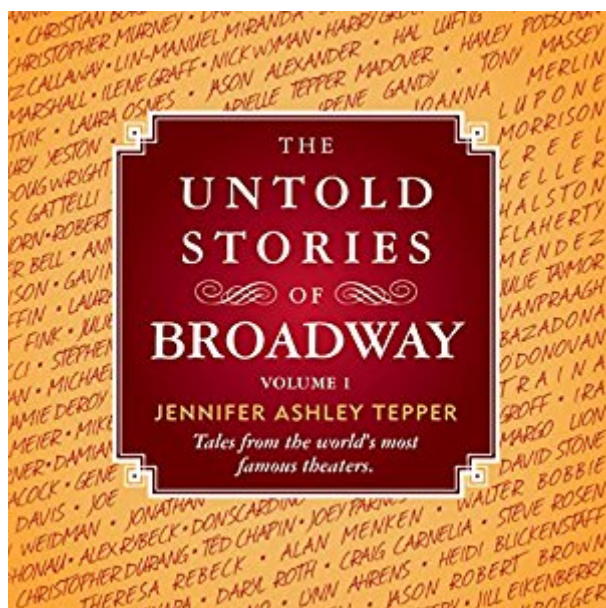


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# The Untold Stories Of Broadway: Tales From The World's Most Famous Theaters, Volume 1



## Synopsis

Do you wish you were in the audience during Barbra Streisand's final performance of *Funny Girl* on Broadway? Do you wonder how far Jonathan Groff was willing to go to score tickets to *Thoroughly Modern Millie*? And are you dying to know which beloved TV star and Tony Award winner was caught with his pants down in front of a movie legend? From opening nights to closing nights. From secret passageways to ghostly encounters. From Broadway debuts to landmark productions. Score a front row seat to hear hundreds of stories about the most important stages in the world, seen through the eyes of the producers, actors, stage hands, writers, musicians, company managers, dressers, designers, directors, ushers, and door men who bring *The Great White Way* to life each night. You'll never look at Broadway the same way again. This is the first audiobook in a multi-volume series that will tell the stories of all of the Broadway houses. Volume 1 includes the Winter Garden, the Richard Rodgers, the Marriott Marquis, the Al Hirschfeld, the Neil Simon, the August Wilson, the Mark Hellinger, and the Lyceum: eight Broadway theaters that light up New York City.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The only reason I'm giving this book 5 stars is that it's not possible to give more than that. Anyone who is interested in theatre, New York, or history will enjoy this book. I love all 3 of those things, so I couldn't ask for anything more. I love how the chapters are separated by theater, and how each chapter starts with stories of the past and heads toward the present. It's fun to see the same stories told in multiple points of view. I also loved hearing the author's own stories and experiences

dispersed throughout. This book is a must read for any theatre fan. Jennifer Ashley Tepper brings the theatre world to everyone, so we can all know what it's like to be part of it all.

The hundreds of stories in this book have taught me so much about what goes on behind the scenes in professional theatre, and each reminded me of why I moved to New York. Tepper's own stories break up the history and provide a young person's perspective about the stories all these greats are telling. It's reminiscent of Helene Hanff's book in many ways. I have such a greater appreciation for each of the theaters and for specific shows that were in them now. I wish this book had existed when I was growing up outside of New York so that I could be armed with all this knowledge when I moved here. Now that I've finished it, I'm buying copies for my younger cousins and my sister who all love Broadway from afar. And I'm eagerly awaiting volume 2.

Have you ever been to a cocktail party where you sort of know a few people but wish you had someone to take you around and introduce you? Tepper does that for you with eight Broadway theatres: The Richard Rodgers, Winter Garden, Marquis, Al Hirschfeld, Neil Simon, August Wilson, Mark Hellinger, and Lyceum. Starting each chapter with some quick basics such as when the theatre first opened and various name changes, she tells you the longest and (more fun,) shortest running shows in each theatre just for the background. Then like any knowledgeable escort, she keeps you moving quickly from one person to another sharing their memories of shows, actors, producers, triumphs and failures. Bear in mind that the stories are limited to the life experience of the people she interviewed. Nothing much prior to the 1950s here. Many of these are in Rashomon-style getting the same event told from a few different perspectives. Tepper introduces you to everyone from the ushers to the producers. From the teary, Broadway-debut actor making their first stage door entrance to the veteran stagehand explaining what a bitch it is to load in sets there, you meet a cross-section of Broadway you might never have thought twice about before. And before you get bored, Tepper graciously draws you away to meet the next character, the next theatre. In between these encounters, Tepper shares some of her own takes or memories of the events or the people. Her book includes not only toe in the water data for those who are simply curious about Broadway, but trivia for even the most devoted Broadway fan. (Or am I the only one who didn't know the connection between sailors and backdrops?) Buy this book if you want to know the little out-of-the-way alcoves, balconies, rooms and galleries to visit before the show or at intermission. Buy this book if you want to suddenly look at ushers for the first time (or never thought about the person guarding the stage door). Buy this book if you want "visit" the backstage and wonder what

exactly is happening at the 5 minute call at a certain pair of theatres. Buy this book to understand how "casting" a theatre is almost as important as casting the star. Frankly, just buy the book if you want a good read or a gift for a Broadway fan. It's the most fun anyone can have at a "cocktail party" without a drink in your hand.

I am biased because my story of Senator Joe is included here, but what Jen Tepper is doing in putting out into the world these amazing stories, stories that might otherwise be forgotten, is wonderful! "The Untold Stories of Broadway" is great treat for readers, and a great soul-healing for the tellers.

Insightful, entertaining look into the history of Broadway theaters! Ms. Tepper shares with us the memories and experiences of actors, producers, writers, ushers, house managers and many others. It is such a pleasure to read so many different first-person memories and perspectives and to understand how each theater and production has impacted them. It will be a neat experience for me going into these theaters in the future and feeling a part of the history.

Bought this book (and companion volume - part 2 ) not really knowing what to expect. This book is written with the perfect balance of historical notes, personal histories and reflections. I especially like the fact the author not only focused on name performers but also on the everyday "worker bees" vitally necessary to keep the theaters/shows going. Well done job on the first of what are to be many other volumes. Hopefully the wait between them will not be too long!

There are books about theatre history that cover who played what when and where. But this book covers so much more. With this, we get the "How" behind the shows (both long-runs and flops). We get the inside scoop on so many beloved plays and musicals from, literally, every angle - house managers, ushers, actors, costume designers, producers... the list goes on and on. What makes this book extremely special, though, would be Tepper's interjections. Dispersed throughout the chapters, we get this theatre historian's personal recollections about a show, theatre, party, or even restaurant. As a theatre-lover who used to live in NYC, I have my own personal memories, and it's a truly fantastic touch to get even the author's input on so much. Definitely a must-have for anyone who likes "juicy" stories, tales from the heart, and, in general, any sort of "insider" info about Broadway.

This book is absolutely beautiful. Many thanks to Jennifer Ashley Tepper for collecting such moving and delightful stories. This is a must-read for anyone who loves theatre.

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