

Career Guide for Theatre Majors:

Tips Concerning Resumes & Head Shots and Resume Samples

Resume Basics:

- ✓ Your resume is a one page list of your significant theatrical experience (stage, roles, training, education) and your physical description and contact information.
- ✓ Resumes should be printed on white paper. You can either attach your photo (with staple/paper clip) or you can insert your photo into your resume electronically.
- ✓ Typically, a standard 8" x 11" paper will work best.

Resume Content:

- ✓ List your name first. Feel free to add a descriptive term such as "actor" or "actor-singer-dancer" immediately after your name.
- ✓ Beneath your name, list any professional affiliations you have. (such as Equity, AFTRA, etc.)
- ✓ Give your physical description (height, weight, hair, eye color and vocal range.)
- ✓ List your full contact information including your cell phone and email information.
- ✓ The Experience section should take up most of the space on your resume. You may want to divide your experience into categories (dance, film, etc.)
- ✓ Usually in the Experience section you will include the name of the play, role you played, name and location of the theatre, director's name.
- ✓ Training and Education would come next. List where you have studied including with whom you have studied and for how long.
- ✓ Special talents can be listed next. Skills such as juggling, pantomime, stage combat, dialects, etc.
- ✓ Finally, you can list any theatrical awards and honors.

Make sure you have someone in the industry or Career Center review your resume before submitting it. See the samples included in this tutorial for some real examples!

Headshot Basics:

For actors, the headshot is comparable to a business card. It will help directors and casting agents remember you.

- ✓ The picture should be an 8" X 10" photo, shot against a neutral background that compliments your appearance, with careful lighting.
- ✓ Make sure that the picture looks like you so the casting director will be able to put you and your photo together during post-audition sessions.
- ✓ The photo should be without white space margins (or borderless).
- ✓ If you work with an experienced theatrical photographer ask him/her if color or black or white would be best. Until recently, black and white were the norm but now in some areas; Los Angeles, for example, color is proving to be the "right" choice.
- ✓ Avoid the "high school/yearbook" look with your picture. You want your picture to be professional and theatrical.
- ✓ There are no specified rules about what you wear but you may want to choose a variety of styles that speak about your personality and image. Avoid clothing with lots of patterns and frills which can distract and avoid wearing too much jewelry. Hand props can be more distracting than helpful.
- ✓ Virtually every headshot shows the actor looking directly into the camera. Look into the human behind the camera so that you project a human and engaged picture.

✓ For more information, please review *The Complete Professional Audition*, by Darren Cohen. (Back Stage Books, 2005) or Louis E. Catron's website: www.lecatr.people.wm.edu/yourresume.html

Next – view some sample resumes.

Bradley Biddleman

Bbl004@yahoo.com

(513) 565-9900

Voice: Tenor

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Hazel

Height: 5' 8"

Educational Theatre

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Monica</i> | Simon Elliott | Marietta College |
| <i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> | Ambitioso | Marietta College |
| <i>The Trojan Women</i> | Soldier | Marietta College |
| <i>Annie Get Your Gun</i> | Frank Butler | Marietta College |
| <i>A Christmas Carol</i> | Ghost of Christmas Past | Marietta College |
| <i>Death of a Salesman</i> | Happy | Marietta College |
| <i>Macbeth</i> | Banquo | Cole High School |

Theme Parks

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| <i>Marsha's Cowgirl Camp</i> | Cowboy/Chorus member | Cedar Point |
| <i>Cedar Point Entertainment</i> | Characters | Cedar Point |

Vocal Experience – Tenor (Bb bass to BB treble)

Marietta College Concert Choir, 4 years, soloist; Chamber Singers, 3 years; Men's Ensemble, 3 years.

Cole High School: Concert Choir, 4 years, soloist; Show Choir, 4 years

Training

Marietta College, BFA, Theatre Major, May 2009

GPA: 3.4

Voice: Dr. Daniel Monek, Dr. David Tadlock, Debra Rentz

Acting: Dr. Steve Rader, Dr. Jeffrey Cordell

Dance: Lori Patton

Cedar Point College Program: 5/ 2004 – 8/ 2004

Cole Smithville High School

Special Skills

Sports: Gymnastics, cheerleading (3 years)

Technical skills: stagecraft, collection of properties, lighting & sound

Instruments: piano (3 years), percussion (1 year), violin (6 years)

Costume skills: machine-stitching, hand-stitching, design, swatch collection

Other: drive a car and truck

Amanda Johnson

AFTRA, EQUITY



EYES:

Blue-Green

HEIGHT:

5' 4"

slender build

"It is not easy to find the humor in this obscure play, but Ms. Johnson's performance thrills and delights the audience. Her energy and mannerisms make this play a winner!"

Earl Graham, *The New York Times*,
"The Maids"

THEATRE

OFF-BROADWAY

| | | |
|------------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| Walking Broadway | Elsie | Mint Theatre (Steven Williford) |
| The Maids | Solange | Cocteau Rep (Ernest Johns) |
| Uncle Vanya | Sonya | Gorilla Rep (Michael Lew) |

OFF-OFF-BROADWAY

| | | |
|------------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| Fool | Nika | Perkasie Theatre (Steve Keim) |
| Seven Reece Mews | Nora | Monday Morning Productions |
| Dear Andersen | Various | Russian-American Theatre |
| Rome & Juliet | Juliet | Genesis Rep (J. Arellano) |

REGIONAL

| | | |
|----------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Business is Business | Germaine | North Shore Music Theatre |
| Engaged | Minnie | Depot Theatre (Chris Jones) |
| On the Verge | Alex | Tri-State Actors Theatre |
| Abel | Wife | Moore Theatre (Pavol Liska) |

FILM AND TV

| | | |
|------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| One Life to Live | Under 5 | ABC |
| Black Mary | Supporting | Roman Moher Productions |
| Fisherboy | Lead | NYU |

EDUCATION

BA in Theatre and Art (double major) from Marietta College

TRAINING

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Acting: | Karen Kohlhaas, Clarke McCarthy |
| Commercial Technique: | David Cady |
| Improv: | Billy Meritt/Upright Citizens Brigade |
| Singing: | Sharon Powers |

SKILLS

Fluent in German and conversational Chinese; ballroom dance, belly dance, jazz, ballet and Scottish dance, valid driver's license

SPORTS

Snow skiing, skating, gymnastics