THAR – THEATRE ARTS

THAR 101
Acting Skills I
3 Credits Total (10-80-0)
Acting Skills I is the first in a series of courses to develop the essential skills to create in both a solo and ensemble environment as a beginning actor. This is a course of preparation and discovery. Through the exploration of body, voice and imagination, students are introduced to the foundational tools of actor training through Improvisation, Text Study and Monologue/Scene Study.

THAR 104
Vocal Production for Music Theatre I
3 Credits Total (11-45-9)
Vocal music production includes vocal training for the stage (both spoken and sung), private weekly coaching sessions, and an introduction to the history and repertoire of musical theatre. Through vocal and physical exercises, students learn techniques and strategies for successful rehearsal and performance. Spoken voice builds foundational skill in proper vocal production for the stage. Posture, breath management, tone quality, diction, interpretation and musicianship are explored in weekly private singing lessons. Lectures provide historical and thematic context of the evolution of American musical theatre, charting its genesis from ancient times to the mid 20th century, and the styles that inform the presentation of this material. All these facets of study culminate in weekly workshops with the performance of songs, and their integration into a dramatic textual setting.

THAR 105
Play Analysis
3 Credits Weekly (3-0-0)
Although it explores the influence of drama as theatre, this course concentrates on the critical analysis of the dramatic text. Through the study of scripts representing major historical periods when drama significantly influenced society, students become aware of the basic elements of dramatic structure. Students are introduced to a multiplicity of perspectives of play analysis (director, designer, dramaturge, actor, and critic). The influence of drama on contemporary society is part of this exploration. Students are required to attend and study at least two productions during the current term. Note: This course may not be taken for credit if credit has been obtained in DRMA 102.

THAR 109
Performer’s Lab
3 Credits Weekly (0-6-0)
Works from music theatre’s repertoire are studied and explored in a workshop format. In this laboratory course, students acquire the necessary rehearsal and performance tools to perform a complete music theatre work. They learn how to make the author’s voice come alive in structure and characterization as well as how to make the transition from speaking to singing in an honest and believable way. A director, vocal director, choreographer and musical director work together with the students to prepare a final project for a brief public performance run. As a culmination of their first year of training, they are expected to perform at a higher level of professionalism than in previous course work.

THAR 110
Dance Skills I
3 Credits Weekly (0-6-0)
In this course, students are introduced to the fundamentals of dance technique and movement for actors. Dance technique classes, primarily in ballet, jazz and tap, explore the various styles of dance demanded of the musical theatre performer through exercises in these disciplines and the preparation of both solo and ensemble pieces. Movement classes assist the developing actor in increasing body awareness, thus providing a better basis for character physicalization.

THAR 140
Music Theory and Ear Training I
3 Credits Weekly (3-0-0)
This course introduces the theoretical basics of music as they apply to the repertoire of music theatre. Students apply the basic rudiments of music theory to the analysis of music theatre repertoire. Topics include: functional keyboard, the aural identification of intervals, melodies, rhythms, and chords, as well as the sight-singing of melodies and rhythms drawn from the music theatre repertoire.

THAR 141
Music Theory and Ear Training II
3 Credits Weekly (3-0-0)
Students continue to study music theory and ear training with song selections from the music theatre repertoire. Coursework focuses on the relationship between theory and the performance of music theatre repertoire.

Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C- in THAR 140.

THAR 149
Introduction to Dramatic Process
3 Credits Weekly (0-5-0)
This course is designed for students with little or no previous experience in drama and therefore introduces students to the process of acting and dramatic form. By improving their improvisational techniques in the disciplines of speech and movement, students develop an increased awareness of the art of drama in relationship with the process of the actor. The class focus is on concentration and group dynamics; there is no scripted work. Attendance is essential. Note: This course may not be taken for credit if credit has been obtained in DRMA 149.

THAR 151
Acting Skills II
3 Credits Weekly (0-6-0)
Acting Skills II further develops the skills and techniques required by the successful actor. It is designed to integrate the technical, imaginative and personal discoveries of the preceding course. Focus shifts from process to performance with the exploration and presentation of a complete play.

Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C- in THAR 101.
THAR 154
Vocal Production for Music Theatre II
3 Credits  Total (11-45-9)
Continuing the exploration and discovery of Vocal Production I, this course emphasizes correct vocal production for the stage, as both a solo artist and in an ensemble setting. Spoken voice builds on proper vocal production for the stage. In weekly private coaching sessions, solo study addresses posture, breath management, tone quality, diction, interpretation and musicianship. Lectures continue to provide historical and thematic context of the evolution of American musical theatre, focusing primarily on the mid twentieth century up to the ‘Golden Age’ of musical theatre, and the styles that inform the presentation of this material. All these facets of study culminate in weekly workshops with the performance of songs via solo, duet and small ensemble work. Students are challenged to deepen their analysis of and performance of songs.
Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C- in THAR 104.

THAR 160
Dance Skills II
3 Credits  Weekly (0-6-0)
This course is a continuation of the dance technique and movement classes from THAR 110. Dance technique classes, primarily in ballet, jazz and tap, are a continuation of regular weekly studio classes exploring the various styles of dance demanded of the music theatre performer. Students begin the process of integrating technique into choreography. Movement classes also continue, with a focus upon the development of personal movement patterns that become part of the actor’s technique.
Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C- in THAR 110.

THAR 201
Acting Skills III
3 Credits  Weekly (1-4-0)
Acting Skills III builds on the skills developed in Acting Skills I and II. This is a term of growth, one that tests discoveries made in the first year of training. In this course, students engage in a deeper exploration of the concept of style within two new additional areas of intensified focus: Classical Scene Study and Music Theatre Scene Study.
Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C- in THAR 151.

THAR 204
Vocal Production for Musical Theatre III
3 Credits  Total (8.5-45-16.5)
Vocal Production III entails further development of musicianship and refinement in performance, with the addition of more rigorous application of vocal exercises and techniques. Students develop as individual performers, concentrating on song interpretation incorporating various acting techniques. Vocal work strengthens textual freedom and specificity in rehearsal and performance. Lectures and song analysis expand the repertoire of musical theatre as students apply genre/period styles of music theatre into performance.
Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C- in THAR 154.

THAR 206
Performance I
3 Credits  Total (0-0-200)
Students audition for roles in the MacEwan Theatre Department season, and work collaboratively with the artistic and technical team in the production of a play and/or musical. Implementing all the rehearsal and performance techniques and skills acquired in their first year of training, students experience how a creative team collaborates during the rehearsal process, technical rehearsals and performance run.
Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C- in THAR 109.

THAR 240
Music Theory and Ear Training III
3 Credits  Weekly (3-0-0)
This course is the final course of music theatre theory and ear training, focusing on the relationship and application of the basic theoretical concepts of music and advanced studies in ear training as they apply to the performance of music theatre repertoire.
Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C- in THAR 141.

THAR 247
Introduction to Oral Communication
3 Credits  Weekly (0-5-0)
This course helps students improve their oral communication and oral interpretation. It includes voice production appropriate for public speaking and for literary interpretation of prose, poetry, and drama. The course begins with how the voice is produced and progresses with various specifics of prose and poetry, scripted and improvisational speaking, and the effective delivery of dramatic literature (reader’s theatre and theatrical monologues). The course concentrates on individual student presentations of both original and scripted material. Note: This course may not be taken for credit if credit has been obtained in DRMA 247.

THAR 250
Dance Skills III
3 Credits  Weekly (0-6-0)
This course consists of dance technique and movement classes. Technique classes, primarily in jazz and tap, are a continuation of regular weekly studio classes that explore the various styles of dance demanded of the music theatre performer. Students focus further on the integration of technique into choreography while developing performance skills. Regular weekly classes in movement also continue, with emphasis on the development of greater anatomical awareness, spatial awareness and movement potential.
Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C- in THAR 160.

THAR 251
Acting Skills IV
3 Credits  Weekly (0-5-0)
Acting Skills IV is the final course in the series that develops the skills required for a successful actor. This laboratory course is the bridge that prepares the student for transition into the professional world. Work continues on the mechanics of acting through advanced monologue study. Students apply all their cumulative training and skills in the preparation of contrasting monologues and songs for audition purposes in a variety of milieux. Students also explore neutral mask. Finally, this course incorporates professional development sessions and introduces career management advice and tactics.
Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C- in THAR 201.
THAR 254
Vocal Production for Music Theatre IV
3 Credits Total (8.5-45-16.5)
This is the final course in the vocal production series. Coursework adds further depth to the foundations of vocal production. Students apply voice production skills as they rehearse and present material in more rigorous rehearsal and performance contexts. Textual modules may include monologue preparation, dialect work, characterization of the dramatic and animated voice (live and voice-over), heightened language and cold readings. More advanced studies in music theatre repertoire continues, but also includes contemporary pop/rock. Lectures focus and performers and performances throughout music theatre history. Students learn the process of building of a diverse repertoire book of songs and audition techniques, in preparation for professional audition purposes.
Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C- in THAR 204.

THAR 256
Performance II
3 Credits Total (0-0-200)
Performance II builds on the discoveries, skills and techniques of Performance I. Students acquire further opportunities to test and expand their level of training by first auditioning for and then participating in the rehearsal process, technical rehearsals and public performance of a play and/or musical.
Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C- in THAR 206.

THAR 260
Dance Skills IV
3 Credits Weekly (0-6-0)
This course consists of dance technique and movement classes. Technique classes (primarily in jazz and tap) explore the various styles of dance demanded of the music theatre performer, with an emphasis on the preparation of material for performance and audition. Movement classes continue in the development of greater anatomical awareness, spatial awareness and movement potential, with the addition of work on movement context.
Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C- in THAR 250.