



The Theater Will Rock: A History of the Rock Musical, from Hair to Hedwig

Elizabeth Lara Wollman

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The tumultuous decade of the 1960s in America gave birth to many new ideas and forms of expression, among them the rock musical. An unlikely offspring of the performing arts, the rock musical appeared when two highly distinctive and American art forms joined onstage in New York City. *The Theater Will Rock* explores the history of the rock musical, which has since evolved to become one of the most important cultural influences on American musical theater and a major cultural export. Packed with candid commentary by members of New York's vibrant theater community, *The Theater Will Rock* traces the rock musical's evolution over nearly fifty years, in popular productions such as *Hair*, *The Who's Tommy*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Rent*, and *Mamma Mia!*---and in notable flops such as *The Capeman*.

"A much-needed study of the impact of rock music on the musical theater and its resulting challenges, complexities, failures, and successes. Anyone interested in Broadway will learn a great deal from this book."
---William Everett, author of *The Musical: A Research Guide to Musical Theatre*

"This well-written account puts the highs and lows of producing staged rock musicals in New York City into perspective and is well worth reading for the depth of insight it provides."
---*Studies in Musical Theatre*

Elizabeth L. Wollman is Assistant Professor of Music at Baruch College, City University of New York.

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