

Robert R. McComsey Career Development Center



Careers In...Performing Arts

Alfred University
Alfred NY 14802

Phone: 607-871-2164

Fax: 607-871-2791

www.alfred.edu/cdc - cdc@alfred.edu

Hours: 8:30-4:30 Monday-Friday

Walk-in hours: 1:00-4:30 Tues., Wed., and Thurs.

The Industry

The Performing Arts department offers a major in Theatre and minors in Dance, Music and Theatre. Each year there are four major productions and many additional opportunities where students gain experience with acting, directing, producing, writing, building, designing, stage management, and crew supervision. The Theatre major prepares students for a wide range of theatre-related occupations or to enter graduate schools. Besides performance, Performing Arts students find work in administration and management of arts-related organizations.

Sample Job Titles

- Actor/Actress
- Event organizer
- Agent
- Arts administrator
- Broadcaster
- Opera house manager
- Development director
- Arts education manager
- Playhouse manager
- Art director
- Technical theatre supervisor
- Recording engineer
- Art/music therapist
- Critic
- Dance instructor
- Costumer
- Set/stage designer
- Dramatic coach
- Teacher
- Curator
- Merchandise display coordinator
- Photographer
- Fashion coordinator
- Film director
- Stage manager
- Box office manager
- Narrator
- Choreographer
- Advisor (plays, music)
- Music librarian

Our Graduates...Where Are They Now?

Within the past few years, graduates have obtained employment as...

Festival Coordinator – Aliquippa Alliance for Unity & Development

Shop Carpenter – Yale University – School of Drama

Production Assistant – VH1 Productions

Intern, Make-up Department – Julliard School of Music

Stage Manager – Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre

Assistant Stage Manager – Pocket Opera

Manager – Equinox International

Actor – National Shakespeare Group
Costume Production – Evet-Halene Studio
Music Teacher – Public School

...and have gone to graduate school at:

Northeastern University (History)
Academy of Art University (Motion Pictures and Television)
Eastern New Mexico University (Broadcasting Communications)
New England School of Law (Law)
Swedish Massage Institute (Massage Therapy)
Mankato State University (Theatre Arts/Design)
Fashion Institute of Technology (Fashion Design)

Alumni who graduated several years ago are currently employed as:

Managing Director – Pope Theatre Company
Graphic Designer – Fine Host Corporation
Consultant/Psychotherapist – Lesley College
QA Lead – Stainless Steele Studios

Get experience on campus

Try to get involved on campus in activities or organizations related to your area of interest. For example, if your dream is to work in theater production, volunteer, or apply, to serve as producer for many of the performing arts events to build your portfolio. Some campus organizations, clubs, or offices through which you can gain relevant experience include:

- Pirate Theater
- Friday Night Live
- Alfred A Cappella Society
- Alfred Steppas
- Alternative Cinema
- Art Union
- AU Dancer's Union
- King Alfred Jesters
- Mosaic Theater Troupe

Where to go from here?

- Individual career counseling for anything from choosing a major to getting a job
- Saxon JobLink web services (www.alfred.edu/cdc) to view jobs and internships, post a resume and more
- Saxon Career Volunteer network – speak to alumni in your field
- Choices CT computerized program for searching graduate schools
- Web resources: The American Association of Community Theater at www.aact.org or www.entertainmentcareers.net