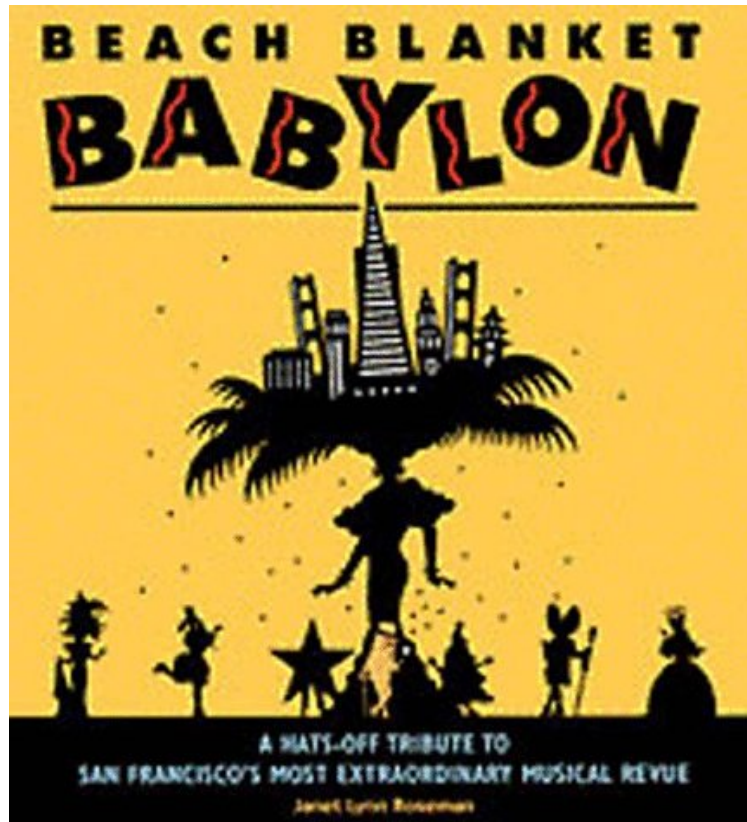


[Read free] Beach Blanket Babylon: A Hats-Off Tribute to San Francisco's Most Extraordinary Musical Revue

Beach Blanket Babylon: A Hats-Off Tribute to San Francisco's Most Extraordinary Musical Revue

Janet Lynn

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The question is, what did the Queen think of the hats? The longest-running musical revue in American history, Beach Blanket Babylon has taken audiences around the world, from Buckingham Palace to Las Vegas, and the world has in turn come to Beach Blanket Babylon. Known for outrageous humor, great music, fabulous characterizations of the famous and the infamous (from Snow White to John Travolta), and absolutely the biggest hats ever seen on stage, the show still packs the house over twenty years later at its home in San Francisco. Created by the late Steve Silver as an offshoot of his Rent-A-Freak business, with an original script by Armistead Maupin, Beach Blanket Babylon has become a legend. This visual celebration captures all the zaniness of the show and takes the reader behind the scenes, from early sketches and costume design to the ongoing creative genius that keeps Mr. Peanut tap-dancing. For anyone who loves the theater or likes to laugh, this book is the ticket.

.com Bursting onto the theatrical world of 1974 like a breath of fresh helium, the campy San Francisco revue Beach Blanket Babylon established itself as the show that had the courage to put a life-size Mr. Peanut, Glinda the Good Witch of the North, and a tap-dancing Christmas tree together on a stage. Joyously glorifying the detritus of American culture, Steve Silver's monsterpiece has been delighting hip audiences (and thoroughly disorienting others) ever since. This slick paperback is really just a souvenir booklet as extravagantly overblown as one of Silver's signature 33-foot hats. It has lots of photos and history, but, sadly, barely a quote from the show's giddily funny scripts. But it's fun just the same, a window on a countercultural phenomenon. About the Author Janet Lynn Roseman is a freelance writer specializing in the arts. She lives in San Francisco.