



Musical theatre combines music, songs, spoken dialogue and dance. Musical theatre can also be known as 'musicals' or 'shows' and these are usually performed in theatres, although there are film musicals too.

Musical timeline

Late 16th and 17th centuries

Opera

Operetta

Film musical

Book musical

Jukebox musical

Modern day

Rock and hip hop musicals

Vocabulary

Composer

Writes the music.

Librettist

Writes the story.

Lyricist

Writes the song lyrics.

Director

In charge of the dramatic performance.

Musical Director

In charge of the musical performance.

Choreographer Creates the dance moves.

Designer

Designs the sets or costumes.

Performers

Play the characters in the musical.

Character song

Describes how the character is feeling.

Action song

Describes what is happening at that point in the story.

Transition

A passage of music composed to link one piece of music to another.

Score

Written notation to show what notes to play and in what style to play them.

Script

Written text of a play or musical.