

Theater Meeting Notes and Feedback

General Information

- **Our goal is to make this as “bulletproof” as possible. This means planning our season so that all shows can happen, even if we have to switch to online learning.**
- **First semester shows will be streamed due to the reopening plan not allowing for live shows.**
- **These shows will allow for people with all sorts of varying interests to be able to participate in the show in some way whether it be acting, writing, video editing, or more.**

Verbatim Theater

What is Verbatim Theater?

The content of a verbatim show is created by conducting interviews and crafting them into a dramatic form. We are also planning to include student-written fictionalized monologues in our production, if there is interest from student authors. In our case, it will be made into a video and streamed for audiences. There is a definite rhythmic style to the presentation, for it is not just a bunch of interviews in a row. The interviews fit into a loose story and overarching themes. The camera work replaces blocking and lighting.

Opportunities in Verbatim Theater:

- Write and perform
- Write for another performer
- Fiction or dramatized monologue
- Sources should include students in different activities (mock trial, athletics, vex etc.)

Benefits of Doing it now:

- It's therapeutic now
- It engages us immediately in a new, exciting endeavor.
- It's collaborative while keeping everyone involved safe.
- Videos can be self-recorded at home if necessary in the situation of online learning.

Positive Things about Verbatim Theater:

There is a lot of freedom and creativity in making this

- It involves people outside of theater, including faculty
- It can be a mix of fictionalized and real material
- Students can still be involved in the process of making it even without appearing physically in it
- We are building this from scratch, so from a creative standpoint we can ultimately decide how we want this to work out

2. Musical Revues

What are Musical Revues?

- A “Musical Revue” is kind of a cross between a concert and a musical.
 - There is no through story and there are no characters but may be character “types.”
 - It features music following a theme, such as – Broadway, 50’s and 60’s, music from movies, etc.
- These shows offer opportunities for more singers than a musical because the songs are not matched to a character but simply feature the best singer for that number.
- Musical numbers can also be shared by one or more performers in this format.
- Over the years, music publisher Hal Leonard have printed several “choral revues” which are either extended medleys with a specific theme or full revues. They are usually about 40 minutes long and feature a specific style of music.
- Two subcategories of musical revues are themed revues and Broadway revues. Themed revues are made up of songs that follow a specific theme. A couple examples include “Heart of Rock n’ Roll (’70-s, ’80’s, & 90’s hits) and “Rock and Roll is Here to Stay” (’50’s & 60’s hits.) . These “mini shows” are often written with spoken transitions and have a high-quality accompaniment track available to go with it. Broadway revues are made up of medleys from Broadway shows. An example of this is when Xavier performed *Bravo* which included medleys from *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and more.
- **This type of show could fit within our “bullet proof” requirement because it would feature mostly solos and back up singers, fitting our limit of four singers maximum for rehearsals.**

Positive Things About Doing Musical Revues:

- It still has the feel of a musical despite not being able to do an entire musical on stage
- We can do many musical numbers from shows that we normally couldn’t do
- Musical numbers can be done by multiple people and aren’t tied to a character but rather to the person best suited for the song
- We can adjust the song to the person singing it (Like adjusting the key of the song to the singer)
- Xavier has done things similar to this in the past, so we already have a solid grasp on it. (Leader of the Pack, Bravo!, Hawkswing’s Dear Evan Hansen, ect.)
- It gives students the opportunity to partake in musical numbers outside of just one show.

Senior Showcase

This would be a way for us to honor the seniors. Seniors would be able to perform musical pieces while having their chance in the spotlight. This production would be planned to follow our “bulletproof” guidelines so that it can happen, even if restrictions aren’t lifted during the school year. The show could be done live with an audience if we return to normal operating procedures in time.

Positive Things About Doing the Senior Showcase

- The seniors who are graduating this year get to have their special moment on stage to wrap up all the years of theater they’ve done

- If all goes well by the end of the year, we could possibly have a live audience in some capacity
- It shows appreciation to the seniors

Valentine Day Show and Radio Show

We plan to present the Valentine's Day Show and the Radio Show like Xavier has done in the past. If we are still not able to do live performances by that time, we would still be able to video record the shows and stream it. This allows for us to show the audience things such as the sound effects table in the Radio Show in greater detail. We are also encouraging students to write and/or perform their own scenes for the Valentine Show.

Positive Things About Doing These Shows

- Certain things that the audience couldn't see before (like the sound effects table) can now be shown in more detail on video.
- Students can be creative with writing scenes and performing songs

What are the Students' and Faculty's Thoughts?

Feedback from the students:

- "I like the idea of doing songs from shows we can't normally do."
- "It involves people outside of the theater."
- "We are setting ourselves up for success."
- "Trying something new will help us."
- "I like the freedom with the shows"
- "It allows students to look forward to something."
- "People from the community are excited to see what we come up with."
- "Theater moves with the times and is constantly evolving. This is a new genre."