

Dreamgirls

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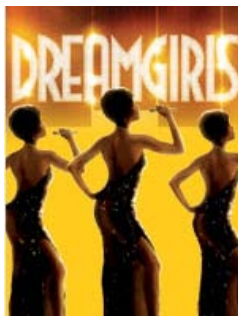
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Introduction

This LibGuide was created to accompany the Visions & Voices event: ***Dream Girls***. On Friday April 2nd, USC students will attend the Ahmanson Theater presentation of ***Dreamgirls***. [Read more about the event at the Visions & Voices website.](#)

About the production: "The dynamic production *Dreamgirls* has won six Tonys, two Oscars and two Grammys since its Broadway premiere in 1981. Drawing inspiration from such R&B acts as The Supremes and James Brown, the show follows the tumultuous career of Motown girl group The Dreamettes as it climbs to the top of the charts, revealing the triumphs and tribulations that come with fame and fortune. This revival of the show, launched at Harlem's Apollo Theater in November 2009, will include new costumes, innovative set design, and new and revised songs."

Dreamgirls (the poster)


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Theater Resources (Selected)

[International Index to the Performing Arts Full Text](#)

"A performing arts resource with over half a million indexed articles, plus detailed abstracts and full text from 1864 to the present, covering theatre, dance and film."

[Play Index](#)

"Search over 30,000 plays written from Antiquity to the present and published from 1949 to the present. Play Index covers a wide range of plays including mysteries, pageants, plays in verse, puppet performances, radio and television plays, and classic drama. Search for plays by title; author; subject (sisters, culture conflict, marriage); style (symbolism, experimental theater); genre (comedy, melodrama, musical); cast type; more."

[Theatre in Video](#)

"Contains more than 250 definitive performances of the world's leading plays, together with more than 100 film documentaries, online in streaming video - more than 500 hours in all. This release contains 279 titles, representing hundreds of leading playwrights, actors and directors."

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Multidisciplinary Databases (Selected)

[Academic OneFile](#)

"Formerly *Expanded Academic ASAP*. Includes abstracts or references for articles from more than 1,500 scholarly, trade and general-interest publications."

[Arts and Humanities Search \(OCLC\)](#)

"Records referencing many of the world's leading arts and humanities journals."

[ProQuest Research Library](#)

"*ProQuest Research Library* is a multi-disciplinary index. It covers dozens of subject areas and indexes thousands of scholarly and general titles and provides full text for a significant number of the articles included. It is an excellent starting place for research for a paper, particularly if one isn't sure where to begin one's research."

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Theater Journals (Selected)

[American Theatre](#)

"A consumer magazine featuring reports on plays in print, as well as performances and theater season schedules. Presents current trends in nonprofit American theater. Contains three to four articles in each issue; sometimes the complete text of a short play is included."

[The Journal of American Drama and Theatre](#)

"The widely acclaimed journal devoted solely to drama and theatre in the USA - past and present. Provocative, thoughtful articles by the leading scholars of our time providing valuable insight and information on the heritage of American theatre, as well as its continuing contribution to world literature and the performing arts."

[Theater](#)

"For more than thirty years Theater has been the most informative, serious, and imaginative American journal available to readers interested in contemporary theater. It has been the first publisher of pathbreaking plays from writers as diverse as Athol Fugard, Sarah Kane, W. David Hancock, David Greenspan, Richard Foreman, Rinde Eckert, and Adrienne Kennedy. It has printed writings on theater by dramatists including Heiner Müller, Dario Fo, Mac Wellman, and Suzan-Lori Parks."

[Theatre Journal](#)

"For over five decades, *Theatre Journal's* broad array of scholarly articles and reviews has earned it an international

reputation as one of the most authoritative and useful publications of theatre studies available today. Drawing contributions from noted practitioners and scholars, ***Theatre Journal*** features social and historical studies, production reviews, and theoretical inquiries that analyze dramatic texts and production."

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- [Ahmanson Theatre \(Center Theatre Group\)](#)
- [Diana-Web Com: A Tribute to Diana Ross](#)
- [IBDB: The Internet Broadway Database](#)
 "...is an excellent place to begin research on virtually any musical. This website contains full production information and cast lists for musicals produced on and off Broadway. This database is cross-indexed by name as well as by production, so if you look up Hello, Dolly, for example, you can see that Oliver Smith designed the show; clicking on his name gives you a list of all the musicals on Broadway for which he designed the sets."
- [Mary Wilson Official Site](#)
- [Musicals101.com](#)
 "...is a website that includes brief histories about specific musicals and select feature articles about performers, productions and even Broadway theaters themselves. Unlike many websites, most of these articles do provide author information and cite secondary sources."
- [The Supremes Page](#)

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Books of Related Interest

Black Musical Theatre: From Coontown to Dreamgirls - Woll, Allen L.

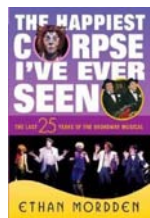
Call Number: Leavey Library ML1711.W64 1989

"Theater historian Woll's scholarly yet entertaining account of the rise, fall, and resurrection of the black musical fleshes out a neglected but vital aspect of American musical theater. Woll starts with minstrel shows and 'coon songs' and follows the development of the musical through the great shows of the twenties to current-day blockbusters like *Ain't Misbehavin'*. Throughout, stage history has paralleled social history; a subtext of discrimination against black performers and authors underscores Woll's splendid re-creation of the world of Cole and Johnson, Williams and Walker, Florence Mills, and countless others..."

Dreamgirl: My Life as a Supreme - Wilson, Mary

Call Number: Cinema/TV Library ML420.W553A3 1986

"Wilson and her three Detroit high school friends had big dreams when they formed the Primettes in 1959, but it wasn't until Motown's Berry Gordy reduced them to a trio, suggested a name change, and insisted Diana Ross sing lead that things started to happen. By summer 1965, eight months after their first #1 single, the Supremes were Motown's biggest act. Success meant furs, limos, lunches with royalty; also jealousies and friction, especially after the ambitious Ross became the star. Today there is no love lost between Wilson and "old friend" Diana, who is presented as a bitchy, conniving prima donna."



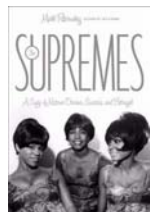
The Happiest Corpse I've Ever Seen: The Last Twenty-five Years of the Broadway Musical - Mordden, Ethan

Call Number: Music Library ML2054.M66 2004

ISBN: 0312239548

"For Ethan Mordden, the closing night of the hit musical, 42nd St. sounded the death knell of the art form of the Broadway musical. After that, big orchestras, real voices, recognizable books, and intelligent lyrics went out the window in favor of cats, helicopters, yodeling Frenchmen, and the roof of the Paris Opera. Mordden takes us through the aftermath of the days of the great Broadway musical. From the long-running *Cats* to *Miss Saigon*, *Phantom*, and *Les Miserables*, to gems like *The Producers*, he is unsparing in his look at the remains of the day. Not content to scold the shows' creators, Mordden takes on the critics, too, splaying their bodies across the Great White Way like *Sweeney Todd* giving a close shave. Once more, it's

'curtain going up,' but Mordden is not applauding."



The Supremes: A Saga of Motown Dreams, Success, and Betrayal - Ribowsky, Mark

Call Number: Leavey Library ML421.S86R53 2009

ISBN: 9780306815867

"Biographer of Phil Spector (He's a Rebel), among others, Ribowsky takes a dishy, insider look at Berry Gordy's making of the Supremes, with some nasty swipes at Diana Ross while elevating Flo Ballard as the trio's martyr. In his detailed look at how Berry engineered his Motown empire, thanks to his smart sisters and a lot of luck and fortuitous pairing of talent, Ribowsky nicely intersperses some hindsight reflections by the main players, such as the brothers Brian and Eddie Holland of the legendary songwriting team with Lamont Dozier, with comparative accounts by Mary Wilson, Ross and others in order to sift the truth from the legend. While the author constantly snipes at Ross for her popping eyes and naked ambition, it was largely her single-minded drive that garnered attention to the trio's early incarnation as the Primettes, and her high girl-woman singing voice that established the Supremes' distinctive sound..."



Where Did Our Love Go?: The Rise and Fall of the Motown Sound - Nelson, George

Call Number: Music Library ML3537.G46 2007

ISBN: 9780252074981

"George offers a concise history of Berry Gordy's Motown Records, emphasizing Gordy's enterprising and social-climbing bents. He deals with Motown's inception in the late 1950s; the creation of its hit-making machinery that propelled such acts as the Supremes, the Temptations, and Marvin Gaye to stardom; and its decline in the 70s. Though much of this material has been presented in other books, George has conducted interviews which provide insights into the label's history. Best are his sections on Berry Gordy's entrepreneurial background and his discussion of the musicians who backed the Motown stars and helped to create the Motown sound. An interesting book, written in a spritely style, this will give general readers an equitable glimpse of the Motown Empire."

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Dreamgirls (the film)

"Deena Jones, Effie White, and Lorrell Robinson, three young African-American women in 1960s Detroit, dream of becoming pop stars. They get their wish after a local talent show when they are picked to be backup singers for the legendary James 'Thunder' Early. As they become more successful Curtis Taylor, Jr., a car salesman who's become their manager, and Effie's brother C.C., their songwriter, decide that the more traditionally beautiful Deena should be the lead singer instead of Effie, who had been the lead singer and who has a more powerful voice. Over time, each of the girls discovers the costs and compromises exacted by their desire to be in the music business."

Leavey Library LVDVD 1952

Dreamgirls (the original Broadway cast recording)

Contents: Move (You're steppin' on my heart) (1:56) -- Fake your way to the top (2:27) -- Cadillac car (3:32) -- Steppin' to the bad side (3:44) -- Family (3:19) -- Dreamgirls (3:14) -- Press conference (1:40) -- And I am telling you I'm not going (4:05) -- Ain't no party (2:08) -- When I first saw you (2:41) -- I am changing (3:59) -- I meant you no harm (1:05) -- The rap (1:41) -- Firing of Jimmy (2:36) -- I miss you old friend (1:33) -- One night only (3:42) -- Hard to say goodbye, my love (3:36).

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