

Media review published in *Library Journal*, June 15, 2005, 130(11): 112.
<http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA622763.html>

Broadway: The American Musical. 3 vols. color & b/w. 6 hrs. Michael Kantor, Broadway Film Project, dist. by PBS Home Video, www.pbs.org; Paramount Home Entertainment, 2004. DVD

Curmudgeonly Broadway critic John Simon recently wrote in *New York* magazine, "Now, if ever, is time to conclude with lament for the current state of the Broadway musical." While many agree, now is also the time to rejoice over such a complete, detailed, extensive, and simply glorious set as *Broadway: The American Musical*. The six episodes are *Give My Regards to Broadway* (1893–1927); *Syncopated City* (1919–33); *I Got Plenty of Nuttin'* (1930–42); *Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'* (1943–60); *Tradition* (1957–79); and *Putting It Together* (1980–2004). The clips and interviews here are unparalleled for instruction and enrichment. No less a legend than Julie Andrews narrates with the correct balance of reverence and authority. The set contains an additional three hours of interviews and the documentary *Wicked: The Road to Broadway*. Whether you agree with Simon or not, *Broadway: The American Musical* is first-class viewing. Highly recommended.

By Gerald A. Notaro, Univ. of South Florida Lib., St. Petersburg