‘Losing $1 Million a Month’: Broadway’s Longest-Running Show Is Closing

After nearly 35 years of delighting audiences on Broadway, *The Phantom of the Opera* is closing. The final performance will take place on February 18, when the masked Phantom and the famed falling chandelier will make their last appearance—at least in New York.

[embedded content]

The show opened in New York in 1988 and has had the longest run in Broadway history. It was also the most profitable for decades until *The Lion King* roared into town and took that crown.

The Phantom of the Opera has earned $1.30 billion during its impressive Broadway run, according to the Broadway League, and has played an astonishing 13,733 performances with over 19 million tickets sold. Three musical theater legends created it: composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, director Hal Prince, and producer Cameron Mackintosh.

As soon as *Phantom of the Opera* hit the stage in the 1980s, fans and critics couldn’t get enough. The usually stuffy *New York Times* theater critic Frank Rich wrote:

“Only a terminal prig would let the avalanche of pre-opening publicity poison his enjoyment of this show, which usually wants nothing more than to shower the audience with fantasy and fun, and which often succeeds, at any price.”

But the show has “struggled to recover since it reopened in

October 2021 following the pandemic closure, and is losing some $1 million a month," reports The New York Post. A healthy show grosses around $3 million a week, but Phantom only brought in $800,000.

Twitter has responded with an outpouring of sadness and humor.

> *Phantom closing is sad and scary bc a lot of people who work there have been there for decades and some since the beginning in 1988. God there really is no job security in this field huh. I know they told us repeatedly but damn. I'n devastated for them.*
>
> *— Leah Nanako Winkler (@leahnanako) September 16, 2022*

> *wow! the news that phantom is closing on broadway traveled fast! pic.twitter.com/cs004juvCQ*
>
> *— Brian (@WeActuallyDidIt) September 16, 2022*

> *I don't care how many people on social media say it's true — I will NOT be the final Christine when PHANTOM closes.*
>
> *— Harvey Fierstein (@HarveyFierstein) September 16, 2022*

https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/435526