

# CHICAGO

THE MUSICAL

*It's just a noisy hall where there's a nightly brawl ...  
And All That Jazz!*

And so begins the Broadway musical **Chicago**! For the past 12 years, we've been delighting and entertaining students and families at **Chicago** on Broadway and around the world. However, as the production addresses several mature themes, we can understand why you might have some concerns about the show. As representatives of **Chicago**, we would like to assure you that those themes are always handled with the utmost class, taste and style.

We have created this brief overview of **Chicago** to help allay any concerns or questions you might have about our show. We hope you find this information helpful and informative, and we hope to see you at the theatre!

## THE STORY

Based on the play of the same name by reporter Maurine Dallas Watkins, **Chicago** tells the story of Velma Kelly and Roxie Hart, two women who find themselves basking in the media's spotlight after they're accused of murder. A clear satire of the criminal justice system, **Chicago** poignantly calls attention to public's fascination with "celebrity criminals." Reflecting an age-old aspect of society, today's media continues to devour such stories, following everyone from OJ Simpson to Paris Hilton and Lindsay Lohan.

## CONTENT

Although mature themes are addressed in the show, all representations of sex and violence are highly stylized and not at all gratuitous.

For example, at the beginning of the show, we see Roxie murder her lover, Fred Caseley. Although Roxie points a prop (fake) gun at Fred Caseley, she does so in an extremely stylized, exaggerated manner. Plus, the sound of the "gunfire" is created by the orchestra's percussionist hitting a snare drum (not a realistic gunfire sound effect).

There are several moments of "adult" language during the show, however it is nothing harsher than what you would hear on prime time TV today. Any "adult" language is used in context and is not indulgent.

## STYLE

**Chicago** is choreographed by Ann Reinking, in the style of dance legend Bob Fosse. The precision and technical proficiency required makes for one of the most difficult styles of dancing to master. **Chicago** is guaranteed to deliver some of the best dancing on Broadway at every performance.

The minimalist, all-black costumes of **Chicago** were created by award-winning designer William Ivey Long. Though revealing and "provocative," the costumes are modeled after classic dance wear. The amount of skin exposed is no more than you would find at a dance recital or a classical ballet.

## THE BASICS

- **Chicago** has received 6 Tony Awards (including Best Musical Revival), the Grammy Award (for Original Cast Recording), 1 Olivier Award, 2 Astaire Awards plus countless other awards regionally and nationwide.
- We recommend **Chicago** for children aged 13 years or older, but we have hosted younger students and family members. It all depends on the maturity of the child. Children under 4 are not permitted in the theatre.
- The show runs approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes, including one intermission.
- There is handicap accessibility and other access for persons with disabilities at the Ambassador Theatre. Please check our website for more detail.
- The Ambassador Theatre is located at 219 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street, at Broadway.

**Please visit our website at [ChicagoTheMusical.com](http://ChicagoTheMusical.com) for more information, photos and videos to help determine if **Chicago** is right for you and your family.**