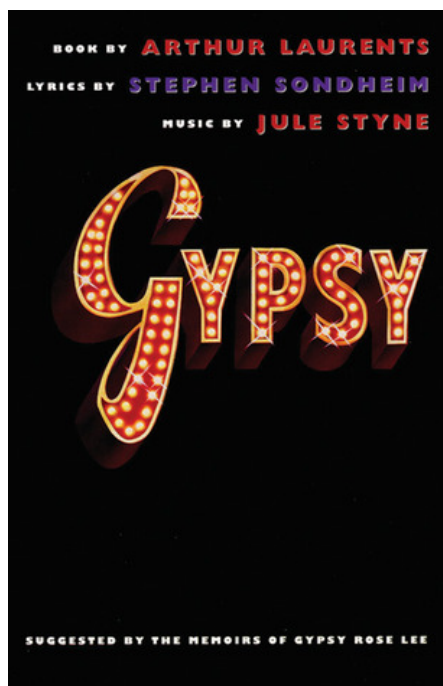




Gypsy

Arthur Laurents , Stephen Sondheim , Jule Styne

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The musical tale of a domineering stage mother's inadvertent creation of a burlesque stripper, now available in paperback for the first time.

Gypsy Details

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From Reader Review Gypsy for online ebook

Riley says

I have heard Gypsy referred to by many people I respect as one of the greatest pieces of theatre written in the 20th century, and after getting a chance to read the script for myself, I would have to agree. This story brings life to the historical figure that is Rose Louise Hovick (better known as Gypsy Rose Lee) and, surprisingly, makes us sympathize with her. It was both horrifying and understandable to see Louise accept the negative attention she ultimately gets as her infamous celebrity persona after years of being brushed aside and manipulated by her mother, Rose. However, I also sympathized with Rose because, all along, she was trying to prove her love for her daughter by pushing her into the spotlight, though it was frustrating how misguided she was in doing so. Laurents and Sondheim have created two brilliant character arcs for Louise and Rose that juxtapose each other and make Rose and Louise two truly complicated characters. Louise transforms from a timid young girl with no self confidence to a bold and well-known star, while Rose shifts from being a woman who is in full control of her daughters and herself to being completely alone and unsure of herself. One major issue I had was that I never felt any concern for the character of Herbie, Rose's boyfriend and manager, nor did I really care about the fate of his relationship with Rose. I definitely feel like this portion of the story could have been fleshed out more, while some of the vaudeville performance sequences in the first act could have been trimmed down. I would still recommend this piece to anyone because it broke my heart, made me totally invested in the two main characters, layered its drama with moments of genuine humor, and left me with the unanswered question of whether Rose's actions were selfless or selfish.

Bj says

Ahhhh, the quintessential stage mom. The standard by which all mothers of performers will be judged. The profile that is seared into the collective psyche. Rose is pushy, obnoxious, delusional, and self-centered. This is not to say that she doesn't love children; in fact she kidnaps a few to round out her cast. Almost everyone escapes her sphere of influence...including Louise.

People ask if I have had to deal with any stage moms, and Rose is hovering in their thoughts. Thank goodness I have not, as Rose is one of a kind.

The music is iconic, and is among the most recognized of musical theater. I must admit that I didn't know the soundtrack in its entirety until I downloaded it to accompany this reading. Wow.

Louise says

Gypsy is somewhat tragic tale about a mother who never was able to make it in the spotlight who pushes her two daughters into the spotlight. This story was intriguing and tragic to me, but it wasn't the best play I've ever read either. However, I still enjoyed it, even through the tragic aspects of it.

Joseph says

One of the best written book musicals out there! Still a dream of mine to direct this some day!

ALLEN says

"Sing out, Louise!" This is the book (or "libretto" if you will) by Arthur Laurents that played Broadway in 1959 with Ethel Merman as the indelible Mama Rose, Julie Styne furnishing the music and Stephen Sondheim the lyrics. It was made into a well-known Warner Bros. musical in 1962 with almost as much impact. Find out what GYPSY looks like on the printed page.

Nikki says

One of the best books for a musical ever! I never get tired of reading it.

Sheri says

It has a simple story, but it manages to show complex emotions. There is lots of drama and humor. Nice and lighthearted.

Brian says

my uni put on a production of the play... needless to say i watched it twice and bought it after. so yeah i liked it.

Liz says

Should be required reading for all theatre moms and helicopter parents.

Carp says

I found this book fascinating. I saw this last production of Gypsy and thought it was brilliantly directed and so I really wanted to read this book by the director. I was surprised at some of the dirt he revealed. Surprised that the big shots in the business can be just as petty as the sort you meet in community theatre. It was an eye-opener for me.

Emily says

I've never read a play before seeing it performed until now. I'm interested to see how it affects how much I like the story. Reading the play was just ok to me.

Marsha says

This is one of the most famous musicals ever written about the most terrifying of all women. No, it's not a Bridezilla—it's a stage mother. Rose is a towering role for any diva to play, a creature that looms over everyone and barrels over anything that will get in the way of her daughter's success. She is both determined, focused and yet curiously blind, trotting out the same tired vaudeville act and dragging her hapless, wearied children from one broken-down theater to another all in the name of a success that she's certain is out there...if she only knew where to find it.

Hardly anything dents Rose or stops her either—not the loss of three husbands, not a man's clinging affections, not her own daughters's increasing reluctance to perform in a dying art form. Rose is larger than life even as her own life slowly withers and crumbles around her.

This slim volume gives devoted musical aficionados the words of Arthur Laurents, Stephen Sondheim's lyrics and the stage cues. If you can get a CD of the music, put on your headphones, prop up your feet and listen while you read. Cue the lights; it's Rose's turn.

P.S. Winn says

This is a classic story and a tale that makes you wonder if we make ourselves into what we are or if others push us into what we become. A stripper in a Burlesque show may have that answer.

Kaethe says

It's an amazing script, with depth and warmth and humor. I made my theatrical debut as "The Balloon girl". Probably my finest acting ever, since I didn't have lines. Probably my very favorite musical.

Tracy Jones says

This is a musical that follows the life of Rose and her children. Rose is the ultimate stage mom that pushes her two children into to limelight and ultimately gets them in the vaudeville circuit. Years go by, and vaudeville is becoming less and less popular, and Rose and the act gets booked less and less. Rose's one daughter leaves to be married, so Rose is left with her less talented daughter, Louise. Rose tries to keep getting her acts, and they wind up being booked by a burlesque by accident. Louise sees the writing on the wall and decides to leave vaudeville to become a burlesque dancer, much to Rose's chagrin. Louise becomes 'Gypsy Rose Lee', and goes on to become famous.

My Thoughts: I was mainly reading this as my 'homework' as props designer for a local theater. A little cheesy, a little predictable, filled with romance, drama, and fun-- your quintessential musical from this time period. Still, I am definitely looking forward to seeing the case enact this story, along with the cast using all the many things that I have to make and locate!! This show certainly has a lot of things I that I have to worry about, sheesh!!
