**Musical Theatre Production Residency – Boot Camp**

This lesson outline is designed as an introduction to both students and educators involved in the theatrical production underway on the first full day of rehearsal. It is a way to both activate and assess knowledge while simultaneously setting the tone for what is to follow. It starts with tasks that are simple allowing students immediate success and progresses toward bigger challenges, ideas and expectations. The “boot camp” presented here is a general outline. Each production requires a unique and specific “boot camp” experience that is designed around the specific needs of the show in production and the participants involved.

Mounting a production through this residency essentially incorporates all the Tennessee State Standards for Theatre and many for Music and Visual Art, as well.

**Activities**

* Following Introductions etc.
* Warm-up games:
* If you…? Line up here/stand/create a circle DSL, or DSR, or USL, or USR or CS, use theatrical terms:
  + If this is your first musical or play…
  + Have blonde hair…
  + Are playing townspeople…
  + Are playing animals…
  + Are wearing sneakers…
  + Are wearing blue, etc….
  + Line up from USL to USR in height order without using sounds or words
* Move into abbreviated Viewpoints – walking in patterns…soft focus then seeing one another.
* More rigorous physical warm-up. A bit of stretching and running in place and/or jumping jacks for focus and breath.
* Center work. Lead with your: shoulder, elbow, knee, etc.
* Move into Animals/Character development
* A first shot at Lessac Calling for both spoken and sung vocals
* Have a seat (on floor or in chairs in a circle)– Let’s talk about this show!
  + Who can tell me what this show is about?
  + Does it have a meaning beyond the plot?
  + How many of you know anything about the time period of the show?
  + How many of you know anything about the historical figures in the show?
  + What might it mean to live in these circumstances?
  + Anyone ever been to this location?
* All of these are areas for you to research in order to prepare for this production. You do not need to do it all at once…but I want you to immerse yourself in this information consistently. It will feed your imagination so that you can fully create your characters and tell this story as a team with shared knowledge.
* This is a process you will not have all the answers all at once.
* I want everyone in this show to know exactly who you are on stage and exactly where they are going and why!
* I want everyone to help the audience know who you are and how you feel by the choices you make with your bodies, your onstage movements and voices and your center, etc. ALL of it!

**Where do we go from here?**

In the rehearsals/lessons that follow in this residency:

* Students and teachers will rehearse their production with mutually agreed upon scheduled visits and guidance provided by Beth Anne Musiker
* Students will be taught skills and technique required for their work in the show as needed. Skills to be taught include vocal production and projection both spoken and sung, acting the song and character development, how to “take stage,” become an ensemble, etc.
* Staff will execute their assigned duties with a guiding hand from Beth Anne Musiker to grow their skills in directing, music directing, costume, scenic, lighting and sound design, as needed.
* Staff will benefit from Ms. Musiker’s extensive community connections and additional partnerships will be forged as needed and as fit the budget.
* Students will reflect on their process and that of their peers throughout the residency.
* Students will deepen their learning and artistic choice making, build their objectivity and make the work conscious and repeatable.