



CENTER FOR CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Major Possibilities: Theatre

Quick Facts

- The Theatre Department at Southwestern University provides a rigorous program of study in theatrical design, performance, and playwriting, balanced with a solid and comprehensive foundation in theatre history, theory, and literature grounded in Southwestern University's liberal arts tradition.
- Students who graduate from Southwestern University with a degree in theatre are well prepared for graduate schools and advanced theatre training programs and for work in the professional theatre.
- The Theatre Department puts on a variety of productions, including *Heathers*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Noises Off*, *Silent Sky*, *A Bright Room Called Day*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, actors endure long periods of unemployment, intense competition for roles, and frequent rejections in auditions. Many actors supplement their income with other jobs, although a select few have extraordinarily high earnings. Formal training through a university or acting conservatory is typical; however, many actors, producers, and directors find work on the basis of their experience and talent alone.
- Internships and apprenticeships help shape professional identities, develop 21st century career-readiness skills, and make meaning of the academic experience.

Theatre Major Synopsis

The theatre major is designed to provide students with a solid grounding in all areas of theatre studies including history, dramatic literature, performance, and design and production practices. Many students who major in theatre have minors or double majors because they have other major intellectual or disciplinary interests, or they choose to pursue teacher certification. Students who wish to be successful in theatre performance or production should participate in acting workshops and seminars and join guilds in the area of theatre they are interested in. They should also have as much practical experience as possible. Theatre majors are required to audition for all Southwestern University main stage productions for either an acting role or a production staff role.

Sample Job Titles

ARTS, MEDIA, AND ENTERTAINMENT

Actor/Actress
Acting Coach
Advertising Specialist
Announcer
Art Director
Broadcaster
Casting Director
Choreographer
Comedian
Costume Design
Critic
Director
Display Designer
Entertainer
Event Planner
Exhibit Designer

Journalist
Lighting Designer
Lighting Operator
Make-up Artist
Marketing Specialist
Media
Playwright
Planner/Salesperson
Prop Manager
Rigger/Puppeteer
Scene Painter
Set Designer
Set Draftsman
Sound Designer/Engineer
Stage Manager
Stunt Coordinator
Writer/Editor

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Art Director
Booking Manager
Business Manager
Community Affairs Specialist
Customer Service Rep.
Manager
Marketing Executive
PR Specialist
Sales Representative
Special Events Coordinator
Theatre Manager
Ticket Sales Coordinator
Training Developer

GOVERNMENT, SERVICE, AND EDUCATION

Arts Organization Consultant
Dance Instructor
Campaign Manager
Preservation
Military Music Leader
Press Secretary
Teacher
University Professor

Sample Internship Employers of SU Students

Aftershock (London, UK)
Alliance for International, Educational, & Cultural Exchange (Washington, DC)
Arden Theatre Company (Philadelphia, PA)
Austin Film Festival (Austin, TX)
Barrington Stage Company (Pittsfield, MA)
Brock Allen Casting (Austin, TX)
Charing Cross Theater (London, UK)
Chicken Shed Theatre (London, UK)
Child's Play Touring Theatre (Chicago, IL)
Crying Out Loud Productions (London, UK)
Dallas Theatre Center (Dallas, TX)
Georgetown Roundup Studio (Georgetown, TX)
Glimmerglass Opera (Cooperstown, NY)
Houston Guild Theatre (Houston, TX)

Juilliard Professional Intern Program (New York, NY)
Kitchen Theatre Company (Ithaca, NY)
Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (New York, NY)
New York Shakespeare Festival (New York, NY)
Pioneer Amphitheatre (Canyon, TX)
Playhouse on the Square (Memphis, TN)
Searchography (Austin, TX)
SOHO Theatre Company Limited (London, UK)
'stache Media (New York, NY)
St. Helen Catholic School (Georgetown, TX)
Strasberg Institute (New York, NY)
The Ensemble Theatre (Houston, TX)
The Kennedy Center (Washington, DC)
ZACH Theater (Austin, TX)
Zilker Hillside Theatre (Austin, TX)

Sample Full-Time Employers of SU Students

Actor (California Theatre Center, New Stage Theatre, et.al.)
Artistic Development (Manhattan Theatre Club)
Artistic Director (Out of Context Productions, LLC)
Assistant Director (Hyde Park Theater)
Assistant Master Electrician (PA Shakespeare Festival)
Audio-Visual Technician (Celebrity Cruise Lines)
Carpenter (Utah Festival Opera)
Casting Assistant (HH Talent & Entertainment)
Conference Manager (Austin Film Festival)
Costume Shop Manager (Theatre l'Homme Dieu)
Entertainer (Walt Disney World, Orlando)
Executive Director (Out of Context Productions, LLC)
General Management Assistant (McCarter Theater)
Health Volunteer (Peace Corps)
Kitchen Designer/Sales Specialist (Lowe's Home Improvement)

Lighting Designer (Sea World, Tri-State Actors Theatre)
Lighting Technician (Chamber Theatre Productions)
Marketing Director (Lafayette Community Health Care Clinic)
Musical Director (Kids Acting Theater)
Performance Arts Instructor (Dougherty Arts Center)
Properties Assistant (Dallas Theatre Center)
Production Assistant (NY Theatre Workshop)
Production Manager (TexArt)
Scenic Designer (Stagedoor Manor)
Stage Manager (Barrington Stage Co.)
Student Affairs Advisor (Center for Academic Programs Abroad)
Teacher (Teach for America, Hutto ISD)
Teaching Artist (Guadeloupe Cultural Arts Center)
Theatre Teacher (La Vernia ISD)
Wardrobe (Mac-Haydn Theatre)

Professional Associations

Actors' Equity Association
American Association of Community Theatre
American Dance Therapy Association
Directors Guild of America
The Episcopal Actors' Guild
Pioneer Drama Service

Playwrights Guild
Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists
Society of Health and Physical Educators (including dance)
Texas Nonprofit Theatres