

FA 689: SENIOR CAPSTONE in MUSICAL THEATRE
(as of: Sp14)

Theatre Faculty Supervisor: Tony Horne
Dance Faculty Supervisor: Darci Wutz
Voice Faculty Supervisor: Student's Private Voice Teacher

Course objective: This course is a faculty-supervised public performance conceived and directed by the enrollee, and is a result of his/her training in the BFA Inter Arts Musical Theatre degree program. It is designed to allow the student to combine his/her knowledge in music, theatre and dance by developing a thirty minute event that showcases all three skills. The program may be in collaboration with other capstone students or in conjunction with other capstones in an evening that will function as a showcase for music theatre students to show their abilities to family, friends and local arts organizations. The student will display the following outcomes in the capstone project:

- Ability to create a viable, balanced theatrical product featuring themselves
- Vocal growth in timbre, range, stamina and interpretation
- Growth as a dancer in the area of general body deportment, movement and choreography
- Theatrical prowess in character building, projection of text, directorial ideas, and script execution

The capstone material and content, written requirements, hearing and performance date will be approved by an appointed Musical Theatre Capstone Committee (MTCC) which is made up of a representative from each of the departments of Music (voice teacher), Theatre and Dance. The presentation is to focus on the student's strengths. Students should choose a variety of material that has been studied at UWM (both old and new) with at least 3 historical periods of Musical Theatre represented. These selections should include numbers with or without their related scenes, choreography, acting scenes and/or monologues. Students may include other singers/dancers/actors in the performance in order to show variety with small ensembles and duets that will enhance their project, but this should be kept to a minimum. **You are responsible for directing your own capstone.** Simplicity is the key - so use a minimum of props, furniture or scenery. Keep costume changes to a minimum. The student is responsible for attaining any props or costumes for the performance – **the student should communicate these needs via the Theatre Coordinator and should make these requests and secure any props or costume needs by the capstone hearing date.** Students will have use of the Musical Theatre electric keyboard during tech, dress and performance, but NOT during regular rehearsals.

I. PRE-REQUISITES

- A. Students must have completed all theory, piano, math and English requirements prior to the semester in which they enroll in FA 689 – Sr. Capstone in Musical Theatre.

- B. Students must be enrolled in private voice lessons either the semester before (if their capstone performance is at the beginning of a semester) or during the semester in which their capstone is held (if their capstone is at the end of the semester).

II. WRITTEN REQUIREMENTS

- A. **INTENT to PRESENT/FUNDING REQUEST form:** At the end of the fall semester of his/her Junior year each student will complete and submit an Intent to Present/Funding Request form in which the student:
 1. requests a projected performance date (based on the 3 MTCC members' and venue availability).
 2. identifies collaborative or individual intent of performance.
 3. requests funding support within the available funds (amount available may vary).The MTCC will arrange space and date reservation requests on the capstone student(s)' behalf.

- B. ALL E-MAIL COMMUNICATIONS MUST be cc'd to the key participants involved in each capstone – the faculty members of each capstone student's MTCC and all joint capstone students, if applicable.
- C. **CAPSTONE PROPOSAL:** The semester prior to the projected capstone date, the student will submit electronic copies of a proposal to each of the student's MTCC members. The proposal will contain a substantial statement outlining the goals and concepts for the capstone performance, along with the actual program materials as it is currently envisioned. The program should be no more than 30 minutes in length per capstone student.
- D. The student(s) must meet with Kayla Premeau, Dance Office Manager, to discuss funding and budgetary arrangements and requirements at least 8 weeks prior to the performance. Written request for a meeting must be made electronically.
- E. **Technical Crew:** The student is responsible for retaining all technical crew (stage manager, lighting designer, light board operator, etc.) for the rehearsal and performance times and dates. Recommendations may be sought from the MTCC, but it is the student's responsibility to confirm and solidify these arrangements. It is highly recommended that the student secure crew at least 8 weeks prior to the performance. If capstone students are presenting separate capstones that occur on the same date, they are encouraged to share crew and videographer of their required archival DVD of the performance (see below).
- F. **Archival DVD:** An archival DVD of each capstone performance is REQUIRED. Arrangements for the filming of each capstone is the responsibility of the student(s) involved. If capstone students are presenting an integrated capstone, they may submit a single DVD of their performance. If they are presenting separate capstones, they must submit separate DVDs of their performances.
- G. **CAPSTONE SCRIPT:** Eight weeks prior to the performance, the student will submit a complete, paginated script of the show electronically to each of the MTCC members which will include:
1. working title
 2. pagination
 3. labeled sections
 4. cast list, crew and musicians
 5. all entrances and exits
 6. titles and words to songs
 7. all dialogue and narration
 8. transitions
 9. lighting cues/"looks"
 10. a list of props, costumes, scenery pieces (KEEP THESE TO A MINIMUM!)
- Any revisions or updates of working scripts must be sent to the MTCC when applicable.
- H. **PROGRAM COPY:** Two weeks prior to the performance, the student submits an electronic version of the program copy to each of the MTCC members for approval. (Posters are optional – if created, poster copy must be submitted for approval at this time, as well.) Cost/printing of programs is the responsibility of the student. Program copy should:
1. be easy to read
 2. contain program notes in college level prose with proper grammar and an academic tone
 3. include the composers/lyricists/authors and their dates of composition
 4. include acknowledgements/special thanks
 5. a statement from the student summarizing the concept
 6. include this statement: **"This performance is given in partial fulfillment of the BFA degree in Inter Arts-Musical Theatre."**

7. include this statement: **“This performance is supported in part by funds from the PSOA Black and Gold Committee differential tuition allocation”** (if applicable)
- I. **WRITTEN REFLECTION:** One week after the performance, the student submits a written/electronic reflection and post analysis of the process through performance to each of the MTCC members.
- J. **DVD:** A visual recording of the performance **is required**, and the student must **submit a quality DVD** to the committee prior to the end of the semester, along with a **copy of the program** for archival purposes. The student will not receive a final grade until this DVD is submitted.

The committee is charged with providing feedback for the revisions of the proposal, script, and program copy. The student may request additional feedback from any member of the MTCC after the hearing/feedback has occurred.

III. THE REHEARSAL PROCESS

- A. **REHEARSALS:** Student is responsible for creating and running a rigid and consistent rehearsal schedule with accompanist and other participating performers. In addition the student arranges rehearsal space and times, and any technical support needed – i.e., lighting, stage manager, videographer, etc. Space rehearsal requests, via email, for dance spaces can be made through Kayla Premeau, Dance Office Manager; for theatre spaces through Kristy Volbrecht, Theatre Office Manager; for Music spaces through Kerry Bienenman. Students request use of any props, costumes, etc., via the MTCC.
- B. **TECH PREPARATION:** Student must be proactive and contact the faculty technical director in charge of the reserved performance space to learn specific limitations regarding lighting, seating capacity, floor, dressing rooms, room set-up, and strike requirements. Student must also arrange his/her own tech crew and ushers, with guidance from the MTCC. **If needed, students will have use of the Musical Theatre electric keyboard during tech, dress and performance only.** If the student chooses to use a piano that exists in their performance space, they are responsible for including tuning the piano in their capstone budget – this can be costly. Per PSOA policy, no money may be charged or donations sought at the door for this event.
- C. **HEARING(S):** No later than 2-3 weeks before the event, the student will present a showing before the MTCC during which the entire program is performed. All performers/musicians **MUST** be available and present for any scheduled hearings. The hearing should represent the capstone as clearly and completely as possible – off-book, with all elements (songs, scenes, monologues, choreography, etc.) present and complete. Additional hearings may be required, and will be determined by the MTCC.
- D. **PRODUCTION:** In the week prior to the event, tech, dress rehearsal and performance (followed immediately by strike) will be held in the appropriate venue over a 2-day period, maximum. **All performers/musicians/crew MUST be available and present for all aspects of this week.** Students will have use of the Musical Theatre electric keyboard during tech, dress and performance. They are responsible for its acquisition, safety and proper, secure storage during tech/performance week. They are also responsible for its return to its original storage location immediately after the performance. After the MT Academic Committee has approved the student’s request for the use of any props, costumes, etc., the student is then responsible for the retrieval, care and return of any borrowed materials to their original location.

- E. REFLECTION PAPER:** An individual, written reflection paper and post analysis of the performance is due 1 week after the capstone performance from each capstone student.
- F. DVD:** Student is required to arrange for the visual recording of the performance, and submit a quality DVD to the committee prior to the end of the semester, along with a copy of the program for archival purposes.

IV. ASSESSMENT

Pre-Performance (40%)		Performance (60%)	
Planning, research & deadlines	10%	singing	10%
Proposal	10%	movement	10%
Hearing	20%	acting	10%
		directorial aspects	10%
		technical aspects	10%
		written reflection/analysis	10%

V. TIMELINE of EVENTS: (subject to change)

Junior Year (Fall Semester):

- Student begins formulating capstone ideas in conjunction with the MTCC.
- Student completes and submits a hard copy of INTENT TO PRESENT/FUNDING REQUEST FORM.
- Semester and dates of hearing, tech and performance are scheduled through the Music Theatre Academic Committee and shared with capstone-specific MTCC, and anyone else who is participating in the capstone – additional performers, musicians, crew, etc.
- Deadlines established for written criteria.

Semester prior:

- CAPSTONE PROPOSAL: Student submits electronic versions of proposal to the MTCC for feedback and possible revision. If two students are planning an integrated (melded) capstone, one script submission is sufficient.

8 weeks prior:

- Semester and dates of hearing, tech and performance shared with anyone else who is participating in the capstone – additional performers, musicians, crew, etc.
- SCRIPT: Student submits a full script of the show for feedback from the MTCC.
- Student re-submits script for final approval with MTCC.
- Student arranges for rehearsal space and times with fellow performers and musicians.
- Student begins a rigid and consistent rehearsal schedule with accompanist and other participating performers present.
- Student may request rehearsal space via Kristy in Theatre and Kayla in Dance.
- Student arranges for any technical support needed – i.e., lighting, videographer, stage manager, etc.
- Students request use of any props, costumes, etc., via the MTCC.

2-3 weeks prior:

- HEARING: Student presents entire program in running order before the committee and voice instructor.
- Cast is OFF-BOOK, and ALL performers must be present for the scheduled hearing, including musicians.
- Capstone should be as close to performance ready as possible at this juncture.
- All props, simple set pieces, etc., should be used at this time.

- Student is responsible for creating marketing of performance – i.e., facebook postings, posters, etc.

THE MTCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REQUEST AN ADDITIONAL HEARING PRESENTATION IF IT DEEMS THE CAPSTONE IS NOT AT THE LEVEL OF COMPLETION EXPECTED AT THIS TIME.

THE MTCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO POSTPONE ANY CAPSTONE AT ANY POINT IN THE REHEARSAL PROCESS IF THE MTCC DECIDES MORE PREPARATION/MODIFICATION IS NECESSARY FOR THE SUCCESSFUL FULFILLMENT OF THE COURSE REQUIREMENTS. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ADJUSTING TO ANY TIMELINE MODIFICATIONS DETERMINED BY THE MTCC.

2 weeks prior:

- PROGRAM COPY: Student submits completed program to the committee for approval.
- PRINTING: Once approved, student is responsible for program printing.

The week of:

- Tech, dress rehearsal, final performance and STRIKE – **over a 2-day period.**

1 week after:

- Individual electronic submission of reflection paper and post analysis of the performance to MTCC.
- **Submission of DVD of Capstone Performance – including copy of program, date and year of performance.**

2 weeks after:

- DEADLINE: Submission in hard copy of the Capstone Reimbursement form, complete with **detailed receipts** and **copy of program.**

TBD:

- Meeting with and feedback from MTCC during the end-of-semester 1-on-1 meetings with MT coordinators.

Learning Environment

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is dedicated to providing an environment that is supportive to the learning needs of all students. The university policies may be found at:

http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/news_events/upload/Syllabus-Links.pdf

SYLLABUS CONTENT SUBJECT TO CHANGE