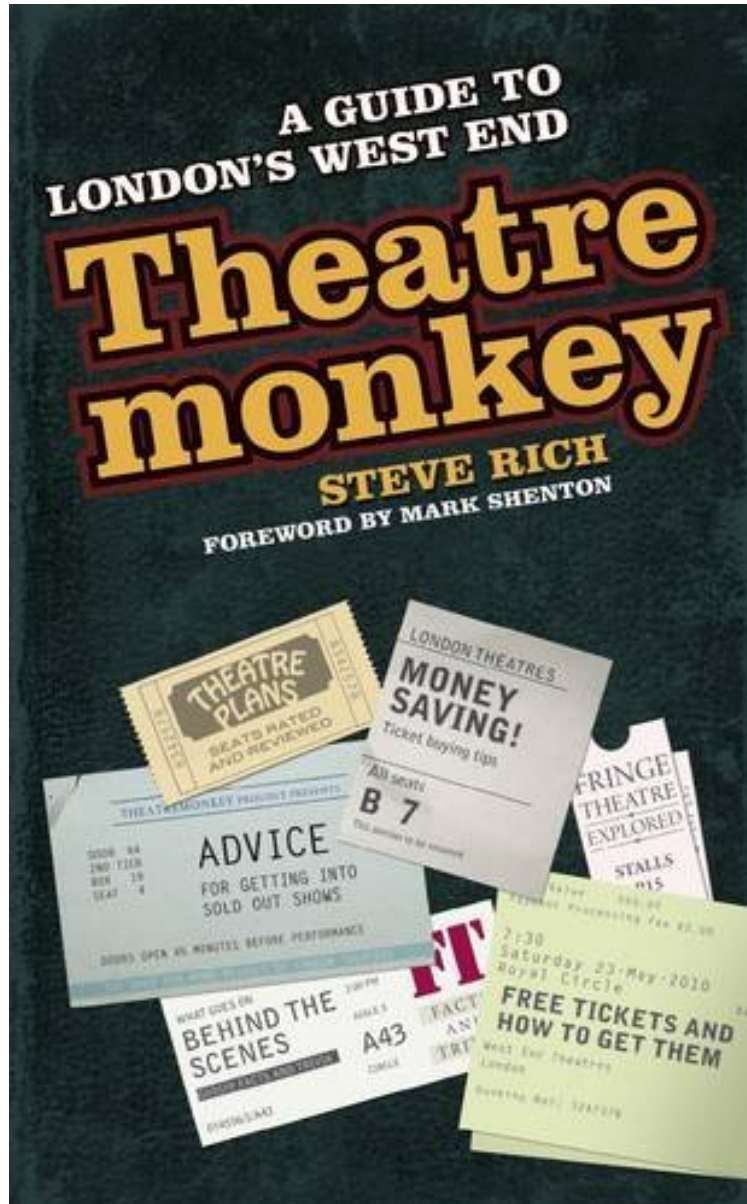


Theatremonkey: A guide to London's West End

Steve Rich

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Steve Rich : Theatremonkey: A guide to London's West End before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Theatremonkey: A guide to London's West End:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. For everyone who loves London and theater: A guidebook that deserves a sitting ovationBy Sharon IschSteve Rich, webmaster of Theatremonkey, the independent site best known

for its West End theater seating charts and the seat-by-seat theatergoer critiques that go with them, has now culled the best of its insider advice into a well-organized, fits-in-a-purse, really useful guide to just about everything a consumer needs to know, venue by venue, about London theater. At the heart of the book are the site's famous seating plans, now conveniently color-coded to show, at a glance, the best-to-worst seats for the money in every section and every price range at every venue. Adjacent text gets down to specifics like finding the seats most accommodating to longer legs or wider bottoms or shorter statures, and points out any specific seats or sections that are best avoided--due to a claustrophobia-inducing balcony overhang, for example, or badly-raked row that requires considerable craning of the neck to see over the heads in the row ahead--and other downsides of very old theaters, no matter how grand and charming. Also included for each venue is a little something about what makes it distinctive--a storied past, noteworthy architectural features, perhaps a resident ghost, plus: box office phone numbers, a url for online booking; location of the nearest train station, tube station and parking lot, theater capacity, whether it's air conditioned or "air cooled" or neither; and if the theater offers seat-back opera glass rentals, that too gets a mention. The book also outlines and explains how to find out what's on where and what to see, the ins and outs of booking seats, avoiding touts (a.k.a. scalpers), how to get cheap seats, how to get free seats and how to score seats to sold-out shows. It has the easiest to use map of what Londoners call Theatreland that I've seen. You'll also find booking info and seating advice (but not seating plans) for about a dozen other popular arts venues including Royal Albert Hall and Shakespeare's Globe as well as the addresses, phone numbers and websites of Fringe theaters (London's version of Off Broadway). Disclosure: I sometimes write consumer-guide type articles on London theater and for the past several years, my most trusted and reliable information source on that subject, especially on deadline, has been the author of this book. Also: I wasn't asked to write this review, didn't get paid for it, and have never actually met the author, but there's clearly some bias here. So factor that in but also know that less than two weeks after publication, this book made it into the -UK top 500--and has been getting excellent press on its side of the pond, including an especially good 11/12/09 review from the Evening Standard's chief arts correspondent Louise Jury. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

BEWARE!! UNFORTUNATELY SOME OF THE NEAREST BRITISH RAIL AND UNDERGROUND STATION SYMBOLS ARE TRANSPOSED By jamrev I'm a regular theatergoer who lives in London. If you are not familiar with the theatre location check the nearest underground station on the map at the back of the book, otherwise you may arrive at the wrong station and miss the performance. I agree with the rest of the positive comments, as the book is an excellent guide but for the above reason I give it 4.5 Stars

Based on the massively popular Theatremonkey.com website, this indispensable guide has everything you need to enjoy the best of London's West End. Featuring: Trusted advice based on the opinions of thousands of other theatergoers. Colour-coded seating plans of over 50 West End venues that highlight seats offering the best value, and those with problems or restricted views. Practical tips for saving money making the most of your theatre visit. Comprehensive venue information including booking details, theatre history and facilities for disabled people. Easy-to-read 3D map of London's theatreland to help take the stress out of getting to your venue on time. Steve Rich began the now famous Theatremonkey.com website in 2000. Today, it is a thriving community for thousands of like minded theatergoers. Mark Shenton, theatre critic for the Sunday Express, introduces the guide with an insightful foreword. He describes it as a "treasure trove" of information, which will help the theatre live on "as one of London's defining features".