

Southeast Missouri State University

Department: Department of Theatre & Dance **Course No.:** TH 318

Title of Course: Musical Theatre Performance I **New**

I. Catalog Descriptions and Credit Hours of Course:

A scene study and exercise course designed to give performers the opportunity to apply singing, acting, and dance technique to musical theatre scripts and scores. (3 credit hours)

II. Prerequisite(s):

None

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

- To expose students to specific exercises which address the difficulties of merging the crafts of acting, movement, and singing;
- To release the student's voice from speaking to singing through relaxation, energy, resonance, and articulation;
- To teach students how to approach, learn, and interpret a musical theatre score;
- To train students how to turn movement and gesture into a means of expressing character and music;
- To prepare the student for auditioning for musicals;
- To further incorporate the use of self-evaluation as a primary means for improvement;
- To enhance actors' rehearsal and performance technique through musical theatre scene-study.

IV. Expectations of Students:

- To attend all classes and participate fully in all discussions and exercises;
- To complete all outside assignments in a timely fashion and to the best of their ability;
- To maintain a productive and collegial environment;
- To remain open and respectful of new and conflicting ideas;
- To respectfully challenge existing thought and accepted ideas;
- To take risks with all creative and intellectual endeavors.

V. Course Outline:

Weeks 1 – 2	Revealing Character through Song and Movement
Weeks 3 – 4	Releasing Your Voice
Week 5	Rhythm, Pulse, & Time
Weeks 6 – 7	Music, Text, and the Score
Weeks 8 – 9	Workshop & Presentation of Scene Study #1
Weeks 10 – 11	Character, Emotion, & Sound
Weeks 12 – 13	Workshop & Presentation of Scene Study #2

Weeks 14 – 15 Auditioning for Musical Theatre
Final: Audition Showcase

VI. Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment:

- *The Singing and Acting Handbook*, by Thomas de Mallet Burgess & Nicholas Skilbeck
- *Staging Musical Theatre*, by Elaine A. Novak & Deborah Novak
- *The Actor Sings*, by Kevin Robison

VII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

- Participation (20%)
- Scene Study #1 (20%)
- Score #1 (5%)
- Scene Study #2 (20%)
- Score #2 (5%)
- Audition Showcase (including headshots and resumes) (30%)