

Musical Theatre BFA

Acting Proficiency

Goal Description:

Each musical theatre student will acquire the knowledge and the acting skills necessary to demonstrate proficiency and artistry necessary to be successful in both the academic and professional worlds.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Musical Theatre Majors Will Demonstrate Proficiency In Character Development

Learning Objective Description:

During a juried performance of a pre-prepared monologue, the student will demonstrate proficiency in character development including effective movement, playing objectives, textual clarity, and vocal energy.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Acting - Musical Theatre Combined Jury

Indicator Description:

All musical theatre majors are required to complete a combined jury focusing on a combination of three areas: voice, acting, and dance. At the jury, students prepare two contrasting monologues (each 1min to 1.5 mins. in length) for the jury session and are required to display proficiency in character development including effective movement, playing objectives, textual clarity, and vocal energy. Students' acting proficiency is evaluated on a 1 to 5 scale on each monologue by each judge. The score of 5 is high. Judges discuss scores and come to a holistic determination about the students' proficiency and where improvement may be needed.This will be followed up by a self assessment interview with the student.

Attached Files

 [dance and acting jury rubric](#)

Criterion Description:

Individual student's jury performance and score is the foundation for acceptance or rejection into the program. For the continuing student, the improvement in score from previous juries guarantees their continued presence in the program. Each of the three elements hold equal weight in the decision to retain or admit a student into the program. However, a student who is particularly strong in one area may be admitted with the understanding that a weak area will need additional attention to raise the student to the appropriate level of expertise. We expect at least 95% of Musical Theatre students to meet this benchmark.

Findings Description:

In November there were 30 live auditions and 6 on line to fill the 5 openings left from graduating Seniors. In the spring there were 120 live auditions and 17 online to fill the 17 openings created by graduating Seniors. Of the 57 Musical Theatre majors, 98% of the students succeeded in fulfilling the requirements set by this section of the jury.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Increase in acting training

Action Description:

The students in this program continue to meet the criterion set by the program. What can not be measured in a jury situation is the variety of performance integration within a production situation. This includes working with different actors, singers, choreographers, and directors. The department will continue encouraging students to audition for roles outside of the University, especially with the Houston theatres to augment their growth in the classroom and University productions.

Dance Proficiency

Goal Description:

Each musical theatre student will acquire the knowledge and dance skills necessary to demonstrate proficiency and artistry in jazz and tap, as well as basic knowledge and dance skills in the areas of ballet and modern dance.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Musical Theatre Majors Will Demonstrate Proficiency In Basic Technical Dance Skills

Learning Objective Description:

During a juried performance, the student's proficiency in basic technical dance skills will be evaluated. These skills include subsets of techniques from ballet, tap, jazz, modern and lyrical. The student's proficiency in combination execution will be evaluated. Students are evaluated on use of space, energy, expressiveness and stylistic choices while performing a piece introduced during the jury session.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Dance Musical Theatre Combined Jury

Indicator Description:

All musical theatre majors are required to complete a combined jury focusing on a combination of three areas: voice, acting, and dance. At the jury, the student is taught one or two new dance combinations of different genres during the jury session and are required to perform those combinations with a minimum of rehearsal. Students' dance proficiency is evaluated on a 1 to 5 scale on each combination by each judge. The score of 5 is high. Judges discuss scores and come to a holistic determination about the students' proficiency and where improvement may be needed. This will be followed up by a self assessment interview with the student.

Attached Files

[dance and acting jury rubric](#)

Criterion Description:

Individual student's jury performance is either accepted or rejected based on the actual score and the improvement in score from previous juries. We expect at least 95% of Musical Theatre students to meet this benchmark.

Findings Description:

All 57 Musical Theatre majors in the program at the end of the Spring semester showed growth in this area. Many of the students rose to the level that was prescribed although 10% still fell short. The addition of a clinical professor in Musical Theatre specializing in dance has helped to increase the skill level of the students in this track.

The lack of foundation skills was noted by the new faculty member and that the placement of students in the Musical Theatre Style Jazz class and the Jazz II class were not at a level above a Jazz I. The same faculty member was concerned about the tap level that she noted in the Musical Theatre students. She hopes to raise the level of expectation in the juries for this section.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Coordination of dance class sequences

Action Description:

The faculty member who oversees the area of dance for the Musical Theatre emphasis is working with the dance department to assure that the students have a strong background in ballet, tap and jazz before they are permitted to take the specialty dance classes such as the Aerial sequence. The goal is to guarantee that the Musical Theatre students complete a foundation of ballet early in their academic career before moving into advanced levels of other dance forms.

The faculty member in charge of this portion of the program will be working closely with the Dance Department to assure scheduling of dance classes and Musical Theatre classes are at times that do not conflict. She plans to develop more than one level of Musical Theatre Jazz as to entice dancers from the dance program to join to encourage inspiration of ideas in both areas. She has also asked to be included in the Dance department's determination of the jazz and tap curriculum and level placement.

Vocal Proficiency

Goal Description:

Each musical theatre student will acquire the knowledge and the vocal skills necessary to demonstrate proficiency and artistry necessary for success in both the academic and professional worlds.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Musical Theatre Majors Will Demonstrate Proficiency In Artistry, Musicianship, Vocal Technique, and Voice Characteristics

Learning Objective Description:

Each student, through a juried performance, will demonstrate proficient artistry in vocal performance. Specifically, students will be evaluated on communication of text, playing objectives, acting, and personality/type. The student will also be juried based on his/her proficiencies in use of rhythm, tempo, dynamics, musical sensitivity and appropriate styling choices.. The student's vocal techniques relative to flexibility, breath support, diction, registration shifts, intonation, and control will also be measured. Voice characteristics including an evaluation on the quality, evenness of registration and belt range are also included in the jury process.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Musical Theatre End Of Semester Vocal Assessment

Indicator Description:

Each musical theatre student is required to complete a juried vocal performance. The juries consist of Theater and Musical Theatre faculty. The performance is evaluated using a 100 point departmental rubric (attached). A final, comprehensive score representing the evaluation of all vocal areas of proficiency is determined. This will be followed up by a self assessment interview with the student.

Attached Files

[vocal jury rubric](#)

Criterion Description:

Scores resulting from the end of semester juries are categorized as 95-100= Excellent; 90-94= Above Average; 80-89= One or more area need development; 70-79= Below Average. As a unit, the department considers above average proficiency by 90% of students to be a success.

Findings Description:

In the fall and spring semesters, 97 % of the 57 musical theatre majors met the benchmark.

In November there were 30 live auditions and 6 on line to fill the 5 openings left from graduating Seniors. In the spring there were 120 live auditions and 17 online to fill the 17 openings created by graduating Seniors.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Future vocal focus

Action Description:

The jury system continues to work effectively. This form of semester evaluation will continue. The vocal faculty in the department under went a shift when a part time faculty member had to resign for personal reasons. His replacement was found and she continued to work effectively with the students. The hope is to increase at least one of the part time vocal faculty to a full time commercial music singing teacher to lessen the overload of the coordinator of the program so that she can search out and create more performance opportunities for the students in the program.

Although the students continue to meet the goals set by the juries, the faculty will be assessing the course offerings and syllabi objectives. The Musical Theatre Workshop and Senior Seminar courses will be restructured to better meet the course objectives.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

The jury system set up by the Musical Theatre faculty continues to be a valuable tool for assessment.

A full time Clinical Professor to head the Dance section of this program was hired. She has been a huge asset to the growth of the student's success in this area. Her experience as a professional performer on Broadway and National tours has been invaluable to the strengthening of the student's' experience. She has worked and continues to work with the Dance Department to form a working bridge between the two areas.

The department brought in 6 Musical Theatre professionals. Greg Graham returned in the spring after completing his job as Associate Choreographer for the television production of "Hairspray, Live" to direct and choreograph our production of "Hairspray". Greg set the original Jerry Mitchell choreography (with permission from Jerry Mitchell) on our student cast. The growth of all the students that were cast in the show was immense. The 5 nights that the show ran were met with great appreciation from nearly sold out audiences. The department also brought in, for the same show, a seasoned Broadway and tour performer, Steven Bogard, to play Edna. Working side by side with a performer of this caliber, raised the professionalism of all of the students. Additional guests were brought in to augment the auditioning skills and dance skills of the students.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

The Clinical Professor position has shifted to a tenure track line to begin in the fall '17 semester. After a national search, the committee deemed our 2016 Clinical Professor as the top candidate for the tenure track position, she was offered the position and has accepted it.

The department successfully brought in a number of nationally recognized guest artists to work with our students.

Continued growth in Musical Theatre

Closing Summary:

The jury system continues to work effectively. This form of semester evaluation will continue.

The faculty member who oversees the area of dance for the Musical Theatre emphasis will work with the dance department to assure that the students have a strong background in ballet, tap and jazz before they are permitted to take the specialty dance classes such as the Aerial sequence. The goal is to guarantee that the Musical Theatre students complete a foundation of ballet early in their academic career before moving into advanced levels of other dance forms. She will also work on creating multiple levels of Musical Theatre Jazz to further strengthen this area.

The department will explore additional venues for Musical Theatre student to perform at. Continuing connections with theatres in Houston, concert opportunities and independent projects will all be researched.

The department will continue to bring in guest artists to expand the exposure of the students to outside artists.

Continued assessment of the course offerings and objectives of the courses in this program will continue in order to strengthen student preparation for the professional world.