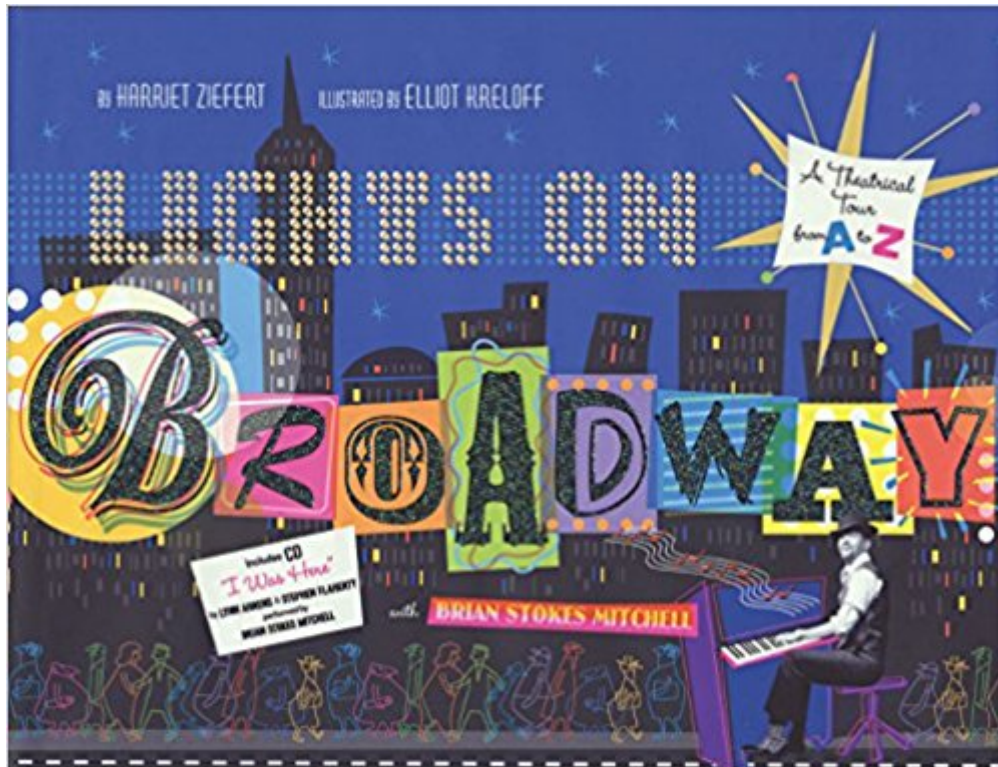




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# Lights On Broadway: A Theatrical Tour From A To Z, With CD



## Synopsis

Tony Award winner and Broadway icon, Brian Stokes Mitchell, brings star power to this Broadway treasury. With entries such as "audition," "box office," "marquee," and "understudy," kids will discover Broadway from A to Z. Elliot Krelloff's energetic and dynamic illustrations come from someone who clearly knows theater from first-hand experiences. With an introduction by Mitchell, quotes from famous Broadway performers, and theater facts and trivia, fans of all ages will delight in this compendium. Bonus material includes an on-line, behind-the-scenes video hosted by Mitchell. Visit his website at [www.brianstokes.com](http://www.brianstokes.com)

## Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Kindergarten-Grade 5 **A** love letter to Broadway written with genuine warmth and professional-theater knowledge, this alphabet book features crisp, retro-style cartoon characters confidently racing about onstage and behind the scenes. Pleasantly busy pages capture the excitement of live theater and offer multiple entries for each letter. For example, "A" is for "audition," "actor," "audience," and "applause." "S" stands for "stage," "scenery," "set," and "script." Multiple sidebars offer further kid-friendly definitions. Plenty of star power is lent with quotes from luminaries such as Whoopi Goldberg, Liza Minelli, Steven Sondheim, Bernadette Peters, Carol Channing, and Kevin Kline. A CD single written by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty performed by

Mitchell is also included. A must for all collections, this book will be treasured by theater aficionados for years to come. —Madigan McGillicuddy, Los Angeles Public Library Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

With a dazzling cover, high-interest topic, and involvement by acclaimed performer Brian Stokes Mitchell (he wrote the introduction and afterword as well as performing on the included CD), this has the promise of being a showstopper, though it doesn't totally deliver. The attractive design, A-Z format, and splashy computer-generated full-page illustrations will certainly appeal to many. Theater terms for each letter of the alphabet are given brief descriptions: audition, actor, box office, understudy, etc. (only two are specific to New York City Broadway). Some letters are given double-page spreads along with several related terms, while others are relegated to one page and one term only. Most pages feature a quote from professionals involved in the industry. The brightly colored illustrations emulate collages yet still feel somewhat flat. This title could be used as a teaser to lead children to more practical books, such as *Directing* (2009) by Bethany Bezdecheck. Grades 3-6. --Randall Enos

The company was great to work with and exceeded my expectations! I was a little disappointed in the book, as it had more defects than I expected, but it was marked as used, so I guess I can't complain too much! Maybe I've just had really good luck ordering used books, because they always come looking really good!

I GAVE THIS BOOK TO TWO VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE THIS SEASON. THE FIRST ONE WAS MY DAUGHTER WHO SPENT HER LIFE ON THE STAGE AS A NYC ROCKETTE AND IN BROADWAY SHOWS. SHE HAS SINCE MARRIED, HAS HER FIRST CHILD AND THE BOOK WAS FOR HIM. I WANTED MY GRANDCHILD TO LOVE AND UNDERSTAND THE THEATER AS WE DO. MY DAUGHTER KNOWS MICHAEL AND WAS THRILLED TO RECEIVE THIS WONDERFUL BOOK. THE SECOND BOOK WENT TO A LIFELONG FRIEND WHO WAS A PROFESSIONAL BALLERINA AND SHE ALSO IS MARRIED WITH THREE BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN. SHE WAS SO EMOTIONAL ABOUT THE BOOK THAT ALL SHE COULD DO WAS CRY. LOVED IT, LOVED IT, LOVED IT. YOU KNOW, ONCE YOU'VE BEEN THERE, THAT'S WHERE YOUR HEART STAYS. THANK YOU MICHAEL FOR WRITING SUCH A DETAILED BOOK ABOUT THE STAGE AND ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS INVOLVED WITH IT. WILL GIVE THE BOOK TO AS MANY FRIENDS AS I CAN THAT ALSO LOVE THE THEATER.

This book is an excellent way to introduce a young person to the magic of the Broadway stage. It is chock full of colorful illustrations, and offers many theatrical terms and stories that would make any newcomer enjoy their live theater adventure. Bonus is the CD recorded by Broadway's leading man, Brian Stokes Mitchell. Highly recommended, and even as an adult, it brings back many amazing memories of my years living in the Broadway community.

This book is amazing! The ABC's of Broadway with comments by people who have appeared/worked on Broadway. It is a great way to teach children about Broadway plays. What's more, it comes with a CD that has Brian Stokes Mitchell singing and a portion of the proceeds benefits The Actor's Fund (a charity that supports people in the industry). If you have children at home, I highly recommend this book. If you don't, I still recommend this book (especially if you like Broadway).

A must for the theater lover (or appreciator). Love Mitchell's version of the song on the INCLUDED cd.

What a great way to introduce a young audience to Broadway! Even though this is in ABC format, older children new to the experience will appreciate the facts and trivia in this informative collection. As brilliant and exciting as Broadway itself, *Lights on Broadway* plunges the reader into an experience that dazzles. Prepare your child (or class) with this book for an upcoming visit to Broadway. Set the tone and spark the imagination of your children/class with this book and then create your own Broadway show.

They say the neon lights are bright on Broadway. Things are pretty bright on paper too. And that's because of "Lights on Broadway: A Theatrical Tour From A to Z, a new book in which the bright lights of Broadway, as well as many other theatrical wonders, vividly come to life. The words are by Harriet Ziefert, but the real "stars" here are Elliot Kreloff's colorful and energetic illustrations and the quotes from Broadway luminaries such as Whoopi Goldberg, Kevin Kline, Nathan Lane, Billy Crudup, Harvey Fierstein and Stephen Sondheim. Entries for each letter of the alphabet introduce readers to behind-the-scenes Broadway: A for audition, actor, audience and applause; M for marquee and matinee; S for stage, scenery, script and set. And so the stage is set for a world involving the Tony Award, the many people it takes to bring a performance to life, the information

printed on a ticket and other essential backstage babble. Another performer front and center (or it is that front and end?) is Brian Stokes Mitchell, the award-winning thespian and the present president of The Actors Fund. At the book's beginning, he gushes: "Welcome to my house, my home, my Broadway! As you take this very special tour, perhaps you too will be ignited by the incredible collaborative magic that gives life and light to the theater." At the finish, he coos: "Unlike a movie or television program that is the same no matter where you sit or when you see it, live theater is custom-built for each audience. Every performance is different and every individual in that audience has a unique experience that won't be repeated ever again. It's what gives the theater and life. ZING!" By the way, the book comes with a CD featuring the single "I Was Here," written (in ragtime?) by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty and performed by BSM. Better yet: A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to The Actors Fund. Even better: Mitchell will star in a "semi-staged production" of *Annie Get Your Gun* at Chicago's Ravinia Festival opposite Patti LuPone, August 13-15, 2010. The musical revival will be directed by Lonny Price. Paul Gemignani will conduct the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, commemorating the 150th anniversary of Annie Oakley's birth.

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