

The Renaissance

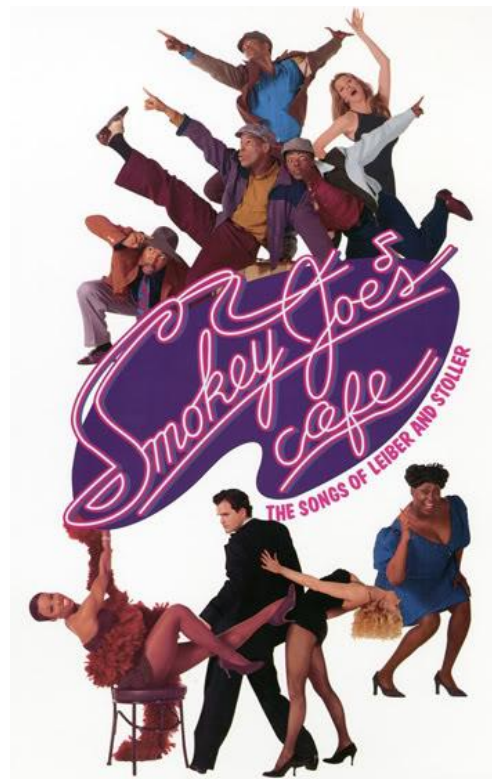
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Smokey Joe's Cafe October 29, 2009 7:00 PM

Smokey Joe's Café is a theatrical musical revue showcasing 39 pop standards, including both Rock and Roll and Rhythm and Blues songs written by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller.

Smokey Joe's Café Facts & Trivia

- It was nominated for seven Tony Awards and the original Broadway cast soundtrack won a Grammy Award in 1995.
- The show debuted in Los Angeles in 1994. On March 2, 1995, the show opened on Broadway at the Virginia Theatre.
- The New York Production was closed on January 16, 2000 after 2,036 performances. *Smokey Joe's Café* is the longest running musical revue in Broadway history.
- The final performance was filmed and released on DVD in 2001.
- This musical is still being produced by professional and amateur companies around the world.
- Throughout its run, the cast included special appearances by a variety of popular recording artists: Gladys Knight, Gloria Gaynor and Rick Springfield, to name a few.
- There is no plot to speak of, just nine amazingly powerful performers singing the glories of the 50s in America.



What is a Revue?

A **revue** is a type of multi-act popular theatrical entertainment that combines music, dance and sketches. The revue has its roots in nineteenth-century American popular entertainment and melodrama, but grew into a substantial cultural presence of its own during its golden years (1916-1932).

Jerome “Jerry” Leiber was born on April 25, 1933. **Mike Stoller** was born on March 13, 1933. Together, they are among the most influential American songwriters and music producers in post-World War II popular music.

Their first successes were as the writers of such crossover hit songs as “Hound Dog” and “Kansas City”. Later in the 1950s, particularly through their work with The Coasters, they created a string of ground-breaking hits that are some of the most entertaining in rock and roll, by using the humorous vernacular of the teenagers sung in a style that was openly theatrical rather than personal - songs that include "Young Blood", “Searchin’”, and “Yakety Yak”. They were the first to surround black music with elaborate production values, enhancing its emotional power with The Drifters in “There Goes My Baby” and influencing Phil Spector who worked with them on recordings of The Drifters and Ben E. King.

Leiber and Stoller went into the record business and, focusing on the "girl group" sound, released some of the greatest classics of the Brill Building period.

They wrote hits including “Love Me”, “Loving You”, “Don't” and “Jailhouse Rock”, among others for Elvis Presley. They were inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1985 and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987.

They currently live in Los Angeles.

Defining Hits by Jerry Leiber & Mike Stoller

"There Goes My Baby"
(with Ben E. King - as Benjamin Nelson,
Lover Patterson and George Treadwell)
"Hound Dog"
"Kansas City"
"Smokey Joe's Cafe"
"Yakety Yak"
"Poison Ivy"
"Charlie Brown"
"Ruby Baby"
"Stand By Me" (with Ben E. King)
"Jailhouse Rock"
"Love Potion No. 9"
"Searchin'"
"Young Blood" (with Doc Pomus)
"Is That All There Is?"
"I'm a Woman"
"Lucky Lips"
"On Broadway"
(with Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil)
"Spanish Harlem"
(Jerry Leiber and Phil Spector)



Jerry Leiber & Mike Stoller