What to do with a degree in ... **THEATRE**

If you are questioning your career options or what others like you are doing with their degree, this guide is a good place to start. It will provide you with industry-specific information on careers, schools, associations, labour market information, and more.

**Career & Leadership Development Centre**

dal.ca/cldc
Overview of Major and Job options

Why take Theatre?

A degree in theatre has lots to offer as it can encompass so much. Whether your passion is for acting, directing, playwriting, analyzing theatre or film, costume design or construction, scenic design or carpentry, lighting, sound, props, stage management, or studying the history of theatre, a theatre degree can get you started in the right direction. [Dalhousie Theatre Department]

A theatre degree gives you the perfect foundation to pursue a wide range of careers both in the arts and outside. The career options available to you will likely depend on your area of focus, transferable skills, and career goals. When considering where to start keep in mind any significant projects you were involved in, internships, personal strengths, past employment, and other background information that may guide you.

If you want to pursue a job in theatre keep in mind that a theatre degree will not guarantee a job in the field. However, the skills you gain throughout your education will make you more competitive within the field. Jobs you can pursue within theatre span a wide range. They include:

- Director
- Playwright
- Actor or Performer
- Props
- Sound Technician
- Box Office Manager
- Choreographer
- Agent
- Composer
- Stage Manager
- Publicist
- Producer
- Costume Designer
- Make-Up Artist
- Set Designer
- Carpenter
- Marketing Director
- Arts Journalist

Keep in mind that many theatre professionals, especially actors, benefit from having an agent. An agent will help locate jobs and develop your career, but will require a cut of your earnings.

A theatre degree can also lead to employment outside the field. Jobs outside of the theatre field can have more stable hours, steady work, and can pay more. The transferable skills you learned during your education act as a guide to the jobs you can pursue. These skills include:

- Oral Communication
- Working Under Pressure
- Creative Thinking
- Collaboration and Teamwork
- Self-Confidence
- Project Management
- Working Within a Budget
- Presentation Skills
- Being Persuasive

Many theatre graduates seek additional education after their degree. By doing so they can better target a specific area of employment that pairs well with their degree. Whether you seek a graduate degree, undergraduate degree or certificate program additional education can opens up a variety of other options. Here are some options available to a theatre graduate who has completed additional training:

- Teacher
- Sales Manager
- News Reporter
- Marketing Director
- Counsellor
- Web Developer
- Consultant
- HR Manager
- 3D Animator

With the plethora of options you can go it can be hard to know where to start when looking for a career. It would be of value to try out as many different jobs, positions, and experiences to help discover what you are good at and enjoy. This will help point you in the right direction when looking for a career path.
Opportunities in Your Program

Study Abroad - Study in Český Krumlov in Baroque culture at one of two fully functional Baroque theatres in the world.

Join a School Production - You will be given the chance to participate in up to four productions a year.

Research - The Performing Arts Research Forum is an informal setting where our faculty, students, and visiting scholars can present research in progress.

Opportunities at School

Involvement in extra curricular activities will make you a more competitive candidate for positions in your field. It will also give you the chance to focus on any specialties you are interested in. There are many different avenues you can pursue to help you develop these experiences. Consider joining a program like the ones listed below:

-Dalhousie Theatre Society
-Dalhousie University Fashion Design Show
-DALConnects
-Dal Jam

The Dalhousie Co-curricular record (CCR) is a great way to track your extra-curricular involvement and display it for employers. Visit dal.ca/scr to learn more.

Summer Jobs and Volunteer Work

Summer jobs and volunteer work are another great way to develop experience. They also give you the chance to develop specialties and discover what you like in a job and what you dislike. Even if your summer job doesn’t directly relate to your field you can focus on building transferable skills. Check out these great resources:

Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP)
A program that provides post-secondary students with experience related to their field of study.

Talent Egg
This website provides postings for internships, co-ops, volunteer opportunities and entry level jobs.

Volunteer Halifax
A posting board where non-profits in Halifax post their volunteer opportunities and positions.

Fusion Halifax
A resource linking local organizations with young people.

Professional Associations & Conferences

Joining professional associations are a great way to meet, learn from and network with professionals in your field of interest. If you would like to pursue a membership student discounts are often available. Below is a sample listing of professional associations that may be worth examining.

Canadian Association for Theatre Research
http://catract.ca/

ACTRA
http://www.actra.ca/
Undergraduate Program

Dalhousie is ready to foster an artistic partnership with you – one that will lead to a successful career. Whether your passion is for acting, directing, costume design or anything in between, there is something for you.

Get out of your seat with a course in dance and movement. Create clothing from any period in history. Learn about film editing or art direction. Get spontaneous with an improv course. Get hands on in a lab for set construction, props, lighting and sound. Bring out your inner Shakespeare with a course in playwriting. These are just a few of the many course options available to Theatre students.

Students from different streams of study collaborate with each other and with nationally and internationally renowned directors and designers to present four Fountain School of Performing Arts plays each year.

Dalhousie offers four different BA Honours in Theatre degrees. Each degree is four years in length

- Acting
- Costume Studies
- Technical Theatre
- Theatre Studies

There are also many options for taking a theatre major, minor, combined degree or electives.

Why Study Here?

- Enjoy excellent facilities including two performance spaces.

- Choose between a full range of theatre-related subjects, including costume, technical scenography, dramaturgy, directing, playwriting, acting and film.

- Our faculty have years of academic and professional expertise that they can communicate to you.

Prepare for a career in professional theatre by participating in up to four productions a year.

[Dalhousie Theatre webpage]
There are many other established theatre programs in Canada and abroad. A great resource for examining post-secondary programs is Career Cruising. Career Cruising can be accessed through your Dalhousie MyCareer profile or by visiting the Career & Leadership Development Centre. Below are some notable theatre programs:

**University of Toronto**
Location: Toronto, Ontario
BA, MA, PhD
Subject areas: Theatre, Drama, Performance Studies, Canadian Theatre History, Shakespeare, and Playwriting.

**York University**
Location: Toronto, Ontario
BA, MA, PhD
Subject areas: Acting, Devised Theatre, Playwriting and New Play Dramaturgy, and Production and Design.

**University of British of Columbia**
Location: Vancouver, British Columbia
BA, MA, PhD
Subject areas: Stage Acting, Technical Production, Costume Design, Scenery, Lighting, Stage Management, and History of Theatre.

**Laval University**
Location: Quebec City, Quebec
BA, MA, PhD
Subject areas: Text Analysis, History of Theatre, Dramaturgy, and Staging

**University of Guelph**
Location: Guelph, Ontario
BA, MA, PhD
Subject areas: dramatic literature, theatre history, criticism, theory, directing, acting, dramaturgy, design, technical theatre, playwriting, screenwriting, and media studies.
Labour Market Information

Given the broad array of directions you can take a theatre degree it is difficult to choose a specific sector to analyze the job outlook. So to begin it is important to first identify the sectors that history students work in. Looking at LinkedIn statistics on Dalhousie alumni in appears that most alumni end up in the following fields:

- Arts and Design
- Media and Communication
- Education
- Entrepreneurship
- Operations
- Sales
- Consulting
- Administrative
- Marketing
- Support
- Human Resources
- Project Management

Projections

The following Labour Market Information (LMI) was taken from jobbank.gc.ca. It represents the 2013-2015 projection period. For more LMI on other jobs within your field click on 'Explore Careers'. If you search by occupations or education program then click on outlook for specific LMI.

Undetermined

Unfortunately because of the small arts industry in Nova Scotia many job outlooks cannot be predicted this includes: producers, directors, choreographers, musicians, signers, actors, comedians, dancers, and other performers.

Good Outlook (3 out of 3 stars)

The best career outlooks for individuals with a theatre degree are in sales. Sales positions with a good outlook include retail salesperson, sales clerk, wholesale trade representative, and retail trade supervisors.

If you were to pair your degree with some additional training other industries with a good outlook are the health sector, and IT. In the health sector jobs such as LPNs, RPNs, and patient service associates are given a good outlook. In the IT sector, jobs such as software tester, and systems tester are given a good outlook while network technicians and support technicians are given a fair outlook.

Fair Outlook (2 out of 3 stars)

Jobs for theatre majors in Nova Scotia with a fair outlook include; recreation directors, event planners, public relations and communications, education, social services and many legal related jobs.

Limited Outlook (1 out of 3 stars)

For fields with a limited outlook within Nova Scotia jobs include; technical, co-ordinating and supporting occupations, in motion pictures, broadcasting and the performing arts, journalists, and editors.
Online

MyCareer - https://mycareer.dal.ca/
A resource for Dalhousie students to connect with jobs, employers and career related events on campus.

TalentEgg - tallentegg.ca
A great website to find internships, student jobs, and entry level positions. You can also find great advice and career guides. In addition to this, TalentEgg has challenges to help young people build transferable skills.

Tiger Society - https://tigersociety.dsu.ca/
This site lists all Dalhousie Societies and information about them. You can register to join a society through this site.

Career Beacon - careerbeacon.com
Provides job listings and corporate profiles with a strong presence in Nova Scotia and other Maritime Provinces. It can be a great resource for identifying what jobs are in your field and what skills employers are looking for.

Career Cruising - careercruising.com (log on available through MyCareer)
A comprehensive website that provides information to help you make informed choices about your career path.

Employment and Social Development Canada - National Occupational Classification
Contains occupational information and is used to find jobs that exist within Canada's labour market.

Print

So You Want to Be a Theatre Director? (2007). Stephen Unwin
The Canadian Student & Grad Job Search Directory. Sentor Media inc.

All books are located within the Dalhousie Career & Leadership Development Centre.

Other

Career Counselling - Dalhousie - Student Union Building 4th Floor
This free service is a confidential and collaborative process in which you work with a career counsellor who assists you in your educational and career decision-making

Career & Leadership Development Centre - Dalhousie - Student Union Building 4th Floor
This resource centre can provide you with all the career tools and resources you need. Drop in for assistance with resumes, cover letters, interviewing and more.

DALConnects - Leadership Program - dal.ca/dalconnects
This program will connect you with leadership opportunities and workshops.
**Sample Job Ad**

**SPONSORSHIP & ADVERTISING COORDINATOR**  
Position: Full Time  
Salary: $42,000-52,000  
Hours: 40

Reporting to the Manager, Arts, Culture & Theater, this role is to develop, enhance and implement the Arts and Culture sponsorship and donor activities using business development principles to achieve targeted revenues for the theatre, shows and arts and culture programming.

**Duties**

• Use business development strategies and techniques to develop/revise, implement and monitor sponsorship activities.

• Enhance, develop, cultivate and liaise with business partners to retain year over year sponsorships.

• Develop sales strategies and programs to attract advertising clients for various Arts & Culture opportunities.

• Develop key performance indicators and appropriate and realistic revenue targets for the designated Arts and Culture programming.

• Prepare quarterly reports highlighting the success of each campaign.

• Actively collaborate with management, marketing and sales team, theatre experience team, box office team and arts and culture team.

• Supervise and guide part-time employees to achieve business development and business relationship objectives in meeting division and section goals and objectives.

**Qualifications & Skills**

• Post-secondary Degree

• Experience in fundraising and sponsorship program initiatives or Arts and Culture Theatre experience in a Sales & Marketing role.

• Demonstrated achievement of target goals through the use of creative, and innovative approaches to business development and retention.

• Knowledge of the theatre’s strategic goals, the Recreation and Culture Division mandate and goals, as well as the Arts and Culture section mandate and objectives.

• Experience recruiting and supervising part-time staff.

• Proven leadership skills and the ability to work collaboratively in a team environment.

• Superior written and verbal skills.

• Ability to work weekends and holidays when/as required.

• Computer skills, including Microsoft software and other, commensurate with job requirements.

• Marketing skills you can hone through volunteering or by doing an internship.

• Teamwork skills you can build in a school society or sports team.

• List any leadership roles, maybe developed in a part-time job, school production, or class project.

• Build this experience in a school production.

• Information you can find on the company website.

• Skills you can develop at a summer job.

• May want to focus attention on any major written work you have put together inside or outside school (e.g. blog).

• Make sure to list these skills in your resume.
For more information, comments, or questions please contact:

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