

*Bishop's University
Musical Theatre Presents*

THE DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE



The Bishop's University Musical Theatre Concentration is the only program in Quebec providing musical theatre training in English at a university level.

The production of a musical at Bishop's is approached through a professional lens; actors receive four to five years of training in Drama, Music, and Dance to become triple threats in the industry. They also go through a series of auditions before being selected to perform in a Bishop's production. This year, our students brought *SPRING AWAKENING* (Best Musical, Tony Awards) to Centennial Theatre on March 14-17.

A full-scale Broadway musical, however, requires more than just actors—it needs professional musicians, scenographers, lighting technicians, sound technicians, costume designers, sound engineers, musical directors, band conductors, etc. A Bishop's musical is typically a collaboration of more than 40 people, including students, faculty, professional theatre artists, and community members. The cost of a production amounts to \$60,000 per show. Ticket sales cover only 20% of this cost. We rely principally on the generosity of our donors to finance the shortfall.

In addition to the paid labour and production expenses, a musical uses a significant number of volunteer hours—up to 1,000 hours a year. This enormous collective effort pays off, as our musicals tend to play to sell-out houses year after year. These shows also provide an opportunity for diverse audiences—including school children, CEGEP students, young families, local seniors, etc.—to see the best of Broadway here in Sherbrooke and at affordable prices (12-25\$ a ticket).

The high quality of Bishop's musicals has been acknowledged by local artists and critics. In fact, in 2023, our production of *The Drowsy Chaperone* received a glowing professional review from *La Tribune*—a rare occurrence for any university production in North America.

The musical also brings anglophone and francophone communities together as it is the only Bishop's production performed with French surtitles (starting in 2023). The translation and surtitle creation represents another significant expense, as it is both time and labour consuming.

As of March 2024, we are seeking to establish a new Director's Circle - a group of like-minded people who not only love the performing arts but like to engage in them. People like you who are interested in supporting Bishop's annual musical production – and by extension, the stage performers of tomorrow.

A minimum contribution of \$450 is required to join the Director's Circle. In appreciation for your generosity, you will receive:

- Two complimentary tickets to the dress rehearsal to catch a sneak peek and meet the cast and crew and listen to their stories
- Acknowledgement in the show program and on the Bishop's website
- A post-show backstage tour provided by the show director or set designer
- Invitation to a Wine & Cheese to meet the performers, the creative team, as well as other members of the Director's Circle
- A designated parking spot (close to the theatre)
- Two free tickets to a secret performance event
- Newsletters about Musical Theatre at Bishop's
- A tax receipt for a portion of your contribution

