

Forgotten Broadway

Seminar Details and Suggested Musicals

This program could easily have been called “Forgotten Musicals” because only musicals are acceptable for presentation. Some of the musicals are actually movies with music by the great Broadway composers.

If not on YouTube, the movies and TV productions should be available through the C/W Mars library system <http://www.cwmars.org/>, and possibly the 5 College library system.

This is a suggested list, but by no means comprehensive. Should you wish to delve deeper and find a different show that is “forgotten”, feel free to do so. Good places to start are the chronology section of www.musicals101.com: <http://www.musicals101.com/chronology.htm>, followed by <https://www.ibdb.com/> If you pick a show that is not on the list, research it on Wikipedia first, then move forward from there.

If there is a choice between a movie and a good production of a musical, the production is preferred because it is more authentic.

Presentations must be made using visuals. That is, a cast recording will not, by itself, be the preferred format. A production or movie will bring the show to life far better. However, there is no reason why a cast recording cannot be used in a limited way to supplement the visual, perhaps to compare 2 different performances of the same song.

Most productions or movies will be too long to show completely during a 2 hour class. Therefore, the presenter should be prepared to explain the plot in detail, and use selected passages/songs from the production or movie to bring the show alive.

The presenter should lead a discussion of the importance, or lack of importance, of the musical in the context of other musicals of the time, and in the context of Broadway in general. Keep in mind that the particular musicals chosen for the list are not necessarily good musicals. They simply meet the criterion of having a visual available. It’s up to the presenter to choose wisely, and then to justify the choice. If it’s a good musical, and the presenter can explain how and why, the class will benefit. If it’s a bad musical, and the presenter can explain how and why, the class can also benefit.

EXCEPTION: Industrial Musicals. This is one of the most fascinating subsets of musical theatre, with no filmed productions ever made. The LP records are EXTREMELY rare, and when they do show up on ebay, they are very high priced. I would love to have someone do an overview of Industrial Musicals using the book, and the following “Best Of” selections of the music. I will loan my book, or you can purchase one relatively inexpensively on ebay,

https://open.spotify.com/album/5iKqNNYWIjnZGSVNNhvEVb?si=eUzHDmvoSaqBNWpUrHqpA&utm_source=Facebook_SimpleMusicStories&utm_medium=sms

<https://www.industrialmusicals.com/songs/>