

**Guys and Dolls** – Music and Lyrics by Frank Loesser

**Premise:** Sky Masterson (gambler) falls for a conservative, religious girl.

**Song:** *Adelaide's Lament* (The stress of relationship causes "a person to develop a cold")

**Song:** *Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat* - Gambler Nicely Nicely sings an evangelistic song that both his gambler buddies and the Salvation Army evangelists get caught up in the fervor.

**Actress:** Vivian Blane played Adelaide.

**Evita** – Written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice

**Premise:** Actress and Model Evita Peron marries top general of Argentina. Shows her rise to power. Also shows conflicts of the country as the people revolt due to political oppression.

**Actress:** Patti Lupone played Evita on Broadway

**Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** – Stephen Sondheim

**Premise:** A London barber has an unjust prison sentence and then seeks revenge against those who wronged him by slitting their throats in the barber chair. Nellie Lovette, his shop neighbor, then makes them into mince meat pie. He begins to murder innocent people as well.

**Actress:** Angela Lansberry played Miss Lovette

**Song:** *Worst Pies in London*

**Hello Dolly** – Based on play called The Matchmaker by Thornton Wilder

**Premise:** Widow Dolly Levi is a matchmaker of couples at the turn of the century and for a long time has not sought her own companion. She decides to go after businessman Horris Vandergelder.

**Song:** *Before the Parade Passes By* – Dolly talks to her late husband and asks for his blessing. She decides to rejoin life and go after who she wants before life passes her by.

**Actress:** Carol Channing

**A Little Night Music** – by Stephen Sondheim

**Premise:** Based on a movie by Ingmar Bergman, it chronicles the journey of relationships and the often foolishness of those in them

**Song:** *Where are the Clowns* – Woman laments the fall of her relationship.

**Fiddler on the Roof**

**Premise:** Jewish milkman Tevye lives with his family in a village in Czarist Russia (19-teens). He struggles between following his strict traditions yet changing with the times and his daughters' marriage choices.

**Actor:** Zero Mostel

**Song:** *If I Were A Rich Man* – He imagines what his life would be like if he were rich.

**The King and I** – Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein (Rodgers and Hammerstein)

**Premise:** Widow Anna and her young son move to Siam in order for her to teach in the royal court. The King is more barbaric, she a refined English woman. They fall in love in spite of these differences yet are unable to ultimately be together.

**Song:** *Shall We Dance* – Anna teaches the king how to dance like the English. He notices that she doesn't dance close with him (like the English would do). He confronts her and they then dance close, their attraction and chemistry growing.

**Actor:** Yule Brenner made the role of the king famous.

**The Pajama Game**

**Premise:** Labor dispute at a factory. The love interests are on opposite sides.

**Song:** *Hey There*

**Actor:** John Raitt (Bonnie Raitt's Dad) who also starred in the musical *Carousel*.

**The Music Man** – Book, Music and Lyrics by Meredith Wilson

**Premise:** It's 1912 in a small town in Iowa and traveling salesman/con man Harold Hill has arrived. He gets the town to buy instruments and uniforms for a Boy's Brass Band. In the meantime, he falls in love with the town's librarian (Marian). Will he skip town or stay because of his love for her?

**Song:** *Trouble* – Harold warns the people of the trouble of a pool hall and the need to keep kids off the streets.

**Actor:** Robert Preston played Harold Hill

**Cabaret** – Produced and Directed by Hal Prince

**Premise:** Takes place in Berlin during the rise of the Nazi power. Showed the decadence and frivolity of the period through the Cabaret life yet all happening with the backdrop of the Nazi menace. Master of Ceremonies at the Cabaret is almost like a Hitler figure.

**Actor:** Joel Grey played Master of Ceremonies. Won both the Tony and Oscar for the role.

**My One and Only**

**Premise:** Based on the music of George and Ira Gershwin. Major tap and dance show.

**Actors:** Tommy Tune and Twiggy starred.

**Chicago** – Choreographed by Bob Fosse

**Premise:** 1920's Chicago, Roxie and Velma are two entertainers who both land in jail for murder. They hire the same lawyer. It examines how a lawyer's spin, media exposure, and fame can affect public and jury perception of the truth.

**Actors:** Chita Rivera and Gwen Verdon, Jerry Orbach – the Broadway originals

**42<sup>nd</sup> Street**

**Premise:** Musical about the Broadway musical; based on the 1933 film

**Song:** *Lullaby of Broadway*

**Actor:** Jerry Orbach

### **Annie**

**Note:** the 3<sup>rd</sup> longest running musical of the 1970's

**Premise:** Set in the Depression, Orphan Annie is taken from the orphanage and lives with millionaire Daddy Warbucks. Her optimism inspires all those around her.

**Song:** *Tomorrow* – Annie believes the sun will come out tomorrow; things will get better.

**Song:** *You're Never Fully Dressed Without A Smile* – The girls in the orphanage do their own version of the radio show that they listen to.

**Actress:** Andrea McArdle played Annie

### **Cats** Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

**Premise:** Based on the poems of T.S. Eliot, the set is a junkyard and chronicles the different stories of the cats who live there.

**Songs:** *Jellicle Ball* and *Memories*. The latter is sung by the old, shunned cat Grizzabella as she looks back on her life.

**Actress:** Betty Buckley played Grizzabella.

### **Anything Goes** – Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter

**Premise:** Set on a cruise ship during 1920's, the musical has a wide range of adventures as some gangster passengers hide out and avoid the law, Billy tries to romance an already engaged Hope, and ship entertainers go after their own love interests with funny results.

**Song:** *Anything Goes* talks about the cultural era of the time.

**Actress:** Patti Lupone

### **Mame** – Music and Lyrics by Jerry Herman

**Note:** Both a book, play, movie and musical

**Premise:** Extravagant, generous and eccentric Mame suddenly must raise her young nephew, who is thrown into the interesting life of his aunt.

**Song:** *Bosom Buddies* – Mame and her friend sing of friendship with a jab.

**Actress:** Angela Lansberry played Mame.

### **How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying**

**Premise:** Window Cleaner is a white-collar want-to-be; the plot chronicles his journey.

### **Ain't Misbehavin**

**Premise:** Based on the music of Thomas "Fats" Walker. Was one of the first musicals that had a plot that was put together by piecing an artist's songs together (like in Mamma Mia)

**Actress:** Nell Carter

### **Les Miserables** – Based on book by Victor Hugo

**Premise:** Chronicles characters' lives during Post French Revolution. Jean Valjean was imprisoned years ago for stealing bread. He breaks parole and is hunted by Javert, even though Valjean becomes an honest man. He adopts a young girl who eventually falls in love with a young man involved in a rebellion. The plot examines issues of justice, poverty and desperation.

**Actor:** Colm Wilkinson played Jean Valjean.