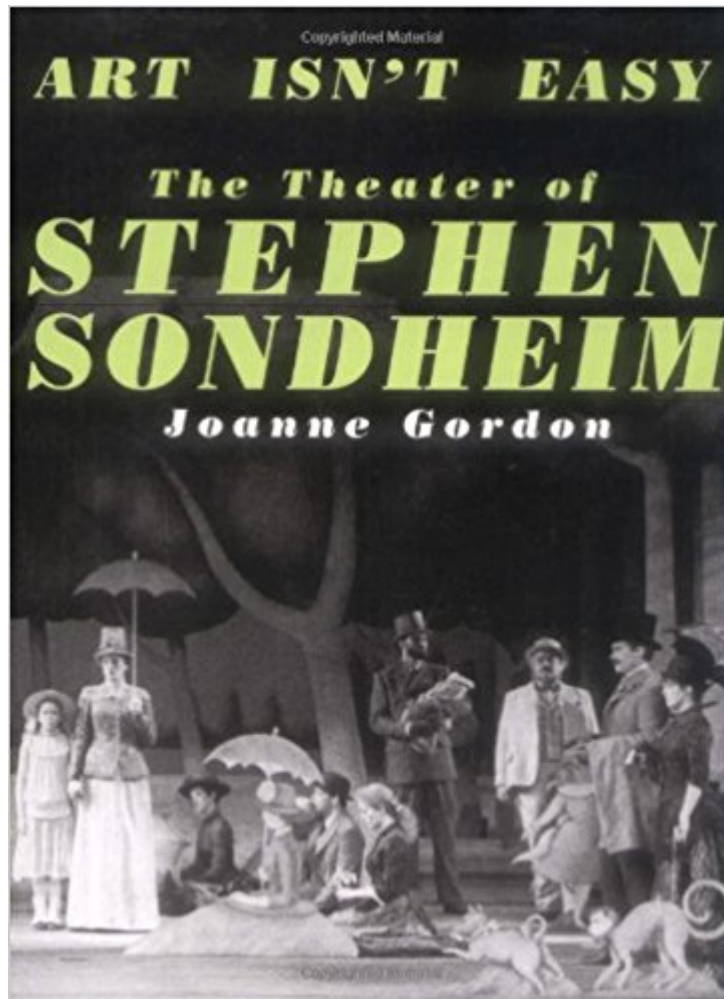


The book was found

# Art Isn't Easy: The Theater Of Stephen Sondheim



## Synopsis

The musical theatre of Stephen Sondheim probes deeply into the most disturbing issues of contemporary life. By challenging his audience with intricate music, biting wit, and profound themes, he flouts the traditional wisdom of the musical theatre. Tracing Sondheim's career from his initial success as lyricist for "West Side Story" and "Gypsy" to his most recent work - "Into the Woods" and "Assassins" - Joanne Gordon emphasizes not only the disturbing content of Sondheim's work, but his innovative use of form. In shows such as "A Little Night Music", "Sweeney Todd", and "Sunday in the Park with George", Sondheim's music and lyrics are inextricably woven into the fabric of the entire work.

## Book Information

Paperback: 376 pages

Publisher: Da Capo Press; Revised edition (March 22, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0306804689

ISBN-13: 978-0306804687

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #537,741 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Sondheim](#) #306 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > History & Criticism](#) #367 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Musicals](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book takes us musical-by-musical through some of the most famous and artistically valuable of Sondheim's musicals (the latest entry being *Assassins*). Each chapter looks at the musical with a critical eye (or listens with a critical ear, as the case may be) and responds to criticism about the musical in question. This is not a book simply about selling Sondheim - when the author is unimpressed, she lets us know. But Gordon finds much to admire in Sondheim's musicals, and helps us to appreciate that. Each chapter outlines in detail the plot, characters, and songs - especially useful for in-depth study. You can't get much more specific without actually taking out the libretto or following along in the score! All her arguments are well-founded and supported with examples from the text. The use of lyrics is especially appropriate. This book is especially valuable

from a literary and theatrical standpoint. The observations on the music itself are correct, but not plentiful, as Gordon's expertise is in theatre, not music. Accessible to the casual audience member and the Sondheim groupie.

Of all the books currently published on Sondheim's musicals, Gordon gives the best academic treatment to his works. Mainly a formal analysis of the shows, she peppers in enough historical and biographical facts to provide any reader with a better understanding of the plays. The chapter on *Sunday* is particularly good. It does help to be familiar with the shows before reading, as Gordon wastes little time on plot synopsis. A must for any Sondheim scholar.

Whether you are well versed in all of Sondheim or have just seen a show once this book covers everything from plot, to technique, to reviews. I used this for my thesis on Sondheim and found it very informative.

This is a remarkable consideration of the works of Sondheim. There is a clear understanding of the origins of SS's skills and techniques as well as the musical and literary backgrounds which underwrite his work. This is not a chatty easy read, it is an academic and searching document which is evidence of considerable research. It will appeal to those who are students of Music Theatre and lovers of The Sondheim catalogue.

The book provided a reasonably good review of the Broadway career of Stephen Sondheim. However, the author is too much of an avowed Sondheim fan, and tends to provide only a one-sided, superpositive view of Sondheim's oeuvre. His misses (e.g., *Merrily We Roll Along*) are glossed over. Still, for Sondheim devotees, this is a helpful book.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Art Isn't Easy: The Theater of Stephen Sondheim [(Stephen Sondheim: Into the Woods - Vocal Score )] [Author: Stephen Sondheim] [Feb-2011] Stephen Sondheim - Assassins: Vocal Selections Hat Box: The Collected Lyrics of Stephen Sondheim The Complete Stephen King Universe: A Guide to the Worlds of Stephen King The Complete Works of Stephen Crane (12 Complete Works of Stephen Crane Including The Red Badge of Courage, Maggie - A Girl of the Streets, Active Service, The O'Ruddy, Active Service, And More) Stephen Curry: Rise of the Star. The inspiring and interesting life story from a struggling young boy to become the legend. Life of Stephen Curry - one of the best basketball shooters in history. Home Theater: The Definitive Guide to Home Theater

Sound Systems Affordable Home Theater: Your Guide To Creating Your Own Amazing Home Theater Elfriede Jelinek's Princess Plays (Theater Magazine, Vol. 36, No. 2) (Theater, Volume 36, Number 2) Sondheim Songs - Easy Piano Popular Mechanics When Duct Tape Just Isn't Enough: Quick Fixes for Everyday Disasters Why Isn't My Brain Working?: A revolutionary understanding of brain decline and effective strategies to recover your brain's health This Isn't Me (Hard To Love Book 3) The Talent Code: Greatness Isn't Born. It's Grown. Here's How. The Talent Code: Greatness Isn't Born. It's Grown. I Thought It Was Just Me (but it isn't): Making the Journey from "What Will People Think?" to "I Am Enough" How We Know What Isn't So: Fallibility of Human Reason in Everyday Life Social Security Works!: Why Social Security Isn't Going Broke and How Expanding It Will Help Us All Social Security Works!: Why Social Security Isn't Going Broke and How Expanding It Will Help Us All

[Dmca](#)