

Lesson 2: Storytelling in Musicals

OBJECTIVE: Students will learn about the “emotional staircase” and how it’s the basis of storytelling in musical theatre.

MATERIALS:

- Handheld Mirror
- Newsies YouTube Clip (https://youtu.be/GmKUI_RzfR8)
 - Clip Title: *Newsies - Tony Awards 2012*
- Large writing surface

GREETING:

- Ask the class to recall what 3 things are used to tell stories in musicals (dialogue, song, dance).
- Ask a few students to share their drama journal “Show Card” assignments from the last class.
- *Does anyone know what we call someone who can sing, act and dance? A triple threat.*
- *Our goal is for everyone in this class to become a triple-threat. That’s why as we continue to explore and learn about musical theatre, we’ll begin every class with a movement and voice warm-up.*

MOVEMENT WARM-UP: Confidence & Relaxation

- Gather the class into a standing circle.
- Take out a pocket mirror.
- Tell the class you will be passing around the mirror. When they receive it, they must strike a strong pose, look into the mirror, say 2 factual things they notice about themselves, and end with “...and that is good!”. The whole class will then repeat “That is good!”.
- Give a demonstration: (looking into the mirror) *I have short brown hair, and green eyes... and that is good!* Class repeats: *That is good!*
- Pass the mirror around the circle.
- Tell the class you will give them 1-minute to turn to their neighbors and say 2 things they like about him/her...go! (*i.e. I like your shoes, I like that you’re funny, etc.*)
- *To be great musical actors, we must be confident in ourselves. We must not worry what other people think because we will often be doing things that seem silly! Musical theatre is an exaggerated art form, so we must feel strong and safe and always be willing to take big risks.*
- Lead the class through a series of stretching/relaxation exercises:
 - *Quietly take a strong breath in, and then slowly let it out in 5 seconds. Repeat 2x.*