

Musical Theater

Musical theater is a genre that combines song, spoken dialogue, and dance to tell a story.

*What is One Musical You Enjoy? Why
Do You Like It?*

Defining the Musical



Main Elements of Musical Theater

-Story (Acting)

-Singing

-Dance

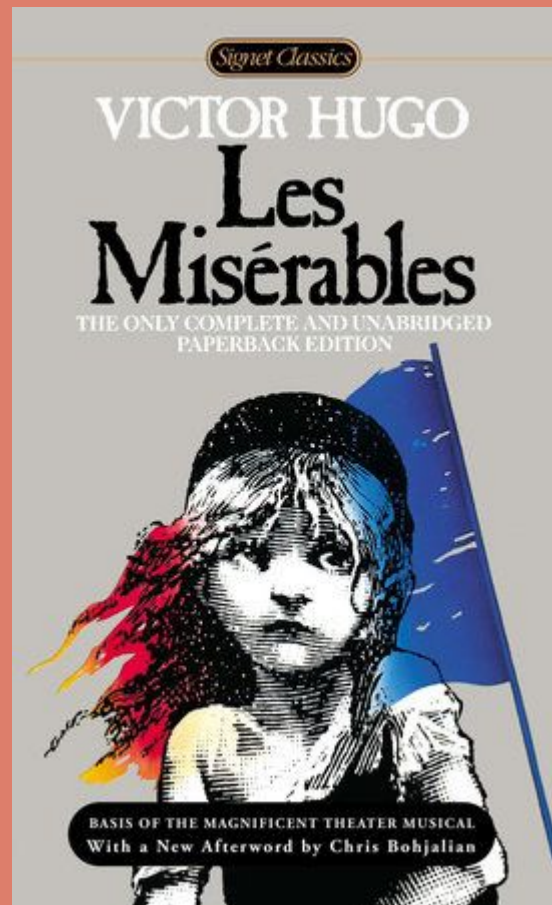
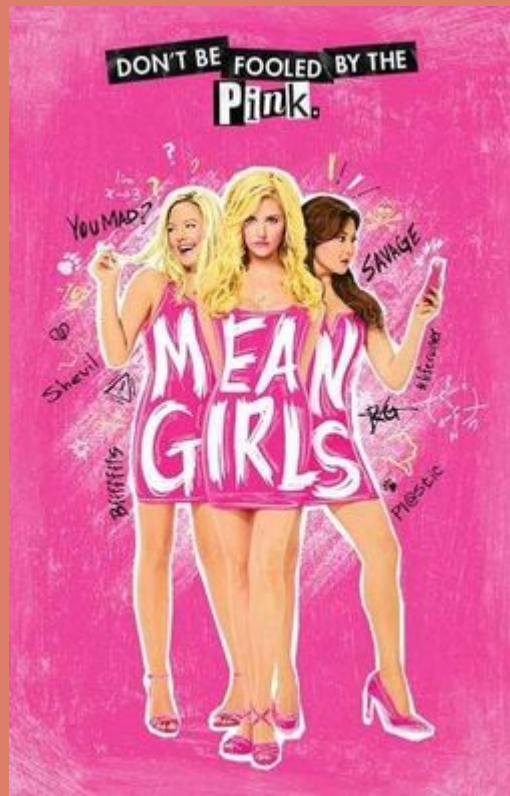
Story

What are the elements of a good story?

Musicals as Stories

Musicals are often adaptations of books, movies, or TV shows.

Can you think of any examples of this?



Singing

The style of singing most commonly used in musical theater is called belting. Let's take a listen to how this compares to other types of singing.

Carmen: Habenera

What are some adjectives you would use to describe the sound of the singing you hear?



Dreamgirls: And I Am Telling You

What are some adjectives you would use to describe the sound of the singing you hear?



Compare and Contrast

Dance

What adjectives would you use to describe the dancing you see?



The History of Musical Theater

Yesterday we defined musical theater, and compared it to some other genres of music. What is one thing that we learned musical theater came from?

Where Did Musical Theater Come From?

-Minstrel Shows

-Vaudeville

-Operettas



Operettas

What is the difference between an opera and an operetta?

Operetta

A short opera, usually on a light or humorous theme and typically having spoken dialogue

Characteristics of an Operetta

- Short
- Often humorous or satirical in nature
- Characters are often very hyperbolic
- Often the characters are over-dramatic
- Themes of love and exoticism were often emphasized
- Provides viewers with an escape from day to day life

Review

What are the three types of theater musical theater came from?

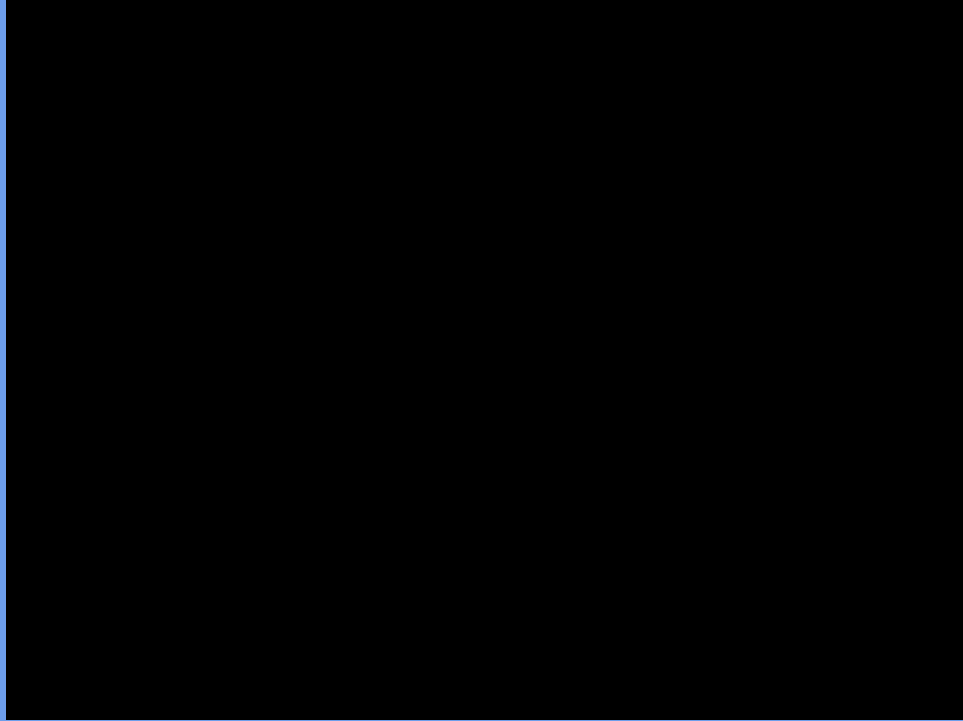
The Golden Age of Musical Theater

-1943-1959

What Do You Notice About This Song?

Think about the characters, the singing, the acting, and the dancing.

I'm Not At All in Love



The Golden Age

- Integrated songs into the story
- Created more depth for characters
- “I Want” songs were born
- Reflected the values of the era

Influential Composers

- Rodgers and Hammerstein (*Cinderella, Sound of Music*)
- Stephen Sondheim (*West Side Story*)
- Irving Berlin (*Annie Get Your Gun*)



Golden Age: The Plot

- Love story is central
- An obstacle to love is present
- Throughout the show, the main characters work to overcome this obstacle to find their love
- Happy Ending (most of the time)

One Hand, One Heart



Golden Age: The Characters

- Female lead: usually young, naive girl who is searching for something in the world
- Male lead: usually captures the female lead's heart (this may take the whole show to happen)
- The Villain: the obstacle of love

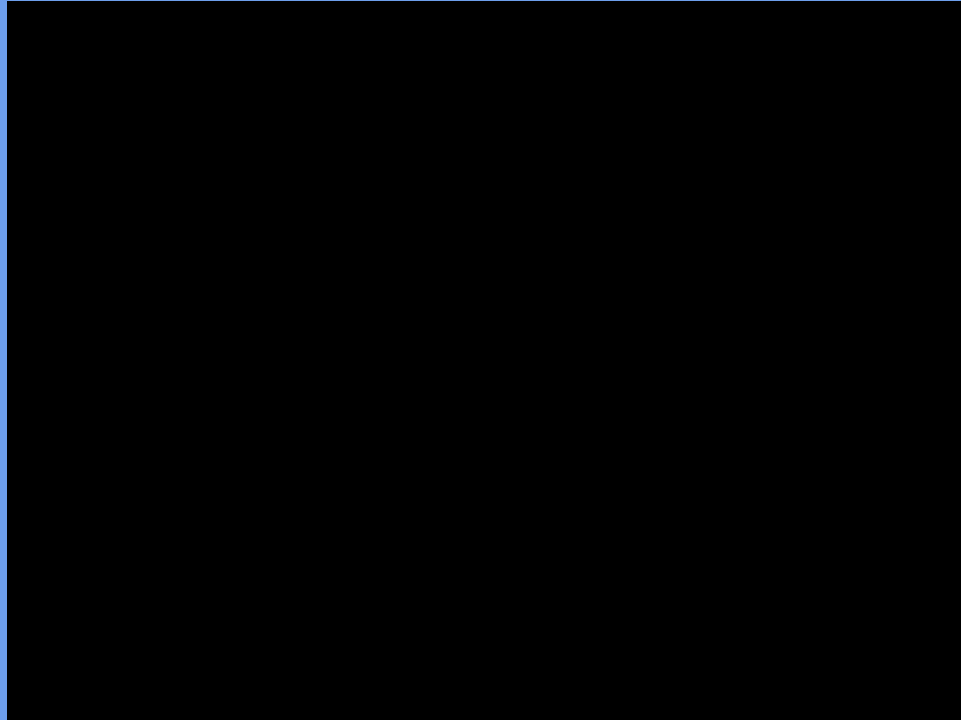
Old Devil Moon



Golden Age: The Music

- Love song: sung by the female lead, soaring melody, poetic and simple lyrics
- Upbeat dance number
- Themes

Too Darn Hot



Analysis: The Sound of Music

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x7lw1zk>

Quickwrite

Choose one show from the Golden Age of Broadway. Research the show and write a 5 sentence summary of the plot.

Quiz 1

- We will review together the day before the quiz
- History of Musical Theater
- Operetta
- Golden Age of Musical Theater
- Contemporary Musical Theater

Contemporary Musical Theater

What are some musicals that you would consider contemporary?

Contemporary Musical Theater

-1960-today

How is this scene different from
Golden Age musicals?

Seasons of Love



Contemporary Musicals: The Plot

- Became much more diverse
- Instead of just focusing on a love story, focused on many other story lines
- Dealt with issues of social unrest (particularly in the 1960's)
- Division between light and dark
- Started to display diverse characters from all walks of life
- Dealt with issues regarding mental health

Superboy and the Invisible Girl



Contemporary: The Characters

- More complex
- Tends to show the characters flaws as well as their strengths
- Ensemble shows
- Some shows “flip the script” on traditional stereotypes

Defying Gravity



Contemporary Shows: The Music

- Incorporated diverse styles of music (rock, jazz, etc)
- Focused more on the relationships between the characters, rather than the character's roles
- The "I Want" song was solidified
- Often used new instruments such as the electric guitar

Satisfied



Analysis of a Contemporary Show

Newsies

Newsies Musical Analysis

JEOPARDY!

Musical Theater

JEOPARDY BOARD

FINAL JEOPARDY

Defining Musical
Theater

Origins of Musical
Theater

Operettas

Golden Age

Contemporary

\$100

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Topic 1 - \$100 Question

Is musical theater the same
as opera?

Click to see answer



Topic 1 - \$100 Answer

No.

[Click to return to Jeopardy Board](#) 

Topic 1 - \$200 Question

Give one example of a musical that is based off of a book, movie, or TV show.

Click to see answer 

Topic 1 - \$200 Answer

Mean Girls, Phantom of the
Opera, Les Miserables, plus
many more

[Click to return to Jeopardy Board](#) 

Topic 1 - \$300 Question

List the three parts of musical theater.

Click to see answer



Topic 1 - \$300 Answer

1. Singing
2. Acting
3. Dancing

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Topic 1 - \$400 Question

What is the difference between musicals and plays?

Click to see answer



Topic 1 - \$400 Answer

Musicals have singing, plays
do not.

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Topic 1 - \$500 Question

What is the definition of musical theater?

Click to see answer



Topic 1 - \$500 Answer

Musical theater is a genre that combines song, spoken dialogue, and dance to tell a story.

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Topic 2 - \$100 Question

How many genres
contributed to musical
theater?

Click to see answer



Topic 2 - \$100 Answer

Three main genres.

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Topic 2 - \$200 Question

This genre is the oldest type of theater we have talked about.

Click to see answer 

Topic 2 - \$200 Answer

Minstrel shows

[Click to return to Jeopardy Board](#) 

Topic 2 - \$300 Question

This genre is similar to a circus or cabaret show, and was the second oldest theater we discussed.

Click to see answer



Topic 2 - \$300 Answer

Vaudeville

[Click to return to Jeopardy Board](#) 

Topic 2 - \$400 Question

This genre most directly influenced musical theater, and was often funny and short.

Click to see answer



Topic 2 - \$400 Answer

Operetta

[Click to return to Jeopardy Board](#) 

Topic 2 - \$500 Question

What is an “I Want” song?

Click to see answer



Topic 2 - \$500 Answer

A song where a character describes something they desire (can be physical or emotional/mental)

Topic 3 - \$100 Question

Are operettas the same thing
as operas?

Click to see answer



Topic 3 - \$100 Answer

No.

[Click to return to Jeopardy Board](#) 

Topic 3 - \$200 Question

Are operettas short or long?

Click to see answer



Topic 3 - \$200 Answer

Short.

[Click to return to Jeopardy Board](#) 

Topic 3 - \$300 Question

How is operetta different from opera?

Click to see answer



Topic 3 - \$300 Answer

Operettas are shorter than operas, and often are much lighter.

Topic 3 - \$400 Question

Operettas can be described
as being _____.

Click to see answer



Topic 3 - \$400 Answer

Light and funny

[Click to return to Jeopardy Board](#) 

Topic 3 - \$500 Question

Characters in operettas were often:

Click to see answer



Topic 3 - \$500 Answer

Exaggerated and
stereotypical.

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Topic 4 - \$100 Question

Are Golden Age musicals old
or new?

Click to see answer



Topic 4 - \$100 Answer

Old

[Click to return to Jeopardy Board](#) 

Topic 4 - \$200 Question

List the three types of Golden Age characters.

Click to see answer



Topic 4 - \$200 Answer

Male lead
Female lead
Villain

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Topic 4 - \$300 Question

What is the central plot of Golden Age Musicals?

Click to see answer



Topic 4 - \$300 Answer

The love story.

[Click to return to Jeopardy Board](#) 

Topic 4 - \$400 Question

Characters in Golden Age
musicals were:

Click to see answer



Topic 4 - \$400 Answer

One dimensional and
stereotypical.

[Click to return to Jeopardy Board](#) 

Topic 4 - \$500 Question

When was the Golden Age of Musical Theater?

Click to see answer



Topic 4 - \$500 Answer

1943-1959

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Topic 5 - \$100 Question

Are contemporary musicals
old or new?

Click to see answer



Topic 5 - \$100 Answer

New.

[Click to return to Jeopardy Board](#) 

Topic 5 - \$200 Question

What types of plots are shown in contemporary musicals?

Click to see answer



Topic 5 - \$200 Answer

Diverse plots, about family
and mental health.

[Click to return to Jeopardy Board](#) 

Topic 5 - \$300 Question

What styles of music have been incorporated into contemporary musicals?

Click to see answer



Topic 5 - \$300 Answer

Rap, pop, jazz, R&B

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Topic 5 - \$400 Question

What do new musicals show about the characters?

Click to see answer



Topic 5 - \$400 Answer

They show their flaws as well as their strengths.

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Topic 5 - \$500 Question

What time period did contemporary musicals occur?

Click to see answer



Topic 5 - \$500 Answer

1960-today

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FINAL
JEOPARDY!

Topic: Comparing Musicals

Click to see question 

Final Jeopardy Question

What is one way
contemporary musicals are
different from Golden Age
musicals?

Click to see answer 

Final Jeopardy Answer

Characters are more
complex

Plot centers on things other
than a love story

[Click to return to Jeopardy Board](#)



Quiz 1