

rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered

Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered: A Timeless Legacy Revisited

rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered—these words evoke a journey back to the golden era of American musical theatre, where melodies and stories combined to create timeless masterpieces. The duo of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II revolutionized Broadway with their innovative approach to storytelling through music, blending heart, drama, and social commentary in ways that still resonate today. Rediscovering their work offers not only a nostalgic trip but also fresh insights into the power of musical theatre as an art form and cultural touchstone.

The Enduring Impact of Rodgers and Hammerstein

Rodgers and Hammerstein's collaboration began in the early 1940s and quickly transformed the Broadway landscape. Their musicals, such as **Oklahoma!**, **Carousel**, **South Pacific**, **The King and I**, and **The Sound of Music**, broke away from the revue-style shows of the past, instead weaving narratives that explored complex characters and meaningful themes. When we talk about Rodgers and Hammerstein rediscovered, it means revisiting how these musicals reshaped theatre and American culture.

Revolutionizing the Musical Theatre Format

Before Rodgers and Hammerstein, musicals often prioritized catchy songs and spectacle over story. Their approach was different: they integrated music, lyrics, and narrative into a cohesive whole. The songs didn't just entertain; they advanced the plot and deepened our understanding of characters. This innovation set the standard for modern musical theatre and influenced countless creators who followed.

Addressing Social Issues Through Song

One of the reasons Rodgers and Hammerstein's work remains relevant is their willingness to tackle social issues head-on. For example, **South Pacific** addressed racial prejudice during a time when such topics were rarely discussed openly on stage. **The King and I** explored cultural clashes and the complexities of East-West relationships. Rediscovering these themes today reveals the duo's courage and vision, showing how art can be a catalyst for conversation and change.

Why Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered Matters Today

The phrase “Rodgers and Hammerstein rediscovered” isn’t just about nostalgia—it’s about appreciating the layers and nuances that contemporary audiences might miss. As theatre evolves, revisiting these classics provides valuable lessons on storytelling, character development, and the marriage of music and narrative.

Lessons in Storytelling for Modern Creators

Musical theatre creators today can learn much from Rodgers and Hammerstein’s commitment to story-driven songs. Their work exemplifies how every lyric and melody should serve the plot or character arc. For anyone involved in writing or producing musicals, rediscovering this approach can inspire more cohesive and emotionally engaging productions.

Renewed Popularity in Revivals and Adaptations

Recent revivals of Rodgers and Hammerstein shows, along with film adaptations, have sparked renewed interest in their work. Productions often update the staging and sometimes reinterpret themes to resonate with modern sensibilities while honoring the original spirit. This balance of tradition and innovation makes Rodgers and Hammerstein rediscovered a living, breathing experience for new generations.

Exploring the Music: From Classic Tunes to Hidden Gems

Rodgers and Hammerstein’s catalog is filled with songs that have become standards, but there’s more beneath the surface. Rediscovering lesser-known numbers offers a richer understanding of their artistry.

Iconic Songs That Shaped Broadway

Who hasn’t hummed the tunes of “Some Enchanted Evening,” “If I Loved You,” or “Climb Every Mountain”? These songs transcended their shows to become part of popular culture. Their emotional depth and melodic beauty demonstrate the duo’s skill in capturing universal feelings.

Hidden Treasures Worth Revisiting

Beyond the hits, Rodgers and Hammerstein wrote songs that are less frequently performed but equally compelling. Exploring these pieces can offer fresh perspectives on the characters and stories, enriching the experience for aficionados and newcomers alike. For example, songs like “Younger Than Springtime” from *South Pacific* highlight the tender, poetic side of their writing.

The Collaborative Genius Behind the Curtain

Understanding Rodgers and Hammerstein as individuals—and as collaborators—adds another layer to their rediscovery. Their partnership was a blend of complementary talents: Rodgers’ melodic genius paired with Hammerstein’s poetic lyricism and narrative sensibility.

The Dynamic Partnership

Richard Rodgers was already a successful composer before teaming up with Hammerstein, but their collaboration elevated both. Hammerstein’s lyrics brought emotional nuance and thematic depth, while Rodgers crafted memorable tunes that perfectly matched the tone. Their ability to listen and adapt to each other’s ideas made their partnership legendary.

Influence on Future Generations

Countless composers and lyricists cite Rodgers and Hammerstein as foundational influences. Their work paved the way for storytelling musicals by Stephen Sondheim, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and Lin-Manuel Miranda. Rediscovering their approach helps contextualize the evolution of musical theatre as a form of artistic expression.

Tips for Experiencing Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered Today

If you’re curious about diving into Rodgers and Hammerstein’s world or revisiting their work with fresh eyes, here are some ideas to enhance your experience:

- **Attend a Live Performance:** Nothing beats seeing a Rodgers and

Hammerstein show live. The energy, the orchestra, and the performers' interpretations bring the material to life.

- **Watch Film Adaptations:** Classic movies like **The Sound of Music** or **Oklahoma!** offer a cinematic window into their musicals. Compare different versions to see how interpretations evolve.
- **Listen to Cast Recordings:** High-quality audio recordings capture the nuances of the music and lyrics, allowing for repeated listening and deeper appreciation.
- **Read the Scripts and Scores:** For theatre enthusiasts, studying the original scripts and scores reveals the craftsmanship behind the scenes.
- **Explore Biographies and Documentaries:** Understanding the lives of Rodgers and Hammerstein enriches your perspective on their work and the era they influenced.

The Cultural Resonance of Rodgers and Hammerstein Today

The phrase *Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered* also reflects how their musicals continue to inspire cultural conversations. Themes of love, identity, prejudice, and hope are as relevant now as ever. Their shows invite audiences to reflect on humanity's shared experiences through the lens of memorable music and storytelling.

Many contemporary productions also use Rodgers and Hammerstein's work as a springboard to explore new narratives or highlight underrepresented voices, proving the versatility and enduring relevance of their legacy.

Rediscovering Rodgers and Hammerstein is more than revisiting old favorites—it's engaging with a living tradition that continues to shape how stories are told on stage and screen. Whether you're a lifelong fan or new to their musicals, there's always something new to discover in the rich tapestry they created.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered' about?

'Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered' is a project or production that aims to revisit and highlight lesser-known works by the iconic musical theatre duo.

Rodgers and Hammerstein, showcasing songs and stories that are not as frequently performed as their major hits.

Why is 'Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered' gaining popularity now?

The resurgence of interest in classic musical theatre and the desire to explore beyond the well-known Rodgers and Hammerstein shows have contributed to the popularity of 'Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered', offering audiences fresh perspectives on their work.

Which Rodgers and Hammerstein songs are featured in 'Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered'?

'Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered' features a selection of songs from lesser-known musicals such as 'Allegro', 'Me and Juliet', and 'Pipe Dream', as well as cut songs and rarities from their more famous productions.

Who are the main performers involved in 'Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered'?

Performers vary depending on the production, but typically involve talented musical theatre artists who specialize in classic Broadway repertoire, bringing new life to Rodgers and Hammerstein's lesser-known works.

Where can I watch or listen to 'Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered'?

Performances of 'Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered' may be available at select theatres, concert halls, or as part of special musical theatre festivals. Additionally, some recordings or broadcasts might be accessible through streaming platforms or official theatre company releases.

How does 'Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered' differ from traditional Rodgers and Hammerstein shows?

'Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered' focuses on obscure and rarely performed songs and musicals by the duo, rather than their famous works like 'Oklahoma!' or 'The Sound of Music', offering audiences a deeper appreciation of their broader catalog.

What is the historical significance of the works featured in 'Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered'?

The works featured in 'Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered' provide insight

into the evolution of American musical theatre and the creative risks taken by Rodgers and Hammerstein beyond their blockbuster hits, enriching understanding of their artistic legacy.

Are there any new arrangements or interpretations in 'Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered'?

Yes, many productions of 'Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered' include new musical arrangements and contemporary interpretations to connect these classic songs with modern audiences while respecting the original compositions.

Can 'Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered' be used as an educational tool?

Absolutely. 'Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered' serves as an excellent educational resource for students and enthusiasts of musical theatre to explore the full breadth of Rodgers and Hammerstein's work beyond their most famous shows.

How can I support or get involved with 'Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered'?

You can support 'Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered' by attending performances, following theatre companies and artists involved in the project, purchasing recordings, and spreading awareness about the importance of preserving and exploring lesser-known musical theatre works.

Additional Resources

Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered: The Enduring Legacy of Musical Theatre's Pioneers

rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered marks a renewed interest in the legendary songwriting duo that transformed American musical theatre in the mid-20th century. Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II are often credited with revolutionizing the genre by blending compelling narratives with memorable melodies, setting a standard that continues to influence contemporary productions. This rediscovery is not merely a nostalgic revival but an analytical reevaluation of their work's cultural significance, innovation, and relevance in today's artistic landscape.

Understanding the Rodgers and Hammerstein

Phenomenon

Rodgers and Hammerstein's collaboration, spanning from the early 1940s until Hammerstein's death in 1960, produced some of the most iconic musicals in theatre history, including *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, and *The Sound of Music*. These works are characterized by their integration of story and song, a departure from the revue-style musicals prevalent before their era. By rediscovering Rodgers and Hammerstein, critics and audiences alike are revisiting the foundational elements that shaped modern musical theatre's narrative and emotional depth.

What sets Rodgers and Hammerstein apart is their ability to address complex social issues, such as racial prejudice in *South Pacific* and cultural clashes in *The King and I*, within engaging and accessible musical frameworks. This dual achievement of entertainment and social commentary remains a key reason for their enduring appeal.

The Evolution of Musical Storytelling

Before Rodgers and Hammerstein, musicals often prioritized spectacle over substance, with songs loosely connected to the plot. Their partnership marked a paradigm shift toward what is now considered the "book musical," where songs advance character development and plot progression. This approach transformed the audience's experience, creating a seamless blend of dialogue, music, and choreography.

In *Oklahoma!*, for instance, the use of the "dream ballet" sequence innovatively conveyed psychological depth without words, a technique that has influenced countless productions since. Rodgers and Hammerstein rediscovered through this lens reveals their role as pioneers of integrating multiple artistic disciplines to create a holistic theatrical experience.

Contemporary Relevance and Revivals

The resurgence of interest in Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals can be observed in the numerous revivals and adaptations on Broadway, West End, and international stages. Contemporary productions often revisit these classics with fresh directorial interpretations and diverse casting choices, underscoring the timelessness and adaptability of their work.

Moreover, film adaptations and digital streaming have introduced Rodgers and Hammerstein's catalog to new generations, prompting critical reassessment and scholarly discussion. This ongoing rediscovery highlights how their musicals continue to resonate with audiences facing modern social and cultural challenges.

Challenges in Modern Adaptations

While Rodgers and Hammerstein's work remains influential, modern adaptations face the challenge of contextualizing dated social attitudes embedded in some narratives. For example, portrayals of race and gender roles in **South Pacific** and **The King and I** require sensitive reinterpretation to align with contemporary values without sacrificing artistic integrity.

This necessitates a balance between preserving the original work's essence and updating its presentation to avoid perpetuating stereotypes. Directors and producers engaging in Rodgers and Hammerstein rediscovered projects often collaborate with cultural consultants and historians to navigate these complexities, ensuring respectful and meaningful reinterpretations.

Legacy and Influence on Musical Theatre

Rodgers and Hammerstein's impact extends beyond their own compositions to influence generations of composers, lyricists, and playwrights. Their integration of music and narrative set a benchmark for storytelling that contemporary musicals continue to emulate. Artists such as Stephen Sondheim, Lin-Manuel Miranda, and Andrew Lloyd Webber have acknowledged the foundational role Rodgers and Hammerstein played in shaping the musical theatre canon.

Key Innovations Introduced by Rodgers and Hammerstein

- **Integrated Storytelling:** Songs that serve the plot rather than stand-alone entertainment.
- **Complex Characters:** Multi-dimensional protagonists and antagonists with emotional depth.
- **Social Commentary:** Tackling issues such as racism, gender roles, and cultural conflict.
- **Musical Diversity:** Incorporation of diverse musical styles to enhance storytelling.
- **Choreographic Storytelling:** Use of dance sequences like the "dream ballet" to convey narrative subtleties.

These features collectively contributed to a richer, more immersive theatre-

going experience, setting Rodgers and Hammerstein apart from their contemporaries.

Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered: Cultural and Educational Insights

Academic institutions and theatre conservatories have embraced the Rodgers and Hammerstein rediscovered movement by incorporating their works into curricula that explore American culture, history, and musical innovation. These musicals serve as case studies for examining mid-20th-century societal dynamics, artistic collaboration, and the evolution of popular entertainment.

Additionally, new critical editions of scripts and scores, as well as digitized archives, have made primary sources more accessible to researchers and practitioners. This accessibility fosters a deeper understanding of the duo's creative process and the historical context surrounding their compositions.

Pros and Cons of Revisiting Rodgers and Hammerstein

1. Pros:

- Preserves and honors a significant cultural legacy.
- Offers timeless stories that still resonate emotionally.
- Provides educational opportunities to explore historical and social themes.
- Encourages innovation in theatrical production through reinterpretation.

2. Cons:

- Risk of outdated social perspectives conflicting with modern values.
- Potential for over-familiarity leading to audience fatigue.
- Challenges in balancing respect for original work with necessary updates.

Understanding these nuances is essential for anyone involved in producing or studying Rodgers and Hammerstein's works today.

The Future of Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered

As the theatre world continues to evolve, the rediscovery of Rodgers and Hammerstein offers opportunities to bridge past and present artistic practices. Emerging technologies such as virtual reality and immersive theatre experiences could further reinterpret these musicals, expanding their reach and impact.

Moreover, ongoing dialogue about cultural sensitivity and inclusivity ensures that Rodgers and Hammerstein's works remain living documents—open to reinterpretation and reflection rather than static relics. This dynamic approach guarantees that the rediscovery of their musicals is not just about preservation but also about active engagement with contemporary audiences and creators.

Rodgers and Hammerstein rediscovered is more than a revival; it is a critical reexamination that honors their indelible imprint on musical theatre while inviting new generations to find fresh meaning in their timeless stories.

[Rodgers And Hammerstein Rediscovered](#)

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rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered: Rodgers and Hammerstein Rediscovered Richard Rodgers, 1990 A must for Rodgers and Hammerstein collectors! This unique folio features 10 of their songs that never received the exposure they deserved plus the last song they wrote together - Edelweiss. This collection contains songs that were cut from such productions as South Pacific, Oklahoma! and Flower Drum Song. Also contains the first known collaboration by Rodgers and Hammerstein, written for a university varsity show, and the only bona fide Christmas song they ever wrote, Happy Christmas, Little Friend. Each song is prefaced by notes on its origin.

rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered: *Rodgers & Hammerstein's State Fair* Richard Rodgers, 1995

rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered: Richard Rodgers Geoffrey Block, 2008-10-01 Richard Rodgers was an icon of the musical theater, a prolific composer whose career spanned six decades and who wrote more than a thousand songs and forty shows for the American stage. In this absorbing book, Geoffrey Block examines Rodgers's entire career, providing rich details about the

creation, staging, and critical reception of some of his most popular musicals. Block traces Rodgers's musical education, early work, and the development of his musical and dramatic language. He focuses on two shows by Rodgers and Hart (*A Connecticut Yankee* and *The Boys from Syracuse*) and two by Rodgers and Hammerstein (*South Pacific* and *Cinderella*), offering new insights into each one. He concludes with the first serious look at the five neglected and often maligned musicals that Rodgers composed in the 1960s and 1970s, after the death of Hammerstein.

rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered: *The Complete Lyrics of Oscar Hammerstein II* Oscar Hammerstein II, 2008-11-25 From every "beautiful mornin'" to "some enchanted evening," the songs of Oscar Hammerstein II are part of our daily lives, his words part of our national fabric. Born into a theatrical dynasty headed by his grandfather and namesake, Oscar Hammerstein II breathed new life into the moribund art form of operetta by writing lyrics and libretti for such classics as *Rose-Marie* (music by Rudolf Friml), *The Desert Song* (Sigmund Romberg), *The New Moon* (Romberg) and *Song of the Flame* (George Gershwin). Hammerstein and Jerome Kern wrote eight musicals together, including *Sweet Adeline*, *Music in the Air*, and their masterpiece, *Show Boat*. The vibrant *Carmen Jones* was Hammerstein's all-black adaptation of the tragic opera by Georges Bizet. In 1943, Hammerstein, pioneer in the field of operetta, joined forces with Richard Rodgers, who had for the previous twenty-five years taken great strides in the field of musical comedy with his longtime writing partner, Lorenz Hart. The first Rodgers and Hammerstein work, *Oklahoma!*, merged the two styles into a completely new genre—the musical play—and simultaneously launched the most successful partnership in American musical theater. Over the next seventeen years, Rodgers and Hammerstein wrote eight more Broadway musicals: *Carousel*, *Allegro*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, *Me and Juliet*, *Pipe Dream*, *Flower Drum Song*, and *The Sound of Music*. They also wrote a movie musical (*State Fair*) and one for television (*Cinderella*). Collectively their works have earned dozens of awards, including Pulitzers, Tonys, Oscars, Grammys, and Emmys. Throughout his career, Hammerstein created works of lyrical beauty and universal feeling, and he continually strove—sometimes against fashion—to seek out the good and beautiful in the world. "I know the world is filled with troubles and many injustices," he once said. "But reality is as beautiful as it is ugly . . . I just couldn't write anything without hope in it." All of his lyrics are here—850, more than a quarter published for the first time—in this sixth book in the indispensable *Complete Lyrics* series that has also brought us the lyrics of Cole Porter, Lorenz Hart, Ira Gershwin, Irving Berlin, and Frank Loesser. From the young scribe's earliest attempts to the old master's final lyric—"Edelweiss"—we can see, read, and, yes, sing the words of a theatrical and lyrical genius.

rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered: *Anita Loos Rediscovered* Anita Loos, 2025-03-18 Anita Loos (1888-1981) was one of Hollywood's most respected and prolific screenwriters, as well as an acclaimed novelist and playwright. This unique collection of previously unpublished film treatments, short stories, and one-act plays spans fifty years of her creative writing and showcases the breadth and depth of her talent. Beginning in 1912 with the stories she submitted from her San Diego home (some made into films by D. W. Griffith), through her collaboration with Colette on the play *Gigi*, Anita Loos wrote almost every day for the screen, stage, books, or magazines. Film scripts include *San Francisco*, *The Women*, and *Red-Headed Woman*. The list of stars for whom she created unforgettable roles includes Mary Pickford, Jean Harlow, Clark Gable, Audrey Hepburn, and Carol Channing. This collection has been selected by Anita's niece and close friend, the best-selling author Mary Anita Loos, together with the acclaimed film historian Cari Beauchamp. Their essays are laced throughout the volume, introducing each section and giving previously untold insights and behind-the-scenes stories about Anita—her life, her friendships, and her times.

rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered: *The Rodgers and Hammerstein Encyclopedia* Thomas S. Hischak, 2007-06-30 Still the most influential and popular songwriting team in the history of the American Musical Theatre, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein represent Broadway musicals at their finest. The team revolutionized the musical play with *Oklahoma!* in 1943 and then went on to explore territory never put on the musical stage before in such beloved shows as *Carousel*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I* and *The Sound of Music*. The team also worked in film, as

with State Fair, and in the new medium of television, with Cinderella. For the first time, the lives, careers, works, songs, and themes of Rodgers and Hammerstein have been gathered together in an encyclopedia that covers the many talents of these men. In addition to their plays and films together, every work that each man did with other collaborators is also discussed. Hundreds of their songs are described, and there are entries on the many actors, directors, and other creative artists who they worked with. A complete list of awards, recordings, and books about the team are included, as well as a chronology of everything either man wrote. But The Rodgers and Hammerstein Encyclopedia is not just about facts. It explains their work, explores themes in their musicals, and illustrates why they remain a driving force in the American Theatre. This is the first encyclopaedia to look specifically at the careers and works of Rodgers and Hammerstein, covering all their musicals together for stage, screen and television, but also everything they wrote with others. The purpose is to create a comprehensive guide to the American Musical Theatres foremost collaboration. The encyclopedia is (1) comprehensive, describing the works, the people involved in those works, and many of their famous songs; (2) up-to-date, including the most recent revivals of their works and new recordings of their scores; and (3) easy to use, being alphabetically arranged with cross-reference listings, chronological lists, lists of awards and recordings, and bibliographic information for further reading.

rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered: *Rodgers & Hammerstein Collection* Richard Rodgers, 2002 (P/V/G Composer Collection). It's a grand collection fit for two of the most influential and successful composers of the modern era! This folio presents 70 songs from 11 of their blockbusters, complete with background information on each show and a great bio of this famous team. It also features an index by show and an alphabetical song title index. Songs include: Bali Ha'i * The Carousel Waltz * Climb Ev'ry Mountain * Dites-Moi (Tell Me Why) * Do-Re-Mi * Edelweiss * A Fellow Needs a Girl * Getting to Know You * A Hundred Million Miracles * I Cain't Say No * I Enjoy Being a Girl * I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair * It Might as Well Be Spring * It's a Grand Night for Singing * June Is Bustin' Out All Over * Kansas City * My Favorite Things * Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin' * Oklahoma * Our State Fair * Shall We Dance? * Some Enchanted Evening * The Surrey with the Fringe on Top * There Is Nothin' like a Dame * You'll Never Walk Alone * You've Got to Be Carefully Taught * and more.

rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered: REDISCOVERED DUNDEE Brian King, 2020-01-07 With the opening of the V & A Museum of Design and redevelopment of the waterfront area, Dundee is a city looking confidently to the future but there is also an interesting past just waiting to be rediscovered. Rediscovered Dundee is an anthology of stories from that past. The story of any city is the story of its people and this book features accounts of some Dundonians whose names have been long absent from the history books - such as the boy who attempted a solo crossing of the Atlantic or the man who helped to change our way of death . It investigates some of the physical relics of the past which are still around us but whose stories have been forgotten over time, including the flag that flew at Culloden and the fountain that nobody wanted. There is also the truth about local myths have grown up and have been passed on down the years. Did a Dundee woman really tend to the dying Admiral Nelson and did the heir to the British throne secretly die near Broughty Ferry? With many tourists now visiting Dundee, initially drawn by the V&A, who then find that the city has much more to offer, this book also looks at other visitors through the years. Just as the modern city is being rediscovered perhaps it is time that Dundonians and visitors alike rediscover the city's hidden history.

rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered: *Berlin, Kern, Rodgers, Hart, and Hammerstein* Steven Suskin, 1990 The complete work of five giants of American popular song. Entries list each copyrighted song alphabetically by author, with collaborators (P.G. Wodehouse and Stephen Sondheim to name two), production date and--for published songs--information on publication. Separate checklists exist for songs written for productions and songs written with major collaborators. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered: Channeling Wonder Pauline Greenhill, Jill Terry

Rudy, 2014-10-06 Scholars of cultural studies, fairy-tale studies, folklore, and television studies will enjoy this first-of-its-kind volume.

rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered: *Oscar Hammerstein II and the Invention of the Musical* Laurie Winer, 2023-01-31 A new look at artist Oscar Hammerstein II as a pivotal and underestimated force in the creation of modern American culture You know his work—Show Boat, Oklahoma!, Carousel, The King and I. But you don't really know Oscar Hammerstein II, the man who, more than anyone else, invented the American musical. Among the most commercially successful artists of his time, he was a fighter for social justice who constantly prodded his audiences to be better than they were. Diving deep into Hammerstein's life, examining his papers and his lyrics, critic Laurie Winer shows how he orchestrated a collective reimagining of America, urging it forward with a subtly progressive vision of the relationship between country and city, rich and poor, America and the rest of the world. His rejection of bitterness, his openness to strangers, and his optimistic humor shaped not only the musical but the American dream itself. His vision can continue to be a touchstone to this day.

rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered: Something Wonderful Todd S. Purdum, 2018-04-03 A revelatory portrait of the creative partnership that transformed musical theater and provided the soundtrack to the American Century They stand at the apex of the great age of songwriting, the creators of the classic Broadway musicals Oklahoma!, Carousel, South Pacific, The King and I, and The Sound of Music, whose songs have never lost their popularity or emotional power. Even before they joined forces, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II had written dozens of Broadway shows, but together they pioneered a new art form: the serious musical play. Their songs and dance numbers served to advance the drama and reveal character, a sharp break from the past and the template on which all future musicals would be built. Though different in personality and often emotionally distant from each other, Rodgers and Hammerstein presented an unbroken front to the world and forged much more than a songwriting team; their partnership was also one of the most profitable and powerful entertainment businesses of their era. They were cultural powerhouses whose work came to define postwar America on stage, screen, television, and radio. But they also had their failures and flops, and more than once they feared they had lost their touch. Todd S. Purdum's portrait of these two men, their creative process, and their groundbreaking innovations will captivate lovers of musical theater, lovers of the classic American songbook, and young lovers wherever they are. He shows that what Rodgers and Hammerstein wrought was truly something wonderful.

rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered: *The A to Z of the Broadway Musical* William A. Everett, Paul R. Laird, 2009-09-17 The Broadway musical has greatly influenced American (and world) culture. Such shows as Oklahoma! and Annie Get Your Gun are as American as apple pie, while the long runs of imports like Cats, The Phantom of the Opera, and Les Misérables have broken records. Broadway has produced such cultural icons as Ethel Merman, Yul Brynner, and Julie Andrews, and composers and lyricists such as Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and many others have had their melodies sung on its stages. Visionaries like George Abbott, Agnes de Mille, Jerome Robbins, Bob Fosse, Tommy Tune, and Susan Stroman have brought productions to life through their innovative direction and choreography. Since the latter part of the 19th century, the Broadway musical has remained one of the most popular genres in entertainment and its history is related in detail in The A to Z of the Broadway Musical. Through a chronology, an introductory essay, a bibliography, and 900 dictionary entries on Broadway shows, playwrights, directors, producers, designers, and actors, this handy desk reference offers quick information on the many aspects of the Broadway musical.

rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered: **Historical Dictionary of the Broadway Musical** William A. Everett, Paul R. Laird, 2015-11-12 The Broadway musical has greatly influenced both American and world culture. Shows such as Oklahoma! and Annie Get Your Gun are as American as apple pie, while the long runs of imports such as Cats, The Phantom of the Opera, and Les

Misérables have broken records. Shows filled with rock and pop music such as Mamma Mia! and Wicked enthrall audiences, and revivals of beloved shows play an important role in contemporary Broadway culture. Actors Ethel Merman, Yul Brynner, Julie Andrews, Bernadette Peters, and Audra McDonald; composers and lyricists Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, John Kander, Fred Ebb, and Jeanine Tesori; and directors and choreographers George Abbott, Agnes de Mille, Jerome Robbins, Bob Fosse, Tommy Tune, and Susan Stroman—to name only a few—have gained national and international recognition by way of the Broadway musical stage. This second edition of Historical Dictionary of the Broadway Musical contains a chronology, an introduction, an appendix, and an extensive bibliography. The dictionary section has over 1000 cross-referenced entries on Broadway shows, composers, playwrights, directors, producers, designers, actors, and theatres. This book is an excellent access point for students, researchers, and anyone wanting to know more about Broadway musicals.

rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered: Listening for America: Inside the Great American Songbook from Gershwin to Sondheim Rob Kapilow, 2019-11-05 Finalist • The Marfield Prize [National Award for Arts Writing] “Not since the late Leonard Bernstein has classical music had a combination salesman-teacher as irresistible as Kapilow.” —Kansas City Star “If you want to understand American history, listen to its popular music,” writes renowned NPR host Rob Kapilow. “If you want to understand America’s popular music, listen to its history.” Through the songs of eight legendary American composers—Kern, Porter, Gershwin, Arlen, Berlin, Rodgers, Bernstein, and Sondheim—Kapilow listens for the history not just of musical theater, but of America itself. Combining close readings of Broadway hits like “Summertime” and “Stormy Weather” with a wide-angled historical point of view, Listening for America shows us how we too can listen along as America discovered its identity through the epochal transformations of the twentieth century.

rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered: Tropical Cool: A Buddhist Manual of Air Conditioning, 2018-02-03 A case can be made, and has been made by Pope Francis, that the extensive use of air conditioning use in the developed world, especially the United States, is a careless excess and poor example to the rest of the world. Indeed, it makes a mockery of the current ideology of energy sustainability including concerns about prevention of global warming. Extension of wasteful practices of air conditioning to emerging economies (like India) is easily shown to be unsustainable. As with other recalcitrant problems such as over-reliance on cars and poor personal health and dietary habits (smoking, processed foods) the source of the problem is found individual moral choices that are championed as individual freedoms but actually represent a degenerate morality which yields more benefit to corporations and big government than to people. The Buddhist ethic provides one path into the heart of human choices illuminating as it does the incorrect thinking that underlies bad choices including those that most people think are based on common sense and scientific expertise. This book applies this idea to the matter of air conditioning, using Thailand and like Southeast Asian settings as an example. It makes the claim that emerging western interest in mindfulness could be leveraged to introduce new thinking on personal energy use that will go much further to create true sustainability than programs based on harnessing geophysical technologies such as solar and wind.

rodgers and hammerstein rediscovered: South Pacific Jim Lovensheimer, 2010-08-25 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.

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