**While musical theatre can be good, some people find it repetitive and boring.**

**the term musical theatre is defined as the stage show that has music by popular artists and dance for example Hamilton, Mama Mia**

**adapted from Alexander Hamilton**

**playwright- Lin-Manuel Miranda**

**composer- Lin-Manuel Miranda**

**First performed 20th January 2015**

**Mama Mia**

**First performed April 1999**

**Composers Benny Anderson and Bjorn Ulvaeus**

**I gave these examples of these shows since I like both shows.**

**One positive example of musical theatre is the costumes I find the colours that the actors wear for the characters, especially Mama Mia the costumes 70’s disco vibe the character of Donna throughout the show wears baggy clothes like overalls just before the sophies wedding she wears a red dress most of the female characters wear dresses whereas the male characters’ wear shirts and pants and sometime suits then at the end of the show all the characters change into 70s disco outfits and the massive shoulder pads and the high boots. However**

**One negative aspect of musical theatre is that some songs, like the Mama Mia songs and Hairspray, can annoy some people. I admit that the songs are catchy and fun, but some people do not like it when they repeat the song twice.**

**Another positive aspect of Mama Mia is the cast. All the characters were cast very well, and each was played to the fullest. The show was successful and spawned two movies.**

**One thing that I like about Hamilton is the accurate costumes from that period. The characters wore period-appropriate clothing, such as boots and long coats.**

**However, one negative aspect of Hamilton is that it is a bit long for a show: two hours and forty-five minutes, including the 15-minute interval.**

**Hamilton is set in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The play tells the story of Alexander Hamilton, an immigrant from the Caribbean who comes to New York. Mama Mia is set on a Greek island. These two are musicals, but Hamilton is a musical. It is just songs, and there is no speaking between each song, whereas Mama Mia has speech between the songs. These two are similar, but there is a minor difference between them.**

**The themes of Hamilton are death, love, war, tragedy,**

**The main theme of Mama Mia is love and caring this is shown through the relationship between Donna and Sophie’s mother and daughter and Sophie and Sky get married at the end of the show as the friendship that Donna has with her bandmates. One of the themes in Hamilton is death and betrayal this is shown with the death of Alexander’s son and Hamilton’s death and the divorce between Hamilton and Elissa. The song Burn represents this tragic moment in the show another moment in the show is when Hamilton dies to the guy who killed his son at the end of the show In Mama Mia Here We Go Again we have flashbacks to a young donna played by Lilly James and we find out that donna passed on Whereas in the show Donna is still alive one thing I don’t understand about Hamilton is we never find out what happened to Alisa after Hamilton died.**

**Another musical that I have seen is Blood Brothers**

**Blood Brothers**

**Willy Russell**

**Setting 1950-1980 Liverpool**

**Created in 1980s**

**Blood Brothers is set in the town of Liverpool in the 1980s the story follows Miss Johnston who raises 8 kids and then is forced to give one away A few years pass, and Mickey Johnston and Eward Lyons meet for the first time when they were seven (this shows is full of religious superstitions. When Mrs Johnstone gets evicted, she moves her family to the countryside and the Lyons move as well in the end both Mickey and Edward die as both Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lyon remember the pact they had made at the beginning of Act 1**

**All the examples listed above are musical theatre examples I have seen in shows. My honest opinion of these shows is that they were amazing. The lighting and sound were superb, especially in the Hamilton show, where the stage had a spinning stage, which to me was amazing.**

**Another negative aspect of musical theatre is that it can sometimes be repetitive. Sometimes, it is a song or dance that you have seen before. For example, in Hamilton, the song “My Shot” can be heard in other songs from the show; it is heard in the Battle of Yorktown song in the middle of Act 1. Also, in Hamilton, the phrase " New Land in New York, you can be a new man " is repeated throughout the show.**

**My thoughts on musical theatre are that it just makes you feel happy or annoyed by the songs or the dance for me my most guilty pleasure musical is Mama Mia due to my owning both movie soundtracks.**

**Musical theatre does not have to be stage shows there are plenty of musical theatre shows. One of these is a show called Glee the show Glee is about a group of kids that are in a theatre group which is a musical group the Glee music is covers of songs that already exist for example Don’t Stop Believing by Journey.**

**These shows have influenced me to do musical theatre for my special study project.**

**Reason 1: I like musical theatre shows. They make me happy and feel good about myself. Some shows make me Happy, some make me sad, like when I see a Shakespeare tragedy like Macbeth, and some are funny, like Avenue Q. This is Sesame Street, but the twist is for adults.**

**Reason 2 it is easy for me to understand I have done 3 musical theatre shows at college I couldn’t keep up with the dances but I got there, in the end, the first show that I did at college I was nervous but by the time I got to the end of the first year I was dancing but not good enough the year after that the first show of the year was a panto which is musical theatre but really over the top acting there were singing and dancing I played a dwarf named sniffles I was in so many song and dances for all of the years I have been at college my final project last year was musical theatre it was a retelling of peter pan where peter pan was the bad guy.**

**Overall, musical theatre is a good thing. Due to the overwhelming success of some musical theatre shows, Hamilton was nominated for 16 Tony awards.**

 **Musical theatre builds your confidence and develops your acting and dance skills alongside your vocals.**

**In conclusion, musical theatre is a unique and powerful art form that continues to captivate and inspire audiences worldwide. Its fusion of music, dance, dialogue, and visual storytelling transcends traditional theatre and offers an experience that is emotionally enriching and universally relatable. The art form’s enduring popularity is not only a testament to its entertainment value but also to its ability to reflect societal changes, address complex themes, and convey the depths of human emotion in a way that no other medium can.**

**From its origins in operetta and vaudeville to the revolutionary works of composers like Rodgers and Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim, and Lin-Manuel Miranda, musical theatre has evolved to reflect both the cultural landscape of its time and the universal truths that resonate with all people. Musicals such as West Side Story, Hamilton, and Les Misérables display the genre’s versatility, addressing a wide range of topics such as love, social justice, revolution, and identity. These works demonstrate how musical theatre can function as a mirror to society, using song and dance to explore the struggles and triumphs of the human condition.**

**The beauty of musical theatre lies not only in its ability to entertain but also in its power to inspire change. Musicals have often played a role in pushing societal boundaries, challenging norms, and fostering important conversations. For example, rent broke new ground in discussing issues like HIV/AIDS, poverty, and the LGBTQ+ experience, while The Colour Purple brought to the forefront conversations about race, gender, and the resilience of African American women. Through these works, musical theatre encourages audiences to examine the world around them, consider their values, and understand the perspectives of others.**

**Moreover, the collaborative nature of musical theatre — involving playwrights, composers, choreographers, directors, and performers — ensures that the product is always a team effort. It is this collective creativity that allows for the creation of such memorable and impactful works. The constructive collaboration between music, lyrics, and movement enhances the storytelling, allowing the audience to connect with the characters and themes on a deeper emotional level. The integration of music and dialogue within a single performance creates a heightened sense of emotional truth, where feelings that may otherwise be difficult to express find their full expression through song and choreography.**

**Despite the challenges faced by the theatre industry, including financial instability and the recent impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, musical theatre remains resilient. It adapts to the changing tastes of the times while staying true to its roots in storytelling and performance. Today, musicals are becoming more diverse, inclusive, and experimental, incorporating elements of various genres, and exploring a broader array of themes. New works continue to emerge, providing fresh perspectives on age-old narratives and offering a space for marginalized voices to be heard.**

**In the end, musical theatre is more than just an entertainment medium. It reflects humanity, offering both escapism and enlightenment, laughter and tears, joy, and sorrow. Its ability to evoke powerful emotions, unite diverse audiences, and spark important conversations makes it a vital and enduring form of artistic expression. As the world continues to change, musical theatre will undoubtedly evolve alongside it, continuing to provide a platform for creativity, storytelling, and connection for generations to come.**