

PALACE THEATER

SHOW INTEL

Season 2024–2025 | Issue 3: The Cher Show



a new musical

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The Cher Show



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ABOUT THE SHOW

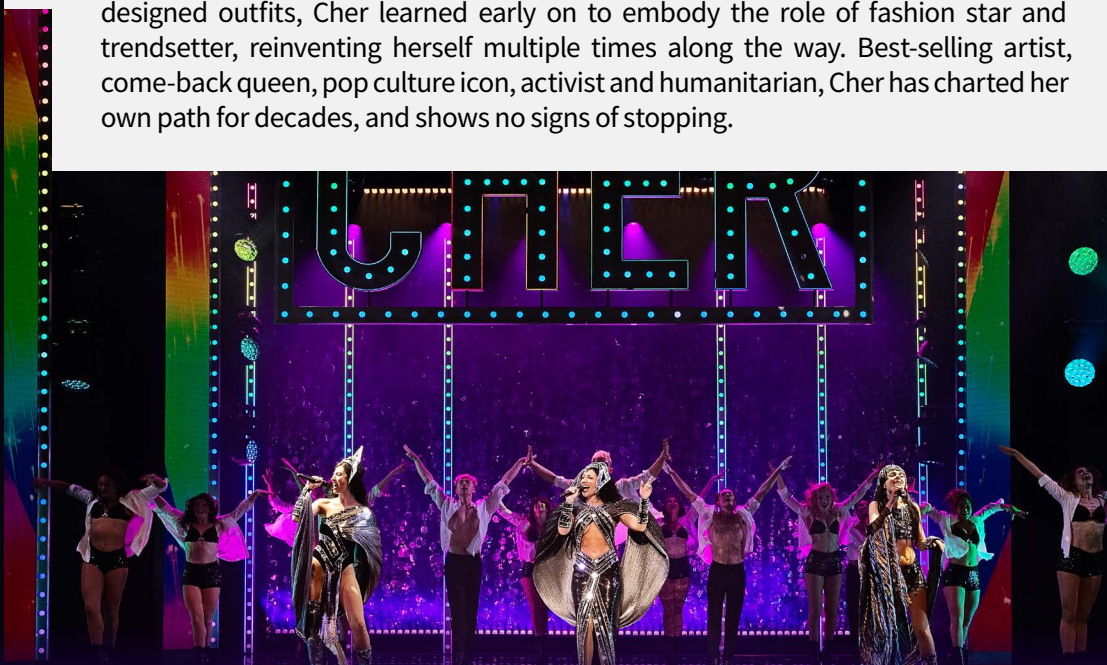
The Cher Show takes us through six decades of Cher's life and career, portrayed by three actresses representing different stages of her story: "Babe," the bright-eyed kid starting out, the glam pop star "Lady," and "Star," the icon.

GODDESS OF POP AND CULTURAL ICON

Cher first partnered with her future husband Sonny Bono in 1964 as the duo Caesar & Cleo, but they gained worldwide fame as Sonny & Cher with their first hit single in 1965, "I Got You, Babe." With their folksy-rock sound and look, they were one of rock's most popular couples. Over the ensuing years, their partnership led to multiple hits, television shows and specials, as well as marriage, parenthood, and divorce.

Throughout this time, Cher had been growing her solo career, one that she has reinvented multiple times over the decades. **From counterculture protest songs to Vegas shows, pop ballads to disco, rock to club music, Cher's musical range and innate showmanship have helped her evolve as an artist and style icon.** She has performed across the globe, acted on Broadway and in multiple films (including *Silkwood*, *Mask*, *Moonstruck*, *Mermaids*, *Burlesque*, and *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again*), and is a red carpet norm-breaker.

Never afraid to draw attention to herself, Cher's outfits have shocked, amused, and always stunned. From her days as a model for Richard Avedon to her Mackie-designed outfits, Cher learned early on to embody the role of fashion star and trendsetter, reinventing herself multiple times along the way. Best-selling artist, come-back queen, pop culture icon, activist and humanitarian, Cher has charted her own path for decades, and shows no signs of stopping.



Catherine Ariale as Lady, Morgan Scott as Star, Ella Perez as Babe, and the cast of *THE CHER SHOW*. Photo by Meredith Mashburn Photography.

THE SPARKLE OF BOB MACKIE

The costumes in *The Cher Show* are as much characters as any of the people portrayed in the show!

Designer Bob Mackie learned the costume trade as a sketch artist, first for Paramount Studios, then for haute couturier Jean Louis. His first high-profile client was actress Mitzi Gaynor, for whom he designed a Vegas stage show in 1966. In 1969, he designed costumes for Diana Ross, The Supremes, and The Temptations for a television special. More celebrity clients would soon follow, with an impressive roster of names including Liza Minelli, Bette Midler, Elton John, Dolly Parton, Whitney Houston, and Oprah Winfrey.

As the costume designer for all 11 seasons of *The Carol Burnett Show*, he created many iconic looks, including the “curtain dress” for the parody of *Gone with the Wind*. He was also hired to costume *The Sonny & Cher Comedy Hour*, forging a creative partnership with Cher that has lasted for over six decades.

When Cher approached him about designing costumes for *The Cher Show*, Mackie was able to re-create her iconic looks by referring to the original patterns and beading patterns, which he'd kept. The original production called for over 450 costumes. In addition to the Tony Award for the show, Mackie also won Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle awards for his costumes.

Additionally, he has won 9 Emmy Awards and 1 Honorary Emmy Award for his television work.



Mackie's sketches for three different eras across Cher's life.



FUN FACTS

- Cher, born Cheryl Sarkisian, is often called “The Goddess of Pop.”
- She legally took the single name “Cher” in 1979.
- She is the only solo artist to chart *Billboard* number-one singles in seven consecutive decades (1960s to 2020s).
- She has won numerous awards, including an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar, and 3 Golden Globes.
- *The Cher Show* premiered in Chicago in 2018 and opened on Broadway later that year.
- Cher's long-time costume designer, Bob Mackie, designed the costumes for the show, which earned him a Tony Award.
- The show also won a Tony for Best Actress in a Musical (Stephanie J. Block).



Eila Perez as Babe, Catherine Ajaie as Lady, Tyler Pirrung as Bob Mackie, Morgan Scott as Star, and the cast of THE CHER SHOW. Photo by Meredith Mashburn Photography