

USC LIBRARIES

[Research](#)[How to](#)[Library Services](#)[Inside the Libraries](#)[Ask-a-Librarian](#)

AVENUE Q

A USC Libraries Exploration

Kim Esser

To build on your learning experience at **Avenue Q**, the USC Libraries present a selection of resources that illustrate the history of musical theater in America and the use of puppets to animate and elucidate the human experience.

How would you describe angst-ridden puppets tackling coming-of-age issues? How about **Sesame Street** meets **South Park** meets **Rent**? **Avenue Q**, the 2004 Tony Award-winning Broadway smash hit, brings puppets (and their puppeteers) to life on stage, where they musically mull over classic twentysomething quandaries in songs like "What Do You Do with a B.A. in English?" "There's Life outside Your Apartment," and "The Money Song."

"Through puppetry we accept the outrageous, the absurd, or even the impossible and will permit puppets to say and do things no human could. We allow a puppet to talk to us when no one else can get us to speak. We allow a puppet to smile at us even when we have not been introduced. We also allow a puppet to touch us when a person would lose an arm for the same offence."

-- Puppeteer Anita Sinclair

Featured Books



Avenue Q, the Zachary Pincus-Roth book
Available in the USC Music Library ML50 .L86A93 2006



Avenue Q, the original Broadway cast sound recording
Available in the USC Music Library 10405mus



The American Musical and the Performance of Musical Identity, by Raymond Knapp
Available in the USC Music Library ML2054 .K6 2006



The American Musical: History and Development, by Peter H. Riddle
Available in the USC Music Library ML2054 .R532 2003



Our Musicals, Ourselves: A Social History of the American Musical Theater, by John Bush Jones

Available in Leavey Library and the USC Music Library ML1711 .J65 2003



Puppetry: A World History, by Eileen Blumenthal

Available in Doheny Library PN1972 .B57 2005

Theatre of Animation: Contemporary Adult Puppet Plays in Context

Available through [Ebrary](#)

USC Libraries Databases

American Drama contains more than 1500 plays by American dramatists that chronicle the history and culture of theater in America.

International Index to the Performing Arts Full Text covers nearly all aspects of performing arts, from scholarly studies to snapshots of popular culture.

Theatre in Video features more than 250 definitive performances of the world's leading plays, together with more than 100 film documentaries, online in streaming video.

The official **Avenue Q Web site** provides more information about the play as well as downloadable podcasts.

Questions

For more questions about Avenue Q or research assistance, please contact USC librarian **Kim Esser** at kimberle@usc.edu.

[Contact Us](#) • [Site Feedback](#)

© 2008 The University of Southern California