

# BEYOND THE SCORE

ISSUE ONE



WELCOME TO  
BEYOND THE  
SCORE!

WHY IS  
MUSICAL THEATRE  
IMPORTANT?

A NOTE FROM THE  
EDITOR: HISTORY  
DOESN'T HAVE TO  
BE BORING!

## THE TRIPLE THREAT EXPLAINED!

MUSIC - ACTING - DANCE

A CLOSER LOOK AT MUSICAL THEATRE

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# BEYOND THE SCORE

Hello friends! Welcome to Beyond the Score, an interactive newsletter unlike any other. Each issue will be giving us a closer look at musical theatre history - including key performers, productions, composers, and more! You read that right - this document is INTERACTIVE! That means you can click on certain highlighted things which will take you to cool videos and other neat sources! This newsletter is meant to be a helpful learning tool as you explore the theatre arts. We hope that you learn new things as well as enjoy the content.

There are many reasons why musical theatre is important. Not only is it a way to entertain and express emotions, but it can be used as a tool for changing the world to be a better place.

## Entertainment

Just like people enjoy going to sports games, people enjoy going to the theatre! We like to see our favorite actors perform beloved characters and hear classic songs

sung by talented people. This form of entertainment has become a common pastime for many because it allows the audience to take a break from the day to day grind. In addition, the theatre is a wonderful activity for all ages and brings families and friends together to enjoy.

## Expression

Musical theatre is a way that many people express themselves. Just like the

painter may create a portrait with their emotions and their experiences, a theatre artist can certainly do the same. Composers, lyricists, and playwrights throughout history have created scores and words to embody their experiences and thoughts. As we discuss musical theatre throughout these newsletters, we will discover and highlight important individuals who have used their craft to express themselves. Actors, singers, and dancers alike also use the performing arts to express their individuality.

## Change

Have you ever walked out of a theatre and felt touched by the story or a song? Or motivated to do something nice for someone else? Have you left a performance feeling emotional and you didn't quite know why? This is probably the most important aspect of why musical theatre is important. Wanting to change the world to be a better place comes in all forms, whether

that's through volunteering in the community, offering your opinion on a cause, or just serving your neighbor. Theatre, however, opens a window of opportunity to tell fictional, and some non-fictional stories that highlight social and cultural issues in our day. Theatre artists strive for this goal in mind because theatre is another path to use in order to share a message of hope, peace, or kindness.

All art forms are important, including musical theatre. Musical theatre has the ability to transport the audience to new worlds and exciting stories. It can give reprieve and relaxation to those who need a break from their busy lives. We know that we've been touched when we leave the theatre thinking, "I want to make this world a better place."

**Watch: "Seize the Day", Newsies**

**Consider this: Were you entertained? What was the message they were portraying?**

**CLICK ON THE PICTURE TO VIEW THE VIDEO!**

WHY IS MUSICAL THEATRE IMPORTANT?



Musical theatre is a unique craft because it utilizes three different art forms: music, acting, and dance. This is known as “the triple threat”. Many performers work very hard to achieve “triple threat” status as they progress through their careers. Let’s break down the “triple threat” and how it relates to theatre as a whole.



The Schuyler Sisters, *Hamilton*

# THE TRIPLE THREAT

# MUSIC

They don't call it "musical theatre" for nothing! Music isn't just set for songs and dance numbers in a show. Music can also be utilized in the background during dialogue in scenes. This is called underscoring. There is a wide variety of music genres throughout musical theatre history. In today's world, we continue to see these traditional styles, as well as new ones. While singing is a huge aspect of musical theatre, we can't forget the amazing composers and lyricists who help bring the music to the stage!



*West Side Story*, choreographed by Jerome Robbins, used dancing to portray different elements of the story. (above)

# ACTING

Acting is a fundamental aspect of theatre. Whenever a performer is on stage, they are acting. That includes when they are singing and dancing. Acting is more than just "playing a character". Each actor on stage has an important duty to help tell the story through their characters.

So while it is fun to pretend and be a different person, it is equally important that the performers focus on using their acting abilities to propel the story forward.

Elphaba and Glinda have a tender moment. From the musical, *Wicked*. (right)

# DANCE

When you have no words to express your thoughts - you sing. When you don't have the words to sing, you dance! Dancing in musical theatre is not only used as a way to entertain the audience, but also as a story-telling device. Whether it's an intimate duet or a rousing group number, the choreography can help the audience understand the emotions that the characters are feeling.



Aundra McDonald is one of the top musicians in the industry. Click on her photo to watch her sing, "Climb Evr'y Mountain" from *The Sound of Music*.

(above)





A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

# HISTORY DOESN'T HAVE TO BE BORING

THREE TIPS TO HELP YOU ENJOY HISTORY MORE

1

BRING A  
QUESTION

Before studying, write down a few questions to consider as you read. Then record your answers! Go even farther and dedicate a notebook or journal for your reflections. You'd be surprised how fun it is to go back and read your thoughts!

2

DISCUSS  
IT

Sometimes talking with your friends and family can be a great way to understand a subject more! It may even inspire them to read the article to gain more insight.

3

DO YOUR  
OWN  
RESEARCH

I love doing my own research because it allows me to form my own thoughts about a subject. Reading different articles, looking up definitions, or even watching a video can make the subject more interesting.

*What do you want to learn about in future issues?*  
Comment in the "Beyond the Score" comments section found on the website!

Hello! I'm Carlee Baldwin and I'm the creator and editor of *Beyond the Score*. I wanted to create this newsletter because I believe it's important to talk about musical theatre history and how it has changed our lives over time. I know what you're thinking, "Reading about history can be boring!" Trust me, I've been there and I've definitely read a lot of boring history articles over the years. There were even times I wanted to fall asleep in history class! I hope that this interactive newsletter creates a different sort of experience for those who are eager to learn.

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