

Program Overview: Bachelor of Fine Arts, Theatre Arts Acting/Directing Concentration

About This Major . . .

The Department of Theatre Arts offers one of the most successful theatre training degree programs in Colorado. Students majoring in Theatre Arts choose from three distinct concentrations – Acting/Directing, Design/Technical, and Music Theatre – and acquire a sound understanding of the performing arts in newly-built, state-of-the-art facilities.

The Acting/Directing concentration is constructed to help students meet the rigorous demands of a professional acting career and provide a strong foundation and practical experience for future directors. Beginning with the first semester, students enroll in performance courses taught by academically and professionally experienced faculty. Unlike larger institutions, acting opportunities in all productions at Colorado Mesa University are open to motivated and talented freshmen. In acting courses, students are exposed to techniques and approaches that are industry standards today. Training is grounded in Stanislavski, Cohen, and Chekhov. Voice and movement courses are complemented by performance opportunities in student and faculty directed productions and certification is available in stage combat with the Society of American Fight Directors. Acting students also audition for one act plays directed by the directing students each year.

Colorado Mesa's BFA in Acting/Directing is designed to create young theatre professionals ready to work from the moment they graduate. As part of the program, the Acting/Directing capstone course will require actors to perform in an acting recital with their fellow classmates and directors will direct their own full-length production. In addition, CMU brings professional artistic directors and casting agents to campus to interview and audition our students BEFORE they graduate to create a professional network for the student they can immediately access upon graduating. At Colorado Mesa, we are committed to the philosophy of training theatrical entrepreneurs. We offer low faculty-student ratios so that personal attention and mentoring are hallmarks of the program.

All CMU baccalaureate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, communication fluency, quantitative fluency, and specialized knowledge/applied learning.

When you have finished the CMU Acting/Directing BFA, you will be able to:

1. function as a working artist who can effectively communicate to various audiences the great depth and breadth of the performing arts.
2. create your own performance opportunities that continue to challenge your artistry and technique.
3. collaborate with other performers and solve problems to create fully-fledged productions.
4. contribute meaningfully to theatrical productions from their very conceptualization through the final performance.

Program Highlights:

Be on Stage

The Department of Theatre Arts produces 4 mainstage shows (2 musicals, 2 plays), 1-3 student-directed shows in the Mesa Experimental Theatre, 2 faculty dance concerts, 2 student dance concerts, and 15-20 one-acts per school year.

Be a Professional

Every summer CMU's Mesa Repertory Theatre produces a musical, a play, and a children's show in a 6-week timeframe. Students cast are afforded a small stipend and their first professional credits.

Be Seen

Freshman can be cast their very first semester.

Be Known

Professionals from such places as Creede Repertory Theatre, the national tour of *Wicked*, and Norwegian Cruise Lines come to campus to work with and audition our students.

Be Working

Recent graduates have worked in theatre at Theatre for the New City (NYC), Alliance Theatre (Atlanta), Ignite Theatre (Denver), the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, on TV in "Monsters Inside Me" (Animal Planet), "Z Nation" (Syfy) and on film in "Parental Guidance" and "Devil's Knot."



Program Requirements

A student must follow CMU graduation requirements by completing 120 semester credit hours, including 40 credits of coursework at the 300+ level. See the “Undergraduate Graduation Requirements” in the catalog for additional graduation information. Detailed program requirements can be found online at www.coloradomesa.edu/theatre/currentstudents.html. Students should work closely with a faculty advisor when selecting and scheduling courses prior to registration. In general, CMU’s programs of study are based on two curriculum groups:

1. Essential Learning

CMU’s Essential Learning program provides the foundation of skills and information that cuts across all fields of study and the support for advanced concepts that students will later encounter in their majors. Before moving into work at the 300+ level, students complete the Maverick Milestone and its co-requirement, Essential Speech. This pair of courses is a capstone experience where students integrate what they have learned from their foundation courses by making connections among diverse areas of knowledge. The capstone is also an opportunity for students to work with disparate ideas, a critical skill expected of all CMU graduates that will aid them in solving the complex and unscripted problems they will encounter in their personal, professional, and civic lives.

2. What You Will Study in This Major . . .

Foundational Courses

This series of courses is designed to prepare you for advanced study and give you a strong working knowledge of the basics of performance.

- Acting I
- Scenic Construction
- Script Analysis
- Costume Construction

Core Courses

These courses develop the complete skillset necessary for a life in the theatre.

- Directing
- Contemporary Scenework
- Makeup
- Dramatic Literature
- Stage Movement
- Theatre History
- Audition Techniques

Advanced Study

These courses allow you to obtain advanced professional training in specific areas

- Acting Shakespeare
- Dialects
- Acting for the Camera
- Chekhov Technique
- Acting Styles
- Meisner Technique
- Stage Combat
- Acting for the Camera

Professional Courses

- Career Preparation
- Senior Capstone: Performance Seminar
- Drama Performance

Electives

- Advanced Directing
- Playwriting
- Stage Management
- Costuming
- Stage Lighting
- Scenic Design
- Costume History
- Lighting Design
- Sound Design
- Musical Theatre Techniques
- Musical Theatre Workshop
- World Drama
- Contemporary Drama
- American Drama
- Shakespeare Literature
- Methods of Teaching Drama and Speech

Note: Admission to the BFA program in Theatre Arts is by audition only. To schedule an audition and/or view the audition requirements, please visit www.coloradomesa.edu/theatre/prospectivestudents.html.

For more information about this major, go to: <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/theatre/> or contact the Academic Department Head for the Department of Theatre Arts, 141 Moss Performing Arts Center, 970.248.1795.