



# **Drama High: The Incredible True Story of a Brilliant Teacher, a Struggling Town, and the Magic of Theater**

*Michael Sokolove*

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***Friday Night Lights* meets *Glee*—the incredible and true story of an extraordinary drama teacher who has changed the lives of thousands of students and inspired a town.**

Why would the multimillionaire producer of *Cats*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, and *Miss Saigon* take his limo from Manhattan to the struggling former steel town of Levittown, Pennsylvania, to see a high school production of *Les Misérables*? To see the show performed by the astoundingly successful theater company at Harry S Truman High School, run by its legendary director, Lou Volpe. Broadway turns to Truman High when trying out controversial shows like *Rent* and *Spring Awakening* before they move on to high school theater programs across the nation. Volpe's students from this blue-collar town go on to become Emmy-winning producers, entertainment executives, newscasters, and community-theater founders. Michael Sokolove, a Levittown native and former student of Volpe's, chronicles the drama director's last school years and follows a group of student actors as they work through riveting dramas both on and off the stage. This is a story of an economically depressed but proud town finding hope in a gifted teacher and the magic of theater.

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