



STAGERAGE

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Board Update

Secondment

Leanora Potten has been seconded onto the ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS Board for one year. Welcome, Leanora.

Cleaning

Kia ora team

We are sure you are all loving our new location at 75 The Square. It's starting to feel like home and we're filling it up with fun, laughter and hard work. But let's not fill it up with rubbish and junk. Please help us keep it as a welcoming and presentable space by tidying up after yourselves and helping with any cleaning that may be required.

Cheers team – Kieran & Lachlan (*Board Members – Cleaning portfolio*)

Our Condolences



Our condolences are extended to the family and friends of Dorothy Collins who passed away on 6 June 2023. Dorothy was a long time member of the Palmerston North Operatic Society/Abbey Musical Theatre and was the Board Secretary for many, many years.



Due to unforeseen circumstances, we need someone to head up and co-ordinate our Hair/Wigs department for WE WILL ROCK YOU.

If you are keen, or know of someone who might be able to assist with this, please ask them to urgently contact Allan Nagy (Production Manager) on aknagy@inspire.net.nz or 021 918 068.



ACT THREE PRODUCTIONS BRANDED KEEP CUPS

These awesome keep cups are available for sale at only \$5.00 per cup for ACT THREE members (\$10.00 per cup for non-members). If you would like to purchase one, or more, of these cups, please contact Jen Lambert (Administrator) on admin@actthree.co.nz.



Building consent at 75 The Square is all but completed. Therefore, we will shortly be asking for assistance to finish the renovations at our exciting new venue. So watch this space!!!



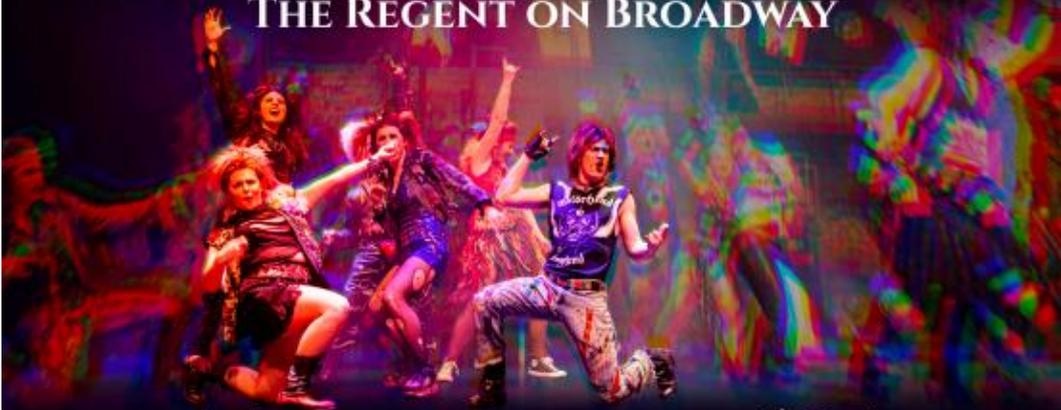
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What's the Longest and Shortest Broadway Musical?

by Jennifer Ashley Tepper (2 July 2023)

At 80 minutes with no intermission, the current production of *SIX* is one of the shortest musicals in Broadway history. Plenty of Broadway musicals have clocked in at 90 minutes but 80 minutes is a rare occurrence. There are more plays than musicals in Broadway history with run times shorter than 90 minutes.



Scene from *SIX*

The original Broadway production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in 1982 also ran slightly shorter than 90 minutes. *Joseph ...* was originally penned by ANDREW Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice in 1968 and was their first musical to ever be performed. This performance happened at a boys' prep school in London and was only 25 minutes long. Webber and Rice expanded the musical in order for it to be performed by schools and, after gaining popularity around the world, it eventually made its Broadway bow at the Royale, where audiences enjoyed the short evening at the theatre for 747 performances. *Joseph ...* tickets were priced lower than most other Broadway musicals at the time and family audiences were encouraged to attend.

Another family musical, *Dr Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas*, was similarly under 90 minutes long when it played Broadway during the 2006-07 and 2007-08 seasons. First at the Hilton (now Lyric) and then at the St James Theatre, *Grinch ...* played a holiday engagement and got audiences in the Christmas spirit during its 80 minute long performances.

On the flip side, when British import *Les Misérables* originally opened on Broadway in 1987, the epic musical was three hours and 12 minutes long, one of the longest Broadway musicals in history. In the year 2000, the run time was cut down by 14 minutes in order to cut down production costs.

With the show only two hours and 58 minutes long, the production no longer had to pay overtime to crew, musicians, and other team members. Producer Cameron Mackintosh stated that the edit in order to cut weekly running costs was necessary in order to keep the show running successfully.

The similarly epic musical *Show Boat*, which opened on Broadway in 1927, was over three hours long in its original and many of its subsequent productions. The out-of-town tryout of the game-changing musical by Oscar Hammerstein II and Jerome Kern ran over four hours, but the show was trimmed before opening in New York. In order to do justice to the story of Edna Ferber's sweeping novel on stage, a long run time was necessary.



Scene from *Shuffle Along*

The 2016 Broadway production of *Shuffle Along, or the Making of the Musical Sensation of 1921 and All That Followed*, ran over three hours during previews but was trimmed down before opening. Fitting the entire history of the landmark musical by Noble Sissle, Eubie Blake, Flournoy Miller and Aubrey Lyles into a three hour run time was an understandable challenge. *Shuffle Along* is not the only recent musical to run over three hours during previews but manage to trim to below that number by opening night. *Spider-Man: Turn Off The Dark* was three and a half hours long when it started previews in November 2010 but by opening night in June 2011, after many changes, ran two hours and 45 minutes. The current revival of *Camelot* also falls into this category, now running two hours and 55 minutes, after playing a longer run time at its first preview.



Scene from *Camelot*

Contrastingly, the original production of *Camelot*, like *Show Boat*, was over four hours long during its pre-Broadway run in Toronto 1959. By its opening on Broadway in 1960, the beloved show starring Julie Andrews, Richard Burton and Robert Goulet might have been over three hours long, but it was under four. In a rare but not unheard-of move (similar to what was done by *Les Misérables*), the creators of *Camelot*, including librettist Alan Jay Lerner, composer Frederick Loewe and director Moss Hart were able to revise the show after its opening night at the Majestic. A few months after opening, in 1961, *Camelot* became 12 minutes shorter, with several songs and scenes removed.

The shortest musicals in modern Broadway history have been just slightly shorter than 90 minutes and the longest just slightly longer than three hours.

Sing-along HAMILTON to be released on Disney Plus

Alex Wood

29 June 2023

It's time to take a shot!



Lin-Manuel Miranda and Phillipa Soo in *HAMILTON*, © Disney

Disney was to release a sing-along version of *HAMILTON*. According to Disney, “fans can *take a shot* at the most complicated verses from the musical by following along with the on-screen lyrics as they watch the film.”

The release was to coincide with the Fourth of July weekend. The recording features the original Broadway cast, including Lin-Manuel Miranda, Leslie Odom Jr, Daveed Diggs and more.

The stage production of *HAMILTON*, about the creation of the USA and one of its founding fathers, has book, music and lyrics by Miranda. It is directed by Thomas Kail, with choreography by Andy Blankenbuehler and musical supervision and orchestrations by Alex Lacamoire and is based on Ron Chernow’s biography of Alexander Hamilton.

22 new musicals to see in the UK

[Alex Wood](#)

27 June 2023

We're talking brand new musicals that have never been seen professionally in the UK.

There's something exciting about being introduced to a new musical – replete with songs that might one day occupy your Spotify Top 100 or be played in the car at full volume. With that in mind, here are 22 new shows coming soon – which one are you most looking forward to?

Then, Now & Next

Currently in previews, *COME FROM AWAY* star Alice Fearn leads this new musical courtesy of Christopher J Orton and Jon Robyns. The show follows a woman's various romantic endeavours.

A Strange Loop

Also currently in previews is the UK premiere of the multi-award-winning *A Strange Loop*, penned by Michael R Jackson. A semi-autobiographical show, it was the toast of Broadway and likely to have a similar effect at the Barbican.

Alice in Wonderland

Award-winning writer Vikki Stone and the company Stockroom are giving their own take on Lewis Carroll's classic, opening first in Liverpool before moving on down to Theatre Royal Plymouth.

In Dreams

Another show about to land with gusto is *In Dreams*, which reunites *Juliet's* bookwriter David West Read and director Luke Sheppard as they tackle the tunes of Roy Orbison.

Halls

As you can tell from the concept album recording, *Halls* is a catchy, fun new musical that is sure to win many hearts. The piece is penned by Jennifer Harrison and George Stroud and follows a group of freshers who all end up in the same student halls.

Rock Follies

Based on the hit TV series, the hotbed for excellent musicals, Chichester Festival Theatre, hosts the world premiere of this show this summer. We expect great things from this rock-tastic, female-led show.

La Bamba

Curve in Leicester will host the world premiere of this cool new touring musical, which combines Latin, R&B, and timeless rock and pop. A very nice bit of star casting should make this a veritable crowd pleaser.

Next to Normal

Now in rehearsals and featuring a cracking cast, this one has been a long, long time coming. The Pulitzer-winning show from Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey follows a woman's emotional decay and its impact on her family.

Sin

Richard Hough and Ben Morales Frost's solo musical follows Madeleine Hobart, who was the wife of Samuel Leary, former Governor of Pennsylvania and one-time Democratic Candidate for President of the United States. But as it turns out, that's not exactly how she wants to be remembered ...

Death Note

The *Death Note* manga is highly revered, so it'd be a brave choice to turn it into a musical. But from the concept album and Korean production's success, there's a lot to be excited about in Frank Wildhorn, Jack Murphy and Ivan Menchell's (two thirds of the *Bonnie and Clyde* writing team, no less) production, only playing for three, very popular performances at the London Palladium (for now...).

The Little Big Things

The West End's hottest new venue @sohoplac is premiering its first musical, based on the inspiring true story of Henry Fraser, who was paralysed after a rugby accident.

Rebecca

There's A LOT of intrigue about *Rebecca*, which finally arrives in London after enchanting audiences on the continent. Casting hasn't been revealed just yet, but the show is based on the famous 1938 novel of the same name by Daphne du Maurier.

Close Up – The Twiggy Musical

The Menier Chocolate Factory is presenting a trio of musicals this year, the second being a show based on the life of the inimitable Twiggy, penned by the infamous *WE WILL ROCK YOU* progenitor Ben Elton.

Sinatra the Musical

The main man himself and arguably the most famous Frank of all time, Sinatra's life and tunes make their way to the stage in Birmingham this autumn. Two-time Tony Award-winner Joe DiPietro and director Kathleen Marshall are overseeing proceedings.

To Wong Foo



Douglas Carter Beane adapts his 1995 cult-classic film alongside composer and lyricist Lewis Flinn. The piece follows three drag queens ready to rock the USA, which feels more pertinent than perhaps it should, given ongoing events.

I Should Be So Lucky

The iconic tunes of Stock Aitken Waterman (responsible for the likes of Kylie, Rick Astley and more) are brought to life in this jukebox bonanza that feels tailor-made for the & Juliet crowd. We're hoping to love it in the first degree.

The Witches

It feels as though this one has been in the pipeline for a VERY long time, and finally *The Witches* is making its way to the stage as the National's festive musical offering. Lucy Kirkwood is adapting Roald Dahl's children's book with a cast led by Katherine Kingsley, while music and lyrics come from edgy form-buster Dave Malloy.

The Enormous Crocodile

Why have one Roald Dahl musical when you can have two! *The Enormous Crocodile* is also heading for the stage in Leeds, ahead of a transfer to Regent's Park Open Air Theatre in 2024. Created by Emily Lim, Ahmed Abdullahi Gallab, Suhayla El-Bushra, Tom Brady and Roald Dahl Story Company, expect some big puppets.

Diana

It's *never* been seen on these shores, but that's all about to change with the Eventim Apollo concert production of *Diana*, based on the early life of the people's princess.

MJ

With Tony Award-winner Myles Frost in tow, the music of Michael Jackson is being brought to the Prince Edward Theatre next year. Expect a big Broadway bonanza in London!

Frankie Goes to Bollywood



Rifco Theatre Company is preparing for their most ambitious new musical, playing in Watford and Manchester and grounded in the biggest film industry in the world.

Shucked

No venue set for this one yet, but the Broadway smash is finally making its way to the West End. We saw it recently and it really blew our socks off, with enough comedy material to have you laughing to 2025.

Starter for Ten

The British film version of David Nicholls' cherished novel was a career starter for the likes of James McAvoy and Benedict Cumberbatch, so seeing it brought to the stage in musical form is very exciting.

Jon M Chu announces second *WICKED* movie's earlier release date

[Alex Wood](#)

20 June 2023

The second movie will be out earlier than expected.



Director Jon M Chu has revealed some popular news ... The second *WICKED* movie will now be released earlier in 2025, he has announced. Leading the film are Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande as Elphaba and Glinda, with Oscar winner Michelle Yeoh as Madame Morrible, Jonathan Bailey as Fiyero and Jeff Goldblum as the Wizard, with Ethan Slater as Boq. LA-based Marissa Bode will take on the role of Elphaba's sister Nessarose, with Bowen Yang as Shiz University classmate Pfannee and UK-based performer Bronwyn James as student ShenShen. Also in the cast are Keala Settle as Miss Coddle, UK stage star Aaron Teoh as Avaric and Colin Michael Carmichael as Nikidik.

Wicked Part One: Nov 27th 2024 / Wicked Part Two: Nov 26 2025

pic.twitter.com/RyHbDD8hFT

– Jon M. Chu (@jonmchu) [June 20, 2023](#)

Based on the hit novel *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West* by Gregory Maguire, *WICKED* tells the story of two unlikely university friends in the land of Oz, one destined to become Glinda The Good and the other, the Wicked Witch of the West.

2023 will also mark the 20th anniversary of the original Broadway production, while the show is currently in its 17th year in the West End, where it has been seen by 11 million people. *WICKED* writers Winnie Holzman (book) and Stephen Schwartz (score) are collaborating on the screenplay.

Tony Awards 2023 – List of Winners

[Benjamin Lee](#)

Mon 12 Jun 2023

Best musical

- *& Juliet*
- **Kimberly Akimbo – WINNER!**
- *New York, New York*
- *Shucked*
- [Some Like It Hot](#)

Best performance by an actress in a leading role in a musical

- Annaleigh Ashford: *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*
- Sara Bareilles: *Into the Woods*
- **Victoria Clark: Kimberly Akimbo – WINNER!**
- Lorna Courtney: *& Juliet*
- Micaela Diamond: *Parade*

Best performance by an actor in a leading role in a musical

- Christian Borle: *Some Like It Hot*
- **J Harrison Ghee: [Some Like It Hot](#) – WINNER!**
Josh Groban: [Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street](#)
- Brian d'Arcy James: *Into the Woods*
- Ben Platt: *Parade*
- Colton Ryan: *New York, New York*

Best revival of a musical

- *Into the Woods*
- *Camelot*
- **Parade – WINNER!**
- *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*

Best book of a musical

- *& Juliet* – David West Read
- **Kimberly Akimbo – David Lindsay-Abaire – WINNER!**
- *New York, New York* – David Thompson and Sharon Washington
- [Shucked](#) – Robert Horn
- [Some Like It Hot](#) – Matthew López and Amber Ruffin

Best performance by an actor in a featured role in a musical

- Kevin Cahoon: *Shucked*
- Justin Cooley: *Kimberly Akimbo*
- Kevin Del Aguila: [*Some Like It Hot*](#)
- Jordan Donica: *Camelot*
- **Alex Newell: *Shucked* – WINNER!**

Best direction of a musical

- **Michael Arden: *Parade* – WINNER!**
- Lear deBessonet: *Into the Woods*
- Casey Nicholaw: [*Some Like It Hot*](#)
- Jack O'Brien: [*Shucked*](#)
- Jessica Stone: *Kimberly Akimbo*

Best performance by an actress in a featured role in a musical

- Julia Lester: *Into the Woods*
- Ruthie Ann Miles: [*Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*](#)
- **Bonnie Milligan: *Kimberly Akimbo* – WINNER!**
- NaTasha Yvette Williams: [*Some Like It Hot*](#)
- Betsy Wolfe: *& Juliet*

Best scenic design of a musical

- **Beowulf Boritt: *New York, New York* – WINNER!**
- Mimi Lien: *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*
- Michael Yeargan and 59 Productions: *Camelot*
- Scott Pask: *Shucked*
- Scott Pask: [*Some Like It Hot*](#)

Best orchestrations

- Bill Sherman and Dominic Fallacaro: *& Juliet*
- John Clancy: *Kimberly Akimbo*
- Jason Howland: *Shucked*
- **Charlie Rosen and Bryan Carter: *Some Like It Hot* – WINNER!**
- Daryl Waters and Sam Davis: *New York, New York*

Best costume design of a musical

- **Gregg Barnes:** [Some Like It Hot](#) – **WINNER!**
- Susan Hilferty: *Parade*
- Jennifer Moeller: *Camelot*
- Clint Ramos and Sophia Choi: *KPOP*
- Paloma Young: *& Juliet*
- Donna Zakowska: *New York, New York*

Best original score (music and/or lyrics) written for the theatre

- *Almost Famous* – music: Tom Kitt / lyrics: Cameron Crowe and Tom Kitt
- **Kimberly Akimbo – music: Jeanine Tesori / lyrics: David Lindsay-Abaire – WINNER!**
KPOP – music and lyrics: Helen Park and Max Vernon
- *Shucked* – music and lyrics: Shane McAnally and Brandy Clark
- [Some Like It Hot](#) – music and lyrics: arc Shaiman and Scott Wittman

Best choreography

- Steven Hoggett: *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*
- **Casey Nicholaw:** [Some Like It Hot](#) – **WINNER!**
- Susan Stroman: *New York, New York*
- Jennifer Weber: *& Juliet*
- Jennifer Weber: *KPOP*

Best lighting design of a musical

- Ken Billington: *New York, New York*
- Lap Chi Chu: *Camelot*
- Heather Gilbert: *Parade*
- Howard Hudson: *& Juliet*
- Natasha Katz: [Some Like It Hot](#)
- **Natasha Katz: Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street – WINNER!**

Best sound design of a musical

- Kai Harada: *New York, New York*
- John Shivers: *Shucked*
- Scott Lehrer and Alex Neumann: *Into the Woods*
- Gareth Owen: *& Juliet*
- **Nevin Steinberg: Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street – WINNER!**

