***Trajectory of the Female Character***

**Created by Magdalena Schutzler**

**Source Material:** ​http://www.pbs.org/wnet/broadway/timelines/1943-1959/

***Oklahoma* (1943)**

* Laurey (soprano) – confused about Curley, always waiting for him to make the 1st move. Too innocent to see accepting Jud’s invite spells trouble.
* Ado Annie (soprano) – flirtatious, cannot resist any man, particularly if she sees prospect of a wedding ring
* Aunt Eller (mezzo) – fun-loving caretaker who watches over town and the ranch with her niece Laurey. Sees the good in all.

***On The Town* (1944)**

* Clair (soprano) – anthropologist who can’t control her impulses; engaged in the study of man to learn control; engaged to a Judge, but falls in love with Ozzie
* Hildy (mezzo) – cab driver desperate for a man; tries to seduce Chip most of the show; soft side; comedic
* Ivy (mezzo) – “Miss Turnstiles”; innocent but conniving; romantic at heart; falls in love with Gabey

***Carousel* (1945)**

* Julie Jordan (soprano) – a millworker, in love with Billy; shy, but headstrong young woman
* Carrie Pipperidge (soprano) – a millworker, friend of Julie, in love with Enoch; a more “conventional” young woman
* Nettie Fowler (mezzo) –Julie’s cousin, owner of a small seaside spa; somewhat older and wiser, runs the local eating establishment

***Annie Get Your Gun* (1946)**

* Annie Oakley (mezzo) – Backwoods woman; incredible talent as a markswoman; immediately falls head over heels for Frank; happy and endearing; not very lady-like
* Winnie Tate (soprano) – Dolly’s 17 year old sister; Tommy wants to marry her as soon she turns 18

***Kiss Me Kate* (1948)**

* Lilli Vanessi (mezzo) – actress of stage and screen; proud, haughty, vulnerable
* Lois Lane (mezzo) – actress, the quintessential airhead ingénue with charisma and charm

***South Pacific*  (1949)**

* Nellie Forbush (mezzo) – a spirited, young nurse; optimistic and tomboyish; falls in love with Emile, but fights against her own prejudice as the relationship develops
* Bloody Mary (mezzo) – a sassy, native merchant who makes her living selling souvenirs to the American sailors; Desperate to find a rich husband for her daughter, Liat so that she has a better life.

***Guys and Dolls* (1950)**

* Sarah Brown (alto) – idealistic, sheltered, and straightlaced, passionate about her cause and dreams of converting the gambling sinners into saints. Unexpectedly falls in love with Sky Masterson.
* Miss Adelaide (contralto) – Nathan Detroit’s fiancé; lead performer at the Hot Box nightclub; loves Nathan more than anything in the world and desperately wants to get married. Outspoken and stubborn.

***The King and I* (1951)**

* Anna Leonowens – (soprano) English schoolteacher; widow; intelligent, poised, strong-willed, cultured; patient, polite but firm
* Tuptim (soprano) – teenager from Burma sent as a slave to the palace. Speaks English, reads well; determined and a risk taker.
* Lady Thiang (mezzo) – the King’s head wife and mother of Prince Chulalongkorn; dignified, humble, dependable, efficient

***The Pajama Game* (1954)**

* Babe Williams (mezzo) – The leader of the Union Grievance Committee, falls in love with Sid against her own will (at first). Strong, feisty, stubborn, and full of pride but still charming and sensitive.
* Gladys Hotchkiss (alto) – Penchant for nights out on the town, along with her sexy demeanor, often lands her in hot water with men.

***My Fair Lady* (1956)**

* Eliza Doolittle (soprano)—Cockney flower girl who works outside Covent Garden; strong-willed.

***The Music Man* (1957)**

* Marian Paroo (soprano) – stuffy, conceited librarian and piano teacher; very learned and defends the “questionable” books in the library. Dislikes Harold Hill at first, but grows to love him.
* Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn (alto) –Mayor Shinn’s wife; society lady; struts about like a peacock and snooty.
* Mrs. Paroo (mezzo) – widowed Irish mother to Marian and Winthrop; sweet, cheerful homemaker who wants the best for everyone.

***Flower Drum Song* (1958)**

* Madam Liang – motherly, understanding, makes a great effort to assimilate; Chinese American talent agent; opportunist
* Mei Li (soprano) – bewildered at first; new immigrant from China; patient, quiet, endearing, falls in love quickly
* Linda Low – loves Sammy and her fights with him; Chinese American showgirl; aspiring actress

***The Sound of Music* (1959)**

* Maria (soprano) – postulant at Nonnberg Abbey; young, free-spirited, warm, gentle, kind, and determined
* Elsa (mezzo) – baroness of taste and elegance; sophisticated, dignified, mature
* Liesl Von Trapp (mezzo) – the oldest child; blossoming into a young lady with an interest in boys; cares deeply for her younger siblings

***Gypsy* (1959)**

* Mama Rose (mezzo) –the ultimate stage mother; aggressive and domineering, pushing her children to perform
* Lousie (mezzo) – shy and loyal; at Mama’s prodding, becomes the famous stripper Gypsy Rose Lee
* June (alto) – pretty, talented, and frustrated with Mama’s domination

***Bye Bye Birdie* (1960)**

* Kim MacAfee (soprano) – 15-year-old, self-absorbed teen-aged girl who considers herself more mature than her “Conrad-Crazy” friends
* Rosie Alvarez (mezzo) – Albert’s secretary and wannabe fiancé; fed up with waiting for him to propose; vivacious and fiery

***A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (1962)**

* Domina (mezzo)—A shrewish woman who dominates to the point of answering her own questions. Loves her husband, but is outwardly controlling, demanding, and manipulative.
* Philia (soprano) – A virgin in the House of Lycus; is promised to Miles and vows to give him (bodily) what he has paid for, but loves Hero and promises him her heart. Young, pretty, devoted.

***She Loves Me* (1963)**

* Amalia (soprano) – eager new employee; despite being skilled at her job, is intimidated and nervous; attractive, bright, and a lover of literature
* Ilona (mezzo) – sexy and learned in the game of love; longing for something more, something full of romance

***Fiddler on the Roof* (1964)**

* Tzeitel (mezzo) – the first daughter to marry and first to challenge traditions; pleads with her father to let her marry Motel the tailor, to whom she has pledged her love rather than the older man her father wants her to marry.
* Hodel (mezzo)—strong, independent middle child; outspoken but respectful; originally interested in the Rabbi’s son, but charmed by revolutionary Perchick upon meeting him. Dedicated to love.
* Chava (mezzo) – scholarly daughter who loves to read; loves Fyedka, a Russian, which tests her father to the limit.

***Sweet Charity* (1966)**

* Charity Hope Valentine (alto/mezzo) – dancer at the Fandango ballroom; determined, fun, quirky, funny, despairing, optimistic girl.
* Helene (alto/mezzo) – dancer, friend to Charity; been around the block a bit; straight talking, feisty, confident, and street smart.