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Original News and Reviews From Andy Propst

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CDs/DVD: Notes on Some Feb. 3 Releases [updated 2/6/09]

By Andy Propst on Feb 6, 2009 | In [ATW Reviews](#) | [Send feedback >](#)

Today, a host of new items of interest to theater fans hit store shelves. I've had a chance to preview most of them, so here are some brief thoughts.

Rent: Filmed Live on Broadway - the final performance of Jonathan Larson's multi-award winning show was captured in HD and subsequently show in movie theaters around the country. As you might imagine, it looks good and sounds great on disc and depending on which version you buy (DVD or Blu-Ray from **Sony Pictures**), the recorded show comes with a host of bonus features. I've spun through the ones that come on the DVD and admit to having a penchant for watching the folks as they wait on line for the ticket lottery on the show's last day. There's something about the teens and then the young adults, who've literally grown up with the show, talk about the musical that gets to me. Also, the mini-documentary about "The Final Days on Broadway" is quite satisfying.

Another Broadway performance that's been captured (sort of) is from **Hybrid Recordings**. It's **Liza's at the Palace...**, a two-disc set that preserves the songs that Minnelli performed during her limited engagement at Broadway's Palace Theatre over the holidays. The legendary performer sounds even better on these studio recordings than she did in the theater. The diction on "If You Hadn't, But You Did," a little blurry when heard live and amplified, is perfect here. Similarly, the strain of singing the full-two act piece in one night, which crept in during the second half of the show, when Minnelli pays tribute to godmother Kay Thompson, is completely absent. For those who managed to see the show, these discs will be a terrific keepsake, and for those who were unable to see Minnelli, the discs will only make them even sorer that they didn't.

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