

### **Music Theatre Department Statement of Philosophy**

Our mission is to provide authentic training in fundamental performing arts skills. Real training happens in classes; regular attendance is critical to individual and collective success. We believe in the importance of performance as the greatest teacher. During the school year students participate in showcases, workshops, concerts, a J Term project and in the spring, Juries. Students are granted equivalent credit for genuine outside arts involvements. Classes require commitment and full participation from each student. The fully engaged student will graduate with the skills necessary to pursue post-secondary or conservatory training, or any valid program of study beyond high school.

### **Music Theatre Curriculum**

The Music Theatre Department spends equal time addressing the student's development as a dancer, actor and singer. In dance, Semester 1 is devoted primarily to dance technique. Second semester is devoted to applying learned technique to actual music theatre choreography and the combining of dance and song. The acting portion of the music theatre curriculum involves spending each year working within a traditional actor training system, studying under an acting teacher from the theatre department, grounding in the fundamentals of *theatre* acting. And also, much time is devoted to combining scene-work with song, and applying learned skills to the unique demands of a *music* theatre production. All music theatre students will take singing for both semesters, all four years.

## **SPCPA Musical Theater Department**

### **Freshman Year**

#### **Dance Technique (full year)**

Dance Technique is an exploration of 'styles of dance' designed to create confidence and originality in the dancer and non-dancer. This course will focus on creating a foundation of movement in space, time and energy in a way that will apply to any dance technique. Students will gain an understanding of basic dance vocabulary, and work on alignment and posture. To get fundamentally grounded, all freshman take a full year of dance technique.

#### **Singing (full year)**

Through the practice of singing warm-ups, exercises and musical theater repertoire, students develop a healthy vocal foundation for the study of singing techniques for the theater.

#### **Acting (spring semester)**

In the first year of acting, students are introduced to the fundamentals of the craft through simple games and exercises. Focus is on self-awareness and immersion in a set of given circumstances

#### **Scene into Song (fall semester)**

This class studies the seamless connections between scenes as they move into and out of songs and musical moments in the musical theater. This course culminates in a performance.

#### **Tap Dance (fall semester)**

This course offers students an opportunity to delve into tap dance as a physical and musical art form. The class will focus on technique, form and musicality, as well as the historical and cultural aspects of the Rhythm Tap Dance form. Additionally, students will be encouraged to develop their own personal style and voice through improvisation and composition exercises.

#### **Music Theater Repertoire (spring semester)**

An introduction to and exploration of the rich traditions of music and movement in the American musical theater. Guest dancer-choreographers from the Twin Cities professional theatre community are brought in to stage musical numbers. Students will put song and dance together.

### **Sophomore Year**

Acting (full year)

Students are encouraged to build on the skills developed during their first year as they begin to work on characterization, honesty and listening skills. Exercises become increasingly complex in this year as students are challenged to work on personal challenges in the acting process.

Singing (full year)

Further development of vocal skills for the musical theater performer

Dance Technique (fall semester)

Skill building in styles and fundamentals of dance used in musical theater

Cabaret (fall semester)

Students learn about the basics of building a cabaret act by studying songs and monologues. The class culminates in a cabaret performance.

Tap (spring semester)

A continuation of the study of tap begun in the freshman year

Music Theater Repertoire (spring semester)

Apply learned dance technique to actual music theatre choreography. Classes focus on developing personal and ensemble repertoire appropriate to the young performer through the study of important contributions to the music of Broadway.

### **Junior Year**

Singing (full year)

The practice of solo, small group and ensemble vocal techniques for the emerging stage singer

Acting (fall semester)

In their third year, music theatre acting students are encouraged to build on the skills developed during their first two years and focus on the principle of commitment. Students are challenged to make bold choices and take risks in their work in a safe environment where these choices can be examined and learned from.

Scene Into Song (spring semester)

This course revisits the importance of the connections between scenes and songs in musical theater. Students share their work at the end of the semester for the public.

Dance Technique (fall semester)

A further exploration of musical theater dance and the building of basic dance technique.

Music Theater Repertoire (spring semester)

Apply learned dance technique to actual music theatre choreography. A continuation of sophomore course work in the important contributions to the development of the marriage of song and dance.

Cabaret (fall semester)

Building on the previous year's class, performers learn the fundamentals of creating a cabaret performance, and engage with more advanced material. Students perform in a Cabaret at semester's end.

Music Theater Survey (spring semester)

Students research and investigate the roots of American musical theater and the creators of important milestones in the development of our unique art form

### **Senior Year**

Acting (full year)

In their final year, music theatre acting students engage with advanced topics and exercises that challenge the student actor and reinforce the learning that has taken place over the course of their time at the Conservatory.

Singing (full year)

The practice of solo, small group and ensemble vocal techniques for the emerging stage singer

Dance Technique (fall semester)

Continued study of the fundamentals of musical theater dance

Music Theater Repertoire (spring semester)

A continuation of junior course work. Song and dance class.

Cabaret (fall semester)

Students revisit the study of cabaret in their senior year. Monologues, song and dance are all explored in preparation for a cabaret performance at semester's end.

Scene Into Song (spring semester)

A successful musical theater actor can speak and sing and understand the connection between the two. Moving from the spoken word to the song, music theatre students put it all together in this class culminating in a performance at semester's end.

Subject to change