

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP
Status: Definitive
Code: **5500ACT** (109138)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts
Teaching School/Faculty: Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts

Team	Leader
Steve Buckwald	

Academic Level: FHEQ5
Credit Value: 12.00
Total Delivered Hours: 60.00
Total Learning Hours: 120
Private Study: 60

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Tutorial	10.000
Workshop	50.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Practice	CONTINUOUS	Continual Assessment	50.0	1.00
Presentation	PRESENT	Presentation	50.0	1.00

Aims

The module broadly aims to provide understanding of and practical skills in musical theatre performance.

It aims to provide:

*Extended knowledge of musical theatre repertoire;
A range of technical stylistic challenges, musical and dramatic;*

An understanding and skill in the execution of the demands and conventions of musical theatre ensemble and chorus work;
A range of physical approaches to musical theatre staging;
An understanding of and developed ability to make large-scale expressive choices;
Skill in creating psychologically credible and theatrically effective performance through combinations of speech, song and dance;
Skill in sustaining an overall dramatic rhythm and through-line in the musical theatre genre;
Skill in learning and retaining simple choreography;
skill in score-reading;
Skill in learning and retaining complex part-singing.

The module also has two assessment points. Where students prepare and present a selection of musical scenes for more than one person and one or more large scale ensemble numbers.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Synthesise musical theatre conventions into expressive performance
- 2 Work as part of a musical theatre ensemble, from learning through rehearsals to performance with appropriate professional disciplines and skills
- 3 Make and sustain large-scale acting choices through speech, song and dance
- 4 Tackle a variety of genres and styles in the musical theatre and the specific demands they make on the actor/audience relationship
- 5 Learn and sustain complex vocal harmony and counterpoint
- 6 Learn and sustain theatrical choreography
- 7 Examine the principles of staging and direction in the musical theatre

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

CONTINUOUS	2	3	4	5	6	7
ASSESSMENT						
PRESENTATION	1	2	3	4	5	6

Outline Syllabus

An introductory session guides students through the principles of theatrical synthesis at work in the musical theatre.

Students work as directed towards the disciplines of ensemble work with a musical director and undertake simple choreographic exercises with a choreographer.

However, the module combines directed ensemble and scene work with self-directed and self-rehearsed work by students which is then shared in class. As such the aim is to provide both experience in the professional disciplines required by

directors/MDs/choreographers in the musical theatre, and an ability to self-direct work, including relevant preparation outside the rehearsal room.

In the first phase, students are introduced to the relevant professional disciplines and working practices associated with the professional musical theatre, in addition to exploring the possibilities available to them in terms of scale of performance, without undermining theatrical 'truth'.

Students are introduced to a variety of physical approaches to staging ensemble work not only from a psychological standpoint but also an approach through the physical 'mask'. They are also introduced to the principles of staging in the musical theatre

Students then learn, rehearse and present several ensemble numbers in class showings.

They also select, in consultation with tutors, range of duets/trios and small character ensembles, to include complex harmony or counterpoint, which they self-direct and present in class. These are then presented as the second element of the class showings.

Learning Activities

The module is delivered through a series of practical workshops and where feasible guest masterclasses supported by self-directed rehearsal and tutorial.

Students are encouraged to keep a log for themselves of useful exercises and discoveries that they make during the course, although this is not formally assessed.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Craig, D
Publishing Year	1978
Title	On singing on stage.
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	N.Y: Applause
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Craig, D
Publishing Year	1984

Title	A performer prepares.
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	N.Y: Applause
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Gottfried, Martin
Publishing Year	1984
Title	Broadway musicals
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	N.Y: Abradale Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Kislan, R
Publishing Year	1980
Title	the musical: a look at the american musical theatre
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Prentice Hall
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Citron, S
Publishing Year	1991
Title	The musical from the inside out
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Hodder & Stoughton
ISBN	

Notes

For modules with multiple assessments students must pass all individual elements, as detailed in the Principles and procedures for Higher Education A2.3.4.

All students are expected to equip themselves with a personal recorder, Dictaphone or mini-disk recording system and ensure that it is in working order for every class/rehearsal.