

a gentlemans guide to love and murder musical

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder Musical: A Comprehensive Exploration

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1. Introduction: Deconstructing the Delightfully Deadly "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder"

"A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" is more than just a musical; it's a masterclass in witty storytelling, impeccable comedic timing, and surprisingly poignant character development. This darkly comedic masterpiece, adapted from the 1907 novel Israel Rank, cleverly blends elements of farce, satire, and thriller to create a uniquely captivating theatrical experience. This article will delve into various aspects of the musical, exploring its methodologies from a creative and analytical perspective, offering insights into its success and enduring appeal. We'll examine the musical's clever plot structure, its satirical commentary on class and societal structures, its innovative use of a single actor portraying multiple roles, and the nuanced performance techniques required to bring this intricate production to life. The analysis will cover aspects ranging from the musical's conception to its staging, costumes, and the overall impact it has had on the landscape of contemporary musical theatre.

2. The Intricate Plot and its Narrative Structure: A Masterpiece of Macabre

The plot of "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" is a marvel of intricate plotting. Its narrative unfolds through a series of meticulously planned murders, each driven by Monty Navarro's ambition to inherit the D'Ysquith family fortune. The musical masterfully employs a non-linear structure,

cleverly weaving together flashbacks and foreshadowing to keep the audience engaged and guessing. This non-linearity, while challenging to execute, allows for a rich tapestry of character development and plot twists that keep the audience enthralled from beginning to end. The use of episodic structure, moving between different points in Monty's life and his various schemes, adds to the fast-paced and engaging nature of the story. The musical's success hinges on its ability to balance the gravity of its subject matter – murder – with consistently light-hearted humor.

3. Satire and Social Commentary: A Cutting Look at Aristocracy

"A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" is not simply a murder mystery; it's a sharp satirical commentary on the British aristocracy and its inherent flaws. The D'Ysquith family embodies the absurdity and hypocrisy of privilege, exposing the superficiality and ruthlessness that can lie beneath a veneer of refined manners. The musical cleverly uses humor to critique social hierarchies, highlighting the absurdity of inherited titles and wealth, and the often-unpleasant realities of maintaining such a privileged position. This satirical edge, seamlessly integrated into the plot and dialogue, adds depth and resonance to the otherwise lighthearted tone.

4. The One-Man Show Phenomenon: The Brilliance of Multiple Casting

One of the most remarkable aspects of "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" is its innovative use of a single actor to portray the eight D'Ysquith family members. This requires exceptional versatility and comedic timing from the actor. The performance demands a rapid-fire change of character and physicality, showcasing the actor's skill and the ingenuity of the production design. This clever casting choice not only saves on casting costs but also emphasizes the inherent similarities and absurdities within the family itself, ultimately strengthening the satirical commentary.

5. Musical Numbers and their Dramatic Function: Songs as Storytelling Devices

The musical numbers in "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" are not merely musical interludes; they are integral to advancing the plot, developing characters, and enhancing the comedic and dramatic elements. The songs are cleverly integrated into the narrative, offering insights into the characters' motivations, their relationships, and the inner turmoil they experience. The range of musical styles, from ballads to comedic numbers, reflects the complexities of the characters and the situations they face, furthering the overall depth of the production.

6. Production Design and its Contribution to the Overall Aesthetic: Setting the Scene

The production design plays a crucial role in establishing the tone and atmosphere of "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder." The set design, costumes, and lighting work in harmony to create a visually captivating world that complements the narrative. The creative use of minimal set pieces, transforming spaces to represent numerous locations, further underscores the efficiency and

resourcefulness of the production. The costumes effectively portray the characters' social standing and personalities, contributing to the overall satirical effect.

7. Performance Techniques: Mastering the Art of Dark Comedy

Successfully staging "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" demands exceptional performance skills. The actors need to master the delicate balance between dark humor and pathos, conveying both the comedic aspects and the underlying seriousness of the story. The actors must be able to transition seamlessly between characters, maintaining consistency and credibility while showcasing their individual comedic talents. The timing and delivery of lines are crucial to the success of the comedic elements, requiring careful attention to detail and a keen understanding of the script's nuances.

8. Audience Reception and Critical Acclaim: A Triumphant Journey

"A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" has received widespread critical acclaim and significant audience appreciation since its debut. Its success can be attributed to its unique blend of genres, its clever writing, its exceptional performances, and its innovative production elements. The musical's ability to blend dark humor with poignant moments, while simultaneously delivering a satirical commentary on class and society, has resonated deeply with audiences and critics alike, solidifying its place as a significant contribution to the landscape of contemporary musical theatre.

9. Conclusion: A Legacy of Laughter and Intrigue

"A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" stands as a testament to the power of clever storytelling, impeccable comedic timing, and masterful theatrical execution. Its enduring appeal lies in its ability to engage audiences on multiple levels, providing both entertainment and social commentary. The musical's innovative approach to casting, its intricate plot, its sharp satire, and its memorable musical numbers have secured its place as a modern classic within the genre of musical theatre. Its lasting impact on the field extends beyond its immediate popularity, influencing subsequent productions and inspiring new creative endeavors within the realm of dark comedy and satirical musical theatre.

FAQs:

1. What makes "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" unique in the musical theatre landscape? Its unique blend of dark comedy, satire, and a single actor playing multiple roles sets it apart.
1. How does the musical's plot contribute to its overall success? The intricate, non-linear plot, full of twists and turns, keeps audiences engaged and guessing.

1. What is the significance of the satirical elements in the musical? The satire critiques the British aristocracy, exposing the hypocrisies and absurdities of inherited privilege.
1. How does the use of a single actor playing multiple roles enhance the production? This innovative approach emphasizes the similarities and absurdities within the D'Ysquith family, strengthening the satire.
1. What role do the musical numbers play in the narrative? The songs drive the plot, develop characters, and enhance the comedic and dramatic elements.
1. How important is the production design to the overall impact of the musical? The set design, costumes, and lighting create a captivating world that complements the narrative and satire.
1. What specific performance techniques are crucial for a successful production? Actors must master the balance between dark humor and pathos, and seamlessly transition between multiple characters.
1. Why has "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" received such critical acclaim? Its unique blend of genres, clever writing, and exceptional performances have garnered significant praise.
1. What is the lasting legacy of "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder"? It has influenced subsequent productions and inspired new creative endeavors in the realm of dark comedy and satirical musical theatre.

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1. Comparing "A Gentleman's Guide" to Other Dark Comedies: A comparative analysis of the musical with other works in the dark comedy genre, highlighting similarities and differences.
1. The Impact of "A Gentleman's Guide" on Contemporary Musical Theatre: An assessment of the musical's influence on the genre and its lasting legacy.
1. The Social Commentary of "A Gentleman's Guide": A Critical Perspective: A critical examination of the musical's social commentary and its relevance to modern society.
1. A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder: A Director's Perspective: Insights from a theatrical director on the challenges and rewards of staging this complex and demanding production.

about writing musicals is, Which comes first, the music or the lyrics? As anyone on Broadway will tell you, the answer is, The book. Tony-winning book writer Robert L. Freedman takes you through the process of writing a new musical, including story structure, song placement, dialogue, character development, and more that led to the creation of *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, the 2014 Best Musical Tony winner. With candor and insight, Freedman describes the challenging and rewarding growing pains of what the critics called *Hilarious!* and *Ingenious!* and said *Ranks* among the most inspired and entertaining new musical comedies I've seen in years.

a gentlemans guide to love and murder musical: Israel Rank Roy Horniman, 2014-04-24 'There is an old saying, 'Murder will out.' I am really unable to see why this should be so...' Israel Rank: *The Autobiography of a Criminal* (1907) inspired the classic Ealing film *Kind Hearts and Coronets*. But though both works are comedies about a serial murderer, they are different creatures. The eponymous narrator of Roy Horniman's novel, son of a Jewish commercial traveller, offers his memoirs from the condemned cell, having murdered six people who stood between him and an earldom he hoped to inherit. Through Israel's story Horniman explores and parodies the anti-Semitic attitudes of Edwardian England. 'A superb thriller, but also a disturbing study in human nature. The narrative pace never slackens, thanks to the spareness and elegance of Horniman's prose... it is a book of its time, quite faithful to it, and (despite its 400 pages) over all too quickly.' Simon Heffer, in his Preface

a gentlemans guide to love and murder musical: I Am My Own Wife Doug Wright, 2004-02-09 *I Am My Own Wife* is the winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. From the Obie Award-winning author of *Quills* comes this acclaimed one-man show, which explores the astonishing true story of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf. A transvestite and celebrated antiques dealer who successfully navigated the two most oppressive regimes of the past century—the Nazis and the Communists—while openly gay and defiantly in drag, von Mahlsdorf was both hailed as a cultural hero and accused of colluding with the Stasi. In an attempt to discern the truth about Charlotte, Doug Wright has written at once a vivid portrait of Germany in the second half of the twentieth century, a morally complex tale about what it can take to be a survivor, and an intriguing meditation on everything from the obsession with collecting to the passage of time (Hedy Weiss, *Chicago Sun-Times*).

a gentlemans guide to love and murder musical: The Velocity of Autumn Eric Coble, 2015-05-15 *THE VELOCITY OF AUTUMN* swirls around Alexandra, an 80-year-old artist in a showdown with her family over where she'll spend her remaining years. In Alexandra's corner are her wit, her volcanic passion, and the fact that she's barricaded herself in her Brooklyn brownstone with enough Molotov cocktails to take out the block. But her children have their own secret weapon: estranged son Chris, who returns after 20 years, crawls through Alexandra's second-floor window and becomes the family's unlikely mediator. No sooner are the words "Hi, Mom" uttered than the emotional bombs start detonating. *THE VELOCITY OF AUTUMN* is a wickedly funny and wonderfully touching discovery of the fragility and ferocity of life.

a gentlemans guide to love and murder musical: The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue Mackenzi Lee, 2017-06-27 A Kirkus Prize nominee and Stonewall Honor winner with 5 starred reviews! A New York Times bestseller! Named one of the best books of 2017 by NPR and the New York Public Library! The queer teen historical you didn't know was missing from your life.—Teen Vogue A stunning powerhouse of a story.—School Library Journal A gleeful romp through history.—ALA Booklist A young bisexual British lord embarks on an unforgettable Grand Tour of Europe with his best friend/secret crush. An 18th-century romantic adventure for the modern age written by *This Monstrous Thing* author Mackenzi Lee—Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda meets the 1700s. Henry "Monty" Montague doesn't care that his roguish passions are far from suitable for the gentleman he was born to be. But as Monty embarks on his grand tour of Europe, his quests for pleasure and vice are in danger of coming to an end. Not only does his father expect him to take over the family's estate upon his return, but Monty is also nursing an impossible crush on his best friend and traveling companion, Percy. So Monty vows to make this yearlong

escapade one last hedonistic hurrah and flirt with Percy from Paris to Rome. But when one of Monty's reckless decisions turns their trip abroad into a harrowing manhunt, it calls into question everything he knows, including his relationship with the boy he adores. Witty, dazzling, and intriguing at every turn, *The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue* is an irresistible romp that explores the undeniably fine lines between friendship and love. Don't miss Felicity's adventures in *The Lady's Guide to Petticoats and Piracy*, the highly anticipated sequel!

a gentlemen guide to love and murder musical: *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder Songbook* Robert L. Freedman, 2014-06-01 (Vocal Selections). The most Tony Award-nominated new musical of the season! Our vocal selections folio includes: Better with a Man * Foolish to Think * I Don't Know What I'd Do Without You * I Don't Understand the Poor * I've Decided to Marry You * Inside Out * Lady Hyacinth Abroad * Poison in My Pocket * Poor Monty * Sibella * Stop! Wait! What?! * That Horrible Woman * Why Are All the D'squiths Dying?

a gentlemen guide to love and murder musical: *Murder For Two* Kellen Blair, Joe Kinosian, 2019 Officer Marcus Moscovicz is a small town policeman with dreams of making it to detective. One fateful night, shots ring out at the surprise birthday party of Great American Novelist Arthur Whitney and the writer is killed...fatally. With the nearest detective an hour away, Marcus jumps at the chance to prove his sleuthing skills—with the help of his silent partner, Lou. But whodunit? Did Dahlia Whitney, Arthur's scene-stealing wife, give him a big finish? Is Barrette Lewis, the prima ballerina, the prime suspect? Did Dr. Griff, the overly-friendly psychiatrist, make a frenemy? Marcus has only a short amount of time to find the killer and make his name before the real detective arrives... and the ice cream melts!

a gentlemen guide to love and murder musical: *Israel Rank* Roy Horniman, 1907 A novel, in which, the eponymous narrator is the son of a Jewish commercial traveller, who offers his memoirs from the condemned cell, having murdered six people who stood between him and an earldom he hoped to inherit. Through his story, it explores and parodies the anti-Semitic attitudes of Edwardian England.

a gentlemen guide to love and murder musical: *The Realistic Joneses* Will Eno, 2015-06-22 [A] tender, funny, terrific new play. . . . Mr. Eno's voice, which teases out the poetry in the pedestrian and finds glinting humor in the static that infuses our faltering efforts to communicate, is as distinctive as any American playwright's today.—*The New York Times* Weird and wonderful . . . Eno's familiar sudden-shifting between profound and playful verbiage is delightfully disarming and sometimes awfully funny.—*Variety* "Plays as funny and moving, as wonderful and weird as *The Realistic Joneses*... do not appear often on Broadway. Or ever, really.... Mr. Eno's voice may be the most singular of his generation, but it's humane, literate and slyly hilarious.... For all the sadness woven into its fabric, *The Realistic Joneses* brought me a pleasurable rush virtually unmatched by anything I've seen this season." – *The New York Times* "As usual, Eno's dialogue is a marvel of compression and tonal control, trivial chitchat flipping into cosmic profundity with striking ease.... There's much to savor: the dry but meaningful banter, the joy of humans sharing time and space, battling the darkness with a joke or silence. Life in Enoland isn't what you'd call realistic—it's more real than that." – *Time Out New York* "[An] elliptical, funny, dark and strangely moving new play.... Eno is a writer with heart and compassion." – *Chicago Tribune* "Eno's first-ever commercial foray ups the creative ante in a Broadway climate that can be resistant to new voices.... [A] very fine play where laughter exists a heartbeat, or heartbreak, away from tears." – *The Telegraph* Meet Bob and Jennifer and their new neighbors John and Pony, two suburban couples who have more in common than their identical last names. Boasting the playwright's quintessential existential quirkiness, this new comedy finds poetry in the banal while humorously exploring our ever-floundering efforts at communication. Listed as one of *New York Times*'s Best Plays of 2012, *The Realistic Joneses* received its Broadway premiere in spring 2014, starring Toni Collette, Michael C. Hall, Tracy Letts and Marisa Tomei, and opening to rave reviews. Will Eno is the author of *Thom Pain* (based on nothing), which ran for a year Off-Broadway and was a 2005 Pulitzer Prize finalist. Other works include *Middletown*, *The Flu Season*, *Tragedy: a tragedy*, *Intermission*, and *Gnit*, an

adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*. His many awards include the PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation for Theatre Award, the Horton Foote Prize, and the first-ever Marian Seldes/Garson Kanin Fellowship by the Theater Hall of Fame.

a gentlemen's guide to love and murder musical: *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* Stephen Trask, John Cameron Mitchell, 2003 Tells the story of transsexual rocker Hedwig Schmidt, an East German immigrant whose sex change operation has been botched and who finds herself living in a trailer park in Kansas.

a gentlemen's guide to love and murder musical: *Art of Murder* Joe DiPietro, 2007 THE STORY: In a remote estate in the countryside of Connecticut, Jack Brooks, one of the most accomplished and eccentric painters of his generation, awaits the imminent arrival of his art dealer. But the visit is not a standard one, for Jack feels

a gentlemen's guide to love and murder musical: *Fire in Dreamland* Rinne Groff, 2019-11-05 In the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, Kate meets a charismatic Dutchman named Jaap, who's making a film about a different disaster nearly a century earlier: the 1911 fire that burned Coney Island's Dreamland to the ground. Desperate for a higher purpose, Kate becomes completely involved with Jaap, for better or worse. FIRE IN DREAMLAND is a groundbreaking exploration of what we can create in the face of devastation.

a gentlemen's guide to love and murder musical: *Carrie: The Musical - Vocal Selections*, 2014-01-01 (Vocal Selections). This show has guts! proclaimed Richard Zoglin of Time magazine about this 2012 revival, which won the Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best Musical Revival. It features music by Michael Gore, lyrics by Dean Pitchford, and book by Lawrence D. Cohen (based on the novel by Stephen King). Our folio features vocal selections for 18 songs from that revival, including: Alma Mater * And Eve Was Weak * Carrie * Carrie (Reprise) * Do Me a Favor * Dreamer in Disguise * Epilogue * Evening Prayers * I Remember How Those Boys Could Dance * In * A Night We'll Never Forget * Once You See * Open Your Heart * Unsuspecting Hearts * When There's No One * Why Not Me? * The World According to Chris * You Shine.

a gentlemen's guide to love and murder musical: *The Best Man* Gore Vidal, 2012-05-01

a gentlemen's guide to love and murder musical: *A Gentlewoman's Guide to Murder* Victoria Hamilton, 2022-09-29 Scandal and slayings among Regency London's elite . . . Refusing to stand by while the wealthy men of London prey on their powerless scullery maids and other young women, Miss Emmeline St. Germaine has made it her mission to rescue the victims and threaten the men at dagger-point to cease their depravities. But mere hours after she pays just such a visit to a prominent knight, he's found murdered and all of London is aghast. Did the man—or woman—who murdered the knight know of her visit? Facing scandal and the ruination of her family, Emmeline must solve the crime before she and her work are exposed. But there are powerful forces at work to silence her—or worse, lead her to the hangman's noose for a crime she did not commit . . . "[An] outstanding series launch. . . . Hamilton expertly balances the page-turning detection with the story of a hypocritical society where women, whether they are scullery maids or orphans, rarely get to make their own decisions." —Publishers Weekly (starred review) "Hamilton's novel will appeal to fans of Anne Perry's Charlotte and Pitt mysteries." —Booklist "A simply riveting and compulsive page-turner of a read from cover to cover. A deftly scripted mystery with more twists and turns than a Coney Island roller coaster." —Midwest Book Review

a gentlemen's guide to love and murder musical: *A Gentleman's Guide to Graceful Living: A Novel* Michael Dahlie, 2009-06-29 "A tour filled with moments of grace and angst, and an overwhelming sense that compassion matters." —Minneapolis Star Tribune Arthur Camden's greatest talents are for packing and unpacking suitcases, making coleslaw, and second-guessing every decision in his life. When his business fails and his wife leaves him—to pursue more aggressive men—Arthur finds that he has none of the talents and finesse that everyone else seems to possess for navigating New York society.

a gentlemen's guide to love and murder musical: *Act One* James Lapine, from the autobiography by Moss Hart, 2016-05-16 THE STORY: Growing up in an impoverished family in the

Bronx, Moss Hart dreamed of being part of the glamorous world of the theatre. Forced to drop out of school at age thirteen, Hart's famous memoir *Act One* is a classic Hortatio Alger story that plots Hart's unlikely collaboration with the legendary playwright George S. Kaufman. Tony Award-winning writer and director James Lapine has adapted *Act One* for the stage, creating a funny, heartbreaking, and suspenseful play that celebrates the making of a playwright and his play *Once in a Lifetime*. *ACT ONE* offers great fun to a director to utilize over fifty roles, which can be played by a cast as few as twelve, and in a production that can be done as simply or elaborately as desired.

a gentlemen's guide to love and murder musical: *Anton in Show Business* Jane Martin, 2000 This madcap comedy follows three actresses across the footlights, down the rabbit hole, and into a strangely familiar Wonderland that looks a lot like American theatre - the resemblance is uncanny! As these women pursue their dream of performing Chekhov in Texas, they're whisked through a maelstrom of good ideas that offer unique solutions to the Three Sisters' need to have life's deeper purpose revealed. In the tradition of great backstage comedies, *Anton in Show Business* conveys the joys, pains, and absurdities of putting on a play at the turn of the century. -- Publisher's website

a gentlemen's guide to love and murder musical: *Bella: An American Tall Tale* Kirsten Childs, 2019 When Bella boards a train west to reunite with her Buffalo soldier sweetheart, she encounters the most colorful and lively characters ever to roam the Western plains. Bullets and fists will fly, heads and hearts will break, but—blessed with a big heart, and a voluptuous figure—Bella will breeze on through it all.

a gentlemen's guide to love and murder musical: *Music Direction for the Stage* Joseph Church, 2015-01-02 Theater music directors must draw on a remarkably broad range of musical skills. Not only do they conduct during rehearsals and performances, but they must also be adept arrangers, choral directors, vocal coaches, and accompanists. Like a record producer, the successful music director must have the flexibility to adjust as needed to a multifaceted job description, one which changes with each production and often with each performer. In *Music Direction for the Stage*, veteran music director and instructor Joseph Church demystifies the job in a book that offers aspiring and practicing music directors the practical tips and instruction they need in order to mount a successful musical production. Church, one of Broadway's foremost music directors, emerges from the orchestra pit to tell how the music is put into a musical show. He gives particular attention to the music itself, explaining how a music director can best plan the task of learning, analyzing, and teaching each new piece. Based on his years of professional experience, he offers a practical discussion of a music director's methods of analyzing, learning, and practicing a score, thoroughly illustrated by examples from the repertoire. The book also describes how a music director can effectively approach dramatic and choreographic rehearsals, including key tips on cueing music to dialogue and staging, determining incidental music and underscoring, making musical adjustments and revisions in rehearsal, and adjusting style and tempo to performers' needs. A key theme of the book is effective collaboration with other professionals, from the production team to the creative team to the performers themselves, all grounded in Church's real-world experience with professional, amateur, and even student performances. He concludes with a look at music direction as a career, offering invaluable advice on how the enterprising music director can find work and gain standing in the field.

a gentlemen's guide to love and murder musical: *Rock in the Musical Theatre* Joseph Church, 2019-10-01 Today's musical theatre world rocks. Now that rock 'n' roll music and its offshoots, including pop, hard rock, rap, r&b, funk, folk, and world-pop music, are the standard language of musical theatre, theatre singers need a source of information on these styles, their origins, and their performance practices. *Rock in the Musical Theatre: A Guide for Singers* fills this need. Today's musical theatre training programs are now including rock music in their coursework and rock songs and musicals in their repertoires. This is a text for those trainees, courses, and productions. It will also be of great value to working professionals, teachers, music directors, and coaches less familiar with rock styles, or who want to improve their rock-related skills. The author,

an experienced music director, vocal coach, and university professor, and an acknowledged expert on rock music in the theatre, examines the many aspects of performing rock music in the theatre and offers practical advice through a combination of aesthetic and theoretical study, extensive discussions of musical, vocal, and acting techniques, and chronicles of coaching sessions. The book also includes advice from working actors, casting directors, and music directors who specialize in rock music for the stage.

a gentlemen guide to love and murder musical: Elizabeth Rex Timothy Findley, 2003-04-27 Based on the original stage production at the Stratford Festival of Canada, directed by Martha Henry. In this daring and original production of Timothy Findley's Governor-General Award winning play, William Shakespeare and the formidable Virgin Queen, Elizabeth I, are brought together in a remarkable encounter on the night of April 22, 1616. The night the Queen's Lover will be executed, by the Queen's decree.

a gentlemen guide to love and murder musical: Gloria Emily Mann, 2019 Mann's vital new biographical play based on the life of feminist and activist Gloria Steinem is a timely work that shows how Steinem's leadership and dedication to conversation as a catalyst for change continues to offer a vital path forward in our present time.

a gentlemen guide to love and murder musical: The Sound Inside Adam Rapp, 2020-03-10 "The closest thing that the American theater currently has to a David Foster Wallace, Rapp can give you the head rush of sophisticated literary allusion and unreliable narrative trickery à la Dostoevsky, and yet talk of Plano, Illinois, and let you know that he knows exactly how it feels...A gripping stunner of a play." —Chris Jones, Chicago Tribune When Bella Baird, an isolated creative writing professor at Yale, begins to mentor a brilliant but enigmatic student, Christopher, the two form an unexpectedly intense bond. As their lives and the stories they tell about themselves become intertwined in unpredictable ways, Bella makes a surprising request of Christopher. Brimming with suspense, Rapp's riveting play explores the limits of what one person can ask of another.

a gentlemen guide to love and murder musical: Sondheim on Music Mark Eden Horowitz, 2019-03-13 From his early work as lyricist for West Side Story to acclaimed creations such as A Little Night Music, Sunday in the Park with George, and Sweeney Todd, Stephen Sondheim is widely regarded as the most important figure in musical theater since the second half of the 20th century. Who better to discuss this prolific artist's work than the master himself? Sondheim on Music: Minor Details and Major Decisions is a collection of interviews conducted by Mark Eden Horowitz, senior music specialist in the music division of the Library of Congress. In these guided conversations, Sondheim expounds in great depth and detail on his craft. As a natural teacher, thoughtful and opinionated, Sondheim discusses the art of musical composition, lyric writing, the collaborative process of musical theater, and how he thinks about his own work. The entire scope of Sondheim's career is covered here, in which Sondheim's greatest works are discussed—from Passion, Assassins, Into the Woods, Sunday in the Park with George, Sweeney Todd, and Pacific Overtures to A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Merrily We Roll Along, Company, Follies, Anyone Can Whistle, and A Little Night Music. Sondheim even provides thoughts about the film adaptations of his works, such as Sweeney Todd. The book also features an entire chapter on Bounce, the previous incarnation of his latest musical, Road Show. Preserving the essential elements of the previous volumes, this edition includes all of the interviews—verbatim—and features a revised introduction and a postlude with an additional conversation. Finally in paperback, Sondheim on Music: Minor Details and Major Decisions, The Less Is More Edition is a must-have for fans of these creative genius.

a gentlemen guide to love and murder musical: Adding Machine Joshua Schmidt, Jason Loewith, 2008 Adding machine: a musical / 5m, 4f, 3 musicians / various scenes -- tells the story of Mr. Zero, an unlikely anti-hero for the working man. Rewarded with a pink slip after 25 years in the same office. Zero kills his boss, gets executed, and winds up in the Elysian Fields, where he is given a last chance at love with Daisy Devore, his long-suffering secretary.

a gentlemen guide to love and murder musical: Mothers and Sons Terrence McNally,

2014-08-25 At turns funny and powerful, *MOTHERS AND SONS* portrays a woman who pays an unexpected visit to the New York apartment of her late son's partner, who is now married to another man and has a young son. Challenged to face how society has changed around her, generations collide as she revisits the past and begins to see the life her son might have led.

a gentlemen's guide to love and murder musical: *Buyer & Cellar* Jonathan Tolins, 2014-10-14 The original script of the award-winning off-Broadway play—"irresistibly entertaining [and] surprisingly moving" (Paul Rudnick). Alex More has a story to tell. A struggling actor in LA, he takes a job working in the Malibu basement of a beloved megastar. One day, the Lady Herself comes downstairs to play. It feels like real bonding in the basement—but will their relationship ever make it upstairs? A winner of the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Solo Show, *Buyer & Cellar* is an outrageous comedy about the price of fame, the cost of things, and the oddest of odd jobs. "Jonathan Tolins has concocted an irresistible one-man play from the most peculiar of fictitious premises . . . This seriously funny slice of absurdist whimsy creates the illusion of a stage filled with multiple people, all of them with their own droll point of view." —The New York Times "A gorgeous play: funny and beautifully observed and richly insightful." —Moisés Kaufman "Tolins's writing is smart, sharp, and hilarious—and he paints a vivid picture that even a perfectionist like Barbra would have to applaud." —James Lapine

a gentlemen's guide to love and murder musical: *Everybody* Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, 2018-06-18 This modern riff on the fifteenth-century morality play *Everyman* follows *Everybody* (chosen from amongst the cast by lottery at each performance) as they journey through life's greatest mystery—the meaning of living.

a gentlemen's guide to love and murder musical: *Four on a Garden* Abe Burrows, 1973 *Four on a Garden* is a set of four one-act plays that were presented on Broadway at the Broadhurst Theatre from January 30, 1971, until March 20, 1971. The set included *House of Dunkelmayer*, *Betty*, *Toreador*, and *The Swingers*.

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eager to make her mark, sees her assignment to investigate the events of 1962 become front-page news with Morgan's candidacy, and resolves to find out who he really is and where his power comes from: in 1962, a brash and excitable young promoter, greeting everyone from Elvis Presley to Lyndon Johnson, smooth-talking himself out of difficult situations, dipping in and out of secret card games; now, a beloved public figure with, it turns out, still-plentiful secrets. Wonderfully interwoven into this tale of the city of dreams are backroom deals, idealism and pragmatism, the best and worst ambitions, and all the aspirations that shape our communities and our lives.

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