

Summer 2020 Lesson #2

Class: Pasadena Musical Theatre Program

Grade Band: 4th-10th

Teacher: Emily Clark

Lesson: Rodgers & Hammerstein

Objective: Retrospective on the musicals of Rodgers & Hammerstein and their effect on the Golden Age of Broadway (1943-1960)

Materials: Internet in order to access sites like YouTube or Spotify to listen to music, or movie streaming services to watch any of the films.

Process: This video focuses on Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, widely considered to be the most influential composing team in the history of Broadway. We will discuss how the team was not only extremely popular, but also innovative and willing to push the boundaries of musical theatre. All their major works will be discussed, but special attention is paid to *Oklahoma!* (the first “modern book musical”), *South Pacific* (the Pulitzer Prize winning musical that tackled prejudice like no musical before), *Cinderella* (the first original musical written for TV to be broadcast live), and *The Sound of Music* (the final show Hammerstein would write before his death in 1960).

Homework: Watch and/or listen to a Rodgers & Hammerstein musical. Movie versions include *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, *The King and I*, *South Pacific*, *State Fair*, *Flower Drum Song*, *Cinderella*, *The Sound of Music*.

Vocabulary: book musical, Pulitzer Prize, dream ballet, soliloquy, Golden Age of Broadway