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What Are the Hills Really Alive With?: Spectacle versus Narrative Driven Musical Theatre

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What Are the Hills Really Alive With?

Spectacle versus Narrative
Driven Musical Theatre

Spectacle and Narrative

- Spectacle: something exhibited to view as unusual, notable, or entertaining; *especially* : an eye-catching or dramatic public display
- Narrative: the representation in art of an event or story

Spectacle and Narrative

Spectacle

- Dance
- Large Chorus
- Stage Effects

Narrative

- Plot
- Character Development
- Character Driven Artistic Decisions

Spectacle and Narrative



Spectacle



Narrative

Spectacle and Narrative



Tale As Old As Time

- Uncle Tom's Cabin
- The Black Crook

Tale As Old As Time

- Uncle Tom's Cabin
 - Used music in three ways
 - 1 Hymns
 - 2 Incidental music
 - 3 New songs

Tale As Old As Time

- The Black Crook
 - First Broadway Hit
 - 1 Songs
 - 2 Dancers in tights
 - 3 Scenic effects

Music of Today

- Cats by Andrew Lloyd-Webber
- Passion by Stephen Sondheim

Music of Today

- Cats
 - Little plot
 - Large Chorus
 - Big dance numbers
 - Catchy music

Music of Today

- Passion
 - Complex plot
 - Small cast
 - No dance
 - Complicated melodies

Conclusion