



THEATRE

- *WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR IN THEATRE?
- *WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE MYSELF MORE MARKETABLE?
- *WHERE CAN I FIND CAREER INFORMATION?

E-mail: career@potsteam.edu

• CAREER PLANNING • SUNY POTSDAM • 206 SISSON
Web Site: www.potsteam.edu/offices/career TEL: 315-267-2344

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN THEATRE?

1. Provide/take responsibility for leadership in arts organizations.
2. Work with a theatrical company or as a self-employed Actor, Director, Designer or Technical Theatre Specialist.
3. Use knowledge and skills to work in various aspects of theatre, television, radio, or film.
4. Work in technical areas of stage production such as lighting, costuming and designing.
5. Teach and direct student productions.

EXAMPLES OF FIELDS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THEATRE MAJORS:

1. Arts Management
2. Motion Picture
3. Theatre
4. Television
5. Public/Private Schools
6. Academia
7. Summer & Community Recreation Programs
8. Publishing
9. Booking
10. Radio
11. Community Centers
12. Musical Theatre Production
13. Psychology/Therapy

SAMPLE JOB TITLES OF SUNY POTSDAM THEATRE ALUMNI:

- * Technical Director
- * Costume Designer
- * Theatre Professor
- * Copywriter
- * Scene Designer
- * Human Resources Manager
- * Videographer
- * Free Lance Puppeteer
- * Drama Therapist
- * Children's Theatre Director
- * Artistic Director
- * Coordinator for Communication Services
- * Theatre Director
- * Playwright
- * Actor/Actress
- * Educational Director for Theatres
- * Sound Production Supervisor
- * Lighting Designer

SAMPLE JOB DESCRIPTIONS:

1. Managing Director: Responsibilities include administrative and fiscal control; strategic planning; management of staff; public relations and outreach efforts; and volunteer coordination.
2. Artistic Director: Oversees the development of all theatre events and touring productions. Provides artistic leadership, selects plays/concerts for the calendar, establishes and supervises production schedules, identifies, hires and cultivates artists, and directs productions.
3. Film Production Technician: Provides creative and/or technical services such as lighting, camera operation, sound recording, film editing, make-up, costuming, set construction and design, and prop selection for theatrical or commercial films.
4. Professor of Theatre: Teaches courses in acting, directing, theatre literature and theory. Directs in the department production program, and advises students.

ENHANCING EMPLOYABILITY:

1. Get involved in the career development process early, freshman year.
2. Get career-related experience: work with campus productions in various capacities. Plan internships in areas of interest. Obtain career-related summer and/or part-time employment or volunteer. Join a career-related association or organization.
3. Attend University and Regional Theatre Auditions, New England Theatre Conference Auditions, and other regional auditions for acting and technical theatre positions.
4. Select minors/elective courses that will demonstrate interest/applicability to your career objective.
5. Develop the following job search and self-marketing skills: resume writing, cover letter writing, create a portfolio and self-marketing brochure, researching employers, interviewing, networking, and employment searching.
6. Skills to develop: interacting with audience, communicating, memorizing, problem solving, following directions, creativity researching/experimenting/exploring, coordinating performances of a group of individuals, objectively judging performances, analyzing dramatic literature and attending to detail.

SAMPLE INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCES:

- * TheatreWorks
 - Interns work directly with top technicians, designers, and directors in such departments as carpentry, properties, electrics, scenic art, costumes, wardrobe, and stage management.
- * Julliard School Professional Intern Program
 - Internship is part of the technical theatre and arts administration program and provides a hands-on approach to costuming, props, stage management, public relations, performance activities.
- * Florida Studio Theatre
 - Internships available in development, theatre production, literary management, administration, and acting.

PREPARING FOR THE JOB SEARCH MARKET:

- * Write an employer targeted resume and cover letter
- * Learn job search strategies
- * Borrow resources from SUNY Potsdam's Career Planning Library
- * Seek advice from faculty
- * Network w/employers at Career/Job Fairs
- * Prepare for an interview
- * Design a portfolio and self-marketing brochure
- * Visit SUNY Potsdam's Career Planning Web Site at: www.potsdam.edu/offices/career
- * Develop Networking Cards

SOME EMPLOYERS OF SUNY POTSDAM THEATRE ALUMNI:

- * New Era TV and Communications
- * Syracuse Stage
- * WYBQ Radio
- * Actors Institute
- * Children's Discovery Centers of America
- * RKO-Warner Video
- * North Carolina School of Arts
- * Keuka College
- * University of S. Carolina Theatre Dept.
- * Smithsonian Institute Center-Folk Life Program

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE:

1. THEATRE DEPT., 238 Satterlee Hall

- * Talk with Faculty
- * Talk with Students
- * Talk with Alumni

2. CAREER PLANNING OFFICE, SUNY Potsdam, 206 Sisson Hall

- * Individual Career Assistance
- * Job Vacancies
- * Workshops/Seminars
- * Summer Jobs
- * Employer Literature
- * Reference File
- * Career Assessment Programs
- * Career Planning Web Site
- * Career and Job Fairs
- * Career Library
- * Networking Assistance
- * A Major Affair
- * Alumni Mentor
- * Free Handouts Available

WHAT IF I WANT TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL?

RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE CAREER PLANNING OFFICE:

- * On-Campus Graduate School Fair
- * Graduate School handout
- * GRE, GMAT, MCAT, LSAT and MAT forms and bulletins (GRE computerized tests and graduate study books)
- * Graduate books - listings of schools and programs
- * Financial aid information about graduate school
- * Peterson's Graduate Programs (G7F, G7G, G7H, G7I, G7J, G7K)
- * Web Site: www.potsdam.edu/offices/career/graduate

RESOURCES FOR FINDING EMPLOYERS & CAREER INFORMATION:

RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE CAREER PLANNING OFFICE:

- * ArtSearch (See Career Planning or Theatre Department for login username and password to search for job openings).
- * Theatre Careers (C48A)
- * Career Opportunities in Theater and the Performing Arts (C48B)
- * Great Jobs for Theater Majors (C48C)
- * Job Hunters Sourcebook (R26G)
- * Dun's Employment Opportunities Directory (R8GG)
- * Adams Jobs Almanac (R26I)
- * Directory of Community Services (R46C)
- * Summer Jobs Worldwide (S2A)
- * Career Planning Web Site
- * Additional material found by using Career Planning Library Bibliography



OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

*American Film Institute
John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts
Washington, DC 20566
(202) 828-4000
www.afi.com

*International Alliance of Theatrical
and Stage Employees
1515 Broadway, Suite 601
New York, NY 10036
(212) 730-1770
www.ia33.org/

*Society for Stage Directors and Choreographers
1501 Broadway
Ste. 1701
New York, NY 10036
(212) 391- 1070
www.ssd.org/about_hist.php

*National Association of Broadcasters
1771 N. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 429-5300
www.nab.org

*American Radio Association
17 Battery Place, Suite 1443
New York, NY 1004-0217
(212) 809-0600
www.freelists.org/list/aranet

*Theatre Communications Group
355 Lexington Ave.
New York, NY 10017-0217
(212) 697-5230
www.tcg.org



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