

Summer 2020 Lesson #3

Class: Pasadena Musical Theatre Program

Grade Band: 4th-10th

Teacher: Emily Clark

Lesson: Jukebox Musicals

Objective: A delve into the origins and varieties of the jukebox musical.

Materials: Internet in order to access sites like YouTube or Spotify to listen to music.

Process: The jukebox musical is a style of musical theatre where the existing catalogue from a popular singer, songwriter, and/or band is fashioned into a stage piece. This lesson goes into the origins of the jukebox musical, starting from the earliest days of Broadway, through the golden age of movie musicals, to the emergence of West End (London) jukebox musicals, to today. We cover the different categories of jukebox show in order to better understand the medium: The Bio Musical (short for “biographical), the “Shoehorned Show,” (musicals with a plot shoehorned around the music), the Movie-to-Jukebox Musical, and the Musical Revue.

Homework: Pick a jukebox musical movie and/or soundtrack to listen to! The list of shows is endless, so a list of suggestions will be sent in a separate document. Also give a suggestion of an artist who SHOULD have a jukebox musical.

Vocabulary: jukebox musical, bio musical, musical revue, “shoehorned show,” the West End, diegetic