

Raisin: The Musical

By Olivia Maguire



Raisin the musical from 1973 was based off Lorraine Hansberry's play *A Raisin in the Sun*. The music was produced by Judd Woldin and the lyrics were by Robert Brittan. The musical won a Tony Award for Best Musical and ran for 847 performances. The musical follows the same story line as Hansberry's play about an African-American family in Chicago in 1951 with added musical numbers. There are a total of 19 songs that follow along throughout the musical's story. Hansberry's husband, Robert Nemiroff, was also a co-writer of the musical's book alongside Charlotte Zaltzberg. It premiered on Broadway at the 46th Street Theatre on January 13, 1975 and closed on December 8, 1975. In Long Beach, California at the International City Theatre, the show was performed in February and March 2003. And from September 14 through October 22, 2006 it was shown at the Court Theatre in Chicago. A review from Clive Barnes of *The New York Times* called it "a warm and loving work". Barnes also wrote that the musical "is perhaps even better than the play... 'Raisin' is one of those unusual musicals that should not only delight people who love musicals, but might also well delight people who don't".

Works Cited

Barnes, Clive. "Stage: Capitol's 'Raisin'", *The New York Times*, May 31, 1973, p. 49

"Raisin (Musical)." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 27 July 2020,

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"The musical is 'Raisin' and it has come to Broadway via Washington's Arena Stage". Barnes,

Clive. "Theater: 'Raisin' in Musical Form", *The New York Times*, October 19, 1973, p. 59