California State University, Chico
The B.A. in Musical Theatre

Musical Theatre

Our students work in our shops, build our shows, perform, design, direct, create, stage-manage, and just about every job in between. We develop well-rounded artists who know about the craft and business of making theatre. We pride ourselves on being a program that is large enough to be competitive but small enough to know our students’ needs. We serve about 80-90 majors between the two programs and 15-20 minors. Our classes are typically about 15-20 students so you are ensured individual attention, personalized instruction, and advising to ensure a timely graduation so you make the most of your education. The performance of theatre is a universal cultural phenomenon that exists in every society around the world. Human beings are the only animal species that create theatre. Understanding theatre helps us understand what it means to be human. Performance permeates every aspect of our everyday lives.

About Theatre:

Majors:
- Theatre
- Musical Theatre

Minors:
- Theatre
- Musical Theatre Dance

Shows:
- 2 shows in Fall
- 2 shows in Spring
- *Each semester we produce at least one musical

Spaces:
- 450 seat Proscenium
- 150 seat Black Box
- 1200 seat Laxson Auditorium

Auditioning or Working a Crew?
Even if you are not a major, you can audition for shows and work on crews. Just come to the Music and Theatre department at the beginning of the semester and we’ll tell you how!

Week 1 of semester: Auditions
Week 2 of semester: Crew Assignments
(No prior training needed)

Job Opportunities

Alumni have appeared on Broadway, Off-Broadway and professional regional theatres around the country as well as careers in education, theatre management, business, theatre design & tech, concert/event management, film & TV and many others.

Musical Theatre

Musical theatre is a prescribed degree. After completing the common core classes, students focus their studies specifically on musical theatre performance in the areas of acting, singing, and dancing.

With the units required for this degree, several of our musical theatre students explore a minor and are able to complete their college degree in 4 years. Some students also elect to study abroad for a summer or a semester, which can extend their time at CSU Chico by a semester or a year. Students getting a double major typically take 4 ½ or 5 years to finish. Also remember we strongly encourage involvement in production in a range of capacities over the course of the degree.

Master Classes

Chico State Musical Theatre periodically hosts master classes with industry professionals. Recent master classes have included Krysta Rodriguez (The Addams Family, Spring Awakening), Timothy Allen McDonald (James and the Giant Peach, Emmet Otter’s Jugband Christmas), Aaron Lazar (The Last Ship, Mamma Mia) and Niki Snelson (Legally Blonde, Annie Get Your Gun).

Program Coordinators

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