

**BEYOND
THE
SCORE
ISSUE TEN**



SETTING THE
STANDARD

PICTURE
PUZZLE

GROUND-
BREAKING: A
LETTER FROM
THE EDITOR

**RODGERS &
HAMMERSTEIN**

A CLOSER LOOK AT MUSICAL THEATRE

PUBLISHED BY JUST SO KREATIVE - JSKSTORIES.COM

SETTING THE STANDARD



Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II are among many of the prominent people who transformed musical theatre into what we see today. Their collaboration launched a new wave of musical theatre, which set a standard for the works following them. Together they won forty-two Tony Awards, fifteen Academy Awards, two Pulitzer Prizes, two Grammy Awards and two Emmy Awards. Even a theatre on Broadway was named after Richard Rodgers! Their success is evident, but let's dive into WHY.

RICHARD RODGERS

Their first show together, *Oklahoma!*, is considered to be one of the greatest musical theater accomplishments of the twentieth-century. The music, the story, and the choreography created a beautiful piece of art for audiences to enjoy. *Oklahoma!* was more than just fun dance numbers and loveable songs. The characters had more complexity, the music was more emotional, and there were scenes with serious themes. In many of their shows, Rodgers and Hammerstein did not shy from social and cultural issues, using the stage as a mechanism to shed light on these things.

“*Oklahoma’s* success is certainly due to many factors. It is true that the idealized Oklahoma depicted in the musical completely sidestepped many of the issues that impacted the actual state. Instead, the show presented a (mostly) sun-lit version of the past...For many viewers, *Oklahoma!* provided a temporary emotional escape; they could lose themselves in the nostalgia of this tale, set in America’s heartland.” - Musical Theatre An Appreciation, pg. 245



Click on the photo to watch one of *Oklahoma’s* most popular songs, "Surrey With the Fringe On the Top".

OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

PICTURE PUZZLE

Can you name these popular Rodgers & Hammerstein shows based on the pictures? Time to find out!



1

2



Answers found on page 11.

3



4



5



6





GROUNDBREAKING

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader,

It's crazy to think that we are already on our TENTH issue of Beyond the Score. Even though these newsletters are meant to help you learn more about musical theatre history, I have learned new things, too! That's the beauty of history- you can continue to discover facts and people you never knew before!

Getting into The Golden Age is really exciting because there are so many "trailblazers" that emerged during this time. Rodgers and Hammerstein are no exception. Their influence is even found in today's standard musicals. Remember when *Hamilton* came to Broadway and it was unlike anything that anyone saw on stage? Believe it or not, that was how people reacted to many of Rodgers and

Hammerstein's works. Rodgers and Hammerstein brought stories and music to the stage that were new and interesting. Some of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musicals are still performed today, bringing in improved writing, new songs, and more diversity. I look forward to focusing more on diversity in an upcoming newsletter. So even though we look back on these productions and categorize them as classic or old, at the time they were groundbreaking and we still perform and talk about them today.

Sincerely,

Carlee Baldwin

Editor & Creator, *Beyond the Score*

Picture Puzzle Answers:

- 1) South Pacific
- 2) Sound of Music
- 3) Oklahoma!
- 4) The King and I
- 5) Cinderella
- 6) Carousel

SOURCES

Aniftos, Rania. "5 Things to Know About Rodgers & Hammerstein." *Billboard*, 29 Jan. 2019, www.billboard.com/articles/news/8495416/rodgers-hammerstein-5-things-to-know.

Blumenfeld, Robert. *Blumenfeld's Dictionary of Musical Theater: Opera, Operetta, Musical Comedy*. Limelight Editions, 2010.

Culwell-Block, Logan. *Playbill*, 16 Apr. 2019, www.playbill.com/article/oklahoma-in-development-to-become-musical-tv-series.

Lenker, Maureen Lee. *Entertainment Weekly*, 5 Feb. 2021, ew.com/movies/captain-von-trapp-sound-of-music-christopher-plummer-legacy/.

Leve, James. *American Musical Theater*. Oxford University Press, 2016.

LittleGuide, www.littleguidedetroit.com/event/rodgers-hammersteins-cinderella-3/.

McLamore, Alyson. *Musical Theater An Appreciation*. 2nd ed., Routledge, 2018.

PBS, editor. *PBS*, www.pbs.org/wnet/broadway/shows/oklahoma/.

Playbill, www.playbill.com/gallery/production-photos-original-broadway-production-of-carousel?slide=1.

Rimalower, Ben. "Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II." *Playbill*, .

Searle, Deborah. *Dance Informa*, 16 Jan. 2014, dancemagazine.com.au/2014/01/south-pacific/.

Teachout, Terry. *Wall Street Journal*, 20 Aug. 2020, www.wsj.com/articles/the-king-and-i-review-something-wonderful-on-the-small-screen-11597957066.

All other graphics were used from free stock image site: pixabay.com