

# MUSICAL THEATRE (B.F.A)

## Program Overview

Rider's B.F.A. in Musical Theatre develops well-rounded professionals fully capable of competing for and landing Broadway, National Touring, Regional and various other professional performing opportunities. Recent Rider MTs have graced Broadway stages including: *& Juliet*, *Once Upon a One More time*, *Book of Mormon*, *Some Like it Hot*, *Anastasia*, *Miss Saigon* and others as well as National Tours of *Hamilton*, *Cinderella*, *Cats*, *Mama Mia* and others. Recent grads can also be seen on the stages of Royal Caribbean, Disney and other Cruise lines, as well as multiple other commercial and regional stages nationwide. Transferrable skills learned through rigorous performance training & ensemble work have also carried grads into positions running social media, coordinating marketing, conducting outreach, teaching dance, music and theatre to children, real estate and many others.

Rider's professional musical theatre faculty members represent a combined more than 50 years on Broadway as well as expansive experience working with National Broadway and other commercial & regional tours - performing, directing, choreographing and musical directing. All are deeply committed to developing students' talents and technique in all areas — vocal, dance and acting — preparing them to succeed in the highly competitive world of professional musical theatre.

Practical experience gained onstage including First-Year and Sophomore showcases, opportunities to perform in one of three mainstage musicals each year (as well as three mainstage plays and two operas), and an annual Senior Showcase, in addition to student-produced works and a variety of regional opportunities helps hone student skills, expand resumes and increase exposure. The close-knit community of Musical Theatre and other performing artists at Rider can enjoy the serene, classic campus setting of Rider just minutes away from Princeton and perfectly situated just an hour from NYC and 40 minutes from Philadelphia. Students in the B.F.A. in Musical Theatre require a minimum of 121 credits to graduate.

## Degree Offered

- B.F.A. in Musical Theatre

## Contact

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**Program Website:** Musical Theatre (<https://www.rider.edu/academics/colleges-schools/college-arts-sciences/communication-media-arts/undergraduate/musical-theatre/>)

**Associated Department:** Performing Arts (<https://www.rider.edu/academics/colleges-schools/college-arts-sciences/communication-media-arts/faculty-departments/performing-arts/>)

## Musical Theatre (B.F.A.) Program Requirements

(80-83 credits)

## General Requirements

BA in Theatre, BA in Dance, BFA in Musical Theater, and BFA in Acting programs within the Department of Performing Arts require their majors to earn a grade of C or higher to pass all courses required of their respective majors (except General Education Classes). A grade of C- or lower requires the student to repeat the course. Students may only repeat major-required courses once. A student failing to achieve a grade of C or higher on the second attempt will be dismissed from the major.

Students are afforded one opportunity to appeal the dismissal to the Chair. Such an appeal must include a plan for success, at least one letter of support from a full-time faculty member within the degree program, and any relevant supporting documentation from the Academic Success Center or the Dean of Students' Office that the student may choose to include.

The Chair, in collaboration with program faculty, reserves the right to deny the appeal. In such a case, the program dismissal stands. Should the appeal succeed, the student has one final opportunity to achieve a grade of C or higher for the course in question, after which no further appeal shall be afforded.

B.F.A. –Musical Theatre majors must earn a minimum grade of "B-" each semester in the primary applied music field in order to make satisfactory progress. If a grade of "C+" or lower is earned, the student must repeat the semester.

Students must meet attendance and performance requirements in studio performance classes and Musical Theatre Lab.

## Applied Music – Voice Primary Study

Students in the B.F.A.-Musical Theatre degree must register for applied music in each semester of study, to a maximum of eight semesters. Six terms are taken under MTR 168A (2-credit, 1-hour lesson) and two semesters are taken under MTR 168B (1-credit, half-hour lesson). The section number corresponds to the instructor with whom the student will study.

## Musical Theatre Lab

All majors are required to attend a weekly musical theatre lab during every semester of enrollment. The lab supplements curricular instruction with presentations by guest artists, managers, agents, and casting directors. This interface provides each student with an opportunity for interaction with some of the most important professionals in the musical theatre business.

## Performing Opportunities at Rider University

The musical theatre program offers three fully staged productions led by faculty and experienced and notable directors, conductors and choreographers from the professional community. The Department of Performing Arts also offers a well-established theatre program that provides additional performing opportunities in three major productions. Majors also are encouraged to participate in student-directed and produced events, presented each year on both campuses. The Department of Performance Studies offers two Opera Theater productions each year. All productions are open by audition to all Rider University students except first-semester freshmen. Consult the Musical Theatre Handbook for the Audition Policy.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Applied Music</b>		
Complete the following courses:		
MTR 132	Group Piano	1
MTR 168A	Applied Voice (2 credits, 6 times, in tandem with MTR 001S)	12
MTR 168B	Applied Voice (1 credit, two times and in tandem with MTR 001S)	2
MTR 001S	Applied Voice Studio (in tandem with MTR 168A/ MTR 168B)	0
<b>Theory, History, Technology</b>		
Complete the following courses:		
MTR 120	Hist of American Music Theater	3
MTR 131	Music Theory for MT	3
MTR 133	Sight Singing for MT	3
THE 115	Stagecraft	3
THE 190	Production I (must be taken 2 times)	2
Select one of the following courses:		3-6
MTR 121	Survey of Theatre History	
THE 105 & THE 106	Theatre History to 1700 and Theater History Since 1700	
<b>Professional Studies: DANCE</b>		
Complete the following courses:		
MTR 415	Musical Theatre Dance	1
MTR 416	Hip Hop and Commercial Dance	1
Select three of the following:		3
MTR 109	Ballet I	
MTR 112	Ballet II	
MTR 113	Ballet III	
MTR 114	Ballet IV	
MTR 211	Ballet V	
MTR 212	Ballet VI	
MTR 313	Ballet VII	
MTR 314	Ballet VIII	
Select two of the following:		2
MTR 209	Tap Dance I	
MTR 210	Tap Dance II	
MTR 307	Tap III	
MTR 308	Tap IV	
Select two of the following:		2
MTR 309	Jazz I	
MTR 315	Jazz II	
MTR 316	Jazz III	
MTR 319	Jazz V	
MTR 320	Jazz VI	
<b>Professional Studies: ACTING</b>		
Complete the following courses:		
THE 107	Acting I: Intro to Acting	3
THE 110	Acting II: Scene Study	3
THE 310	Acting III	3
THE 311	Acting IV	3
MTR 317	MT Auditions:Preparation/Tech	3
MTR 335	Voice and Speech for Musical Theatre	3

**Professional Studies: MUSICAL THEATRE**

Complete the following courses:		
MTR 105	Musical Theatre Practicum (1-credit, complete 2 times)	2
MTR 111	Musical Theatre Lab (8 semesters) <sup>1</sup>	0
MTR 215	MT Performance: Song as Text	3
MTR 218	Musical Theatre Scene Study I	3
MTR 219	Musical Theatre Scene Study II	3
MTR 255	Musical Theatre Repertoire I	3
MTR 256	Musical Theatre Repertoire II	3
MTR 257	Commercial Music in the Theatre	3
MTR 493	Music Theater Production	1
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>80-83</b>

<sup>1</sup> Double majors should consult their advisors to determine the most pedagogically appropriate lab to attend. Students should not register in more than one lab per semester. Students are required to complete at least three lab sections in each of their majors before graduation. Students must meet the minimum lab requirements for each of their majors.

The following educational plan is provided as a sample only. Rider students who do not declare a major during their freshman year; who are in a Continuing Education Program; who change their major; or who transfer to Rider may follow a different plan to ensure a timely graduation. Each student, with guidance from their academic advisor, will develop a personalized educational plan.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year 1</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
MTR 168A	Applied Voice	2
MTR 001S	Applied Voice Studio	0
MTR 111	Musical Theatre Lab	0
MTR 105	Musical Theatre Practicum	1
MTR 109	Ballet I	1
or	or Ballet II	
MTR 112	or Ballet III	
or	or Ballet V	
MTR 113		
or		
MTR 211		
MTR 131	Music Theory for MT	3
THE 107	Acting I: Intro to Acting	3
THE 190	Production I (technical) <sup>2</sup>	1
THE 115	Stagecraft	3
CMP 120	Seminar in Writing and Rhetoric <sup>1</sup>	3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
MTR 168A	Applied Voice	2
MTR 001S	Applied Voice Studio	0
MTR 111	Musical Theatre Lab	0
MTR 105	Musical Theatre Practicum	1

MTR 112	Ballet II	1
or	or Ballet III	
MTR 113	or Ballet IV	
or	or Ballet VI	
MTR 114		
or		
MTR 212		
MTR 309	Jazz I	1
or	or Jazz II	
MTR 315	or Jazz IV	
or		
MTR 318		
MTR 133	Sight Singing for MT	3
THE 110	Acting II: Scene Study	3
CMP 125	Seminar in Writing and Research <sup>1</sup>	3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>14</b>

**Year 2****Fall Semester**

MTR 168A	Applied Voice	2
MTR 001S	Applied Voice Studio	0
MTR 111	Musical Theatre Lab	0
MTR 209	Tap Dance I	1
or	or Tap Dance II	
MTR 210	or Tap III	
or		
MTR 307		
MTR 315	Jazz II	1
or	or Jazz IV	
MTR 318	or Jazz V	
or		
MTR 319		
MTR 132	Group Piano	1
THE 310	Acting III	3
MTR 215	MT Performance: Song as Text	3
HIS 150	Pre-Modern World: Evolution to Revolution <sup>1</sup>	3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>14</b>

**Spring Semester**

MTR 168A	Applied Voice	2
MTR 001S	Applied Voice Studio	0
MTR 111	Musical Theatre Lab	0
MTR 210	Tap Dance II	1
or	or Tap III	
MTR 307	or Tap IV	
or		
MTR 308		
MTR 218	Musical Theatre Scene Study I	3
MTR 335	Voice and Speech for Musical Theatre	3
THE 190	Production I (technical) <sup>2</sup>	1
HIS 151	World in the Modern Era: Exploration to	3
or HIS 152	Globalization <sup>1</sup>	
or HIS 153	or Contemporary World: Historical Perspectives	
	or Cold War: A Global History	
General Education/Elective Credits		3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>16</b>

**Year 3****Fall Semester**

MTR 168A	Applied Voice	2
MTR 001S	Applied Voice Studio	0
MTR 111	Musical Theatre Lab	0
MTR 113	Ballet III	1
or	or Ballet IV	
MTR 114	or Ballet VI	
or	or Ballet VII	
MTR 212		
or		
MTR 313		
MTR 219	Musical Theatre Scene Study II	3
MTR 121	Survey of Theatre History	3
MTR 255	Musical Theatre Repertoire I	3
General Education/Elective Credits		3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>15</b>

**Spring Semester**

MTR 168A	Applied Voice	2
MTR 001S	Applied Voice Studio	0
MTR 111	Musical Theatre Lab	0
MTR 120	Hist of American Music Theater	3
MTR 256	Musical Theatre Repertoire II	3
THE 311	Acting IV	3
General Education/Elective Credits		3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>14</b>

**Year 4****Fall Semester**

MTR 168B	Applied Voice	1
MTR 001S	Applied Voice Studio	0
MTR 111	Musical Theatre Lab	0
MTR 415	Musical Theatre Dance	1
MTR 257	Commercial Music in the Theatre	3
MTR 493	Music Theater Production	1
General Education/Elective Credits		9
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>15</b>

**Spring Semester**

MTR 168B	Applied Voice	1
MTR 001S	Applied Voice Studio	0
MTR 111	Musical Theatre Lab	0
MTR 416	Hip Hop and Commercial Dance	1
MTR 317	MT Auditions:Preparation/Tech	3
General Education/Elective Credits		11
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Total Credit Hours for Graduation</b>		<b>121</b>

<sup>1</sup> This course may be taken in any semester. CMP 120 is a prerequisite for CMP 125 and must be completed first. HIS 150 is a prerequisite for HIS 151 and must be completed first.

<sup>2</sup> 2 credits for THE 190 may be completed in any semester.

**MTR 001S Applied Voice Studio 0 Credits**

Applied voice studio class. Required component of all applied voice study.

**MTR 105 Musical Theatre Practicum 1 Credits**

This course explores the literature of musical theatre vocal ensembles. It emphasizes examining a wide range of styles. This is a studio/academic class, not a performance ensemble.

**MTR 109 Ballet I 1 Credits**

This course introduces the basic elements of ballet technique. Technique is based on the five positions of the legs and feet, coupled with appropriate arm positions. The class consists of a basic ballet barre warm-up that includes stretching and developing strength and turn-out used in dance positions and combinations. Instruction includes jumping, turning, and connecting steps with movement. Ballet terminology is addressed.

**MTR 111 Musical Theatre Lab 0 Credits****MTR 112 Ballet II 1 Credits**

A continuation of MTR 109, building upon techniques learned in that course.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 109.

**MTR 113 Ballet III 1 Credits**

Intermediate ballet, expanding upon Ballet II and concentrating upon the American lineage of ballet training.

**MTR 114 Ballet IV 1 Credits**

A continuation of MTR 113 Intermediate ballet, expanding upon Ballet I and concentrating upon the American lineage of ballet training.

**MTR 120 Hist of American Music Theater 3 Credits**

The history of the American Musical from the first American production in 1750 of Gay's *The Beggar's Opera* up to the present will be traced. Emphasis will be placed upon those common elements which are solely intrinsic to the American stage. Developments and imported ideas (e.g., *The British Invasion*) will be highlighted.

**MTR 121 Survey of Theatre History 3 Credits**

This course offers an in-depth exploration of the rich history of theatre, tracing its evolution from ancient origins to contemporary practice, with an emphasis on Western theatrical traditions. Students will engage with key periods, movements, influential playwrights, and landmark productions that have shaped the art form. Through a combination of readings, lectures, discussions, and performance analysis, students will gain a deeper understanding of how theatre reflects and influences the cultural, social, and historical contexts of its time.

**MTR 131 Music Theory for MT 3 Credits**

Teaches students to understand musical form, structure, melody, rhythm and harmony by applying these concepts to musical theatre literature. Includes full analysis of musical theatre songs. Required in the first year.

**MTR 132 Group Piano 1 Credits**

Offers the musical theatre student appropriate keyboard technique to play any vocal part and to play a rudimentary accompaniment. Required of all second-year students.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 131.

**MTR 133 Sight Singing for MT 3 Credits**

Intensive class in reading music, designed for musical theatre students. Traditional solfeggio techniques used with musical theatre texts whenever possible. Required of first-year students.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 131.

**MTR 168A Applied Voice 2 Credits**

One-hour, 2-credit required lesson. Included in tuition – no extra charge.

**MTR 168B Applied Voice 1 Credits**

Half-hour, 1-credit required lesson. Included in tuition – no extra charge.

**MTR 168C Applied Voice 2 Credits**

One-hour, 2-credit elective lesson. Not included in tuition – fee charged per semester.

**MTR 168D Applied Voice 1 Credits**

Half-hour, 1-credit elective lesson. Not included in tuition – fee charged per semester.

**MTR 168E Applied Voice 2 Credits**

Part-time students: One-hour, 2-credit required or elective lesson – fee charged per semester.

**MTR 168F Applied Voice 1 Credits**

Part-time Students: Half-hour, 1-credit required or elective lesson – fee charged per semester.

**MTR 168G Applied Voice 2 Credits**

One-hour, 2-credit required/elective lesson. Half-hour is required and is included in tuition. The second half-hour is elective and is not included in tuition – fee charged per semester.

**MTR 209 Tap Dance I 1 Credits**

Introduction to the basic elements of tap dancing. Tap technique is geared to enhance rhythm and motor skills, basic elements that will be used to connect several steps and movements into combinations. Other variations such as "soft shoe" or "clogging" are included.

**MTR 210 Tap Dance II 1 Credits**

Continuation of MTR 209. Combinations most often used in music theater productions are emphasized.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 209.

**MTR 211 Ballet V 1 Credits**

Intermediate ballet, expanding upon Ballet II and concentrating upon the American lineage of ballet training.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 114.

**MTR 212 Ballet VI 1 Credits**

Continuation of MTR 211. Intermediate ballet, expanding upon Ballet III and concentrating upon the American lineage of ballet training.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 211.

**MTR 215 MT Performance: Song as Text 3 Credits**

In this course the student will learn how to develop a performance of musical text by making doable,actable choices and applying those choices to musical monologues – solo songs.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 110.

**MTR 216 Acting for Music Theater I 3 Credits**

This professional skills course, intended for music theater majors, builds upon the student's previous acting training. Through various exercises and activities (both individual and group), the student will begin to develop a clear method for preparation that addresses first their own instrument, and then (through various methods of analysis) the character and the play. Students will begin to utilize and apply the studied techniques and exercises to simple monologues and a scene. Behavioral truth will precede the more sophisticated studies of emotional truth.

**MTR 217 Acting for Music Theater Major II 3 Credits**

Continuation of MTR 216. Methods for preparation are expanded as students learn and experience techniques for exploring and developing characters. This semester will focus on the application of the skills and acting techniques studied in the first semester to the needs of dramatic and sung material. Students are expected to synthesize content and skills acquired in the Speech for the Actor, Body Awareness and Movement classes.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 216.

**MTR 218 Musical Theatre Scene Study I 3 Credits**

Scene study class exploring the literature of the musical theatre – emphasis placed on two- and three-character scenes. Required of all second-year students.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 215.

**MTR 219 Musical Theatre Scene Study II 3 Credits**

Further exploration of scenes in the musical theatre literature – emphasis on more complex scenes. Required of all third-year students.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 218.

**MTR 251 Styles and Genres I 3 Credits**

Focuses teaching and learning on the ways in which musical and textual understanding inform the interpretation and performing of representative composers from the Standard, Classical, and Traditional periods of musical theater. Composers to be studied will include Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Loewe, Kern, Berlin, Gershwin, Porter, Arlen, Blitstein and Weill.

**Prerequisite(s):** MUS 111, MUS 111L, THE 107, MTR 216.

**MTR 252 Styles and Genres II 3 Credits**

Focuses teaching and learning on the ways in which musical and textual understanding inform the interpretation and performing of representative composers from the Contemporary (Non-Pop/Rock) period of music theater. Composers to be studied will include Sondheim, Styne, Kander and Ebb, Guettel, Matby and Shire, and Bernstein.

**Prerequisite(s):** MUS 111, MUS 111L, THE 107, MTR 216.

**MTR 253 Styles and Genres III 3 Credits**

Focuses teaching and learning on the ways in which musical and textual understanding inform the interpretation and performing of representative composers from the Contemporary, Pop/Rock period of music theater. Composers to be studied will include Webber, Schwartz, Fenn, Flaherty, Menkin, Brown, LaChiusa, and Lippa.

**Prerequisite(s):** MUS 111, MUS 111L, THE 107, MTR 216.

**MTR 255 Musical Theatre Repertoire I 3 Credits**

This course provides the opportunity to encounter/examine the repertoire of the major musical theatre writers through the 1950s. The thrust of this class is split between studio work and academic work.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 121 with a minimum grade of C or THE 106 with a minimum grade of C.

**MTR 256 Musical Theatre Repertoire II 3 Credits**

This course provides the opportunity to encounter/examine the repertoire of the major musical theatre writers since the 1950s. The thrust of this class is split between studio work and academic work.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 106 with a minimum grade of C and THE 107 with a minimum grade of C.

**MTR 257 Commercial Music in the Theatre 3 Credits**

This course equips students to present pop/rock commercial music audition material that is vocally authentic to the genre, true to their own style, and tailored for the current and evolving market.

**Prerequisite:** MTR 255 and MTR 256 with a minimum grade of C in both.

**MTR 307 Tap III 1 Credits**

This course is designed for the moderately advanced tap dancer. Course to be taken in the fall.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 210.

**MTR 308 Tap IV 1 Credits**

The course will allow the more advanced student to complete the work begun in Tap III.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 307.

**MTR 309 Jazz I 1 Credits**

Based upon the ballet foundation, this course explores the expressive style of jazz dance, and basic Western theatrical dance forms and social dances used most often on the stage.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 109 and permission of the instructor.

**MTR 313 Ballet VII 1 Credits**

Advanced ballet, expanding upon Ballet IV and concentrating upon the American lineage of ballet training. Inclusion of advanced combinations, physical development and coordination skills. Repeatable one time for total of two credits earned.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 212.

**MTR 314 Ballet VIII 1 Credits**

Continuation of MTR 313. Advanced ballet, expanding upon Ballet IV and concentrating upon the American lineage of ballet training. Inclusion of advanced combinations, physical development and coordination skills.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 313.

**MTR 315 Jazz II 1 Credits**

Continuation of work begun in MTR 309. Permission of the instructor required.

**MTR 316 Jazz III 1 Credits**

This course continues the work begun in MTR 309 and MTR 315.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 310.

**MTR 317 MT Auditions:Preparation/Tech 3 Credits**

This course, building upon skill-sets established in the Music Theatre singer-actor curriculum, will introduce and hone the required skill-sets for preparing to audition in Music Theatre. Genres and styles of music most often required for auditioning in the industry will be prepared and explored. An audition “book,” based upon the demands of the industry, as well as the most suitable material for each student will be built. When appropriate, guests from the industry will be invited to present master classes and evaluations in a “mock audition” process.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 207, MTR 216, MTR 217, MTR 492.

**MTR 318 Jazz IV 1 Credits**

This course continues the work begun in MTR 309, MTR 315 and MTR 316.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 211.

**MTR 319 Jazz V 1 Credits**

This course continues the work begun in MTR 318.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 318 and MTR 212.

**MTR 320 Jazz VI 1 Credits**

This course continues the work begun in MTR 319.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 319 and MTR 212.



**MTR 335 Voice and Speech for Musical Theatre 3 Credits**

This course will focus on the understanding and practice of techniques of voice production and articulation with an emphasis on the development of a well-supported, sustainable speaking voice and energized, clear articulation. Emphasis will be given to the relationship between singing and speaking voice technique to capitalize on students' existing skill sets, while also addressing chronic speech patterns that limit projection, range, clarity, and/or emotional expression. Exercises will target maximized intelligibility, inflection, and resonance in speech, with the goal of allowing the student to maintain consistently dynamic vocal presence and expression while shifting between singing and speech on stage.

**MTR 402 Directing Music Theater/Opera 3 Credits**

This elective course investigates how conceptual ideas and the process of script analysis are used in putting together a music theatre production for performance. Instruction includes staging ideas and elements needed for a complete production. Other theatrical aspects of choreography, properties, costumes, lighting, and set design are addressed. It is recommended that students complete MTR 496 before taking MTR 402.

**MTR 411 Musical Theatre Ensemble 1 Credits****MTR 415 Musical Theatre Dance 1 Credits**

This is the first capstone course in the Musical Theatre dance sequence. Practical and historical study of Broadway dance styles; main focus on jazz idiom. Emphasis placed on performance quality, auditioning skills, self-taping, and "how to swing/dance captain".

**Prerequisite(s):** Completion of 3 semesters of Ballet, 2 semesters of Tap, and 2 semesters of Jazz requirements; senior standing.

**MTR 416 Hip Hop and Commercial Dance 1 Credits**

This is the second capstone course in the Musical Theatre dance sequence. Emphasis is placed on other dance styles used on stage, film, music videos, and television. Primary focus is on Hip Hop and Street Jazz.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 415 with a minimum grade of C.

**MTR 480 Dance for Performing Artist 3 Credits**

This course is a culmination of the dance elements and forms studied in ballet, tap, and jazz dance. Context areas include movement used most often in performance of music theater and movement fundamentals applicable to all aspects of presentation and principle to refine and articulate the performer's awareness and use of the body through singing and dance. Performance issues and movement as a basis for music and sound production are addressed.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 209, MTR 309.

**MTR 490 Independent Study: Research and Creative Expression 1-4 Credits**

Allows Musical Theatre majors to pursue specialized areas of study, research and/or creative work relevant to the field. Approval of the faculty sponsor, department chair, and CAS dean's office is required. Only one project may be scheduled in a semester and up to 12 semester hours of independent study may count toward graduation.

**Prerequisite(s):** A minimum of 45 credits and 3.0 GPA.

**MTR 491 Internship in Music Theater 1-4 Credits**

Provides musical theatre majors with the opportunity to gain practical experience working within a professional environment. For each academic credit, interns must work 48 hours. One internship may be scheduled in a semester and up to 8 credits of internship may count toward graduation. Approval of the faculty sponsor, department chair, and CAS dean's office is required.

**Prerequisite(s):** A minimum of 45 credits and 2.5 GPA.

**MTR 492 Singing Actor: Music Theater 3 Credits**

This semester combines all dramatic and musical studies to create an authentic and believable character that is both emotionally truthful and musically expressive. Music is studied as "script" and dramatic choices are prepared in relationship to all elements present in the score.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 216 and MTR 217.

**MTR 493 Music Theater Production 1 Credits**

Preparation and performance of a solo or ensemble role in a fully staged music theatre production. Concurrent participation in stage crew activities is required.

**MTR 495 Special Topics in Musical Theatre 1-3 Credits**

Intensive study of a particular topic in Musical Theatre not covered in other courses. This may include advanced dance classes that focus on specific choreographic techniques and styles, role preparation, advanced exploration of particular composers of genres, or other topics determined by the department.

**MTR 496 Music Theater Workshop 3 Credits**

This class, building upon the foundational studies associated with preparation and exploration (both dramatic and musical), focuses on performances. Students are taught methods for synthesizing all former training in acting, music, and movement to the needs of the character and the play/score. Each student fully prepares at least two complete roles from the music theater repertoire. The class culminates in a performance of scenes—the Junior Cabaret!

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 216, MTR 217, MTR 492.

**MTR 497 Musical Theatre Senior Showcase 1 Credits**

This course is a senior level capstone experience for BFA Musical Theatre students, and acts as a bridge between life in the university and life as a professional musical theatre performer. Through this course the students will, in collaboration with the teacher, compile and put together a showcase to introduce the students to casting and agent professionals in the industry by way of getting the showcase performance in front of a diverse range of industry professionals who will be useful in both casting and representing recently graduated talent. Only students who have successfully completed ALL prerequisite coursework may participate in the Senior Showcase. BA Theatre students with Musical Theatre Concentration may participate only if the prerequisites are met.

**Prerequisite(s):** MTR 415, MTR 207, MTR 216, MTR 217, MTR 492.

**MTR 511 Music Theater Ensemble 1 Credits**

The performance-based, auditioned music theater ensemble engages multiple singers/actors/dancers in performance, utilizing scenes from music theater literature as the primary material. Emphasis is placed upon group interaction and building an ensemble. This ensemble often is asked to perform for University sponsored events.

**THE 103 The Authentic Instrument I: Introduction to Performance Skills 3 Credits**

Through the Alexander Technique and other methodologies, actors gain awareness of personal habits and begin to find their authentic, truth-telling voice and body—a dynamic and expressive instrument to serve them in any medium.

**THE 104 The Authentic Instrument II: Developing the Imaginative Performer 3 Credits**

Continuing from THE 103, actors explore psycho-physical techniques (e.g. Michael Chekhov, Viewpoints, Laban) to develop the actor's imagination. The class culminates in a public presentation using the tools that have been cultivated in Authentic Instrument I & II.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 103.

**THE 105 Theatre History to 1700 3 Credits**

The history of theater from the primitive time through the Baroque era. Examines major plays and playwrights, emphasizing the Greek, Roman, Medieval, and Elizabethan eras. This course counts towards the fulfillment of the Disciplinary Perspectives element of the CLAS general education curriculum.

**THE 106 Theater History Since 1700 3 Credits**

The history of theater from the Restoration to the present. Examines major plays and playwrights, emphasizing the Restoration, Romantic, and Realistic movements. This course counts towards the fulfillment of the Disciplinary Perspectives element of the CLAS general education curriculum.

**THE 107 Acting I: Intro to Acting 3 Credits**

Students will learn and practice the fundamental techniques and skills for authentic acting: pursuit of objectives, struggles against obstacles, and use of various tactics.

**THE 110 Acting II: Scene Study 3 Credits**

Students will continue to apply fundamentals from Acting I while learning how to read a script for actor clues, searching for and applying given circumstances to scene work, and monologues. Pre-requisite: THE 107 with a minimum grade of C.

**THE 111 Theatre Lab 0 Credits**

This class serves as a forum for students to cultivate practical professional skills. Through seminars, guest speakers and master classes, this lab will give the students necessary tools to enter the professional theater. Theater majors must meet the weekly attendance and participation requirements during every semester up to a total of six.

**THE 115 Stagecraft 3 Credits**

The theory and practice of construction and rigging of stage scenery is offered. Emphasis is on actual productions and road show set-ups. One lecture and two labs per week.

**THE 116 Stagecraft Practicum 1 Credits**

Work in the various shops and stages specializing in different areas such as carpentry, scenic painting, lighting and electrics, costumes and props, assisting main stage productions under the supervision of the design or technical staff.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 115.

**THE 118 Visual Imagination 3 Credits**

Introduction to the visual world of theater design. Visual examples, physical exercises and handcraft of composition and style, with dramatic input and meaning. The course explores how to translate ideas in a dramatic text into a visual context.

**THE 120 Theater Appreciation 3 Credits**

By exploration of dramatic literature, conclusions are drawn as to man's relationship to his particular period, style, political, social, and psychological environment. Appreciation of the theatrical event is included. This course counts towards the fulfillment of the Disciplinary Perspectives element of the CAS general education curriculum.

**THE 126 Acting for Camera 1 3 Credits**

Focuses on the craft and artistry of acting in television and film. Examination of TV production and the styles needed for work in various media will be discussed. Physicalization, simplicity, listening, marking and other technical requirements will be explored. Staging involving different camera angles will be rehearsed. The emphasis of this class is on adapting the performance to the special needs of the camera.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 107 with a minimum grade of "C".

**THE 127 Theatre Production 1 Credits**

Students rehearse and perform roles in a play produced by the department and directed by a member of its faculty.

**THE 190 Production I 1 Credits**

Students carry out a technical theatre crew position for one or more theatre, musical theatre or dance productions during the semester of course registration. May be repeated seven times, for a total of eight credits.

**THE 201 Devised Theatre 3 Credits**

Devised theatre is a process in which a whole creative team – from actors to technicians - develop a new work collaboratively. Students will create an original production inspired by a theme, topic, poem, or circumstance using multimedia, interviews, and other methods and build them through collaborative workshops and rehearsals.

**THE 206 American Theatre History 3 Credits**

The history of the American theater from the colonial period to the present, emphasizing dramatic scripts and theatrical conventions. Examines important playwrights, theorists, and practitioners representative of each period of American history, emphasizing the 19th and 20th centuries.

**THE 207 Contemporary Theatre: Text and Context 3 Credits**

The course will engage in exploring the art of contemporary dramatic literature and theatre practices. The scripts studied will reflect the complexity and diversity of contemporary society in various places around the world. Through an examination of a diverse body of scripts, the student will gain a better understanding of the possibilities inherent in the dramatic form, as well as the context of these works in society.

**THE 215 Introduction to Theatrical Lighting and Sound 3 Credits**

This course will introduce students to basic lighting and sound principles and how those integrate into a theatrical performance. The main focus of the class will be analysis and application of lighting and sound equipment commonly used in live performance and how that equipment functions and is installed. The class will also touch on the design process, script analysis, and lighting color theory. These objectives will be achieved through in-depth lectures, class discussions, and hands-on demonstration sessions.

**THE 216 Introduction to Scenic Construction 3 Credits**

This course will expose students to reading construction drawings, construction techniques, generating material lists, problem-solving, and material and time management as related to scenic construction. A shop participation requirement will allow students to apply course objectives within a real-time production schedule and construction environment.

**THE 219 Stage Management 3 Credits**

Provide necessary tools to get started as a production stage manager (PSM), including management, leadership, communication and organizational skills. Providing guidelines to prepare production paperwork. Overview of the relationship between the PSM and other production personnel.

**Prerequisite:** THE 190 (with minimum grade of C).

**THE 220 Movement for the Actor I 3 Credits**

This course is an introduction to movement training methodologies, and emphasizes physical awareness and expressivity as it relates to development of character.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 104 and THE 110 with a minimum grade of C.

**THE 221 Voice for the Actor 1: Foundations of Speech 3 Credits**

Focuses on the exploration of the basic principles of vocal production and cultivating the natural expressivity of the voice. Classwork is based upon the classic progression of voice exercises of Kristin Linklater.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 107 with a minimum grade of C; restricted to BFA in Acting for Film, Television and Theatre.

**THE 222 Voice for the Actor 2: Speech & Dialects 3 Credits**

Focuses on the exploration of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and the use of the IPA in learning dialects (including Standard Neutral American) for the stage.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 221 with a minimum grade of C.

**THE 224 Stage Make Up 3 Credits**

Basic application of make up artistry and techniques for the stage. How it can help build a character, and how to apply to self and others.

**THE 226 Drafting for the Stage 3 Credits**

Covers essential drafting language for staged productions. Drafting of ground plans, sections, elevations, and renderings by hand and with computers.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 118.

**THE 227 Properties and Scenic Painting 3 Credits**

Covers general aspects of scenic painting and props for the stage. Hands on exercises, needs and challenges of each area, how work is usually accomplished in the professional world. Explore different textures, materials and how to combine them.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 115 or THE 118.

**THE 228 Projection Design 3 Credits**

In this course students will learn the basics of video editing software and its application to the performing arts. It will provide them with a general understanding of the needs for projection design, visual possibilities, explore the reasons to use video or projection in a production and its most effective applications within theatrical production limitations.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 115, THE 118.

**THE 229 Movement for the Actor II 3 Credits**

This course is a continuation of study in movement training methodologies (Alexander Technique, Viewpoints, Laban). It will emphasize developing physical awareness and expressiveness as it relates to the development of character work. It will also continue the further cultivation of awareness of habitual psycho-physical patterns that inhibit students in their professional development.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 220, THE 221.

**THE 240 Script Analysis 3 Credits**

This course provides students with a technique for analyzing a theatrical script in terms of its theatrical requirements and aesthetic qualities.

Students will use critical research and develop the abilities to write and speak clearly about dramatic literature, the requirements of production, and the experience of performance.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 107 with a minimum grade of C.

**THE 250 Introduction to Costume Construction 3 Credits**

This course will introduce students to basic costume construction methods and alteration skills used by professional costume shops and costume houses to create theatrical costumes. Students will complete several projects, covering hand and machine sewing, cutting, fabric identification, and will also learn how to use home and commercial patterns to cut out garments and simple patterning and draping techniques. Students will also get practical experience by assisting the costume designer and/or shop manager in supporting the needs of the current productions and will have experience taking measurements, fitting and the alteration of actual costumes.

**THE 260 History of Style and Decor 3 Credits**

This class is a survey of elements, furnishings, decorative motifs and trends in architecture, decor and fashion, starting with prehistory and moving through the early part of the 21st century. It is intended to be a visual survey of the major "periods" of both decor and fashion and is intended to help theatre artists to develop an understanding of visual history.

**THE 290 Production II 1 Credits**

Students carry out an intermediate level technical theatre crew position for one or more theatre, musical theatre, or dance productions during the semester of course registration. Intermediate level technical theatre positions are supervisory positions or assistants to department heads which include, but not limited to, assistant to a designer, Stage Manager, Wardrobe Supervisor, and Master Carpenter.

**Prerequisite(s):** SO standing; 3 credits of THE 190.

**THE 310 Acting III 3 Credits**

Building upon the skill sets learned in Acting I and II, students will learn how to utilize both interior and exterior analysis of characters while being introduced to a variety of techniques stemming from the Stanislavsky method. Techniques will then be applied through scene and monologue performances in class. Pre-requisite: THE 110 with a minimum grade of C.

**THE 311 Acting IV 3 Credits**

Students will learn and practice performance techniques that explore a variety of theatrical styles, primarily focused on styles that have a heightened form and/or language.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 310 with a minimum grade of C.

**THE 312 The Arts Abroad 1-3 Credits**

A short-term trip abroad that includes a critical study of local & regional arts and culture. Students are required to attend all performances, guided tours, and classes before and after the trip. A travel fee is required. Travel sites and artistic disciplines may vary year to year. May be taken more than once for credit.

**Prerequisite(s):** Permission of instructor.

**THE 313 Voice for the Actor 3: Voice Acting 3 Credits**

Students will learn and practice the foundational requirements needed to audition for a variety of voiceover projects including commercial, animation, audio drama, podcasts, video games, audio books, and other forms of voice acting.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 222 with a minimum grade of C.

**THE 315 Acting for the Camera 2 3 Credits**

This course is a continuation of the study of acting for the camera.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 126 with a minimum grade of "C".



**THE 317 Scenic Design 3 Credits**

The study and application of design principles as related to the stage. Incorporates the design process, decor research, styles, materials, and construction technology.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 118.

**THE 318 Stage Lighting Design 3 Credits**

The theory and practice of stage lighting as utilized in concept, dance, and theatre. Considers the nature of light, controlling light, color theory, electricity, electrical safety, and lighting design.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 115 or THE 118.

**THE 319 Costume Design 3 Credits**

Introduction to tasks, skills and expertise of costume design and costuming techniques, relationship with other creative production and cast members. Students will create sketches and develop basic construction plans. Develop familiarity with fabrics, patterns, common challenges in costume design.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 115 (for other Theatre majors) or THE 118 (for Design and Technology majors).

**THE 320 The Business of Theatre and Acting 3 Credits**

This course will delve into the non-artistic side of a theatre career, addressing topics such as budgeting, artist statements, grant writing, contracts, unions, networking, etiquette, taxes, theatre company structures, agents, managers, and how to navigate the entertainment market. The course will also touch on strategies for physical and mental self-care with the goal of providing a bedrock for both a successful and sustainable career.

**THE 325 Sound Design 3 Credits**

Introduction to sound design and its diverse use and practice for the staged productions, e.g. plays, musicals, operas and dance.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 115.

**THE 329 Movement for the Actor III 3 Credits**

This course is a continuation of study in movement training methodologies focusing on continued development of expressivity, ease, dynamics and authenticity in character development.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 229.

**THE 390 Production III 1 Credits**

Students carry out an advanced level technical theatre crew position for one or more theatre, musical theatre, or dance productions during the semester of course registration. These positions include, but are not limited to, Designer, Production Stage Manager, Props Master, and Technical Director. This course may be taken up to three times for credit.

**Prerequisite(s):** JR or SR standing; 2 credits of THE 290 and related management/design course or permission of Instructor.

**THE 400 Directing for the Stage I 3 Credits**

The technique of play directing and production management. Lectures present aesthetic and theoretical concepts that are explored in workshops.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 107 with a minimum grade of C.

**THE 401 Directing for the Stage II 3 Credits**

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to practice and discuss the art of directing, building upon the fundamentals of directing studied in THE 400: Directing I. Further exploration of directing challenges and application of artistic vision is accomplished through the direction of scenes and short scripts.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 400.

**THE 410 Advanced Performance Workshop 3 Credits**

An opportunity to work an entire semester on a specific style or period of theatre, e.g., Shakespeare, farce, Readers' Theater.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 107, THE 110.

**THE 411 Advanced Performance Online Workshop 3 Credits**

An opportunity to work an entire term on a specific style or period of theatre that is most conducive to online instruction.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 107, THE 110.

**THE 450 NY Experience: Professional Audition Technique and the Business of Acting 3 Credits**

Students engage weekly with New York professionals to learn the business of acting and strategies for successful auditions in the NY Film, Television and Theatre industry. Students will participate in mock auditions with casting directors and theatre and on camera directors to refine audition skills. Travel costs to New York are the responsibility of the student.

**THE 490 Independent Research and Study 1-4 Credits**

Students may pursue a special topic for which they have prepared through prior course work. Only one project may be scheduled in a semester. The project may involve 1-4 Credits. Approval of the faculty sponsor, department chair, and dean required prior to enrollment.

**Prerequisite(s):** junior or senior standing, good academic standing.

**THE 491 Internship in Theater 1-12 Credits**

Provides junior or senior theatre majors the practical experience of working within a professional theater environment. Students must be sponsored by a theatre professor. For each academic credit, interns must work 48 hours for the semester, or approximately 3.7 hours each week.

**Prerequisite(s):** permission of instructor.

**THE 493 Theatre-Makers: Process and Production 3 Credits**

This seminar-style class explores the myriad of positions that theatre artists may pursue to become the theatre-makers of the 21st Century.

**Prerequisite(s):** THE 190 (minimum grade of C).

**THE 495 Special Topics in Theatre 3 Credits**

Intensive study of a particular topic in the theatre world not typically covered in other courses.

**THE 496 Senior Internship 6-12 Credits****THE 497 Theatre Senior Showcase 1 Credits**

This course is a senior level experience for BFA acting students, and acts as a bridge between life in the university and life as a professional actor. Through this course the students will, in collaboration with the teacher, compile and put together a showcase to introduce the students to casting and agent professionals in the industry by way of getting the showcase performance in front of a diverse range of industry professionals who will be useful in both casting and representing recently graduated talent. Permission of instructor required.

**THE 498 Senior Capstone 3 Credits**

The senior capstone is intended for technical theatre students in their final year. Depending on the required abilities, students will be able to design sets, lights, costumes, props or sound for a mainstage show at Rider University, do research on topics related to technical Theatre, internships outside Rider University or work on projects that will improve the use of facilities, storage or equipment for Theater and Dance Department.

**THE 499 Senior Honors Program 3 Credits**

A senior honors program may be submitted in partial fulfillment of requirements for graduation with honors in fine arts. Honors work is limited to those departmental majors with a GPA of 3.5 in fine arts courses and cognates. The program, to be planned under the direction of a faculty advisor, will represent a culmination of demonstrated excellence in a specific area of fine arts. Candidates for honors in fine arts must be approved by the department chairperson and the faculty.