



The Guide to Musical Theatre

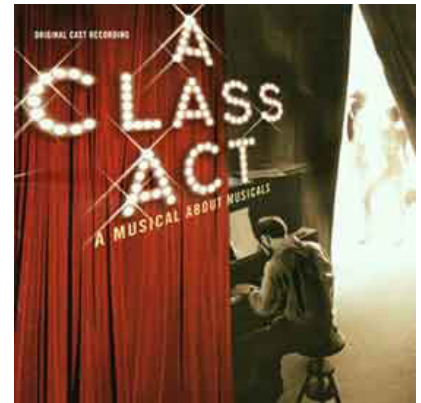
A CLASS ACT

A musical in 2 acts, 13 scenes. Book by Linda Kline and Lonny Price; music and lyrics by Edward Kleban.

Manhattan Theatre Club (Stage II) - 3 October - 10 December, 2000 (38 perfs, 42 previews)

Ambassador Theatre, Broadway 11 March - 10 June, 2001 (105 perfs, 30 previews)

Landor Theatre, London - 2004 (Season)



SYNOPSIS

The musical is based on the life of composer-lyricist Ed Kleban, who died at the age of 48 in 1987. The musical uses flashbacks and the device of time running backwards to retrace the high and low points of Kleban's personal and professional life.

The production was compiled by Kleban's friend Kline and by Price using a trunkful of songs that Kleban wrote for a number of musicals that never were produced. In addition to serving as a tribute to one of the award-winning collaborators of *A Chorus Line*, *A Class Act* provides a behind-the-scenes glimpse at how a musical is created and brought to the stage and offers a warning about how an artist's personal life—including struggles with mental illness and cancer—can interfere with, obstruct, and doom his professional pursuits

Story

In 1988, a memorial service to Ed Kleban is being held at the Shubert Theatre. Ed appears at his own memorial. His friends and colleagues remember him and think back over the past. As the time shifts backwards, the friends reminisce about the songwriting workshop held by Lehman Engel (B.M.I. Workshop). As Ed interacts with the people in his life, he deals with ambitions, success, failures, and loves.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

1. Light on My Feet – Ed and Company
2. The Fountain in the Garden – Company
3. One More Beautiful Song – Ed and Sophie
4. Fridays at Four – Company
5. Bobby's Song – Bobby
6. Charm Song – Lehman and Company
7. Paris Through The Window – Ed, Bobby and Charley
8. Mona – Mona
9. Under Separate Cover – Sophie, Lucy and Ed
10. Don't Do It Again – Felicia and Ed
11. Gauguin's Shoes – Ed and Company
12. Don't Do It Again (Reprise) – Lehman
13. Follow Your Star – Sophie and Ed

Act II

14. Better – Ed and Company
15. Scintillating Sophie – Ed
16. The Next Best Thing To Love – Sophie
17. Broadway Boogie Woogie – Lucy
18. Better (Reprise) – Ed and Company
19. I Choose You – Ed and Lucy
20. The Nightmare – Ed
21. Say Something Funny – Company
22. When the Dawn Breaks – Ed
23. Self Portrait – Ed

CAST

- Ed – Edward Kleban, lyricist and composer
- Sophie – Ed's oldest friend and first love, an oncologist
- Lehman Engel – head of the songwriting workshop
- Michael Bennett – director/ choreographer of A Chorus Line
- Marvin Hamlisch – composer of A Chorus Line
- Lucy – Ed's last significant other, member of the BMI Workshop
- Felicia – Ed's boss at Columbia Records, member of the BMI Workshop
- Bobby – Ed's best friend, member of the BMI Workshop
- Charlie – a friend from the workshop, member of the BMI Workshop
- Mona – one of Ed's many love affairs, member of the BMI Workshop

SCENES AND SETTINGS - The place: New York City between 1958 and 1988.

- The Stage of the Shubert Theatre
- Hillside Hospital
- The BMI Musical Theatre Workshop
- Ed's Apartment
- A Recording Studio at Columbia Records
- Columbia Records
- Outside the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto
- Manhattan
- Sophie's Laboratory
- Central Park
- Michael Bennett's Studio
- The Public Theatre
- St. Vincent's Hospital