

JOB IN THE WORLD OF THEATER

What kinds of jobs do people with degrees in Theater pursue?

THEATER JOBS BY CATEGORY

(It ain't ALL in the spotlight , folks!)

- ARTISTIC
- TECHNICAL
- ARTS MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
- EDUCATION
- OTHER

ARTISTIC JOBS

- Performer (Actor / Dancer / Singer)
- Choreographer
- Director
- Playwright
- Dramaturg
- Literary Manager
- Casting Director

TECHNICAL JOBS

- Production Manager
- Stage Manager
- Assistant Stage Manager
- Production Assistant
- Stagehand
- Designer (Scenic, Lighting, Costume, Sound, Props, Make-Up, etc.)

ARTS MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION JOBS

- Producer
- Artistic Director
- Managing Director
- Executive Director
- Development for Theater Organization
- Public Relations/Marketing/Social Media/Web Design/Blog for Theater Organization
- Accountant for Theater Organization
- Political Advocate for the Arts

EDUCATION JOBS

- Classroom Instructor
- Private Instructor
- Director of Education
- Assistant Director of Education
- Education Assistant
- Teaching Artist
- Theater Research, Criticism, History

OTHER

- Drama Therapist
- Corporate Facilitator for Building Rapport
- Something you discover/create

Some Employers of Theater Majors:

- Community organizations
- Fundraising firms
- Production companies
- Theatres
- Arts Councils
- Libraries
- Cruise lines
- Entertainment law firms
- Educational/cultural institutions
- Television/radio/film
- Colleges, universities, schools
- Touring companies
- Performing arts organizations
- Amusement and theme parks
- Film companies

Common Graduate School Options:

The three most common graduate degrees offered for theatre are the Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.), the Master of Arts (M.A.), and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). For more information about graduate school, see Career Services.

- **Master of Arts (M.A.):** This is often referred to as a research degree and provides students with a strong background in theatre history, dramatic literature, and theory and criticism. Students also explore creative areas of special interest including dramaturgy, playwriting, design, and directing. Completion of the M.A. degree typically requires a thesis. The Master of Arts in Theatre is intended as advanced education for students with substantial background in theatre who wish to expand their knowledge and skills in theatre and drama for the purposes of preparation for doctoral studies, preparation for MFA training, enhancement of secondary school teaching skills and credentials, or enrichment for other personal goals. A master's degree usually takes 2-3 years to complete.
- **Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.):** The M.F.A. is the terminal degree in many areas of theatre. The most common areas of study are: acting, directing, drama and theatre for youth, playwriting, theatre technology, theatrical design, and theatre management. Completion of the M.F.A. degree typically requires a thesis. In the case of acting-directing and design candidates, the thesis is usually based on a performance or production project accomplished during their program. In the case of playwriting candidates, the thesis is based on a script which is produced during their program. A M.F.A usually takes 2 to 3 years to complete.
- **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.):** The primary credential for college level teaching is The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), although one can teach with a master's degree in some areas of theatre. The Ph.D. typically involves both course work and a major research project. It usually takes four to six years of fulltime study. The traditional career for recipients of the doctorate degree is college teaching and research. The Ph.D., however, can lead to a wide variety of career options such as working as a consultant for an arts agency or for a non-profit organization, or working as an official in a national or state arts policy organization (e.g., National Endowment of the Arts, state arts councils.)

Typical interests and values of theater arts majors:

- Aesthetics
- Self-expression and fulfillment
- Creativity
- Physical stamina
- Sense of drama
- Determination
- Imagination
- Dedication
- Confidence

Skills Gained from Studying Theater Arts

Skills:

- Ability to concentrate and practice intensely for long periods
- Ability to speak articulately, listen introspectively, and observe keenly
- Good health, physical stamina, and body coordination
- Ability to communicate emotions and ideas creatively
- Proficiency in memorization
- Perceiving nonverbal messages
- Creating and Expressing ideas Managing groups
- Developing rapport
- Facilitating group discussion Persuading
- Defining needs and setting goals Representing others
- Conveying feelings
- Imagining alternatives

More Cool Skills Theater Folks Possess:

Analysis

- Problem solving
- Analyzing and interpreting the emotions and motives of others
- Understanding ideas within historical/social context
- Comparing and contrasting ideas/information

Artistic/Technical

- Explaining concepts
- Ability to concentrate and practice intensely for long periods of time
- Sound, lighting, costuming, makeup, and design techniques
- Good health, stamina, and body coordination

Communication

- Public speaking
- Communicating ideas and emotions creatively
- Speaking articulately and listening introspectively
- Voice control/modulation

Organization

- Self-discipline
- Working under pressure and meeting deadlines
- Interacting with colleagues in a team setting
- Ability to maintain composure when faced with the unexpected

Zoinks ... so many choices!!

How do I find out what I want to do?

- Take Classes.
- Intern/Apprentice with a professional organization.
- Volunteer.
- Identify mentor(s).
- See plays. Be in plays. Work backstage in plays in as many areas as possible.
- Attend events.
- Ask questions.
- **BE PERSISTENT AND GET WHAT YOU NEED.**