

## **42nd Street** 42<sup>ND</sup> STREET

- MUSIC: Harry Warren
- LYRICS: Al Dubin
- TYPE: Musical theatre with jazz influence
- YEAR: 1932
- CHARACTER: Peggy Sawyer

### SYNOPSIS:

The dance director Andy Lee, is auditioning kids for the chorus of the new production *Pretty Lady*. The other older girls can't believe how naive Peggy is and they spell out the Broadway facts of life for her, they advise her how to get a job in a chorus. Peggy gets an audition when Andy comes by, but ends abruptly when Julian the director runs into them and orders the kids back into rehearsal. But he likes Peggy's talent and tells Andy they need an extra girl. She's hired on the spot and sent backstage. The girl is good, very good

Julian the director is not that sure about the show, admitting Wall Street got him and he needs a hit badly. He has qualms about the cast and especially Dorothy Brock the leading lady. She's been over the hill for 10 years, but her sugar daddy, Abner Dillon, will invest \$100,000, providing she stars.

At a rehearsal the dancers come on stage and Peggy accidentally knocks Dorothy down and Dorothy can't get up. Enraged, Julian fires Peggy and informs the audience that the rest of the performance is cancelled. Backstage, a doctor tells Julian that Dorothy has a broken ankle. A replacement is needed and Peggy would be great. He buys the idea but Peggy has already left. It's up to him to get her back. He races to the station, Julian pleads that only she can save them all. Soon the entire company shows up, and they talk her into staying on (*Lullaby of Broadway*).

Back in New York, at the 42nd Street Theatre *Pretty Lady* must open in exactly 36 hours. All Peggy has to learn: 25 pages, six songs and 10 dance routines. The rehearsals are frantic. Peggy is overwhelmed, discouraged, too bone-weary to care. Julian keeps her at it, pushing, pushing, pushing. **The Broadway curtain comes up on *Pretty Lady*. Peggy, totally drained, tells Julian she can't continue, can't remember another lyric. He pushes just once more, stressing how great she will be and he orders her to go (42nd Street).** The show is a smash. Miss Peggy Sawyer is an overnight sensation - a star.