

WHO'S WHO?

Theatre Careers

Actor	Actors create a character by interpreting the script in order to bring a play to life onstage. Most actors are highly skilled in many areas from singing to dance to swordplay.
Artistic Director	The Artistic Director (AD) of a theatre has a huge and very important role: this person oversees all of the creative processes at a theatre, from choosing which plays will be performed, to casting actors, assigning creative staff and supervising production. The AD must also keep a close eye on his or her theatre's budget, and must report to the theatre's Board of Directors. It is also the AD's job to make sure his or her theatre is serving the needs of its community. He or she must get people to come to the theatre, assist with raising funds and make the theatre an inviting place—all while maintaining the highest artistic standards in productions.
Box Office	A theatre's window to the audience, the Box Office Staff is responsible for selling tickets and making sales goals so that everyone gets to see the show.
Choreographer	Employed in musical theatre productions, these highly trained dancers are responsible for all dance. This includes not only creating routines that fit with the Director's vision for the piece, but also training the cast to perform the required steps.
Composer	A Composer writes all of the original music for a production. Music can take the form of actual songs or just incidental music which heightens the mood or action of a moment. The Composer works closely with the Director and also the Sound team to make sure all music and effects come together correctly.
Costume Designer	Taking their cues from the Director and from the script, a Costume Designer designs all of the clothes, hats, shoes—everything worn in a play. Depending on the time period of the piece, a costume designer may go shopping to outfit a play, but another option is designing totally new pieces. After consulting with the Director to create clothing that adequately reflects the production and each individual character, these new designs are then built by a theatre's costume shop.
Costume Shop	A theatre's Costume Shop employs a range of skilled artisans including drapers, stitchers and crafts people. Responsible for bringing the designers costumes to life, the costume shop builds everything from scratch and fits it perfectly to each individual actor.

Development	A theatre can't run without money, and the Development Department is responsible for just that. Development Associates work with individual funders and corporations to bring in the cash necessary to let the show go on.
Director	Directors are responsible for the completed world you see on stage. Taking cues from the script, a director oversees the entire vision of a play. Directors must keep in mind not only the creative aspects of a production, but also the practical aspects including available space, available personnel and budget constraints.
Dramaturg	A dramaturg compiles research into historical conditions, time period, theatrical styles and much, much more to assist actors and directors with putting a play together. Dramaturgs also work directly with playwrights to help develop new scripts.
Education	Working with both the backstage personnel and the community, theatre Education Departments work to bring information about the theatre process to the community. This department also supports teachers and students who come to productions and encourages theatre appreciation in all ages with workshops, special performances, lesson plans and other educational materials.
Hair/Wig Stylist	In this very specialized role, you would oversee the creation and maintenance of wigs for plays. This includes everything from any time period for both men and women. This person also is often in charge of styling/cutting hair for actors who are not wigged. It is important that actors look a very specific way during a production, so depending on the length of a run, this could mean several trims and dye jobs over the course of many weeks.
House Manager	In charge of the theatre during performances, a House Manager supervises ushers, controls equipment, maintains facilities and takes care of any emergencies.
Lighting Designer	Lighting Designers can make a dark theatre look like a warm sunny day or a violent rainstorm with their expertise in blending different lighting effects. Working with the director and the master electrician, Lighting Designers arrange the lighting to enhance the mood and action of a production.
Make-up Artist	Make-up Artists help create a character's look, in following with the designers' and director's vision. This can mean choosing the right shade of lipstick or creating a gruesome wound.

Managing Director	Along with the artistic director, the Managing Director reports directly to the Board of Directors. Responsible for maintaining the theatre's financial viability and records, this person oversees all management of the organization including finance, contracts, legal matters, staffing and human resources.
Marketing/ Public Relations	The Marketing and Public Relations department is responsible for getting the word out to the community about everything going on at a theatre. From advertising shows to promoting special events to running photo calls and interviews, this team makes sure everyone knows about the show. This department is usually also responsible for overseeing brochures, advertising and maintaining the theatre's website.
Master Electrician	The Master Electrician is responsible for arranging lighting equipment for each production at a theatre, and then running the lighting cues during shows. Electricians work closely with lighting designers to bring the design to life in a practical setting.
Playwright	A playwright is the author the play, writing the script alone or collaboratively with others, either from an original idea, adapted from a previously done work or adapted from real-life events. The playwright creates all the elements of a drama: characters, plot, setting, tone, theme, etc. It is then up to the creative team of directors and designers to make that world come to life.
Properties Manager	A Props Manager supervises the construction, repair and purchase of all props used in a production. Coordinating with designers and the director, the Props Manager supervises his or her staff to buy props, build custom pieces, make alterations to props during the rehearsal process and instruct actors on correct usage of props—all while staying within the show budget. A prop shop can be a fun place, since props can include anything from tables and chairs to giant flamingos and bottles of fake blood.
Scenic Artist	When sets are built, they are moved into the paint spaces where Scenic Artists paint everything from walls to murals. These skilled artists create amazing effects, such as turning a wood wall into faux brick or painting a portrait of an actor.
Scenic Construction	These skilled craftsmen are responsible for building the set to the designer's specifications. Trained in carpentry, metalwork and engineering, these people make the vision come to life.

Scenic Designer	A Scenic Designer is responsible for creating the visual world in which a play takes place. He or she will do research with the director (taking into account real-world logistics), then sketch out each different scene of the play to see what is needed, and finally, build a model of the set. The model and sketches become the blueprint set builders need to construct the actual pieces.
Sound Designer	From music to screeching tires to breaking glass, a Sound Designer is in charge of everything you hear on stage. Sound Designers must research and find appropriate music and effects, transfer them to a digital format, and work with the sound engineer to create all cues for the production.
Sound Engineer	From the sound board, the Sound Engineer runs all the sound during a production. From dialogue to music to special sound effects, this person is in charge of all sound cues.
Stage Manager	The Stage Manager is in control of the physical stage area during productions. Responsible for everything from calling cues to running scene changes to making sure actors are where they need to be, the stage manager is a major problem solver who keeps the show moving smoothly.
Technical Director	In charge of the whole technical team, the Technical Director is responsible for making sure a production comes together onstage. From scenery to electrics to paint, the Technical Director oversees everyone.
Wardrobe	The Wardrobe department is responsible for taking care of all of the clothing during the run of a production. This team dresses actors during scene changes, sees to any costume repairs and also launders all costumes.