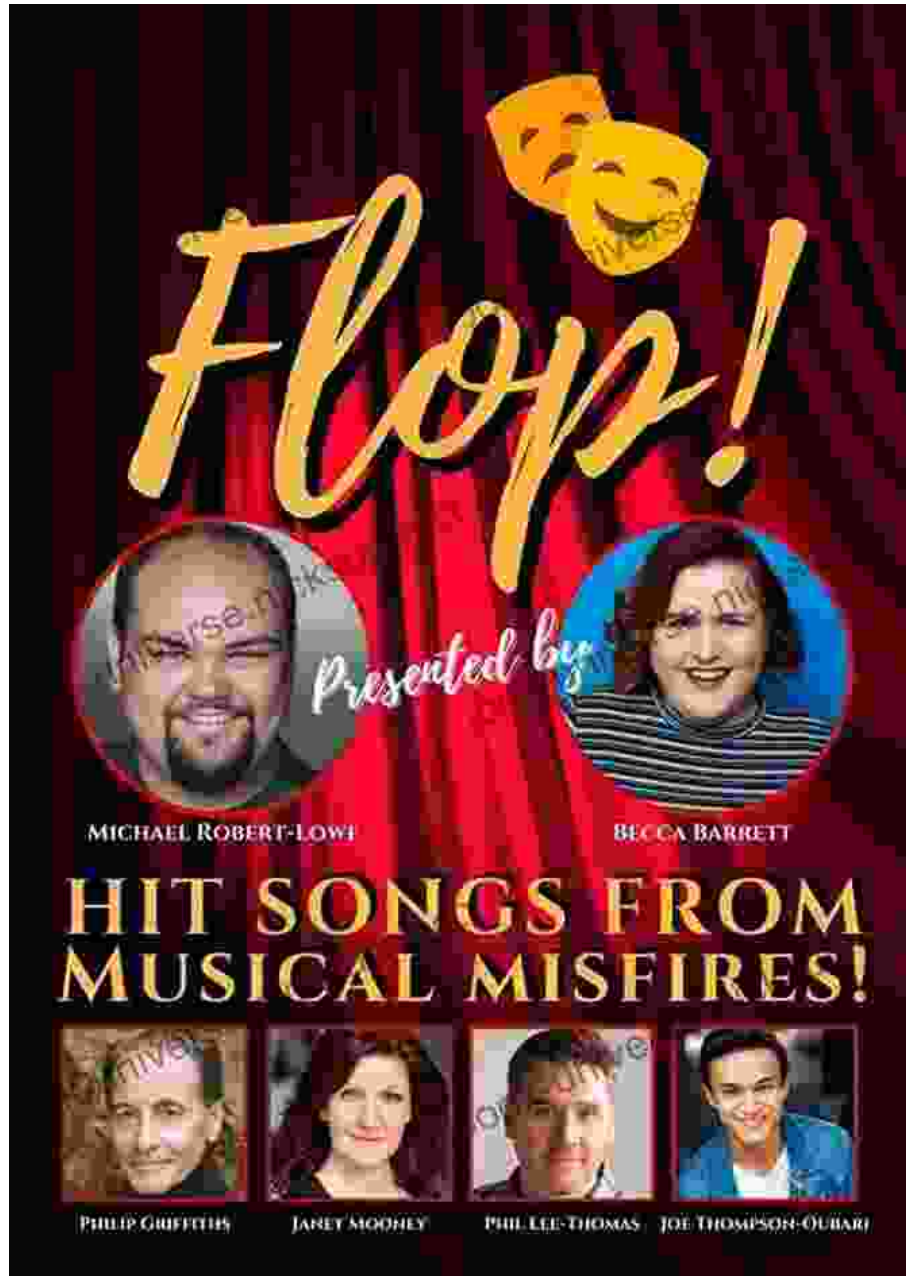
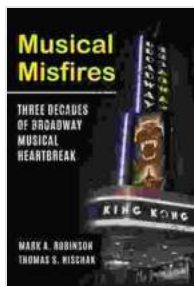


# Musical Misfires: Three Decades of Broadway Musical Heartbreak



Broadway, the mecca of musical theater, is a place where dreams come true and stars are born. But for every hit that reaches the Great White Way, there are countless others that fall short of expectations. These musical

misfires, often plagued by critical and commercial failure, represent the heartbreak and shattered dreams of countless artists.



## Musical Misfires: Three Decades of Broadway Musical Heartbreak

by Thomas S. Hischak

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 8288 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 527 pages



In this article, we delve into three decades of Broadway musical disasters, exploring the reasons behind their failure and the lessons that can be learned from them. From ill-conceived concepts to poor execution, these misfires serve as cautionary tales for aspiring theater makers.

### **The 1990s: A Decade of Disappointments**

The 1990s witnessed a string of high-profile Broadway flops, each with its own unique set of circumstances.

#### **"Nick & Nora" (1991)**

Based on the popular Thin Man film series, "Nick & Nora" was a musical comedy that starred Tony Danza and Joanna Gleason. Despite its star power, the show failed to impress critics and audiences, closing after just 18 performances. The critics found the show's plot uninspired and its music forgettable.

## **"The Civil War" (1999)**

This ambitious musical, based on the American Civil War, was one of the most expensive Broadway productions ever mounted. However, its sprawling narrative and lack of focus proved to be its downfall. The show received mixed reviews and closed after only 124 performances.

## **The 2000s: From "Spider-Man" to "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark"**

The 2000s ushered in a new era of Broadway musicals, with big-budget productions and special effects taking center stage. However, not all of these ambitious endeavors were successful.

## **"Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" (2011)**

Perhaps the most infamous Broadway flop of the decade, "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" was plagued by technical problems, injuries, and cast departures. The show underwent multiple rewrites and revisions, but it ultimately failed to live up to expectations. It closed in 2014, having lost millions of dollars.

## **"The Times They Are A-Changin'" (2006)**

Based on the music of Bob Dylan, this musical was hampered by a disjointed plot and a lack of focus. Critics found the show's message muddled and its execution amateurish. It closed after just 44 performances, becoming one of the biggest financial disasters in Broadway history.

## **The 2010s: A Mixed Bag of Hits and Misses**

The 2010s saw a resurgence of Broadway classics, but also a number of new musicals that failed to find success.

## **"Rebecca" (2012)**

This musical adaptation of Daphne du Maurier's classic novel was met with mixed reviews. Some praised its lush score and evocative atmosphere, while others found it too melodramatic and predictable. The show closed after just 57 performances.

## **"Finding Neverland" (2015)**

Based on the 2004 film about the author of Peter Pan, this musical was a critical and commercial success. However, its success was short-lived, as it closed in 2016 after just over a year. The reasons for its closure are unclear, but some critics have suggested that it failed to sustain interest over time.

## **Lessons from Musical Misfires**

The Broadway musical landscape is a fickle one, and success is never guaranteed. However, there are some common lessons that can be learned from musical misfires.

### **1. Strong Concept and Execution**

A musical must have a strong concept that resonates with audiences. It must also be well-executed, with engaging characters, memorable music, and a cohesive plot. Without these essential elements, a musical is unlikely to succeed.

### **2. Audience Expectations**

It is crucial to understand the audience's expectations for a particular musical. A show that is too experimental or inaccessible may fail to connect

with its target audience. Producers must carefully consider the demographics and interests of their potential patrons.

### **3. Marketing and Promotion**

Effective marketing and promotion are essential for any Broadway musical. A strong marketing campaign can generate excitement and build anticipation, while a weak campaign can doom a show before it even opens.

### **4. Financial Management**

Broadway musicals are expensive to produce, so it is important to manage finances carefully. Producers must ensure that they have sufficient funding to cover the costs of production, as well as any unexpected expenses that may arise.

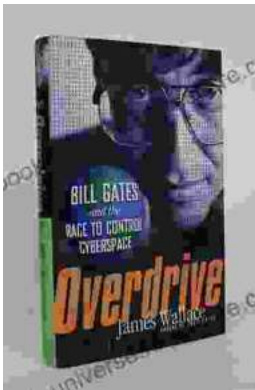
Musical misfires are an inevitable part of the Broadway landscape. However, by learning from the mistakes of the past, aspiring theater makers can increase their chances of success. By focusing on strong concepts, engaging execution, effective marketing, and sound financial management, they can create musicals that will leave a lasting impression on audiences.

While Broadway may be known for its glittering successes, it is also a place where dreams are shattered and hearts are broken. The stories of these musical misfires serve as a reminder that even in the most glamorous of industries, failure is always a possibility.

**Musical Misfires: Three Decades of Broadway Musical Heartbreak** by Thomas S. Hischak

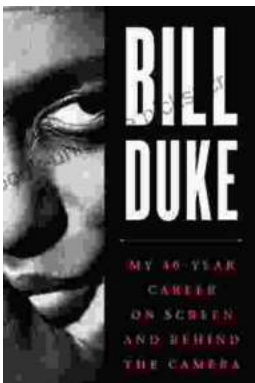


★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5  
Language : English  
File size : 8288 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 527 pages



## The Race to Control Cyberspace: Bill Gates's Plan for a Digital Divide

Bill Gates has a vision for the future of the internet. In his book, The Road Ahead, he argues that the internet will become increasingly important...



## My 40 Year Career On Screen And Behind The Camera

I've been working in the entertainment industry for over 40 years, and in that time I've had the opportunity to work on both sides of the camera. I've...