

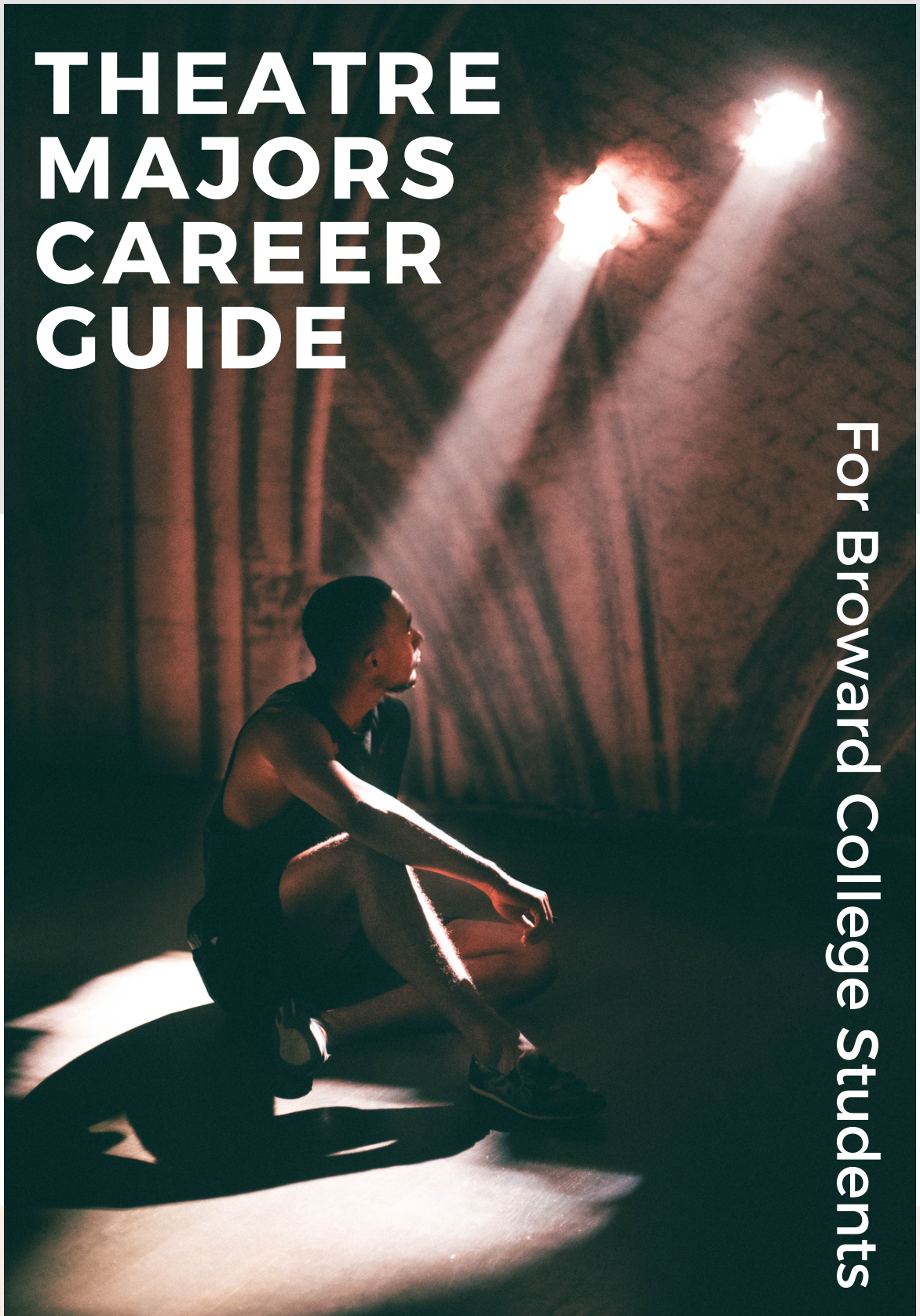


BROWARD COLLEGE™



# THEATRE MAJORS CAREER GUIDE

For Broward College Students



Now, more than ever, having a college degree will not guarantee employment. However, your training and studies will certainly give you the knowledge and skills critical to obtain a job and build a career.

Theatre students learn first-hand the value of collaboration, an important concept. Each production is the result of the talents and skills of playwrights, actors, designers, technicians, house managers, box office personnel, and marketing, publicity, and social media professionals. In fact, Theatre may well be the most comprehensive of all art forms. Since team-building is important the project management of a variety of industries, theatre students are uniquely qualified.

Certainly, there is intense competition in Theatre Arts employment. However, Broward College students who follow the recommended theatre curriculum, and participate in technical and performance labs have a distinctive edge. Formal training is paired with practical experience on stage or in technical capacities. Learning to use state-of-the-art lighting, sound, projection and mechanical equipment not only provides skills that are highly desirable in many production houses.

It also provides resume credit that makes our students more employable in the field. Performance Lab participants polish articulation skills and learn confidence in presentation before a live audience.

Students majoring in theatre studies are generally more confident, well-spoken, sensitive, and better at cooperating with others. History and criticism are studied along with stagecraft and studio classes in acting, voice, and movement. These courses provide development of a broad range of communication and organizational skills useful in a wide of careers. Acting classes increase student concentration and focus, while also teaching valuable listening skills. Analysis assignments teach students to think critically and execute creative problem-solving. Productions require students that can work under the pressure of an immovable deadline (think audience members in seats) while maintaining composure when faced with unexpected obstacles (think a dropped line during a play).





## **Here is a list of representative skills and abilities that theatre studies provide to Broward College students:**

### **Analysis**

- Analysis of character, play structure, playwright theme and message.
- Determination of how to best support thematic message through artistic elements for a modern audience.
- Historical and social context of the time period and its relevance today.
- Comparing and contrasting ideas in the text.

### **Artistic Skills**

- Understanding of complex concepts and demonstration of concepts through physical presentation (Acting, Directing).
- Creation of sound, lighting, costume, makeup and properties designs that effectively communicate Directorial concepts.
- Interpretation of character and utilization of vocal and physical skills for embodiment in production.

### **Organization**

- A high degree of self-discipline.
- Ability to work under pressure to meet deadlines.
- An understanding of the importance of collaboration.
- Focus on the success of a final product, and of the self as part of a team.
- Ability to maintain composure when unexpected circumstances arise.
- Ability to see one's contribution as part of a whole.

### **Technical Skills**

- Creation of scenic elements, costumes, properties, special effects.
- Placement of sound, lighting, costume, makeup and properties for utilization during professional presentation.
- Programming of lighting and sound cues in state-of-the-art equipment.
- Execution of lighting and sound cues during performances.
- Stage Management or a performance of entire production (all elements, technical and performance related).
- Marketing and Publicity through traditional media and social media outlets.

### **Communication**

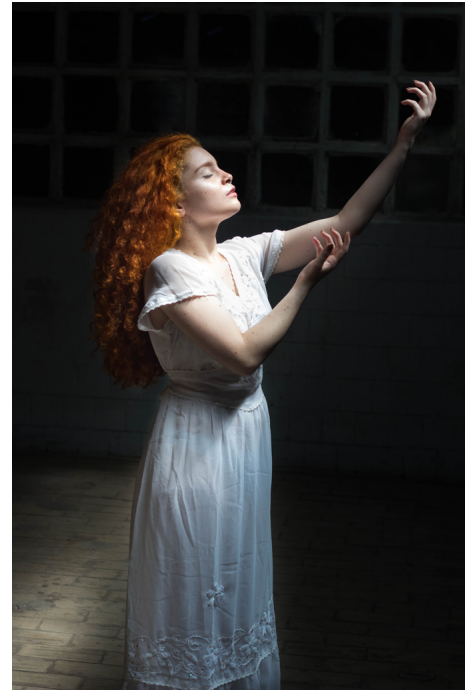
- Organization of ideas and confidence in public speaking.
- Creative presentation of concepts that engage an audience.
- Articulate and engrossing public speaking skills.
- Attentive listening with analytical engagement.
- Development of vocabulary through reading and analysis.
- Expansion of world view, encompassing previously unfamiliar cultures.

# Theatre Careers

There are a number of career options for theatre majors, such as:

## **1. Professional Acting:**

- Professional Theatre: Summer Stock, touring companies, resident theatre companies, and much more.
- Film/Television: industrial training films (corporate), narrative film, television sitcoms, drama series, streaming television shows and films on networks (such as Hulu, Netflix, and Amazon Prime)
- Live Performance in corporate productions.



## **2. Playwriting:**

- Original Play festivals are prevalent and gaining in popularity.
- Many regional and resident theatre companies seek original scripts.
- Theatre Playwrights often branch into writing film scripts for corporations, commercials, and even narrative film.



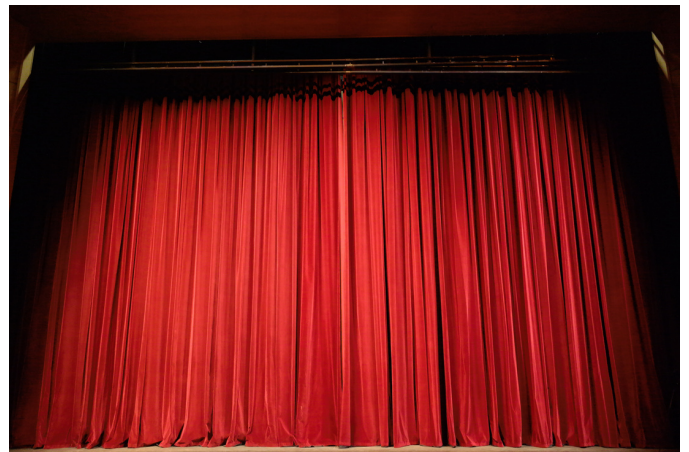
## **3. Directing:**

- Directors are needed for theatre productions, but also for corporate presentations and industrial films.

# Theatre Careers

## **4. Stage Management:**

- The stage manager takes over when the responsibilities of the Director have concluded, usually opening night of a production.
- Stage Managers are needed for all live performances, including: theatre, dance, opera, choral presentations, musical presentations, speaker series and corporate presentations.



## **5. Scenic, Costume, Lighting and Sound Design:**

- Designers are utilized in all of performing arts, motion picture, and television productions.

## **6. Dramaturgy and Literary Management:**

- Dramaturgs are researchers and advisors to the Director. Literary Managers are resident dramaturgs. Most professional theatres have a Dramaturg or Literary Manager on staff to research new scripts and provide historical context for each production.



# Theatre Careers

## **7. Theatre Education:**

- Theatre professors are needed to teach both performance and technical theatre to students of all ages. Many summer theatre camps hire recent college graduates. There are also outreach programs at many professional theatre companies and training programs that employ theatre educators.



## **8. Drama Therapy:**

- This type of therapy utilizes the creative process to determine underlying causes of psychological problems. Drama therapy has been effective in treating many conditions.



## **9. Arts Administration/Management:**

- Arts Administrators must have an in-depth understanding of the art form as well as skills in a range of areas such as finance, marketing and education. Arts Managers are required at virtually every arts organization including museums, opera companies and concert halls.



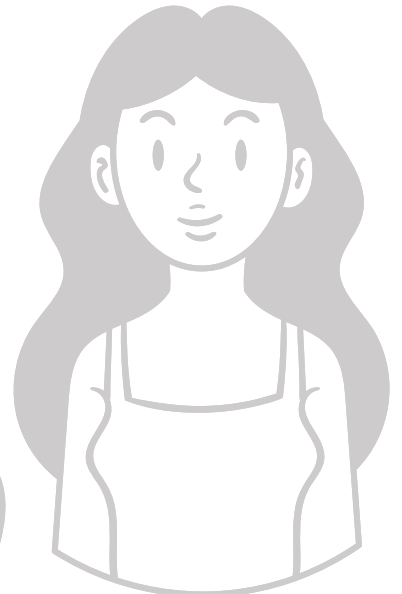
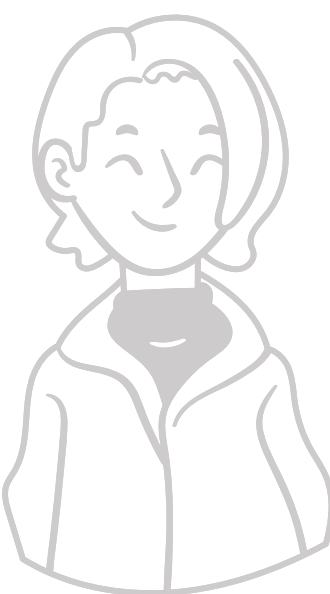
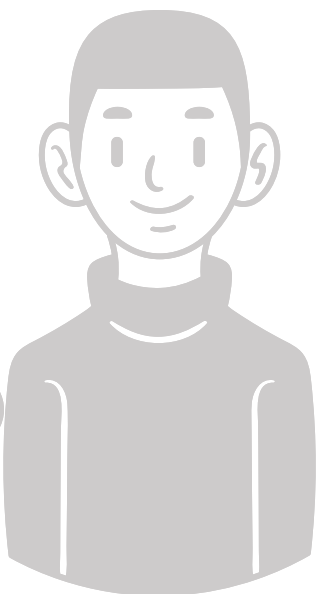
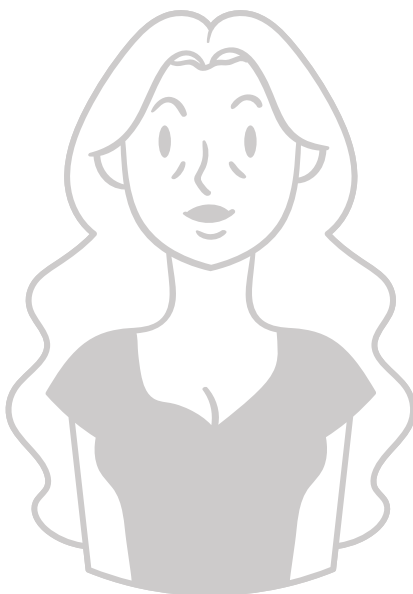
# Job Titles

Here are some examples of Job Titles available to those with the skills and abilities of theatre majors. Note that positions are followed by an asterisk (\*) typically require a Masters Degree.

Acting Coach  
Actor  
Administrator  
Artist-in-residence Director  
Arts Council Director\*  
Booking Agent  
Box Office Manager  
Business Manager Audience\*  
Carpenter  
Casting Director  
Chorographer  
College Professor\*  
Community Arts Center\*  
Company Manager  
Company Manager  
Coordinator Costume  
Designer Stage Manager  
Development Associate

Development Director  
Director Coordinator  
Drama Therapist\*  
Dramaturg  
Draper  
Grants Specialist  
Hair/Makeup Artist's Agent  
House Manager  
Lighting Designer Electrician  
Literary Agent\*  
Make Up Artist  
Managing Director\*  
Marketing Director Outreach  
Personal Manager  
Playwright  
Press Agent  
Prod. Support Services Arts  
Producer

Production Assistant  
Production Manager  
Project Designer  
Property Designer  
Public Relations Director  
Publicist  
Relations Specialist  
Scenic Artist  
Scenic Designer  
Sound Designer  
Sound Engineer  
Special Effects Technician  
Stage Hand  
Technical Director  
Theatre Librarian\*  
Theatre Teacher  
Voice-over Artist



# EMPLOYERS OF THEATRE MAJORS:

- Amusement and Theme Parks
- Arts Councils
- Community Organizations
- Cruise Lines
- Educational/Cultural Institutions
- Entertainment Law Firms
- Film Companies
- Libraries

- Performing Arts Organizations
- Social and Special Event Planners
- Television, Radio, and Film Production Companies
- Touring Companies
- University, College, Primary and Secondary School Theatre Programs

## JOB LISTINGS FOR THEATRE MAJORS CAN BE FOUND AT:

### **Alliance of Artist Communities**

<http://www.artistcommunities.org/>

The Alliance of Artists Communities is the service organization for the field of artists' communities and residencies. They maintain artist residency listings, advocate for artist residency programs and communities, and offer professional development for artists. Their website includes job postings.

### **Americans for the Arts**

<http://jobbank.artsusa.org>

This advocacy organization supports the arts in many ways. Their job bank is the premier electronic recruitment resource for the industry and includes national job listings for all of the fine arts. It includes postings in academia, arts administration and management. Check out the rest of their site for other helpful arts resources.

### **Art Job**

<https://www.artjob.org/>

Comprehensive, up-to-date national listings of jobs, internships, fellowships and other employment opportunities in the arts. Contact Fine Arts Career Services for the username and password.

### **Backstage Jobs**

<http://backstage.com/>

Free job listing service for all behind-the-scenes jobs in the live entertainment industry.

### **Entertainment Careers**

<http://www.entertainmentcareers.net/>

Jobs, internships and career information in the entertainment industry.

### **Greenlights**

<http://www.greenlights.org/>

Greenlights is a provider of nonprofit strengthening and support services including professional development events, workshops, and a job board containing hundreds of postings by member organizations.

### **Idealist**

<http://www.idealists.org/>

Idealist.org connects people with job, volunteer and action opportunities posted by 90,000 organizations around the world.



# JOB LISTINGS FOR THEATRE MAJORS CAN BE FOUND AT:

## **ArtSearch**

<http://www.tcg.org/artsearch/>

The publication from the Theatre Communication Group for full-time, part-time, seasonal, year-round and internship opportunities in the performing arts. Contact FACS for the username and password.

## **Association of Performing Arts Presenters**

<http://www.apap365.org/>

Excellent site for those interested in arts administration positions in the performing arts. Includes a job bank.

## **USA Jobs**

<https://www.usajobs.gov/>

USAJOBS is the U.S. Government's official system/program for Federal jobs and employment information. They offer an excellent page dedicated to students and recent graduates seeking Federal jobs.

## **League of Resident Theatres**

<http://www.lort.org/>

LORT is the largest professional theatre association of its kind in the United States. This site has links to 74 member theatres in every major market. LORT also maintains collective bargaining agreements for actors, directors, choreographers and designers.

## **Showbiz Jobs**

<http://www.showbizjobs.com/>

Search engine for all types of jobs in the entertainment industry.

## **Playbill Online**

<http://www.playbill.com/>

This site claims to be "THE Source on the Web for Broadway Theater Information." And it lives up to its name, providing a wealth of information for both theatre goers and professionals. Check out their "Casting and Jobs" section which is divided into the following categories: performer, technical, design, administrative, academic and the mysterious "other".

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**V&PA**  
Visual & Performing Arts

