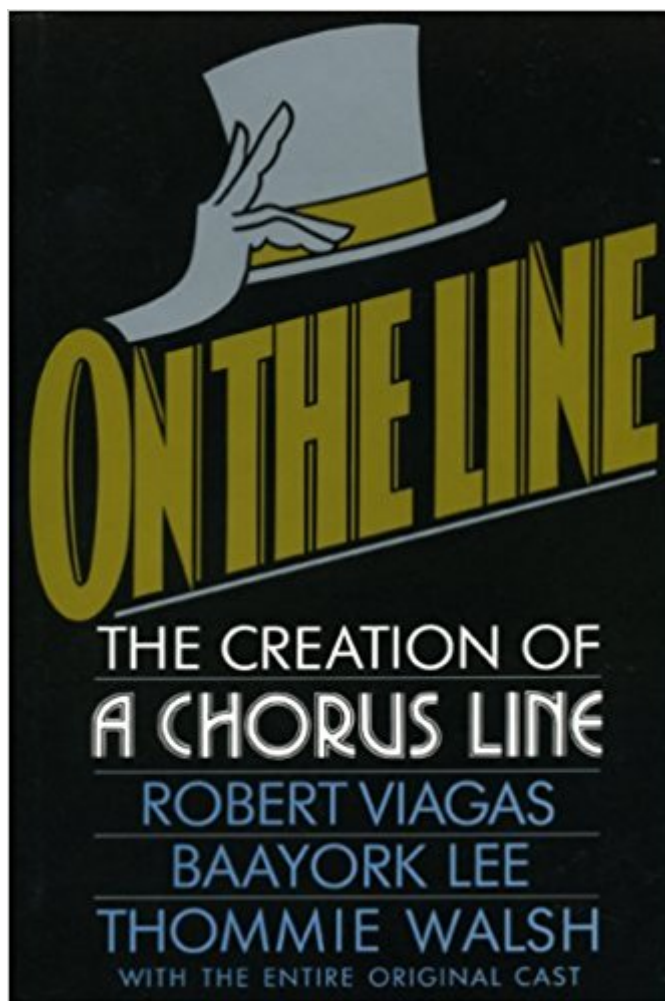


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# On The Line: The Creation Of A Chorus Line



## Synopsis

(Limelight). A Chorus Line , the biggest Broadway hit of its generation, is returning to Times Square in a major fall 2006 revival. The show is based on a remarkable series of taped discussions made in the mid 1970s with some of the top "gypsies" (veteran Broadway dancers), many of whom went on to play characters based on themselves in the Tony- and Pulitzer-winning musical. In many ways, On the Line: The Creation of "A Chorus Line" is a continuation of the show itself. In this collective oral history, the 19 original cast members tell how they got involved with the project, how they labored through the months of workshops that shaped it, and what its success has meant for their lives and careers. They paint intimate and frank portraits of co-creators Michael Bennett, Joseph Papp, Ed Kleban and each other. Originally published in 1990, the book has been updated to continue telling their stories over the past 16 years. Wayne Cilento ("I Can Do That") has become a Tony-winning choreographer of shows like Wicked and Aida ; Kelly Bishop ("Can the adults smoke?") has become a TV star; Trish Garland has become a California fitness guru, and so forth. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Based primarily on interviews with the original 19 dancers whose stories provided the plot of A Chorus Line, Viagas, with cast members Thommie Walsh and Baayork Lee, recounts the history of the show. The book's narrow focus works both for and against it; while the dancers were an integral part of the creative process and therefore reliable and inexhaustible sources, the minutiae of

relationships and the somewhat similar background stories become monotonous. One also misses input from producers, writers, and other creative members of the team. This is the fourth book in recent months to deal with the show; for the complete story, read it along with Denny Flinn's *What They Did for Love* and Ken Mandelbaum's *A Chorus Line and the Musicals of Michael Bennett* (both LJ 6/15/89). For exhaustive theater collections and diehard Chorus Line fans.- Eric W. Johnson, Univ. of Bridgeport Lib., Ct. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This book is more than a little self-serving and written in a style that is now dated. Full disclosure one of the authors, Thommie Walsh was a friend of mine, and I still wasn't impressed. I never got all the way thru. Clearly the authors know the full and accurate story and that's worth knowing. But they seem to think that they changed the world of theater and I'm not so certain of that. God Bless You Thommie.

This is an amazing story and one that anyone in commercial theater should read. The rating is because of the ABSOLUTELY AWFUL KINDLE VERSION. I believe they scan books to get electronic versions. Apparently no one goes back and proof reads. There are so many word mistakes there are times you have to re-read many times to figure out what the author is actually saying. Terrible. This is one time I would say dump this edition and BUY THE ACTUAL BOOK!

I couldn't put this book down. Anyone with the slightest interest in this show or even in theatre should pick this up. It is amazing what some of these performers would do for and to work with Bennett. To the point of clouding their judgement and making a few very big, financial, mistakes. I thought this book would be very one sided, and to a degree it is, but not as much as I thought even with the story being told from the perspective of the dancers. There are other books that talk about the process of bringing *A Chorus Line* to the stage, and books that mention it in passing where Bennett is discussed, but none are this in depth. As a person who loves and works in the NY theatre community, it left me wondering if I would have put up with what these people did to be in a show.

Viagas, Lee and Walsh, together with the rest of the original cast have made an insightful book which documents the life of this great musical. Filled with remembrances by the cast and with a good collection of photographs by several photographers their book is a treasure chest of facts and memories of Broadway's "Singular Sensation". It is nice to know that author Baayork Lee continues her association with the show after twenty five years, still directing companies of the show and now

opening up a website dedicated to the show... I only hope that some day they will provide an updated version concluding with the gala final performance.

It's amazing to learn how ACL got its start, to hear the dancers' stories, to learn a bit how Broadway works! This is well written and flows easily from beginning to end.

I really enjoyed this book. I have been a huge fan of this musical since I first saw it in New York when I was 20 years old. However, I have to say that I have never read a book with so many typos. It seemed that almost every page had misspellings. Did anybody proof read this? Other than that, it was very good.

For lovers of A Chorus Line, this is a must. Tells the story before the Broadway revival. Very interesting and readable.

Fascinating :)

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