

WORKSHOP: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Acting Opportunities

There are many careers that involve acting or acting skills and offer reasonable incomes. Granted, most actors would like to "hit the big time" and become stars. However, many take on more stable jobs to pay bills while seeking their big break on the side. There are those who love acting but decide to keep it a hobby while building another career altogether.

The following list of careers are typical jobs many actors will do at one time or another. Some offer lucrative salaries; some do not. Discuss the jobs as a class. Do you know what is meant by each? If not, take a moment to find out. Which jobs appeal to you? Which seem more like fun than work? Which seem more like work than fun? Which are easy and which are difficult? Can you see yourself doing any of these? After you have discussed the acting alternatives, answer the questions below.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> TV Commercial Actor | <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner Theatre | <input type="checkbox"/> Voice-over Talent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Movie Actor | <input type="checkbox"/> Murder Mystery | <input type="checkbox"/> Cartoon Voice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soap Opera Actor | <input type="checkbox"/> Play Actor | <input type="checkbox"/> Audio Books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newscaster | <input type="checkbox"/> Singing Telegrams | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrials / Educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disk Jockey | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Theatre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Model | <input type="checkbox"/> Master of Ceremonies | <input type="checkbox"/> Stand-up Comedy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Movie Extra | <input type="checkbox"/> Improv Actor | <input type="checkbox"/> Motivational Speaker |

1. In the spaces to the left of the job, rank them in the order of preference with 1 being the most preferred and 21 being the least preferred. Then think about your ranking. What motivated your choices? Was it ability, salary, or personal enjoyment? Maybe it was something else. Explain your reasoning below.

2. Can you think of other jobs that involve acting that are not on the list?

3. Which jobs do you think are hardest to get into? Why?

4. Which jobs do you think would offer an actor the most flexibility to attend auditions and rehearsals? Why?

Non-Theatre Jobs

There are many jobs that involve the skills you will learn in this class but have nothing or very little to do with theatre. Many involve being in front of large groups of people on a daily basis. Some involve being "a character" or being emotional. Others require the ability to move or speak as actors do. In small groups, discuss the answers to the following questions and write your answers in the space provided.

1. What are some of the primary skills students will learn in this class? Be specific.

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

2. List as many jobs as you can think of that involve these skills.

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

3. Pick one of the jobs listed above and explain specifically how theatre skills might help someone in this particular career.

4. Can you think of some jobs that do not involve any theatre skills?

5. Write an advertisement for this theatre class explaining the benefits for people interested in all types of careers. Be creative!

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Sample
Fictional Resume

Stephanie Franklin

Studio Talent, Inc.

123 Main • Dallas, Texas 75555

972-555-1234

Studiotalent@fiction.com

Brown eyes; brown hair

COMMERCIALS

Principle non-speaking

Visionmart

PLQ & Associates

Student

Republican Promotional

GH Productions

Principle speaking

Burger Hut

TRU Productions

FILM / TELEVISION

Witness

Police Academy Instructional

Film Bradore College Police Assoc.,

Extra / Diner

Case of the Missing Piano

Robert Boyce, director

Extra / Cheerleader

The Special Game

Clueless Productions

Debbie Charles

A Walk in the Rain

Gifford Productions

THEATRE

Stella Kowalski

A Streetcar Named Desire

Lake Bend High School

Doreen

Tartuffe

Bradore College Junior Camp

Tansy

The Nerd

Theatre off the Wall

Florence Unger

The Odd Couple, Female Version

Lakeside Teens

Katherine

Taming of the Shrew

Spotlight Productions

MUSICALS

Auntie Mame

Mame

Spotlight Productions

Assistant Director

Annie Get Your Gun

Spotlight Productions

The Wicked Witch

The Wizard of Oz

Bradore College Junior Camp

MISCELLANEOUS EXPERIENCE

Three years of experience singing telegrams, Blue Bunny Singers

Two seasons as "Genie," State Fair

One season as "ballerina," Children's Tent, State Fair

TRAINING

In second year of Associate of Fine Arts, Bradore College, acting scholarship.

Receiving specialized training in acting (Jim Caldwell) and stage makeup (Brodie Ballard).

Voice-over training by QZP Productions (Hugh Lory and Betty Simmons).

Seven years ballet with Dallas Children's Ballet and Dallas Choral Ballet.

SPECIAL SKILLS

Voice-over, various dialects/accents, fluent in French and Spanish, experienced ballet dancer, can juggle and do illusions, softball, ice hockey, and karate, dirt bike riding and various forms of stunt work. Member SAG, AFTRA, Actors Equity.

Career Projects

Project 1: Interview

Select someone who is either in the field of theatre or uses theatre skills on the job. Ask them as many questions as you like, but for this project, you must ask at least ten theatre-related questions. *Prepare your questions before you go in for the interview and be as professional as possible.* You may videotape the interview and present it to the class or write the results in essay form.

Project 2: Research Paper

Select one of the careers mentioned in this section and research it. Write a research paper on your findings *as the career relates to theatre.*

Project 3: Guest Speaker

Invite a guest speaker to the class for a twenty-minute question-and-answer session about his/her career and how it either relates to theatre or uses theatre skills. You will act as host to the speaker and sit with him/her at the front of the class. Be sure to prepare a complimentary introduction of your guest to the class. Have the class prepare questions in advance, and make sure that the speaking engagement is cleared through both your teacher and the school first.

Project 4: Website Poster

Create a poster advertising ten websites that would be helpful to students who may be trying to find jobs in theatre or alternative acting careers. Be neat and creative, and make sure everything is visible. Use caution about the appropriateness of the websites you advertise.