

Hung, Naomie. Section A. “Musicals are All about Music: Taiwanese Musicals Are Ready.”

Musicals, a performing art that has been a phenomenon in the Western world for almost three centuries, however, are not as successful in Taiwan. Speaking of musicals, Taiwanese audiences tend to emphasize their plot, acting skills, and singing skills. Yet, a musical is more than that. Since it is called “musical,” music is undoubtedly one of the important elements. According to Xi Wen Wang and Terry Teachout, it is clear that popular musicals share three common features in music, which are catchy melodies, a strict structure, and the coherence of melodies and lyrics. This paper will analyze these three features by providing two examples for each to analyze if Taiwanese musicals meet these criteria. In conclusion, the analysis shows that although Taiwanese musicals are mostly considered not as popular and successful as Western musicals, some Taiwanese musicals have already met the standards and deserve to be praised.

1. My RP belongs to the category of ☒ Literary Studies or Social Studies

2. Related websites:

<https://www.commentary.org/articles/terry-teachout/why-musicals-succeed/>