

SCHMIGADOON!

THE MUSICAL THEATRE SURVIVAL GUIDE

A STUDENT GUIDE TO THE SHOWS,
SONGS, AND STORIES BEHIND
SCHMIGADOON! ON BROADWAY.

Dramaturgical Research by Jama McMahon



SchmigadoonBroadway.com

[@Schmigadoon](https://www.instagram.com/Schmigadoon)



WELCOME TO

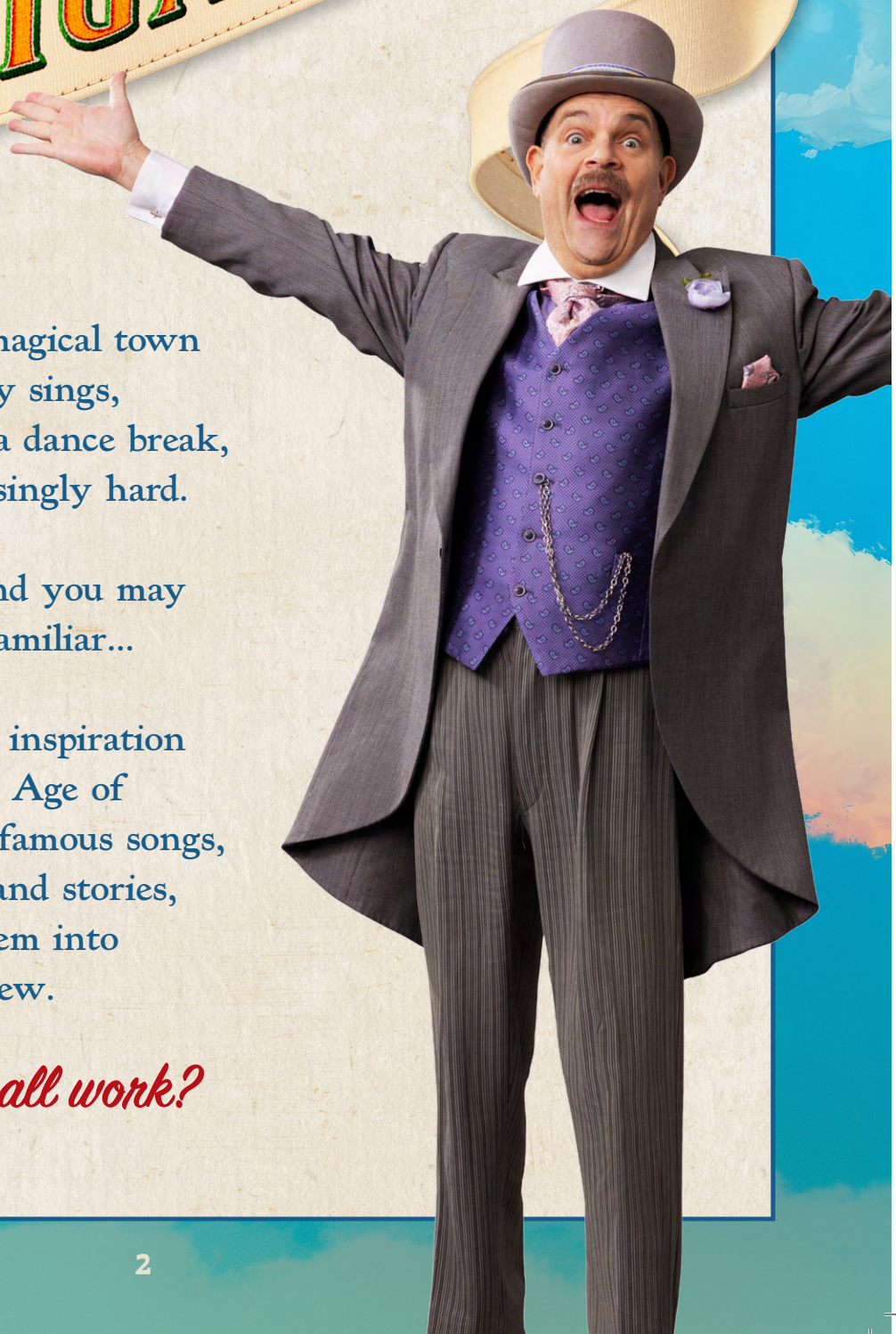
SCHMIGADOON!

You've arrived in a magical town
where everybody sings,
every feeling deserves a dance break,
and leaving is surprisingly hard.

But listen closely, and you may
hear something familiar...

Schmigadoon! takes inspiration
from the Golden Age of
musical theatre's most famous songs,
characters, dances, and stories,
transforming them into
something new.

So... how does it all work?



WHAT WAS THE GOLDEN AGE?

Musical theatre didn't always look the way it does today.

Before the 1940s, musicals were often built around popular songs, high-energy dance breaks, and big stars. The story didn't have to connect everything. Then, in 1943, along came *Oklahoma!* The landmark musical helped popularize a new approach:

Everything could help tell one cohesive story. The dialogue. The songs. The dancing. The design.

That idea helped shape what we now call the Golden Age of musical theatre, the era that inspired much of *Schmigadoon!*

YOUR TURN

CHOOSE A MUSICAL YOU LOVE: _____

What is the show about? What is the story?

How does the dialogue, music, choreography, and creative design all work together to tell that story?



SPOT THE REFERENCE

If a song in the musical sounds familiar... good ear. *Schmigadoon!* borrows the language of classic musicals, mixes things around, and creates something new.

Take “Tribulation,” where Mildred Layton rallies the townspeople against visitors Josh and Melissa as part of her campaign for mayor. Its musical family tree leads directly to “Ya Got Trouble” from *The Music Man*.



LISTEN TO BOTH:



WHAT DO YOU HEAR?

The rhythm: _____

The rhymes: _____

The performance: _____

NOW LOOK CLOSER...

What did *Schmigadoon!* borrow? _____

What did it change? _____

Beyond the lyrics, what makes “Tribulation” its own song? _____



CREATING A CHARACTER

Nobody arrives in Schmigadoon completely out of nowhere. Meet some of the townspeople—and their musical inspirations.



DANNY BAILEY

Schmigadoon's charming bad boy who has no intention of settling down.

MUSICAL DNA:

- Billy Bigelow from *Carousel*
- Curly McLain from *Oklahoma!*



EMMA TATE

Schmigadoon's independent schoolmarm with no time for romance. Or so she thinks.

MUSICAL DNA:

- Marian Paroo from *The Music Man*
- Anna Leonowens from *The King and I*

BETSY MCDONOUGH

A boy-crazy farmer's daughter with marriage on the mind.

MUSICAL DNA:

- Ado Annie from *Oklahoma!*
- Liesl from *The Sound of Music*
- Meg Brockie from *Brigadoon*



YOUR TURN

CHOOSE TWO CHARACTERS FROM GOLDEN AGE MUSICALS WHO AREN'T ALREADY LISTED ABOVE.

Need inspiration? Try Maria (*The Sound of Music*), Sky Masterson (*Guys and Dolls*), Harold Hill (*The Music Man*), Laurey Williams (*Oklahoma!*), Eliza Doolittle (*My Fair Lady*), or Conrad Birdie (*Bye Bye Birdie*).

Character #1: _____

Character #2: _____

Now borrow a little from each to create a character of your own.

New Character's Name: _____

What do they want? _____

What's standing in their way? _____

And, obviously, what's their big song called? _____

but...

WHY ARE THEY SINGING?

Talking is fine. Sometimes singing is better.

Musical theatre characters tend to burst into song when regular words aren't going to cut it. They might be falling in love, starting a fight, making a decision, revealing a secret, or persuading visitors to eat their town's corn puddin'.

You know. Normal stuff.

YOUR TURN

**THINK OF A MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE
WORTHY OF A BIG MUSICAL NUMBER.**

Your song title: _____

What makes the music start? _____

Write the opening lyric: _____





Common

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

in the theater

ACTOR

An actor is the person who performs as a character in a play or musical. Musical theatre actors in particular need to sing, dance, and act simultaneously to tell the story.



DIRECTOR

The director is responsible for directing and guiding the show including tasks like providing an artistic vision of the story, running rehearsals, coordinating the creative elements, and staging the play.



CHOREOGRAPHER

The choreographer creates all of the dance segments and staging of the musical numbers of a show.



DESIGNER

The designers are responsible for developing the physical world of the story through sets (scenery, furniture, backdrops), costumes (clothes and accessories), lighting (lighting colors and placements), sound (audio components like microphones and music), and props (smaller items not part of the set or costumes).



STAGE MANAGER

The stage manager is responsible for handling all rehearsal and production schedules as well as “calling the show” (saying the cues over an intercom system to indicate when lights, sets, and sound should change).

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

It takes a town to make a musical.

Actors, directors, choreographers, designers, musicians, writers, stage managers, and a lot of people wearing headsets all work together to tell the same story on stage every night.

YOUR TURN

CHOOSE A MUSICAL YOU LOVE AND LOOK AT IT THROUGH EACH DEPARTMENT'S EYES.

MUSICAL: _____

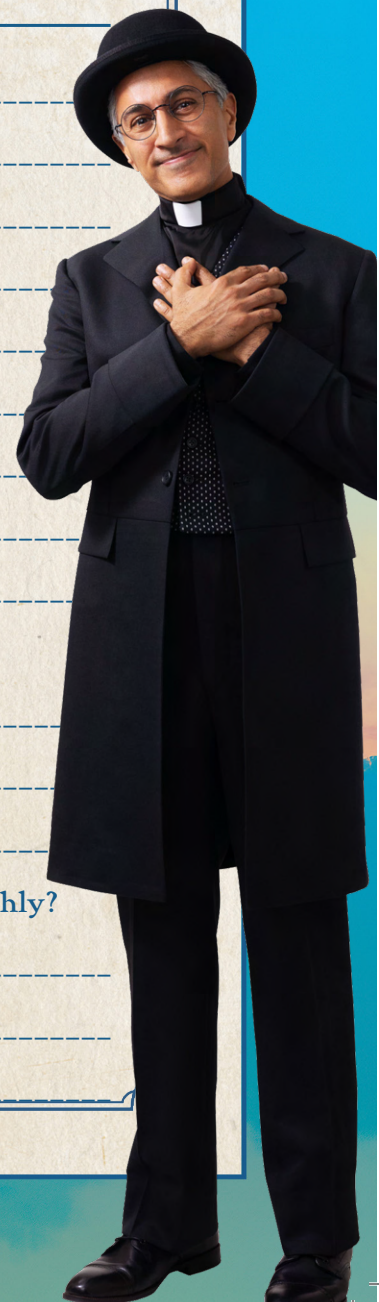
ACTOR: What does the main character want? _____

DIRECTOR: What story is the musical trying to tell? _____

CHOREOGRAPHER: What emotions are expressed through dance? _____

DESIGNER: What does the set look like? The costumes? Hair and makeup?

STAGE MANAGER: What has to happen to keep the show running smoothly?





Create your own
MUSICAL WORLD

You've learned the rules. Now it's time to make some.

**IMAGINE SOMEONE ACCIDENTALLY WANDERS
INTO A MUSICAL WORLD WHERE EVERYONE
BEHAVES LIKE THEY'RE IN...**

- A Disney Channel movie.
- A cooking show.
- A YouTube channel.
- A video game.
- A superhero movie.

Or invent your own: _____

What is your world called? _____

What are the rules? _____

Who gets trapped there? _____

What does everyone there think is completely normal? _____

What is the opening number called? _____

And most importantly, how do you get out? _____



Now draw the poster for your musical:

