

The image features a large, solid blue oval in the center, which serves as a container for the word "Theatre". The word is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font. The background is a light gray with a series of thin, concentric circles that create a sense of depth and movement. A thick, dark gray curved line sweeps across the lower left portion of the frame, adding a dynamic element to the composition.

Theatre

Performing

Stage

Television

Radio

Motion Picture

Video

Performing Employers

Community theaters

Regional theaters

Commercial theaters

Summer stock theaters

Dinner theaters

Children's theaters

Repertory companies

University theater groups

Touring companies

Industrial shows

Show groups

Amusement and theme parks

Television/film studios

Radio Stations

Nightclubs

Cabarets

Cruise lines

Acting conservatories

Public or community programs

Performing Strategies

Participate in acting workshops, courses, and seminars to get advice and experience and to make contacts with others in the field.

Join unions, (e.g., Actors Equity Union, or actors' guilds to stay abreast of opportunities and developments in the field).

Get as much acting experience as possible. Perform in school productions, community theater, summer stock, etc. to hone acting skills.

Pursue training through acting conservatories or mentoring from a drama coach.

Develop a wide range of skills, such as singing, dancing, or acrobatics to be more versatile.

Gain related experience by working in a college radio or television station.

Consider getting modeling experience.

Learn a foreign language and train with a dialect coach.

Prepare a professional resume that lists your acting experience. Have your resume attached to or printed on the reverse side of an 8" x 10" photograph of yourself.

Be prepared to make the rounds. Distribute your resume to numerous agencies and offices. Follow up with several personal visits.

Secure an agent or manager to help find jobs.

Be aware that more opportunities exist in large cities such as New York and Los Angeles.

Learn about the entertainment industry as a whole.

Take courses on entertainment law, business, management, etc.

An extensive network of contacts is essential. Get to know people working in your field and related areas.

Consider whether you want to pursue acting as a full-time job or as an avocational interest.

Directing

Direction

Technical direction

Casting

Set design

Stage management

Production

Dialect coaching

Dramaturgy

Support staff

Directing Employers

Theaters of varying types

Television and motion picture studios

Video production companies

Other performance venues

Directing Strategies

Seek formal training and experience in acting first.

Develop leadership skills through participation in campus and community organizations.

Gain both directing and technical experience by participating in college productions. Seek technical experiences in local theaters.

Participate in the Director's Guild Training Program.

Volunteer with directors in local theaters to become familiar with the environment. Serving as an assistant is a great way to get started in this area.

Experience with fund-raising is important. Volunteer to do this with local theaters and arts councils.

Learn what types of permits and insurance are needed to film or perform in certain areas.

Behind the Scenes

Stage management

Stage direction

Set design/construction

Costume design

Hair/Make-up

Special effects

Wardrobe

Prop management

Broadcast technology

Rigging

Electrical work

Carpentry/Scenic artistry

Behind the Scenes Employers

Community theaters

Regional theaters

Commercial theaters

Summer stock theaters

Dinner theaters

Children's theaters

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Public or community programs

Behind the Scenes Strategies

Learn to work well on a team.

Develop a sense of artistry and creativity.

Become involved in the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE). This organization can give you information about becoming an apprentice as well as help you make valuable contacts.

Get experience. Offer your services to school and local theaters.

Read industry magazines and books to learn about your area.

For sound design: Become familiar with computer technology as digital sound effects and electronic music replace traditional means of sound design.

Take courses in computers, math, and physics.

For costume design: Supplement your program with courses in art history and fashion design.

For set design: Take courses in architecture and design.

Learn about different eras in history in order to recreate on stage. A basic knowledge of history and architecture is helpful.

Writing

Scriptwriting

Playwriting

Screenwriting

Journalism

Publicity (press agents)

Research

Writing Employers

Theaters

Television/film studios

Television stations

Radio stations

Video production companies

Magazines

Newspapers

Freelance

Business

Producing

Management

Agents

Marketing and advertising

Fundraising and development

Coordination of volunteers

Administration of arts programs

Box office sales

Promotions

Patron services

Business Employers

Theaters

Arts councils

Television/film studios

Broadway

Road company productions

Regional theaters

Stock productions

Dinner theaters

Cabarets

Talent agencies

Advertising agencies

Art museums

Business Strategies

Secretarial/clerical positions in theaters and studios are often stepping-stones to other positions and a good way to make contacts.

Gain undergraduate training in business, public relations, communications, advertising, and theater.

Complete an internship in area of interest.

Develop skills in leadership, negotiation, budgeting, and fundraising.

Get as much experience on the college and local level as possible to develop a strong resume.

General Theatre Information

Complete an internship or an apprenticeship with a local theater. Participate in summer stock. Gain as much experience as possible.

Network: Talk with people working in the field to find out about jobs and opportunities. Join professional groups to make contacts.

Read newspapers and periodicals related to theater to keep up with new developments. Read the "trades"—magazines and newspapers that report events in the entertainment industry. Read the "Theater" section of daily newspapers to find out about upcoming productions.

Join a relevant union or guild to be eligible for work assignments.

Get involved with productions any way you can to get your foot in the door. Be prepared to do various tasks assigned by stage managers or producers.

Volunteer with fundraising efforts for the arts.

Be aware of scams. Check out the legitimacy of agencies and companies before paying any fees.

Relocate to a metropolitan area where more opportunities exist.

A career in the arts takes patience, dedication, and luck! Take advantage of unexpected opportunities!

Have a back-up plan. Understand that actors and directors may face frequent and long periods of unemployment. Develop skills that qualify you for other jobs while you wait for opportunities. Consider pairing theater with another career interest or major to open up more career possibilities. Many actors work in theater management or production.

Theater helps students develop verbal and written communication, public speaking, and teamwork skills. These transferable skills are valued by many types of employers. In particular, positions in sales, marketing, management, and public relations may be open to students with theater degrees. Learn how to discuss and demonstrate these skills in interviews.

There are many ways to be involved in theater arts while working in another career field if you choose not to pursue theater as your way to make a living.