



by
Eric Rockwell and Joanne Bogart

"It's great fun. The best parodists don't just know their material, they love it. They don't mock from on high; they tease. And they share the form's joie de vivre. Musical theater fans will get every one of Ms. Bogart's verbal games and Mr. Rockwell's musical ones. They create their own lightly absurd world." - Margo Jefferson, *New York Times*

— *A Playgoer's Companion* —

About the Playwrights



ERIC ROCKWELL AND JOANNE BOGART created *The Musical of Musicals: The Musical*. Eric Rockwell primarily the music, and Joanne Bogart primarily the lyrics.

They began their collaboration in the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop. For *The Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)* they were honored with a 2004 Drama Desk nomination for Best Musical, as well as individual nominations for Best Music and Best Lyrics. In addition, the show received a 2004 Lucille Lortel nomination for Best Musical and a 2005 Drama League nomination for Best Musical. Their parody of Mickey and Judy musicals, *Golly Gee Whiz*, as originally produced by the TADA! Theatre, was then later featured at the Lincoln Center "Reel to Real" series. Their other collaborations include productions of *The Trials of Alice in Wonderland* and *David and Goliath*. As a lyricist, Ms. Bogart contributed several lyrics to *The Book of Pooh* and *Bear in the Big Blue House*, both for the Disney Channel. Mr. Rockwell composed the score for *The History Mystery*, and wrote the libretto to *Everything About School*, both produced by the TADA! Theatre Company in New York. They are currently working on their next project together, a traditional full-length book musical, *Coney Island*. [Adapted from the *Musical of Musicals* Web site]

What is *The Musical of Musicals: The Musical!* about?

"I can't pay the rent!" It's a classic melodramatic plot reproduced five times in one show. Joanne Bogart and Eric Rockwell created the ultimate musical, because sometimes one musical just isn't enough. In five acts, the show pays homage to (and parodies) the style of five great musical theatre composers.

June can't pay her rent and must face her evil landlord. How would Rodgers & Hammerstein write it? Perhaps in Kansas in August, with a Dream Ballet! Would Stephen Sondheim present the landlord as a tortured, artistic genius who slashes tenants' throats in revenge because they don't appreciate Art? Jerry Herman's version may be a splashy star vehicle, Andrew Lloyd Webber's a rock musical and Kander and Ebb's, set in a seedy Cabaret in Chicago.

What's parodied (a handy guide):

Act 1 - Scene 1 - "Corn" is set in the style of the musicals of Rodgers & Hammerstein, featuring parodies of and references to *The King and I*, *The Sound of Music*, *Carousel*, *Cinderella*, *Flower Drum Song*, *Oklahoma!*, and *South Pacific*.

Act 1 - Scene 2 - "A Little Complex" is based on the musicals of Stephen Sondheim (*Into the Woods*, *Company*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Sunday in the Park with George*).

Act 1 - Scene 3 - "Dear Abby" parodies the work of Jerry Herman, especially *Mame* and *Hello, Dolly!*

Act 2 - Scene 1 - "Aspects of Junita" plays upon the work of Andrew Lloyd Webber, including *Evita*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Cats*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Act 2 - Scene 5 - "Speakeasy" reflects the work of John Kander and Fred Ebb, chiefly *Chicago* and *Cabaret*.

The cast concludes the show by singing "Done," a parody of the song "One" from the musical *A Chorus Line* (written by James Kirkwood and Nicholas Dante, with lyrics by Edward Kleban and music by Marvin Hamlisch) [Adapted from wikipedia]

The Musical of Musicals calls to mind the movie spoofs on The Carol Burnett Show. Like those take-offs, this sparkling show affectionately and wittily captures the spirit of the classics it's parodying. Simply put, *The Musical of Musicals* is a hoot." - William Stevenson, Broadway.com

Some production history

The musical premiered off-Broadway on December 16, 2003 at the York Theatre at St. Mark's and ran through October 2, 2004, for a total of 194 performances and 14 previews. The production was directed and choreographed by Pamela Hunt and featured Joanne Bogart, Craig Fols, Lovette George, and Eric Rockwell. The production was nominated for the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Musical and the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Musical, Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical (George), Outstanding Director of a Musical (Hunt), and Outstanding Lyrics (Bogart) and Outstanding Music (Rockwell). It again played off-Broadway in 2005 at the New World Stages V with the same cast. It also had a production on London's West End, in Australia, as well as numerous productions in U.S. regional theatres and in Canada. The London production ran from March 31, 2006 through April 22, 2006 at the Sound Theatre.

**This document was researched by
The Musical of Musicals: The Musical Task Force
Maggie Banks, Sarah Bulman, and Rebecca Howland**

and edited and assembled by

Sara Power, Lauri Mazerolle, Ashleigh Woods, and Russ Hunt

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