



# How Musicals Work: And How to Write Your Own (Theatrebook)

*Julian Woolford*

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Musicals are the most popular form of stage entertainment today, with the West End and Broadway dominated by numerous long-running hits. But for every *Wicked* or *Phantom of the Opera*, there are dozens of casualties that didn't fare quite so well. In this book, Julian Woolford explores the musical-theatre canon to explain why and how some musicals work, why some don't, and what you should (and shouldn't) do if you're thinking of writing your own.

Drawing on his experience as a successful writer and director of musicals, and as a lecturer in writing musicals at the University of London, Woolford outlines every step of the creative process, from hatching the initial idea and developing a structure for the work, through creating the book, the music and the lyrics, and on to the crucial process of rewriting. He then guides the reader through getting a musical produced, with invaluable advice about generating future productions and sustaining a career.

The book includes dozens of exercises to assist the novice writer in developing their craft, and detailed case studies of well-known musicals such as *Les Misérables*, *The Sound of Music*, *Miss Saigon*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Godspel* and *Evita*.

An essential guide for any writers (or would-be writers) of musicals, *How Musicals Work* is a fascinating insight for anyone interested in the art form or who has ever wondered what it takes to get from first idea to first night.

'If anyone knows how musicals work (I'm not sure I do), this highly entertaining dissection of every aspect of that bewildering art form reveals that Julian Woolford does.' Tim Rice

'Excellent... a useful source of information' *The Stage*

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