

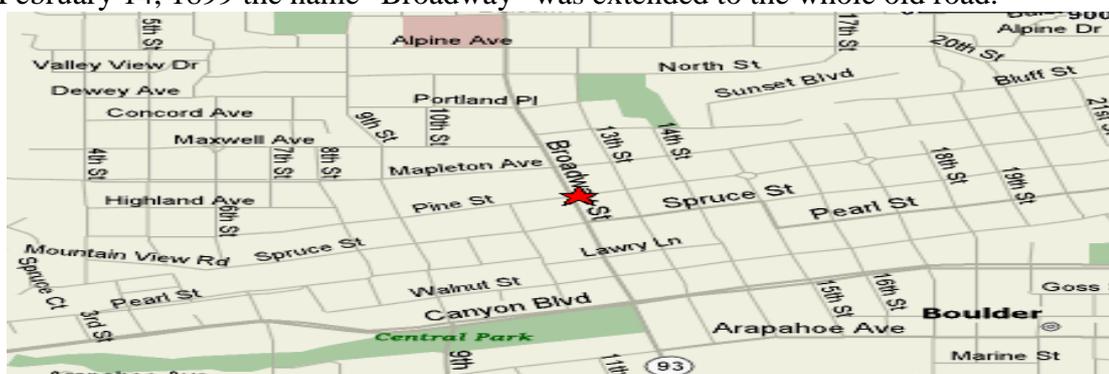
## BROADWAY IS A MUSICAL KINGDOM

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In 1840th the romanticist and esthete Edgar Allan Poe wrote in the first number of "Broadway magazine": "All know that the Broadway is – the smartest street of a New World. It is an aorta on which the best blood of our system flows. Everything that is on our continent found has passed through this street. Here the best exhibitions are arranged, here there arrive caravans from all over the world".

Broadway is a wide avenue in New York City, which runs the full length of Manhattan and continues into northern Westchester County. It is the oldest north–south main thoroughfare in the city, dating to the first New Amsterdam settlement. The name Broadway is the English literal translation of the Dutch name “Breedeweg”. Broadway was originally the Wickquasgeck Trail, carved into the brush destination of Manhattan by its Native American inhabitants. This trail originally snaked through swamps and rocks along the length of Manhattan Island. Upon the arrival of the Dutch, the trail soon became the main road through the island from Nieuw Amsterdam at the southern tip. The Dutch explorer and entrepreneur David de Vriesgaves made the first mention of it in his journal for the year 1642 ("the Wickquasgeck Road over which the Indians passed daily"). The Dutch named the road "Heerestraat". In the mid-eighteenth century, part of Broadway in what is now lower Manhattan was known as Great George Street. In the 18th century, Broadway ended at the town commons north of Wall Street, where Eastern Post Road continued through the East Side and Bloomingdale Road the west side of the island. In the late 19th century the widened and paved part of Bloomingdale Road north of Columbus Circle was called "The Boulevard" but on February 14, 1899 the name "Broadway" was extended to the whole old road.



New-York map

Broadway is not simply trunk main of New York, but also the champion of length. In this street a considerable quantity of buildings, the companies, squares are located, but the special place is occupied with theaters.

New York City is the theater center of the United States. A stretch of Broadway is famous as the pinnacle of the American theater industry. Most important new plays are produced there. The New York theater world is divided into two parts. One centenaround Broadway, which is one of the city's most important streets. Almost all the large commercial theaters are located on or near Broadway in the midtown area. Most Broadway theatergoers seem to prefer musicals and sophisticated dramas or comedies featuring one or two highly paid stars.

The other New York theater division, off-Broadway, has no definite geographic location. Off-Broadway theaters are found throughout the city in buildings once used as garages, offices, and stores. Rents are low, and there is just space enough for small audiences. Sometimes there is no raised stage. Many theater groups are active outside New York. There are professional companies in almost every major city. There are also traveling acting companies that tour throughout the country. In addition, there are nonprofessional university and community theater groups.

World famous New York City's Theater District is contained within a thin strip of Manhattan, from 53rd to 42nd streets, between 6th and 8th Aves. There are approximately 36 theaters crammed into this small area of the city, most of which host world famous productions nightly. The Theater District is an impressive cultural and entertainment center. The district features nine renowned performing arts organizations, and many smaller ones, in four venues – Jones Hall, Wortham Theater Center, Alley Theatre and Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. On The Theatre District are located, as well as many other theatres, movie theatres, restaurants, hotels and other places of entertainment. Because of a neon abundance this piece of the Broadway is called the Great White Way.

The Bayou Place which includes the Verizon Wireless Theater, a variety of restaurants and clubs and family-favorite Landry's Downtown Aquarium which is just a short walk away from the major theaters.

Theatre Row is the popular name for a section of 42nd Street in New York City which is located in Midtown Manhattan between Ninth and Eleventh Avenues. The name comes from the numerous Off- and Off-Off-Broadway theatres that line the south side of the street. Today is the location for a number of small theatres and dominated by a large complex housing six small theatres: the Beckett, the Acorn, the Clurman, the Kirk, the Lion and the Studio Theatre. It is currently home to eleven resident theatre companies: The Actors Company Theatre, Alchemy, The Clockwork Theatre, Keen Company, Living Image Arts Theater Company, The New Group, Partial Comfort Productions, Resonance Ensemble, Shakespeare NYC, South Ark Stage, and Theater Breaking Through Barriers.

The Winter Garden Theatre is a Broadway theatre located at 1634 Broadway in midtown-Manhattan. It was built by William Kissam Vanderbilt in 1896. It is the fourth New York City venue to be christened the Winter Garden, it opened on March 10, 1911. The Winter Garden is a Grade II listed building. It consists of two main parts – the Floral Hall, originally used as a skating rink in winter and concert hall in summer, and the Gold Room. Both parts are now used for performances and as Conference Venues. The Congress Suite links the Floral Hall and the Congress Theatre providing access under cover. This theater is such a great place to see a show. The venue is laid out with every seat giving patrons a great view of the action. When you're ready to enjoy New York Theater at its best, when you're ready to visit one of the Big Apple's most famous venues, your first choice has the Winter Garden Theatre.

Undoubtedly, the Broadway and midtown area is a musical kingdom. Since 1970 theaters tried to entice public new musical entertainments. Then there were first musicals. The first Broadway musicals were limited to bright vaudevillian numbers without difficult dramaturgy. In due course such performances have transformed into grandiose show which are interesting to any which excite, make laugh, surprise. Performances on the prospectus are put not only musical though they have glorified it in the XX century. The well-known Broadway scene – it simply platforms calculated on any mass representations, including quite serious dramaturgy, from Shakespeare to Chekhov. Broadway theater offers large scale productions with professional actors and (sometimes) big stars. At various times here acted: Fred Astor, Bing of Crosby, Frenk Sinatra and the European theatrical stars of level Sary Bernard. Today musicals at world famous theaters remain Broadway "mark".