

During this essay I will look back on the rehearsal process and performance aspects of this module and analyse what went well and what next time if I was to do it again I would do differently.

Term1:

Kander and Ebb with Golden Age:

This term's theme was Kander and Ebb and the other aspect of this theme was golden age, Musicals such as The Music Man which my solo song 'Till there was you' came from. Kander and Ebb's unique ability to blend music and lyrics to create powerful and emotionally resonant musicals has solidified their place as one of the most influential and enduring partnerships in the history of musical theatre.

Rehearsal Process:

The first song we learnt within the rehearsal process was 'Nowadays' from Chicago, the song follows the lavish and extravagant life of someone living in those times talking of 'it's good isn't it grand' and 'there's men everywhere, jazz everywhere'. The next few songs we learnt as a cohort were kiss of the spider woman and coffee break both incredibly different songs i had the initial solo lines for coffee break which brought an added amount of excitement and passion for the number, the number resolved around a office full of caffeine deprived individuals who were so starved of coffee that they were beginning to hallucinate and become more and more psychotic by the end of the song 'If I can't take my coffee break something within me dies'.

The next few songs we learnt within the rehearsal process were 'Anything Goes Medley' and 'Cell Block Tango' from Chicago. The majority of Cell Block was solo sections however the song was heavily reliant on a big female ensemble for the choruses and a call and response section toward the end 'They had it coming. 'Till There Was You' from The Music Man, once i had found out about my solo it was my responsibility to find a few things for myself one being what key I would comfortably be able to perform the song, number two was for me to look into the context of the song and why my character was singing that song what had fueled her to sing this big ballad. The challenges for learning and performing a solo can be for example it's just you on stage so if something goes wrong only you can make it right rather than relying on the ensemble

Performance and intensive week:

Intensive:

The start of the intensive week was very exciting finally being able to get up and bring some movement to our pieces one of our fellow cohort Liv choreographed our numbers and really helped to bring our collective vision of where our piece needed to go together. The most chaotic number movement wise was definitely our anything goes medley this involved all of us moving together at points and then us moving separately or even in canon at other points now for the individuals of our class that weren't movers this did strike up quite the barrier however for myself i enjoyed learning the choreography and even found that it helped to really consolidate the lyrics in my head. As my background has always been musical theatre and performance i found the intensive week really did bring the performing spark back for me and I began to get excited for the performance we had ahead of us. Another challenge of mine for intensive week was the lack of confidence in my solo I hadn't sang a solo song in a performance setting (in front of an audience) for about a year, so this was extremely unnerving for me but after rehearsing with David I managed to get myself to a comfortable place with performing the song.

Performance:

The performance i believe was a great success we had a great turn out for support and everyone really gave their all i think as an ensemble we were loud and really were able to perform the pieces but i feel as though some soloists did lack volume and speaking for my own performance i know that nerves got the best of me and i definitely held a lot of tension within my throat and jaw, i also think that i could have used anchoring towards the end of my song this would have really helped to ground me for my ending sustained note. I feel as though I could work on this by using my ESTIL techniques that i have learnt over the past two terms using tension releasing exercises such as massaging my cheek bones with my knuckles to help release some of my jaw tension and grabbing and manipulating the muscles in my neck to release tension there too. Some positives that i will take from the initial performance is that we as an ensemble for the first time we learnt and memorised choreography and lyrics within a given time frame and then we were successfully able to perform our prepared material to an audience, i feel as though this experience has really enabled me to develop skills that I didn't realise I perhaps already had but hadn't quite refined them yet. I am

really looking forward to my next Theatre Laboratory performance with my cohort as i believe the next one will run even smoother I'm looking forward to the challenges the next term will bring.

Term 2:

Disney/Rock Pop

I was really looking forward to this terms theme for Theatre Laboratory rock is my favourite genre of music as a child i grew up on metal/rock music and that's followed through to now so having the opportunity to perform a song from my favourite genre also obviously everyone was a fan of it so at some point in our lives so being able to perform something Disney is also very exciting. Known for their memorable songs, captivating melodies, and powerful lyrics, Disney musicals can transport listeners to fantastic worlds and evoke a wide range of emotions. Disney's commitment to creating musical experiences that resonate with audiences worldwide has solidified its reputation as a powerhouse in the realm of musical theatre and entertainment, showcasing the enduring power of music to inspire, uplift, and enchant. Rock originating in the United States in the late 1940s and early 1950s, rock music emerged as a fusion of various musical styles, including rhythm and blues, country, folk, and gospel music. The genre gained popularity in the 1950s with artists like Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, and Little Richard, who helped shape the early sound and image of rock and roll.

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, rock music underwent significant evolution and experimentation, giving rise to sub-genres such as psychedelic rock, folk rock, hard rock, and progressive rock. Bands like The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, and The Who became iconic figures in the rock music landscape, pushing the boundaries of musical expression and lyrical content.

The 1980s and 1990s saw the emergence of new wave, punk rock, glam metal, and alternative rock, each bringing its own unique sound and cultural impact to the genre. Bands like U2, Nirvana, Guns N' Roses, and Pearl Jam continued to redefine rock music and influence a new generation of musicians.

Today, rock music remains a powerful and enduring force in the music industry, with artists continuing to draw inspiration from its rich history while

pushing the boundaries of creativity and innovation. The historical side of rock music reflects the evolution of musical styles and trends and serves as a mirror of social, political, and cultural changes throughout the decades.

Rehearsal process:

The first song we learnt in our rehearsal process was our Disney Princess Medley this consisted of the tragic tale of the naïve and easily lead Disney princesses (our altos) who still believe that relationships now can still be just like those in fairytales told to us when we were younger. This song was extremely challenging musically, it was also very wordy and had to be very precise timing wise. Other songs we rehearsed and learnt such as our Villian Medley, God Help the Outcasts and seize the day from Newsies. As a cohort, we flew through blocking numbers, and by the end of the week everyone had given input and felt their opinions were heard.

Performance:

Our performance for term 2 was very successful we gave a more choral sound and when singing my duet i felt as though i had warmed up and prepared myself enough to have released the tension in my jaw and neck i also used personal anchoring which helped me to bring the power to the power ballad. I feel like this performance for us was the most confident and effective time we had performed the numbers.

In conclusion, as I look back on my performance during this term and the pervious, I am filled with a sense of accomplishment, growth, and gratitude the knowledge and skills I've gained from this module i can guarantee i will carry with me into my professional career.

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