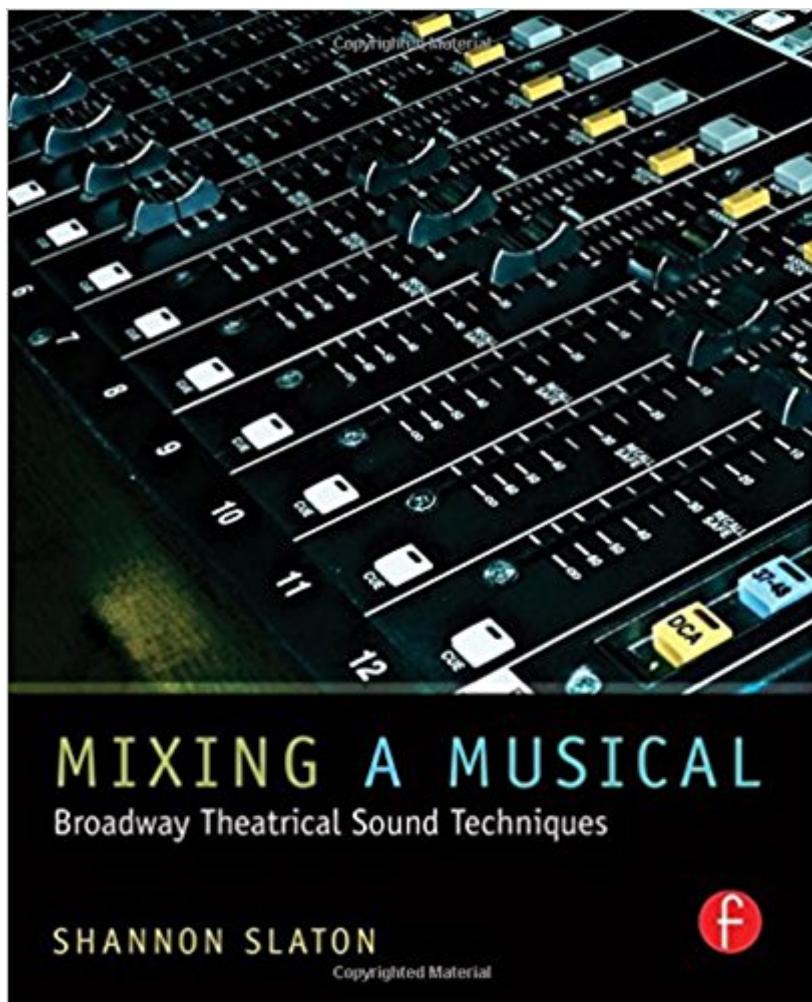


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# Mixing A Musical: Broadway Theatrical Sound Techniques



## **Synopsis**

When mixing a live show, for the first time or hundredth time, there are countless things running through your mind, foremost- this is live and you have to get it right! Whether you are working on Broadway, in a regional theatre or on the school production, having an understanding of the equipment, set up, and how sound behaves is crucial to the success of your show's performance. In this guide to live sound mixing for theatre, Shannon Slaton shares his expert knowledge and proven, effective techniques acquired from years of experience working on Broadway shows. Written in a clear and easy to read style, and illustrated with real world examples of personal experience and professional interviews, Slaton shows you how to mix live theatre shows from the basics of equipment, set ups, and using sound levels to creating atmosphere, emotion and tension to ensure a first rate performance every time.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"When mixing a live show, for the first time or hundredth time, there are countless things running through your mind, foremost- this is live and you have to get it right! Whether you are working on Broadway, in a regional theatre or on the school production, having an understanding of the equipment, set up, and how sound behaves is crucial to the success of your show's performance. In this guide to live sound mixing for theatre, Shannon Slaton shares his expert knowledge and proven, effective techniques acquired from years of experience working on Broadway shows. Written in a clear and easy to read style, and illustrated with real world examples of personal

experience and professional interviews, Slaton shows you how to mix live theatre shows from the basics of equipment, set ups, and using sound levels to creating atmosphere, emotion and tension to ensure a first rate performance every time."--Book Bargains And Previews.com "Sound designer Shannon Slaton has written a new book on theatre sound, Mixing a Musical: Broadway Theatrical Sound Techniques. The book is aimed at theatre sound design on many levels, from Broadway to regional theatre to school production. Slaton, a regular contributor to Live Design, shares his proven, effective techniques acquired over years of experience working on Broadway shows."--LiveDesignOnline.com

Shannon Slaton designed the tours- *Aeros*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *The Full Monty*, *The Producers*, *Contact*, *Tap Dogs*, *Hairspray*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *A Chorus Line*. Broadway mixing includes: *A Christmas Carol*, *Jersey Boys*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Sweet Charity*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Bombay Dreams*, *Spring Awakening*, *Anything Goes*, and *Legally Blonde*. He was also the Production Sound for *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway and the US National tour and the Advance Contract on *Wicked*.

This is a pretty slick book! It doesn't just get into how to run a console and make it sound nice. It gets into the why and how of setup, what to pay attention to and the business surrounding running sound for most theatrical situations, but is geared towards theatre musicals. This book came as recommended reading from a fellow theatrical sound designer. It has since become recommended reading for more theatrical sound students at the local high school that I help out in the theatre with. Definitely a recommended read if you experienced or just getting started.

Coming from many years of live mixing and suffering through a torturous but exhilarating two weeks of high school musical with 24 headsets and beltbacks (thanks god only IN a high school). I wish I'd had this book in advance. One thing it did do for me in retrospect: I have no desire to mix musicals on the professional level. Good luck to whoever wants to try, this book will help prepare you to weather the storm.

I'm just about to finish it and already missing the excitement I had going through the pages over and over. It's the kind of book that overwhelms you with content and leaves you wanting more. I recommend this book to anyone interested in theatre audio or any other branch of theatre for the author provides an enjoyable experience through the whole process of building the sound of a show

and gets technical without being boring.

my son loved it.

I had the pleasure of hearing Shannon at a Broadway Sound Master Class in 2012 and it was a great experience. Having a small amount of broadway sound experience, I can say he does a great job of explaining and simplifying what is really a complex thing. Its a great read, and great tool.

Simply amazing. Everything is played out perfectly and it covers a lot more than I was expecting! And its funny to boot!

Most of the book is tied up explaining how a broadway musical works, the hierarchy and the positions. A lot of attention is given to placing out shop orders, paperwork, who's in charge of what, etc. None of that actually really ties into MIXING a musical, which is the title. All of that is "PREPARING a Musical For Broadway". There is a chapter, about 8 pages long, dealing with mixing a musical. The summary of that chapter is "Boy, it's hard to put into words how to mix. You just have to feel it" I'm an experienced sound engineer, mostly working with live bands. I do occasionally get brought in to mix a musical. I picked up this book hoping it would help give me some tips from an engineer experienced with mixing theatre sound, and help me translate my experience into a new setting. Instead, it gives a very long, detailed overview about preparing a musical for Broadway. His summary for those with smaller budgets "Well, good luck. You're doing it wrong if you aren't spending as much money as we get to". I really want to look on the good aspects of this book, but unless you are planning on mixing sound on Broadway, this really is a waste of money.

"Mixing A Musical" is a fantastic book. Combines a fair amount of technical information with a beautiful, emotional description of the most touching parts of the job of a mixer.

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