

BEYOND THE SCORE

ISSUE FOUR

FILL IN THE
BLANK TIMELINE

HOW DOES THIS
CONNECT TO
MUSICAL
THEATRE?

SHORT ESSAY
SPOTLIGHT

THE BEGINNINGS A REVIEW

THE IMPORTANCE OF ORIGINS

A CLOSER LOOK AT MUSICAL THEATRE

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FILL IN THE TIMELINE!

Based on what we've previously learned, fill in the letters with the correct answers!

EARLY [A] ORIGINS TIMELINE



They gave us the stage, one of the most important symbols of theatre that we still use today.

The Romans gave us [C], which has been a foundational aspect of dance in the theatre today.

This time brought us liturgical theatre and focused on bible stories in more intimate settings.

A very common festival where people would arrive in costume and join in music and dance. This could range anywhere from a small processional or an elaborate theatrical presentation.

Italian commedia dell'arte were performance troupes that introduced [F] into their acting, following only an outline of the plot.

The modernization of theatre in Europe began to take shape with [G] such as Shakespeare, who introduced verse form that encouraged a more natural way of speaking.

(answers found on final page of newsletter)



THE BEGINNINGS: A REVIEW

THE IMPORTANCE OF ORIGINS



From the Greeks to the Renaissance: An Overview



It's amazing to see from the Greeks to the time of Shakespeare, how theatre has evolved. What a journey we've been on so far. Have you learned anything new or interesting? I certainly hope so! Believe it or not, there could be hundreds of newsletters written about the early origins of theatre! There is just so much that we could learn. However, the most important thing is to learn the highlights first, so that we don't overwhelm ourselves. The highlights we have learned about so far are some of the most important aspects of theatre. With that being said, don't let that stop you from doing your own research about early theatre history! Write down your research in a journal, or record your impressions from what you learned.

How does this connect to Musical Theatre?

You're probably wondering how all of this relates to musical theatre specifically! Well, like it's been explained before, learning about the origins will help us understand the patterns we see today in musicals. For example, the greek chorus is seen in modern-day musical theatre. Think about a musical where you see a chorus of actors underscore a scene by singing. From the Romans, we have pantomime, which is a foundational aspect of dance. As we know, dance and movement is a huge aspect in musicals. Musical theatre is often described as a spectacle to see, as there are many shows with over the top set designs and costumes. This derives from the traditional masques from the 14th century. Improvisation from the times of commedia dell'arte is used across the board, not only on stage, but in rehearsals as well. Finally, going back to the Greeks, musicals are primarily performed on stages! The list goes on, of course, but keep in mind these origins as we continue our way through time and through musical theatre history.



"For The First Time In Forever", *Frozen*

Do you see any elements of theatre that may derive from the early origins of theatre? **Click on the photo to watch!**

Now is your opportunity to share your thoughts about what we have learned! You may submit a short essay based on the writing prompt. Just click on the box that says "Click here to submit your short essay". That will walk you through the process of how to submit. A couple essays will be spotlighted in future issues of Beyond the Score. The short essay should be no longer than 4-5 paragraphs. I'm excited to read the many wonderful submissions! Good luck!

SHORT ESSAY SPOTLIGHT

FILL IN THE TIMELINE! ANSWERS

- [A] Theatre
- [B] Greeks
- [C] Pantomime
- [D] Middle Ages
- [E] Masques
- [F] Improvisation
- [G] Playwrights

Click here to
submit your
short essay.

WRITING PROMPT:

In your opinion,
what is the most important
takeaway from early
theatre history and why?

SOURCES

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