

THEA 0018 - ACTING FOR MUSICAL THEATRE

Catalog Description

Prerequisite: Completion of MUS 10 with grade of "C" or better or permission from instructor following audition

Advisory: Completion of THEA 10A or MUS 39A with grade of "C" or better or at least one year of private vocal lessons

Hours: 72 (36 lecture, 36 activity)

Description: Requisite acting techniques to be successful in performing in a Broadway style musical. While the focus of the course is on acting, proper techniques in singing and movement will also be included.

Students will practice and perform solos and duets. Dance or heavy movement are not emphasized in this course. (CSU, UC)

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- CSLO #1: Identify and evaluate through discussion and written analysis the achievements and contributions of major Broadway musical composers and lyricists, periods and styles.
- CSLO #2: Analyze and demonstrate techniques required to successfully audition for a musical.
- CSLO #3: Observe live musical theatre performances and critically analyze acting and musical vocal technique, character development and presentation.
- CSLO #4: Access, analyze, and create a character utilizing learned practices to be an effective actor in a musical through rehearsal and performance of a solo and duet.

Effective Term

Spring 2021

Course Type

Credit - Degree-applicable

Contact Hours

72

Outside of Class Hours

90

Total Student Learning Hours

162

Course Objectives

Students will through oral, written, and physical performance:

1. Describe and practice the basic elements of blending acting technique with vocal techniques on stage utilizing stage movement, posture, voice technique, range and style
2. Identify, observe and perform the relationship between acting and singing Broadway musical vocal styles using voice and body language and character expression
3. Discuss and practice techniques required to successfully audition for a musical

4. Analyze and practice the basic steps toward creating a character in a musical, including building an acting objective, obstacle, tactic and back story
5. Practice learned techniques of creating characters and reinforce through in-class performances of musical solos and duets
6. Observe live musical theatre performances and critically analyze acting and musical vocal technique, character development and presentation.

General Education Information

- Approved College Associate Degree GE Applicability
 - AA/AS - Fine Arts
- CSU GE Applicability (Recommended-requires CSU approval)
- Cal-GETC Applicability (Recommended - Requires External Approval)
- IGETC Applicability (Recommended-requires CSU/UC approval)

Articulation Information

- CSU Transferable
- UC Transferable

Methods of Evaluation

- Reports
 - Example: Students will be assigned to see two live musical theatre shows and be expected to write a paper comparing and contrasting one performance from each show. Students will be evaluated on ability to analyze strengths and weaknesses of performer(s) technique and approach toward acting within the songs. Was the style appropriate? Did movement, posture, gestures support character given your knowledge of the show? If not, why? If so, why? Was singing technique in appropriate style? Was it supported properly with tone and breath support? How did acting and singing support one another?
- Skill Demonstrations
 - Example: For their final, students will be evaluated on duet performances via established rubric. Criteria will include: 1. Character and Research Understanding; 2. Volume and Diction; 3. Breathing and Tonality; 4. Movement and Presence; 5. Total effect of performance

Repeatable

No

Methods of Instruction

- Activity
- Lecture/Discussion
- Distance Learning

Activity:

1. Instructor will demonstrate ineffective approaches to taking stage, approaching accompanist, working with sheet music, and introducing audition song and character (slating). Students will be asked to identify what was ineffective and why and offer more effective suggestions toward each of those steps. Instructor will then hand out industry standard audition approaches when auditioning for a musical and students will each practice the appropriate steps in front of the class for peer and instructor feedback.

Lecture:

1. Instructor will present video examples of two separate performers doing the same song from the same Broadway musical. Instructor will prompt students given recent lectures on effective means of creating character choices using appropriate technique and style within a song as opposed to singing concert style. Students will be asked to write 3 examples of effective acting demonstrated in one video example and 3 aspects identified in the other sample that could use improvement and why. What would they do differently to improve? This written exercise will be followed by a class discussion on what they identified, wrote down and why.

- Author: David Sisco and Laura Josepher
- Publisher: Contemporary Musical Theatre Corp.
- Publication Date: 2017
- Text Edition: 1st
- Classic Textbook?: No
- OER Link:
- OER:

Typical Out of Class Assignments Reading Assignments

1. In Acting the Song, read over section on Singing terminology and come prepared to discuss your vocal range, character type and bring two examples of songs from Broadway musicals that support those choices for discussion.
2. Read unit on "theatricality" in Acting in Musical Theatre and come prepared to discuss differences between singing a song and acting a song onstage with particular emphasis on expression.

Writing, Problem Solving or Performance

1. Performance: Students will work with instructor to select a solo from a Broadway style musical. Student will need to do show research and character work, as well as acquire sheet music and accompaniment of song to rehearse outside of class. Student will have opportunities in class to work song for feedback and will perform for midterm grade memorized and well-rehearsed incorporating instructor and class feedback suggestions when appropriate.
2. Writing: Students will be assigned to write journal entries on setting goals, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and observing the growth of both their own individual performances and that of their classmates. Students will receive prompt questions and be asked to use learned terminology and applications from class in their journals.

Other (Term projects, research papers, portfolios, etc.)

Required Materials

- Acting in Musical Theatre: A Comprehensive Course
 - Author: Joe Deer and Rocco Dal Vera
 - Publisher: Taylor and Francis
 - Publication Date: 2016
 - Text Edition: 2nd
 - Classic Textbook?: No
 - OER Link:
 - OER:
- Acting the Song
 - Author: Tracey Moore and Allison Bergman
 - Publisher: Allworth Press
 - Publication Date: 2016
 - Text Edition: 2nd
 - Classic Textbook?: No
 - OER Link:
 - OER:
- Mastering College Musical Theatre Auditions

Other materials and-or supplies required of students that contribute to the cost of the course.