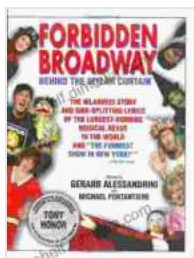


# Behind the Sparkling Curtain: A Peek into Forbidden Broadway's Magical World

Prepare to be swept away by the tantalizing tale of *Forbidden Broadway*, the uproarious musical revue that has taken Broadway by storm for over 30 years. In this captivating article, we venture behind the dazzling facade to unveil the captivating history, ingenious creators, and irresistible charm that have made this show a beloved theatrical phenomenon.

## The Genesis of Forbidden Broadway

In the early 1980s, a group of talented young performers shared a backstage dream: to create a hilarious parody of the Broadway musicals that they loved and adored. Led by the brilliant Gerard Alessandrini, this ensemble embarked on a journey that would forever change the landscape of musical theater.



## Forbidden Broadway: Behind the Mylar Curtain (Applause Books) by Gerard Alessandrini

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 7040 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 1 pages

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With wit as sharp as a razor and an uncanny ability to capture the essence of Broadway's biggest stars, Alessandrini and his team crafted a series of laugh-out-loud skits that mercilessly poked fun at some of the most iconic shows of the era. From the glitz and glamour of *Cats* to the soaring melodies of *Les Misérables*, no Broadway hit was safe from their satirical scrutiny.

## **The Rise to Stardom**

Word of *Forbidden Broadway's* brilliance spread like wildfire through the theater community. In 1982, the show made its Off-Broadway debut at the Palsson's Upstairs nightclub, where it instantly became a sensation. Audiences roared with laughter as they witnessed Broadway's biggest stars playfully skewered by a cast of extraordinary performers.

As *Forbidden Broadway's* reputation grew, so did its reach. The show transferred to larger venues, including the Village Gate and the 47th Street Theatre, where it continued to pack houses night after night. Its popularity extended beyond New York City, with successful runs in cities across the United States and Europe.

## **The Mastermind Behind the Myriad Masks**

The genius behind *Forbidden Broadway* is undoubtedly its creator, Gerard Alessandrini. A gifted writer, composer, and performer, Alessandrini has written over 200 songs for the show, each one a witty and incisive commentary on the Broadway scene.

Alessandrini's unique talent lies in his ability to capture the idiosyncrasies of Broadway's performers and shows with uncanny accuracy. His characters

are larger than life caricatures, but they are also imbued with a genuine love and appreciation for the theater.

## **A Cast of Unforgettable Characters**

*Forbidden Broadway* has showcased an array of extraordinary performers over the years, each bringing their own unique brand of humor and vocal prowess to the stage. From the legendary Christine Pedi to the incomparable Donna Lynne Champlin, the cast of *Forbidden Broadway* has become synonymous with comedic excellence.

These talented performers are not simply imitators; they create fully realized characters that bring Alessandrini's satirical vision to life. Their ability to seamlessly mimic the voices, mannerisms, and quirks of Broadway's biggest stars is a testament to their exceptional artistry.

## **The Enduring Legacy of Forbidden Broadway**

For over three decades, *Forbidden Broadway* has remained a vital and beloved force in the theater world. It has won numerous awards, including two Tony Awards for Best Special Theatrical Event and five Drama Desk Awards.

Beyond its critical and commercial success, *Forbidden Broadway* has had a profound impact on the Broadway landscape. Its playful satirization has helped to keep the theater industry honest and has encouraged audiences to think critically about the shows they see.

## **Unveiling the Secrets Behind the Mylar Curtain**

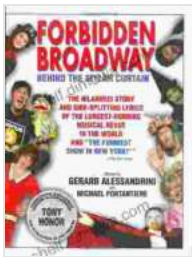
In his new book, *Forbidden Broadway Behind the Mylar Curtain*, Alessandrini reveals the untold stories and behind-the-scenes anecdotes

that have shaped the show's remarkable history. From the casting process to the challenges of spoofing Broadway's biggest hits, Alessandrini paints a vivid and entertaining picture of the world behind the sparkling curtain.

*Forbidden Broadway Behind the Mylar Curtain* is an essential read for fans of the show and anyone interested in the inner workings of the theater world. Alessandrini's candor, wit, and passion for his craft shine through on every page.

Journey behind the sparkling curtain and discover the magical world of *Forbidden Broadway*. With its razor-sharp satire, unforgettable characters, and enduring legacy, this theatrical phenomenon continues to captivate and entertain audiences around the globe.

Embrace the laughter and immerse yourself in the extraordinary world of *Forbidden Broadway* today.



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