

SWEET CHARITY

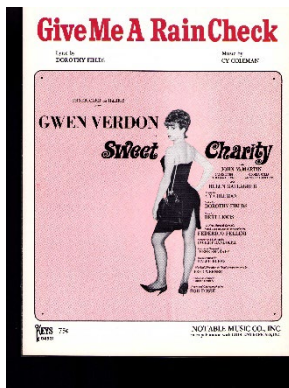
There are two versions of the sheet music for *Sweet Charity*. One states that the book was written by Bert Lewis and the other says it was written by Neil Simon. What's the story?

Sweet Charity opened on Broadway on January 29, 1966. Bob Fosse chose the story as a vehicle for his wife, the fabulous dancer, singer, and actress, Gwen Verdon. He also chose the producers; signed the songwriters (music by Cy Coleman; lyrics by Dorothy Fields); directed the show; choreographed it; and he himself wrote the book, initially, using the pseudonym, Bert Lewis (as in Robert Louis Fosse).

However, the show was not going well during the tryouts. So, Fosse fired himself as librettist and engaged Neil Simon to take it over. This made a significant difference. The show ran for 608 performances!

(Fosse, Simon, and composer Cy Coleman had earlier collaborated on the 1962 musical, *Little Me*; Fosse and lyricist Dorothy Fields had a major 1959 hit with the Verdon musical, *Redhead*.)¹

[Note that the title of the song on these two sheets differs!]



¹ [Aisle View: Sutton's Sweet \(& Funny\) Charity | HuffPost Entertainment](#) (retrieved 9/12/24)