

AMERICAN STUDIES II
HISTORY OF AMERICAN MUSICAL THEATER

MS. MARTIN

OBJECTIVES OF COURSE

By the end of this course you will be able to:

1. Identify all of the individual activities which come together to create a Broadway musical.
2. Demonstrate your grasp of theater terminology in your oral reports, written reviews and in the objective test at the end of the quarter which will also measure objective one and three.
3. Identify any composer we have discussed in class by playing his music.
4. Given a notebook you will indicate your ability to review shows by reviewing no less than EIGHT movie musicals, stage musicals or records of movie or stage musicals. The reviews must be a minimum of two pages.
5. Read the book The Playmakers by Arthur Cantor and Stuart Little. You may include a review of this book as one of your reviews.
6. Present an oral report or lecture to the class on the composer that has been assigned to you. Notes on the oral report are due the second week of the course.
7. At the public library listen to as many musicals as possible during the course. They will be placed on overnight reserve.
8. Within a group or individually write, produce, direct and ^{Video} tape either an original scene from a projected musical comedy or do a scene from one already in existence. Include as many aspects of a production as the group can do.

DEMANDS OF THE COURSE

This course will expect and demand several things from you:

1. A love or at least a strong interest in drama, music dance, technical theater and research in theater.
2. The ability to express your opinions in conversation about music and theater.
3. The ability to write what you think clearly and to the point.
4. Be prepared to submit your reviews once a week.
5. Your final.

REVIEW FORMAT

During the course of this quarter, you must write a minimum of eight reviews. Here is the general outline I wish you to follow. These are not hard fast rules but they should guide you in writing a well organized and interesting review.

- I. LEAD PARAGRAPH: The purpose of the paragraph is to capture the readers attention with a clever opening. It should also give a general introduction as to WHO? (Boston Players) WHEN? (Last night) WHERE? (Boston Rapture Theater) WHAT? (musical comedy entitled, "Spring Twine")

Example Lead: Last night's audience was thoroughly tied up with laughter when the Boston Players opened their musical comedy satire "Spring Twine" at the Boston Rapture Theater. This was certainly a "twine" for all theater seasons.

- II. BODY OF REVIEW: This should include the WHY? and the HOW? of the performance.

How well did the following "work"?

Actors	Include as many of these as merit praise or criticism. Be clever and original in your use of descriptive words. Remember that your review could possibly make or break a show. You have a responsibility to the art form.
Director	
Dancers	
Choreographer	
Singers	
Orchestra/Orchestration	
Writer/lyricist	
Costumes	While discussing all of these, it is imperative that you include a plot description.
Set design	
Lighting	
Sound	
Camera work	

Your review should also include the WHY?

Why was the following great, fair, poor, or terrible?

Pacing of the Show

Casting and Acting

Meshing of Music, Drama, Comedy, Dance

Message

Audience

Atmosphere

Work Future Success of play, actors music

Example: Spring Twine opens in a twine factory owned by J.S. Hillbutton (Herb Hartney) Silvia Swineburn played by Lorna Link wishes she had time to leave her twine and find romance. Here the opening song, "As Twine Goes by" sets the mood for this wistful scene.

Plot unfolds rapidly with boy meets girl, boy twines for girls and boy loses girl. In the finale the boy says, "So what! I have my twine factory, my money and my freedom." The closing production number with spectacular dancing by Betty and Marvin Pear including a reprise of "Having a Ball."

- III. SUMMARY: Perhaps you will give your over all impression and if you like your recommendation.

THE ANATOMY OF A BROADWAY MUSICAL

DIRECTIONS: In order to produce a Broadway show, the following jobs must be filled. You will select one of these jobs and during the course will write a paper or give an oral report explaining your job description paper giving a mock resume of your past experience and indicate how your work relates to the other jobs in the show.

Actors, Dancers and Singers	Conductor
Author of the book	Assistant conductor (pianist)
Composer of music	Technical Staff (electricians, master carpenter, property man, sound engineer, fly-man)
Lyricist	Production stage manager (calls show)
Producer	Stage manager (calls and supervises)
Backers	Assistant stage managers (stage right and stage left)
Director	Stage crew (set-up sets, strikes sets, changes set)
Assistant director	Company manager (payroll, transportation, lodging, works with general managers on every aspect of the production)
Casting director	General manager (watches expenses and budgets in the home office and advises the producer)
Chorus director (vocal arranger)	Make up staff
Music director (usually the conductor)	Hair stylist
Choreographer	Publicity representative
Assistant choreographer	Theater managers (ticket sales playbills, nut, ushers)
Set designer	
Costumer designer	
Wardrobe staff	
Lighting designer	
Assistant lighting designer	
Sound director	
Orchestrator	
Assistant Orchestrator (sometimes assists in composing and arranging incidental (scene changes) and dance music work- ing closely with the choreographer)	
Substitutes and Understudies	
Standbys (not in the show report before each performance see if needed)	

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

RESERVE BOOKS WINCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Baral, Robert Revue Fleet Publishing Co. New York

Engel, L. Planning and producing the Musical Theater

The Story of American Musical Theater

Green, Stanley Ring Bells! Sing Songs!

The World of Musical Comedy Seff-Davis
Publishing Co. New York 1960

Laufe, Abe Broadway Greatest Musicals Funk and Wagnals
New York 1969

Levine, Richard Simon, A. -Encyclodedia of Theater Music
Random House 1961

Mc Spadden, J. W. Operas and MusicalsComedies Thomas Y. Crowell
1961

Smith, Cecil Musical Comedy in America Theater Arts Books New
York 1946

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Engel, L. The American Musical Theater, A Consideration
CBS Legacy Collection McMillan Co. New York 1967

Ewen, D. Complete Book of American Musical Theater

Gilbert, D. American Baudville General Publshing Co. Ontario
1940

Green, Stanley The World of Muscial Comedy Grosset and Dunlap
New York 1960

Nagler, A.M. A Source in Theatrical History Dover New York 1952

Terry, W. Dance in America Harper and Row New York 1956

Taubman, H. Making of the American Theater Howard and McCann
New York 1967

Fremont, Roberta A. ed. Favorite Songs of the Ninties Dover Rub.
New York 1941

Howard, J. Our Contemporary Composers Thomas Y. Crowell Co.
New York 1941

Kimball, R. Simon, A. The Gershwins Atheneum New York 1973

REFERENCE MATERIALS
HISTORY OF MUSICAL COMEDY

MUSICAL CASSETTES: - Social Studies Area:

<u>Sound of Music</u>	<u>Porcy & Bess</u>
<u>Show Boat</u>	<u>#776</u>
<u>Annie Get Your Guns</u>	<u>Gypsy</u>
<u>The King & I</u>	<u>Grosse</u>
<u>Flower Drum Song</u>	<u>Pipin</u>
<u>Carousel</u>	<u>Carmen Jones</u>
<u>Kismet</u>	<u>You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown</u>
<u>Oklahoma</u>	<u>Hair</u>

MUSICAL COMEDY BOOKS & LOGIC: - Social Studies Area:

<u>Half a Sixpence</u>	from the novel by E. C. Wells
<u>You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown</u>	Based on the comic strip "Peanuts", by Charles Schultz
<u>Bells Are Ringing</u>	Books & lyrics by Betty Gordon & Adolph Green
<u>Pirotello</u>	Book by Jerome Weidman & George Abbott
<u>Fiddler on the Roof</u>	Book by Joseph Stein
<u>No Strings</u>	Book by Samuel Taylor
<u>The Sound of Music</u>	Book by Howard Lindsay & Ernest Crouse, suggested by "The Trapp Family Singers" by Maria Augusta Trapp
<u>Cabaret</u>	Book by Joe Masteroff. Based on the play by John van Druten & stories by Christopher Isherwood

Chronology of Musical

REFERENCE MATERIALS

<u>1920 - 1930</u>	<u>Rose Marie</u> , 1924	<u>The Vagabond King</u> , 1925
	<u>Lo, No Noctette</u> , 1925	<u>Hi, Ho!</u> , 1926
	<u>Show Boat</u> , 1927	
<u>1930 - 1940</u>	<u>Arms and the Girl</u> , 1933	
<u>1940 - 1950</u>	<u>Gentlemen Prefer Blondes</u> , 1949	<u>Carousel</u> , 1945
	<u>Lost in the Stars</u> , 1949	<u>On the Town</u> , 1949
	<u>Miss Liberty</u> , 1949	<u>Kiss Me Kate</u> , 1948
	<u>South Pacific</u> , 1949 (Pulitzer)	<u>Brigadoon</u> , 1947
	<u>Where's Charley?</u> , 1948	<u>Annie Get Your Gun</u> , 1946
	<u>Finden's Rainbow</u> , 1947	<u>Blondie Girl</u> , 1944

Winchester Library, Continued.

1950 - 1960

Call Me Nadia. 1950
Guns and Dolls. 1950
Paint Your Wagon. 1951
The King & I. 1951
A True Gypsy in Brooklyn. 1951
Can Can. 1953
Fanny. 1954
The Palace Game. 1954
The Girl in the Pink Tights. 1954
Rose Dreams. 1955
The Boy Friend. 1955 (English)
Damn Yankees. 1955

My Best Leg. 1956
Meet Fanny Hills. 1956
Jessica. 1957
New Girl in Town. 1957
West Side Story. 1957
Goldilocks. 1958
Cinderella (TV). 1957
How Now Bow Jones. 1958
Fiorillo. 1959 (Pulitzer)
Sand of Time. 1959
Wonderful Time. 1959

1960 - 1969

Dear World
CoCo. 1969
Ilya Darling. 1968
I do I do. 1966
On a Clear Day. 1965
Riddler on the Roof. 1964
Hello Dolly. 1964
High Spirits. 1964
I Can Get It For You Wholesale. 1962
How to Succeed in Business,
Without Really Trying. 1961 (Pulitzer)
Gambol. 1960
The Unsinkable Molly Brown. 1960

Half a Simpson (English)
1776. 1969
Pygmalion, Pygmalion. 1963
Sweet Charity. 1966
Man of La Mancha. 1965
Fade Out, Fade In. 1964
Funny Girl. 1964
What Makes Sammy Run. 1954
A Funny Thing Happened On
the Way to the Forum. 1962
No Strings. 1962
Suzy's Are For Sleeping. 1961
The Fantasticks. 1960
Iris La Douce. 1960

1970

Company. 1970
A Little Night Music. 1972
Two by Two. 1971
Purlie. 1970
Follies. 1971
Jesus Christ Superstar. 1971