

2012 RTSF Apprentice Company Auditions/Interviews

Open to undergraduate, graduate students or others seeking a full-time professional experience in the areas of acting, directing and stage management. Contract period May 15-July 8. All apprentices receive \$75/wk + housing for non-locals. Training includes frequent master classes with company members and guest artists; previous classes include scansion, understudying, yoga, Suzuki movement, auditioning, classical monologues, musical theatre, and a Fitzmaurice voice series. Apprentices typically work a humane 50 hours per week; during the two weeks of technical rehearsals, hours expand to 70 or more, but the two weeks following balance that exception with a substantial reduction in hours.

Apprentice Opportunities

Actors (8) - perform in both Green Shows and one Mainstage show, understudy, work regularly in either costume or scene shop, perform production assignment for one Mainstage show, participate in rep changeovers; participate in Apprentice Showcase. EMC points available.

Director (1) - assist the directors on Mainstage shows, coach understudy actors, participate in changeovers and perform one production assignment; assistant direct the Green Show; direct the Apprentice Showcase.

Stage Manager (1) - assist Equity stage manager during rehearsals, act as PA during run, stage manage both Green Shows and the Apprentice Showcase; EMC points available.

How/When to Apply

All applicants please include email and phone contact for two academic or professional references.

Actors - 1) photo/resume 2) personal audition in Iowa City on Saturday, February 4, 2012 or by a link to a video posted online and received by the same date. Monologue requirements: two contrasting monologues, one classical and one contemporary, no more than 3 minutes total.

Directors, Stage Managers – resume; letter detailing qualifications. A personal interview in Iowa City on or before February 4 is highly recommended. Final candidates who have been unable to interview in person will be interviewed by phone.

Deadline: all application components must be received by Saturday, February 4, 2012. Call 319-338-7672 beginning January 9 to schedule auditions/interviews in Iowa City; an alternate date prior to February 4 may be requested, but is not assured. Questions? Contact artistic@riversidetheatre.org.

RTSF Apprentices Talk about their Experiences!

Chad Bay, '10 (company member '11)

Chicago/UW-Parkside graduate

It's hard to add up all the wonderful benefits of an internship with Riverside Theatre. During my summer I had the chance to work on stage and off, in rehearsals, at the scene shop, and just about everywhere in between. The company's group of dedicated artists' focus was on the ensemble, and on education - and that made all the difference. I felt like I was an essential piece of the creative puzzle.

Katie Becker, '07

Abingdon, Va. (Barter Theatre)/Coe College graduate

The acting apprenticeship with RTSF provides a smooth transition from the academic to the professional world. Within two months, I became part of a professional company and, more importantly, part of a theatrical community. My technical skills sharpened my work in the costume shop, my knowledge of the theatre world expanded through conversations with company members and the classes offered, and my approach to acting became more professional. I am indebted to Riverside Theatre for my positive experience that summer.

Marianna Caldwell, '06

NYC/St. Ambrose University graduate

My experience with RTSF not only built my skills as an actor, but as a costume designer, company member, marketer, and all around artist. The company made our work as apprentices seem invaluable, and went out of their way to encourage and help us. Working on Mainstage productions with professionals was an incredible opportunity for a young actor, and a great doorway into how the professional world runs. The RTSF apprenticeship is a well-rounded experience for becoming a well-rounded artist.

Margo Chervony, '09

Chicago/Case Western Reserve University graduate

From the moment I arrived, I knew I was viewed as an indispensable part of the company, and the theater quickly became a home for me. All the work that was required of me became a joy to perform, and getting to act on a professional stage under the stars at this early point in my career was incredible in itself. I learned so much at Riverside, both in practice and as a student of the amazing theatre artists who donated their time to us.

Andrew Clancey, '10

University of Iowa graduate

I could not have predicted how much this experience would teach me about being a theatre artist. The workshops were all great opportunities to work with fascinating artists and gain a well-rounded crash course in being a professional actor. I felt like I grew exponentially as a person and as an actor. I was quickly welcomed into a friendly company of people always willing to talk about anything: professional life, acting, yoga tips, whatever!

Joseph Curnutte, '04

NYC/ graduate of Cornell College and Actors Theatre of Louisville Apprentice Program

The RTSF apprenticeship gave me my first Shakespeare experience. And a joyous one it was. From watching how the professional actors prepare, I learned the discipline that it takes to be a success. Through our weekly classes, I found techniques elemental to the performance of Shakespeare. Our understudy assignments allowed us to delve more deeply into character study. I grew significantly as a young artist.

Isaac Durand, '09

Yale University graduate

At RTSF, I had the opportunity to work one-on-one with three different professional directors and experience firsthand how a professional theater company operates. I felt that I was making an important contribution to the Festival while simultaneously expanding my understanding of the art of directing and of theater in general and I had an incredible amount of fun along the way. The directors I assisted mentored me throughout the summer, and I know I can and will turn to them for advice in the future. Everyone from the actors in the professional company to the box office staff made me feel at home and respected.

Jonathan Feld, '08

Simpson College graduate

Riverside Theatre's apprenticeship is a wonderful stepping stone for any young artist looking to break into the professional world of theatre. Everyone is so dedicated and hard working, it is truly inspiring. Most of all, Riverside Theatre is a bright and shining example of what a theatre company should be - where artists can come together and learn and share with each other while their work culminates into wonderful theatre.

Kersten Haile, '10

Millikin University graduate

I can hardly put into words the wonderful gifts that this apprenticeship gave me. This is an experience that helps young professionals to grow as artists, but more importantly as human beings. We are given the tools to succeed. I am forever grateful to Riverside for this opportunity and for the continual stretching and growing that this experience provided for me.

Alec Hynes, '11

Cornell College

Riverside Theatre has BIG heart and pulses with magic – and as an integral part of both the crew and company, apprentices experience that magic to the fullest. I learned a tremendous amount understudying, working alongside skilled designers in the shops, and acting on the Green Show and Festival Stage. Additionally, intensive master classes ranging from movement to classical text work led me to discoveries about myself as an actor, as a student, as a person. The experience was educational, artistically fulfilling, and absolutely unforgettable.

Jacob Perkins, '09

University of Minnesota

Riverside Theater provided me with my first professional theater credit, and I thoroughly enjoyed my time there. I worked with an extraordinary company, developed contacts which I hope to use in the future, and challenged myself in areas I had never explored. The setting for the summer festival is absolutely gorgeous, and I loved working in such an inviting and beautiful space.

Kayla Prestel, '09

Cornell College

The RTSF apprenticeship not only met my expectations, it far exceeded them. Apart from reveling in the diverse community of Iowa City and enjoying my lovely host home, the journey led me to discover exciting new skills, priceless knowledge, unique experiences and lasting relationships. I felt the company welcomed me with open arms into a safe haven for creating. With gratitude to Riverside Theatre, I have the confidence and tools necessary to pursue a career in the Theater Arts.

Zoe Sigman, '11

Chicago/Cornell College graduate

Working at Riverside offered me the opportunity to fall in love with theatre again. The people I worked with allowed their passion for their craft come through in every aspect of the summer. I learned more in eight weeks than I thought possible, from some of the most talented theatre professionals I've met. It was an experience I'll never forget.

Amanda Thomm, '11

Minneapolis/ UW-Parkside graduate

I feel incredibly fortunate to have had the opportunity to apprentice at Riverside Theatre. It was very refreshing and exhilarating, being in an environment where the creativity and talents of each person is nurtured. The information I took away from the individuals in our classes, shops and rehearsals was tremendous.

Emily Wall, '10

Chicago/U Nebraska-Lincoln graduate (company member '11)

My experience as a stage manager with the Riverside Theatre Shakespeare Festival was absolutely invaluable. Not only did I get a chance to work in a professional setting but I was treated like a professional and expected to perform like one. The connections I formed and the friends that I made have forever shaped me as a theatre practitioner. I was given the opportunity this past summer to put to use the stage management skills I already had and acquire new skills through working closely with the Festival Production Stage Manager. Moving away from home and working a summer contract was a great opportunity for those of us looking to do regional theatre in the future.

Bethany Woodard, '07

Chicago/Knox College graduate

The directing apprenticeship with RTSF was an amazingly positive experience, as well as an excellent professional credit. Not only did I get to learn by watching multiple directors craft

multiple projects, I was given the opportunity to work directly with cast members to help shape certain scenes and characters. I was immediately treated with respect, trust and eventually friendship by the company members. These remarkable professionals created a safe environment in which to learn by doing. My time at Riverside has helped me make contacts from around the country, and to be more aware of regional theatre at large.

Jeff Worden, '05

NYC/University of Iowa graduate

Not only is the apprentice program a great way to actually get your foot in the door of an Equity playhouse, but to actually be around working actors from New York, Chicago, and elsewhere was a whole new learning experience in itself. The amount of the business and craft that you can soak up is just fantastic.