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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