

## What is Musical Theater?

This class utilizes foundational elements of jazz, ballet, and tap to develop the dancer's ability to portray characters through music and movement. Using music from popular Broadway and film musicals, emphasis will be placed on facial-expression, performance, and nuances in musicality and movement that enhance theatrical dance. This is an appropriate class for students who are interested in performing in school or community theater.

**Musical Theater** is a combo of four essential elements: songs, spoken dialogue, acting, and dance. You can't have musical theater production without all of these magical elements working together.

**Songs** are short pieces of music, typically intertwined with words. It is a unique combination of vocals and melody. But not all songs involve vocals, though. Instrumental pieces like music without words are also composed to mimic the voice in a song.

**Dialogue** is traditionally defined as a conversation between two or more individuals. Dialogue conveys information, gives insight into characters, and expresses emotions. A powerful and meaningful dialogue adds character to musical theater.

**Acting** is a performing art that involves movement, intonation, gestures, and more to bring a fictional character to life. It is defined as the ability to react to imaginary stimuli instead of exhibitionism, mimicry, or imitation. Acting breathes life into the words of the playwright, adding soul to a character. Acting is a crucial element of art, so much so that many artists believe art is nothing without acting.

Much like acting, dance is a type of performing art that involves sequences of bodily movement purposefully designed or improvised on the spot. Dance is a visual experience and is often symbolic. It can be categorized based on its choreography, history, age, and place of origin.

Every element of musical theater is unique in its own way. But when we put them together, they create incredible audio and visual experience that is harmonious, synchronous, and memorable.

## Benefits Of Musical Theater

### Improves Self Confidence

Musical theater workshops encourage children to step out of their comfort zone and unleash their true inner artistic potential. Performing in front of a crowd encourages them to break out of their shells and embrace themselves for who they are in essence, which helps boost their self-confidence.

### Better Problem-Solving Skills

Musical theater classes get children to communicate the nitty-gritty of a scene. Improv is an art form that promotes critical thinking and problem solving, enabling students to think outside the box and come up with innovative ideas. Plus, theater and stage performances provide children with the kind of learning environment they need to express themselves. And it goes a long way toward helping your children effectively adapt to changing situations and circumstances later in life.

## Teamwork and Trust

Musical theater is, in essence, group work. Participants are required to work as a team during musical theater sessions, which enhances social interaction. Moreover, it teaches children 'how and who' to trust, besides introducing them to the overall process of 'things falling into place.' Working together also promotes friendships and develops team building, a quality that children can benefit from considerably later in life.

Teaching musical theater typically involves several levels of instruction, catering to students with varying levels of experience and proficiency.

### **Beginner Level:**

- Introduction to musical theater basics.
- Fundamentals of singing, acting, and dancing.
- Basic vocal techniques and exercises.
- Introduction to stage presence and character development.
- Learning simple choreography and movement.

### **Intermediate Level:**

- Building upon foundational skills learned in the beginner level.
- Further development of vocal technique, including range expansion, breath control, and dynamics.
- Intermediate-level acting techniques, including characterization, emotional expression, and scene study.
- Intermediate-level dance techniques, including more complex choreography and styles such as jazz, tap, or ballet.
- Introduction to musical interpretation and storytelling within songs.

## **Advanced Level:**

- Mastery of vocal technique, including advanced exercises, control, and interpretation.
- Advanced acting techniques, including nuanced character development, subtext, and advanced scene work.
- Advanced dance techniques, including intricate choreography, partnering, and stylistic versatility.
- Integration of singing, acting, and dancing into cohesive performances.
- Preparation for auditions and professional performances.
- Exploration of more challenging musical theater repertoire across different genres and eras.

## **Professional/Pre-Professional Level:**

- Intensive training for students pursuing careers in musical theater.
- Advanced performance skills refinement.
- Audition preparation and repertoire selection tailored to professional auditions.
- Industry-specific training, including resume building, headshot selection, and audition etiquette.
- Professional development workshops and seminars.
- Opportunities for performance in professional or pre-professional productions, showcases, and competitions.

These levels provide a structured progression for students to develop their skills in singing, acting, and dancing within the context of musical theater, ultimately preparing them for potential careers in the industry. However, it's important to note that the specific content and division of levels may vary between different educational institutions and training programs.