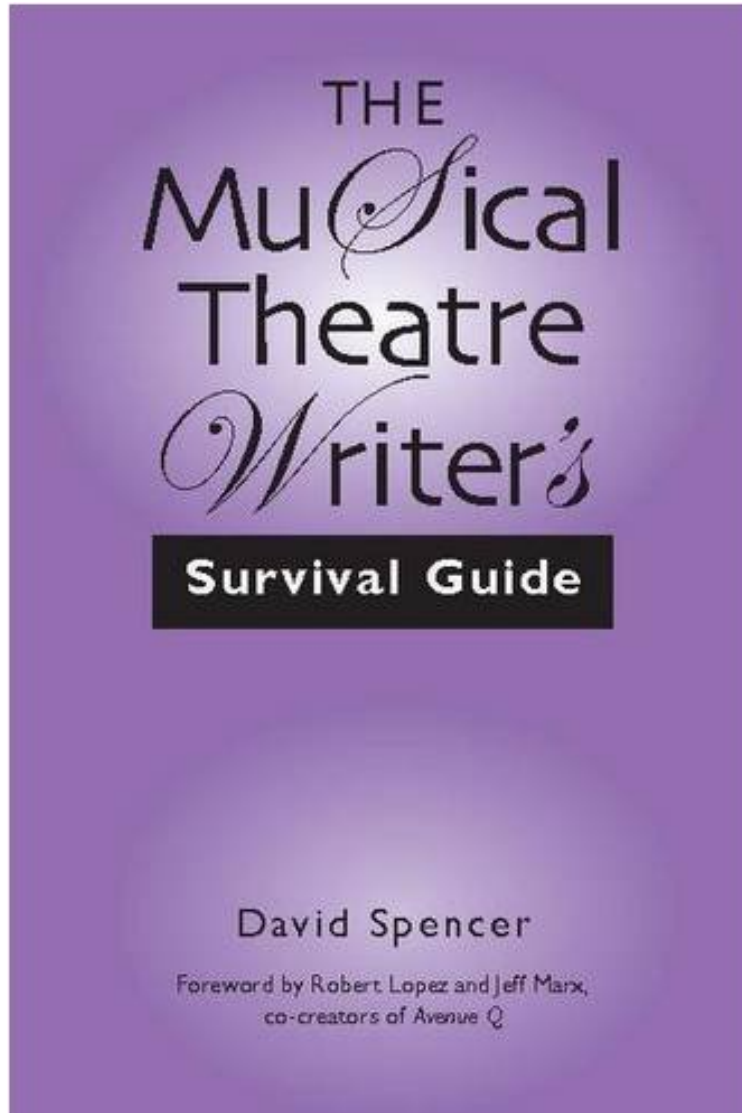


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The Musical Theatre Writer's Survival Guide

David Spencer

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David Spencer : The Musical Theatre Writer's Survival Guide before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Musical Theatre Writer's Survival Guide:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's almost hard to believe that so much useful information is packed into this little volume By Jokewriter It's almost hard to believe that so much useful information is packed into this little volume. The Musical Theatre Writer's Survival Guide explains every step of musical creation from the initial concept to actual performance. It's clear the author has been out there in the trenches, and he generously shares the information he's learned the hard way. It's full of funny anecdotes, too. I find myself going back to it when I reach certain stages of

my projects. For instance, I am just about to plan a reading of my new musical, so I re-read the chapter on devoted to staged readings. It's just loaded with useful suggestions and warnings about the pitfalls I might encounter. It's a great book. If you're working on a musical, or just want to understand the process of creating one, this book is something you should read.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Indispensable, Unique Reference for Musical Theatre Writers
By Laura W. I am an aspiring musical theatre writer with no real experience yet, but reading this makes me feel like I have twenty years of experience under my belt! It seems that Mr. Spencer has thoughtfully included, out of his own widespread experience in the biz, absolutely every thought, information, helpful tidbit or advice that I think EVERY new or seasoned musical theatre writer will find very, very helpful. He is very intentional about sharing stories and information to help young writers avoid pitfalls and mistakes he once made, or is familiar with. Every chapter flows well, is thorough, well-structured, intriguing to read. I am sure I will continue looking back to this for frequent reference as I continue pursuing this career. Thank you, Mr. Spencer, for this invaluable resource!! It is worth more than every penny!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Invaluable Resource
By D. Fleszar David Spencer's book is without question the most comprehensive, concise and informative book on writing contemporary musical theatre I've found on the market to date. An astonishingly quick (and entertaining) read, the book covers all of the bases of writing shows, from the creative process to dealing with the business end of getting an original musical produced. It is also jam-packed with useful information regarding the 'knit-picky' details of standard conventions (such as formatting scripts, creating and distributing demos, etc) that are worth the price of purchase alone. The book is well-structured into concise, easy to read sections that are easy to refer to when necessary. Appropriately titled a "Survival Guide," Spencer makes no attempt to create an 'everything-you-need-to-know-to-write-a-musical' guide; instead, he provides brief (but considerably detailed) insight into each topic. This is not a book for a beginner who is looking to learn how to write songs, but rather for ambitious young artists who are serious about creating new musical theatre. There are entire books that deal with the considerations posed by individual chapters (such as musical forms, rhyme, characterization, etc) that supplant the information in this book; his list of suggested readings is very helpful. Consider this book to be the 'study-guide' for the test; there is no other book on the market that covers so much terrain with such detail in such a small volume. It truly has become my survival guide - thank you David Spencer!

David Spencer has written a book full of truths a young writer will not find articulated anywhere else. Most of us in the theatre gained our "experience" by making mistakes and learning from them. David's book lets you gain the "experience" and skip the mistakes part. Anyone maneuvering the treacherous waters of musicals will find it not nearly so lonely or baffling with this remarkable volume as a companion. - Richard Maltby, Jr., Director/Lyricist, *Miss Saigon*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Baby Consider The Musical* The Musical Theatre Writer's Survival Guide your new best friend in the business. - Alan Menken, Oscar recipient and Tony-Award nominee, composer, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Beauty and the Beast* At long last: a how-to book written by someone who actually knows how to. It hits so many nails on the head I could barely get through it for the sound of all that hammering. - Larry Gelbart, Award-winning co-librettist, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and librettist, *City of Angels* For its practitioners, musical theatre is an art, a passion, and a lifelong love. But it's also a complex landscape involving not merely principles of craft about book, music and lyrics, but also principles of collaboration, script/demo presentation, project/production development, venue, business, and - everybody's area of uncertainty - politics. In *The Musical Theatre Writer's Survival Guide*, award-winning musical dramatist and teacher David Spencer provides a guide-to-the-game that helps you negotiate all those aspects of the business and more. This professional handbook will walk you through: getting your name and your projects into the hands of producers, instead of the rejection pile choosing the right producer, agent, or director, instead of surrounding yourself with people uninterested in your work and your career-or interested for the wrong reasons bringing your vision to life through stage-savvy writing, instead of watching it sputter due to flaws in craft living a happy, healthy life in musicals, instead of dying a slow, showbiz death. If you're taking your first steps, Spencer's counsel, anecdotes, and instructions will save you years of blindly stumbling about without results. Likewise, if you've been around the block a few times, *The Musical Theatre Writer's Survival Guide* can rescue you from the kinds of career-stalling traps, bad habits, and false assumptions that lead to dead ends.

About the Author David Spencer won a 2002 Richard Rodgers Development Award (as composer-lyricist for his current project, *The Fabulist*), a 2000 Kleban lyrics award, and two Gilman Gonzalez-Falla Theatre Foundation grants. He has been the lyricist-librettist for two musicals with composer Alan Menken: *Weird Romance* and *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*. He made his professional debut in 1984 with the English adaptation of *La Boheme* at the Public Theatre and has since written music and lyrics for *Theatreworks/USA's* all-new, award-winning TYA versions of *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Les Miserables* and penned the original *Alien Nation* novel, *Passing Fancy*. He is on faculty at the BMI-Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop and is webmaster and principal New York drama critic for *Aisle Say* (www.aislesay.com).