

Course Content - Introduction to Musicals

History and Fun Fact

- A musical is a play, movie, or tv show where singing and dancing are an important part of how the story is told.
- Many musicals are called “Broadway Musicals”. Broadway is a street in New York City, in the Theater District, where many of the best musicals are performed. Most of the 41 theaters considered Broadway Theaters are not on Broadway the street. A Broadway Theater is one located in the area with over 500 seats.
- The first modern musical was *The Black Crook* in 1866.
- *The Phantom of the Opera* has been running since 1988 and has had over 12,000 performances.
- The first feature length movie musical was *The Jazz Singer* in 1927.
- The highest award for an on-stage musical is a Tony award. It was named after Antoinette “Tony” Perry.
- The Tony award’s full name is the Antoinette “Tony” Perry Award for Excellence in Live Broadway Theater.
- In 2009, the Tony for Best Actor went to *three* boys for the same role. The boys shared the main role in the play *Billy Elliot* because the role was too demanding for just one young actor.

Styles of Musicals

- Among others, some of the styles of musicals are Book, Concept, Film, and Rock.
- Our course featured several musicals that originated on the stage: *Fiddler on the Roof* and *The Wiz* and *A Chorus Line*.
- *A Chorus Line* is a musical about trying to get a part in a musical.
- Our course featured several musicals that originated on the screen: *Hairspray*, *Beauty & the Beast*, and *La La Land*.
- *Beauty & the Beast* was the first animated movie to be nominated for an Oscar for Best Picture.

Music in Life Lesson:

The Music in Life lesson is a moment to engage in active listening. The Music in Life lesson song for this course is "Pure Imagination" from the movie musical *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. Students are invited to think about how the music makes them feel, think and move. Music is an individual experience; active listening encourages students to choose their own musical path.

Musicals of the Past and Fun Fact

- Our course introduced several musicals of the past (1900-2000): *West Side Story*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Cats*, *Grease*, *Sound of Music*, and *The Lion King*.
- The musical *West Side Story* was inspired by the play *Romeo & Juliet* by William Shakespeare.
- *The Lion King* has been both a wildly successful animated film and a Tony award winning play. It is a very popular play for schools to perform.
- *Starlight Express* is a musical play that is performed entirely on roller skates! The actors train for months to learn to sing, dance, and act while continuously skating.

Musicals of the Present

- Our course introduced several musicals of the present (2001-Present): *The Jungle Book*, *School of Rock*, *Matilda*, *Into the Woods*, *Moana*, and *Hamilton*.
- *School of Rock* is about a substitute teacher who inspires his students to form a rock band and enter a local talent show. It was a movie and then became a play.
- *Into the Woods* is a musical with characters from many well-known and loved fairy tales in an intertwined tale. One of those characters is Little Red Riding Hood.
- *Hamilton* is a very popular musical play about the founding father Alexander Hamilton.