

MUSICAL THEATRE ACTING

THEA 4000 and Lab

Fall 2026

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Office Hours: by appointment.

HOURS: 3;2 May be repeated for credit

Marjorie Hayes, Professor Emerita Acting-Directing

PREREQUISITES: THEA 1050, THEA 2051, THEA 2351. Prerequisites include: the ability to sing music on pitch as written, stay on key, the ability to produce sufficient sound to act the song, and the ability to sing a solo with confidence.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the development of the singing acting techniques used in 21st century musical performance. It includes the analysis of music and libretti, song selection for voice type, and the development of short and full song audition pieces. Our focus will be on the improvement of the skills that peak performance demands. The culmination of this work will be a final performance of songs performed for guests.

The teaching methodology will be group interaction, peer review, discussion, skill training, verbal critiques, and performance simulation. There are 53.5 hours of class: approximately 30 will be in song rehearsal, 11.5 in exercises, 4 in music and libretto analysis, and 8 lecture.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES

Students in this course will, through lecture, demonstration, and in-class rehearsal, explore the techniques of musical theatre acting. By the end of the course, you will have a greater sense of what constitutes a singing actor's homework, basic vocal technique, rehearsal technique, playing actions, characterization skills, emotional memory and the ability to use your life observations and personal life experiences in the creation of characters.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The teaching methodology will be vocal, physical and creative exercises, group interaction, peer review, discussion, skill training, verbal critiques and performance simulation. At times, the song work may require, or it may be necessary to ask students to demonstrate or find a more appropriate physical movement/posture for a song, to observe the instructor demonstrating a more appropriate physical movement/posture, and/or for the instructor to assist a student in developing that physical movement/posture. Any student with concerns about being touched is encouraged to notify the instructor.

POTENTIALLY OFFENSIVE MATERIAL

Please be advised that this class contains the rehearsal and performance of text and actions that may be considered offensive by some. You may encounter literary and directorial points of view that differ from your own. In theatre we seek to explore all possible forms of human behavior and we may at times give “voice” to characters that hold different views than our own.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Punctual attendance accounts for a substantial portion of the course grade. Thus, students are expected to be present and punctual for all classes.

The following policy is consistent with all acting courses in the department:

- *Students are allowed no more than a total of THREE (3) absences during the semester.*
- Students are considered tardy if they arrive for class no more than 30 minutes late. Arriving more than 30 minutes late for class is considered an absence.
- Students are expected to attend class for the duration of the period. Leaving before the class concludes is considered an absence.
- An occurrence of tardiness for the class FOUR (4) times is the equivalent or ONE (1) absence.
- *A total of (4) absences means that the highest grade the student can earn in the class is an F.*

Any student with an issue around attendance and/or punctuality will be referred to the Acting Faculty for guidance.

If a student’s absences have resulted in a grade with which they are not pleased, they may choose to withdraw from the class.

The professor’s roll is the official record of absences and tardiness. Students are encouraged to check the grade roster on Canvas to be sure that their attendance/punctuality record is accurate.

PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

It is expected that you give your undivided attention and support to your classmates during their presentations. This often requires silence while they work, and you observe. You can learn a great deal from watching others work. Please note that it is considered extremely discourteous to speak or enter/leave the room while others are working.

Most of your homework will be songs and scenes involving other people. You will have to organize rehearsals *outside of class that may be early in the morning or late at night, on Saturdays or Sundays*. Make sure that rehearsal times and places are clearly decided upon. If a problem with missing rehearsals occurs, do not let your work suffer, contact the instructor immediately. You are responsible for finding rehearsal space. You reserve space via the theatre room ap.

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TEXTBOOKS

Required: *Acting in Musical Theatre* by Joe Deer and Rocco Dal Verra

Free Download <https://epdf.pub/acting-in-musical-theatre.html>

Suggested: *How to Read Music - Fundamentals of Music Notation Made Easy* by Roger Evans

MATERIAL

- *Sheet Music in your key!! (Accompanist will not transpose)*
- Piano rehearsal recordings in your key
- Audacity Free Download <https://www.audacityteam.org/download/>
- Pilates circle
- Appropriate cords to play your music in theatre's speakers and Earphones
- Cork
- Metronome and/or Tuner, pitch pipe aps. See Backstage Useful Apps for Singers
<https://www.backstage.com/magazine/article/useful-iphone-apps-singers-54182/>
Voice Recorder or phone app.
- Appropriate wardrobe for the character, skirts, dresses, hard soled shoes and jackets, i.e.

FINAL PROJECT AND FINAL CLASS

Your final project will be an open performance of your work which may be in the evening. Time and Place TBD. Usually the final weekend of classes.

The Final Exam (Assessment discussion and paper due) will be **Wednesday, December 9, 1-3pm-3:30pm**. Place TBD.

GRADING

You will be graded on your class participation and willingness to explore, your script analysis, your exercises and your performances. ***Your development and artistic quality will be the main factor in the grades for your singing acting work.*** Students are encouraged to make an appointment with the professor to discuss their work in greater detail than class critique time allows. *All assignments must be completed to pass the course.*

This is a course designed for performance majors and minors who are intent on developing professional technique. The grading standard is c = needs additional work, b= very good, **a = excellent classwork, participation and attendance.** Your final grade will be based upon these criteria with approximately this weight:

1. Quality of 1 st song =	20%
2. Quality of 2 nd song =	25%
3. Quality of Scene work =	25%
5. Quality audition cuts =	3%
6. Quality of Choral Singing	2%
6. Quality Final Performance =	<u>25%</u>
	100% possible

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INCOMPLETES

Only under extraordinary circumstances will an incomplete be given.

STUDENT OBLIGATION TO ACADEMIC/PRODUCTION WORK

Dance & Theater students are expected to budget and organize their time and efforts in order to meet both their academic and production commitments satisfactorily and on time. The faculty and staff recognize that the academic and production assignments within the department, as well as outside employment and other obligations, sometimes impose conflicting pressures on DT students. One of the main responsibilities of each student is to identify carefully and monitor the commitments that comprise his/her departmental assignments and outside obligations. It is also important to keep in mind that production work and outside obligations do not constitute an excused absence from DT classes or from the completion of any required class assignments.

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom, and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.

ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation: reference Public Law 92-112—The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodation at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to

protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

The UNT Department of Dance and Theatre Arts does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the recruitment or admission of students. The content of this class requires each student to (a) actively participate in a safe manner and (b) spontaneously process visual and verbal cues. The student has the responsibility of informing the instructor of any disabling condition which will require modifications in assignments or exercises. If you have a disability and feel you are unable to meet the requirements of this class without reasonable accommodations, please contact the instructor to discuss your needs.

ACCOMMODATION

Please let me know if you need accommodation for religious holidays or other issues.

FITNESS

This course is designed to accommodate all levels of physical ability and fitness. As with any physical training, there will be some soreness and muscular fatigue as a result of a new use of the body. This is normal and healthy. However, *you are responsible for your own health*. If you are in doubt as to whether you can perform some aspect of the exercises, please refrain from doing so until you can consult a physician. If you need to refrain from doing significant portions of the coursework due to this condition, you must get written verification from a physician and be prepared to do alternative assignments.