

*What can I do with a major in...*

# Theatre & Dance

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The key to the Bachelor of Arts program theatre is a combination of close faculty-student relationships and adherence to professional standards of quality on the stage and in the classroom. Academic course work reflects a balanced approach to the liberal arts theatre discipline by emphasizing the major areas of training: performance, design, technology, management, history, literature and theory. Within this broad framework, each student is given the opportunity to develop a major in theatre that corresponds to a student's particular interests and talents. Students have the opportunity to perform and to work on productions, thus learning different phases of the art.

Entry-level positions for graduates include jobs in areas that are directly theatrical (professional acting, directing, design, management) or for which undergraduate theatre/dance training is desirable (public recreation, elementary education, sales, public relations, etc.). Some graduates find their undergraduate major especially beneficial as a foundation for professional schools - law, social work, and business. In both instances, experience as well as advanced training beyond the undergraduate level is recommended.

The prospective theatre major should realize that employment is based on more than competent training. Talent remains the *sine quo non*, and both talent and training must be matched by equal portions of experience (whether paid or unpaid), persistence and circumstance.

The job titles and hiring institutions which follow are meant to give you an idea of the careers available to theatre majors, however many other possibilities also exist. You are encouraged to explore all career paths that interest you.

## POTENTIAL JOB TITLES

Actor, Actress	Media relations representative
Agent	Movement analyst
Arts manager	Museum manager
Audience services manager	Narrator
Audio-visual production specialist	Physical therapist
Choreographer	Play writer
Commercial artist	Performer
Communications manager	Public relations representative
Costume designer	Recreational therapist/specialist
<i>Dance:</i> instructor, therapist, dancer	Scene designer
<i>Director:</i> film, stage, television	Speech therapist
Director of communications	Set designer
Director of development	Sound designer
Drama critic	Special effects designer
Elementary school teacher	Stage manager
Fashion or textile designer	Technician
Graphic artist	Theatre manager
Interior designer	Ticket services manager

## REPRESENTATIVE HIRING INSTITUTIONS

Advertising firms	Children's theatres
Broadcast firms	Commercial art & photography firms

Community & civic theatres  
Dance companies  
Dance studios  
Dinner theatres  
Hospitals  
Industries - audio-visual work  
Government agencies  
Libraries

Museums  
Private arts foundations  
Professional theatres  
Publishing industry  
Recreation centers  
Regional theatres  
Sales organizations  
Schools & colleges

## WHERE DO UMW THEATRE & DANCE MAJORS GO?

### EMPLOYERS/INTERNSHIP SITES

- Bickford Theatre of the Morris Museum
- Virginia Ballet Company
- National Park Service – Wolftrap
- Rainmaker Studios
- Impressions of Fredericksburg

### GRADUATE SCHOOLS

- New York University, Master's degree in Performing Arts Administration
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Master of Fine Arts in Theatre

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

- 1) Actors Equity Association  
165 West 46th Street  
New York, NY 10036  
212-869-8530  
[www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org)
- 2) American Dance Guild  
P.O. Box 2001, Canal Street Station  
New York, NY 10013  
212-932-2789  
[www.americandanceguild.org](http://www.americandanceguild.org)
- 3) American Dance Therapy Association  
10632 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 108  
Columbia, MD 21044  
410-997-4040  
[www.adta.org](http://www.adta.org)
- 4) Dance/USA  
1111 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Ste. 300  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-833-1717  
[www.danceusa.org](http://www.danceusa.org)
- 5) Dramatists Guild of America  
1501 Broadway, Suite 701  
New York, NY 10036  
212-398-9366  
[www.dramatistsguild.com](http://www.dramatistsguild.com)
- 6) Intl. Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees & Moving Picture Techs, Artists & Allied Crafts of U.S. & Canada IATSE, 1430 Broadway, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10018  
212-730-1770  
[www.iatse-intl.org](http://www.iatse-intl.org)
- 7) Intl. Radio & Television Society Fdn.  
420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 1601  
New York, NY 10170  
212-867-6650  
[www.irts.org](http://www.irts.org)
- 8) Theatre Communications Group  
520 Eighth Avenue, 24<sup>th</sup> FL  
New York, NY 10018-4156  
212-609-5900  
[www.tcg.org](http://www.tcg.org)

*\*The Office of Career Services also maintains a resource library with a variety of books and other printed material where students can access additional information about their major or field of interest. Visit us in Lee Hall, Room 308 to learn more.*