



Musical Theatre Study Unit

Name:		Date:	
Email:		Prof/Class:	

Chapter 1: Musical Stage Productions in America before the 1800s

Important Terms & Names
1) What was significant about the year 1716 in musical theatre history? Why?
2) What were “ballad operas” and where did they come from?
3) What was the first theatrical troupe in America, where and what did they perform?
4) Why was there backlash to some of the early ballad operas in cities like Philadelphia?
5) What ruling did the Continental Congress issue in 1774, and how did it affect stage performances?

6) How did the American public circumvent the prohibition on theatre?

7) What and when did the first state repeal the ban on theatre in the American states?

8) What British stage forms became the pattern for early American productions?

9) Describe a “typical” night at an American theatre at the end of the 18th century.

10) What was the difference between “theatre” and “musical theatre” in the 1790s?

11) In what ways was music for theatre “borrowed”, and from where?