



Internship and Career Services Industry Guide: Performing Arts

OVERVIEW

As an artist, you're looking for a place where you can grow in your field, surrounded by people who push you to be better. Those interested in the field of performing arts are looking to explore the interrelatedness of all the arts, as well as the context in which artists create. The world of performing arts typically includes areas such as arts & design, arts administration, music, film, dance, and theatre.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A PERFORMING ARTS RELATED DEGREE?

Performing arts degrees combine creative talent with practical aspects of self-promotion and arts management. This mix of disciplines is good preparation for entering the world of performance. Below are just a few samples of potential career paths:

Actor	Music Therapist	Film Director
Community Arts Worker	Theatre Director	Further Education Arts Teacher
Dancer	Arts Administrator	Higher Education Arts Lecturer
Dramatherapist	Broadcast Presenter	Theatre Stage Manager
Screen Writer	Musician/Composer	Secondary School Teacher


GET YOUR FOOT IN THE DOOR:

Performing arts is about how you present yourself. It's important to network at every opportunity and keep your finger on the pulse of the industry. There may be an opportunity for employment in the most unusual places, and by staying open-minded you will be able to make the most of your individual talents:

Voluntary Projects: Performing artists generally supplement their training, generate opportunities, and enhance their creative knowledge through work experience and by participating in voluntary projects. Contact your local community center or search the internet for details of community projects in your area. Other options include getting involved with unfunded charitable organizations' projects, or to support industry professionals in developing their creative process.

Organize Workshops: Consider organizing acting or dance workshops and creative laboratories to expand your art form and apply for funding for self-created art projects. Many dancers and actors start their own companies with a particular art form that they want to explore as the focus.

Consider Freelancing: Short-term or freelance contracts, moving between different fields, generating opportunities through networking, attending auditions, collaborating with other artists, and putting on your own shows are all part of a performer's lifestyle.



Apply For Internships: Internships are valuable ways to grow as an artist while creating opportunities for the exchange of ideas, networking with others in your area of interest, and obtaining beneficial experiences as you continue on your career path. Many centers and performing arts organizations are looking to fill internships and/or volunteer positions year round.

Join Student Organizations: By joining a organization, you'll become part of community of performing art students and professionals. This will enable you to keep current with the latest industry trends, network with experienced professionals, pick up knowledge through special events and activities, and learn about potential opportunities (The University Players, Association for Research in Theatre at Indiana University, Blooming Artists Agency, Music and Entertainment Industry Student Association, etc.)

WHERE TO GET A JOB IN PERFORMING ARTS

The most common employers of performing arts graduates include:

- Community / Regional / Commercial Theatres
- Summer Stock / Dinner Theatres / Children's Theatres
- Arts Councils
- Broadway
- Stock Productions
- Repertory / Touring Companies
- Industrial Shows / Show Groups
- Amusement and Theme Parks
- Television / Motion Picture Studios
- Radio Stations
- Nightclubs / Cabarets / Cruise Lines
- Acting Conservatories
- Public or Community Programs
- Video Production Companies
- Performing Arts Centers

Online Resources:

[Butler University Performing Arts Collaborative](#)

[Butler University Volunteer Center](#)

[Internship & Career Services: Guide to Professional Success PDF](#)

[Performing Arts Majors and Potential Jobs \(collegeexpress.com\)](#)

[Performing Arts Career Info and Resources \(thebalancecareers.com\)](#)

[Indiana Internships \(indianaintern.net\)](#)

[What Can I Do With a Major In Dance? \(cla.umn.edu\)](#)

[Arts: Jobs & Announcements in Indiana \(www.in.gov/arts\)](#)

[Performing Arts Internships Abroad \(performingartsabroad.com\)](#)

[What Can You Do With a Performing Arts Degree? \(topuniversities.com\)](#)

[Performing Art Centers in Indiana \(indyartsguide.org\)](#)

[Indianapolis Theatres and Performing Arts Venues \(tripsavvy.com\)](#)