

**“When it’s all said and done, we’re gonna shine like the sun.” -Dolly Parton**

At its core, *9 to 5* is the story of perseverance. It is a piece steeped in relatability, joy, and comradery, set against the backdrop of the feminist movement of the 60’s and 70’s. Its triumphant and witty score invites you to take part in the experience by becoming part of the solution and part of the story that has affected millions. This piece is a reflection of all of us.

*9 to 5* was adapted from the 1980 American Comedy film of the same name. The film was written by Colin Higgins and Patricia Resnick. Resnick remained on the team for the musical adaptation and enlisted Dolly Parton to write all the music, as she starred in the original movie and wrote the iconic theme song. The original concept for the movie (and the name of the film) came from a women’s labor group in the 1970’s, dedicated to “sharing their problems with pay, promotions, and the ‘pink-collar ghetto.’”

This musical sheds a light into the struggles women face in the workplace. After World War II, the number of women in the workforce vastly increased. This also shed light on the blatant inequalities between female and male workers. Topics included everything from wage differences to availability of benefits. The feminist movement was also ablaze during this time, sparking conversation about the treatment of workers and the value of women.

Choosing to adapt this film into a musical not only helps to expose the original source material to a new audience, but it also brings a new attitude to the theatre world. We are seeing more positive female role models and well-rounded stories onstage, and we are also seeing a massive increase in female writers, directors, and designers offstage. Additionally, the 21st century has brought about a new revolution of female workers demanding what they are worth. We have seen a massive uptick in female leaders across every industry. This show gives the world a chance to celebrate how far we have come, but also reflect on how far we have to go.

As you take part in this experience, I urge you to engage with the joy and struggle of this piece. Let the unwavering perseverance of these characters affect you and inspire you to find your own sense of power and potential. Watch as all of these characters find their voice and demand what they are worth. They are all working as hard as possible to “shine like the sun” and nothing will stop them from succeeding.

-Madison Mintzer