

# Theatre

Theatre is what you might think it is—performance art (Shakespeare might come to mind). And it is just that, at least in part. But theatre is more than just a performance; it utilizes many different parts to create a whole. As such, theatre is a broad spectrum of talent combined to form one creative element. Theatre, then, is the use of visual art, speech, writing, music, and dance brought together into a creative performance. Colorado Mesa University offers a B.A. in Theatre Arts.



The Bachelor's Degree in [Theatre Arts](#) at CMU is one of the most successful theatre training programs in Colorado and utilizes a newly-built, state-of-the-art facility, The Moss Performing Arts building. From their first semester, students are trained by academically and professionally experienced faculty. Students majoring in Theatre Arts choose from four distinct concentrations: Acting/Directing, Design/Technical, Music Theatre (see *Music*), and Dance (see *Dance*).

The Acting/Directing concentration is designed to help students meet the demands of a professional career in acting and provide students with a strong foundation and practical experience for future directing positions. Unlike larger institutions, CMU provides access to acting opportunities in all productions for motivated and talented freshman. This unique availability enables students to develop their skills as actors.

The Technical/Design concentration exposes students to the visual and technical aspect of theatre and prepares them for graduate studies or the professional theatre. Students can expect personalized instruction and supervised "hands-on" design experience that stretches from ideas on paper to fully realized productions. Courses include costume design, scenography, lighting design, and other theatre technologies. Theatre students begin with courses to develop aesthetic sensitivity and technical proficiency where they then progress into skill related courses like drafting, drawing, rendering techniques, model making, projection aesthetics, lighting console operation, costume fitting, and fabric dyeing. The program culminates in a final design project in the fourth year.

Learn more about performance and club opportunities through the [Theatre Department](#) website and the CMU [clubs and organizations](#) website.

### **A person in this career field may:**

- Design back-drop for stage productions.
- Write plays.
- Perform on stage or in film.
- Teach Theatre Arts.
- Create costumes.
- Direct a movie.
- Operate lighting or sound systems for stage performances.
- Manage a theatre company or playhouse.
- Build sets for playhouses or troupes.
- Work for a business.
- Move on to graduate studies.
- Be a make-up artist.
- Produce a play or film.
- Manage a stage performance.
- Be a local news anchor.

### **Major Skills & Characteristics**

- Imagination and creativity
- Flexibility
- Attention to detail
- Good work ethic
- Public speaking
- Problem solving skills
- Time management
- Work under pressure
- Rational thinking
- Self-confidence
- Promptness
- Work independently
- Motivation
- Adaptability
- Interpersonal skills
- Basic reading, writing, and editing skills
- Strong communication skills

### **Organizations That Commonly Employ Theatre Majors**

- Newspapers
- Theatres
- Universities/colleges
- Motion picture studios
- Radio stations
- Business industry
- Television
- Public relations firms
- Advertising firms
- Industrial studios
- Magazines
- Telecommunications

## Related Careers

- Acting coach
- Actor/actress
- Admissions director
- Advertising/Marketing
- Agent
- Animal talent coordinator
- Announcer
- Art director
- Booking manager
- Broadcast journalist
- Business manager
- Buyer
- Casting director
- Communication technology specialist
- Community affairs officer
- Copy writer
- Costume designer
- Critic
- Customer service
- Development officer
- Director
- Draftsman
- Drama coach
- Exhibit/display designer
- Facilities manager
- Faux painter
- Foreign correspondent
- Health educator
- Human resources
- Impersonator
- Instructor, Theatre Arts
- Lighting designer/operator
- Magician
- Make-up artist
- Media planner
- Mime
- Model
- Movie theatre manager
- Narrator
- Negotiator/mediator
- Paralegal
- Playwright
- Producer
- Program assistant
- Prop manager
- Public affairs
- Public relations
- Puppeteer
- Radio/TV announcer
- Sales representative
- Scene painter
- Script coach
- Script manager
- Set designer
- Sound designer
- Stage manager
- Stand-in
- Talent manager
- Talent scout
- Teacher
- Theatre manger
- Tour guide
- Tourism manager
- Writer/editor

**Note:** Some of the occupations listed above may require additional education, experience, or training beyond a Bachelor's Degree. Please use the Career Research Resources links below to research these occupations.

## Career Research Resources:

Use these sites to research information about specific occupations such as nature of the work, training or qualifications, employment or job outlook, projections, earnings and wages.

**O\*NET-Online:** <http://www.onetonline.org>

The U.S. Department of Labor

- In the occupational search box type in key words, job titles, or occupational codes to research various careers.

**Occupational Outlook Handbook:** [http://www.bls.gov/oco/oooh\\_index.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/oooh_index.htm)

The Bureau of Labor Statistics

- Use the A-Z index to select the occupation you are researching, such as
- **Actors:** <http://www.bls.gov/oooh/entertainment-and-sports/actors.htm>
- **Producers/Directors:** <http://www.bls.gov/oooh/entertainment-and-sports/producers-and-directors.htm>

**My Future.com:** <http://www.myfuture.com>

The Department of Defense

- This site compiles information from departments of [Commerce](#), [Education](#) and [Labor](#).

## Organizations and Associations Links

- American Association of Community Theatre: [www.aact.org](http://www.aact.org)
- American Society of Theatre Consultants: [www.theatreconsultants.org](http://www.theatreconsultants.org)
- Colorado Community Theatre coalition: [www.cctcfestival.com](http://www.cctcfestival.com)
- Drama League, The: [dramaleague.org](http://dramaleague.org)
- Institute of Outdoor Drama: [outdoordrama.unc.edu](http://outdoordrama.unc.edu)
- StrawHat Auditions: [www.strawhat-auditions.com](http://www.strawhat-auditions.com)
- Theatre Communications Group: [www.tcg.org](http://www.tcg.org)

## Job Listings/Job Search Sites:

- Actors' Equity Association: [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org)
- American Association of Community Theatre: [www.aact2.org](http://www.aact2.org)
- Art Jobs: <http://artjobs.artsearch.us>
- Art Search: <http://jobs.artsearch.us>
- Back Stage: [www.backstage.com](http://www.backstage.com)
- Southeastern Theatre Conference, Inc.: [www.setc.org](http://www.setc.org)
- Theatre Alliance: [www.theatrealliance.org](http://www.theatrealliance.org)
- Theatre Colorado: [www.theatrecolorado.com/catagory/jobs-in-the-arts](http://www.theatrecolorado.com/catagory/jobs-in-the-arts)
- Theatre Jobs (must create account): [www.theatrejobs.com](http://www.theatrejobs.com)