

NEW Interest Group

MAGIC OF MUSICALS

Stage musicals are the most popular form of theatre performed in the UK and America today. At any time, over three-quarters of West End theatre will be presenting one kind of musical entertainment or another.

Although thought of as a basically American construct (especially on the other side of the water) musicals derive from many sources including opera, folk songs, tavern entertainment, music hall, operetta and suchlike. The earliest musical is generally regarded as THE BEGGAR'S OPERA which was written as a parody on the overblown Italianate operas of the day by Handel among others.

We all know what we mean by a 'musical' but is there a simple definition? Many will talk about the Golden Age of the Hollywood Musical with performers such as Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Gene Kelly, Judi Garland, Cyd Charisse and so many more. Then there are the composers, Gershwin, Porter, Berlin, Rogers and Hammerstein, Kander and Ebb, Kern, Sondheim while not forgetting our own Novello, Wilson, Lloyd Webber and above all G&S but these names just scratch the surface.

In these sessions, we will explore the many different types of musical based mainly on extensive video clips from the early 1900s onwards. The main purpose will be to broaden our understanding through entertainment. Anything you might like, wish to discuss or perhaps see again after many years can be included. After all, as one great show says, ANYTHING GOES.

Brief CV: I'm Mike Morrow and have been running this course at the Harrow U3A for something like a decade now. I began acting in local shows nearly fifty years ago, later forming a company to concentrate on modern musicals. With Maggie, my wife, I have directed and choreographed some thirty shows over the years and regularly attend West End productions with two of Maggie's ex-work colleagues, a professor and reader in theatrical studies. They certainly keep us on our toes.

Starts at 10am on Tuesday 25 April and 23 May at the Century Bowling Club, then picking up again on the fourth Tuesday in September.

For more information contact: Peter Rummer, KU3A Interest Groups' Coordinator, at: ku3agroups@outlook.com or 020 8907 3512