



Direct from a sold-out extended run at the Kennedy Center, *Ragtime* the musical returned to Broadway in a new production. Here's what the critics had to say:

David Rooney, Variety: "No word has been more bandied about in American life the past two years than change. And no show investigates the nuances of that word as it relates to the American Dream -- conveying hope, opportunity and success, but also the ugly flipside of pain, division, confusion and violence -- more masterfully than "Ragtime." The 1997 musical not only feels trenchant and timely, but its multistrand story is delivered with fresh clarity and emotional immediacy in director-choreographer Marcia Milgrom Dodge's elegant revival, transferring to Broadway from D.C.'s Kennedy Center, where it originated in April. This is big-brain, bold-strokes musical-theater storytelling at its most vibrant."

Ben Brantley, The New York Times: "Marcia Milgrom Dodge's appealingly modest new interpretation . . . often finds within this work's panoramic sweep an affecting, uneasy human soul largely missing in the 1998 version. Ms. Dodge... makes it clear that "Ragtime" never needed all that decorative baggage to tell its stories of three families of different ethnic and economic strata. Ms. Dodge's production . . . elicits glimmers of delicate beauty that got lost in the fireworks the first time around."

Richard Ouzounian, The Toronto Star: "Director/choreographer Marcia Milgrom Dodge has managed to stage the work in a way that gives it every bit of the splendour it originally possessed, but with a new fluidity and spaciousness that lets it acquire even more power."

Joe Dziemianowicz, NY Daily News: It hasn't even been a decade since the first production of the show left town. Did Broadway need another "Ragtime"? Seems premature. But it's hard to argue with a revival as surefooted as Marcia Milgrom Dodge's strikingly staged and vividly performed redo."

Michael Kuchwara, Associated Press: "It also sets the bar very high for what is to follow at Broadway's Neil Simon Theatre, where a respectful, recalibrated revival of the musical opened Sunday. If nothing else quite reaches that joyous proclamation of theatricality, so be it."

Elysa Gardner, USA Today: "But those who plan to see the theatrical version, now in revival (***/2 out of four) at the Neil Simon Theatre, are advised to put away their thinking caps and bring their hankies. In this new Kennedy Center-based production, which opened Sunday, those assets are exploited by a supple cast under Marcia Milgrom Dodge's vibrant direction."

Frank Scheck, The Hollywood Reporter: " Director-choreographer Marcia Milgrom Dodge's presentational-style staging, performed on a multilevel scaffold set. . . works beautifully, balancing the epic with the intimate and keeping the uncommonly large 40-member company in full view of the audience for long stretches. The ragtime flavored score is beautifully delivered, with the ensemble numbers achieving a powerful emotional resonance."

David Sheward, Backstage: "In a season full of star vehicles, the revival of "Ragtime" rides onto Broadway with nary a box-office name and steamrollers its way to the top of the heap. Marcia Milgrom Dodge's stripped-down production, transferred from a hit engagement in Washington, D.C., imparts the musical's historic sweep and its intimate story of lives caught up in the ceaseless movement of events. The original 1998 production was a vast pageant on the enormous stage of the Ford Center (later renamed the Hilton Theatre). Now, in the relatively more intimate Neil Simon Theatre, Dodge's staging focuses on the interactions of three families coping with rapid changes in the American landscape at the dawn of the 20th century."

Robert Feldberg, Bergen Record: "Watching the vivid, stirring, lovingly staged revival of "Ragtime," I had the thought, "This time they got it right." Thanks to director-choreographer Marcia Milgrom Dodge, working with inspired designers and a superb cast, "Ragtime" can take its place as a major American musical. It's particularly fitting that director Dodge, after toiling in the theater for 30 years without making it to Broadway, should achieve a breakthrough triumph with "Ragtime." Only in America."

John Simon, Bloomberg News: ""It is good to have "Ragtime" back on Broadway. "Ragtime" is nothing short of a masterpiece."