

"Mapping Out Your Musical"

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84423610514?pwd=NULpbmFqRUxJY0NWWnk4L3dmZXRFUT09>

Meeting ID: 844 2361 0514

Passcode: MMYM12zx

Janelle Lawrence (they/them)

janelleclawrence@gmail.com

Guest Teachers:

TBA

Tuesday & Thursday

12pm EDT - 1:30pm

Session 1 : August 18th - September 10th

"Often people attempt to live their lives backwards: they try to have more things, or more money, in order to do more of what they want so that they will be happier. The way it actually works is the reverse. You must first be who you really are, then, do what you need to do, in order to have what you want." - Margaret Young

Overview

Course Description:

How do you track a musical from creation to workshop? What are the fine details of each step into making a musical? In 'Mapping Out Your Musical' we will explore the infinite and finite of each step and angle of creating a musical; then we will touch on some of the different processes of workshoping and developing a musical, ending the course with a showcase. Throughout this course you can expect a thorough and cohesive guide through creating or editing a musical. You'll have the option to use your own script or the scripts of contemporary and classical musical theatre pieces to develop, present, and explore! Topics in this course include: Music and Lyric form and architecture breakdowns, book strengthening exercises, brief structure analysis of YA & jukebox musicals, and many more. Each class meets with the same people twice a week for 4 weeks culminating to an evening ZOOM Showcase. Each participant can sign up for a 1-hour consultation with Janelle Lawrence.

Expectations:

Complete all homework : even if it's at its minimum, try to push yourself to complete each homework assignment. Some parts will be easy, feel free to go through the homework in advance and upload it early. **KEEP IN MIND:** the homework is placed where it is placed in our lesson structure for a reason, and doing the homework coupled with the lesson is the BEST way to maximize the outcome!

Participation: arrive to each class, unless something comes up and you must miss. Keep honest to the community - only be with us and in the moment for the entire time. Engage with each other's work, even when you're not assigned to. Be honest and respectful during the course.

This is a safe space - no form of racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism ,or any kind of bigotry or bullying will be tolerated. If you can not uphold this safe space you will be asked to leave and will not receive a refund.

Homework should be uploaded to SLACK prior to class. Each person will be assigned another persons' homework to review and discuss.

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Pre Lesson One Homework: Read Syllabus. Make a copy (Google Doc or Microsoft Doc) of your musical that you are working on that is SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS COURSE: you will make edits directly in this document.

Lesson One - Tuesday August 18th

Homework: finish going through your musical and create a separate doc that is JUST book - removing the songs and placing [descriptions] where lyrics would be. Create a separate doc that is JUST lyrics, placing [descriptions] where dialogue is. Make these descriptions as straightforward as possible, possibly switching up who creates which descriptions (i.e. the lyricist writes the descriptions of the scenes before and after the lyrics or the book writer writing the description of the lyrics) Go through your main characters (at least the **protagonist** and **antagonist**) and identify what their Psychology, Sociology, and Physiology are before the moment your show begins. Then, using a timeline as a reference, write out/notate a journey of their MOTIVATION and SHORTCOMINGS. If there is music for these characters composed, without lyrics, create a musical journey of every song they are in (can be a midi file).

Introductions - review syllabus - join slack

Roles :

Collaboration

Contracts

Lesson Two - Thursday August 20th

Homework: Write your show's Plot in 10 sentences. Write it in 5 sentences. Write it in 2 sentences. Define each act in 10 sentences, 5 sentences, 2 sentences. Using the concept and construct of a "timeline", create a journey of the entire show using 2 - 5 sentences per marker. Go through the book and highlight or annotate each one of points to observe. Choose 2 - 3 songs from your show (at least one for the protagonist and antagonist) and upload them to the slack

The Book - or Libretti:

SOME but not ALL foundations of a premise

Things to Remember

How to notate these in a book

The points:

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Lesson Three - Tuesday August 25th

Homework: Create a doc that is just the main characters lyrics in the show in order. Write out what you see of their journey in 5 sentences or less. Turn the poem you wrote into a song, identify which form you use, and highlight the rhyme scheme. Add melody from samples or on your own!

Lyrics :

Form/Architecture

Tools

GUEST ARTIST ACTIVITY (30 minutes)

Lesson Four (2 hours!) - Thursday August 27th

Homework: With your score: package each character (play through a song that is their thesis, antithesis, and synthesis song) upload this to Slack. Take the Musical Theatre Music Theory self assessment. Underscore 1 entire scene (pre-recorded via zoom) and write a narration of what the music is saying in the scene. OPTION 1) turn the dialogue into a song OPTION 2) turn the narration into a song within the show without the dialogue written.

Music:

Form/Architecture

Tools

Theory

Lesson Five - Tuesday September 1st

Homework: Write a pitch packet; follow the outline! Share this packet with 2 different people and get their notes. Share their notes in the slack.

Comedy

Drama

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Children/Youth Musicals

Pitch Packets

Lesson Six - Thursday September 3rd

The Musical Message

Homework: Make a list of 5 shows you've seen that you loved (at least 3 musicals) and their music director, choreographer, and director. Write down the producing company you saw that piece at, AND another company that has produced/had hands on that show. NOW make a list of 5 directors, choreographers, music directors, production companies, and theatre that you would want to work on this musical.

LIVE EXERCISE: Present an overture to your musical. Present your character journey packets. Present the Book Timeline with descriptions. Present your pitch packet! (each group gets 20 minutes)

Lesson Seven - Tuesday September 8th

Directors:

In the Process:

Agents / Producers:

Demos:

Development:

Workshopping:

Showcase Thursday September 10th

- Pitch packets available to guests
- Each artist gets a 30 minute slot to present a pre-recorded segment of their show or a presentation of their pitch packet.

Helpful/ Reference Texts:

The Musical Theatre Writers Survival Guide by David Spencer

Music Theory for Musical Theatre by John Bell and Steven Chicurel

Writing the Broadway Musical by Aaron Frankel

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Workshopping The New Play by George Sapiro

The Art of Dramatic Writing by Lajos Egri

Resources:

Collaborator Tool - www.songcraft.io

Rhyming Dictionaries:

[RhymeZone](#)

[Rhymer](#)

Slack Link -