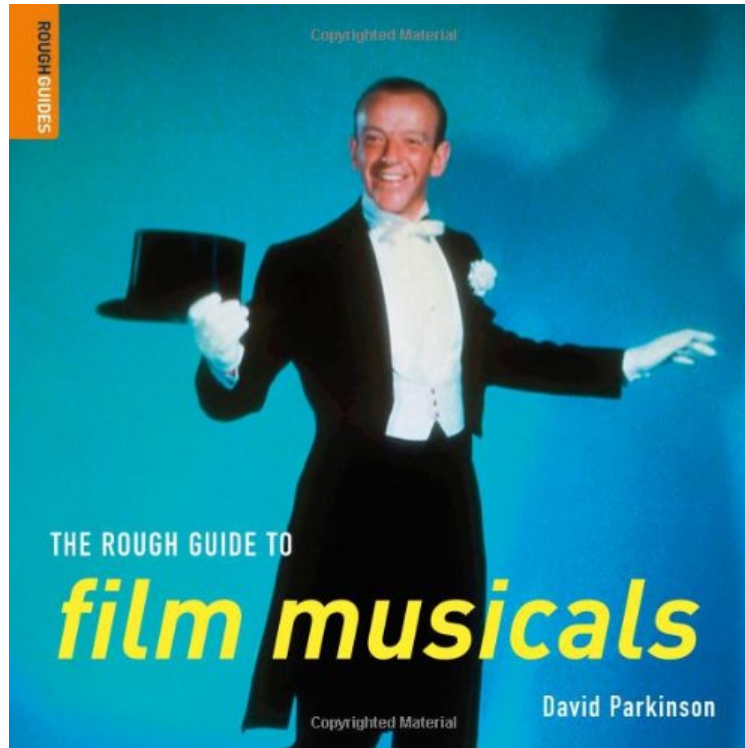


The Rough Guide to Film Musicals 1 (Rough Guide Reference)

Rough Guides

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Rough Guides : The Rough Guide to Film Musicals 1 (Rough Guide Reference) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rough Guide to Film Musicals 1 (Rough Guide Reference):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Stimulating Introduction to the Hollywood Film Musical!By John Howard ReidLike my own HOLLYWOOD MOVIE MUSICALS, this book is somewhat light on illustrations but heavy on text. It follows the usual "Rough Guide" format with a comprehensive historical survey, followed by a more detailed examination of "50 Essential Film Musicals", and then a brief selection of biographical entries, followed by a rather cursory chapter on musicals other than those made in Hollywood. It is undoubtedly the "50 Essentials" that will excite most comment and I must admit there are both surprising inclusions and exclusions in the author's list. The author also seems to have a bias against more than a few of the top box-office names in musical comedy. Icons like Alice Faye, Nelson Eddy, Bebe Daniels, Dixie Lee, Moira Shearer, Artie Shaw, Patricia Ellis, Lawrence Tibbett, Lucille Ball, Virginia O'Brien, Dennis Morgan, Rosemary Clooney, Kenny Baker, Frankie Laine are either given little space or, in most cases, none at all! Admittedly, you can't fit everybody into 326 slightly larger than pocket-sized pages, which is why I saved many of my own favorites for my follow-up book, MORE MOVIE MUSICALS.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy TaraGreat read and provides in-depth analysis of various classic musicals.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Some good information, confusingly arrangedBy Coco PazzoThis book has quite a lot of good information but its format is quite confusing mixing a chronological

format with a dictionary format and not succeeding quite as either. Despite my forgivings, this book is a welcome addition to the non-academics who are interested in learning more about film musicals.

The perfect companion to cinema's most spectacular genre, *The Rough Guide to Film Musicals* reveals how an escapist entertainment became Hollywood's most ingenious art form. From such enduring classics as *Singin' In The Rain* and *West Side Story* to recent successes like *Evita* and *Chicago*, this book reviews 50 essential musicals, including several forgotten gems. There are profiles of musical icons such as Fred Astaire, Judy Garland and George Gershwin and details of musicals from around the world. Complete with a list of the best soundtracks, websites and books for further reading, this Rough Guide takes a behind the scenes look at this magical movie genre.

About the Author David Parkinson is a film critic and historian, who has written several books and reviews regularly for *Empire* and the *Radio Times*.