

WEST END DANCE CAMP

Here is some interesting information for you!

- WEST END is an area of London which is the home of a lot of theatres!
- BROADWAY is the same thing but in New York, USA!
- TOUR means that shows/plays travel around and appear in our local theatres (for example The Birmingham Hippodrome or Alexandra Theatre)

- A MUSICAL is a play with songs which help to tell the story

- The first play to use its songs to tell the story was in 1927 (but there were many other types of theatre using music before this, even as far back as in Ancient Greece !)

- The SCORE means the music in a show
- The LYRICS are the words of the songs
- The SCRIPT is where all the spoken lines and directions are written for the actors
- The BOOK means the script or the story (it doesn't mean the show came from a book!)

- SUNG-THROUGH means the whole story is told by song and there is no speaking in it!

- The CHOREOGRAPHY is the dance steps (the choreographer is the person who creates the dances)
- The COMPOSER is the person who writes the music
- The DIRECTOR tells the actors/singers/dancers what needs to happen on stage, where they need to stand and what they have to do
- The SET is the decoration on stage that makes it look nice and interesting
- The COMPANY or CAST are the performers in the show

- Lots of other people work on a show too and are very very important! They include the people who are in charge of - costumes & wigs , lighting , sound , set design, props, stage management, advertising the show, paying the wages of the cast and crew, and many many more. Backstage in a theatre is very very busy place!

SOME MUSICALS TO WATCH OR LISTEN TO

Even though musicals are lots fun, not all shows are for children and your grown ups should be careful to research a show before they take you to see one in a theatre! As you grow up, there will be more and more shows that you are able to watch. We have added a list below of shows that are suitable for children that you might want to listen to. Maybe one day you be lucky enough to see some of them on stage!

NOTE FOR PARENTS: we recommend always researching suitability for children when it comes to listening to shows. Many have swears or adult content and individuals will have their own thresholds on what they deem suitable for their children and we have been careful to not include anything of an adult nature in this list. If you want to listen or watch a musical which isn't listed here, we are more than happy for you to ask our advice. We do know a lot of shows and can let you know if they are safe shows for children.

- Not a musical, but Pantomimes at Christmastime are a great way to start visiting theatre shows!
- 'WICKED' - the story of the Good Witch and the Bad witch from The Wizard of OZ (this is one of our favourite shows!). The composer is called Stephen Schwartz.
- 'CATS' - based on a real book, 'Old Possums Book of Practical Cats' by T.S Eliot. 'Cats' is an example of a 'sung-through' musical (there is no talking) and the dancing is fantastic - everyone is playing a cat! The composer is Andrew Lloyd Webber.
- MARY POPPINS - based on the Disney movie. Magical and exciting with lots of lovely singing and dancing and Mary Poppins even flies! Composers are the Sherman brothers who are famous for writing lots of Disney songs!
- BARNUM - the original musical about PT Barnum, the owner of Barnum & Bailey Circus. You might have heard of him from The Greatest Showman!
- JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT - this was written for children as a school play and became one of the worlds most famous musicals! Composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Lyrics written by Tim Rice and it is a 'sung-through' musical.

- THE LION KING - based on the Disney movie. Some of the animals are played by people and some are puppets! The performers had to work hard to learn how their animal would move so that they could be realistic on stage.. Composed by Elton John and Lyrics by Tim Rice.
- ANNIE - about an orphan girl searching for her parents. Also a movie (there are a few different ones to choose from).
- INTO THE WOODS - a story which combines famous fairytales including Rapunzel, Little Red Riding Hood and Jack and the Beanstalk. The movie is on Disney+ and may have a few little scary parts. It is written by a very famous composer called Stephen Sondheim and none of his other shows are suitable for children. This story is 'sung-through' and doesn't have any dancing in it.
- ALADDIN - based on the Disney movie and tells the same story. Has some new extra songs and the Magic Carpet really flies on stage! Composed by Alan Menken and Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice.
- OLIVER! - this musical is based on the very famous book 'Oliver Twist' by Charles Dickens and is about a boy called Oliver who is an orphan living in a workhouse. There are lots of famous songs that you might have heard in this show and they were written by Lionel Bart.
- MATILDA - based on the book by Roald Dahl and tells the same story. Composed by Tim Minchen (make sure your grown up is with you if you want to search for Tim Minchen online).
- CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY - based on the book by Roald Dahl, this story is about a poor boy called Charlie Bucket who wins a Golden Ticket to visit Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory. There he meets some Willy Wonka, his helpers (Oompa Loompas) and a group of other children who are all very different in personality!
- CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG - all about an inventor called Caractacus Potts, his two children Jeremy and Jemima and a lady called Truly Scrumptious who becomes their friend. He buys a car (Chitty Chitty Bang Bang) and rebuilds it so that it can fly! Chitty really does fly on stage in the theatre! You can watch the movie of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and it has some fantastic songs in it!