

Musical Theatre

Description

The Academy for the Fine Arts Musical Theatre Focus provides students with the opportunity to develop a strong foundation in acting, dance, and voice. The program will emphasize the skills needed to grow as musical theatre artists while providing individualized instruction in pursuit of college and career pathways. Coursework will focus on history, business, and technique in all three performing genres (i.e. acting, dance, and voice). The technique courses will include one-on-one instruction as well as a focus on whole ensemble performance. Emphasis will be placed on growing as individual artists while providing various performance opportunities. Please note, showcase dates are mandatory and are an essential part of the curriculum. Dates for all events are available on the first day of the class and on the AFA website. After school rehearsals will be held to a minimal amount to allow students to participate in their home school's arts programs.

Course Sequence

Year 1

Musical Theatre History 1

In this course, students explore musical theatre personalities and trends. Analysis of texts and video will aid in discovering how prominent people and events influence the Broadway stage and beyond. By synthesizing the art of musical theatre with world events, students gain a broader understanding of how musical theatre reflects themselves, their culture, and their community. In addition, students will engage in musical theatre criticism as they analyze the aesthetic elements of performance through a critical mindset.

Vocal Technique and Performance 1

The focus of Vocal Technique and Performance 1A is to create a greater awareness of and connection to the actor's natural singing voice and physical body. Further, it is to free the natural voice to improved self-awareness, imagination, expressiveness, and embodiment. Students will focus on breath and vocal production, opening the physical channels of communication, exploring physical alignment, and releasing tension to begin to build vocal strength and connect the voice to creative impulses. The first year will introduce basic diction and projection skills, refining the actor's use of their voice through deepening their experience of resonance along with clarifying vowel and consonant articulation. Time will be dedicated to one-on-one vocal training in preparation for auditions. Basic elements of speech will be explored to help the actor bring vocal clarity, energy, and point of view to any song. Students will discover body mechanics, physical alignment, connection to breath, and self-awareness.

Acting Technique and Performance 1

Acting Technique and Performance 1A will focus on the many different methods and philosophies of actor training, including (but not limited to) Stanislavski, Stella Adler, and Practical Aesthetics. Through the use of published plays, students will ascertain a practical understanding of terms such as action, objective, tactic, obstacle, conflict, intention, motivation, and "beat." Particular emphasis will be given to ensemble-building, enlarging creativity, memorization techniques, and building self-confidence. Time will be devoted to exploring character types and finding appropriate monologues for auditions.

Dance Technique and Performance 1

This course emphasizes dance training to develop and extend the artistic, affective, cognitive, and psychomotor potentials of the student. The student will be provided with opportunities to explore a variety of dance forms as they pertain to musical theatre. Examples include ballet, jazz, contemporary, and hip-hop as well as world dance forms such as Latin and African. Focus will be on enhancing technique in regards to alignment, flexibility and strength with the goal of honing a student's ability to retain and explore movement phrases. In addition, students will study and practice performance skills while implementing techniques found in the musical theatre world.

Musical Theatre Business 1

This class concentrates on the business side of the musical theatre world. Students will be introduced to the behind-the-scenes workings of Broadway. The class will explore the audition process; how to find work as a musical theatre performer and insights into the day to day workplace of theatre, television, film and commercials. Production professions such as design (lighting, set, costume), choreography, producing, directing, promotion and media will be investigated. The class will also discuss cold readings, creating showcases, meeting agents, contacting agencies, creating headshots and resumes and life as an actor professionally and regionally. Students will spend time on the collegiate selection process along with preparation and expectations for the college application and audition process.

Year 2

Musical Theatre History 2

Vocal Technique and Performance 2

Acting Technique and Performance 2

Dance Technique and Performance 2

Musical Theatre Business 2

Year 3

Theories and Practices in Content

In this course, students complete final studies in selected disciplines of their focus area and complete projects and tasks that prepare the student for the post-secondary experience. Project based learning takes place with the guidance of the instructor and should demonstrate an understanding of current trends, opposing viewpoints, career pathways, and best practices of the selected topics through research, collaboration, interaction with professionals, field study, and presentations. Artifacts from projects and current issues in the arts will be addressed through regular discussion groups with other third year AFA students.

AFA Internship

Students explore career opportunities that they may consider studying in a post-secondary setting. Students are placed for one semester with adult mentors to explore the responsibilities, benefits, advantages, and disadvantages of a career choice. Each school's Transition Education Teacher-Coordinator serves as a conduit between the school and internship site. Each student will be paired with a faculty advisor. An approved project is completed during the internship and requires the demonstration of both oral and written communication skills.

AFA Capstone Project

The capstone experience may be connected to the mentor/internship; a research project; a career-related project; an arts, media or information resource design portfolio; the preparation and performance at a competition/festival/exhibition; or leadership of a school/community initiative. The capstone experience must be planned and approved in accordance with a teacher mentor and/or business partner upon completion of the application. Students must complete and submit an Application a Capstone Experience Description and a Capstone Experience Agreement. Capstone experiences will be assessed by the mentor teacher, and/or a small group consisting of academy leaders, teachers and/or professionals from the community.



Typical Activities

- Masterclasses with professionals
- Trips to view professional performances
- Performances at community events and festivals
- Visits to colleges and universities
- Coaching for college audition preparation
- AFA Showcases and Recitals

Audition Requirements

- Submitted via video ahead of time
 - Learn a provided dance combination
 - One 32 bar or 1 minute vocal solo from any Broadway produced musical
- Interview

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