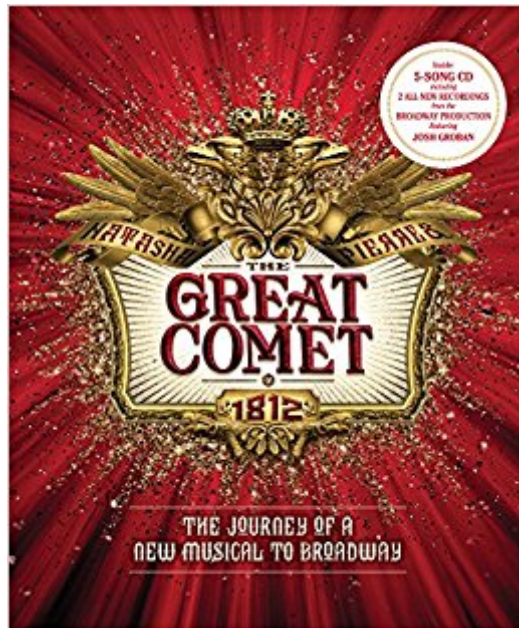




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# The Great Comet: The Journey Of A New Musical To Broadway



## Synopsis

A behind-the-scenes look at the making of an award-winning musical! Here is the official, fascinating, behind-the-scenes journey of the new musical *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*, from its inception, to Off-Off Broadway, to Off-Broadway, to its premiere at the Imperial Theatre on Broadway. The musical is based on a dramatic 70-page slice of Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. Profusely illustrated, the book also includes an annotated script and a special CD with three songs from the Off-Broadway production and two all-new recordings for the Broadway production featuring Josh Groban with a 25-piece orchestra.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

STEVEN SUSKIN has written 15 books about theater and music, including *Show Tunes* (Oxford University Press), *The Sound of Broadway Music* (Oxford University Press), *Opening Night on Broadway* (Schirmer), and *The Book of Mormon: The Testament of a Broadway Musical* (HarperCollins). He has written hundreds of reviews, liner notes, and columns for such outlets as *Playbill*, *Variety*, and the *Huffington Post*. On the other side of the footlights, he has served as producer and/or manager of dozens of plays and musicals. He lives with his wife, Helen, and children Johanna and Charlie in Manhattan. DAVE MALLOY is a composer, writer, performer, sound designer, and orchestrator. He has written 11 musicals, including *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*; other shows include *Ghost Quartet*, *Preludes*, *Three Pianos*, *Black Wizard/Blue Wizard*, *Beowulf*, *A Thousand Years of Baggage*, *Beardo*, *Sandwich*, *Clown Bible*, and *(The 99-cent) Miss Saigon*. He has won two Obie Awards, the Richard Rodgers Award,

an ASCAP New Horizons Award, and a Jonathan Larson Grant, and has been a MacDowell fellow, composer-in-residence at Ars Nova, and guest professor in music theater at Princeton University and Vassar College. Future projects include adaptations of Moby-Dick and Shakespeare's *Henriad*. He lives in Brooklyn, NY.

As a big fan of both Josh Groban and classic Russian novels, I was really intrigued when I learned that he would be starring in this Broadway musical. Then I was really sad that I can't go see it. But this book is an excellent consolation prize. This is a large hardback book. The slipcover is pressure embossed, and the actual cover has a glossy picture surrounded by gold trim. It's really high quality and beautiful. Almost every page has at least one color picture, and there are plenty of pictures that take up the entire page. The focus and lighting on all the photographs is excellent. To my slight disappointment, there aren't any photos of Josh actually performing. But there are lots of very nice publicity stills with him dressed up as Pierre. I particularly like the ones where he's posing with his co-star, Denee Benton, who plays Natasha. They really capture the tenderness that exists between these two characters in the show. The book also contains a history of the show's development, interviews with all the major people involved, and a complete transcript of the show. The transcript is probably my favorite part, since it allows me read the full story. And I really enjoyed the annotations provided by Dave Malloy, the show's writer, which give a lot of insight into the process he went through while translating *War and Peace* into a musical. The five songs that you get on the bonus CD are: Dust and Ashes (Josh Groban) Charming (Original Cast Recording) Sonya Alone (Original Cast Recording) Balaga (Original Cast Recording) The Great Comet of 1812 (Josh Groban) For me, Dust and Ashes is the standout track. It's an amazing song that starts with despair, moves to anger, and eventually reaches a desperate longing for something better. But the other songs are good, and continue to grow on me. My one complaint is that the bonus CD, which comes in a slipcase attached to the inside cover of the book, is really difficult to slide in and out. Eventually, I hope that a commercial DVD will be released, like they did with Josh's performance in *Chess*. Until then, this book provides a really detailed look at the show.

Beautiful in all aspects you can imagine and for a great price! Along the same lines as the *Hamiltome*. Beautiful paper and glossy pages with lyric anecdotes. And with a CD of 5 great songs to boot to hold you over until the complete cast recording comes out. Dust and Ashes and Sonya Alone are just brilliant. Sonya sounds like Joni Mitchell. I haven't read the text yet, but even if that

isn't great, all the rest of it is and well worth the price.

Having seen this remarkable creation twice prior to its move to Broadway and with tickets again in April, I can only say this is a beautifully crafted and produced keepsake! Happy to have it for years to come.

This book is amazing there is so much detail and it's beautiful.

I was recently introduced to this wonderful production by one of my friends and upon listening to the amazing cast album, I fell in love. I will sadly not be able to see this wonderful musical before it closes, so I thought it's be a good idea to get this book. I would recommend this to anyone who has seen the show, is interested in it, or simply has a love for theater. My favorite section of the book was the annotated script, which gave me a good laugh!

I saw the show which unfortunately is closing. This book gives the reader a small taste of the sumptuous sets and costumes. Great photos.

Actually, I have not yet read it, but only thumbed through to see the pictures, which are fantastic. I look forward to reliving the live show as best as I can. It was a great experience and it will be fun to go through the libretto and look back at its history.

This is a wonderful book with included 5 songs with details and memories from this wonderful show.

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