

Music of the Theatre



Mr. Marshall

2011 – 2012
Introduction Packet

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Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Frameworks General Music Standards

Music of the Theatre

Overview

Music of the Theatre meets six times in a cycle and is an elective where the primary objective is to expose students to the rich history, heritage and evolution of the American Musical Comedy leading to a vast knowledge of New York's theatrical history from Vaudeville through modern day integrated musicals through the use of audio and visual media. Students will also develop an understanding of the production aspects of the theater world from the points of view of directors, producers and behind-the-scenes technicians. Students will also be required as part of this course to contribute to the Spring Musical Production whether it be during class time or as an extra-curricular participant. No instrumental or choral experience is required.

Instructional Activities

1. Assigned outlines and readings
2. Viewing and evaluating of musicals and documentaries containing interviews with Broadway personalities
3. Listening and evaluating audio media
4. Student research projects and presentations
5. Use of the internet for research
6. Frequent handouts
7. Reading newspaper articles and magazines to stay current with the Broadway scene
8. Class discussions
9. Evaluations of audio recordings by students
10. Evaluations of musical performances by students
11. Participation in the Somerset Drama Department Spring Musical Production

Grading Requirements

- **40% Test:** Students will have a test at the end of every unit/musical in the course. Preparation for these tests will be in the form of outlines.
- **20% Projects/Key Questions/Musical Participation:** Research projects are assigned for this course as well each student is required to contribute to the Spring Musical Production whether it be as a performer, musician, sound/lighting technician, stage design/construction, hair/make-up technician, wig/costume crew member, publicity or any other aspect of the production available (either during class or as an extra-curricular participant). At the end of each unit, students will also be asked to discuss and reflect on the key points of each unit and demonstrate their mastery of that knowledge by answering a few key/essential questions in essay format.
- **20% Outlines:** Test preparation outlines are handed out before each chapter test.
- **10% Quizzes:** Students will periodically take quizzes following key discussions during a unit/musical in the course. Preparation for these quizzes will be in the form of outlines.
- **10% Homework, Participation & Cooperation:** Out of class review and summation assignments are administered throughout a chapter of study. Students are also required to contribute on a daily basis, keep your discussion points on task, utilize materials that you may have at home to add to class discussion, take notes as well as ask questions, and listen to answers.

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Instructional Materials and Resources

1. Various handouts and outlines specifically designed for this course
2. Numerous CD and audio tape music examples
3. Various Magazine Articles
4. Video: **Annie Get Your Gun** (1950: Warner Brothers)
5. Video: **Anything Goes** (1956: Paramount Pictures)
6. Video: **Broadway – The American Musical** (2004: PBS Home Video)
7. Video: **Candide** (2004: Imagine Entertainment)
8. Video: **Cats** (1998: Polygram Home Entertainment)
9. Video: **Chess In Concert** (2009: Reprise Records)
10. Video: **Chicago** (2002: Miramax)
11. Video: **A Chorus Line** (1985: MGM Musicals)
12. Video: **Company** (2007: Image Entertainment, Inc.)
13. Video: **Company: Original Cast Album** (Talent Associates-Norman Simon, Inc.)
14. Video: **Damn Yankees** (1958: Warner Brothers)
15. Video: **Dreamgirls** (2006: Dreamworks Pictures)
16. Video: **Fiddler on the Roof** (1971: MGM)
17. Video: **Fosse** (2001: Image Entertainment)
18. Video: **Funny Girl** (1968: Columbia Pictures)
19. Video: **Grease** (1978: Paramount Pictures)
20. Video: **Guys and Dolls** (1995: Hallmark Home Entertainment)
21. Video: **Guys and Dolls: Off the Record** (1992: RCA Victor Video)
22. Video: **Hair** (1979: MGM)
23. Video: **Hello Dolly!** (1969: Twentieth Century Fox)
24. Video: **Into the Woods** (1990: Brandman Productions Inc.)
25. Video: **The Jolson Story** (1946: Columbia Picture)
26. Video: **Jekyll & Hyde: The Musical** (2001: Broadway Television Network)
27. Video: **The King and I** (1956: Twentieth Century Fox)
28. Video: **Kiss Me, Kate** (1953: Warner Brothers)
29. Audio: **Les Misérables** (1987: Geffen Records)
30. Video: **Les Misérables: The Dream Cast** (1996: Columbia Tri-Star)
31. Video: **Les Misérables: Stage by Stage** (1988: Telstar Independent)
32. Video: **Mamma Mia!** (2008: Universal Pictures)
33. Audio: **Miss Saigon** (1990: Geffen Records)
34. Video: **The Making of Miss Saigon** (1989: HBO Video)
35. Video: **The Music Man** (1961: Warner Brothers)
36. Video: **My Fair Lady** (1964: Warner Brothers)
37. Video: **Oklahoma!** (1955: Twentieth Century Fox)
38. Video: **The Phantom of the Opera** (2004: Warner Brothers)
39. Video: **Pippen** (1981: VCI Entertainment)
40. Video: **The Producers** (2005: Universal Pictures)
41. Video: **Recording the Producers: A Musical Romp with Mel Brooks** (2002: Sony Music Entertainment, Inc.)
42. Video: **Rent** (2005: Columbia Pictures)
43. Video: **Rent: The Final Performance Filmed Live on Broadway** (2008: Sony Pictures)
44. Video: **Show Boat** (1951: Turner Entertainment)
45. Video: **Show Business: The Road to Broadway** (2007: Regent and Liberation Entertainment)
46. Video: **Sondheim: A Celebration at Carnegie Hall** (1993: RCA Victor Video)
47. Video: **The Sound of Music** (1965: Twentieth Century Fox)
48. Video: **Sunday in the Park with George** (1999: Brandman Productions Inc.)
49. Video: **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (1984: RKO)
50. Video: **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (2007: DreamWorks Entertainment)
51. Video: **West Side Story** (1998: MGM Home Entertainment)
52. Video: **Yankee Doodle Dandy** (1942: Turner Entertainment)
53. Use of the Internet for research purposes (web sites used can be located on the Music Links (Broadway) Page located at <http://www.somersetmusic.org>)

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Instructional Objectives

The successful student will have learned:

I. The History of American Musical Theater

- Names, faces, music and history of Broadway from the late 19th century through the present
- Understanding of musical and dance trends of Broadway throughout the 20th century
- Understanding how cultural changes in American society has reshaped the American Musical Comedy
- 5 Elements of the Modern American Musical (The Integrated Musical)
- Hollywood vs. Broadway
- Use of musical styles to support plot and subject matter
- Comparison of styles and compositions
- Pre-Production and Conceptual Process in the creation of a musical
- Casting
- Publicity and Business Aspects of producing a Broadway Musical
- Exposure to, Evaluation, Comparison and Discussion of Broadway Musicals from the late 19th century through the present

II. Production Analysis

- Background information about the original production, revivals and movie versions of each musical
- From concept to Opening Night; development of the original production
- Classification of each musical per time period and content
- Original critic and audience reactions to the original production
- Creative team of all musicals
- Distinction between original and revival productions
- Cast and crew of all productions of a musical

III. Musical Analysis

- Analysis of libretto and lyrics and their relationship if any depending on the time period of the production
- Analysis of songs and how, if at all depending on the time period of the production, they support the libretto
- Analysis of dance choreography and how, if at all depending on the time period of the production, they support the libretto and musical ideas
- Analysis of Staging, Lighting, Costuming and other production details
- Comparison of production details between stage and movie productions of a musical

IV. Participation in the High School's Spring Musical in the following areas:

- Publicity
- Program
- Usher
- Hat & Wig Crew
- Make-Up Crew
- Sound Crew
- Video Crew
- Lighting Crew

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Course Materials

1. Pencil or Pen

The use of a pencil or pen (*blue or black ink only*) is required on a daily basis. Do not use red pen! The teacher will not supply you with one and neighboring students may not have an extra pencil on them. Students who forget to bring pencils to class will, at the least, lose Participation Credit towards their grade!

2. Three-Ring Binder (1 ½ or 2 inches)

All handouts and outlines are to be kept in a three ring binder. By the end of the course, all materials will fill up a 1-½ inch binder. Each outline is your study guide for upcoming tests and each test is your study guide for the final. You must have your binder with you every day! Students who forget to bring their binder to class will, at the least, lose Participation Credit towards their grade!

3. Agenda Book

All assignment, project and test/quiz dates should be recorded in your agenda book on a daily basis! The successful student is one who is organized and manages their time well. Please get into the routine of recording all assignments in your agenda so that nothing becomes a surprise to you! Students who forget to bring their agenda book to class will, at the least, lose Participation Credit towards their grade!

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Standard 5 - Critical Response:

Students will describe and analyze their own music and the music of others using appropriate music vocabulary. When appropriate, students will connect their analysis to interpretation and evaluation.

Standard 6 - Purposes and Meaning in the Arts:

Students will describe the purposes for which works of music were and are created, and, when appropriate, interpret their meanings.

Standard 7 - Roles of Artists in Communities:

Students will describe the roles of artists, patrons, cultural organizations, and arts institutions in societies of the past and present.

Standard 8 – Concepts of Style, Stylistic Influence, and Stylistic Change:

Students will describe the roles of artists, patrons, cultural organizations, and arts institutions in societies of the past and present.

Standard 9 – Inventions, Technologies, and the Arts:

Students will describe and analyze how performing and visual artists use and have used materials, inventions, and technologies in their work.

Standard 10 – Interdisciplinary Connections:

Students will use knowledge of the arts and cultural resources in the study of the arts, English language arts, foreign languages, health, history and social science, mathematics, and science and technology/engineering.