Devising

Content Area: **Music**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Marking Period 4**
Length: **6 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Brief Summary of Unit

In this unit, students will actively explore the collaborative process of devising original theatre. Building upon foundational physical techniques learned in "Movement for the Actor," ensembles will synthesize research, personal experiences, and socio-political themes to construct cohesive performances. As a culminating assessment, students will conceptualize, rehearse, and perform a fully devised original piece that either deeply investigates their personal identities or confronts critical global issues, moving beyond traditional scripted theatre to empower their own artistic voices.

Revised: August 2026

Standards

Information Literacy

This unit challenges students to locate, evaluate, and use information effectively. Information literacy includes, but is not limited to, digital, visual, media, textual, and technological literacy. Lessons may include the research process and how information is created and produced; critical thinking and using information resources; research methods, including the difference between primary and secondary sources; the difference between facts, points of view, and opinions, accessing peer-reviewed print and digital library resources; the economic, legal, social, and ethical issues surrounding the use of information.

New Jersey Diversity and Inclusion Law

In accordance with New Jersey’s Chapter 32 Diversity and Inclusion Law, this unit includes instructional materials that highlight and promote diversity, including: economic diversity, equity, inclusion, tolerance, and belonging in connection with gender and sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, disabilities, and religious tolerance.

ELD standards:https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wdmsiGOdCHlrjU-WPvAtENnEgi0EStZXo0uiFYv1Nu4/edit

1.4.12adv.Cr1a	Synthesize knowledge from a variety of theatrical conventions and technologies to create the visual composition of devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12adv.Cr1b	Create a complete design for devised or scripted theatre work that incorporates multiple elements of technology.
1.4.12adv.Cr1c	Integrate dramaturgical analysis with personal experiences to create a character that is believable and authentic.
1.4.12adv.Cr2a	Collaborate as a creative team to make informative and analytical choices for devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12adv.Cr2b	Collaborate as a creative team to make original artistic choices in devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12adv.Cr3a	Explore physical, vocal and psychological characteristics to create a multidimensional character that is believable and authentic in devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12adv.Cr3b	Transform devised or scripted theatre work using the rehearsal process to re-imagine style, genre, form, and theatrical conventions.
1.4.12adv.Cr3c	Originate and construct technical design choices that support the story and emotional impact of a devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12adv.Pr4a	Create and justify a collection of acting techniques from reliable resources to prepare believable and sustainable characters in a devised or scripted theatrical theatre performance.
1.4.12adv.Pr4b	Create and justify the selection of technical elements used to develop and build a design that communicates the concept of a drama/theatre production.
1.4.12adv.Pr5a	Experiment with theatrical styles to form unique choices for a directorial concept in a devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12adv.Pr5b	Experiment with various acting techniques as an approach to character development in devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12adv.Pr6a	Produce a devised or scripted theatre production for a specific audience that employs research and analysis grounded in the creative perspectives of the playwright, director, designer, and dramaturg.
1.4.12adv.Re7a	Demonstrate an understanding of multiple interpretations of artistic criteria and how each might be used to influence future artistic choices of devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12adv.Re7b	Use historical and cultural context to structure and justify personal responses to devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12adv.Re8a	Research and synthesize cultural and historical information related to a devised or scripted theatre work to support or evaluate artistic choices.
1.4.12adv.Re8b	Analyze and evaluate varied aesthetic interpretations of production elements for the same devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12adv.Re8c	Compare and debate the connection between devised or scripted theatre work and contemporary issues that may impact audiences.
1.4.12adv.Re9a	Use detailed supporting evidence and appropriate criteria to revise personal work and interpret the work of others when participating in or observing devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12adv.Re9b	Use understandings of cultures and contexts to shape personal responses to devised or scripted theatre work.

1.4.12adv.Re9c	Support and explain aesthetics, preferences, and beliefs to create a context for critical research that informs artistic decisions in devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12adv.Cn10a	Collaborate on devised or scripted theatre work that examines a critical global issue using multiple personal, community and cultural perspectives.
1.4.12adv.Cn11a	Develops devised or scripted theatre work that identifies and questions cultural, global, and historic belief systems.
1.4.12adv.Cn11c	Justify the creative choices made in a devised or scripted theatre work based on a critical interpretation of specific data from theatre research.

Enduring Understandings

- Collaborative ensemble work is the foundation of devised theatre, requiring a delicate balance of individual creativity, shared responsibility, and group consensus.
- Devised theatre provides a powerful, dynamic platform for artists to challenge, reflect upon, and directly engage with personal identity, as well as broader societal, cultural, and political systems.
- The artistic process of devising, experimenting, synthesizing multiple disciplines, and revising based on peer feedback, is just as valuable as the final product.

Essential Questions

- How can an ensemble create theatre?
- What is devising and what are the ways it works?
- At what point in the creation process should one consider the intended audience?
- How does engaging in theatre significantly enhance intellectual, psychological, social, and spiritual development?
- How does engaging in theatre allow us to be more engaged with political, cultural, and sociological systems?

Objectives

- Students will practice working as an ensemble to create cohesive pieces that honor the work of all involved.
- Students will collaborate on the creation of unique pieces, balancing individual responsibilities with the good of the group.
- Students will establish a unified vision and then work to create a piece that clearly portrays that vision to an audience.
- Students will be able to list performance companies that rely on devising to create their pieces.
- Students will explore devising as both process-oriented and product-oriented.
- Students will create art that attempts to answer fundamental questions about society's ills.

Learning Plan

- Provide a concept for a devised piece and lead the students in creating a piece around this theme
- Provide elements of a piece and lead the students in creating a piece with a centralized theme from these elements.
- Participate in short-form, immediately created and rehearsed theatre.
- Have students propose and ultimately create a piece of theatre intended to address a specific global issue.
- Have students perform personal pieces exploring their individuality and sense of self.

Assessments

- Students will create a piece appropriate for a public audience from a proposed concept/theme.
- Students will create a more abstract piece from assembled elements and short-form creation processes.
- Students will create a collaborative piece intended to address a specific global issue.
- Students will create individual pieces exploring art and music as a part of performance.

Materials

- Archival videos and interview

Suggested Strategies for Modifications

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1A-PxTb-SqSbhdiTWm8sCR69UJhJ2Oq_ixoy_hgPpInc/edit?gid=1426178898#gid=1426178898