



Music in the Shadows: Noir Musical Films

By Sheri Chinen Biesen

Johns Hopkins University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Music in the Shadows: Noir Musical Films, Sheri Chinen Biesen, Smoke. Shadows. Moody strains of jazz. Welcome to the world of "noir musical" films, where tormented antiheroes and hard-boiled musicians battle obsession and struggle with their music and ill-fated love triangles. Sultry divas dance and sing the blues in shrouded nightclubs. Romantic intrigue clashes with backstage careers. In her pioneering study, *Music in the Shadows*, film noir expert Sheri Chinen Biesen explores musical films that use film noir style and bluesy strains of jazz to inhabit a disturbing underworld and reveal the dark side of fame and the American Dream. While noir musical films like *A Star Is Born* include musical performances, their bleak tone and expressionistic aesthetic more closely resemble the visual style of film noir. Their narratives unfold behind a stark noir lens: distorted, erratic angles and imbalanced hand-held shots allow the audience to experience a tortured, disillusioned perspective. While many musicals glamorize the quest for the spotlight in Hollywood's star factory, brooding noir musical films such as *Blues in the Night*, *Gilda*, *The Red Shoes*, *West Side Story*, and *Round Midnight* stretch the boundaries of film noir...

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