

# Careers in the Performing Arts Classroom Guide



Careers in the Performing Arts with *Frost/Nixon*



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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
& EDUCATION



PlayhouseSquare and WVIZ/PBS ideastream® thank Mr. & Mrs. David T. Morgenthaler for their support of distance learning initiatives at the Idea Center® at PlayhouseSquare.

# CAREERS IN THE PERFORMING ARTS:

## The Ultimate Collaborative Profession

Whether it's a theater show, dance performance, or music concert, a performing arts production cannot exist without the contribution of many key players with a variety of skills and backgrounds. You don't have to be a trained actor, singer, dancer, or musician to have a career in the performing arts. Performers are just *one* side of the business.

- **Interested in art, graphics, interior design, fashion, cosmetology, or architecture?** You're a designer! Performing arts productions need set, prop, and lighting designers, builders, costumers, and wig and make-up stylists. Designers create the visual world of the show. Knowledge and skills in art and construction are helpful.
- **Interested in finance, entrepreneurship, and decision-making?** You're a producer! Producers manage the financial aspects of a production. They supervise the creation and development process of scripts and other new works. Producers hire artistic and business staff, oversee salaries, handle managers, union representatives, agents, and negotiate legal processes regarding contracts, licensing, copyright laws, and royalties.
- **Interested in creative writing, story telling, history, or literature?** You're a writer! Playwrights and screenwriters create the original stories that make our favorite films, plays, and TV shows. Dramaturges, historians, and journalists study and present the different techniques and trends of performing art productions.
- **Interested in technology and mechanics?** You're a theatrical engineer! You get to create the production's special effects, like pyrotechnics, the flying in a performance of *Peter Pan* or the chandelier falling in *The Phantom of the Opera*. Sound engineers design how music and sound effects reverberate in the performance space. Electricians are in charge of lighting the space.
- **Interested in team managing, organization, and communications?** You're a stage manager! Stage managers are responsible for keeping the actors, technicians, dancers, musicians, and engineers on track during the run of a performance. They are involved from the beginning of rehearsals and keep track of every single production detail. They are the communication bridge between the artistic staff and the production staff. They keep the rehearsal and production schedule on track. They are the eyes, ears, and brain of a production and are responsible for everything that happens and needs to happen on stage.
- **Interested in public relations, marketing, and sales?** What good is a performing arts production if there is no audience to share it with? It's your job to advertise and sell the performance, to get an audience excited about the production.
- **Interested in teaching, community service, and youth outreach?** You're a director of education! These days, most performing arts companies have education departments that work with schools, youth clubs, and different community organizations to introduce students to the world of the performing arts through productions and workshops with teaching artists.

Of course there are many **additional careers in the performing arts**. Be a composer, lyricist, conductor, arranger, teacher, vocalist, performer in the orchestra or band. Be a dancer, choreographer, actor, director, puppeteer!

**For information on Performing Arts job descriptions, salaries and training needed, go to the Vocational Information Center:** [www.khake.com/page48.html](http://www.khake.com/page48.html)

**For information on Performing Arts careers go to the following United States Department of Labor websites:**

Dancers & Choreographers: [www.bls.gov/oco/ocos094.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos094.htm)

Musicians, Singers, & Related Occupations: [www.bls.gov/oco/ocos095.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos095.htm)

Actors, Producers, & Directors: [www.bls.gov/oco/ocos093.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos093.htm)

Motion Picture & Video Industry: [www.bls.gov/oco/cg/cgs038.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/cg/cgs038.htm)

Arts Entertainment & Recreation: [www.bls.gov/oco/cg/cgs031.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/cg/cgs031.htm)

## **EDUCATION CAN LEAD TO...**

Case Western Reserve University MFA graduate Rich Sommers is one of the stars of the AMC hit TV show MAD MEN.

Lakeland Community College graduate Mary Verdi-Fletcher is the principal dancer and founder of DANCING WHEELS.

University of Akron graduate Gary Adams plays tuba with the Cleveland Orchestra.

Kent State University graduate Alice Ripley won the 2009 Best Actress Tony for NEXT TO NORMAL.

Cleveland State University graduate Rick Smith Jr. is an entertainment agency owner and Magician Extraordinaire who got his start juggling for the ST. IGNATIUS HIGH SCHOOL CIRCUS COMPANY.

Oberlin graduate Julie Taymore is a designer and director of film, opera and stage productions, including Disney's THE LION KING.

Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory graduate Jill Paice has performed on Broadway, London's West End and in national tours.

The Ohio State University graduate James Thurber was an author, cartoonist and Tony Award Winning playwright.

Ohio Wesleyan graduate, Robert E. Lee is a Peabody Award winning playwright with a key to the city of Cleveland.

Cleveland State University graduate Teddy Hayes is a producer, performer, screenwriter and playwright.

## **OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS**

K-12 Fine Arts Standard

### **Connections, Relationships and Applications**

Students connect and apply learning in each arts discipline to other academic disciplines and to relevant careers. They recognize the importance of lifelong learning and experiences in the arts.

Technology Standard

### **Standard 4: Technology and Communication Applications**

Students use an array of technologies and apply design concepts to communicate with multiple audiences, acquire and disseminate information and enhance learning.

## **DISTANCE LEARNING (DL)**

Want to **get up close and personal** performing artists including Broadway actors, dancers, directors, composers, designers, choreographers, or producers?

The **magic of technology will transport you to PlayhouseSquare** and let you chat, face-to-face, with some of theater's best and brightest.

How?

PlayhouseSquare and WVIZ/PBS ideastream® distance learning programs use a computer network, video, audio, computer, multimedia communications, or a combination of these along with other traditional methods to bring you right into the studio where **these master artists will speak to you personally and answer your questions.**

DL programs allow the source of the information and the learners to be separated by distance, yet interact in real time!

The discussion with master artists is sent LIVE to classrooms anywhere that has a DL connection. This technology allows conversation and discussion between the artists and participants, even though they are in different locations. The artists can see and hear the participants and visa versa. All sights and sounds are easily picked up by the cameras and microphones, and then transmitted to all of the sites in the session. The session is an interactive, participatory, educational opportunity and **YOU ARE THERE!**

Since the sessions are *live*, of course, there are certain...

### **Distance Learning Etiquette Guidelines**

#### **DO...**

Read all material and follow directions sent by PlayhouseSquare and ideastream.

Know what the subject of the discussion is and prepare, *in advance*, questions to ask the speaker. Participation is encouraged!

Listen to and follow the technician's directions in regards to using the microphone, where to sit and where the camera is.

Remember that the participants in remote locations can see and hear you and you can see and hear them.

Keep your site's microphone on "mute" at all times except when you are called on to ask a question.

Dress appropriately.

Be courteous to other participants.

Turn off any pagers, cell phones, and other noise making devices.

Introduce yourself when you start speaking.

Speak clearly in your normal voice, shouting is not necessary.

Move and gesture naturally, but keep body movements to a minimum.

Maintain eye contact by looking into the camera.

## **DON'T...**

Drop things, cough, shuffle papers, tap the floor, table or chair, move desks and chairs, or make other superfluous sounds.

Conduct side conversations or whisper.

Eat or drink during a session.

Make distracting sounds or movements.

Interrupt other speakers.

Wear noisy jewelry.

Call out, as you might in a regular classroom.

Cover, tap on, or rustle papers near the microphone.

REMEMBER...**all** participants are “present” at the same time. Everyone can hear and see *everything*...even though they are in different locations. **Smile...you're on camera!**

So...Take part in a VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP, explore CAREERS IN THE PERFORMING ARTS from the comfort of your school, as technology takes you to PlayhouseSquare to **meet and greet the artists**.

## **KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL DISTANCE LEARNING EXPERIENCE**

- Most video conferencing systems (also called DL) require the following equipment: a monitor, camera, microphone, speaker, and a means of transmission (IP connectivity).
- IP (Internet Protocol) has become the standard platform used by schools today in connecting to other sites. Another transmission platform is an ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) line or over IP (Internet Protocol) lines.
- In the past, many video conferences used ISDN lines; however, many people are now using IP connections due to cost savings. In order to connect two units using different transmission methods or to connect two or more sites a bridge (computer) must be used that will handle these protocols. eTech/Ohio provides the bridging services for the majority of schools in Ohio.
- Class DL equipment should be turned on 20 minutes prior to the beginning of your session.
- eTech/Ohio will begin making the connections approximately 15-20 minutes prior to the start of each program.
- Placing a video call is similar to placing a telephone call. After you connect, you will see and hear the other person on a TV monitor or display. Connecting one site to another site is referred to as a point-to-point connection. Connecting one site to two or more remote sites is a multi-point connection.
- All schools will have the opportunity to ask questions of our guests.
- In order to avoid audio problems, all sites are requested to keep microphones on “mute” during the presentation.
- Schools will be called upon during the question and answer period for their comments. When your student is called on to ask question, you can activate your microphone.

- After the student has completed his or her question, please return to the mute status.
- If you have technical difficulties during the connection, contact eTech/Ohio at 877-843-3640 to report the problem. Do not call WVIZ/PBS ideastream.

***THE NEW MEL BROOKS MUSICAL YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN***

To find out more about the show, visit:

The Official Website – [www.YoungFrankensteinTheMusical.com](http://www.YoungFrankensteinTheMusical.com)

The Study Guide – [www.youngfrankensteinthemusical.com/media/downloads/YoungFrankenstein-StageNotes.pdf](http://www.youngfrankensteinthemusical.com/media/downloads/YoungFrankenstein-StageNotes.pdf)

PlayhouseSquare's Buzz Extra Online Newsletter – [www.playhousesquare.org/buzzextra](http://www.playhousesquare.org/buzzextra)