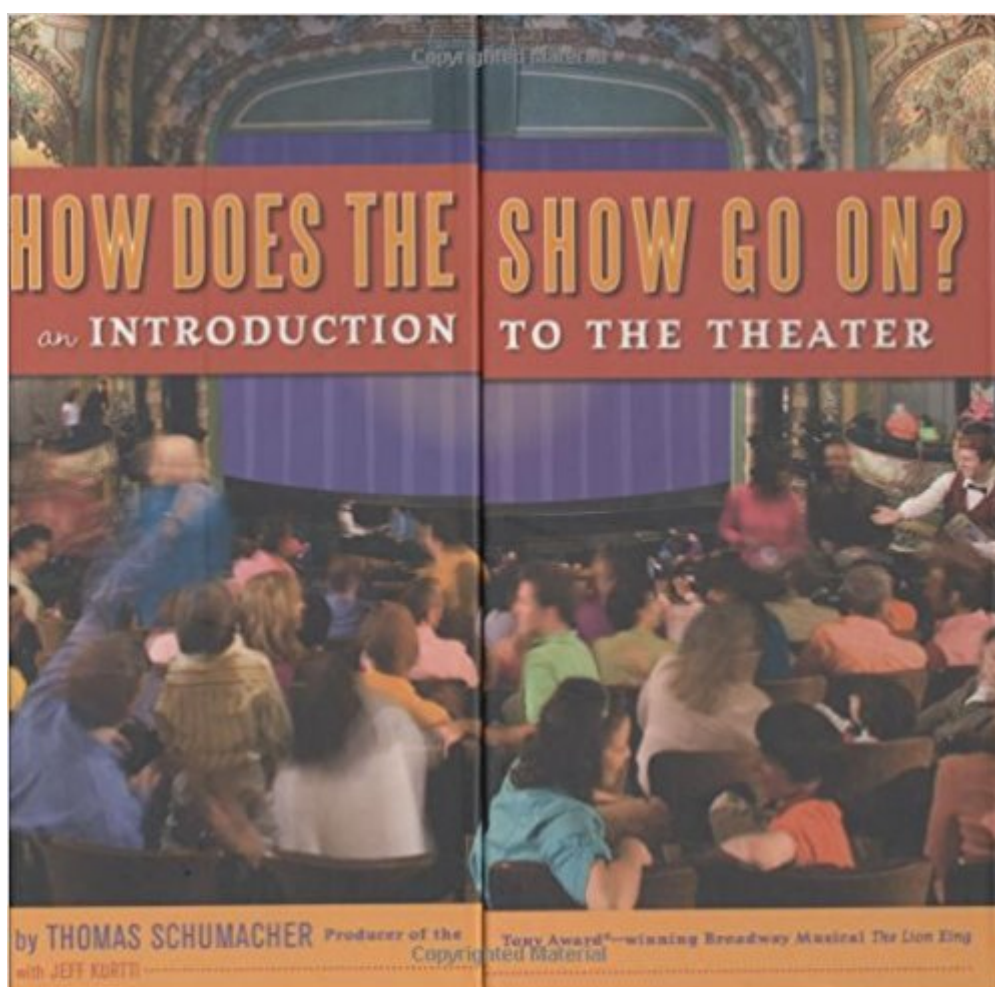


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# How Does The Show Go On: An Introduction To The Theater (A Disney Theatrical Souvenir Book)



## Synopsis

Filled with detailed explanations, captivating illustrations, and entertaining trivia, this clearly written, lively, and uniquely-designed book is a first-of-its-kind introduction to the world of the Theatre, from the box office to backstage, and beyond. From one side of the book, the reader enters via the front door, where the people and activities of the "front of house" can be examined. From the book's other side, the reader enters the "Stage Door," where the behind-the-scenes world of the "Back of house" is revealed. In exploring this visually-inviting "theatre of the mind," readers encounter the people, places, occupations, and equipment of the theatre world, and have the opportunity to investigate them all. From the box office and the Usher Staff to the Dressing Rooms and the Backstage doorman, the reader may wander at will within this one-of-a-kind world, discovering the wonders of theatre all along the way.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Thomas Schumacher has spent the past 18 years with The Walt Disney Company setting new standards of excellence in film, television, and theatre. Having spent much of his tenure as president of Feature Animation and Walt Disney Television Animation, he now serves as president of the Buena Vista Theatrical Group. Along with former Walt Disney Studios chairman Peter Schneider, he produced the world premiere of the Broadway musical *The Lion King*, which garnered six Tony Awards, including Best Musical. His other productions include *Aida*, *Beauty and the*

Beast, Tarzan, and the upcoming Broadway adaptation of Mary Poppins. Jeff Kurtti is the author of more than a dozen books and scores of magazine articles, a writer-director of award-winning documentaries, and a respected public speaker, host, and panel moderator. He is currently the Creative Director of The Walt Disney Family Library (a project of The Walt Disney Family Foundation), and is considered one of the leading authorities on The Walt Disney Company and its history.

I used this in my drama classes. It was a great overview of professional theatre. Sumptuous photographs. Just enough technical information. It seems to be out of print now, unfortunately, and they're hard to come by. The whole book is centered around The Lion King stage show.

Unfortunately, there's no DVD of the stage show to show to the kids after they've studied the book. Still, it's great for use in a beginning drama class. But you couldn't really use this as a textbook, per se, even if you could get your hands on enough copies, because it contains all sorts of loose props--tickets, playbill, a script page etc. that would grow legs in a classroom, and it isn't comprehensive. There's no performance instruction, no full script. I showed the book in class using an opaque projector, and then I handed 'round the props. Both the kids and I liked the book.

Book arrived better than advertised and in excellent condition. My daughter originally read this book from the library. She liked it so much we had to buy it. I am so glad we did--the bonus materials (like a playbill, theater ticket, part of a script, and swatches) made a great book so much better.

This book, written by the head of Disney Theatricals (Lion King, Aida, Mary Poppins, Tarzan, High School Musical, Beauty and the Beast), provides an engaging back-stage look at everything it takes to put on a show. The book is geared toward students more than, say, theatrical attorneys or seasoned pros. What makes it particularly special is the innovative design of the book. There are countless treasures to be found inside, which the reader can remove from the book, examine and learn from. (For those familiar with the Griffin & Sabine series, the removable love letters in those books come to mind). For example, when the book discusses the Box Office and Ticketing system, it includes a real envelope that the reader can open and take out a sample ticket for close examination. When the book discusses stage lighting, there is a pouch with a removable script, complete with the hand-written markings that the lighting person works from. The discussion of make-up is nicely enhanced by a clear gel that the reader can lift up to see the actor without make-up and put down to show what he looks like fully made-up. The discussion of costumes includes reproductions of the

actual design sketches from the Broadway production). These and other "exhibits" make reading the book a very interactive experience for the reader and gives real-world context to the information Mr. Schumacher is providing. The hard cover of the book opens in the center (like a gate on two hinges), immediately giving the impression of a curtain opening and setting the tone for the rest of the book. While the book focuses on the Disney shows mentioned above (except High School Musical, which was not a Broadway show--only a tour), that is not a limitation at all. They provide ample material to illustrate the points the author wants to make, and the photographs and illustrations are really wonderful. I think anyone interested in theater--or just curious about how things are done-- would enjoy this book and while it is, as I said, probably ideal for students (as young as 6, old as whatever--I enjoyed it and I am in my 30's) even a seasoned theater-goer would come away with at least handful of "I didn't know that" or "So THAT's how that's done!" moments. Absolutely worth the price of admission.

I love musicals and the theatre. I have personally been involved with several local musicals, and this book was extremely informing and interesting. I love the pictures and the little pull-outs included in the book - especially the sample ticket. The only thing that kept me from giving this book five stars, was the wish that Schumacher had included other musicals, such as Phantom, Les Mis, Cats... Of course, I understand why he couldn't have used those, but they would have made this book UNBELIEVABLY awesome. But putting that aside, I still loved this book and would recommend it to anyone interested in theatre.

great resource

This is the second time I've ordered this book, *How Does the Show Go On: An Introduction to the Theater*, because it is so informative about the theater. I wish it was written when I was young. I really must buy one for myself one of these days! I am involved in community theater and I bought these books for my grandson and my nephew. This book covers everything about the theater. I don't think the general public realizes how much work goes into a show before it even reaches the stage and how much goes on backstage. I love the tickets and scripts they put in the book. Showing the patches of fabrics and sketches for costumes is also a wonderful touch. This book touches base on everything in the theater except the cost involved. Perhaps if it tells a little bit about royalties, script price, rental for space to rehearse, etc. people would realize why tickets cost what they cost, and why some community theaters have closed. All in all, I love this book.

This book is supposedly targeted at kids, to teach them how the theater works, but as a lifelong Broadway fan, I was mesmerized. The author found a very creative way to present the backstage elements that go into putting on a Broadway show while being lots of fun. For example, there is a very imaginative "before and after" display showing how makeup changes and actor's appearance and plays a critical role in creating a new reality for the stage. I think this is also a bargain in terms of price--in fact, I cannot imagine how the publisher is making money off this product, given the difficult printing job and the inclusion of so many "take out" elements to show examples of scripts and the like...Could be just a loss leader to help Disney draw a new generation of kids to live theater--a noble goal. You can't go wrong with this high quality product.

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