



## Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre [Alumni] Program Overview and Course Descriptions

The Alumni Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre offers distinctive core performance immersion courses and elective offerings that include training in advanced musical theatre, on camera acting, voice production and speech and dance classes and well as final projects in the last semester. Critical studies course work and academics are designed specifically for the performing artist, with an objective of relevance to sustaining a career. Additional courses focus on career preparation, industry networking, and audition techniques. Courses in entrepreneurship will allow students to create performance opportunities, build business plans and explore the role of the producer.

### YEAR THREE

#### Fifth Semester

English Composition for the Actor

*Critical Studies: English 3 credits*

Kinetic Anatomy for the Actor

*Critical Studies: Science/Tech 3 credits*

Theatre Roots

*Critical Studies: Theatre Roots 3 credits*

Masterpieces of Drama

Great Playwrights & Great

Composers

World Theatre

Advanced Musical Theatre:

Musical Theatre Combinations

*Performance Immersion 3 credits*

Film/TV: TV Genres

*Performance Immersion 2 credits*

Individual Voice: Roles

*Performance Immersion 1 credit*

#### Sixth Semester

Creative Writing

*Critical Studies: English 3 credits*

Creative Exploration

*Critical Studies: Creative Exploration 3 credits*

Cultural Diversity in the Arts

Surrealism in the Arts

History of Cinema 1

Advanced Musical Theatre: Cabaret &

Broadway in Concert

*Performance Immersion 4 credits*

Dance Styles & Forms

*Performance Immersion 1 credit*

Individual Voice: Operetta & Art Song

*Performance Immersion 1 credit*

Performance Immersion Electives

*Performance Immersion 3 credits*

Intermediate Acting: Audition Monologues

Advanced Voice Production &

Speech: Dialects

Acting: Play Reading

### YEAR FOUR

#### Seventh Semester

Entrepreneurship in the Arts

*Critical Studies: Creative Exploration 3 credits*

Playwriting/Screenwriting

*Critical Studies: English 3 credits*

Theatre Roots

*Critical Studies: Theatre Roots 3 credits*

Advanced Musical Theatre: Audition

Portfolio

*Performance Immersion 3 credits*

Dance: Choice of Ballet, Tap, or Jazz

*Performance Immersion 1 credit*

Individual Voice: Pop, Rock & Recording

Styles

*Performance Immersion 1 credit*

#### Eighth Semester

Theatre Roots

*Critical Studies: Theatre Roots 3 credits*

Creative Exploration

*Critical Studies: Creative Exploration 3 credits*

Slam Poetry Workshop

Gender in the Performing Arts

History of Cinema 2

Industry & Networking; Career

Preparation

*Performance Immersion 2 credits*

Advanced Musical Theatre: Final

Project – Original Revue

*Performance Immersion 3 credits*

Advanced Musical Theatre: Final

Project – The Producer

*Performance Immersion 3 credits*

Individual Voice: Opera Workshop

*Performance Immersion 1 credit*

## Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre [Alumni]

#### Fifth Semester

**English Composition for the Actor**

**(Critical Studies: English) 3 credits**

Balancing the requirements of standard written English with subject matter that is relevant to the performing artist, this course will help students achieve confidence and competency in the areas of effective writing: a focused and unified thesis, compelling content and supporting details, a variety of rhetorical and organizational modes, grammar and mechanics, and accepted formats and documentation.

**Kinetic Anatomy for the Actor**

**(Critical Studies: Science/Tech) 3 credits**

Students will gain a fundamental knowledge and understanding of human skeletal and muscular anatomy, as well as basic concepts of biomechanical balance, momentum, and leverage. These lessons will be complimented by a movement "lab" where students will apply their anatomical knowledge to develop a "physical vocabulary" in order to refine their Characterization skills and help them be more safe, efficient, and effective in the physical aspects of their performances.

#### Theatre Roots

**(Critical Studies: Theatre Roots) 3 credits**

All Theatre Roots courses are humanities courses geared towards providing an artistic, intellectual, historical, sociopolitical, and overall cultural context for the major playwrights, traditions, and thematic areas of theatre and the performing arts. These interdisciplinary classes will combine theatre history, literature, philosophy, art history, and even scientific theories to help illuminate significant dramatists and works. These courses are divided into three categories, at least two of which will be offered each semester:

**Masterpieces of Drama:** Introductory surveys of a significant period or style of drama.

**Great Playwrights & Great Composers:** In-depth focus upon important playwrights and composers.

**World Theatre:** Studies of global theatrical and performing arts traditions.

Courses will vary each semester. Please see course catalog for a complete list of Theatre Roots course offerings and descriptions.

**Advanced Musical Theatre: Musical Theatre Combinations**

**(Performance Immersion) 3 credits**

Students work with a director and choreographer to create characters for an effective musical theatre performance within a professional ensemble. Skill areas include exploring vocal choices through acting, singing harmony, movement and choreography, and building a character. Repertoire is chosen from shows that are frequently produced allowing the student to prepare for future ensemble auditions.

#### Film/TV: TV Genres

**(Performance Immersion) 2 credits**

An on-camera acting class providing an introduction to the acting styles required of the network television series. An examination of such conventions of TV genres as the sitcom, the soap opera, and the one-hour drama.

#### Individual Voice: Roles

**(Performance Immersion) 1 credit**

Building on previous semester's vocal technique, students explore a role chosen for them by their instructor from the standard repertoire of Broadway Musicals. The student learns all of the songs for that role: an entire representative role for performance through research, building a character, script analysis, and performance. Study may culminate in a performance of the selected material produced in a reading style.

#### Sixth Semester

**Creative Writing**

**(Critical Studies: English) 3 credits**

This course offers to the performing artist a dynamic creative writing workshop. Study will include reading and analysis of some of the most inspired creative works. Focus will be given to comparing the fundamental structure of various writing forms, such as the short story, one-act play and screenplay.

**Creative Exploration****(Critical Studies: Creative Exploration)** 3 credits

Courses will vary each semester. Please see course catalog for a complete list of Creative Exploration course offerings and descriptions. Choices may include:

**Cultural Diversity in the Arts**

A course exploring issues of race, gender, ethnic and cultural identities as expressed within diverse theatrical and cinematic forms.

**Surrealism in the Arts**

This course examines works of art, literature, theatre, and film from the late 1800's through today that deal directly with dreams and hallucinations. This course also examines surrealist and dream texts from a cultural and historical perspective, presenting the various cultural differences and viewpoints associated with surrealist and dream texts. This course examines these cultural and historical underpinnings in order to grasp the nature of dreams from a larger global and historical perspective.

**History of Cinema 1**

This course (and its companion, History of Cinema 2) will explore the development of cinema from its beginnings in the late 19th century to the present. Emphasis is placed on major directors, films, and movements that contributed to the development of cinema.

**Advanced Musical Theatre: Cabaret & Broadway in Concert****(Performance Immersion)** 4 credits

This course is composed of two performance elements. In the Cabaret element, students explore and combine a variety of performance skills to create their own Cabaret Experience. Crafting of special material, patter, character development, musical arrangements, microphone technique, song selection, and marketing, are all part of the process. In the Broadway In Concert element students explore a musical produced in concert format, from auditions through public performances.

**Dance Styles & Forms****(Performance Immersion)** 1 credit

Students will be exposed to a variety of dance combinations and techniques in all disciplines; including tap, jazz, ballet, and traditional Musical Theatre. Audition and Performance skills will also be explored.

**Individual Voice: Operetta & Art Song****(Performance Immersion)** 1 credit

Students explore a series of songs from selected Operettas examining the singing styles required to perform classical repertoire from European influences such as Gilbert and Sullivan, Rudolph Friml, Sigmund Romberg, Victor Herbert, early Jerome Kern. A second element to this course is the assignment of a foreign language art song that could be added to the student's Audition Portfolio.

**Performance Immersion Electives****(Performance Immersion)** 3 credits

Choose 3 total credits. Courses will vary each semester. Please see course catalog for a complete list of Performance Immersion course offerings and descriptions. Choices may include:

**Intermediate Acting: Audition Monologues**

This course will provide actors the opportunity to create a "repertoire" of varied and contrasting monologues for audition and/or performance opportunities. Texts may range from classical to contemporary, comedic to tragic.

**Advanced Voice Production & Speech: Dialects**

Advanced dialect work designed to increase the actor's casting potential. In addition to dialect work, Voice Production, warm-ups, and overall vocal technique will be reinforced. Student may be assigned work based on skill level and/or assigned dialects.

**Acting: Play Reading**

Actors will explore a variety of playwrights, periods, and styles through reading plays aloud. Discussions of play themes and elements will be combined with reading dialogue in order to challenge the actor's skills while broadening their experience with plays in their written form.

**Seventh Semester****Entrepreneurship in the Arts****(Critical Studies: Creative Exploration)** 3 credits

The purpose of this course is to help each student achieve an individualized understanding of "entrepreneurship" and the creation of new artistic ventures and to allow each student an opportunity to envision a career in (or related to) the arts based upon their own creative and professional interests.

**Playwriting/Screenwriting****(Critical Studies: English)** 3 credits

This course is designed to explore the fundamentals of Playwriting and Screenwriting while allowing students to develop their skills in creating compelling characters, dialogue and plot. This course will survey the basic elements of dramatic structure, and the parallels and differences between the two art forms, playwriting and screenwriting.

**Theatre Roots****(Critical Studies: Theatre Roots)** 3 credits

Courses will vary each semester. Please see course catalog for a complete list of Theatre Roots course offerings and descriptions.

**Advanced Musical Theatre: Audition Portfolio****(Performance Immersion)** 3 credits

Building on previous skills and audition preparation from the 4th semester, students will prepare and perform a series of audition songs that are relevant to the current needs of an actor pursuing a musical theatre career. Specific audition songs unique to a variety of show styles will be researched, prepared and performed within the first 10 weeks. The songs will be added to their existing audition repertoire and added to their Audition Portfolio. Instruction will include effective ways for organizing the portfolio, and completion of an audition portfolio book will be a part of the grade. The last five weeks students will audition these songs in front of guests, culminating in a performance element.

**Dance: Choice of Ballet, Tap, or Jazz****(Performance Immersion)** 1 credit**Individual Voice: Pop, Rock & Recording Styles****(Performance Immersion)** 1 credit

Students explore the elements of establishing and maintaining good vocal health while gaining performance skills unique to using the voice in the recording studio. Elements explored include microphone technique, voice production, styles and vocal placement. Breath management is extremely important for successful pop vocal singing technique. Students develop their individual vocal skills through ear training, harmony, and rhythms while exploring scat singing and riff notation. Historical reference, listening lab, instrumental phrasing, harmonics, ear training, and vocal range are explored. Other topics include packaging, distribution, cover letters to industry, and selecting material.

**Eighth Semester****Theatre Roots****(Critical Studies: Theatre Roots)** 3 credits

Courses will vary each semester. Please see course catalog for a complete list of Theatre Roots course offerings and descriptions.

**Creative Exploration****(Critical Studies: Creative Exploration)** 3 credits

Courses will vary each semester. Please see course catalog for a complete list of Creative Exploration course offerings and descriptions. Choices may include:

**Slam Poetry Workshop** – Over the course of this writing workshop, students will learn how to create spoken word poems and monologues intended for public performance. Poets studied will include Daniel Beaty, Saul Williams, Maggie Estep, Mayda del Valle, Gina Loring, and Suheir Hammad. The workshop will culminate in students performing their own poems at AMDA's Late-Night Poetry Slam.

**Gender in the Performing Arts** – The seminar explores the distinctions and complex relationships among the concepts of sex, gender, and sexuality in relation to the performing arts. It will take a cultural studies approach informed by feminist, gender, and queer theories.

**History of Cinema 2** – This course (and its companion, History of Cinema 1) will explore the development of cinema from its beginnings in the late 19th century to the present. Emphasis is placed on major directors, films, and movements that contributed to the development of cinema.

**Industry & Networking; Career Preparation****(Performance Immersion)** 2 credits

This course provides valuable information regarding agents, casting directors and the practical business aspects of a career in the performing arts. Interviews, auditions, pictures/resumes, mailings, and similar professional responsibilities are included. 50% of credit hours assigned to this course will be acquired through out-of-class room assignments which are designed to introduce the students to industry professionals and establish contacts.

**Advanced Musical Theatre: Final Project – Original Revue****(Performance Immersion)** 3 credits

This course explores the creation of a traditional musical revue, including artistic, production, and performance elements from both the writers and performers viewpoint. Each student contributes research, writing, and performance towards performing in an original musical Revue. Utilizing both original and existing material, students research, write and perform a variety of sketch and song material. Choreography, staging, creation and development of character, current affairs, harmony and musical values are all explored through a wide repertoire of Pop, Rock and more traditional revue styles. Students also learn about creation of special material and sketch dialogue.

**Advanced Musical Theatre: Final Project – The Producer****(Performance Immersion)** 3 credits

This experience compliments information gained through the "Entrepreneurship in the Arts" course. Students will individually formulate an arts-related business plan while working within a team to produce an entrepreneurial project.

**Individual Voice: Opera Workshop****(Performance Immersion)** 1 credit

Working as a company, students audition for and are cast in a selected Opera. They continue their skill work exploring both the vocal, acting, and staging elements of performing a principal or ensemble role in a classical or modern Opera. Elements include research of historical style appropriate to the selected repertoire. This course may culminate in a final performance project.