

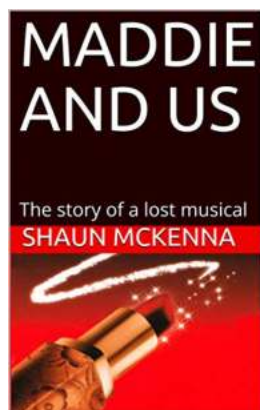
# The Story Of Lost Musical: Uncovering a Forgotten Gem from the Past

Imagine stumbling upon a hidden treasure - a lost musical, tucked away in the depths of time. A forgotten masterpiece waiting to be unveiled and shared with the world once again. This is the captivating story we will be exploring today.

## Unearthing the Mystery

In the vast expanse of the musical theater world, there exists an abundance of well-known classics that have left an indelible mark on audiences around the globe. But what about the lesser-known gems that have been overshadowed by the popular hits? One such gem is the lost musical we are about to delve into.

Our journey begins in the early 20th century, a time when musical theater was experiencing a golden age. The story centers around a revolutionary composer, William H. Montgomery, and his groundbreaking musical production, titled "The Enchanted Garden."



## MADDIE AND US: The story of a lost musical

by Shaun McKenna (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English

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Paperback : 114 pages

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Dimensions : 6.69 x 0.26 x 9.45 inches



In its heyday, "The Enchanted Garden" was met with critical acclaim, leaving audiences spellbound night after night. The enchanting melodies, captivating storyline, and awe-inspiring performances propelled it into the hearts of spectators everywhere. However, as time went on, this remarkable piece of art faded into obscurity.

## **The Rise and Fall**

Why did such a revered musical, loved by so many, disappear from the public eye? The answer lies in the tides of change that swept over the musical theater industry during the mid-20th century. As new styles and genres emerged, the once-adored "The Enchanted Garden" struggled to keep up with the shifting tastes of the audience.

The closing night of the final performance of "The Enchanted Garden" marked the end of an era. The sets were dismantled, the costumes packed away, and the score hidden in a dusty corner, destined to be forgotten alongside the memories of its glory days.

## **Rediscovery**

Fast forward several decades, and a group of young theater enthusiasts stumbled upon a whisper of this forgotten masterpiece. The tantalizing fragments of a once-magnificent musical were scattered across vintage theaters, libraries, and archives.

Driven by their passion for musical theater history, this devoted group of individuals embarked on a mission to reclaim "The Enchanted Garden" from the

clutches of time. Tirelessly digging through forgotten archives, conducting interviews with surviving cast members, and piecing together what little remained, they slowly began to resurrect the lost musical.

## **The Resurrection**

After years of relentless pursuit, the day of reckoning arrived. The devoted team had finally pieced together enough fragments to reconstruct "The Enchanted Garden" from the ground up. With tremendous caution, they unveiled their astonishing accomplishment to the world.

What emerged was a miraculously restored version of the original musical, complete with its enchanting melodies, dazzling choreography, and intricate set designs. "The Enchanted Garden" was reborn, ready to take center stage once again.

## **The Grand Premiere**

As news of the revival spread, anticipation built, and fans rushed to secure their seats for the grand premiere. The theater buzzed with excitement as the curtains were drawn and the first notes of the overture filled the air.

What followed was an unforgettable experience that transported the audience to a bygone era of magical storytelling. The infectious energy emanating from the stage swept everyone off their feet. Emotions ran high, tears of joy were shed, and standing ovations became the norm.

Word of mouth quickly spread far and wide, and demand for "The Enchanted Garden" soared. The lost musical had, against all odds, captured the hearts of a new generation. Its second chance at success proved that great art never truly dies; it merely slumbers, waiting for its moment to shine once more.

## Legacy and Impact

The resurgence of "The Enchanted Garden" sparked a renewed appreciation for forgotten masterpieces in the musical theater world. Audiences began to seek out other lost gems, eagerly devouring previously overlooked works, and breathing new life into them.

This newfound fascination with forgotten musicals prompted theater companies, both big and small, to delve into their archives, unearthing buried treasures waiting to be rediscovered. The success of "The Enchanted Garden" served as a reminder that there is much to be gained by looking back and reviving forgotten works of art.

## A Final Note

In a world of flashy performances, celebrity-driven productions, and endless remakes, it is crucial to remember the hidden treasures that lie beneath the surface. The story of the lost musical, "The Enchanted Garden," teaches us to appreciate the past and honor the legacy of those who came before us.

So, the next time you find yourself at a theater, watching a timeless classic, take a moment to ponder what other hidden gems may lie waiting, eager to be discovered. And who knows, perhaps one day you will be the one uncovering a lost musical, breathing life back into forgotten melodies, and captivating audiences once more.

### **MADDIE AND US: The story of a lost musical**

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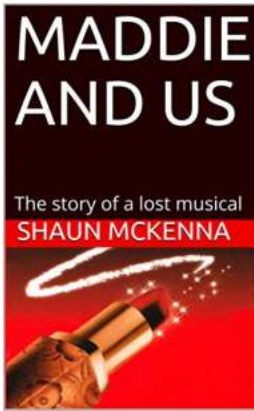
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Stephen Sondheim said it had "a classic rousing Broadway score." London's Daily Telegraph critic called it "the show we've been waiting for." "Maddie" opened in London's West End in 1997 after a seven year roller-coaster creative process. Everyone anticipated a hit. A "making of" book was commissioned to coincide with the show's opening.

But showbiz is famously fickle and "Maddie" closed after only six weeks. The dreams of its creative team - composer Stephen Keeling, writer Shaun McKenna and writer/director Steven Dexter - were dashed.

Twenty years later, Stage Door Records produced a 20th anniversary reissue of the Original London Cast Recording, together with a fascinating disc of cut songs and alternative versions. A new generation of musical theatre fans suddenly got interested. Now you can read the extraordinary story of "Maddie's" journey to the Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue. This is the "making of" book written at the time, when the paint had barely dried on the set and the wounds were still raw, now updated and expanded with the benefit of hindsight.

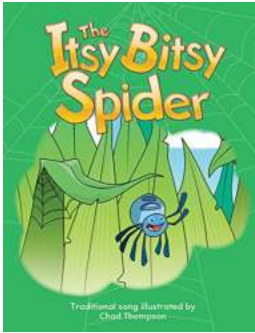
Many of the great names of 1990s musical theatre wander through these pages - not just the always supportive Sondheim but people like Cameron Mackintosh (who writes the Foreword ), Mike Ockrent and Lionel Bart. It is a vivid portrait of three beginners having the adventure of their lives. They had plenty of energy, plenty of talent and plenty of guts - and they made plenty of mistakes.

"Maddie" is a musical comedy about a dead wannabe film star who refuses to give up on her belief that she can make it big - even after she has been dead for fifty years! Sometimes it seemed that the character herself was controlling the show's destiny, refusing to lie down even when the prospects of success were at their bleakest.

Finally finding its home with producer Kenny Wax - then a rookie, now a major West End player - "Maddie's" journey involved promises made and promises broken, blind faith, steep learning curves, death, illness, near bankruptcy, fraudsters, creative slanging matches, sulks, extraordinary twists of fate and the unbelievable generosity of scores of people who had never invested in theatre before.

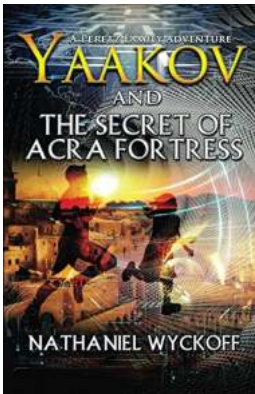
Shaun McKenna's account is a lively and entertaining read that covers everything from how they constructed the Book, Sondheim's personal input into writing lyrics, how shows are put together out of London and what happens when they transfer. It is a vivid portrait of 1990s theatre, when it was still possible for unknown writers to write an original show and get it as far as a West End stage. It contains a fascinating chapter about the formation of the Mercury Workshop (now Mercury Musical Developments), an organisation dedicated to helping new musical theatre talents emerge.

"Maddie and Us" is a book for anyone interested in musical theatre, showbiz memoirs, and inside stories.



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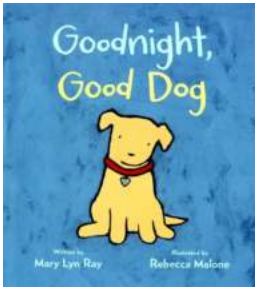
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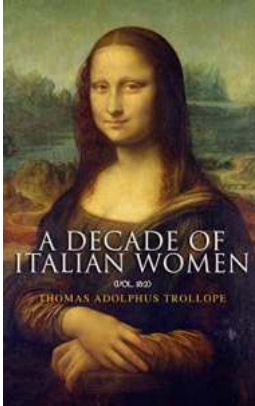
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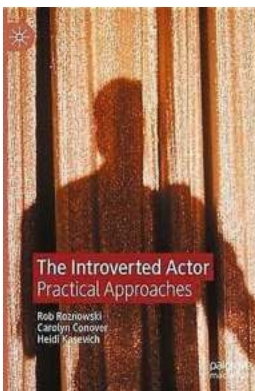
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