

Theatre

What can I do with this major?

OCCUPATIONS	EMPLOYERS	SKILLS TO DEVELOP
<u>PERFORMING</u>	Community theatres Regional theatres Commercial theatres Summer stock theatres Dinner theatres Children's theatres University theatre groups Touring companies Industrial shows Show groups Amusement and theme parks Television/film studios Radio stations Churches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participate in acting workshops, courses, and seminars to get advice and experience and to make contacts with others in the field.• Join unions or actors' guilds to stay abreast of opportunities and developments in the field.• Get as much acting experience as possible. Perform in school productions, Community Theatre, summer stock, etc.• Prepare a professional resume that lists your acting experience.• Have your resume attached to or printed on the reverse side of an 8" x 10" photograph of yourself.• Be prepared to make the rounds. Distribute your resume to numerous agencies and offices. Follow up with several personal visits.• Be aware that more opportunities exist in large cities such as New York and Los Angeles.• Take courses on entertainment law, business, management, etc.• An extensive network of contacts is essential. Get to know people working in your field and related areas.• Attend unified auditions.
<u>DIRECTING</u>	Theatres Television/film studios	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participate in the Director's Guild Training Program.• Develop leadership skills through participation in campus and community organizations.• Experience with fund-raising is important. Volunteer to do this with local theatres and arts councils.• Learn what types of permits and insurance are needed to film or perform in certain areas.• Volunteer with directors in local theatres to become familiar with the environment. Serving as an assistant is a great way to get started in this area.• Gain directing experience by participating in college productions.• Stage Manage shows.

OCCUPATIONS

EMPLOYERS

SKILLS TO DEVELOP

BEHIND THE SCENES

Set Design/Construction
Property Design
Lighting Design
Camera Operation
Hair/Make-up
Special Effects
Wardrobe
Prop Management
Broadcast Technology
Riggers
Electricians
Sound Design
Costume Design
Scenic Arts

Community theatres
Regional theatres
Commercial theatres
Summer stock theatres
Dinner theatres
Children's theatres
University theatre groups
Touring companies
Industrial shows
Show groups
Amusement and theme parks
Television/film studios
Radio stations
Churches

- Learn to work well in a team.
- Develop a sense of artistry and creativity.
- Become involved in the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE). This organization can give you information about becoming an apprentice as well as help you make valuable contacts.
- Get experience. Offer your services at school productions and local theatres.
- Read industry magazines and books to learn about your area.
- For Sound Design: become familiar with computer technology as digital sound effects and electronic music replace traditional means of sound design.
- For Lighting: become familiar with computer technology.
- For Costume Design: Supplement your program with courses in art history, fashion design and sets and props.
- Learn about different eras in history in order to recreate on stage. A basic knowledge of history and architecture is helpful.
- Become familiar with safety and obtain first aid certification.

TECHNICAL WRITING

Journalism
Publicity (Press Agents)
Research
Dramaturg

Theatres
Television/film studios
Television stations
Magazines
Newspapers
Freelance

- Review plays, movies, and TV shows for the Chimes or local newspapers.
- Theatrical press agents publicize and promote theatrical productions. They write press releases, arrange press conferences, and other media events.
- Take courses in related areas such as communication, public relations, and business.
- Reporters spend time on the set absorbing everything. They interview actors as well as craftspeople.
- Write for the Chimes and enter playwriting contests, etc.
- See many different productions and shows.
- Researchers gather information for movie writers and directors.
- They may also track down photographs or historical documents to make the film more authentic.

OCCUPATIONS

EMPLOYERS

SKILLS TO DEVELOP

CREATIVE WRITING

Scriptwriting
Playwriting
Screenwriting

Theatres
Television/film studios
Freelance

- Write plays and enter playwriting contests
- See a number of productions and shows
- Take courses in related areas such as English and Communication
- Read a variety of scripts to see how scripts are developed.

BUSINESS

Producing
Management
Agents
Marketing
Fundraising and Development
Coordination of Volunteers
Administration of Arts Programs
Box Office Sales

Theatres
Arts councils
Television/film studios

- Take business courses to supplement your program.
- Obtain a superior knowledge of computers.
- Gain a thorough understanding of theatre.
- Develop skills in leadership, negotiation, budgeting, and fundraising.
- Read plays and become familiar with audience demographics.

EDUCATION

Teaching

Public schools
Private schools
Colleges and universities
Performing Arts centers
Churches
Camps

- Obtain certification/licensing for teaching in public schools.
- Acquire a master's degree for community college teaching and a Ph.D. or M.F.A. for colleges and universities. Develop one or two areas of expertise within theatre arts.
- Get experience in various areas of theatre, as well as working with young people.
- Learn how to develop curriculums and workshops.
- Gain experience as a tutor, camp counselor, church schoolteacher,

Strategies For Placement In Theatre

- Try out for plays.
- Use your professors and professional contacts and references.
- Complete an internship or an apprenticeship with a local theatre. Participate in summer stock.
- Network: Talk with people working in the field to find out about jobs and opportunities.
- Read newspapers and periodicals related to the theatre to keep up with new developments. Read the "trades"--magazines and newspapers that report events in the entertainment industry. Read the "Theatre" section of daily newspapers to find out about upcoming productions.
- Get your foot in the door and get involved with productions in any way you can. Be prepared to do various tasks assigned by stage managers or producers.
- Join professional groups as an opportunity to make contacts.
- Volunteer with fundraising efforts for the arts.
- Be aware of scams. Check out the legitimacy of agencies and companies before paying any fees especially modeling.
- Be prepared to move to a metropolitan area where more opportunities exist.
- A career in the arts takes talent, knowledge patience, dedication, and luck!
- Have a back-up plan. Be aware that the unemployment rate for actors hovers around 85%. Develop skills that qualify you for other jobs while you wait for opportunities in acting. Consider pairing theatre with another career interest or major to open up more job opportunities.
- Theatre helps students develop verbal and written communication, public speaking, and teamwork skills. Many types of employers value these transferable skills.
- There are many ways to be involved in the theatre while pursuing other career options.

Internet Resources:

Industry Profile – Performing Arts: www.wetfeet.com/asp/careerlist.asp

WetFeet.com guide to performing arts: covers Industry Trends & Overview, "Love-Hate" (pros and cons of this field), Major Players and Job Descriptions & Tips.

Vault: more information on the every day life of a teacher, writer, actor, etc . This site is accessible through the Career Services Website: www.capital.edu/careers