An introductory slideshow into one of the greatest musical theater pieces ever produced.
PART I:

A brief history of Musical Theater
Part I: Musical Theater

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Musical Theater

Less than 100 years ago, people did not have the option of “going out to a movie” on a Friday night. Dating back to the Greeks, people have been counting on stage plays and theater to entertain them.
Musical Theater

While some plays focused on “fart humor” and simple jokes for entertainment, Musical Theater was one type of play which entertained people by combining music, conversation, and dance with intelligent laughs, drama, and action.
Musical Theater

While authors of stories were able to tell you what their characters are thinking and feeling, this is not possible in a play. Singing and dancing and talking directly to the audience was a popular way of letting the fans know what was going on “behind the scenes”.

When characters talk directly to the audience, this is called an “aside”.

The old fool is leaving.
Singing and Dancing were staples of theater performances dating back to the earliest Greek and Roman plays, and is still a popular expressive art form today.
History of Musical Theater

American/European Musical Theater can be traced back to the Greeks and Romans, who included song and dance routines performed with orchestra pieces in sync to the music written. Characters spoke and sang what they were feeling or thinking.

Some dancers attached metal chips called *sabilla* in their stage shoes (beginning of tap dancing).
History of Musical Theater

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Producers began taking famous stories from the Middle Ages through the 1600’s and writing musical versions of them.

_The Tempest_ was the first Shakespearean play set to music in 1667 by William Davenant.
History of Musical Theater

1850’s-1900:

The first musical theater that was originally American and written in English was called The Black Crook- named for an evil master of black magic (named Hertzog) who made a deal with the devil for immortality by stealing people’s souls. Set in Germany, Hertzog helps an evil Count Wolfenstein try to steal the village beauty, Amina, from her fiancée Rodolphe…. but everything works out in the end for Amina and Rodolphe and they live happily ever after.
History of Musical Theater-
1930’s

After the Great Depression of the 1920’s (where people had no money to spend on entertainment) had passed, Broadway and London’s theaters returned to the mainstream.
History of Musical Theater -

1930’s

Porgy and Bess (1935), by the Gershwin brothers and based on the novel by DuBose Heyward was the famous piece of the 30’s, especially since it was mostly an all African-American cast about a disabled beggar in South Carolina trying to help a girl escape difficult times and surroundings.
History of Musical Theater- 1940’s-1960’s

The Golden Age
History of Musical Theater- 1940’s-1960’s

The Golden Age

With the economy on the rebound, more money was available to invest in great musical theater minds like Rodgers and Hammerstein, and Irving Berlin.
History of Musical Theater - 1940’s - 1960’s

The Golden Age

These 20 years gave America some of the great opera/musicals in history:
History of Musical Theater - 1940’s-1960’s

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History of Musical Theater - 1970’s

The 1970’s began the trend of “rock musicals”. Also, in post-civil rights America, a huge African-American influence was brought to Broadway.
History of Musical Theater - 1980’s

The 80’s saw an explosion of extremely successful European “mega-musicals” or “pop operas” based on European classical literature.
History of Musical Theater -

1990’s

The 90’s was the decade of large corporation influenced productions of musicals, especially Disney. We began to see many familiar stories being presented on stages in theaters with already well-known music.
History of Musical Theater - 2000’s

The 2000’s continued this trend and we saw many new twists on old stories as well as stage production versions of newer pieces as well.
History of Musical Theater - 2000’s

Also many TV shows and movies ended up writing musical episodes:
History of Musical Theater-
2000’s

It is difficult not to see musical theater’s history and influence on today’s TV and pop culture.

Family Guy

The Simpsons
Can you think of something you have seen where characters sing what they are thinking or feeling?
Musical Theater

Let’s see how many of the historical musical theater shows you can recognize in this clip from *Phineas and Ferb: Rollercoaster the Musical*
The order of the references goes as such:


YouTube Hyperlink:

Rollercoaster: The Musical
Musical Theater

In summation: Over the past 100 years, Musical Theater has adapted, grown, and transformed into two genres:
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1) What you see on television and movies where characters include singing, dancing, and clever conversation into the episodes.
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Over the past 100 years, Musical Theater has adapted, grown, and transformed into two genres:

1) What you see on television and movies where characters include singing, dancing, and clever conversation into the episodes.

2) The Musical Theater still available to be experienced in a theater setting with all the same elements of entertainment.
End Part I: Musical Theater

Write down 5 things you learned about the history of Musical Theater.

Share 5-10 answers out loud with the class.
Part II:

Andrew Lloyd Webber’s

The PHANTOM of the OPERA

Part II:

Andrew Lloyd Webber
Part II: Andrew Lloyd Webber
Andrew Lloyd Webber is generally considered one of the most talented composers in the history of musical theater. Many of his musicals to which he has written or helped produce have earned numerous awards and are popular world-wide.

Even though he is British....
Part II: Andrew Lloyd Webber

Webber was born in 1948 in London to a very musical family. His father William was a composer, his mother Jean was a violinist and a pianist, and his younger brother Julian would grow up to be an accomplished solo cellist.
Part II: Andrew Lloyd Webber

His first major piece he produced with his friend Tim Rice as they wrote a piece which ended up becoming the musical Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat in 1968, using a strange combination of musical styles from Elvis rock and roll to country twang.
Part II: Andrew Lloyd Webber

Through the late 60’s and 70’s, Webber and Rice came up with historically famous musical theater pieces such as:

![Evita poster](image1)

An Amateur production by arrangement with The Really Useful Group Ltd.

Jesus Christ Superstar

By Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber

Poster Design By David Artiss
Part II: Andrew Lloyd Webber

Through the late 60’s and 70’s, Webber and Rice came up with historically famous musical theater pieces such as:

*Evita* was remade by Madonna in the 90’s….

But used Webber’s music still!
Part II: Andrew Lloyd Webber

In the 80’s, Webber wrote Starlight Express (which was hated by critics).

However, he also wrote two other pieces which would define his success as one of the best musical theater composers EVER!
In the 90’s and 2000’s, Webber continued his success. He was asked to write a song for the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, and had two more very successful musicals:

1994- *Sunset Boulevard*, which won 7 Tony Awards

1998- *Whistle Down the Wind*, which was very popular in England
In his personal life, Webber is currently married to his third wife and he has five children: Imogen, Nicholas, Alastair, William, and Isabella.
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He has won an Academy Award, a Golden Globe, numerous Grammy Awards (for music), Tony Awards (for Broadway success), and Olivier Awards (for excellence in English theater).
Part II: Andrew Lloyd Webber

Among his many amazing musicals, The Phantom of the Opera is near the top of the list for musical excellence and world-wide popularity.
Music from *Phantom*

It has won seven Tony awards for musical theater and album sales have already exceeded $40 million. The cast album has gone platinum (1 million sales) multiple times in many countries:

- 6 million in the United States
- 2 million in England
- 9 million in Germany
- 4 million in the Netherlands
- 11 million in Korea
- 31 million in Taiwan

*It was also a big part of David Cook’s American Idol winning season!*

**YouTube Hyperlink:**

[David Cook - Music of the Night](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xc3e4zJrQyE)
Music from *Phantom*

Many fantastic songs from the musical are well-known worldwide. Listed are some of the more famous songs

1. Think of Me
2. Angel of Music
3. The Phantom of the Opera
4. The Music of the Night
5. Prima Donna
6. All I Ask of You
7. Masquerade
8. Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again
9. The Point of No Return
End Part II: Andrew Lloyd Webber

Write down 5 things you learned about Andrew Lloyd Webber

Share 5-10 answers out loud with the class.