MUSIC THEATRE

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music Theatre is an interdisciplinary degree program offered by the School of Theatre Arts. Designed to prepare students to enter the profession, the music theatre curriculum offers solid training in music, theatre, and dance within the broader framework of the University’s liberal arts program. The music theatre program is structured around required courses in music, theatre, and dance, some of which are more “academic” in nature while others are performance-oriented. The program also allows some flexibility for students to shape their course of study, choosing upper-level electives in advanced techniques.

Private voice instruction, piano studies, music theory and history, and ensemble participation form the core of required studies in music. Required courses in theatre arts include acting, voice, movement, dramatic literature, production and stagecraft. Training in ballet, jazz and modern dance is required but students may also take tap.

Although the program is tightly structured, with proper planning there is time for a student to participate in an internship, a study abroad program, or an academic minor. A double major with Music Theatre, however, is not possible in four years.

The Theatre Dance Minor, also offered by the School of Theatre Arts, provides students with training in dance technique, (modern, jazz, tap, and ballet), choreography, and dance performance. The curriculum includes courses from the School of Music Theatre, Physical Education, and Theatre Arts. The minor encompasses the study of the physical workings of the body in dance technique, as well as the creative and theatrical aspects of the discipline.

AUDITION INFORMATION

A performance audition is required of all students desiring to major in Music Theatre at Illinois Wesleyan University. This audition will help the Music Theatre faculty to: 1) evaluate your present level of skill in the areas of vocal performance, acting and dance; 2) determine your readiness and potential to enter the Music Theatre training program; 3) get to know you and discuss your career goals; and 4) acquaint you with the Music Theatre degree program, the Music Theatre faculty, and the School of Theatre Arts, and 5) advise you of your performance and training opportunities at Illinois Wesleyan.

Talent scholarships are available at Illinois Wesleyan. No additional audition is required for consideration. Academic scholarships are available as well, based on an evaluation of a student’s application for admission. Additional forms may be submitted to apply for need-based financial aid.

AUDITION PREPARATION

Voice
Prepare two memorized vocal solos from music theatre literature. The material should be of contrasting nature, such as one ballad and one up-tempo. An accompanist will be provided.

Acting
Prepare two monologues, totaling no more than four minutes in length. The monologues should be of contrasting tone and content (one serious, one humorous, for example) and should be taken from modern plays. Original material or interpreted readings are not satisfactory audition material.

Dance
The dance audition is taught as a class, with a warm-up and ballet & jazz combinations. Bring appropriate dance attire.

Scheduling Your Audition
Auditions are held on campus on selected Saturdays throughout the academic year. For complete audition details, visit our website at http://titan.iwu.edu/~theatre. To arrange an audition, contact Bernadette Brennan, Theatre Admission Coordinator, at 309/556-3944 or bbrennan@iwu.edu. For more complete information about our programs and audition dates and requirements, visit our website at http://titan.iwu.edu/~theatre.