



# Mainly on Directing: Gypsy, West Side Story, and Other Musicals (Borzoi Books)

*Arthur Laurents*

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From Arthur Laurents, playwright, screenwriter, director—a mesmerizing book about theater, the art, the artist, the insider, the outsider—and the making of two of the greatest musicals of the American stage, *West Side Story* and *Gypsy*. It is a book profoundly enriched by the author's two loves, love for the theater and love for his partner of fifty-two years, Tom Hatcher, who shared and inspired every aspect of his life and his work.

Laurents writes about the musicals he directed, *I Can Get It for You Wholesale*, its producer David Merrick (the “Abominable Showman”), and its (very young) stars Barbra Streisand and Elliott Gould . . . He writes about Stephen Sondheim’s *Anyone Can Whistle*, which starred Angela Lansbury and Lee Remick, marking the debut for each in musical theater. He summons up the challenges and surprises that came with the making of *La Cage aux Folles*, the first big Broadway musical that was gay and glad to be.

He writes in rich detail about his most recent production of *Gypsy*, how it began as an act of love, a love that spread through the entire company and resulted in a *Gypsy* unlike any other. And about his new bilingual production of *West Side Story*.

And he talks, as well, about the works of other directors—*Fiddler on the Roof*; *Kiss Me, Kate*; *Spring Awakening*; *Street Scene*; *The Phantom of the Opera*; *LoveMusik*; *Sweeney Todd*.

Moving, exhilarating, provocative—a portrait of an artist working with other artists; a unique close-up look at today’s American musical theater by a man who’s been at its red-hot center for more than five decades.

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