



## **Humanities Seminars Program**

### **Spring 2020**

### **Gotta Dance!**

Christie Kerr

[ckerr1@email.arizona.edu](mailto:ckerr1@email.arizona.edu)

520-621-1324

Come explore the history and significance of Musical Theatre Dance in the American Musical Theatre genre. Dance, as an extended expression of language, exemplifies the collaboration between choreographers and writers. Musical Theatre Dance has evolved through the years thanks to many significant choreographers. We will examine the work and style of many of these influential choreographers that have helped shape and mold the American Musical to what it is today. Each week we will discuss different choreographers and their contributions to Musical Theatre. Examples and video footage of choreographers along with their dances will be shown and discussed. Additionally, we will focus on what makes each choreographer unique regarding their style and how they work to advance the musical's narrative. This course will celebrate the works of Agnes DeMille, Gene Kelly, Jerome Robbins, Bob Fosse, Gower Champion, Michael Bennett, Susan Stroman, Jerry Mitchell, Andy Blankenbuehler, and many others. "Come and meet those dancing feet!" in this 3-hour lecture that will span 10 weeks.

#### **Week 1- January 23**

Introduction: The Role of the Choreographer in Musical Theatre Dance. Introduction to the major choreographers we'll study and discuss and elements of style

Discussion: Reading

View video clips in-class and discuss

#### **Week 2-January 30**

Early beginnings: Agnes DeMille, Michael Kidd, Gene Kelly

Discussion: Reading

View video clips in-class and discuss

#### **Week 3-February 13**

Gower Champion, Jerome Robbins, Jack Cole

Discussion: Reading

View video clips in-class and discuss

#### **Week 4-February 20**

Bob Fosse  
Discussion: Reading  
View video clips in-class and discuss

**Week 5-February 27**

Michael Bennett, Bob Avian  
Discussion: Reading  
View video clips in-class and discuss

**Week 6-March 5**

Tommy Tune, Gillian Lynne, Randy Skinner, Wayne Cilento  
Discussion: Reading  
View video clips in-class and discuss

**Week 7-March 12**

Susan Stroman, Jerry Mitchell, Ann Reinking  
Discussion: Reading  
View video clips in-class and discuss

**Week 8-March 26**

Casey Nicholaw, Savion Glover, Rob Marshall, Graciela Danielle  
Discussion: Reading  
View video clips in-class and discuss

**Week 9-April 2**

Rob Ashford, Kathleen Marshall, Christopher Gattelli, Peter Darling, Baayork Lee  
Discussion: Reading  
View video clips in-class and discuss

**Week 10-April 10**

Andy Blankenbuehler, Joshua Bergasse and wrap-up of course  
Discussion: Reading  
View video clips in-class and discuss

**Required Text:**

- *Cramer, Lyn*-Creating Musical Theatre: Conversations with Broadway Directors and Choreographers ISBN: 1408185326
- Selected readings posted on Box (by Jan 1, 2020)

**Recommended Text:**

- *Gottfried, Martin*-All His Jazz: The Life and Death of Bob Fosse
- *Lawrence, Greg*-Dance With Demons
- *Wasson, Sam*-Fosse