked by moments of tenderness and tension, skillfully scripted to evoke empathy and reflection from the audience.

Integration of Music and Script: A Symbiotic Relationship

One of the most remarkable features of the script musical *South Pacific* is its seamless integration with the musical score. Rodgers and Hammerstein's collaboration ensured that the script was not merely a framework for songs but an integral component that enhanced the emotional resonance of the music. Iconic numbers such as "Some Enchanted Evening," "Bali Ha'i," and "Younger Than Springtime" are woven into the script at moments that amplify character emotions and advance the storyline.

The lyrics and dialogue often mirror each other, creating a dialogue between spoken word and song that enriches the narrative texture. This interplay exemplifies the golden age of American musicals, where script and score are interdependent, each elevating the other to create a cohesive artistic whole.

Comparative Analysis: South Pacific Script Versus

Contemporary Musicals

In comparison to other musicals of the same era, the script musical *South Pacific* stands out for its willingness to confront controversial themes. While many contemporaneous productions favored escapism and lighthearted romance, *South Pacific* tackled issues of racial discrimination head-on. This boldness is reflected in the script's frank treatment of prejudice, a decision that sparked both acclaim and debate upon its release.

Modern musicals often incorporate social issues, but *South Pacific*'s approach was pioneering in its directness and the complexity with which it portrayed characters grappling with their biases. The script's ability to blend entertainment with social commentary has influenced countless productions and remains a benchmark for musical theater writers today.

Production Considerations: Script Usage and Adaptations

For directors and performers, the script musical *South Pacific* offers a rich resource that supports varied interpretations. The script's detailed stage directions and character notes provide guidance while allowing room for creative expression. This flexibility has facilitated numerous revivals and adaptations, including film versions and regional theater productions.

Challenges and Opportunities in Staging the Script

Staging *South Pacific* requires sensitivity to the script's cultural and historical contexts. Directors must navigate the portrayal of racial themes with an awareness of contemporary perspectives to avoid perpetuating stereotypes. The script's language and characterizations, while progressive for their time, may necessitate thoughtful adaptation or contextual framing to resonate with today's audiences.

Moreover, the script's pacing and scene transitions demand precise timing to maintain narrative flow alongside musical interludes. Successful productions often highlight the script's emotional core, ensuring that the story remains compelling beyond the spectacle of musical numbers.

- **Pros of the Script:** Rich character development, meaningful exploration of social issues, strong integration with music.
- **Cons of the Script:** Potentially dated language, cultural depictions that require sensitive handling, complexity that may challenge inexperienced productions.

The Enduring Legacy of the South Pacific Script

Decades after its premiere, the script musical *South Pacific* continues to be studied and performed worldwide, a testament to its enduring power and relevance. Its influence extends beyond theater into discussions on race relations and the capacity of art to address societal challenges. The script's blend of romance, drama, and social critique exemplifies the potential of musical theater to engage audiences intellectually and emotionally.

In academic circles, the *South Pacific* script is often analyzed for its narrative techniques and thematic boldness, serving as a model for integrating complex issues into popular art forms. Its success has inspired adaptations and reinterpretations that seek to preserve its core messages while updating its presentation for new generations.

Ultimately, the script musical *South Pacific* remains a cornerstone of musical theater literature, offering a compelling narrative that challenges, entertains, and inspires. Its thoughtful construction and courageous storytelling continue to invite audiences to reflect on love, prejudice, and humanity amid the backdrop of war and cultural encounter.

[Script Musical South Pacific](#)

script musical south pacific: *South Pacific* Jim Lovensheimer, 2010-08-26 Rodgers and Hammerstein's Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning musical *South Pacific* has remained a mainstay of the American musical theater since it opened in 1949, and its powerful message about racial intolerance continues to resonate with twenty-first century audiences. Drawing on extensive research in the Rodgers and the Hammerstein papers, including Hammerstein's personal notes on James A. Michener's *Tales of the South Pacific*, Jim Lovensheimer offers a fascinating reading of *South Pacific* that explores the show's complex messages and demonstrates how the presentation of those messages changed throughout the creative process. Indeed, the author shows how Rodgers and especially Hammerstein continually refined and softened the theme of racial intolerance until it was more acceptable to mainstream Broadway audiences. Likewise, Lovensheimer describes the treatment of gender and colonialism in the musical, tracing how it both reflected and challenged early Cold War Era American norms. The book also offers valuable background to the writing of *South Pacific*, exploring the earlier careers of both Rodgers and Hammerstein, showing how they frequently explored serious social issues in their other works, and discussing their involvement in the political movements of their day, such as Hammerstein's founding membership in the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League. Finally, the book features many wonderful appendices, including two that compare the original draft and final form of the classic songs *I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Out-a My Hair* and *I'm In Love With a Wonderful Guy*. Thoroughly researched and compellingly written, this superb book offers a rich, intriguing portrait of a Broadway masterpiece and the era in which it was created.

script musical south pacific: Michener's South Pacific Stephen J. May, 2011-03-20 The creation of one of the most beloved books and Broadway musicals of the century When the Japanese military attacked Pearl Harbor, James A. Michener was an obscure textbook editor working in New York. Within three years, he was a naval officer stationed in the South Pacific. By the end of the decade, he was an accomplished author, well on the way to worldwide fame. Michener's first novel, *Tales of the South Pacific*, won the Pulitzer Prize. Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein used it as the basis for the Broadway musical *South Pacific*, which also won the Pulitzer. How this all came

to be is the subject of Stephen May's Michener's South Pacific. An award-winning biographer of Michener, May was a featured interviewee on the fiftieth-anniversary DVD release of the film version of the musical. During taping, he realized there was much he didn't know about how Michener's experiences in the South Pacific shaped the man and led to his early work. May delves deeply into this formative and turbulent period in Michener's life and career, using letters, journal entries, and naval records to examine how a reserved, middle-aged lieutenant known as Prof to his fellow officers became one of the most successful writers of the twentieth century.

script musical south pacific: *Blues Mamas and Broadway Belters* Masi Asare, 2024-09-20 In *Blues Mamas and Broadway Belters*, songwriter, scholar, and dramatist Masi Asare explores the singing practice of black women singers in US musical theatre between 1900 and 1970. Asare shows how a vanguard of black women singers including Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, Bessie Smith, Ethel Waters, Pearl Bailey, Juanita Hall, Lena Horne, Eartha Kitt, Diahann Carroll, and Leslie Uggams created a lineage of highly trained and effective voice teachers whose sound and vocal techniques continue to be heard today. Challenging pervasive narratives that these and other black women possessed "untrained" voices, Asare theorizes singing as a form of sonic citational practice—how the sound of the teacher's voice lives on in the student's singing. From vaudeville-blues shouters, black torch singers, and character actresses to nightclub vocalists and Broadway glamour girls, Asare locates black women of the musical stage in the context of historical voice pedagogy. She invites readers not only to study these singers, but to study with them—taking seriously what they and their contemporaries have taught about the voice. Ultimately, Asare speaks to the need to feel and hear the racial history in contemporary musical theatre.

script musical south pacific: *The Sound of Their Music* Frederick W. Nolan, 2002-09 (Applause Books). The greatest partnership in the history of the musical, captured in print, wonderfully illustrated. For this new edition, the book has been completely rewritten and substantially expanded to include material on Rodgers' early career with Lorenz Hart as well as his later work, and also features recollections from such theatrical titans as Sheldon Harnick, Martin Charnin, Stephen Sondheim and Arthur Laurents. Also, a completely new appendix reveals the details of the continuing worldwide phenomenon of Rodgers and Hammerstein's work up to and including the 2002 centennial year for Rodgers.

script musical south pacific: *The Complete Book of 1940s Broadway Musicals* Dan Dietz, 2015-02-02 The debut of *Oklahoma!* in 1943 ushered in the modern era of Broadway musicals and was followed by a number of successes that have become beloved classics. Shows produced on Broadway during this decade include *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Brigadoon*, *Carousel*, *Finian's Rainbow*, *Pal Joey*, *On the Town*, and *South Pacific*. Among the major performers of the decade were Alfred Drake, Gene Kelly, Mary Martin, and Ethel Merman, while other talents who contributed to shows include Irving Berlin, Gower Champion, Betty Comden, Adolph Green, Agnes de Mille, Lorenz Hart, Alan Jay Lerner, Frederick Loewe, Cole Porter, Jerome Robbins, Richard Rodgers, and Oscar Hammerstein II. In *The Complete Book of 1940s Broadway Musicals*, Dan Dietz examines every musical and revue that opened on Broadway during the 1940s. In addition to providing details on every hit and flop, this book includes revivals and one-man and one-woman shows. Each entry contains the following information: Opening and closing dates Plot summary Cast members Number of performances Names of all important personnel, including writers, composers, directors, choreographers, producers, and musical directors Musical numbers and the names of performers who introduced the songs Production data, including information about tryouts Source material Critical commentary Details about London and other foreign productions Besides separate entries for each production, the book offers numerous appendixes, such as a discography, film versions, published scripts, Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, and non-musical productions that utilized songs, dances, or background music. A treasure trove of information, *The Complete Book of 1940s Broadway Musicals* provides readers with a complete view of each show. This significant resource will be of use to scholars, historians, and casual fans of one of the greatest decades in musical theatre history.

script musical south pacific: The Complete Book of 1950s Broadway Musicals Dan Dietz, 2014-07-02 The Broadway musical came of age in the 1950s, a period in which some of the greatest productions made their debuts. Shows produced on Broadway during this decade include such classics as *Damn Yankees*, *Fiorello!*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The King and I*, *Kismet*, *The Most Happy Fella*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Pajama Game*, *Peter Pan*, *The Sound of Music*, and *West Side Story*. Among the performers who made their marks were Julie Andrews, Bob Fosse, Carol Lawrence, and Gwen Verdon, while other talents who contributed to shows include Leonard Bernstein, Oscar Hammerstein II, Alan Jay Lerner, Frederick Loewe, Cole Porter, Jerome Robbins, Richard Rodgers, and Stephen Sondheim. In *The Complete Book of 1950s Broadway Musicals*, Dan Dietz examines in detail every musical and revue which opened on Broadway during the 1950s. In addition to providing details on every hit and flop that debuted during the decade, this book includes revivals, and one-man and one-woman shows. Each entry contains the following information: Opening and closing dates Plot summary Cast members Number of performances Names of all important personnel including writers, composers, directors, choreographers, producers, and musical directors Musical numbers and the names of performers who introduced the songs Production data, including information about tryouts Source material Critical commentary Tony awards and nominations Details about London and other foreign productions Besides separate entries for each production, the book offers numerous appendices, such as a discography, film and television versions, published scripts, Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, and lists of productions by the New York City Center Light Opera Company, and the New York City Opera Company. A treasure trove of information, *The Complete Book of 1950s Broadway Musicals* provides readers with a complete view of each show. This significant resource will be of use to scholars, historians, and casual fans of one of the greatest decades in musical theatre history.

script musical south pacific: Scriptwriting for Film, Television and New Media Alan Hueth, 2019-02-18 What are the foundations of scriptwriting? Why do some scripts gain more prestige than others? How do you write a script and get it noticed? *Scriptwriting for Film, Television and New Media* answers these questions and more, offering a comprehensive introduction to writing scripts for film, television, the Internet, and interactive multimedia. Author Alan C. Hueth explains not just how to write, but how to think and apply the fundamental principles of screenwriting to multiple platforms and genres. This includes chapters on numerous script formats, including drama and comedy in film and TV, short films, commercials and PSAs, news and sports, interview shows, documentaries, reality shows, and corporate and educational media, including interactive multimedia. This book also addresses legal and ethical issues, how to become a professional scriptwriter, and a section on production language that provides helpful explanations of how camera, locations, visual and audio effects combine on screen to engage and sustain viewer attention, and, consequently, how to improve scriptwriting technique. The book features numerous case studies and detailed examples, including chapter by chapter exercises, plot diagrams, quick-look and learn tables that assist readers to quickly understand genre related script elements, and in-depth script close-ups to examine precisely how writers utilize the principles and elements of drama to create a successful script. It is also supported by a comprehensive companion website with further case studies, assignments, video clips, and examples of films and programs discussed in the book. *Scriptwriting for Film, Television, and New Media* is ideal for aspiring scriptwriters and anyone wanting to broaden their understanding of how successful scripts are created.

script musical south pacific: "No Legs, No Jokes, No Chance" Sheldon Patinkin, 2008-05-20 Traces the American musical from its rich beginnings in European opera. This book talks about the infancy of the musical - the revues, operettas, and early musical comedies, as well as the groundbreaking shows like *Oklahoma!* and *Show Boat*, with references to how history, literature, fashion, popular music and movies influenced musical theater.

script musical south pacific: Broadway Musicals David H. Lewis, 2015-10-05 Musicals have been a major part of American theater for many years, and nowhere have they been more loved and celebrated than Broadway, the theater capital of the world. The music of such composers as Rodgers

and Hammerstein, Berlin, the Gershwin brothers, Lerner and Loewe, Steven Sondheim, and Andrew Lloyd Webber continues to run through people's minds, and such productions as *South Pacific*, *Cats*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Rent*, and *West Side Story* remain at the top of Broadway's most popular productions. This book is a survey of Broadway musicals all through the 20th century, from the Tin Pan Alley-driven comedy works of the early part of the century, to the integrated musical plays that flourished in the heyday years of midcentury, and to the rock era, concept musicals, and the arrival of British mega-musicals late in the century. It also profiles some of the theater world's leading composers, writers, and directors, considers some of the most unforgettable and forgettable shows, illustrates the elusive fragility of the libretto, explains the compensating nature of production elements, and examines representative shows from every decade. An extensive discography offers a brief critique of more than 300 show cast albums.

script musical south pacific: The Cambridge Companion to the Musical William A. Everett, Paul R. Laird, 2017-09-21 An expanded and updated edition of this acclaimed, wide-ranging survey of musical theatre in New York, London, and elsewhere.

script musical south pacific: Pulitzer Prize-Winning Musicals Kristin Stultz Pressley, 2025-08-21 What is the tie that binds a show like the Gershwin Brothers' *Of Thee I Sing* to Michael R. Jackson's *A Strange Loop*? Did you know that the Pulitzer Prize for Drama has been awarded to just ten musicals since the award's inception in 1917? Why have certain musicals captured the imagination and hearts of the Pulitzer Prize committee? *Pulitzer Prize-Winning Musicals* takes a chronological look at the ten musicals that have won the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Deep diving into the development of each show, this accessible study unpacks the creation, production, and reception of each musical. Each chapter traces a different Prize-winning show from its inception to its opening night. It introduces the reader to each musical's key creators and company members and places them in the larger context of Broadway history. Published in Methuen Drama's *Essential Musicals* series, this book is perfect for students of Musical Theatre, drawing together different resources to dig into the backstories of Broadway's biggest hits and mining the historical record for nuggets of information that illuminate our understanding and enhance our enjoyment of musical theatre's unique brand of magic.

script musical south pacific: The Oxford Handbook of the British Musical Robert Gordon, Olaf Jubin, 2016 The first comprehensive academic survey of British musical theatre from its origins, *The Oxford Handbook of the British Musical* offers both a historical account of musical theatre from 1728 and a range of in-depth critical analyses of key works and productions that illustrate its aesthetic values and sociocultural meanings.

script musical south pacific: *Enchanted Evenings : The Broadway Musical from Show Boat to Sondheim* Washington Geoffrey Block Professor of Music University of Puget Sound, 1997-10-02 The classic musicals of Broadway can provide us with truly enchanted evenings. But while many of us can hum the music and even recount the plot from memory, we are often much less knowledgeable about how these great shows were put together. What was the inspiration for Rodgers and Harts *Pal Joey*, or Rodgers and Hammersteins *Carousel*? Why is Marias impassioned final speech in *West Side Story* spoken, rather than sung? Now, in *Enchanted Evenings*, Geoffrey Block offers theatre lovers an illuminating behind-the-scenes tour of some of the best loved, most admired, and most enduring musicals of Broadway's Golden Era. Readers will find insightful studies of such all-time favorites as *Show Boat*, *Anything Goes*, *Porgy and Bess*, *Carousel*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Most Happy Fella*, *My Fair Lady*, and *West Side Story*. Block provides a documentary history of fourteen musicals in all--plus an epilogue exploring the plays of Stephen Sondheim--showing how each work took shape and revealing, at the same time, production by production, how the American musical evolved from the 1920s to the early 1960s, and beyond. The book's particular focus is on the music, offering a wealth of detail about how librettist, lyricist, composer, and director work together to shape the piece. Drawing on manuscript material such as musical sketches, autograph manuscripts, pre-production librettos and lyric drafts, Block reveals the winding route the works took to get to their final form. Block blends this close attention to the nuances of musical composition and

stagecraft with trenchant social commentary and lively backstage anecdotes. Jerome Kern, Cole Porter, the Gershwins, Rodgers and Hart, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Loewe, Kurt Weill, Frank Loesser, Leonard Bernstein, Sondheim, and other luminaries emerge as hardworking craftsmen under enormous pressure to sell tickets without compromising their dramatic vision and integrity. Opening night reviews and accounts of critical and popular response to subsequent revivals show how particular musicals have adapted to changing times and changing audiences, shedding light on why many of these innovative shows are still performed in high schools, colleges, and community theaters across the country, while others, such as Weills *One Touch of Venus* or Marc Blitzsteins *The Cradle Will Rock*, languish in comparative obscurity. Packed with information, including a complete discography and plot synopses and song-by-song scenic outlines for each of the fourteen shows, *Enchanted Evenings* is an essential reference as well as a riveting history. It will deepen readers appreciation and enjoyment of these beloved musicals even as it delights both the seasoned theater goer and the neophyte encountering the magic of Broadway for the first time.

script musical south pacific: *The Complete Book of 1960s Broadway Musicals* Dan Dietz, 2014-04-10 While the 1960s may have been a decade of significant upheaval in America, it was also one of the richest periods in musical theatre history. Shows produced on Broadway during this time include such classics as *Bye, Bye Birdie*; *Cabaret*; *Camelot*; *Hello Dolly!*; *Fiddler on the Roof*; *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying*; *Oliver!*; and *Man of La Mancha*. Performers such as Dick Van Dyke, Anthony Newley, Jerry Orbach, and Barbara Streisand made their marks, and other talents—such as Bob Fosse, John Kander, Fred Ebb, Alan Jay Lerner, Frederick Loewe, Jerome Robbins, and Stephen Sondheim—also contributed to shows. In *The Complete Book of 1960s Broadway Musicals*, Dan Dietz examines every musical and revue that opened on Broadway during the 1960s. In addition to providing details on every hit and flop, Dietz includes revivals and one-man and one-woman shows that centered on stars like Jack Benny, Maurice Chevalier, Marlene Dietrich, Danny Kaye, Yves Montand, and Lena Horne. Each entry consists of: Opening and closing dates Plot summaries Cast members Number of performances Names of all important personnel, including writers, composers, directors, choreographers, producers, and musical directors Musical numbers and the names of performers who introduced the songs Production data, including information about tryouts Source material Critical commentary Tony awards and nominations Details about London and other foreign productions In addition to entries for each production, the book offers numerous appendixes: a discography, film and television versions, published scripts, Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, and lists of productions by the New York City Center Light Opera Company, the New York City Opera Company, and the Music Theatre of Lincoln Center. A treasure trove of information, this significant resource will be of use to scholars, historians, and casual fans of one of the greatest decades in musical theatre history.

script musical south pacific: *Sound and Music for the Theatre* Deena Kaye, James LeBrecht, 2015-09-25 Covering every phase of a theatrical production, this fourth edition of *Sound and Music for the Theatre* traces the process of sound design from initial concept through implementation in actual performances. The book discusses the early evolution of sound design and how it supports the play, from researching sources for music and effects, to negotiating a contract. It shows you how to organize the construction of the sound design elements, how the designer functions in a rehearsal, and how to set up and train an operator to run sound equipment. This instructive information is interspersed with ‘war stores’ describing real-life problems with solutions that you can apply in your own work, whether you’re a sound designer, composer, or sound operator.

script musical south pacific: *Music in America's Cold War Diplomacy* Danielle Fosler-Lussier, 2015-04-30 During the Cold War, thousands of musicians from the United States traveled the world, sponsored by the U.S. State Department’s Cultural Presentations program. Performances of music in many styles—classical, rock ‘n’ roll, folk, blues, and jazz—competed with those by traveling Soviet and mainland Chinese artists, enhancing the prestige of American culture. These concerts offered audiences around the world evidence of America’s improving race relations, excellent musicianship, and generosity toward other peoples. Through personal contacts and the media, musical diplomacy

also created subtle musical, social, and political relationships on a global scale. Although born of state-sponsored tours often conceived as propaganda ventures, these relationships were in themselves great diplomatic achievements and constituted the essence of America's soft power. Using archival documents and newly collected oral histories, Danielle Fosler-Lussier shows that musical diplomacy had vastly different meanings for its various participants, including government officials, musicians, concert promoters, and audiences. Through the stories of musicians from Louis Armstrong and Marian Anderson to orchestras and college choirs, Fosler-Lussier deftly explores the value and consequences of musical diplomacy.

script musical south pacific: The Complete Book of 2000s Broadway Musicals Dan Dietz, 2017-04-06 In the first decade of the twenty-first century, Broadway was notable for old-fashioned, feel-good shows (*Hairspray*, *Jersey Boys*), a number of family-friendly musicals (*Little Women*, *Mary Poppins*), plenty of revivals (*Follies*, *Oklahoma!*, *Wonderful Town*), a couple of off-the-wall hits (*Avenue Q*, *Urinetown*), several gargantuan flops (*Dance of the Vampires*, *Lestat*), and a few serious productions that garnered critical acclaim (*The Light in the Piazza*, *Next to Normal*). Unlike earlier decades which were dominated by specific composers, by a new form of musical theatre, or by numerous British imports, the decade is perhaps most notable for the rise of shows which poked fun at the musical comedy form, such as *The Producers* and *Spamalot*. In *The Complete Book of 2000s Broadway Musicals*, Dan Dietz examines in detail every musical that opened on Broadway from 2000 through the end of 2009. This book discusses the era's major successes, notorious failures, and musicals that closed during their pre-Broadway tryouts. In addition to including every hit and flop that debuted during the decade, this book highlights revivals and personal-appearance revues with such performers as Patti LuPone, Chita Rivera, and Martin Short. Each entry contains the following information: Plot summary Cast members Names of all important personnel, including writers, composers, directors, choreographers, producers, and musical directors Opening and closing dates Number of performances Critical commentary Musical numbers and the performers who introduced the songs Production data, including information about tryouts Source material Tony awards and nominations Details about London and other foreign productions Besides separate entries for each production, the book offers numerous appendixes, including a discography, filmography, and published scripts, as well as lists of black-themed shows and Jewish-themed productions. This comprehensive book contains a wealth of information and provides a comprehensive view of each show. *The Complete Book of 2000s Broadway Musicals* will be of use to scholars, historians, and casual fans of one of the greatest decades in musical theatre history.

script musical south pacific: The Playbill for the Majestic Theatre, South Pacific Majestic Theatre (New York, N.Y.), 1951

script musical south pacific: So You Want to Be a Scriptwriter and Make a Million Dollars Irving Elman, 2000 This book was written to fill a need, when I started teaching script writing at Santa Monica College and my students asked me to name a book on the subject I could recommend. After voluminous reading, I could find nothing which was completely satisfactory. Most of it seemed to have been written by people who had never written professionally for films and/or television, and thus had no first-hand knowledge of it from personal experience. The books were written from hearsay and observation, like trying to learn how to swim by standing at the edge of a pool and watching others do it, without ever getting into the water yourself. Or trying to fly by flapping your arms like a bird. It doesn't work. They have no hands-on (or wings-on) concept of how commercially produceable scripts are actually put together, and then marketed; and are of no real practical help to the beginning writer, or anyone else who's interested. Only a swimmer, or a bird, or a writer who has made his living at it, really knows how his special trick is done and can pass it on to others. And so here it is. Enjoy while you learn. Because if writing isn't fun, it's no way to make a living. Rob banks instead (but try not to get caught).

script musical south pacific: *Broadway* Ken Bloom, 2013-04-15 This volume is another example in the Routledge tradition of producing high-quality reference works on theater, music, and the arts. An A to Z encyclopedia of Broadway, this volume includes tons of information, including

producers, writer, composers, lyricists, set designers, theaters, performers, and landmarks in its sweep.

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