Musical Theatre Dance 1  Course Syllabus

OSA School of Theatre- Musical Theatre 2018-2019

The Vitals:
Instructor: Ms. Goldfield cgoldfield@oakarts.org
415-205-7365 for emergencies only (email or text first)
Classroom: Sweets Ballroom Upstairs Studio
Wednesdays (7th and 8th period) and Friday (7th period)
Google Classroom code: 5d2eqj

Course Description and Syllabus Ms. Goldfield

This course is designed to give the Musical Theatre performer the essential training in various dance techniques, an understanding of the structure behind stage choreography, and an insight into the necessary showmanship and performance of that choreography. Students will explore various dance styles through technical training and explore their historical context and artistic impact on the musical theatre genre. Throughout the year students will engage in comprehensive technique and training practices, movement analysis and anatomical study, as well as prepare performance pieces in a variety of dance styles and techniques of developing choreography.

Course Objectives

• Develop a practical technical vocabulary that students can utilize to objectively analyze the mechanics of movement and use of the body in expression and performance.

• Present a repeatable method of daily preparation that can be practiced without assistance of others to keep the actor’s body supple, expressive, and ready for rigorous demands of rehearsal and performance in a professional setting.

• Introduce and examine the styles of ballet, tap, modern dance, and jazz dance in the genres of early and contemporary musical theatre in performance.

• Develop skills in proper and healthy dance technique in various styles of dance performance.

• Further students’ understanding of dance technique, history and tradition.

• Provide a foundation for further study and development.

Essential Skills
Students will be able to...

- Demonstrate necessary technical dance skills for successful audition, rehearsal and performance situations as a musical theatre artist in the genres of ballet, modern, jazz and tap dance.

- Develop a high level of technical understanding, sophisticated and expressive performance skills and versatility across dance genres.

- Understand physical structure and the anatomy of the body and the ability to access proper technique when executing a particular dance style.

- Identify and analyze dance performance technique in a workshop setting using technical dance vocabulary.

- Understand the historical context of various influential theatrical dance genres.

**Materials and Requirements**

1) Students need to acquire either ballet slippers or jazz shoes and a pair of tap shoes. As long as the student is comfortable and the feet are well supported, it does not matter what type of dance shoe is used for class. A canvas or leather ballet slipper or a usual black soft-soled jazz shoe is fine for everyone. Students will also need any style of tap shoe. A flat, non-split sole tap shoe is recommended. Discount Dancewear is a great website that offers affordable prices.

*(Please contact me if you need help in this search or if you need financial assistance.)*

2) Dress appropriately. Wear clothing that will allow you to:

Stretch and dance comfortably without being inhibited.

All clothing must be form fitting enough to see the shape of the body in order for the teacher to be able to correct alignment and body placement.

Clothing must cover everything that should be covered even while jumping, turning, kicking, and/or stretching. NO short shorts unless over tights. NO exposed midriffs. Jeans are NOT appropriate. T-shirts and tank tops (as long as they cover everything they need to cover), yoga pants, and sweatpants are completely appropriate. Please wear NEUTRAL clothes - no bright colors, loud patterns or graphics.

*(Ladies, you might want to invest in a sports bra. Gentlemen, you’ll want to wear a dance belt or supportive underwear. Wearing sweats or dance pants without a dance belt or athletic supporter is NOT appropriate.)*
Cell phone use in class is prohibited, with the exception of specific research as determined by instructor. Cell phones should be silent and stowed at all times during class. Failure to comply will result in a lowered grade for classroom etiquette.

**Assessments and Accountability**

This course will require participation in warm-ups, barre exercises, across-the-floor repetitions, choreography memorization and performance. Please check Google Classroom for updates on class curriculum and resources.

BE DRESSED AND READY TO DANCE! This means that after roll is taken, you will dress quickly into your dance attire, and are standing center floor to begin the warm-up at 1:45pm.

**NOTE:** Attendance and Punctuality will be strictly expected. If the student has an excused absence, please let your teacher know via attendance guidelines. Attendance will be taken at the top AND the end of class.

Every week, students will be given an Accountability grade for punctuality. ONE tardy will result in a 0 (zero) for the week. These zeros are not able to be made up, so make sure you are on time to class. If you are late to class because of lunchtime conflicts, you will not be allowed to eat in class, and will therefore be marked tardy. Please do your best to be on time and ready to work.

**Grading**

In this course you will be assessed in the following areas:

**Accountability**

- A1- Attendance
- A2- Dress
- A3- Participation
- A4- Effort

**Essential Skills**

- E1- Dance Vocabulary (physical)
- E2- Technique
- E3- Performance

These categories will be reflected in PowerSchool. For Accountability (A) skills you will be given a 1 (you completed the skill successfully and the time it was asked of you) or a 0 (you did not complete the skill successfully when it was asked). Those numbers are unchangeable.

For Essential (E) skills you will be assessed on the scale of 1-4 and you will have the opportunity to retake the assessment to improve your grade.
• A score of 4 indicates you have achieved acceptable mastery of the material or the skill being assessed.

• A score of 3 indicates you are nearing mastery but have a little more work to do in order to do.

• A score of 2 indicates emerging mastery, but it is likely you will need to get some extra help.

• A score of 1 indicates that you either did not meaningfully attempt the assessment or you clearly do not understand the concept being assessed. You can resubmit all work that receives a grade below 4 as many times as you need in order to earn the highest score but needs to be completed within a reasonable window of time, usually 7-14 school days. I want you to work until you master the concept or the material. However, it is up to you. If you fall short of the 4 you must come to me to arrange a time to resubmit if it can't be done in class.

Due to the comprehensive physical demands of this professional training course, it is essential that you arrive on time to class every day ready to work. This means that you are in the studio at 1:35pm sharp for attendance. Then I will give you 5 minutes to dress in your appropriate attire and instruction will begin at 1:45pm. Attendance will be given a weekly grade. If you are tardy to class, your attendance grade will be lowered. Please email me with any questions or concerns.

Communication is the key! You are expected to participate in all classroom exercises, performances and class discussions. For this reason, attendance is vital! If you have a physical limitation or injury that requires modification, please notify me prior to the start of class so I can accommodate your needs. If you are not feeling well or are unable to participate in physical activities in class, you are required to take notes and observations that are turned in at the end of class for credit. These notes need your name, the date, and the title, “Non-participatory Observation Notes.”

This class is a safe zone. We are all here to learn, to experiment, to be unafraid in our ventures. You will always be respectful of ALL work that is done, completely supportive of your classmates, and only constructive criticism is appropriate. It is also important that you take the risk of putting yourself and your thoughts out there. Take the risk! Please see OSA School of Theatre Handbook for details about classroom preparedness and student behavior.