



BEYOND THE SCORE

A CLOSER LOOK AT MUSICAL THEATRE

Mega Musicals

THE 80'S & 90'S

MEGA?

HONORABLE
MENTIONS



ISSUE THIRTY THREE



C. BALDWIN

The 80's & 90's

The 1980's and 1990's ushered in new styles and exciting shows for musical theatre. Composers like Andrew Lloyd Weber, Stephen Sondheim, Stephen Flaherty, and Alan Menken, to name a few, created many musical works during this time. There was also a callback to the Golden Age of film and musical theatre, with some writers adapting old musical films for the stage. Some examples include *The Wizard of Oz*, *Singin' in the Rain*, and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*.



Mega?



The word “mega” means extremely large or huge. When referring to a musical as a mega musical - it’s just that! An extremely large musical! Large in cast, in instrumentation, in story, or in production. With the advancements in technology during this time, mega musicals were more possible. A chandelier falling down in *The Phantom of the Opera*, an actual helicopter landing center stage in *Miss Saigon*, and the outrageous makeup and costume design in *Cats*, are just a few examples of this mega musical movement.

Honorable Mentions

Crazy For You (1992)

Music by George Gershwin | Lyrics & Book
by Ira Gershwin & Ken Ludwig

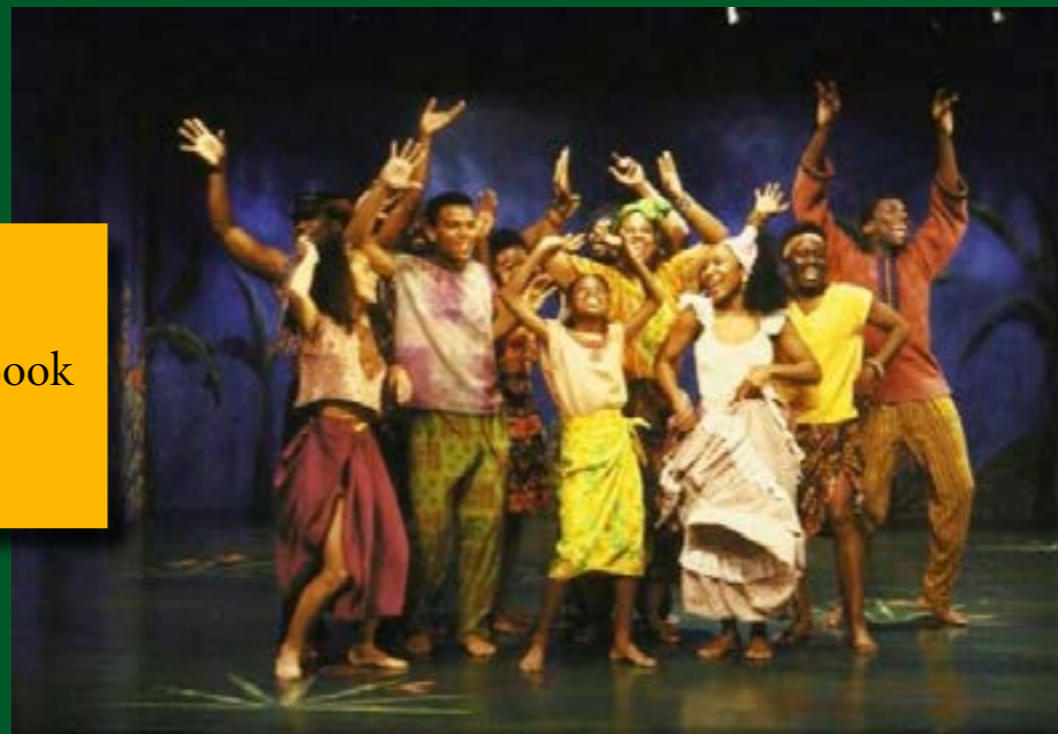


Little Shop of Horrors (1982)

Music by Alan Menken | Lyrics & Book by
Howard Ashman

Once on This Island (1990)

Music by Stephen Flaherty | Lyrics & Book
by Lynn Ahrens



Into The Woods (1986)

Music by Stephen Sondheim | Lyrics &
Book by James Lapine



SOURCES

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