1. Record Nr. UNINA9910794509003321 Autore Johnson Jake <1984-> Titolo Lying in the middle: musical theater and belief at the heart of America // Jake Johnson [[electronic resource]] Pubbl/distr/stampa Urbana:,: University of Illinois Press,, [2021] ©2021 **ISBN** 0-252-05285-4 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (149 pages) Collana Music in American life Illinois scholarship online Disciplina 782.14083 Soggetti Musicals - United States - History and criticism Musicals - Middle West - History and criticism Musicals - Social aspects - Middle West Musicals - Oklahoma - Oklahoma City - History and criticism Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Also issued in print: 2021. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Cover -- Title -- Copyright -- Contents -- A Brief History of This Book Nota di contenuto -- 1 Stories Out of Place -- 2 Re-Placing the American Musical -- 3 Fundamentalism, Produced -- 4 Biblically Accurate -- 5 Everything Old Is New Again -- 6 Mezza Voce -- 7 The Afterlives of Truth and Musicals -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index -- Back cover. Sommario/riassunto The local and regional shows staged throughout America use musical theater's inherent power of deception to cultivate worldviews opposed to mainstream ideas. Jake Johnson reveals how musical theater between the coasts inhabits the middle spaces between professional and amateur, urban and rural, fact and fiction, fantasy and reality, and truth and falsehood. The homegrown musical provides a space to engage belief and religion - imagining a better world while creating opportunities to expand what is possible in the current one. Whether it is the Oklahoma Senior Follies or a Mormon splinter group's production of 'The Sound of Music', such productions give people a chance to jolt themselves out of today's post-truth malaise and move toward a world more in line with their desires for justice, reconciliation, and

community.