Unit 10: Advanced Career Studies in Theatre (Producer, Stage Manager)

Content Area: **Performing Arts**
Course(s): **Performing Arts**
Time Period: **Week 42**
Length: **4 Classes**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

in this unit, students will explore careers in theatre by focusing on the importance of a producer and a stage manager. Students will learn the various responsibilities of these individuals and be able to identify famous people who have held these positions.

Standards

VPA.1.1.8.C.4	Define the areas of responsibility (e.g., actor, director, producer, scenic, lighting, costume, stagehand, etc.) and necessary job skills of the front and back-of-house members of a theatre company.

Essential Questions

- What makes a good stage manager?
- Why are producers needed in theatre, film, movies?

Application of Knowledge: Students will know that...

- a stage manager's job starts months before an actual rehearsal even happens
- Cameron Mackintosh and Andrew Lloyd Webber are famous Broadway producers
- Harold Prince and John Stewart acted as stage managers before they became famous
- in the theatre world, the stage manager is one of the most important jobs
- marketing, fundraising, and awards are all extra jobs for the producer
- producers are responsible for creating a budget and finding money for performance
- producers are responsible to see that all union laws are being followed for actors as well as other technical staff
- producers hire a production staff for a show
- stage managers maintain the artistic integrity of the show
- stage managing is an art learned through extended study, mentoring, and experience

Application of Skills: Students will be able to…

- differentiate between personal contributions and fundraising for a contracted performance
- explain how a show could not happen without one or more producers involved
- explain how a stage manager interacts with actors on a performance
- identify famous people that began their careers as stage managers
- identify two producers that are famous for Broadway shows
- list the different responsibilities of a producer on a Broadway production
- list the different responsibilities of a stage manager on a Broadway production

Assessments

- written/oral report on stage manager or producer (famous)
- quiz on responsibilities of producer/stage manager
- flow chart of jobs in the theatre
- information from this unit will be included on a locally developed, end of course benchmark assessment that may take the form of a test, performance based project, or other summative assessment

Suggested Activities

- create a chart of responsibilities of a stage manager/producer
- research the roles of producer and stage manager on a Broadway stage
- research and discuss famous people that have acted in role of stage manager/producer
- create a production team within the class

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

Differentiation for special education:

- General modifications may include:
    - Modifications & accommodations as listed in the student's IEP
    - Assign a peer to help keep student on task
    - Modified or reduced assignments
    - Reduce length of assignment for different mode of delivery
    - Increase one-to-one time
    - Working contract between you and student at risk
    - Prioritize tasks
    - Think in concrete terms and provide hands-on-tasks
    - Position student near helping peer or have quick access to teacher
    - Anticipate where needs will be
    - Break tests down in smaller increments
- Content specific modifications may include:

- reduce length of Producer/Stage Manager Project
- supply list of responsibilities of jobs

Differentiation for ELL's:

- General modifications may include:
  - Strategy groups
  - Teacher conferences
  - Graphic organizers
  - Modification plan
  - Collaboration with ELL Teacher
- Content specific vocabulary important for ELL students to understand include: producer, stage manager, production team, fundraising, aesthetic

Differentiation to extend learning for gifted students may include:

- create a formal log of responsibilities of Stage Manager/Producer to keep in classroom for class references

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

Performing Arts can work with Music class to identify similarities of a stage manager and producer in the music world

Resources

Everything about Theatre, by Robert L. Lee

The Stage Management Handbook, by Daniel Ionazzi

So you want to be a Producer, by Lawrence Turman

teacher generated handouts/worksheets

21st Century Skills

CRP.K-12.CRP1.1	Career-ready individuals understand the obligations and responsibilities of being a member of a community, and they demonstrate this understanding every day through

	their interactions with others. They are conscientious of the impacts of their decisions on others and the environment around them. They think about the near-term and long-term consequences of their actions and seek to act in ways that contribute to the betterment of their teams, families, community and workplace. They are reliable and consistent in going beyond the minimum expectation and in participating in activities that serve the greater good.
CRP.K-12.CRP3.1	Career-ready individuals understand the relationship between personal health, workplace performance and personal well-being; they act on that understanding to regularly practice healthy diet, exercise and mental health activities. Career-ready individuals also take regular action to contribute to their personal financial well-being, understanding that personal financial security provides the peace of mind required to contribute more fully to their own career success.
CRP.K-12.CRP10.1	Career-ready individuals take personal ownership of their own education and career goals, and they regularly act on a plan to attain these goals. They understand their own career interests, preferences, goals, and requirements. They have perspective regarding the pathways available to them and the time, effort, experience and other requirements to pursue each, including a path of entrepreneurship. They recognize the value of each step in the education and experiential process, and they recognize that nearly all career paths require ongoing education and experience. They seek counselors, mentors, and other experts to assist in the planning and execution of career and personal goals.