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Breaking the Stigma: Musical Theater Acting

There is a huge stigma around so-called "musical theatre" acting. It implies that MT actors are somehow less gifted, less trained, less able to tackle other mediums and genres. Partly this stigma exists because the MT performer is often asked to come downstage center and sing out to the audience. Partly, the golden age of Musical Theatre shows evolved directly from vaudeville and so a broader style of acting was required to "put over" the material. The other part of the stigma comes from a generation of out-of-date teaching that holds on to the above, techniques, no matter what the material is.

Musical Theatre Acting: Breaking the Stigma will identify the necessary conversation around genres of shows and how, no matter the material - play, musical, television show, movie, etc - there is an adjustment in technique not in the skill or craft behind it.

Musical Theatre performers are akin to Olympic athletes. They need finely tuned minds, bodies, and spirits to perform at a certain level eight times a week - which is above and beyond what most athletes are called upon to do. I don't believe anyone is truly prepared for the amount of work one needs to put into a performance. High school musicals are fun, sure. But a career is hard work with amazing pay offs.

This book will serve as a manual/guide to the beginning performer, the student, or the professional who needs a refresher on how to hone and sharpen skills while honoring the material and their interpretation of it.