

Ethan Mordden has been hailed as a sharp-eared listener and a discerning critic, by Opera News, which compares his books to dinner with a knowledgeable, garrulous companion. The preeminent historian of the American musical (New York Times), he brings boundless energy and enthusiasm buttressed by an arsenal of smart anecdotes (Wall Street Journal). Now Mordden offers an entirely fresh and infectiously delightful history of American musical theatre. *Anything Goes* stages a grand revue of the musical from the 1700s through to the present day, narrated in Mordden's famously witty, scholarly, and conversational style. He peers with us over Stephen Sondheim's shoulder as he composes at the piano. He places us in a bare rehearsal room as the cast of *Oklahoma!* changes history by psychoanalyzing the plot in the greatest of the musicals many Dream Ballets. And he gives us tickets for orchestra seats on opening night—raising the curtain on the pleasures of Victor Herbert's *The Red Mill* and the thrill of *Porgy and Bess*. Mordden examines the music, of course, but also more neglected elements. Dance was once considered as crucial as song; he follows it from the nineteenth century's zany hoofing to tap combinations of the 1920s, from the injection of ballet and modern dance in the 1930s and 40s to the innovations of Bob Fosse. He also explores the changing structure of musical comedy and operetta, and the evolution of the role of the star. Fred Stone, the avuncular Scarecrow in the *Wizard of Oz*, seldom varied his acting from part to part; but the versatile Ethel Merman turned the headlining role inside out in *Gypsy*, playing a character who was selfish, fierce, and destructive. From ballad opera to burlesque, from *Fiddler on the Roof* to *Rent*, the history and lore of the musical unfolds here in a performance worthy of a standing ovation.

Atlas of Mammalian Chromosomes Vol 6, *Wanted a Friend, Got an Alien*, *Forensic Anthropology: The Structure, Morphology, and Variation of Human Bone and Dentition*, *Three & Four Ingredients: 400 Recipes*, *Transactional Analysis Approaches to Brief Therapy: What do you say between saying hello and goodbye?* (Brief Therapies series), *Seventeenth-Century English Poetry: Modern Essays in Criticism*, *Million Dollar Babies*, *KJV GP Center-Column Reference Bible*, *Terence Anthony Staines Collected Works of Poetry: Volume Five*, *Improvised Munitions Combined with Rifle Marksmanship*,

After six volumes on the musical's history, decade by decade from the s through the s, Ethan Mordden takes an entirely fresh look at the musical, from *The Beggar's Opera* to *Wicked*. Looking at the *Star Comic*, the *Sweetheart Heroine*, the war between musical comedy and. *Anything Goes* has 78 ratings and 7 reviews. ALLEN said: I confess to being something of an Ethan Mordden fan, and this volume, while perhaps not amo. *Anything Goes: A History of American Musical Theatre*. Ethan Mordden. Abstract. This book looks at the musical, from *The Beggar's Opera* to *Wicked*. Looking at. *Anything Goes. A History of American Musical Theatre*. Ethan Mordden. Comprehensive, detailed, enlightening look at the musical; Written by a preeminent.

My theater shelves are already groaning with books about the history of musical theater. Some are well researched but terribly dry reference. *The Journal of American Culture* • Volume 37, Issue *Anything Goes: A History of American Musical Theatre* Ethan Mordden. New York: Oxford.

Anything Goes: A History of American Musical Theatre by. Ethan Mordden (review). Christopher Lynch. Notes, Volume 71, Number 2, December , pp. Reviewed by: Tim Carter. *Anything Goes: A History of American Musical Theatre*. By Ethan Mordden. pp. xii+ (Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford.

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