THEA 350
Musical Theatre Performance I
Fall 2016

TIMES: Tuesdays and Thursday
11:00am-12:30pm in M20 (Music Building)
Friday Vocal Lab
3:10pm-5:00pm in DA-5B

OVERVIEW
Musical Theatre Performance 1 is a performance-oriented course in which students participate in musical-theatre projects that incorporate singing, acting, and movement. This course is part of a four part series of courses (THEA 350, 351, 450 & 451) that give the musical theatre student a comprehensive understanding of what it takes to become a musical theatre performer at the highest level.

Each course has a different focus:
THEA 350 - The Fundamentals of Acting in Musical Theatre
THEA 351 - The Journey of the Song
THEA 450 - Making It a Performance
THEA 451 - The Profession

Acceptance into the class is by consent of the instructor. All students must audition by signing up for a time at General Auditions during the first week of class. The singing auditions are held on Friday, September 2nd, 2016 from 1:30pm-5:30pm. Students will be notified of their acceptance by Saturday, September 3rd. Those students accepted must add it to their class schedule no later than Tuesday, September 6th.

Emphasis in this class is placed on the fundamentals and building blocks necessary in approaching acting for musical theatre. For this reason, students must regularly attend class to learn by watching, analyzing, and critiquing the work of their classmates, in addition to performing in class themselves. Students learn as much by watching and critiquing the auditions of others as they do by performing themselves. Students who want to improve their skills as actor-singers should expect to spend 3 hours/week out of class vocalizing/preparing for each in class audition coaching.
On thirteen Fridays over the course of the semester, students will have the opportunity to work with graduate student instructor Kimberly Moller from the MFA Musical Theatre Program to improve their singing skills and overall vocal health. **All students enrolled in the class are required to complete at least 10 sessions of vocal instruction over the course of the semester.** Each of the Friday 110- minute voice classes counts as one session of vocal instruction. Students can also receive private instruction (for a fee) from private teachers. A list of approved voice teachers with contact information is provided on page 1 of this syllabus.

The voice lab will enable students to learn and apply vocal pedagogy concepts specific to the demands of musical theater; current scientific study and technical as well as imagery-based applications of vocal instruction, recognizing vocal faults and reinforcing positive habits in vocal production and practice.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students will be able to:

1. Approach the imaginary circumstances in a musical play using a solid technique built on circumstances, relationships, objectives, obstacles, strategy, and tactics.
2. Use their bodies in a free and relaxed way to enhance the storytelling of a musical theatre performance.
3. Interpret a musical score following the composer's guidelines.
4. Synthesize lyrics, script, and musical score to dramatize honest and compelling characters.
5. Expand their vocal and dramatic range using vocal production skills and acting techniques.
6. Perform in a Showcase for an invited audience.

**COACHING SESSIONS**

Students are required to attend four 15-minute coaching sessions with class accompanist Ron Councell. During these sessions, Ron will record the vocal line and piano accompaniment to your song and answer questions regarding notes and rhythms. Students must bring their prepared sheet music and voice recorder to these sessions. Coaching time constitutes 5 points of your course grade. If an emergency arises prohibiting you from keeping a scheduled appointment, **TEXT** Ron on his cell phone. Arriving late or failing to show up for appointments will result in the loss of points and ultimately the termination of coaching privileges.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ATTENDANCE, PUNCTUALITY AND PARTICIPATION
1. Be present at each class session and arrive on time, wearing appropriate rehearsal clothes and shoes on the days of your coachings and final presentations. No flip-flops or sandals are allowed once we start to work and get on our feet. Always have a pair of rehearsal shoes with you. Students should wear clothes that are comfortable to move in and do not restrict the body.
2. Create an environment in which class members feel free to take risks and make mistakes.
3. Commit to and complete in-class assignments and performances. Bring a pen and notepad or laptop to every class session. During your in-class coaching, the instructor may touch you in order to affect your breathing, posture, gesture, or movement. If you’re uncomfortable with this, please inform the instructor before your work-through session. No use of cell phones in class except to take notes or to record vocal coachings or music in class.

REQUIRED ATTENDANCE AT OUT-OF-CLASS PERFORMANCES and REQUIRED WRITING
1. Blood at the Root  
   September 30 – October 9 at SDSU  
   Critique due October 13 (5 Points)
2. Julius Caesar  
   November 4 – November 13 at SDSU  
   Critique due November 22 (5 Points)
3. Jesus Christ Superstar  
   November 30 – December 4 at SDSU  
   Critique due December 15 (5 Points)

REQUIRED READING and EXERCISES
Throughout the semester the instructor will be assigning readings that pertain to the Fundamentals of Acting in Musical Theatre and Score and Libretto analysis. For each of 4 units, students will be assigned an exercise that corresponds to that unit. Each of the 4 exercises will be 5 points equaling a total of 20 points toward your total grade. The instructor will email all readings to the class. A list of the exercises are listed below:
3. Working With Words – Exercise: Simple Sentences (5 points)
4. Elements of Storytelling – Exercise: My Story (5 points)

FINAL EXAM AND SHOWCASE
In addition, all students will be required to perform in the Undergraduate Musical Theatre Showcase on Monday, December 12, 2016 at 7pm in the Experimental Theatre.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
This semester, the instructor will be away on October 25th and 27th. On these two days, Professor Rob Meffe will be teaching THEA 350.

This syllabus is a living document and is subject to change. As the semester progresses there may be alterations to the schedule. In the event of any alterations, the instructor will give timely notice to the class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
Cases of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism will be addressed in strict accordance with university policy. Consequences include, but are not limited to an automatic “F” on that assignment. For more information on what constitutes plagiarism, please visit http://infotutor.sdsu.edu/plagiarism/index.cfm
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<th>WEEK</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 (8/29-9/2)</td>
<td>Audition Workshop</td>
<td>Audition Workshop</td>
<td>General Auditions</td>
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<td>2 (9/5-9/9)</td>
<td>Syllabus Audition Song Feedback Laying the Groundwork</td>
<td>Acting Basics – The Foundation Assign Song #1</td>
<td>Vocal Lab #1 (3:10pm – 5pm)</td>
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<td>3 (9/12-9/16)</td>
<td>Acting Basics – The Foundation Song #1</td>
<td>Acting Basics – The Foundation Song #1</td>
<td>Vocal Lab #2 (3:10pm – 5pm)</td>
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<td>4 (9/19-9/23)</td>
<td>Acting Basics – The Foundation Song #1 Exercise #1 Due Assign Song #2</td>
<td>Acting Basics – Step by Step Song #1</td>
<td>Vocal Lab #3 (3:10pm – 5pm)</td>
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<td>5 (9/26-9/30)</td>
<td>Acting Basics – Step by Step Song #2 – Scene/Duet</td>
<td>Acting Basics – Step by Step Song #2 – Scene/Duet</td>
<td>Vocal Lab #4 (3:10pm – 5pm)</td>
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<td>6 (10/3-10/7)</td>
<td>Acting Basics – Step by Step Song #2 – Scene/Duet Exercise #2 Due Assign Audition Cut</td>
<td>Acting Basics – Step by Step Song #2 – Scene/Duet</td>
<td>Vocal Lab #5 (3:10pm – 5pm)</td>
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<td>7 (10/10-10/14)</td>
<td>Physicalizing the Song Audition Cut Assign Ensemble Project</td>
<td>Physicalizing the Song Audition Cut Blood at the Root Critique Due</td>
<td>Vocal Lab #6 (3:10pm – 5pm)</td>
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<td>8 (10/17-10/21)</td>
<td>Ensemble Project</td>
<td>Ensemble Project</td>
<td>Vocal Lab #7 (3:10pm – 5pm)</td>
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<td>9 (10/24-10/28)</td>
<td>Listening For Clues Prof. Rob Meffe Using Song #1</td>
<td>Listening For Clues Prof. Rob Meffe Using Song #1</td>
<td>Vocal Lab #8 (3:10pm – 5pm)</td>
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<td>10 (10/31-11/4)</td>
<td>Ensemble Project Assign Song #3</td>
<td>Ensemble Project</td>
<td>Vocal Lab #9 (3:10pm – 5pm)</td>
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<td>11 (11/7-11/11)</td>
<td>Making It Matter Song #3</td>
<td>Making It Matter Song #3</td>
<td>Vocal Lab #10 (3:10pm – 5pm)</td>
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<td>12 (11/14-11/18)</td>
<td>Working with Words Song #3</td>
<td>Working with Words Song #3 Exercise #3 Due</td>
<td>Vocal Lab #11 (3:10pm – 5pm)</td>
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<td>13 (11/21-11/25)</td>
<td>Elements of Storytelling Song #3 Julius Caesar Critique Due</td>
<td>No Class Thanksgiving Break</td>
<td>No Vocal Lab Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<td>14 (11/28-12/2)</td>
<td>Elements of Storytelling Song #3</td>
<td>Elements of Storytelling Showcase Prep Exercise #4 Due</td>
<td>Vocal Lab #12 (3:10pm – 5pm)</td>
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<td>15 (12/5-12/9)</td>
<td>Elements of Storytelling Showcase Prep</td>
<td>Showcase Prep</td>
<td>Vocal Lab #13 (3:10pm – 5pm)</td>
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<td>16 (12/12-12/16)</td>
<td>MONDAY 12/12 Undergrad Showcase 7:00pm Experimental Theatre</td>
<td>TUESDAY 12/13 End of Semester Wrap-Up Final Exam Jesus Christ Superstar Critique Due</td>
<td>THURSDAY 12/15 Final Exam</td>
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