

# THEATER

What can I do with this degree?

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	PREPARATION
<b>PERFORMING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community theaters</li> <li>• Regional theaters</li> <li>• Commercial theaters</li> <li>• Summer stock theaters</li> <li>• Dinner theaters</li> <li>• Children's theaters</li> <li>• University theater groups</li> <li>• Touring companies</li> <li>• Industrial shows</li> <li>• Show groups</li> <li>• Amusement and theme parks</li> <li>• Television/film studios</li> <li>• Radio stations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Participate in acting workshops, courses, and seminars to get advice and experience and to make contacts with others in the field.</li> <li>❖ Join unions or actors' guilds to stay abreast of opportunities and developments in the field.</li> <li>❖ Get as much acting experience as possible. Perform in school productions, Community Theater, summer stock, etc. to hone acting skills.</li> <li>❖ 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.</li> <li>❖ Be prepared to make the rounds. Distribute your resume to numerous agencies and offices. Follow up with several personal visits.</li> <li>❖ Be aware that more opportunities exist in large cities such as New York and Los Angeles.</li> </ul> <p><b>Learn about the entertainment industry as a whole:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Take courses on entertainment law, business, management, etc.</li> <li>❖ An extensive network of contacts is essential. Get to know people working in your field and related areas.</li> </ul>
<b>DIRECTING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direction</li> <li>• Technical Direction</li> <li>• Casting</li> <li>• Stage Management</li> <li>• Support Staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theaters</li> <li>• Television/film studios</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Participate in the Director's Guild Training Program.</li> <li>❖ Develop leadership skills through participation in campus and community organizations.</li> <li>❖ Experience with fund-raising is important. Volunteer to do this with local theaters and arts councils.</li> <li>❖ Learn what types of permits and insurance are needed to film or perform in certain areas.</li> <li>❖ Volunteer with directors in local theaters to become familiar with the environment. Serving as an assistant is a great way to get started in this area.</li> <li>❖ Gain directing experience by participating in college productions.</li> </ul>
<b>EDUCATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teaching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public and private schools</li> <li>• Colleges and universities</li> <li>• Performing arts centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Obtain certification for the state in which you wish to teach. Obtain dual certification for more teaching opportunities.</li> <li>❖ Get experience in various areas of theater, as well as working with young people.</li> <li>❖ Obtain a graduate degree to teach on the college level. Develop one or two areas of expertise within theater arts.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>BEHIND THE SCENES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set Design/Construction</li> <li>• Property Design</li> <li>• Lighting Design</li> <li>• Sound Design</li> <li>• Costume Design</li> <li>• Camera Operation</li> <li>• Hair/Make-up</li> <li>• Special Effects</li> <li>• Wardrobe</li> <li>• Prop Management</li> <li>• Broadcast Technology</li> <li>• Riggers</li> <li>• Electricians</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community theaters</li> <li>• Regional theaters</li> <li>• Commercial theaters</li> <li>• Summer stock theaters</li> <li>• Dinner theaters</li> <li>• Children's theaters</li> <li>• University theater groups</li> <li>• Touring companies</li> <li>• Industrial shows</li> <li>• Show groups</li> <li>• Amusement and theme parks</li> <li>• Television/film studios</li> <li>• Radio stations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Learn to work well in a team.</li> <li>❖ Develop a sense of artistry and creativity.</li> <li>❖ 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.</li> <li>❖ Get experience. Offer your services to school and local theaters.</li> <li>❖ Read industry magazines and books to learn about your area.</li> <li>❖ For sound design: Become familiar with computer technology as digital sound effects and electronic music replace traditional means of sound design.</li> <li>❖ For costume design: Supplement your program with courses in art history and fashion design.</li> <li>❖ Learn about different eras in history in order to recreate on stage. A basic knowledge of history and architecture is helpful.</li> </ul>
<p><b>WRITING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scriptwriting</li> <li>• Playwriting</li> <li>• Screenwriting</li> <li>• Journalism</li> <li>• Publicity (Press Agents)</li> <li>• Research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theaters</li> <li>• Television/film studios</li> <li>• Television stations</li> <li>• Magazines</li> <li>• Newspapers</li> <li>• Freelance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Review plays, movies, and TV shows for school or local newspaper.</li> <li>❖ Theatrical press agents publicize and promote theatrical productions. They write press releases, arrange press conferences, and other media events.</li> <li>❖ Take courses in related areas such as public relations, advertising, and business.</li> <li>❖ Reporters spend time on the set absorbing everything. They interview actors as well as craftspeople.</li> <li>❖ Get as much writing experience as possible: Write for the college newspaper, enter playwriting contests, etc.</li> <li>❖ See many different productions and shows. Read a variety of scripts to see how scripts are developed.</li> <li>❖ Researchers gather information for movie writers.</li> <li>❖ They may also track down photographs or historical documents to make the film more authentic.</li> </ul>
<p><b>BUSINESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Producing</li> <li>• Management, Marketing</li> <li>• Agents</li> <li>• Fundraising and Development</li> <li>• Coordination of Volunteers</li> <li>• Administration of Arts Programs</li> <li>• Box Office Sales</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theaters</li> <li>• Arts councils</li> <li>• Television/film studios</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Secretarial/clerical positions in theaters and studios are often stepping-stones to other positions and a good way to make contacts.</li> <li>❖ Take business courses to supplement your program.</li> <li>❖ Obtain a working knowledge of computers.</li> <li>❖ Gain a thorough understanding of theater.</li> <li>❖ Develop skills in leadership, negotiation, budgeting, and fundraising.</li> </ul>

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STRATEGIES	LINKS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete an internship or an apprenticeship with a local theater. Participate in summer stock.</li><li>• Network: Talk with people working in the field to find out about jobs and opportunities.</li><li>• Read newspapers and periodicals related to the theater to keep up with new developments. Read the "trades"--magazines and newspapers that report events in the entertainment industry.</li><li>• Read the "Theater" section of daily newspapers to find out about upcoming productions.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• Join professional groups as an opportunity to make contacts.</li><li>• Volunteer with fundraising efforts for the arts.</li><li>• Be aware of scams. Check out the legitimacy of agencies and companies before paying any fees.</li><li>• Be prepared to move to a metropolitan area where more opportunities exist.</li><li>• A career in the arts takes patience, dedication, and luck!</li><li>• 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 theater with another career interest or major to open up more job opportunities.</li><li>• Theater helps students develop verbal and written communication, public speaking, and teamwork skills. These transferable skills are valued by many types of employers.</li><li>• There are many ways to be involved in the theater while pursuing other career options.</li></ul>	<p><a href="#"><u>The Art and Science of Theater</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Theatre Communications Group</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>American Association of Community Theatre</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Job Listings and Internships for Entertainment Careers</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Showbiz Jobs.com</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Backstage Jobs</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Playbill</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>PropPeople</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Artslynx</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Stage Managers Association</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Educational Theatre Association</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Actors, Producers, and Directors from the Occupational Outlook Handbook</u></a></p>