

MUSICAL THEATRE AT THE ACADEMY



"Cole Porter Medley" at Showcase 2019

In the Musical Theatre Department, students master storytelling in three different disciplines: voice, dance, and acting.

While many graduates of The Academy attend highly regarded BFA conservatory programs in musical theatre or acting, others choose to pursue their training in academic BA programs at liberal arts colleges.

For Musical Theatre students, performance is a key part of learning, and students have ample opportunity for it. The Department produces three to four mainstage shows per year, including two musical productions, and several plays as part of the Shakespeare Festival collaboration with the Theatre Department. In acting classes, freshman and sophomore students focus their studies on the work of Shakespeare and Thornton Wilder, while juniors concentrate on Oscar Wilde and Tennessee Williams. Seniors begin to study the work of Anton Chekhov.

“*If you are looking for a career in the arts, the training that you get here is second to none. I can't imagine what it would be like in a regular high school musical theatre program. We do two to three challenging musical productions a year, in addition to a Shakespeare festival. You get so much exposure to different works and techniques that by the time you are going to college, you have the confidence to audition and succeed.*”

- Jack, Musical Theatre '18

**The Chicago
Academy for the Arts**

chicagoacademyforthearts.org

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Musical Theatre Department Curriculum

Musical Theatre Department students are immersed in 15-plus hours of training per week. Courses include:

- Acting
- Private Voice Instruction
- Dance (Ballet, Modern, Jazz, and Musical Theatre Styles)
- Musical Theatre History and Scene Study
- Voice Repertoire and Music Theory

What can students expect from the Musical Theatre Department?

Students in the Musical Theatre Department rehearse four to five weeks throughout the fall and spring for their semester productions, often 4-5 hours after the end of the normal school day. In addition to mainstage productions, the Department produces content for a variety of audiences outside of school. In recent years, the Department has performed *Seussical* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for middle schools and local organizations.

As opposed to Theatre students, Musical Theatre students train intensively in voice and dance. Both departments participate in the annual, four-day Shakespeare Festival, where students perform two to three Shakespeare plays.

Each semester, students participate in a formal jury capstone of musical theatre and classical songs, and scenes from acting class and Musical Theatre Studio. They receive written feedback from their instructors and from other theatre industry professionals.

Seniors collaborate with faculty to design an individual hour-long thesis statement and retrospective, presented at a formal end-of-year recital. This production features songs, scenes, monologues, and dance pieces representative of a student's performances and classwork at The Academy.

Recent College Acceptances

Berklee College of Music
Boston Conservatory
Carnegie Mellon University
Emerson College
Ithaca College
The University of Minnesota/Guthrie
Muhlenberg College
New York University
Northwestern University
Oklahoma City University
University of Oregon
Point Park University
Princeton University
Stanford University

Recent Company Productions

A Little Night Music
A Man of No Importance
All Shook Up
City of Angels
Fiorello
Merrily We Roll Along
Nine
Spring Awakening
Sunday in the Park with George
The Pirates of Penzance
The Robber Bridegroom
Urinetown

