

## **ACTOR**

A stage actor is an artist who studies a role in a play, builds a character based on the playwright's script and the stage director's concept, and then interprets that character in public performance. The actor may also be a creative participant in the developmental process in devised work where the performance is created with or without text. The responsibilities of the actor include rehearsing the play with the director and creative ensemble (which may include the dramaturg, music director, choreographer, fight coordinator, vocal coach, etc.) and performing the role in a public performance. Stage actors often also perform in media such as television and film.

Although accomplished actors vary greatly in their depth of knowledge and ability in any one area, the range of proficiency typically required of the actor includes:

### **A. Production Expertise**

1. Excellence in play analysis and character study, with the ability to explore, comprehend, and portray a variety of complex personalities.
2. Skilled in using the imagination and in storytelling and in interpreting diverse characters and roles.
3. Ability to portray emotional range and control and have presence in live performance.
4. Excellent vocal range, fluidity and control; knowledge of vocal anatomy and physiology and principles of sound production such as dynamic and tonal quality.
5. Skilled in vocal approaches to character and style and in stage dialects, verse and classic and contemporary dialogue.
6. Ability to effectively interpret the character through physical gesture, dance, stage combat, and movement with skills such as strength, flexibility, and stamina.
7. Ability to make effective use of costume in character interpretation.
8. Skilled in concentration, observation and physical relaxation techniques.

### **B. Literature and History**

1. Knowledge of dramatic literature, from classic to contemporary genres.
2. Excellence in textual and structural analysis of characters and stories.
3. Knowledge of the history of theatrical production, including the history of acting and costume.
4. Knowledgeable about actor training methods such as Stanislavski, Strasburg, Meisner, Michael Chekhov, etc.
5. Knowledge of current performance trends including theories of acting and performance style.
6. Information literacy (the ability to research and vet information from appropriate sources).

**C. Administration**

1. Ability to effectively work and collaborate with various artists and technicians in a variety of professional and academic settings.
2. Excellence in working within the theatrical creative process, exhibiting promptness, preparedness, flexibility, and a responsible attitude toward the creative work.
3. An understanding of professional ethics and practice associated with theatre and performance.

Note: For actors who are specifically focused on performing or teaching performance of stage musicals, see the specialist pages on musical theatre for additional expertise expected in that area.

Overall excellence from the stage actor requires the ability to integrate knowledge consistently in the areas noted above. The work of the stage actor must also be evaluated within a perspective of the resources available to the production (the director, cast, performance space and production support.) Such expertise is demonstrated by participation in realized production, both on and off campus.

Additional information about the expertise and skills expected of the actor may be available through ATHE's Acting Focus Group, Actors Equity Association (AEA), Screen Actors Guild (SAG), and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA).

---

---

**ARTS ADMINISTRATOR**

Theatre faculty may serve in a variety of positions that fall under the category of arts administrator. These include faculty who

- Serve as department chairs or deans (who have the usual responsibilities for heading the academic unit) and are responsible for leading and managing the theatre season within the institution;
- Hold the position of artistic director or program director for the theatre production program who have the responsibility for conceiving, developing and implementing the artistic vision; and
- Teach and are responsible for conducting arts administration activities such as theatre marketing, public relations, development, volunteer management, and box office and house management.

Each of the three categories of arts administration require unique and specific production expertise and knowledge and all demand considerable administrative skills, but in broad and general terms the range of proficiency typically includes:

**A. Production Expertise**

1. Knowledge of how theatre functions as an art and as a business.