

cats the musical on dvd

Cats the Musical on DVD has captivated audiences around the world since its original stage debut in 1981. Andrew Lloyd Webber's iconic adaptation of T.S. Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" has not only graced the stages of Broadway and the West End but has also made its way into the homes of millions through various media formats, including DVD. This comprehensive article explores the history of "Cats," its transition to DVD, the experience of watching the musical at home, and additional features that enhance the viewing experience.

History of Cats the Musical

The Origins

"Cats" was first performed at the New London Theatre in 1981 and quickly became a cultural phenomenon. The musical is based on T.S. Eliot's poetry collection, which portrays a tribe of cats known as the Jellicles, who gather annually to make a life-altering decision. The character-driven stories intertwined with memorable music set it apart from traditional musicals.

Critical Acclaim and Popularity

Upon its release, "Cats" received mixed reviews from critics but was embraced by the public, leading to an astonishing run of 21 years in London's West End and 18 years on Broadway. The musical features standout songs like "Memory," performed by the character Grizabella, which became an anthem for the show. The unique choreography and stunning costumes, designed by Gillian Lynne, contributed to its success and left a lasting impression on audiences.

The Transition to DVD

First DVD Release

In the early 2000s, "Cats" was adapted for film and subsequently released on DVD. The 1998 video recording of the musical, featuring the original London cast, brought the vibrancy of the live performance into living rooms worldwide. This release allowed fans to relive the magic of the stage production, complete with the elaborate set design and powerful vocal performances that made "Cats" a household name.

Additional DVD Releases

Following the initial DVD release, numerous versions and adaptations of "Cats" have been made available. Notable releases include:

1. The 1998 Film Adaptation - Directed by David Mallet, this version captures the essence of the stage production with cinematic flair.
2. Various Stage Productions - Different productions, such as the 2014 revival, have been recorded and released on DVD, showcasing the evolution of the musical over the years.
3. Special Editions - Some DVDs come with bonus features, including behind-the-scenes footage, interviews with the cast, and insights into the creative process.

Viewing Experience

Why Watch Cats on DVD?

Watching "Cats" on DVD provides an opportunity for audiences to experience the musical in the comfort of their own homes. Some of the benefits include:

- Accessibility: For those unable to attend live performances due to distance, cost, or other constraints, the DVD offers a viable alternative.
- Repeat Viewing: Fans can watch their favorite scenes and performances repeatedly, allowing for a deeper appreciation of the choreography, music, and story.
- Family-Friendly: "Cats" is suitable for audiences of all ages, making it an excellent choice for family movie nights.

Setting the Scene for a Home Viewing

To fully enjoy "Cats" on DVD, consider the following tips for creating the perfect viewing environment:

1. Sound Quality: Ensure that your sound system is set up to capture the musical's dynamic score. High-quality speakers or a soundbar can enhance the experience.
2. Lighting: Dim the lights to replicate the theater atmosphere. This will help immerse you in the performance.
3. Comfortable Seating: Arrange a cozy viewing area with comfortable seating for everyone to enjoy the show.

Bonus Features to Enhance Your Experience

Many DVD releases of "Cats" come equipped with bonus features that can enrich your understanding and appreciation of the musical. Here are some common extras you might find:

- Behind-the-Scenes Footage: Insights into the production process, including rehearsals

and set design.

- Cast Interviews: Personal stories and experiences from the performers who brought the characters to life.
- Choreography Breakdown: An analysis of the iconic dance sequences that define "Cats."
- Thematic Insights: Discussions about the themes of the musical, such as identity, community, and the passage of time.

Legacy and Cultural Impact

Ongoing Influence

"Cats" has left an indelible mark on musical theater and popular culture. Its songs have been covered by numerous artists, and the show has inspired an array of merchandise, including toys, clothing, and memorabilia. The musical's unique storytelling and memorable characters have ensured its place in the hearts of fans and the annals of theater history.

Recent Adaptations

In recent years, "Cats" has seen a resurgence, including a highly publicized film adaptation released in 2019. While the film received mixed reviews, it reignited interest in the original stage production and its DVD releases. The ongoing popularity of "Cats" demonstrates the timeless appeal of its music and themes.

Conclusion

In summary, Cats the Musical on DVD is more than just a recording of a stage performance; it is an invitation to enter a whimsical world of feline characters, enchanting music, and unforgettable dance. From its origins as a groundbreaking theatrical piece to its various adaptations on DVD, "Cats" continues to delight audiences young and old. Whether you are a lifelong fan or a newcomer to the story, watching "Cats" at home offers a unique opportunity to experience this beloved musical in a whole new way. With its rich history, captivating performances, and engaging bonus features, "Cats" on DVD is a must-have for any musical theater enthusiast.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is 'Cats the Musical' available on DVD?

Yes, 'Cats the Musical' is available on DVD, featuring performances from various productions, including the 2019 film adaptation.

What special features are included in the 'Cats the Musical' DVD?

The DVD typically includes behind-the-scenes footage, interviews with the cast and crew, and a featurette on the creation of the musical.

Where can I buy the 'Cats the Musical' DVD?

You can purchase the 'Cats the Musical' DVD at major retailers like Amazon, Walmart, and Best Buy, as well as online streaming platforms.

Is the DVD version of 'Cats the Musical' suitable for children?

Yes, the DVD version of 'Cats the Musical' is generally suitable for children, though parents may want to review it first due to some theatrical elements.

What format is the 'Cats the Musical' DVD available in?

The 'Cats the Musical' DVD is available in standard DVD format, and some editions may also offer Blu-ray and digital download options.

Does the 'Cats the Musical' DVD include subtitles or closed captions?

Yes, many editions of the 'Cats the Musical' DVD include subtitles and closed captions for accessibility.

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