**Summative PDA Reflection**

**Name: Chris Filice**

**Semester: Fall 2012**

This summer, I helped conceive, write, direct, and choreograph an original children’s musical titled “Super: A Comic Book Musical.” My musician skills were challenged in a number of ways. While conceiving the musical,I had to use my knowledge of musical theater repertoire. In addition to the original songs written for the show, we added many musical theater and jazz standards for the children to sing. I had to help the director come up with songs which were appropriate in content, vocal range, and difficulty for the children. We needed songs that were not only age appropriate, but songs that also served the plot of our show. After deciding on the songs and story arch of our musical, the director and I began writing the script. This task was especially, as we were on opposite sides of the country during the actual writing process. I was responsible for the majority of the scenes involving the heroes and villains, while the director took on the scenes focused on the civilians. As we started the first week of class and tackled the audition and casting process, we had the additional challenge of sewing our scenes together to make a cohesive story.

Once rehearsals began, I used my piano skills to help teach the songs we had chosen, and occasionally to fumble through an accompaniment. Although I knew most of the music that we chose, I also had to teach myself some of the songs I was assigned to teach and choreograph. Because I was totally responsible for each song I was assigned to teach, I also had to model healthy vocal technique for the children and encourage musical singing and performance.

I was also involved in the planning of the rehearsal process. I was responsible for monitoring the progress of each song and scene I was assigned to direct. After each rehearsal, I would meet with the director to decide if the plan we had created at the beginning of the week would still be viable for the next rehearsal, or if we would have to reschedule. We also had several rehearsals where one of the other assistant directors unexpectedly called out sick. These situations called on my ability to quickly re-evaluate the plan we had made, and adapt accordingly.

In addition to my creative and planning roles, I helped with technical aspects of the production. I was challenged to find new purposes for as many of the existing props, costumes, and sets owned by The Music School. I also learned the importance of delegating tasks to parents, and finding responsible parents to serve as chairpeople for costumes, sets, props, etc. The successful production of a musical requires that the directing team, cast, crew, and parents all work as part of a well-oiled machine. This summer, I expanded my knowledge of the planning and skills required to make this machine run smoothly.

