

Program Overview: Bachelor of Fine Arts, Theatre Arts Music Theatre 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 programs – 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 Music Theatre concentration provides strong technical foundations in Music, Theatre, and Dance. This approach to create "triple threats" is the hallmark of CMU's program, and enhances the young performer's potential for an exciting career in Musical Theatre. Students begin training with music theory and ear training, private voice instruction, choir and class piano. Acting I and II, Ballet and Tap are also included to complete first year academic requirements. To complement technique courses, students also participate in a wide variety of performance related assignments which include mainstage productions, experimental theatre productions, choral ensembles, dance concerts, student directed one-acts, and technical crew assignments.

CMU's BFA in Music Theatre is designed to create young theatre professionals ready to work from the moment they graduate. As part of the program, the Music Theatre capstone course requires music theatre students to perform a 25-minute cabaret of their own devising that will showcase their abilities and create a ready-made showcase for wherever they choose to go. 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 they can immediately access upon graduating. The Music Theatre program offers highly personalized instruction from skilled professors who are seasoned performers, coaches, directors, teachers, and technicians; working graduates cite this as the prime reason for their success in gaining employment in both regional and national venues. Music Theatre graduates work on Broadway, Off-Broadway, in national Broadway tours, regional theatres, dinner theatres, cruise ships, and with Disney and Universal Studios.

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 Music Theatre 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 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
- Makeup
- Voice and Diction

Core courses

These courses develop the complete skill set necessary for a musical theatre performer.

- Contemporary Scenework
- Ballet
- Music Theory
- Stage Movement
- Jazz
- Private Voice (8 sem.)
- Play Production
- Tap
- Ear Training
- Choir (4 sem.)

Integration Courses

These courses focus on the integration of theatre, music, and dance.

- Music Theatre Techniques
- Music Theatre Repertoire
- Music Theatre History and Literature

Professional Courses

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

Electives

Acting:

- Musical Theatre Workshop
- Audition Techniques
- Stage Combat
- Acting Styles
- Meisner Technique
- Acting For the Camera
- Acting Shakespeare
- Chekhov Technique

Dance:

- Hip Hop
- Advanced Jazz
- Advanced Tap
- Advanced Ballet
- Modern
- Ballroom

Music:

- Additional Choir
- Class Piano
- Music Technology
- History of Popular Music

Technical Theatre:

- Stage Management
- Costuming
- Stage Lighting
- Scenic Construction

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.