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Dream Girls Broadway Official Script

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Unveiling the Dream Girls Broadway Official Script: A Complete Guide

For theater enthusiasts, aspiring performers, and dedicated fans of musical theatre, few names resonate as powerfully as **Dreamgirls**. This spectacular show, which premiered on Broadway in 1981, tells the story of a girl group navigating the turbulent waters of the music industry in the 1960s and 1970s. At the heart of every production—from the original Tony Award winning staging to community theatre revivals—lies a singular, authoritative text: the **Dream Girls Broadway Official Script**. This document is more than a set of lines and stage directions; it is a blueprint for a masterpiece. In this comprehensive article, we will explore everything you need to know about the official script, from its history and structure to how you can obtain it and use it for auditions, study, or production.

What Is the Dream Girls Broadway Official Script?

The **Dream Girls Broadway Official Script** is the licensed, published version of the book (libretto) and lyrics of the musical *Dreamgirls*. It contains all spoken dialogue, song lyrics, stage directions, and sometimes musical notation or performance notes. This script is the definitive text approved by the show's creators—book and lyrics by Tom Eyen, music by Henry Krieger—and the rights holders. It is distinct from fan transcriptions or unofficial online copies because it is legally authorized for use in professional and amateur productions, auditions, and academic study.

The official script is typically published by a licensing agency such as **Music Theatre International (MTI)** or, in the case of earlier editions, by Samuel French (now part of Concord Theatricals). When you acquire the **Dream Girls Broadway Official Script**, you receive a meticulously prepared document that ensures every performance stays true to the creators' vision.

Why the Official Script Matters

Using the official script is essential for several reasons:

- Legal compliance: Producing or performing scenes without a license or using an unauthorized script infringes copyright.
- Accuracy: The official version contains the correct lines, cuts, and revisions made for the Broadway production.
- Performance rights: Only by purchasing or renting the official script through a licensed agent can you legally stage the show.
- Educational value: Students and researchers rely on the official text to analyze the work's themes, character development, and structure.

The History Behind the Dreamgirls Script

The journey of the **Dream Girls Broadway Official Script**began long before the show's December 20, 1981

opening at the Imperial Theatre. Tom Eyen and Henry Krieger spent years developing the material, drawing inspiration from the real life story of The Supremes and Motown. The script went through numerous drafts, workshops, and out of town tryouts. After the Broadway premiere, the script continued to evolve for subsequent tours, the 1982 national tour, and later revivals, including the 2009 Broadway revival and the 2006 film adaptation.

Interestingly, the film version changed several elements of the story and added songs. However, the **Dream Girls Broadway Official Script**remains the definitive text for stage productions. The script published today reflects the final Broadway version, including all original dialogue and the iconic song list: “Move (You’re Steppin’ on My Heart)”, “And I Am Telling You I’m Not Going”, “One Night Only”, and more.

Revisions and Editions

Over the decades, the official script has been updated to incorporate changes made for various revivals. The most notable revision came for the 2009 Broadway revival, which restored some cut material and adjusted staging. If you are planning a production, it is crucial to specify which edition you need. Licensing agencies will provide the most current version of the **Dream Girls Broadway Official Script**when you secure your performance rights.

Key Characters and Their Dialogue in the Official Script

The script is structured around a tight ensemble of characters. Each character’s lines carry immense emotional weight. Here are the primary roles you’ll find in the official document:

- Effie White – The powerhouse lead vocalist who is ultimately replaced by Deena. Her monologue before “And I Am Telling You” is one of the most demanding and celebrated passages in musical theatre.
- Deena Jones – The poised and beautiful lead who struggles with her own identity. The script captures her transformation from a shy girl to a controlled star.
- Lorrell Robinson – The comedic yet vulnerable member, whose dialogue often provides levity.
- Curtis Taylor Jr. – The manipulative manager whose dialogue drives the plot’s darker turns.
- Jimmy “Thunder” Early – A soul singer whose arc mirrors the decline of authentic artistry.
- C.C. White – Effie’s brother and the group’s songwriter; his lines reveal the tension between art and commerce.

Reading the **Dream Girls Broadway Official Script**reveals how tightly Eyen’s dialogue weaves together themes of betrayal, ambition, racism, and love. The script also includes detailed stage directions for the iconic choreography and lighting cues, though these are often included in a separate “stage manager’s script” when licensing.

Structure and Musical Numbers in the Official Script

The official script follows a two act structure. Act I ends with the devastating “And I Am Telling You I’m Not Going”, while Act II includes the climactic “Listen” (in the film, but note: the stage version uses “Hard to Say Goodbye” as the Act II opener and “One Night Only” as a major turning point). The **Dream Girls Broadway Official Script**includes the full libretto, with song lyrics embedded in the dialogue. Each musical number is introduced with a stage direction indicating the setting and character actions.

Key Musical Numbers and Their Book Scenes

Below is a selection of the most important songs as they appear in the official script, along with the scene context:

1. “Move (You’re Steppin’ on My Heart)” – The opening number establishing The Dreams as a trio.
2. “Fake Your Way to the Top” – A high energy performance where Curtis’s manipulation begins.
3. “And I Am Telling You I’m Not Going” – Effie’s tour de force solo, which closes Act I.

4. “One Night Only” – A pivotal song that becomes a hit and later a source of conflict.
5. “I Am Changing” – Effie’s Act II solo of self discovery.
6. “Hard to Say Goodbye” – The final number, a medley of earlier songs.

Each of these numbers is carefully timed and scripted. The official version ensures that the beats of the story land exactly as intended.

How to Obtain the Dream Girls Broadway Official Script

Acquiring the official script is straightforward, but it must be done through authorized channels. Here are the steps:

- Determine your purpose: Are you auditioning, directing a community theatre production, or studying the show for academic work? Different licenses and script formats exist.
- Contact a licensing agency: The primary rights holder for Dreamgirls is Music Theatre International (MTI). Visit their website and search for the title. You can purchase a perusal script (for reading only) or a production script once your license is approved.
- Purchase a published edition: The script is also available in book form from publishers like Applause Theatre & Cinema Books or Concord Theatricals. These “libretto editions” contain the full book and lyrics but do not grant performance rights.
- Check for authorized digital copies: Some educational platforms like Digital Theatre Plus or Broadway Licensing offer access to scripts for study purposes.

Important warning: Do not use scripts found on free file sharing websites. They are often outdated, incorrect, and illegal. Always purchase or rent the **Dream Girls Broadway Official Script** from a legitimate source.

Using the Official Script for Auditions and Productions

Whether you are preparing for an audition or staging a full production, the official script is your essential tool.

For Auditions

Many auditions require actors to read from the official script, especially for the roles of Effie, Deena, and Curtis. When you buy a perusal copy, you can mark it up, practice monologues, and understand the emotional arc of your character. The official script includes the exact lines that casting directors will use in the audition room.

For Directors and Designers

The script’s stage directions offer invaluable insights into the original blocking, set design, and lighting cues. While a director can adapt these for their own concept, the official script provides a solid foundation. It also includes notes on casting, doubling, and orchestration.

For Educators

The **Dream Girls Broadway Official Script**is widely used in theatre history and musical theatre performance courses. Its themes of race, gender, and the music industry make it a rich text for analysis. Teachers can order class sets or use excerpts under fair use for educational purposes.

The Cultural Impact of the Dreamgirls Script

The official script has had a lasting influence on American musical theatre. It broke barriers by centering on African American women and the complexities of the entertainment industry. The script’s raw, emotional language—particularly in Effie’s Act I monologue—changed the way musical theatre handles grief and betrayal. The **Dream Girls Broadway Official Script**has also been studied for its use of pastiche, its integration of Motown style songs into a dramatic narrative, and its portrayal of female friendship and ambition.

Furthermore, the script has become a touchstone for discussions about authenticity versus commercialism in art. Every production of the show, from the original to high school versions, relies on this text to convey those powerful messages.

Common Misconceptions About the Official Script

Several myths surround the **Dream Girls Broadway Official Script**:

- “It’s the same as the movie script.” False. The film script by Bill Condon made significant changes, including added songs and a different structure. The official Broadway script is the only one authorized for stage use.
- “The script is out of print.” Not true. While some early editions are rare, the current version is readily available through MTI and bookstores.
- “You can perform it without a license if you don’t charge admission.” Incorrect. Any public performance, even free, requires a performance license and the use of the official script.

Conclusion: Why the Dream Girls Broadway Official Script Endures

The **Dream Girls Broadway Official Script**is far more than a collection of words. It is a living document that captures the heartbreak, triumph, and soul of a landmark musical. For performers, it offers a roadmap to some of the most challenging and rewarding roles in theatre. For audiences, the script provides a window into the creative genius of Tom Eyen and Henry Krieger. Whether you are studying it for a class, preparing

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