

In America the musical was renewed during the 1920s and early 1930s. Lyricist **Oscar Hammerstein II** (1895-1960) and composer **Jerome Kern** (1885-1945) created the musical *Show Boat* (1927). Later, the collaboration between librettist Oscar Hammerstein II and composer Richard Rodgers launched light-hearted musicals, most notably the love story *Oklahoma!* (1943) which was successfully performed until the 1960s, and *The Sound of Music* (1959) which was made into a movie by Robert Nize in 1965.

Oklahoma! is based on Lynn Riggs' 1931 play, *Green Grow the Lilacs*. It takes place in Oklahoma Territory in 1906 and it tells the stories of cowboy Curly McLain and his romance with farm girl Laurey Williams and cowboy Will Parker and his flirtatious fiancée, Ado Annie. *Oklahoma!* had been an immediate success since the opening of the production on March 31, 1943 and ran for an record period of time: 2,243 performances. Its film adaptation was also awarded of the Academy in 1955. Inspired to the previous musical *Show Boat*, it exemplified the development of the "book musical": a musical play where the songs and dances are fully integrated into a well-made story which mixes dramatic moments with laughters.

Best Music, Scoring of a Musical Picture (for Robert Russell Bennett, Jay Blackton, and Adolph Deutsch) and Best Sound