## How Musical Theatre Will Benefit Your Child

## Singing...

When we think about singing, it seems like one of the most effortless and natural things to do. However, to be a good singer – with the ability to hit all the right notes, as well as how to perform... there's much more to it than that.

Vocal instruction will teach your child to have a good ear. Not only will they learn the right notes to sing, but they will also gain skills to identify and match notes within other pieces of music. In addition to matching pitch, your child will learn how to be a good listener in general and how to appreciate various types of music, of various complexities.

Vocal instruction trains the brain to memorize patterns, tempos, rhythms, and lyrics. It improves memory skills, coordination, and concentration.

Singing can also help children to gain social skills through performance. The more they consistently sing in front of others, the more confident they will become (in both their skills and in themselves).

## Dancing...

Dance keeps your child's body and mind active – keeping them healthy and happy. Your child spends most of their day at school – sitting in a seat, working on different assignments and projects. While Recess and playtime after school are wonderful for your child's imagination, dance takes "play" and "education" one step further.

Dance pushes for better flexibility, coordination, timing, and posture! Participating in dance classes will also allow your child to express themselves creatively, while also learning self-esteem and confidence skills in a safe, judgment-free environment.

Plus, dance helps to release good endorphins... which will naturally make your child happier!

## Acting...

The benefits of drama are vast and never-ending. One of the most valuable skills your child will learn through acting is how to adjust perspective... by taking on various roles (putting themselves in someone else's shoes). When actors take on a character, they are also pushed to empathize with that character – allowing themselves to be vulnerable and open-minded to other people and the lives they lead.

Acting also teaches strong communication, teamwork, and collaboration skills. When working on a scene with others, the actors must rely on and trust each other. Every reaction in a play has a reaction, and therefore every person has an important part to contribute to the success of the performance. Acting, therefore, also teaches important problem-solving skills and forces out-of-the-box thinking. If a cast member forgets a critical line, the other cast members must quickly adapt and keep the show going. This boosts imagination, creativity, and accountability.

In terms of linguistics, acting strengthens speaking skills such as better articulation, pushes for more socialization, improves public speaking, and promotes expression. Memory is also improved with the repetition of memorized lines, physical stage movements, and timely facial expressions.