

Musical Theatre Course

About the Course

Musical Theatre class is an exploration of the Musical Theatre genre. Students will learn about the cultural and social impact of musicals in theatre throughout history. They will receive training in acting, voice and movement for Musical Theatre. Students will create characters and stage scenes through text and song analysis . Students will prepare and present as soloists as well as members of small groups and larger ensembles. Students will prepare material for class presentation and critique. There will also be a focus on the audition process as well as musical theatre history and repertoire. The class will participate in a culminating showcase performance at the end of the year.

Course Objectives

- to strengthen vocal ability, music reading skills, movement/dance techniques, and acting
- to enlarge the performer's musical theatre knowledge and repertoire.
- to reinforce the connection between text/musical analysis and performance .
- to develop techniques for auditioning and performing
- to provide the performer with techniques to aid in their own learning
- to build performers confidence
- to further the performer's understanding of the social and cultural impact of the musical theatre art form on society and culture.
- to provide a foundation for personal and professional understanding of the arts through rehearsals, auditions, performances and presentations (both written and aural).

California VAPA Standards Addressed -

Acc.TH:Cr1.a Investigate historical and cultural conventions and their impact on the visual composition of a drama/theatre work.

Acc.TH:Cr1.b Use personal experiences and knowledge to develop a character that is believable and authentic in a drama/theatre work.

Acc.TH:Cr2.a Refine a dramatic concept to demonstrate a critical understanding of historical and cultural influences of original ideas applied to a drama/theatre in western or non-western theatre traditions.

Acc.TH:Cr2.b Cooperate as a creative team to make interpretive choices for a drama/theatre work.

Acc.TH:Cr3.a Use the rehearsal process to analyze the dramatic concept and design elements of a devised or scripted drama/theatre work.

Acc.TH:Cr3.b Use research and script analysis to revise physical, vocal, and physiological choices impacting the believability and relevance of a drama/ theatre work.

Acc.TH:Pr4.a Discover how unique choices shape believable and sustainable drama/ theatre work.

Acc.TH:Pr4.b Identify essential text information, research from various sources, and the director's concept that influence character choices in a drama/theatre work.

Acc.TH:Pr5.a Refine a range of acting skills to build a believable and sustainable drama/theatre performance.

Acc.TH:Pr5.b Apply technical theatre elements and research to create a design that communicates the concept of a drama/theatre production.

Acc.TH:Pr6 Present a drama/theatre work using creative processes that shape the production for a specific audience.

Prof.TH:Re7 Respond to what is seen, felt, and heard in a drama/theatre work to develop criteria for artistic choices.

Prof.TH:Re8.a Analyze and compare artistic choices developed from personal experiences in multiple drama/theatre works.

Prof.TH:Re8.b Identify and compare cultural contexts and contexts that may influence the evaluation of a drama/theatre work.

Prof.TH:Re8.c Understand how multiple aesthetics, preferences, and beliefs shape participation in and observation of a drama/theatre work.

Prof.TH:Re9.a Examine a drama/ theatre work using supporting evidence and criteria, while considering art forms, history, culture, and other disciplines.

Prof.TH:Re9.b Formulate a deeper understanding and appreciation of a drama/ theatre work by considering its specific purpose or intended audience.

Prof.TH:Re9.c Analyze and evaluate the aesthetics and effect of the technical theatre elements in a drama/theatre work.

Prof.TH:Cn10 Investigate how cultural contexts, community ideas, and personal beliefs impact a drama/theatre work.

Prof.TH:Cn11.1.a Explore how cultural, global, and historic belief systems affect creative choices in a drama/theatre work.

Acc.TH:Cn11.2.a Formulate creative choices for a devised or scripted drama/theatre work based on research about the selected topic.

Acc.TH:Cn11.2.b Investigate how personal beliefs and biases can affect the interpretation of research data applied in drama/theatre work.

Reference Materials

Acting in Musical Theatre: A Comprehensive Course

Drama Teacher Academy Website

Educational Theatre Association Website

Class Outline

Unit 1: Fundamentals of musical theatre

- A. acting, voice and movement.
- B. Character building through song analysis and movement.
- C. The Art of Critique & theatre etiquette

Unit 2 : Group performance - building a performance step by step from staging and use of gesture, through exploring musical phrasing and into the full rehearsal process.

Unit 3: History of Musical Theatre including culture and social themes.

- A. The Beginning
- B. The Golden Age
- C. The Modern Musical

Unit 4: Scene Performance -

Unit 5 - Solo Performance -

Unit 6 - The Audition Process & the profession

Unit 7 - The Production - putting together a showcase of solos, scenes and group numbers to be performed for an audience of family and friends.