

## **Kelly Sherrill Linkous Gifted Homeschoolers Forum (GHF) Discussion Group**

Good evening! We are musical theatre 🎭 geeks in our home (gosh, I miss live theatre!). One way I use them is to teach history. I took all the Tony Award nominated and winning shows useful to teach history and placed them in chronological order by setting/time period. Below I share the list if any of you are interested. Many are not appropriate for younger children, so certainly review the content before watching or attending.

Timeline - Musicals (Setting, Not Release Date) - compiled by Kelly Sherrill Linkous

Purpose: to teach history/historical periods

\*ETA: there are some fabulous fantasy or Sci-Fi musicals not on this list because they do not fit a time period. I'll place some at the bottom, but I would not use them to teach historical time periods. Further, my child is only six years old, so I did not include several shows due to content.

Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat - Book of Genesis

— —

Hadestown - Ancient Greece, by way of the Great Depression

Aida - Ancient Egypt

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum - Roman Empire

— —

Jesus Christ, Superstar - 20-36 AD

— —

Camelot - around 1000-1100

Spamalot - same

— —

Six - early to mid-1500s

Man of La Mancha - 1580-1590s

Something Rotten! - 1595

Into the Woods - 1600s(ish)

— —

Beauty and the Beast - 1760

1776 - same

Hamilton - 1775-1804

The Scarlet Pimpernel - 1793-94

— —

Les Miserables - 1815-1832

A Christmas Carol - 1830s/1840s

Frozen - 1840s

Sweeney Todd - 1846

Oliver! - 1850s

Big River - 1850s

The Greatest Showman - 1850s

Shenandoah - 1864 (Civil War)

The King & I - 1862

Phantom of the Opera - 1881

Sunday in the Park with George - 1884

Annie Get Your Gun - 1880s

The Pirates of Penzance - late 1800s

Show Boat - 1887-1893

Spring Awakening - 1890s

Peter Pan - late 1890s

Newsies - 1899

--

Hello, Dolly - 1900

Moulin Rouge - 1900

Ragtime - early 1900s

Meet Me in St. Louis - 1903

The Secret Garden - 1901

Fiddler on the Roof - 1905

Oklahoma! - 1906

Will Rogers Follies - 1900-1930

The Color Purple - 1909-1932

--

Mary Poppins - 1910

My Fair Lady - 1912

Titanic - 1912

--

Gypsy - 1920s

Guys and Dolls - sometimes set in 1920s

Thoroughly Modern Millie - 1922

Chicago - 1928

The Drowsy Chaperone - 1928

Grand Hotel - 1928

Cabaret - 1929-30

Jelly's Last Jam - 1920s-1940s

Ain't Misbehavin' - 1920s-1930s

--

Crazy for You - 1930s

Mary Poppins Returns - 1930s

Annie - 1933

42nd Street - 1933

--

The Sound of Music - late 1930s

Evita - 1934-1946

Guys and Dolls - sometimes set in 1939

A Christmas Story: the Musical - 1940

South Pacific - 1943 (WWII)

Tommy - 1940s (WWII)

An American in Paris - 1945

Bright Star - 1945-46, flashbacks to 1923

--

Sunset Boulevard - 1949

Singin' in the Rain - 1950s

Damn Yankees - 1950s

West Side Story - 1950s

Memphis - 1950s

Million Dollar Quartet - 1956

Motown: the Musical - 1957

Bye Bye Birdie - 1958

Beautiful: Carole King Musical - 1958-1971

The Producers - 1959

Grease - 1959

--

Ain't Too Proud to Beg - 1960s  
Leader of the Pack - 1960s  
Catch Me if You Can - 1960s  
Movin' Out - 1960s  
Dreamgirls - 1962  
Hairspray - 1962  
Caroline, or Change - 1962 (flashbacks to 1940s/1950s)  
Jersey Boys - 1963  
Hair - late 1960s

--

Follies - 1971  
A Chorus Line - 1970s  
Pump Boys and Dinettes - 1970s  
The Tap Dance Kid - 1970s  
The Goodbye Girl - 1970s  
Miss Saigon - 1975-1979  
Sister Act - 1978  
Falsettos - 1979-1981

--

Diana - 1980s-1990s  
Billy Elliott - 1984-85  
Chess - 1985  
Rock of Ages - 1987  
Rent - 1989

--

Jagged Little Pill - 1990s  
The Band's Visit - 1996

--

Come From Away - 2001  
Next to Normal - early 2000s  
Dear Evan Hansen - present day  
In the Heights - present day  
Mamma Mia - present day  
Book of Mormon - present day  
Once - present day  
If/Then - present day  
Kinky Boots - present day  
The Prom - present day  
Mean Girls - present day  
Waitress - present day  
School of Rock - present day  
Bring it On: the Musical - present day  
25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee - present day  
You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown - present day  
Beetlejuice - present day

No time period (and not super useful to teach history)—  
Shrek (although probably in medieval times?)  
Lion King  
Aladdin  
The Little Mermaid

Cats  
Pippin  
Starlight Express (although arguably after the steam engine)

