THEATRE ARTS

Program Description
Theatre program offers rigorous conservatory-style training within a well-rounded liberal arts education at an affordable public school price. The program is constructed to help students meet the rigorous demands of a professional career in theatre and to provide a strong artistic foundation and practical experience. The program is led by a dynamic faculty composed of current and former Artistic Directors, Actors, Singers, Designers, and Dancers with deep connections to top industry professionals from coast to coast.

Acting/Directing students at CMU can expect a full sequence of Stanislavski-based acting classes in addition to training in Shakespeare, voice, speech, acting for the camera, script analysis, movement, stage combat, make-up, dance, and more. Unlike many other undergraduate programs, CMU also offers students the opportunity to not only take directing classes, but also direct full productions as part of the performance season. The program is large enough to tackle ambitious projects and yet small and flexible enough to tailor to students’ particular needs. Classes are intimate, with a small student to faculty ratio, allowing for significant individual attention, and each season’s productions are picked specifically for the current class of students. Opportunities to perform begin immediately in the freshman year in any of the dozens of annual productions.

The Music Theatre concentration represents one of the most unique programs offered in Colorado, stressing strong technical foundations in music, theatre, and dance. This approach creates “triple threats” and enhances a young performer’s potential for a career in musical theatre. To complement technique courses, students also participate in a wide variety of performance-related assignments.

The Design/Technology concentration exposes students to multiple areas of the visual and technical aspects of theatre, including costume design, scenography, lighting design and theatre technology. The first year centers on courses that develop aesthetic sensitivity and technical proficiency. Subsequent years are devoted to specialized studio work in the student’s chosen area of concentration. This foundation is supported by a series of skill-related courses in drafting, drawing and rendering techniques, model making, projection aesthetics, lighting console operation and computer-aided design. Costume skills courses include costume construction and fitting, fabric painting and fabric dyeing.

Through the theatre minor, students may choose courses from a broad range of theatrical endeavors including: acting, scenery, costumes, theatre history, the teaching of theatre, arts management and dramatic literature. Students will also have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the creation of two mainstage shows during the CMU theatre season. Training afforded by the study of theatre is also attractive to many other professions, including teaching, non-profit leadership, human resources, and law.

Special Requirements
Students interested in departmental scholarships must audition no later than April 15 of the year they seek admission.

Musical Theatre students deficient in piano skills will be required to complete MUSA 130 and MUSA 131 as lower division elective courses.

Contact Information
Department of Theatre Arts
Moss Performing Arts Center 141
970.248.1242

Programs of Study
Bachelors/Minors
- Design/Technology, Theatre Arts (BA) (http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/theatre-arts/design-technology-theatre-arts-ba)
- Music Theatre, Theatre Arts (BFA) (http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/theatre-arts/music-theatre-theatre-arts-bfa)
- Theatre (Minor) (http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/theatre-arts/theatre-arts/theatre-minor)
- Theatre Arts, General (BA) (http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/theatre-arts/general-theatre-arts-ba)