



with the scandalous Astor Place Opera

Showtime brings the history of Broadway musicals to life in a narrative as engaging as the subject itself. Beginning with the scandalous Astor Place Opera House riot of 1849, Larry Stempel traces the growth of musicals from minstrel shows and burlesques, through the golden age of Show Boat and Oklahoma!, to such groundbreaking works as Company and Rent. Stempel describes th Showtime brings the history of Broadway musicals to life in a narrative as engaging as the subject itself.Â Larry Stempel's history of Broadway musicals is probably the most comprehensive history of musical theatre currently available. In this respect, it is an incredibly valuable book. Stempel also includes a 37-page bibliography, in small type, of books on the musical theatre. In "Showtime: A History of the Broadway Musical Theater," Larry Stempel aims to arrest the nation's pulse with his thorough, sober analysis, or as he puts it, "Might the time not now be ripe . . . for a scholarly reassessment of the history of the medium?" It's a worthwhile endeavor, even if it doesn't leave much room for jokes. Or, in places, nuance. Stempel, an associate professor of music at Fordham University, began writing "Showtime" in the late 1970s and is so set on being definitive he defines things it might, at this stage, be assumed we have a handle on. Does mention of the Disney Cor Broadway theatres are located in the Theater District and Lincoln Center in New York and are popular tourist attractions. Most shows today on Broadway are musicals with some plays. Theatre first became popular and present in New York in 1750 and is still going on to this day.Â Upon the start of the American Revolutionary war in 1775, theatre in New York was suspended, but resumed in 1798. That same year, Park Theatre was built on Chatham Street (now Park Row). Park Theatre had 2,000 seats, much more than the previous theatres. And later on in 1826, the Bowery Theatre was opened with many more to follow. In the 1830s, the American entertainment form blackface minstrel shows became popular, and even more so in the 1840s with the arrival of the Virginia Minstrels.