

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE

Course: TH 204 **Singing for the Actor I**

Credits: 3

Prerequisites

None

Description

This class is for the student who is interested in learning the art of vocal performance. It is strongly recommended for those interested in musical theater or performance. Class instruction focuses on the fundamentals of correct breathing, tone production and diction. This course demonstrates singing/acting techniques through practical application and repertoire study. Students will interpret material to bring a song to performance level.

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate singing/acting performance techniques through practical application and repertoire study.
- Analyze assigned material, determining a process to bring a song to performance level.
- Illustrate the musical theatre canon through sight-singing, work-shopping, and performing.
- Analyze the basic elements of the physiology of the voice and singing techniques.
- Examine vocal production through individual and ensemble exercises and performances.

Topical Outline

This class is a collaborative workshop. In the first week, everyone will bring a song to sing for the class in order to break the ice and foster ideas about song assignments. Week 2 will be spent shopping songs and choosing one for each person to work into our final project. This course will incorporate the following:

- 1) *Group warmup*; getting our bodies and voices warm, and reminding everyone of the basics of singing.
- 2) *Individual song work*; working on each song both from a technical standpoint and dramatically, discussing character, story, and presentation.
- 3) *Class interaction*; using acting exercises to help each singer tell the story, involving other class members.
- 4) *Group discussion*; as the individual songs take shape, the class will interpret varying ways in which these songs might be performed. We will then begin to create a show - deciding on the order of songs, possible themes, common threads among songs, and staging - using ideas that may emerge from the class interaction above.
- 5) *Rehearsal of final project*; once the show is created, the final weeks will be geared towards running it from start to finish, finding a flow and pacing, and making any necessary changes.

Required Texts and Other Materials

Though there is no required text for this course; students will be responsible for paying a one-time lab fee (TBD). This fee goes toward the hiring of an accompanist.

Students will be responsible for researching and finding musical scores as needed.

Students are required to bring a recording device to class.

Recommended Texts:

Craig, David. On Singing, On Stage McGraw-Hill.

Merlin, Joanna. Auditioning, Vintage, 2001.

Student Assessment

Students will master assigned material, developing a process to bring a song to performance level, and explore the musical theatre canon through sight-singing, work-shopping, and performing. 25% of the student's grade is based on their willingness and ability to participate in class exercises. Each student will have three musical theatre songs to prepare---An Uptempo/Rhythmic, a Ballad, and a Character/Story Song. These assignments will be taken from approved scores and will require work in and outside of class. Each of these assignments will be 25% of student's grade. These pieces must be organized in an official audition "book."

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is cheating. Plagiarism is presenting in written work, in public speaking, and in oral reports the ideas or exact words of someone else without proper documentation.

Whether the act of plagiarism is deliberate or accidental [ignorance of the proper rules for handling material is no excuse], plagiarism is, indeed, a "criminal" offense.

As such, a plagiarized paper or report automatically receives a grade of **ZERO** and the student may receive a grade of **F** for the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

Available Resources

If you are having difficulty with work in this class, tutoring is available through the Success Center. If you think that you might have a learning disability, contact Project Assist at 856.691.8600, x1282 for information on assistance that can be provided to eligible students.

(List availability of open labs and/or writing center)

Before Withdrawing From This Course

If a student experiences adverse circumstances while enrolled in this course and considers withdrawing, s/he should see an advisor (division or advisement center) BEFORE withdrawing from the class. A withdrawal may cause harmful repercussions to completion rate standards and overall GPA which can limit or eliminate future financial aid in addition to causing academic suspension.