



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.

Bachelor of Fine Arts

The Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) is intended for students who want to pursue careers in the professional theatre and/or obtain graduate conservatory training focused on artistic processes. The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre allows students to focus intensively on artistic, academic, and production aspects of the theatre discipline. A set of core courses is required for all B.F.A. and B.A. students. Students pursuing the B.F.A. may choose from the Lighting, Costume, or Scenic Design. In addition, students who wish to pursue the B.F.A. are admitted to candidacy for that degree only after successfully completing a review process at the end of the fall semester of their sophomore year. Prior to this review process, students complete some core classes, as well as participate in auditions for each department production and work on one production per semester. For other requirements, contact the Theatre Department or see the course catalog.

Bachelor of Arts

The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) is designed to provide students with a solid grounding in all areas of theatre studies including history, dramatic literature, performance, design, management, and technical theatre. Students who choose the Bachelor of Arts option often combine their work in theatre with work in other disciplines, are interested in graduate education focusing on research and scholarship, or are certifying to teach. Students interested in a B.A. in theatre will take classes in theatre laboratory, theatre history, stagecraft, and acting, as well as in other advanced subjects. Students, whether they are earning a B.A. or a B.F.A., who wish to be successful in theatre 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.

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

**GOVERNMENT, SERVICE,
 AND EDUCATION** Press Secretary
 Teacher
 Arts Organization Consultant University Professor
 Dance Instructor
 Campaign Manager
 Preservation
 Military Music Leader

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)

Julliard 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-Hayden 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 Non-Profit Theatres