MUSICAL THEATRE MINOR
(Dance, Music, Theatre Interdisciplinary Minor)
1-sheet created July 2, 2021

A general description of the interdisciplinary minor.
The Musical Theatre minor, interdisciplinary in nature, is a 16-24 credit program that incorporates the study of acting, dance and the vocal arts. The program is open to all Furman students, regardless of major, through an audition process.

A rationale for the interdisciplinary minor.
The study of musical theatre includes courses in dance, theatre, and music. This program allows for collaboration between the music, theatre and dance disciplines and fills a curricular need on our campus. The musical theatre minor broadens Furman’s Fine Arts offerings, giving students more options within their chosen major.

Musical Theatre is a discipline that requires performers to have experience and training in the three distinct, but intersecting disciplines of vocal musicianship, dance in a variety of forms, and acting/scene study. The study of Musical Theatre takes a holistic approach that guides performers toward mastery of storytelling through one of America’s best known art forms. By approaching Musical Theatre as a curricular endeavor, students will gain the ability to move seamlessly through all three disciplines and synthesize their work.

In order to better prepare our students for the career landscape upon graduation, Musical Theatre is an important component to their training. In 2018-2019, according to the Broadway League (report attached), musicals out sold plays four to one. And, by the same data, musicals ran 3 times longer than plays, which indicates that students looking to have a life in the performing arts will be well served by training and experience in musical theatre.

There is no art form more collaborative than Musical Theatre, and Furman is in a unique place to provide excellent training through the interdisciplinary nature of the already existing programs on campus. The Lyric Theatre Program for the Music Department already produces light opera and Golden Age musicals on a two-year rotation, and the Theatre Arts Department produces a more contemporary-style musical every other year (opposite to Music’s Golden Age musical). With the addition of Dance as a curricular component in the last year, Furman is poised to bring these collaborative elements into one Musical Theatre minor without altering much of the existing curricular landscape that already exists. This training will supplement the Liberal Arts approach to Fine Arts.

Mission Statement: By training students in the foundations of collaborative musical theatre technique, this minor will supplement their major exploration by building skills, enabling exploration, and empowering performance through the intersections of Dance, Music, and Theatre.

Students completing the Musical Theatre Minor will...

1. Develop fundamentals of acting technique including script reading and analysis, movement, vocal development, and performance theory and practice
2. Expand repertoire and acquire skills by developing fundamentals in musical theatre scene study including acting, singing, and movement technique
3. Acquire skills in dance through studio courses that will expose students to various dance styles often found in musical theatre choreography, including in-depth study of jazz, tap, and contemporary dance techniques.

4. Demonstrate proper vocal technique and an understanding of pitch, rhythm, and musicality that will help in the rehearsal room and on stage.

5. Have the ability to apply and synthesize acting, dance, music, and vocal techniques holistically into musical theatre performance.

A list of the courses in the interdisciplinary minor, with an identification of any courses specifically required. The list for each interdisciplinary minor will be published each year in the University Catalog.

(all MT IDS minors must participate in at least 2 full productions in the music department and/or the theatre arts department in order to complete the minor)

Program requirements for Voice majors (BA) - 20 credits

- **THA-120 Foundations of Acting**
  Fundamentals of acting technique including script reading and analysis, movement, vocal development, and performance theory and practice. 4 credits.

- **THA-223 Actor’s Voice or THA-224 Movement for the Actor**
  THA-223: Exploration of the natural voice using methods developed by Kristin Linklater including articulation for the stage, developing character voices and stage dialect. 4 credits.
  THA-224: Exploration and development of the actor’s physical expression for the stage. Includes: stage combat, period styles, mask work, physical conditioning, personal fitness and other methodologies that can be applied to theatrical performances. 4 credits.

- **Music Theatre Foundations 300-level** (new MUS/THA course)
  Fundamentals in musical theatre scene study including acting, singing, and movement technique necessary for song and scene performance. Topics may also include musical theatre history and basic musicianship as it relates to performers. (team taught- Azar and Knox) 4 Credits

- **Dance-100 level or higher** - 4 credits

- **DAN-230 Musical Theatre Dance** - 4 credits
  This studio course will expose students to various dance styles often found in musical theatre choreography, including in depth study of jazz, tap, and contemporary dance techniques. Students will acquire vocabulary and awareness of the styles frequently used in musical theatre by enhancing artistic agency through developing proficient physicality, form, body mechanics, and corporeality.

Program requirements for Voice majors (BM) - 16 credits

- **THA-120 Foundations of Acting**
  Fundamentals of acting technique including script reading and analysis, movement, vocal development, and performance theory and practice. 4 credits.

- **Music Theatre Foundations 300-level** (new MUS/THA course)
  Fundamentals in musical theatre scene study including acting, singing, and movement technique necessary for song and scene performance. Topics may also include musical theatre history and basic musicianship as it relates to performers. (team taught- Azar and Knox) 4 Credits
- **Dance-100 level or higher** - 4 credits
- **DAN-230 Musical Theatre Dance** - 4 credits
  
  *This studio course will expose students to various dance styles often found in musical theatre choreography, including in depth study of jazz, tap, and contemporary dance techniques. Students will acquire vocabulary and awareness of the styles frequently used in musical theatre by enhancing artistic agency through developing proficient physicality, form, body mechanics, and corporeality.*

Program requirements for Theatre Arts majors (BA) - 20 credits

- **MUS-511 Applied Voice (6 credits total)**
  
  *Basic fundamentals of correct singing (posture, breathing, tone production). Beginning studies in vocal repertoire.*

- **Music Theatre Foundations 300-level (new MUS/THA course)**
  
  *Fundamentals in musical theatre scene study including acting, singing, and movement technique necessary for song and scene performance. Topics may also include musical theatre history and basic musicianship as it relates to performers. (team taught- Azar and Knox) 4 Credits*

- **Dance-200 level or higher** - 4 credits
- **DAN-230 Musical Theatre Dance** - 4 credits

  *This studio course will expose students to various dance styles often found in musical theatre choreography, including in depth study of jazz, tap, and contemporary dance techniques. Students will acquire vocabulary and awareness of the styles frequently used in musical theatre by enhancing artistic agency through developing proficient physicality, form, body mechanics, and corporeality.*

- **Musical Theatre Techniques 100-level (new MUS course)**
  
  *Introduction to musical fundamentals for the singing-actor. This course focuses exclusively on topics and techniques that will help in the rehearsal room and on stage. 2 Credits.*

Program requirements for non-music/theatre majors/non-voice (24 credits)- audition only!

- **THA-120 Foundations of Acting**
  
  *Fundamentals of acting technique including script reading and analysis, movement, vocal development, and performance theory and practice. 4 credits.*

- **Music Theatre Foundations 300-level (new MUS/THA course)**
  
  *Fundamentals in musical theatre scene study including acting, singing, and movement technique necessary for song and scene performance. Topics may also include musical theatre history and basic musicianship as it relates to performers. (team taught- Azar and Knox) 4 Credits*

- **Dance-200 level or higher** - 4 credits
- **DAN-230 Musical Theatre Dance** - 4 credits

  *This studio course will expose students to various dance styles often found in musical theatre choreography, including in depth study of jazz, tap, and contemporary dance techniques. Students will acquire vocabulary and awareness of the styles frequently used in musical theatre by enhancing artistic agency through developing proficient physicality, form, body mechanics, and corporeality.*

- **MUS-511 Applied Voice (6 credits total)**
  
  *Basic fundamentals of correct singing (posture, breathing, tone production). Beginning studies in vocal repertoire.*
Musical Theatre Techniques 100-level (new MUS course)

*Introduction to musical fundamentals for the singing-actor. This course focuses exclusively on topics and techniques that will help in the rehearsal room and on stage.* 2 Credits.

For further information or to schedule a time to discuss the acceptance to the minor, please contact Maegan McNerney Azar, Chair of Theatre Arts and the Musical Theatre IDS Minor at maegan.azar@furman.edu.