

# Mississippi the Musical Timeline

**2001** After being downtown on 9/11 and a friend was murdered in East Hampton the next month ( October 2001 ) I wrote the song Moses & Hattie which detailed the murder scene in what was to become Mississippi the Musical.

**2002** After writing the songs Oh Justine and By The Blues ( songs with characters from Moses & Hattie ) I realized I was writing another musical. Wrote first draft of the book and approximately another 10 songs. Met with Sir Shadow on the Bowery who drew the Mississippi artwork.

**2003** First reading at 49 Bond Street in NoHo. Enthusiastic response from all including Tony winner John Lloyd Young.

Wrote more songs for the musical I called By The Blues. Began recording songs and underscoring in New York City and Nashville, TN.

**2004** Second reading at 49 Bond Street. Wrote more of the book and music. Changed the name of the show from By The Blues to Mississippi. Recorded tracks in Nashville and vocals with legendary producer Rob Galbraith in New York City.

**2005** Third NYC table reading in rehearsal space on Broadway with enthusiastic response from all. Recorded more of the score in both New York and Nashville.

**2006** Refined the book. Moved from NYC to California.

**2007** First table reading in Holly Springs Mississippi with Rust College students. Professor Scott Barretta ( THE guy for blues/roots music at the University of Mississippi ) attended.

**2008** Second table reading in Holly Springs Mississippi with Rust College students. Again Scott attended.

**2009** Scott Barretta introduced the show to Ole Miss professor Rory Ledbetter who decided to stage a table read at Ole Miss with student actors. That went so well Rory decided to direct a stage reading. A few months later a stage reading with live mixed race audience was held at Ole Miss. Standing O

**2010** I approached a theater in Laguna Beach California and was told it would cost me \$200,000 to stage Mississippi for two weekends. Not in my budget.

I continued to edit the book. Recorded bluesman David Kimbrough, Jr and gospel diva Annie Moffitt in Como Mississippi. Also recorded Musician's Hall of Fame keyboardist Clayton Ivey and former Allman Brothers Band guitarist Jack Pearson playing some of the Underscoring.

**2016** Rewrote much of the book and worked in the studio refining tracks. Renewed interest in the show from NYC theater folks.

**2018** Noreen Crayton helps promote Mississippi and enlists Jeannine Otis ( Musical Director St Mark's In-the-Bowery ) to stage a table reading.

**2019** Reading at Black Box...February 24<sup>th</sup>.