Entertainers (actors, dancers, musicians, etc.) express ideas, often through the performance and interpretation of artistic works, to inform or entertain an audience.

Trends

Employment is projected to grow up to 7% for entertainment careers by 2022 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics; however, this includes occupations in arts and recreation. The motion picture and video industries are expected to grow 3%, and most performance careers are expected to grow 3-7% during the same time frame.

Most opportunities in the entertainment industry will be filled by part-time/seasonal employees. The industry’s appeal, along with a large supply of workers, will create a highly competitive job market.

Education & Training

Education requirements vary according to occupation; while musicians and dancers typically have no formal education prerequisite, a bachelor’s degree is considered the entry-level education for a producer or director. Practical experience, often through years of formal training starting at a young age under an accomplished instructor or mentor, is a must for the performing arts—as are internships for the business side of the entertainment industry (i.e., record labels, television production companies, and theatres).

Tips for Breaking In

- Obtain an internship (often unpaid), even if you have to maintain additional paid employment
- Be willing to relocate to large metropolitan areas where most opportunities exist
- Make sure your resume is styled appropriately to the industry
- Create sample videos or a portfolio to showcase your talent
- Consider a major or take classes with relevant curriculum, such as fine arts

Licenses & Certifications

No licenses or certifications are required.

Earnings

Earnings vary widely in the entertainment industry depending on the location, type of employer, and experience level of the employee. Employment is often short-term, and many entertainers find themselves continuously searching for their next job.

- Actors—$20.26/hour
- Directors/Producers—$71,350 annually
- Dancers—$14.16/hour
- Choreographers—$18.33/hour
- Music Directors/Composers—$47,350 annually
- Musicians—$23.50/hour

Types of Employers

- Production Companies
- Theatre Productions
- Concert Halls
- Sports Arenas
- Talent Agencies
- Cruise Ships/Resorts
- Record Labels
- Radio Stations
- Theme Parks
- Casting Agencies

Example Employers

- Production Companies
- Theatre Productions
- Concert Halls
- Sports Arenas
- Talent Agencies
- Cruise Ships/Resorts

Desirable Qualities, Interests, and Skills

- Creativity to express or interpret art in the most compelling way
- Persistence; many jobs are gained through auditions, and rejection is common
- Physical stamina for athletic work, long hours, travel, and other challenging work conditions
- Interpersonal skills—many job opportunities in the entertainment industry are located by networking
- Teamwork and leadership, particularly in jobs involving groups of performers

Websites

- Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences | www.oscars.org
- American Film Institute | www.afi.com
- Casting Society of America | www.castingsociety.com
- Motion Picture Association of America | www.mpaa.org
- Recording Musicians of America | www.rmala.org
- American Federation of Musicians | www.afm.org
- Dance/USA | www.danceusa.org

Sample Job Titles

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<tr>
<th>Actor</th>
<th>Film and Video Editor</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Camera Operator</td>
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<td>Writer</td>
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<td>Sound/Lighting Designer</td>
<td>Dancer</td>
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<td>Set/Costume Designer</td>
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<td>Musician</td>
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<td>Music Director/Composer</td>
<td>Talent Agent</td>
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