

## Point Of View – “A Chorus Line”

“A Chorus Line” is a musical with music by Marvin Hamlisch, lyrics by Edward Kleban, and book by James Kirkwood Jr. and Nicholas Dante. The plot is about seventeen Broadway dancers auditioning to get a spot on a chorus line. The setting is a bare stage of a Broadway theatre during the audition. “A Chorus Line” displays the personalities of the performers and the choreographer as they describe the events that have shaped their lives and decisions to become dancers.

“A Chorus Line” started as an Off-Broadway show at The Public Theater on April 15, 1975. Back then, the Public Theater did not have enough money to finance the production so it borrowed money to produce it. “A Chorus Line” had an outstanding success at The Public Theater that the entire run sold out immediately. Later moved on Broadway at the Shubert Theatre on July 25, 1975 with the support of the producer Joseph Papp where it ran for 6,137 performances and closed on April 28, 1990. It was directed by Michael Bennett and co-choreographed by Bob Avian. At the time, it was the longest-running production in Broadway history until “Cats” surpassed it in 1997, and the longest-running Broadway musical originally produced in the U.S.A. until Chicago surpassed it in 2011. It remains the sixth longest-running Broadway holding a record for nearly 15 years. “A Chorus Line” received twelve Tony Award nominations and won nine.

“A Chorus Line” is set in a Broadway theater in 1975, where they are making auditions for an upcoming Broadway show. The performers are competing to get a role for this upcoming performance. Zach makes several cuts leaving seventeen dancers Don, Maggie, Mike, Connie, Greg, Cassie, Sheila, Bobby, Bebe, Judy, Richie, Al, Kristine, Val, Mark, Paul and Diana. Zach asks the dancers to introduce themselves. After Zach told the dancers he is looking for four boys and four girls. Zach now questions the dancers telling them to take it as an interview because he wants to know them as people, not just as performers. The dancers reveal their stories in

chronological order from early life experiences through adulthood that shaped their lives and made them to become performers.

“A Chorus Line” theme is about the dancers struggle to achieve their dream of become a superstar, as they are either escaping their ordinary or painful lives. The lighting design will reflect the theme by having scene transitions with fast-pace in lighting. I will create a blue environment for Internal Thoughts at the musical number Opening: “I Hope I Get It” that represents strive. Later in the musical number “At The Ballet” produce a pink environment that pictures hope. Next in the musical number “Montage, Part 4: Gimme the Ball” I will develop a purple environment that outline awareness. Finally, in the musical number “Bows” I will build a yellow environment illustrating success. These environments are closely associated with the dialogue in each scene, and how the story unfolds.