WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN... THEATRE

Study in the performing arts (such as theatre) offers exposure to creative, dramatic expression, primarily in front of live audiences. All major aspects of performance preparation are studied, including acting, set design, stage setup, scenery decorations, light and sound, production, costumes, and makeup. Speaking techniques and developing stage presence are also taught.

SAMPLE OCCUPATIONS

Performance
- Actor
- Voice-over Artist
- Radio Broadcaster
- Comic

Production
- Casting Director
- Technical Director
- Costume Designer
- Lighting Director
- Stage Manager

Education/Counseling
- Drama Teacher
- Dramatic Coach
- Drama Therapist

Business
- Talent Agent
- Publicist
- Tour Manager
- Marketing Director
- Theatre Manager

Writing
- Theatre Critic
- Theatre Journalist
- Press Agent
- Playwright

Other Areas
- Producer
- Director
- Sound Engineering Technician

TYPES OF EMPLOYERS

Performing Arts Centers
Public & Private Schools
Theatre Companies
Colleges & Universities
Tourism Industry
Mass Media Companies
Arts Councils
Advertising Agencies

PREPARING FOR YOUR CAREER IN

Performance: Develop a portfolio that highlights your qualifications and special skills, invest in professional photographs for your portfolio and to share with casting agencies, research casting agencies to determine which organizations are casting for parts that best match your professional goals, begin building relationships with casting agencies and theatres that will host auditions

Behind-the-Scenes Work: In addition to your education, seek opportunities to volunteer with community theatres and other local productions; take elective courses that will help you build special skills needed for your discipline

Entertainment Industry: Take electives related to management or finance to build your understanding of the business world; develop strong written and oral communication skills; consider part-time work in sales to gain experience persuading or motivating others, learn about etiquette in the professional world since developing strong contacts is important to success

Teaching: Volunteer with a school or nonprofit program for children/teens to gain experience working with students, plan to complete coursework and testing needed to earn licensure

RELATED WEBSITES

Theatre Jobs
www.theatrejobs.com

American Association of Community Theatre
www.aact.org

The Official Website of Broadway
League of American Theatres and Producers
www.livebroadway.com

Society of Stage Directors & Choreographers
www.ssdc.org

National Association of Theatre Owners
www.natoonline.org

HOW DO I KNOW IF IT’S RIGHT FOR ME?

ASSESS: Take a career assessment, such as the Strong Interest Inventory or MBTI, to see how your interests, values, and personality fit with majors and careers.

RESEARCH: Research the careers on this WCIDWAMI and thousands of other careers using these top career websites:

EXPLORE: Learn more about a career field of interest by job shadowing, attending a career panel, or participating in a Company Trek. Further your exploration while gaining valuable skills by completing an internship, co-op, volunteer, or research experience.

For the expanded version of this WCIDWAMI, visit career.uncc.edu/majors/theatre