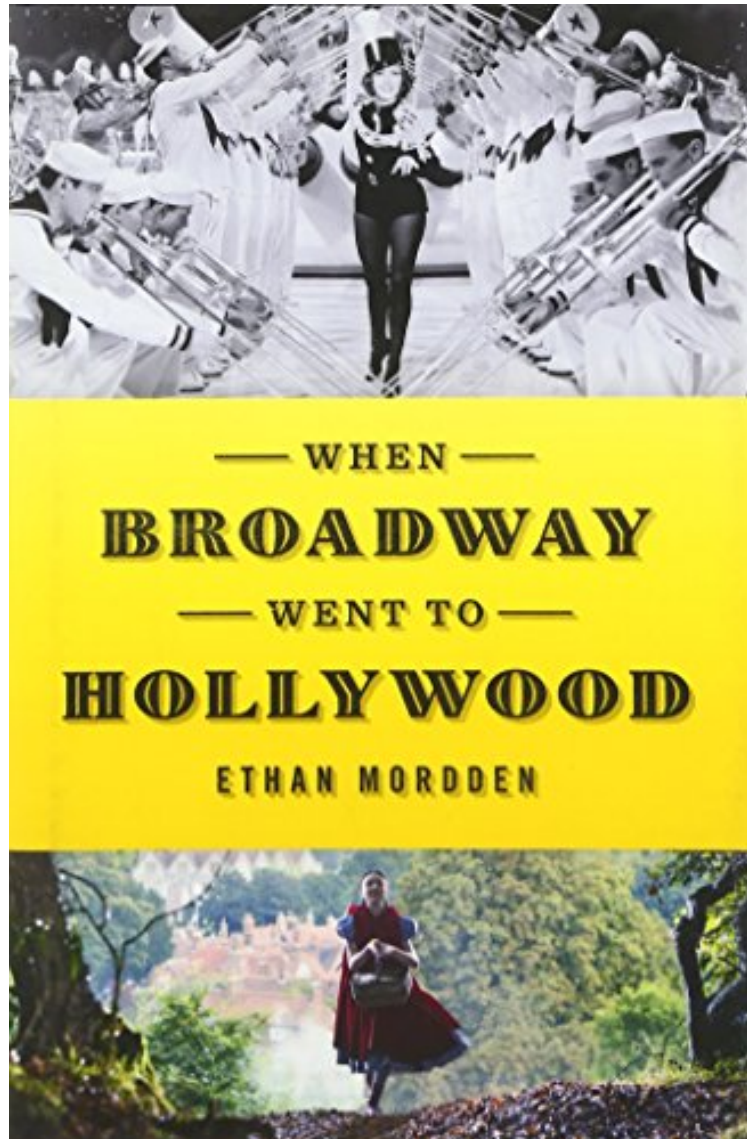


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When Broadway Went to Hollywood

Ethan Mordden

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Ethan Mordden : When Broadway Went to Hollywood before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised When Broadway Went to Hollywood:

10 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A Disappointment! By Lynn G. Sever I have all of the author's books on Broadway Shows and thoroughly enjoyed them. Therefore, I was terribly disappointed with this one which is more concerned about the intricate details of the music and musicology than a coherent discussion of the composers and lyricists. I expected to learn about how Broadway shows were translated into film with insight into the challenges,

disappointments, and successes. I wanted to know the reaction of the composers and lyricists to how their work was handled--that is not what I got in this book. If you want to know who wrote in a major or minor key, ended a song on which note, this is the book for you. In addition, it rambles around between composers and lyricists and it is a real mess to read. Recommended for music majors and musicians and performers. I wasted my money. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Broadway Goes Hollywood. By Valerie Nordberg These shows and films were so nostalgic for most of them were familiar from my young days. Backstage chat and movie music were a delight and I enjoyed all of it - even the technical bits about music composition. 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I always enjoy Ethan's writing By Musicalboy I always enjoy Ethan's writing. His style is his own and I enjoy the bitchy remarks and the insights. A very entertaining book.

When films like *The Jazz Singer* started to integrate synchronized music, in the late 1920s many ambitious songwriting pioneers of the Great White Way - George and Ira Gershwin, Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers, and Lorenz Hart, among many others - were enticed westward by Hollywood studios' promises of national exposure and top dollar success. But what happened when writers native to the business of Broadway ran into the very different business of Hollywood? Their movies had their producer despots, their stacking of writing teams on a single project, their use of five or six songs per story where Broadway fit in a dozen, and it seemed as if everyone in Hollywood was uncomfortable with characters bursting into song on the street, in your living room, or in "a cottage small by a waterfall." Did the movies give theater writers a chance to expand their art, or did mass marketing ruin the musical's quintessential charm? Is it possible to trace the history of the musical through both stage and screen manifestations, or did Broadway and Hollywood give rise to two wholly irreconcilable art forms? And, finally, did any New York writer or writing team create a film musical as enthralling and timeless as their work for the stage? In *When Broadway Went to Hollywood*, writer and celebrated steward of musical theatre Ethan Mordden directs his unmistakable wit and whimsy to these challenging questions and more, charting the volatile and galvanizing influence of Broadway on Hollywood (and vice versa) throughout the twentieth century. Along the way, he takes us behind the scenes of the great Hollywood musicals you've seen and loved (*The Wizard of Oz*, *Gigi*, *The Sound of Music*, *Chicago*, *West Side Story*, *The Music Man*, *Grease*) as well as some of the outrageous flops you probably haven't. The first book to tell the story of how Broadway affected the Hollywood musical, *When Broadway Goes to Hollywood* is sure to thrill theatre buffs and movie lovers alike.

"Mordden, the doyen of American musical history who previously has published such seminal titles as *Anything Goes*; *Broadway Babies*; *Sondheim*, and his six-volume, decade-by-decade examination of the Broadway musical (1920s-60s), now adds to an impressive oeuvre with this trenchant analysis of the alternately symbiotic, contentious, cooperative, and antagonistic historical relationship between Broadway and Hollywood musicals...Mordden is an informative and entertaining musical history tour guide, and this latest work is further validation of his stature." -- *Library Journal* "Packed with fascinating information, this is an impressive labor of love that should appeal to all Broadway fans." -- *Kirkus* *When Broadway Went to Hollywood* is by Ethan Mordden, our most incisive (and wittiest) musical theater historian, who's been at it for more than 40 years ... You'll find yourself having a love-hate affair with Tinsel Town's powers that be, and that alone makes this a fascinating read." -- *Overture* "Along with supplying strong opinions, Mr. Mordden offers welcome insight...[His] vivid prose exhibits two traits also found in the best musicals: energy and vivacity." -- *Wall Street Journal* About the Author Ethan Mordden is a recognized expert on the American musical theatre and the author of *Anything Goes: A History of American Musical Theatre*, *Make Believe: The Broadway Musical in the 1920s*, *Beautiful Mornin: The Broadway Musical in the 1940s*, *Coming Up Roses: The Broadway Musical in the 1950s* and *Sondheim: An Opinionated Guide*, all published by Oxford University Press. His writing has been featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*, and his numerous books include friendly introductions to opera and film as well as five collections of short stories chronicling gay life in New York City. He lives in Manhattan.