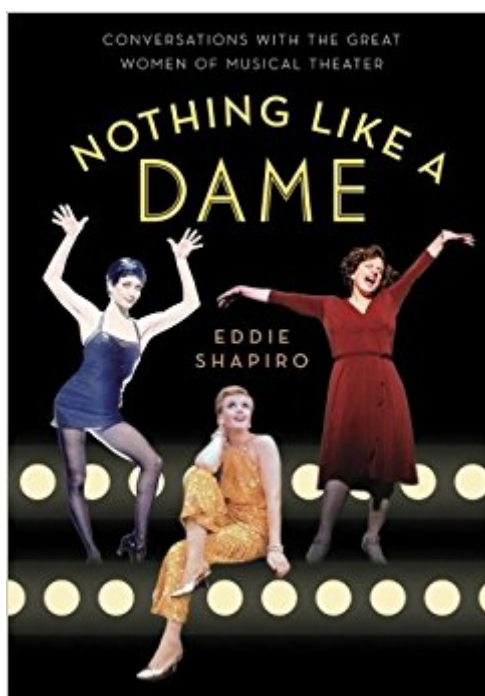


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Nothing Like A Dame: Conversations With The Great Women Of Musical Theater



Synopsis

In *Nothing Like a Dame*, theater journalist Eddie Shapiro opens a jewelry box full of glittering surprises, through in-depth conversations with twenty leading women of Broadway. He carefully selected Tony Award-winning stars who have spent the majority of their careers in theater, leaving aside those who have moved on or occasionally drop back in. The women he interviewed spent endless hours with him, discussing their careers, offering insights into the iconic shows, changes on Broadway over the last century, and the art (and thrill) of taking the stage night after night. Chita Rivera describes the experience of starring in musicals in each of the last seven decades; Audra McDonald gives her thoughts on the work that went into the five Tony Awards she won before turning forty-one; and Carol Channing reflects on how she has revisited the same starring role generation after generation, and its effects on her career. Here too is Sutton Foster, who contemplates her breakout success in an age when stars working predominately in theater are increasingly rare. Each of these conversations is guided by Shapiro's expert knowledge of these women's careers, Broadway lore, and the details of famous (and infamous) musicals. He also includes dozens of photographs of these players in their best-known roles. This fascinating collection reveals the artistic genius and human experience of the women who have made Broadway musicals more popular than ever -- a must for anyone who loves the theater.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A fascinating and remarkably authentic collection of conversations with theatre aristocracy." --John

Kander "This book is an encyclopedia of modern musical theatre via a series of tender meetings between a diehard fan and his idols. Because of Eddie Shapiro's utter guilelessness, these women open up and reveal more than they ever have before, and we get to be the third guest at each encounter." --Alan Cumming "Eddie Shapiro has woven together an insightful, inspiring and truly revelatory collection of interviews with these legends of musical theatre. It is an honor to hear personal stories from these incredible women on their creative process and the shows they have graced." --Daryl Roth "For those who are interested in knowing about the inner lives of the great ladies of the theater, this is the book for you." --Graciela Daniele "A wonderful collection of interviews that are honest, comprehensive and fascinating. What a treasure to hear all these extraordinary women tell their stories in their own words!" --Kathleen Marshall "Shapiro states that he wanted to create a tapestry, an oral history, of the last 60 years of American musical theater, and he has succeeded... Highly recommended for readers who are interested in the theater, women performers, and those who dream of being on Broadway." -- Library Journal "[Falling] somewhere between a reference book and my fantasy version of People magazine from a parallel universe where Broadway musicals are the dominant art form... [this] book offers diehard fans new facets to admire about favorites, and newer fans may be inspired to learn more about the myriad shows and personalities mentioned within the book's pages." --Talkin' Broadway "Elaine Stritch, Patti LuPone, Chita Rivera, Bebe Neuwirth, and Audra McDonald are among the leading ladies taking center stage in this sparkling compilation that chronicles the life and times of the Great White Way." --O, The Oprah Magazine "Nothing Like a Dame: Conversations with the Great Women of Musical Theater is filled with Eddie Shapiro's penetrating interviews with Broadway's most dazzling femmes." --Michael Musto, Out Magazine "These great ladies of the stage offer a funny, warm, informative and dishy look at the experience of life on Broadway." -- Playbill.com "For theater devotees, Shapiro's book is a veritable treasure trove." --Huffington Post

Eddie Shapiro is a freelance writer and theater journalist whose work has appeared in Out Magazine, Instinct, and Backstage West. He is the author of Queens in the Kingdom: The Ultimate Gay and Lesbian Guide to the Disney Theme Parks.

A great book with Broadway divas past and present. Most of these were done a few years back, given that the first interview is with the recently deceased Elaine Stritch as well two of the surviving leading ladies of Broadway's Golden Age, Carol Channing and Angela Lansbury. Of course many of today's leading ladies are interviewed too. No mention of Bernadette Peters, Elaine Paige or Julie

Andrews (although the last two are British and the focus here might be on American-born stars).

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and relished reading about the struggles, discipline and tenacity required for women to succeed on Broadway. The women are not always likeable, but one can relate to them easily through their unique points of view. Their lives and careers are fascinating and insightful to those who enjoy live theatre but may not understand the full journey of how success is born there. These interviews help the reader to more fully appreciate the arduous task these actresses face in shaping a career in theatre.

To be honest, some of them are seriously neurotic nutjobs (and bitter!), but there is great truth in their words, however misguided their lives. Worth reading for anyone in the business who is looking to benefit from a series of cautionary tales.

This is an absolute delight for those who love Broadway. All those wonderful actresses we have been privileged to see in person get introduced in readable overviews. The book should be out where anyone can pick it up and browse through pictures and memories of the women we are willing to travel from the midwest to New York to watch on the stage where they really shine. I am leaving it out where anyone who drops in can get inspired and can see how hard work and talent makes an impact on the stage.

I couldn't put this book down! So many great ladies of Broadway in here... and what is especially cool is that many of the underrated legends, such as Judy Kaye and Debra Monk, get their own much earned chapters. I couldn't wait for it to come out and I was very very pleased. BUY IT!! Some great stories I've never heard by all the Tony winning greats.

What a great book! Over the years I have seen many productions starring most of these "Dames". What a treat and insight to read these honest and open Q&A's. Eddie Shapiro is obviously in love with the theater and especially with his "dames". Kudos to the author and to the ladies for "opening up" and sharing.

Good reading for Broadway babies. Especially personal interviews that seem to reveal the human within the star. I especially appreciate the theatrical credits of each performer that start each chapter.

Excellent in depth stories about Broadway's best. Definitely recommend to fans of Broadway of multiple generations. Thoroughly enjoyed the book

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