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%)