



# The Rise and Fall of the Broadway Musical

*Mark N. Grant*

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## **The Rise and Fall of the Broadway Musical** Mark N. Grant

Many of today's Broadway shows, from *Rent* to *The Lion King*, have become commercial hits, but do they have the cultural importance or the dramatic and musical artistry of such enduring productions as *Oklahoma!*, *Show Boat*, or *Kiss Me, Kate*?

Mark N. Grant traces the transformation of singing and melody, libretto and lyric writing, dance rhythms, sound design, and choreography and stage direction through three distinct eras: the formative period (1866–1927), the golden age (1927–1966), and the fall (1967 to the present). He explores how and why the unsophisticated genre of pre-1927 musical comedy evolved into the creative, innovative, and immensely popular theatre produced by the likes of Rodgers and Hammerstein and then steadily faded as a significant entertainment genre in American culture, giving rise to the “McMusicals” of today.

This provocative, sometimes irreverent work offers a refreshing perspective on the history of American musical theatre and provides strong views on restoring the genre to its former greatness.

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