

THEA371: Singing Actor 1

Spring 26

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11-1150am & 12-1250pm; Pruis Hall

Instructor: Kathy Logelin **Office:** WQ 116 **Email:** kalogelin@bsu.edu

Instructor: Karen Kessler **Office:** WQ 105 **Email:** klkessler@bsu.edu

Instructor: Michael Rafter **Office:** WQ 010 **Email:** mrrafter@bsu.edu

TA: Ben Dostalek, benjamin.dostalek@bsu.edu

Chloe McAnallen, chloe.mcanallen@bsu.edu

Additional Time for Class:

Individual and group preparation and/or rehearsal time outside of class will be necessary. The amount

of time will be dependent upon the nature of the various projects, but will roughly equate to an additional 4-5 hours of outside preparation and/or rehearsal per week.

Course Description:

This class will focus on developing the skills necessary for integrating acting methodologies with musical theatre songs and voice work. Students will explore emotional truth and embodied choices in

combination with vocal dynamics to communicate effectively to an audience.

Course Objectives:

- To integrate acting fundamentals into the performance of song
- To incorporate given circumstances and action from the text into behavioral choices for a character
- To understand and determine score/libretto analysis and structure as it relates to character development
- To explore the overall shape of a song through identifying the character's needs, establishing clear meaningful relationships, and combining these with clues given to the actor through the music

Required Texts:

Librettos and Music for assignments. These are to be found by the students. You may not pull music from Music Notes or selection books. All music must be in original key.

Grading Policy:

Grades will be assigned as follows:

1. Classroom Participation 15%
2. Performance Assignments 50%
3. Written Assignments & Quizzes 35%

• **Participation Grades** will be based on: effort, attitude, civility, preparedness, focus, ability to articulate

questions/observations/constructive feedback, and attentiveness to the work of other classmates.

• **Performance Assignments Grades** will be based on: attempt to integrate feedback from coaching

sessions into performance, creation of connected physical life that is truthful and effectively demonstrated based on given circumstances; use of vocal support, clear articulation and an effective use of vocal dynamics; memorization; understanding of given circumstances and playing action with varying tactics; an overall progress of growth.

• **Written Assignment Grades** will be based on the depth of research and interpretation.

• **Michael Rafter's Music assignments** are to be turned in via Canvas by noon on the due date.

Documents must be typed and submitted in PDF form on Canvas. No handwritten work will be accepted.

Expectations for assignments will be communicated in class.

• **Karen Kessler's and Kathy Logelin's Acting assignments** are to be turned in via Canvas by noon on the due date.

Documents must be typed and submitted in PDF form on Canvas. No handwritten work will be accepted.

• It is the student's responsibility to turn the work in on time. Unless otherwise arranged, assignments will not be accepted after the due date. If the student is absent on a day an assignment or project is due, the work must either be given to the professor *prior* to the absence or put into the instructor's mailbox by 5pm of that same day. Assignments not handed in will receive an F.

• *The lowest acceptable grade in a course for credit toward a major or minor in Theatre and Dance is a C. Any student receiving a C- or lower must retake the course in order to receive credit towards a major or minor in the department. If a course is repeated, the higher grade will be recorded by the university.*

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- **No technology should be used in class without permission.**

Course Requirements:

- Performance Assignments will be given out/discussed either in class or via email. For performances, students are expected to be fully prepared (meaning memorized, rehearsed, and fully-present in their work). Music must be in a binder in plastic sheets.
- Written Assignments will be given out/discussed either in class or via email. See grading policy section for expectations re: both acting and music assignments.
- Materials: students are required to bring required texts/music/notes to each class, along with a writing utensil, a journal for observations and notes, and any other handouts or texts the instructor has provided that are currently being worked with. A full water bottle or hot water/tea is recommended for each class. Throat lozenges are also acceptable.

Attendance Policy:

- For Singing Actor you may miss no more than TWO classes total. **Colds, flu bugs, and other common illness issues are not excused. A DOCTORS NOTE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN EXCUSED ABSENCE.** Rather, they are part of your allotted absences for each course. After your SECOND absence your grade will lower by one letter for each additional absence. In addition, no grade of "W" will be given to a student after midterm, unless they are earning a grade of "C" at the time of withdrawal. No grade of "I" will be given to a student who is flunking.
- Excused absences are ONLY allowed for the following: ***religious holiday; death in the family (amount of days per University handbook), pregnancy, jury duty, active military duty; and an EXTENDED and DOCUMENTED absence related to long term illness or mental health issues (note from Disability Services required).*** For all EXTENDED illness related absences (students MUST receive a note from their medical professional. If this category of absences causes your TOTAL absences from the class to rise above SIX (6) you will be deemed unable to fully complete the work required to earn credit for this course, and you will be asked to withdraw from the course. The instructor will be sure that such situations are remedied with solutions that do not impact your GPA (an Incomplete or, in rare cases, a late withdrawal). The instructor will work with you to lay out clear expectations regarding how the course work will be completed.
- The instructor will not catch you up if you are unexcused. Please seek out a colleague or TA. • If you miss a performance during an UNEXCUSED ABSENCE you will get a zero for that portion of the assignment.
- If you are going to miss a day that you need to work it is YOUR responsibility to find someone to switch with and inform the instructors. You may ONLY switch for illness/COVID.
- Should a situation arise that will require extended excused absences from the course an incomplete or withdrawal from the course may be necessary as this studio course is experiential and information is acquired by taking part in class. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis between the student and instructor.

Studio/Classroom Etiquette:

- You may not record your work sessions without express permission from the instructors and a sheet from the disability office stating that this is required for your learning.
- Hair is to be kept out of the face. No baseball caps are allowed to be worn.
- Cell phones should be switched off prior to the start of class. Any cell phone ringing during class is disruptive, and the owner of the phone may have their participation grade lowered for the day.
- Please observe a working environment while in the studio space by focusing any necessary conversation towards that of the class. Extra conversation not related to the class should be kept outside, either before or after the class has finished.
- Course work may require physical contact and close proximity with other students. Please maintain good hygiene in respect of others (showering, washing clothes, brushing teeth, etc.).
- If you have concerns during a particular exercise, it is your responsibility to speak up and notify the instructor and other classmates. Exercises may be altered depending on the needs of the student.

Teaching Assistants

You will have 1-2 teaching assistants for your section. They will assist in coaching in class and provide out of class coaching and assistance for your section. They are awesome and generally not getting credit or paid, but doing this because they want to learn. Please respect that this is a learning process for them as well. If you are uncomfortable working with TAs or have an issue regarding your work/interaction with them, please contact the instructors.

Disability Services

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructors as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabricating or falsifying information or sources, improper collaboration, submitting the same paper for different classes without permission, and plagiarism. Plagiarism occurs when writers deliberately or unintentionally use another person's language, ideas, or materials and present them as their own without properly acknowledging and citing the source.

Tactile Teaching Statement:

Studio theatre courses often require the instructor to touch or be in close physical proximity to students in order to adjust/align the body and guide the student on how to best execute the material. The instructor will always verbally request student consent before touching them. If, for whatever reason, being touched or physically adjusted is not part of a student's learning process or makes them uncomfortable, please let the course instructor know as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made. If a student is uncomfortable speaking with the

instructor, they should contact the departmental Associate Chair, Tyler Smith

(tasmith2@bsu.edu). Voice lessons courses often require the instructor to touch or be in close physical proximity to students in order to adjust/align the body. Any physical contact used will be demonstrated in a functional and professional manner in order to help the student better understand corrections concerning proper vocal technique. The instructor will always verbally request student consent before touching them. If, for whatever reason, being touched or physically adjusted is not part of a student's learning process or makes them uncomfortable, please let the course instructor know as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made. If a student is uncomfortable speaking with the instructor, they should contact the departmental Associate Chair, Tyler Smith (tasmith2@bsu.edu).

Sexually Explicit / Violent Material:

This class may contain scene work that involves stage violence or physical intimacy. This material will always be approached with the priority on clear communication of expectations, clear consent of all performers, and a respect for student safety.

At the beginning of the semester, you will be asked for your consent regarding stage violence or physical intimacy. If physical interaction with other students is not a part of your learning process or makes you uncomfortable, notify your instructor immediately so that accommodations can be made. Physical contact by anyone in the classroom should not and will not be used to demean you in any way and will only take place once clear and enthusiastic consent has been obtained. Any scenes involving violence or physical intimacy will be fully blocked / choreographed in class under instructor supervision.

Any rehearsal of this material outside of class must follow the existing blocking / choreography exactly. If you are ever uncomfortable with a specific scene, exercise, or partner, notify your instructor immediately. If you are uncomfortable speaking with your instructor, contact departmental Associate Chair Tyler Smith (tasmith2@bsu.edu).

Your consent and mental/emotional well-being are paramount. We recognize and respect your right to decline participation in scenes involving violence or physical intimacy, especially in cases of recent / short-term trauma, and you are not obligated to disclose the reason for declining. That said, you have chosen a major (and a career) that will require your involvement with a wide range of material - some of which you may find uncomfortable. Your ability to successfully navigate this material may impact your career.

List of Grades

Participation: see rubric

1. First Half of Semester (pre mid-term): 100 points
2. Second Half of Semester (mid-term to end of semester): 100 points

Performances:

1. Song 1 Midterm Performance/Coaching (serves as midterm grade): 100 points
2. Song 2 Final Performance (performed last week of class): 100 points
3. Duet Final Performance (performed last week of class): 100 points

4. Song 1 Redo (performed last week of class): 100 points (additional performance of 1st song focused on improvements and growth since midterm performance)

Notes:

1. *Song 1 Performance, Song 1 Music Work, Song 1 Acting Work, and First Half Participation will constitute mid-term grade reported through Navigate.*

Written Work:

1. Song 1 Music Work: 100 points
2. Song 1 Acting Work: 100 points
3. Song 2 Music Work: 100 points
4. Song 2 Acting Work: 100 points
5. Duet Music Work: 100 points
6. Duet Acting Work: 100 points

1. Required University Statements and Policy

University Statement

We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse.

Disability Statement

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's [Disability Services Office](#) coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

Attendance

- Absences will be **excused** for the following: funeral and bereavement leave, jury duty, late course addition, military absences, observance of religious holidays, pregnancy leave, student-athletes participating in University- or department-approved activities, and university advisories.

- Students may encounter other UNEXCUSED circumstances (e.g. car accidents, job interviews, ILLNESS) that result in course absences. Only faculty members can excuse these absences and adjustments are at the discretion of the instructor. YOU ARE ALLOWED THREE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES. **No more than 2 unexcused classes** can be missed before consequences begin toward 1/2 letter
- grades for each additional day. This is to promote good professional learning outcomes for jobs, auditions, rehearsals, etc...
 - **UNEXCUSED absences include illness with a doctors note. You have 2 so use them for mental health day, just need a break, illness, homework overload, doctors appt etc....**

WE WILL BE ADHERING TO FIELD-SPECIFIC BEST PRACTICES as well as student well-being.

- In general, students are expected to notify all their instructors once they anticipate being absent for any reason (e.g., funeral) or as soon as possible.

MISSING OR LATE WORK:

For each day an assignment is handed in late, one grade level will be subtracted. In other words and A grade becomes A-; An A- grade becomes a B+

2. Recommended Statements, Policies, and Information

Freedom of Expression

In this course, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that values intellectual diversity, encourages free expression, and promotes open inquiry. As members of the Ball State Community, we treat each person in the Ball State community with civility, courtesy, compassion, and dignity and respect and learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions. Please review Ball State University's [Statement on Freedom of Expression](#), the resources on Ball State's [Freedom of Expression webpage](#), and [Ball State's Beneficence Pledge](#).

Title IX

Ball State University is committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual harassment—including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, please know that you are not alone. The University offers support services and resources. For more information or to report an incident,

please visit bsu.edu/titleix or contact the Title IX Coordinator at 765-285-1545 or at titleix@bsu.edu

As your instructor, I am a mandatory reporter under the Title IX policy and required to report any information I receive about possible sexual harassment. This includes information shared in class discussions, assignments, or private conversations.

What happens after I report? The Title IX Coordinator will email the person who experienced sexual harassment (complainant) and invite them to schedule a meeting. If the complainant **chooses** to meet with the Title IX Coordinator,

- Title IX Coordinator will offer supportive measures (e.g., counseling, extensions on deadlines, course-related adjustments, changes to work or class schedules, and/or referrals to campus offices), review the policy, and discuss options to move forward.
- If a complaint is filed by the complainant or the University, an investigation will begin following University policy.

University Grade Appeal Policy

If you believe you received a final course grade that does not reflect your performance due to fairness or a procedural issue, you have the right to file an appeal within 5 school days after final grades are posted by the Office of the Registrar. Review the [University Grade Appeal Policy and Process.](#)]

Student Academic Ethics Policy

Honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of the university community. Academic dishonesty and other forms of academic misconduct threaten the foundation of an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and will not be tolerated. To maintain its credibility and reputation, and to equitably assign evaluations of scholastic and creative performance, Ball State University is committed to maintaining a climate that upholds and values the highest standards of academic integrity. Visit the VPAA's [academic integrity website](#) (Students tab) for resources on understanding academic integrity, citing sources properly, and avoiding inadvertent academic dishonesty. To learn about BSU's academic integrity expectations and students' rights, please read the University [Student Academic Ethics Policy](#).

Academic integrity violations include giving or receiving an unfair academic advantage (cheating), presenting someone else's ideas or work as your own (plagiarism), and falsifying academic records. Unless otherwise indicated, you must work independently by yourself. Check

with me if you are unsure whether something constitutes academic dishonesty. Examples of academic integrity violations include but are not limited to:

- Using resources not authorized by the faculty member (including devices, AI tools, hidden notes, and open books)
- Using commercial study websites to find answers to graded assignments (Chegg, Course Hero, StudyPool, OneClass, etc.).
- Without the instructor's written permission, giving away, buying, or selling graded assignments class notes, exams, study guides, or other course materials to other students or to third-party vendors (Course Hero, Chegg, 24HourAnswers, etc.).
- Working with another person on any assignment other than authorized group projects.
- Sharing or allowing others to access your files, whether done with permission or not.
- Reusing your own work from another semester, course, or section.
- Sharing answers with others during exams (passing notes, texting, whispering, gesturing)
- Discussing exam questions and answers with students who have not taken the exam.
- Soliciting others to complete work for you.

Generative AI Statement

[It is up to the faculty and/or their academic unit to determine if, when, and how generative AI use is permitted. It is strongly recommended that faculty clearly communicate their expectations about students' use of AI in their course and/or on specific assignments. Note that many applications (e.g. Grammarly, Microsoft Word, Canva, OneNote, and Evernote) have AI built-in features such as text predictions and AutoComplete as well as organizing and summarizing information. Below are potential statements, based on Perkins et al. (2024) [AI Assessment Scale](#) and the [GAI Use Scale](#), that faculty may copy verbatim or modify to fit their needs for the entire course or for specific assignments. Faculty are encouraged to engage in dialogue with their students throughout the course about the ethical use of generative AI. For generative AI and academic integrity resources, see the [VPAA's website](#); for AI information, tools, resources, and courses, see [AI Initiatives at BSU](#).]

No Generative AI Use

All work conducted and/or submitted in this course should reflect your own ideas and demonstrate your current knowledge, abilities, and skills. Therefore, generative AI should not be used to complete any portion of the assignment(s). Doing so constitutes a violation of Ball State University's [Student Academic Ethics Policy](#).

The Learning Center

The Learning Center offers free Tutoring and Academic Coaching for many courses at Ball State. Students can make appointments for online (Zoom) or in-person (NQ 350) appointments. To make an appointment, visit myballstate.bsu.edu and click on “Navigate” in the Academic Tools section, or just go directly to bsu.navigate.eab.com.

Testing accommodations for students with disabilities are available for students who have received the appropriate documentation from Disability Services. Tests may be administered in the Learning Center.

Supplemental Instruction is available in select courses. If you have an SI leader for your course, that person will provide students with information the first week of school regarding weekly study sessions. For more information about Learning Center programming, visit bsu.edu/learningcenter or call 765-285-1006. Follow us on Instagram: [BallStateLC](https://www.instagram.com/BallStateLC).

The Writing Center

All writers improve with practice and feedback, so as a student in this course, you are encouraged to use the Writing Center (in Robert Bell 295 during weekdays, Bracken Library First Floor West in the evenings, or online during any of our regularly scheduled hours) to get additional feedback on your writing.

The Writing Center offers free planning, feedback, and accountability sessions (in person and online) to all students composing essays, reports, reflections, research projects, web content, lesson plans, slideshows, poster presentations, resumes, and other digital or print texts. To schedule a free appointment to discuss your writing, go to bsu.edu/writingcenter. Online and in-person appointments are available; however, plan ahead because appointments book quickly!

The Basic Needs Hub

If you are having difficulty affording enough food, do not have a safe and reliable place to sleep, and/or experiencing an emergency or crisis, help is available through the [Basic Needs Hub](#). The Basic Needs Hub has information, resources, and provides individualized support to students. To talk with a supportive staff member about your experience, receive one on one assistance, or learn more about resources, you can submit a [Basic Needs Assistance Form](#).

The Counseling Center

The Ball State University Counseling Center offers free and confidential services to all students. The Counseling Center is located in Lucina Hall, Room 320. To schedule an appointment, you can contact us at 765-285-1736. Ball State also offers a 24/7 Crisis Line, which can be reached at 765-285-HOPE (4673). The Crisis Line is a mental health resource for those who are struggling with any mental health concerns, including thoughts of self-harm and/or suicide.

At the Ball State Counseling Center, we see students for a variety of reasons, some of which include homesickness, relationship concerns, anxiety, and depression. At your first appointment, you will work with a therapist to create a plan that will connect you with resources that best fit your needs. We assist students with getting connected to therapy at our Center as well as connecting students to self-help resources, other on-campus resources, and community-based resources. All Ball State students also have access to several on-demand, self-help resources through a variety of different platforms. All of these resources, including a direct link to our website, can be found [here](#).

The Speaking Center

The [Speaking Center](#) is a free resource available to all members of the BSU community wanting to improve their public speaking abilities. We offer personalized coaching designed to help you become a more confident and effective speaker. Our trained coaches provide constructive feedback and support throughout the entire speech preparation process, whether you are in the early stages of brainstorming ideas and organizing your thoughts, or you need to practice your delivery and refine your message.

The Center is in the David Letterman Communication and Media Building, room 302. To schedule an appointment, please access us through your Navigate app or use this [direct link](#) to sign up for a time. Appointments are available both in person and on Zoom. Appointments are available in person, on Zoom, and in virtual reality (VR) for those interested in practicing in an immersive speaking environment.

Canvas Accessibility

Canvas provides a user experience that is easy, simple, and intuitive. Special attention has been paid to making Canvas screen-readable. The Rich Content Editor encourages users to create accessible content pages (i.e. text formatting is accomplished using styles). Canvas is designed to allow limited customization of colors and schemes to be accessible for all users. The National Federation of the Blind granted Canvas the Gold Level Web Certification in 2010. **Find more information by visiting the [Canvas Voluntary Product Accessibility Template \(VPAT\)](#).**

FERPA and Privacy

As a student, your educational records are considered confidential. Under FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), your records are confidential and protected. Under most circumstances, your records will not be released without your written and signed consent. However, some directory information may be released to third parties without your prior consent unless a written request to restrict this is on file. You can learn more about student rights to privacy by reading [Ball State's FERPA and Privacy and Protection](#).

Plagiarism Detection

The campus subscribes to Turnitin, a plagiarism prevention service, through Canvas. You may need to submit written assignments to Turnitin. Student work will be used for plagiarism detection and for no other purpose. The student may indicate in writing to the instructor that he/she refuses to participate in the plagiarism detection process, in which case the instructor can use other electronic means to verify the originality of their work.

3.Course Expectations and Policies

Course Participation Expectations

- It is recommended that you log into your Canvas course 3 to 4 times a week and check your official Ball State email account daily to view announcements and prepare for class.
- Complete all assignments, papers and any other activities by the stated due dates.

Feedback Policy

- We will respond to email from your official Ball State email address as soon as we are able.
- We will grade your assignments and audition modules in a timely manner. Please allow for extra time when your three professors are working overtime for recruitment and/or professional gigs to keep our department thriving.
- Contact us directly if you have questions or concerns about your performance in class.

Late Assignment Policy

- SEE OUR CLASS RULE UNDER GRADING POLICY ABOVE. ADDITIONALLY: Internet connectivity and technical issues may occur and impede you from turning in work on time. Turn in work early and often, and set up a back-up plan, such as visiting a local library or borrowing a peer's computer.
- You have one (1) permitted late assignment to allow for these issues, to which you can turn in one assignment 24 hours late.
- Canvas will not accept assignments for grading after 11:59 pm EST/EDT on the final day of class.

Engagement Expectations

To support a respectful and engaging academic community that encourages the free exchange of ideas and civil discourse, we will follow these ground rules:

- **Respect different perspectives.** Share your ideas and let others share theirs.

- **Challenge ideas, not people.** Disagree respectfully. No personal attacks or put-downs. Focus on exploring ideas critically and constructively.
- **Listen to understand.** Stay curious, ask questions to understand, and give others space to speak.
- **Assume good intentions.** Approach discussions with curiosity and compassion.
- **Keep it private.** What is shared in class stays in class. Do not share others' words or work without permission.
- **Be respectful.** Avoid hurtful language, stereotypes, or content that may demean others. Keep feedback constructive.

4. Course Schedule

The course calendar is posted on Canvas. The course schedule may shift over the semester. The most current version of the schedule will always be available on Canvas. I encourage you to check Canvas regularly for updates and contact us if you have any questions.

5. Subject to Change Statement

This syllabus is subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.