

Musical Theatre B.F.A.

√ Major – audition required

Description of the major:

The Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) program is intended for students who are willing to commit to structured, intensive, studio-based training and are searching for a degree that prepares them to function in the professional theater as actor-singers. The program defines the term “musical theatre” in a way that embraces the richness and diversity of this challenging interdisciplinary art form that includes musical comedy, the musical play, new and alternative music theater, “Broadway opera,” cabaret, and revue. Students receive technique training in acting complemented by training in vocal technique, musicianship, dance, and the study of the repertoire of musical theater in print and recordings. Students also train through rehearsal and performance. The goal of the program is to cultivate working artists with a practical knowledge and competence that includes sensitivity to technique, artistry and style, as well as an insight into the role of the theater arts. The highly focused and demanding training is enhanced by appropriate courses in the liberal arts. Admission to the program is by audition and interview only.

The student experience:

- Instructors are also working professional artists with credits ranging from Broadway to numerous regional theaters throughout the country. Professors have experience in the theater, film and television industries.
- The department has an aggressive production schedule, including five main stage productions (typically two musicals)

each academic year. In addition, students produce at least two productions each year, and faculty members direct showcase productions for the Musical Theatre Company, Children’s Theatre Company, and Dance Company.

- Coastal Carolina University offers three state-of-the-art theaters, including the Edwards Theatre (flexible black box), the 79th Avenue Theater (147-seat modified thrust) and Wheelwright Auditorium (720-seat proscenium).
- The University also possesses one of the largest and best equipped university scenic, costume and paint studios. More than 3,500 square feet of space allows the department to build and paint in a professional studio situation.
- Students can take advantage of a close association with Atlantic Stage, a local professional theater company. The association casts students in meaningful roles and hires students as interns, assistant stage managers, electricians, carpenters and stage hands.

Beyond the classroom:

Career opportunities for musical theatre majors include: actor, playwright, director/producer, ticket sales, performer with regional theater company, revue, cruise ship, national touring group or musical theater venue.

Areas of study:

Ballet I and II; Jazz I and II; Tap I and II; Dance Company; Acting I, II, III, IV; Movement for the Actor; Music Skills for Actors; Basic Musicianship I and II; Directing I; Musical Theatre Repertory; Theory and Criticism; and Musical Theatre Scene Study.

For more information:

- Monica Bell, M.F.A., department chair, 843-349-2287 or mbell@coastal.edu
- Karen Henderson, administrative specialist, 843-349-6635 or khenderso@coastal.edu
- www.coastal.edu/theatre/programs/musicaltheatrebfa



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