

MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAM

Chicago

A musical by Fred Ebb, Bob Fosse and John Kander

7:30 p.m., April 27-29, 2023

2 p.m., April 29-30, 2023

Music Theatre

Book by	Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse
Music by	John Kander
Lyrics by	Fred Ebb
Based on the play by	Maurine Dallas Watkins
Script adaptation by	David Thompson

Director, BM/MT Program	Matthew Chellis
Stage Director	Justin Johnson
Choreography	Tracy Doty Marielle Beazley Adriana Ripley

Musical Director	Collin Sinclair
Scenic Design	Jeff Rusnak
Costume Design	Ann Piano
Lighting Design	Jonathan Spencer
Sound Design	Dan Sjastaad
Production Director	Ron Mueller
Production Stage Manager	Casper Harvey
Dramaturg	Austin Burns

Content advisory: This production includes mature language and depicts sexual situations.

CHICAGO is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com

NEED TO KNOW FOR THE SHOW

- Masks are optional in public indoor spaces on the CU Boulder campus as of March 7, 2022.
- Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the house manager.
- Photography and video recordings of any type are strictly prohibited during the performance.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere. CU Boulder is a smoke-free campus.

Cast

Role

Roxie Hart
 Velma Kelly
 Billy Flynn
 Matron “Mama” Morton
 Mary Sunshine
 Amos Hart
 Court Clerk
 Judge
 Mona
 Sergeant Fogarty / Doctor
 Aaron
 Martin Harrison
 Harry / Juror
 Go To Hell Kitty
 Annie
 June
 Fred Casely
 Hunyak
 Liz / Bailiff
 First Reporter
 Second Reporter
 Conductor

RED

Ellie Karp
 Annie Carpenter
 Ian Saverin
 Nawledge Brewington
 Lily Valdez
 Quint Hill
 Eli Harvey
 Sam Meyer
 Mari Beazley
 Bryce Spencer
 Sophie Green
 Miles Gibbs
 Alex Mehigan
 Caroline Dewell
 Alecia Marquardt
 Brooke Curry
 Colin Ring
 Isabel Harrison
 Adriana Ripley
 Kate Frohling
 Angie Torres
 Collin Sinclair

BLUE

Lydia Blaisdell
 Melissa Burke-Manwaring
 Ian Saverin
 Ruby Anderson
 Reilly O’Neill
 Alex Mehigan
 Eli Harvey
 Sam Meyer
 Mari Beazley
 Bryce Spencer
 Sophie Green
 Miles Gibbs
 Quint Hill
 Caroline Dewell
 Alecia Marquardt
 Brooke Curry
 Colin Ring
 Isabel Harrison
 Adriana Ripley
 Kate Frohling
 Angie Torres
 Collin Sinclair

Orchestra

Violin

Alan Chan

Acoustic Bass

Kurt Melendy

Banjo

Madeleine Cody

Reeds

Jamyson Lindhorn
 Jason Olney

Trumpet

Rebecca Ortiz
 Christopher Luebka-Brown

Trombone

Jake Spies
 Scott Underwood

Piano

Anastassia Pavlenko

Percussion

Christian De La torre

Synopsis

In roaring 1920s Chicago, chorine Roxie Hart murders a faithless lover and convinces her hapless husband, Amos, to take the rap ... until he finds out he's been duped and turns on Roxie. Convicted and sent to death row, Roxie and another "Merry Murderess," Velma Kelly, vie for the spotlight and the headlines, ultimately joining forces in search of the "American Dream": fame, fortune and acquittal. This sharp-edged satire features a dazzling score that sparked immortal staging by Bob Fosse.

Stage Director's note

Chicago has something to say. It's cynical, but hopeful. Subversive, but passionate. It was relevant in the 1920s when the play was originally written, in the 1970s when the musical first premiered, in 2002 when the movie came out and remains relevant today. Why does it have so much staying power? Because we are still struggling to faithfully live up to the true liberty and freedom this nation was founded upon. *Chicago* satires the chauvinism, prejudices, abuse of power, shallowness, greed and corruption of the American system, and all the "dreams" it champions.

Yes, it's fun and entertaining. Yes, the characters are a hoot. Yes, the music is memorable. But it would be a travesty if we missed the point. Through a 1920s lens, *Chicago* highlights the themes of misogyny, fake news, corrupt justice system and celebrity culture that's not just alive but thriving in 2023. Criminal trials, especially with celebrities involved, are a circus focused on entertaining the masses, instead of seeking truth. The advent of Facebook, Instagram and TikTok has amplified our obsession with fame, making it possible to get cast in Hollywood or Broadway just based off your number of followers.

So, Roxie and Velma successfully navigating systemic sexism, creating false narratives to become stars on the vaudeville circuit, along with Billy, their defense lawyer manipulating the media and the corrupt justice system for his own personal gain isn't an outdated story—it's a timeless one. When you look past the jazz, liquor and murder you'll find a strong message about what it truly takes to survive in this country. And we're complicit, allowing our system to be set up

this way. At the end of the show Roxie and Velma ironically say, "we are the living examples of what a wonderful country this is." We can't begrudge them that. We should celebrate their hard-earned success and enjoy the show.

Production team

ATD / A2 / Deck Supervisor
Jeff Rusnak

Lighting ME / Board Op
Ben Smith

Spot 1
Eric Botto

Spot 2
Eric Wang

Assistant Stage Manager
Emma Donnelly

Assistant Stage Manager / Sound Assistant
Courtney Sjaastad

Acknowledgements

- John Davis, Dean, College of Music
- Matthew Roeder, Associate Dean, College of Music
- Paul Eklund
- Michele and Michael Ritter
- The Bixler Family Foundation
- College of Music Advisory Board
- CU Presents
- Joan Braun
- Laima Haley
- Sabine Kortals
- Sabrina Green
- Daniel Leonard
- Alexis McClain
- Susan R. Thomas
- Voice Faculty
- Instrumental Faculty

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See **page 24** of this program for details