

Nothing can replace the exhilaration of seeing a Sondheim musical live on stage. The analytic pleasure of these essays cannot hope to duplicate that visceral experience. I trust, however, that the insights provided by these essays will give the reader a more profound respect and understanding and love of Sondheim's work and will result in an ever greater appreciation and joy when the curtain rises on another Sondheim show.



Chronology

- 1930 22 March, Stephen Sondheim born to Herbert and Janet Sondheim, New York City
- 1946 Enters Williams College, Williamstown, MA; graduates in 1950
- 1948 *Phinney's Rainbow* produced, Williams College
- 1949 *All That Glitters* produced, Williams College
- 1956 *Girls of Summer** opens on Broadway, Longacre Theatre
- 1957 *West Side Story*** opens on Broadway, Winter Garden Theatre
- 1959 *Gypsy*** opens on Broadway, Broadway Theatre
- 1960 *Invitation to a March** opens on Broadway, Music Box Theatre
- 1962 *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* opens on Broadway, Alvin Theatre; film of *West Side Story* released
- 1963 *Hot Spot** opens on Broadway, Majestic Theatre; film of *Gypsy* released
- 1964 *Anyone Can Whistle* opens on Broadway, Majestic Theatre
- 1965 *Do I Hear a Waltz?*** opens on Broadway, 46th Street Theatre

- 1966 *The Mad Show**** opens off-Broadway, New Theatre
- 1967 *Evening Primrose* telecast on ABC; film of *Forum* released
- 1970 *Company* opens on Broadway, Alvin Theatre (Tony Award, Best Music and Lyrics; New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, Best Musical)
- 1971 *Follies* opens on Broadway, Winter Garden Theatre (Tony Award, Best Music and Lyrics; New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, Best Musical)
- 1973 *A Little Night Music* opens on Broadway, Shubert Theatre (Tony Award, Best Music and Lyrics; New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, Best Musical); *The Last of Sheila* (film) released
- 1974 *Candide* (Second Version)*** opens on Broadway, Broadway Theatre; *The Frogs* produced, Yale University
- 1976 *Pacific Overtures* opens on Broadway, Winter Garden Theatre (New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, Best Musical); *Side By Side By Sondheim* (revue) opens, Mermaid Theatre, London
- 1977 *Side By Side By Sondheim* opens on Broadway, Music Box Theatre
- 1978 Film of *A Little Night Music* released
- 1979 *Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* opens on Broadway, Uris Theatre (Tony Award, Best Score; New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, Best Musical)
- 1981 *Marry Me A Little* opens off-Broadway, Actors Playhouse; *Merrily We Roll Along* opens on Broadway, Alvin Theatre

- 1984 *Sunday in the Park with George* opens on Broadway, Booth Theatre (New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, Best Musical; 1985 Pulitzer Prize for Drama)
- 1987 *Into the Woods* opens on Broadway, Martin Beck Theatre (Tony Award, Best Score); revised version of *Follies* opens in London
- 1991 *Assassins* opens off-Broadway, Playwrights Horizons
- 1994 *Passion* opens on Broadway, Plymouth Theatre; revised *Merrily We Roll Along* opens off-Broadway, York Theatre
- 1996 *Getting Away With Murder* opens on Broadway, Broadhurst Theatre

*composed incidental music only

**wrote lyrics only

***assisted with lyrics and/or music