



POB 443, Bowie, AZ 85605
Dr David Smith, (719)421-9109, <http://windwalker.us>

6/8/2018

Proposal for the development of **COCHISE COMMUNITY THEATER** in Bowie, AZ.

Mission

The mission of the Cochise Community Theater is to provide the training and production experience of dance, drama, music and technical theater to the wider Cochise County area. We also expect to spread toward the north into Graham County. Our guiding production mission is to produce music-theater that portrays many of the principles found in the historic American core values.

Programs

We currently have discussed five focus areas for our programs. We envision our programs being divided into the following groups.

1. Youth Theater Program
2. Community Theater Program
3. Music Program
4. Dance Program
5. Theater Apprenticeship Program (Technical Theater)

The Youth Theater program will target kids up to age 18 and seek to provide instruction in agreement with the local school districts in Cochise County and Graham County in seeking to provide classes that are accredited from the Arizona Department of Education. This means attending students would be awarded graduation credit for consistent participation and completion of any of our programs scheduled as an after school program.

The Community Theater program is open to all ages for ongoing productions provided at various venues in the Cochise and Graham Counties. This may develop into a semi-professional musical theater touring company that provides productions outside of these two counties upon invitation. This program in holding to the ideal of mirroring historic American values, would seek to aid in encouraging a return to these values for what appears to be an increasingly disenfranchised American culture.

The Music program would provide instruction from beginner to advanced in students to composing and orchestrating original music compositions. Individual lessons also would be offered by instructors to selected students in specific instruments and in voice training. It may be optional to provide courses in instrument making (Luthery) to selected students who would like to pursue this as a career in an apprenticeship program.

The Dance program will provide instruction in various dance methods and styles from classical to modern dance idioms reflecting many cultures. Dances will be chosen or created based on the needs of up coming music-theater productions in adhering to historic period cultural norms of the script.

Apprenticeship Program

The Theater Apprenticeship Program takes advantage of the many trade skills that are common to the production of good music theater. The following skills with associated tools, methods and material types will be provided as needed and may include the following skills.

1. Scenography (set design)
2. Wood working in sets and props.

3. Metal working in sets and props.
4. Plastics and foams in sets and props.
5. Cloth materials in sets and costuming.
6. Artistic Painting of sets and props
7. Electrics in lighting (lighting design)
8. Electrics in Sound (sound amplification and effects)
9. Electrics in Special Effects
10. Electronics in Robotics for mobile sets and props.

Generally, a student or adult may apply for this program and if accepted may enter a hands-on instructional apprenticeship program to acquire credits for high school graduation and/or a certification in Technical Theater. In addition to seeking recognition from the Department of Education in Arizona for offering high school credit for our youth programs, we will be approaching a number of local colleges to develop a non-credit (ACE credit possible) certification option as recognized by post secondary college systems in Arizona as continuing education.

Development Timeline

We plan to start the Youth Theater Program immediately as our phase one with music-theater productions as a touring youth theater performing in venues in both Cochise and Graham Counties. With our performances, we will solicit private and corporate patronage to expand our programs with funding. This first phase will be supported by providing music, acting, dance and technical theater classes. Phase two will likely occur at the start of acquiring and developing a Performing Arts Center here in Bowie.

Location

We are currently seeking a facility in Bowie, AZ that can be adapted as a theater; a building that can be renovated with little initial investment yet promising a great potential to develop as a performing arts center. Due to the limited availability of usable spaces, we are considering the option of acquiring and renovating an abandoned historic building in the town that may need substantial work. We are looking for a space that minimally includes the potential for a cafe, classroom, scene shop, practice rooms and a theater space. In our initial search, we have found a historic facility in Bowie that would be suitable for our needs that may be acquired at minimal cost. More on this after further discussion with owners.

Funding

We are currently endeavoring to apply for a grant as a start-up grant in covering the cost of a mobile youth production and for a building, as selected to cover initial cleanup and renovation to be functional for our programs. We are discussing a partnership with the Cochise County Library system as hosts for our touring activities and also with the Bowie Unified School District #14.

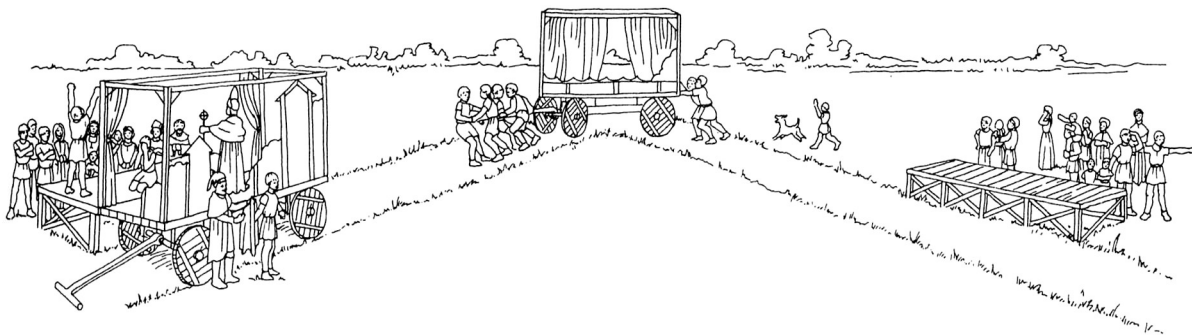


Figure 15. Medieval staging on movable wagons.

A production option we are considering for our youth theater program is building and using stage-wagons similar to those used in the middle ages. Each wagon (4' by 8') would provide for a different built up scene or set. All of the wagons can be loaded onto a large 8' by 20' flat bed trailer for hauling up to 5 set wagons from venue to venue.