

# the music man robert preston

## The Music Man Robert Preston

Robert Preston is widely celebrated for his iconic role as Harold Hill in the classic musical *The Music Man*. His charismatic performance, charming personality, and remarkable stage presence have cemented his place in theatrical history. This article explores the life, career, and legacy of Robert Preston, providing a comprehensive overview of his contributions to the world of musical theater and beyond.

### Early Life and Background

#### Childhood and Family Background

- Born on June 8, 1932, in Los Angeles, California.
- Grew up in a family with a strong appreciation for the arts; his father was a professional musician.
- Developed an early interest in acting and singing, participating in school plays and local theater productions.

#### Education and Early Career

- Attended UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television.
- Started his career in the entertainment industry with small roles in television and radio.
- Gained initial recognition through stage performances in local theaters.

### Career Highlights

#### Breakthrough in Musical Theater

Robert Preston's breakthrough came with his role in *The Music Man*, which became a defining point in his career.

#### Role as Harold Hill

- Played the charming con man and self-styled music teacher, Harold Hill.
- His charismatic portrayal brought a unique blend of humor, warmth, and mischief.
- The 1957 Broadway debut of *The Music Man* was a massive success, with Preston's performance receiving critical acclaim.

#### Notable Stage Performances

- *The Music Man* (1957) - Tony Award nomination for Best Actor in a Musical.
- *I Do! I Do!* (1966) - Played the role of Michael.
- *The Roar of the Greasepaint - The Smell of the Crowd* (1965) - Played Sir.

### Film and Television Appearances

While Robert Preston was primarily known for his stage work, he also appeared in several films and TV shows.

- Films:
- *The Music Man* (1962) - reprised his role as Harold Hill in the movie adaptation.
- *Victor/Victoria* (1982) - Played the role of André Cassell.

- The Last Starfighter (1984) - Portrayed Centauri.

- Television:

- Guest appearances in various shows like The Ed Sullivan Show and The Tonight Show.

#### Awards and Honors

- Nominated for a Tony Award for The Music Man.

- Recognized for his contributions to musical theater and his charismatic performances.

#### Personal Life

#### Family and Relationships

- Married to actress and singer Julie Andrews (briefly during 1959-1960); their relationship was highly publicized.

- Later married actress and singer Karen Cummings Preston.

- Had children and maintained a close connection with his family throughout his life.

#### Interests and Hobbies

- Passionate about music and jazz.

- Enjoyed painting and other creative pursuits outside of acting.

#### Legacy and Impact

#### Influence on Musical Theater

Robert Preston's portrayal of Harold Hill remains one of the most iconic performances in musical theater history. His ability to blend humor, charm, and sincerity set a standard for future performers.

#### Cultural Significance

- His portrayal of Harold Hill helped popularize The Music Man as a timeless classic.

- The song "76 Trombones," performed with gusto and charisma by Preston, became an enduring musical staple.

#### Posthumous Recognition

- Preston passed away on March 21, 1987, but his legacy continues through recordings and revivals.

- His performances are studied by actors and theater enthusiasts worldwide.

#### The Music Man: An Overview

#### Synopsis of The Music Man

The Music Man is a musical comedy set in River City, Iowa, in 1912. The story follows Harold Hill, a charming con man who plans to sell musical instruments and uniforms to the townspeople, promising to organize a boys' band. His scheme is threatened when he falls genuinely in love and faces moral dilemmas.

#### Why Robert Preston's Performance is Legendary

- His lively and expressive acting brought Harold Hill to life.
- His singing, especially of "76 Trombones," was energetic and captivating.
- His comedic timing and warmth made his character relatable and beloved.

## The Enduring Popularity of Robert Preston

### Revivals and Tributes

- Several stage revivals of The Music Man have featured actors paying homage to Preston's iconic performance.
- The 2017 Broadway revival starred Hugh Jackman, but Preston's portrayal remains a benchmark for excellence.

### Influence on Future Performers

- Many actors cite Robert Preston's performance as an inspiration.
- His ability to blend humor with heartfelt emotion continues to influence musical theater casting and performances.

### Cultural References

- Preston's portrayal of Harold Hill has been referenced and parodied in various media.
- The character of Harold Hill remains a symbol of charm and wit in American musical theater.

### Conclusion

Robert Preston's remarkable talent and charismatic performances have left an indelible mark on the world of musical theater. His portrayal of Harold Hill in The Music Man remains a defining example of stage excellence, inspiring generations of performers and delighting audiences for decades. Beyond his iconic role, Preston's career reflected a versatile and dedicated artist whose influence continues to resonate. Whether through recordings, revivals, or the memories of theater lovers, Robert Preston's legacy endures as one of the greatest musical theater actors of all time.

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Keywords: Robert Preston, The Music Man, Harold Hill, musical theater, Broadway, Tony Award, 76 Trombones, musical comedy, film, television, legacy, theatrical legend

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who is Robert Preston in relation to The Music Man?

Robert Preston was the actor who famously portrayed Harold Hill in the original Broadway production and the 1962 film adaptation of The Music Man.

### What made Robert Preston's performance in The Music Man so memorable?

Preston's charismatic stage presence, comedic timing, and captivating singing made his portrayal of Harold Hill an iconic and enduring performance.

## **Did Robert Preston perform The Music Man on stage or in film?**

Robert Preston originally performed Harold Hill in the Broadway musical and later reprised the role in the 1962 film version.

## **How did Robert Preston prepare for his role as Harold Hill?**

Preston studied the character extensively, worked with vocal coaches, and brought his own comedic flair and charm to develop a memorable portrayal.

## **What awards or nominations did Robert Preston receive for The Music Man?**

While he did not win major awards for the role, Robert Preston's performance was highly acclaimed and contributed significantly to his career recognition.

## **Has Robert Preston's portrayal of Harold Hill influenced subsequent performances?**

Yes, Preston's charismatic portrayal set a standard for the character and influenced future actors performing Harold Hill in various productions.

## **Are there any notable recordings of Robert Preston performing in The Music Man?**

Yes, recordings of Preston's performances are available, including the original cast recording and film soundtrack, showcasing his iconic vocals.

## **What is Robert Preston's legacy in musical theater?**

Robert Preston is remembered as a talented and charismatic performer whose portrayal of Harold Hill remains a classic in American musical theater history.

## **Is Robert Preston's portrayal of Harold Hill considered the definitive version?**

Many fans and critics regard Robert Preston's performance as the definitive and most celebrated portrayal of Harold Hill.

## **Additional Resources**

The Music Man Robert Preston: An Enduring Legacy in Musical Theatre

The Music Man Robert Preston remains one of the most iconic figures in American musical theatre, celebrated for his charismatic stage presence, distinctive voice, and memorable portrayal of Harold Hill in the beloved 1957 musical The Music Man. Preston's contribution to the arts transcended his time, influencing generations of performers and leaving a lasting imprint on the cultural landscape. This article delves into the life, career, and

enduring legacy of Robert Preston, exploring how his artistry shaped the world of musical theatre and continues to resonate today.

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## Early Life and Background

Born in 1932 in Modesto, California, Robert Preston was introduced to the performing arts at a young age. His early interests in music and acting set the stage for a prolific career that would span several decades. Growing up in a supportive family environment, Preston developed an affinity for singing and acting, participating in school productions and local theater groups during his formative years.

## Educational Foundations

Preston attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he honed his craft further. Although initially interested in pursuing a career in law, his passion for the arts prevailed, and he soon shifted his focus to acting and musical performance. His early experiences in college theater laid a strong foundation for his future success.

## Military Service and Early Career

During the early 1950s, Preston served in the United States Army, an experience that added discipline and depth to his performances. Post-service, he began appearing in regional theater productions, gradually building a reputation as a talented and versatile performer.

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## Breakthrough Role and Rise to Stardom

### The Role of Harold Hill

Preston's career breakthrough came with his portrayal of Harold Hill in the original Broadway production of *The Music Man*. Premiering in 1957, the musical was an immediate hit, and Preston's charismatic performance became the defining interpretation of the character. His portrayal of the charming con man with a heart of gold captured audiences and critics alike.

### Why Preston's Harold Hill Was Iconic

- Charismatic Presence: Preston's natural charm and comedic timing brought Harold Hill to life, making him both humorous and endearing.
- Vocal Prowess: His rich baritone voice lent depth to the musical numbers, especially the iconic "Ya Got Trouble" and "76 Trombones."
- Stage Presence: Preston's commanding presence on stage created an engaging and memorable experience for theatergoers.

## Critical Acclaim and Awards

Preston's performance earned him numerous accolades, including a Tony Award nomination for Best Actor in a Musical. Critics praised his ability to balance comedy, romance, and a touch of mischief, establishing him as one of Broadway's leading performers.

## Impact on Musical Theatre

Preston's embodiment of Harold Hill helped cement *The Music Man* as a classic, influencing subsequent productions and performances. His ability to connect with audiences through authentic storytelling and lively performances set a new standard for musical leads.

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#### Career Highlights Beyond *The Music Man*

While Harold Hill remains Preston's most famous role, his career spanned a diverse array of performances across stage, film, and television.

#### Stage Work

- Preston starred in various productions, including *The Roar of the Greasepaint—The Smell of the Crowd* and *I Do! I Do!*, showcasing his versatility.
- His ability to sing, act, and dance made him a sought-after performer in musical theatre, often taking on roles that required a combination of charisma and vocal talent.

#### Film and Television

- Preston transitioned seamlessly into film and TV, appearing in productions such as *The Music Man* (1962 film adaptation) and guest-starring on popular television shows.
- His film portrayal of Harold Hill in the 1962 adaptation introduced the character to a broader audience, further cementing his association with the role.

#### Notable Collaborations

- Preston worked alongside renowned directors and performers, including Shirley Jones and David Merrick.
- His collaborations often pushed creative boundaries and contributed to the evolution of musical theatre during his era.

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#### The Enduring Legacy of Robert Preston

##### Influence on Musicals and Performers

Preston's dynamic performances inspired countless actors and singers. His ability to blend comedic timing with heartfelt emotion demonstrated the versatility required of leading men in musical theatre.

##### Cultural Impact

- *The Music Man* remains a staple of American musical theatre, with Preston's interpretation serving as a benchmark for future productions.
- His charismatic portrayal helped popularize the musical's themes of community, integrity, and the transformative power of music.

##### Posthumous Recognition and Honors

- Preston received numerous accolades posthumously, including induction into the American Theatre Hall of Fame.
- His performances continue to be studied by theatre students and appreciated

by audiences worldwide.

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## Personal Life and Off-Stage Persona

### Personality and Interests

Off-stage, Robert Preston was known for his wit, warmth, and dedication to his craft. He maintained a reputation as a consummate professional who deeply cared about his performances and colleagues.

### Family and Personal Relationships

Preston was married and had children, often balancing his demanding career with family life. Despite the pressures of show business, he remained grounded and committed to his loved ones.

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## The Lasting Impact and Remembering Robert Preston

### Tributes and Memorials

Following his passing in 1987, the theatre community paid tribute to Preston's contributions, celebrating his talent and influence. Memorials highlighted his role in shaping American musical theatre.

### Continued Celebrations

- Revival productions of *The Music Man* often pay homage to Preston's original portrayal.
- Documentaries and theatre retrospectives frequently feature footage and commentary on his legacy.

### Why He Remains a Legend

Robert Preston's unique blend of talent, charisma, and dedication ensures his place in theatre history. His performances continue to delight audiences and serve as a benchmark for excellence in musical theatre.

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## Conclusion

*The Music Man* Robert Preston epitomizes the golden age of American musical theatre. Through his unforgettable portrayal of Harold Hill and his versatile career, Preston exemplified the power of performance art to entertain, inspire, and endure. His legacy persists in the hearts of theatre lovers worldwide, reminding us of the timeless magic that great performers bring to the stage. As new generations discover *The Music Man* and revisit Preston's iconic performance, his influence remains as vibrant as ever, securing his place among the legends of American entertainment.

## **The Music Man Robert Preston**

**the music man robert preston: The Great Movie Musical Trivia Book** , 1996 How much did Munchkins get paid? What great cultural institution stands on the site where West Side Story was filmed? Who was first considered for the role of Mary Poppins? The Great Movie Musical Trivia Book spins out revelation after revelation with entertaining answers to intriguing questions that will test the wits of even the most die-hard musical fan.

**the music man robert preston: *Miracle of The Music Man*** Mark Cabaniss, 2022-09-15 The Music Man stands as one of the greatest achievements in American musical theatre, but few know about its rocky beginnings and the against-all-odds success story of its creator Meredith Willson. Mark Cabaniss steps back into the Golden Age of Broadway and brings to life the origins of this classic show, the music behind it, and the unlikely story of its creator. Interweaving behind-the-scenes accounts of people who worked with Willson, Cabaniss looks at his long and unusual career as a composer, conductor, radio personality, and flutist, which reached its pinnacle in The Music Man. No one initially believed in Willson's "Valentine to Iowa," seeing it as nothing but a corny flop or, worse, a recipe for disaster. But when the curtain fell on opening night, a star called The Music Man was born. Over 65 years later, that star is still marching right to this day, endeared by millions around the world. To understand Willson, his career, and his music is to understand how The Music Man came to be: he was truly the only person who could have ever written this show due to his unique background, talent, incredible persistence, and belief. The show's ultimate success and longevity was anything but inevitable—rather, it was truly a miracle.

**the music man robert preston: *New York Magazine*** , 1980-06-23 New York magazine was born in 1968 after a run as an insert of the New York Herald Tribune and quickly made a place for itself as the trusted resource for readers across the country. With award-winning writing and photography covering everything from politics and food to theater and fashion, the magazine's consistent mission has been to reflect back to its audience the energy and excitement of the city itself, while celebrating New York as both a place and an idea.

**the music man robert preston: *Meredith Willson - America's Music Man*** Bill Oates, 2005-08-15 Meredith Willson - America's Music Man is a loving, thorough and accurate examination of one of Broadway's great composers. It tells the story before, during and after The Music Man opened in 1957. The story of Willson's family, his life in Mason City, Iowa, and his eventual rise to the top of the music world forms the platform that led to four musicals and dozens of awards. Also included are Willson's activities scoring movies, directing orchestras on Old Time Radio, and even becoming a character on radio and television shows. This is the first in-depth look at the career of a real music man from north central Iowa.

**the music man robert preston: *Robert Preston - Forever The Music Man*** Warren, 2022-08-15 Biography of the late actor Robert Preston (1918-1987).

**the music man robert preston: *Routledge Guide to Broadway*** Ken Bloom, 2013-10-18 The Routledge Guide to Broadway is the second title in our new student reference series. It will introduce the student to the Broadway theater, focusing on key performers, writers, directors, plays, and musicals, along with the theaters themselves, key awards, and the folklore of Broadway. Broadway is the center of American theater, where all the great plays and musicals make their mark. Students across the country in theater history, performance, and direction/production look to Broadway for their inspiration. While there are illustrated coffee table type books on Broadway, there are few that offer a comprehensive look at the key figures and productions of the last two centuries. The Routledge Guide to Broadway offers this information in an easy-to-use, inexpensive format that will appeal to students, professors, and theatrical professionals.

**the music man robert preston: *Raised by the Stars*** Nick Thomas, 2011-10-14 This collection of interviews, all conducted by the author, focuses on the children of Hollywood legends. Each child (and, in one case, grandchild) talks about the joys and difficulties of growing up in the shadow of the



Hollywood spotlight. While some were significantly influenced by their famous parents and chose a career in entertainment, others felt no attraction toward the glamour of Tinseltown fame. Among the interviewees are the offspring of such major stars as Errol Flynn, Gary Cooper, Ingrid Bergman, Jimmy Stewart and Rosalind Russell, as well as such prominent supporting players as Jack Elam, Gene Lockhart, Billy Barty and Jesse White. The collection also includes a list of books and/or websites published by the children of the actors featured.

**the music man robert preston: The Encyclopedia of Best Films** Jay Robert Nash, 2019-10-23 This all-inclusive A-Z encyclopedia by one of the world's foremost experts on cinema provides comprehensive annotations of the best films produced from 1914 on. The work offers more than 5,000 three- to five-star entries (three stars=good; four stars=excellent; five stars=masterpiece), and yes, author Jay Robert Nash has viewed every single one of them as well as many more that did not make the cut. In addition to a precis, each film's entry also includes a listing of the cast as well as the key principles involved in production, from the director to the hair stylist. Especially unique to this book is a rating system that helps parents determine whether or not a film is appropriate for their children. Unlike the industry rating system which can be influenced by studio lobbying, Nash objectively evaluates each film and confers upon it one of four recommendations for viewing: recommended, acceptable, cautionary, and unacceptable. Backmatter includes a list of top films by genre (i.e. animated, drama, sports, mystery, adventure etc.) as well as an annotated name index listing all persons mentioned along with their dates of birth and death. Rounding out this essential volume for the film buff are over 500 still photos from the author's private collection.

**the music man robert preston: Desexualization in American Life** Charles Winick, 2018-10-08 Originally published as *The New People*, this classic volume examines the great changes in popular culture that unfolded in the 1960s with major steps toward political, racial, gender, and social empowerment. The popular culture of the time expressed a series of themes that have become, if not more significant, then certainly more visible in the 1990s. We are now entering the third generation of Americans who are living out the themes that are traced in this book. The author sees a depolarization, a neutering in content and key people in the popular arts. Some of these trends result from technological changes and others reflect what is happening in the psychosocial interior of the family as well as larger economic movements. Winick believes that in such wide-ranging features of our society as sports, furniture, and architecture, the expression of an epoch can be identified. Clothing conveys the imbalance and ambiguity that reflect larger social forces and that have been identified more recently by Jacques Lacan as so important in modern life. *Desexualization in American Life* is remarkably prescient and accurate in identifying key trends that affect us today and will continue to do so for the remainder of the decade.

**the music man robert preston: Casanova Was a Librarian** Kathleen Low, 2015-01-09 What do Casanova, Pope Pius XI, Benjamin Franklin and first lady Laura Bush have in common? At one time, all were members of the librarian profession. While librarians are often stereotyped as quiet, shy ladies who wear their gray hair in a dignified bun, that doesn't reflect the variety and diversity of today's library professionals. As of 2004, 159,000 people in the United States held the job of librarian. Although only 18 percent of that number was male, the median age for librarians was a young 47--far from the gray-haired, bun-wearing ladies of our imaginations! From pick-up lines to bumper stickers, this volume takes a light-hearted look at the many facets of the librarian occupation. Beginning with statistics, it enumerates gender divisions, personality types, salaries and educational requirements for various types of librarians including public, academic, school and special librarians. Other topics include specific occupational health risks, job-related recreation and novelty gifts for library professionals. Instances of librarians found in prose, poetry, film and musicals are also discussed.

**the music man robert preston: Casting Might-Have-Beens** Eila Mell, 2015-01-24 Some acting careers are made by one great role and some fall into obscurity when one is declined. Would Al Pacino be the star he is today if Robert Redford had accepted the role of Michael Corleone in *The Godfather*? Imagine Tom Hanks rejecting Uma Thurman, saying that she acted like someone in a

high school play when she auditioned to play opposite him in *The Bonfire of the Vanities*. Picture Danny Thomas as *The Godfather*, or Marilyn Monroe as *Cleopatra*. This reference work lists hundreds of such stories: actors who didn't get cast or who turned down certain parts. Each entry, organized alphabetically by film title, gives the character and actor cast, a list of other actors considered for that role, and the details of the casting decision. Information is drawn from extensive research and interviews. From *About Last Night* (which John Belushi turned down at his brother's urging) to *Zulu* (in which Michael Caine was not cast because he didn't look Cockney enough), this book lets you imagine how different your favorite films could have been.

**the music man robert preston:** *The Big Parade* Dominic McHugh, 2021 Though Meredith Willson is best remembered for *The Music Man*, there is a great deal more to his career as a composer and lyricist. In *The Big Parade*, author Dominic McHugh uses newly uncovered letters, manuscripts, and production files to reveal Willson's unusual combination of experiences in his pre-Broadway career that led him to compose *The Music Man*.

**the music man robert preston:** *Queer Musicals* Robert W. Schneider, 2025-08-21 What links the shows *La Cage aux Folles*, *Kinky Boots* and *BARE*? When was the first Queer musical produced on Broadway? How has queerness evolved in the context of mainstream Broadway musicals? *Queer Musicals* takes a chronological look at queer musicals that have developed on Broadway throughout the second half of the twentieth century to the early twenty first century. Looking at the inception and development of each show, this accessible study unpacks the creation, production and reception of each musical in order to draw parallels within the wider American dramatic canon. Pulling from multiple primary resources, each chapter traces the show from its inception to its opening night. It introduces the reader to each musical's key creators and company members and places them in the larger context of Broadway history. After examining the contemporary reception of each show and its cultural impact – both when it opened and now – it answers the question as to how and why queerness has evolved from being an anomaly to common in Musical Theatre storytelling. Published in Methuen Drama's *Essential Musicals* series, this book is perfect for students of Musical Theatre, drawing together different resources to dig into the backstories of Broadway's biggest hits and mining the historical record for nuggets of information that illuminate our understanding and enhance our enjoyment of musical theatre's unique brand of magic.

**the music man robert preston:** *The Oxford Companion to the American Musical* Thomas S. Hischak, 2008-06-02 Here is an engaging and authoritative reference to this highly popular genre--the only such book to cover stage, film, and television musicals in one volume. With more than two thousand entries, this book offers a wealth of information on musicals, performers, composers, lyricists, producers, choreographers, and much more. Many musicals written specifically for television are included, and many entries follow a work as it moves across genres, from stage, to film, to television. The Companion also includes cross references, a comprehensive listing of recommended recordings, and a useful chronological listing of all the musicals described in the book.

**the music man robert preston:** *The Faber Pocket Guide to Musicals* James Inverne, 2010-12-22 With hit TV shows picking the leads in productions of *Oliver!* and *The Sound Of Music*, and smash musicals like *Hairspray* and *Wicked* all the West End rage, musical theatre is as popular as it's ever been. James Inverne provides an indispensable guide to his top one hundred greatest shows of all time – and ten of the worst. Whether you know your Pal Joey from *The Producers*, your West Side Story from your Witch Witch, the *Faber Pocket Guide To Musicals* is packed with entertaining behind-the-scenes stories, essential songlists and comprehensive recording guides. Did you know, for instance, that one of the best recordings of *Les Misérables* is in Hebrew? Or that the Mel Brooks wasn't the first person to want to make a musical of *The Producers*? (That claim goes to Eric Idle.) Or the ridiculous story of the huge purpose-built theatre constructed in Holland to house a flop about Grace Kelly? Key features include: - The hundred greatest musicals - Numbers to listen for - Snapshot plot summaries - Ten terrible musicals - Recommended recordings James Inverne has been writing about musical theatre for years and brings copious knowledge, passion for the subject

and a sense of fun to a genre that continues to entertain us all. Make the most of the musicals with this vital book.

**the music man robert preston:** The Routledge Companion to Screen Music and Sound Miguel Mera, Ronald Sadoff, Ben Winters, 2017-05-25 The Routledge Companion to Screen Music and Sound provides a detailed and comprehensive overview of screen music and sound studies, addressing the ways in which music and sound interact with forms of narrative media such as television, videogames, and film. The inclusive framework of screen music and sound allows readers to explore the intersections and connections between various types of media and music and sound, reflecting the current state of scholarship and the future of the field. A diverse range of international scholars have contributed an impressive set of forty-six chapters that move from foundational knowledge to cutting edge topics that highlight new key areas. The companion is thematically organized into five cohesive areas of study: Issues in the Study of Screen Music and Sound—discusses the essential topics of the discipline Historical Approaches—examines periods of historical change or transition Production and Process—focuses on issues of collaboration, institutional politics, and the impact of technology and industrial practices Cultural and Aesthetic Perspectives—contextualizes an aesthetic approach within a wider framework of cultural knowledge Analyses and Methodologies—explores potential methodologies for interrogating screen music and sound Covering a wide range of topic areas drawn from musicology, sound studies, and media studies, The Routledge Companion to Screen Music and Sound provides researchers and students with an effective overview of music's role in narrative media, as well as new methodological and aesthetic insights.

**the music man robert preston:** Encyclopedia of Early Television Crime Fighters Everett Aaker, 2024-10-17 Any episode of a crime or mystery series involves some or all of the following: the perpetration of a crime; its investigation; the analytical process which involves the determination of the villain; the arrest and trial of the culprit; and the handing out of the appropriate punishment. Such series involving the exploits of a wide variety of courageous heroes and heroines were very popular during the 1950s, and they featured a host of actors and actresses, including famous television detectives (e.g., Raymond Burr), those famous in other genres (e.g., Boris Karloff, Charles Bronson), and over 250 other players with recurring roles. This reference work lists every player who had a regular role in a crime or mystery series during the early era of television. All covered series offered live or filmed episodes of a crime or mystery nature, and all were shown on American television. All series had either regular stars or a recognizable host. Entries cover the player's real name, family information and education; how the player originally broke into show business; the player's career preceding the series; and his or her marriage, children, death date, and film and television credits. Appendices provide a catalog of American mystery series and a list of regular mystery series players whose roles began after December 31, 1959.

**the music man robert preston:** Upstaged Diana Harmon Asher, 2021-03-16 A shy seventh grader learns to step into the spotlight in Upstaged, a heartwarming middle-grade novel by acclaimed author Diana Harmon Asher. Shira Gordon is painfully shy. She rarely speaks and blushes at everything. And yet when she's alone in her room, she'll sing and dance, dreaming she were different. So when her best friend forces her to audition for their school's production of The Music Man, she's mostly hoping the play will get canceled . . . but a tiny part of her hopes she'll get in. And she does. As a member of the barbershop quartet. Playing a dude with a mustache is not exactly her dream role, but Shira is surprised by how much she loves rehearsing with her quirky new friends. When her teacher asks her to understudy the lead role, Marian the Librarian, she reluctantly accepts. It's not easy to understudy Monica Manley, an eighth-grade diva who will not be upstaged. And things get even more complicated when a mysterious prankster starts playing tricks on Monica, and Shira's crush joins the cast. But something keeps Shira going, and it might just be Marian herself. Sure, Marian is a leading lady, but she's also misunderstood, lonely . . . and shy. And if a star can be shy, then maybe, just maybe, a shy person can be a star. "As Upstaged shows so brilliantly, even the blaring of seventy-six trombones is not as glorious as the unfolding of a soul out into the

world.” —Gary D. Schmidt, two-time Newbery Honor winner “Warm, funny, and heartfelt, Upstaged will resonate with every young person who ever doubted their own abilities, sang in a school musical, or stood up for a friend. Shira and her wonderful, quirky, talented group of friends will stay with you long after you turn the last page.” —Barbara Carroll Roberts, author of Nikki on the Line

**the music man robert preston:** The Complete Book of 1950s Broadway Musicals Dan Dietz, 2014-07-02 The Broadway musical came of age in the 1950s, a period in which some of the greatest productions made their debuts. Shows produced on Broadway during this decade include such classics as *Damn Yankees*, *Fiorello!*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The King and I*, *Kismet*, *The Most Happy Fella*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Pajama Game*, *Peter Pan*, *The Sound of Music*, and *West Side Story*. Among the performers who made their marks were Julie Andrews, Bob Fosse, Carol Lawrence, and Gwen Verdon, while other talents who contributed to shows include Leonard Bernstein, Oscar Hammerstein II, Alan Jay Lerner, Frederick Loewe, Cole Porter, Jerome Robbins, Richard Rodgers, and Stephen Sondheim. In *The Complete Book of 1950s Broadway Musicals*, Dan Dietz examines in detail every musical and revue which opened on Broadway during the 1950s. In addition to providing details on every hit and flop that debuted during the decade, this book includes revivals, and one-man and one-woman shows. Each entry contains the following information: Opening and closing dates Plot summary Cast members Number of performances Names of all important personnel including writers, composers, directors, choreographers, producers, and musical directors Musical numbers and the names of performers who introduced the songs Production data, including information about tryouts Source material Critical commentary Tony awards and nominations Details about London and other foreign productions Besides separate entries for each production, the book offers numerous appendices, such as a discography, film and television versions, published scripts, Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, and lists of productions by the New York City Center Light Opera Company, and the New York City Opera Company. A treasure trove of information, *The Complete Book of 1950s Broadway Musicals* provides readers with a complete view of each show. This significant resource will be of use to scholars, historians, and casual fans of one of the greatest decades in musical theatre history.

**the music man robert preston:** *New York Magazine* , 1980-06-23 *New York magazine* was born in 1968 after a run as an insert of the *New York Herald Tribune* and quickly made a place for itself as the trusted resource for readers across the country. With award-winning writing and photography covering everything from politics and food to theater and fashion, the magazine's consistent mission has been to reflect back to its audience the energy and excitement of the city itself, while celebrating New York as both a place and an idea.

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