

Podcast Review: Musicalsplaining



The podcast *Musicalsplaining*, touts itself as “a podcast to unite people who love and hate musicals”. While cute, this tagline doesn’t really capture the content of the podcast, which is clearly designed for people who enjoy musicals. Perhaps there’s a bit of tongue-and-cheek language there, as of course people who generally like musicals may find some they hate, but this podcast has an obvious target audience of people who for people who have a love of musicals and the culture and world surrounding them.

Musicalsplaining is currently run by hosts Kaveh Taherian and Angelina Meehan, two musical-enthusiasts with an excellent rapport who converse freely and bounce off each other well. It is clear when listening to the podcast that Taherian and Meehan have a passion for musicals and discussions around them, knowledge of the world of musicals and musical theater, and an apparent enjoyment when recording the podcast. They use a sense of light-heartedness and humor woven within their discussions and use language and conversation styles that make the listener feel as if they are in the room and a part of the conversation. Each episode focuses on one musical, or sometimes a musical movie, ranging from the classics such as *The Lion King* and *Phantom of the Opera* to more contemporary works like *Hamilton* and *Mean Girls the Musical*. Often it is just the two of them, though they sometimes bring in a guest host who has a particular enthusiasm or story about the musical topic of the episode, with some guests recurring over multiple episodes.

This podcast is well suited for teenagers who want to immerse themselves in the landscape of musical theater. The hosts engage listeners in this world through their conversational style of talking about the musicals, avoiding too much technical jargon while still touching upon many aspects of theater outside of the individual musical of topic. They start the

podcast with a long introduction about the musical in question, though they do sometimes go off on small tangents about their personal lives or personal stories about their experience with the musical or musical theater in general. The introduction and conversations are usually about some information of the musical; the writers, directors, actors, producers, plot and storylines, tidbits about the writing or inspiration or music, or history of the musical. The hosts then discuss their perspectives, opinions, and insights of the musicals or a particular performance of it they've seen and share stories or reasons as to why they feel that way. Their tangents and conversations do stay within the realm of musical theater, and often make the hosts feel more relatable and interesting. The hosts also stay respectful of musicals they may not personally like, not only choosing to still cover them as topics of the week but speaking about them in a way that lets listeners know they are outside of their tastes, without speaking negatively about the musicals in question. Additionally, the conversations are not too technical or in-depth, making it a good choice for teens who are maybe less familiar with the professional world and jargon of musical theater. Episodes are each about an hour long and are released once a week on Tuesdays. It is worth mentioning this podcast does regularly contain profanity, which some listeners may find unsuitable for teens, but overall, it is an appropriate and recommended option for teenagers who want to dive into the world of musical theater in a relatable and accessible way.

References

Taherian, K and Meehan, A. (Hosts). (2020-present). *Musicalsplaining*. [Audio podcast].

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/musicalsplaining/id1497762464>

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