



Greetings from Festival Theatre!

Below you will find information regarding Festival Theatre's Internship Program, a unique artistic experience for undergraduate students and recent graduates. Through the summer months (and sometimes fall), program participants will have multiple opportunities in performance, design, stage management, and teaching while

developing skills and artistry through workshops and in-depth improv training. **We stress that this program is about giving young professionals opportunities to practice and hone their craft in a welcoming and respectful environment.**

We are opening our 32nd Summer Series with the hilarious musical, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* by Rachel Sheinkin and William Finn. An eclectic group of six mid-pubescents vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Featuring a fast-paced, wildly funny and touching book by Sheinkin and a truly fresh and vibrant score by Finn, this bee is one unforgettable experience.

Our second show in our summer line-up is *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare. This classic play weaves together several stories taking place under the moon of a mystical midsummer night. One story involves a complicated lovers' quarrel among four Athenian youths. Another follows a group of six amateur actors preparing for the performance of a lifetime. Both groups find themselves in a forest inhabited by mischievous fairies who manipulate the humans and are engaged in their own domestic intrigue. The play is one of Shakespeare's most popular and is widely performed.

The final show of our summer season is Larry Shue's *The Nerd*. Willum Cubbert has often told his friends about the debt he owes to Rick Steadman, a fellow ex-GI whom he has never met but who saved his life in Vietnam. Willum is delighted when Rick shows up unexpectedly at his apartment on the night of his birthday party. But his delight soon fades as it becomes apparent that Rick is a hopeless "nerd" —a bumbling oaf with no social sense, little intelligence, and less tact. As Rick stays on and on, his continued presence among Willum and his friends leads to one uproarious incident after another, until the normally mild-mannered Willum finds himself going mad. This extraordinarily inventive, side-splitting comedy will delight with absurdity and even a dash of romance!

We are also looking for a number of interns who are interested in design or production positions for these three shows. Interns who have graduated may be hired through fall and/or winter and should consider if they are interested in working on *The Mouse Trap*, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* and/or our Youth and Family Series show *Bedtime Stories (As Told by Our Dad) (Who Messes Them Up)*

Below you will find some testimonials from past interns and apprentices. I trust this will help you better understand what kind of artists are attracted to working at Festival Theatre.

Please spend some time reading through this letter, the Internship Info Sheet and looking over our website at www.festivaltheatre.org to familiarize yourself with our theatre. To apply, or for more information, please send an email introducing yourself to Executive Artistic Director Jason Richards at FestivalTheatreArtistic@gmail.com. You will need to review the Intern Info Sheet, and complete the Intern Application.. Applicants must interview and/or submit an audition for consideration. Please prepare two contrasting monologues and 16-32 bars of a song (with CD or digital accompaniment).

On behalf of all of us here at Festival Theatre, thank you. We look forward to meeting you.

Testimonials From Past Interns & Apprentices

Jason Richards
Executive Artistic Director
St. Croix Festival Theatre
FestivalTheatreArtistic@gmail.com

“St. Croix Festival not only gave me real world experience, but confidence in my abilities as an actor. I got to work on every show in some capacity, work in an improv troupe and take weekly workshops. Each of these built my skills and made me feel stronger every week. I was constantly challenged, but I never felt incapable or unwanted. The staff and company made me feel like St. Croix was my new home and I never wanted to leave! The work environment was positive and efficient. It was the best possible experience I could have had as a first time professional gig! Everyone here is kind, loving, and are truly phenomenal theatre artists. Highly, highly recommend these amazing people!

Faith Klick - University of Wisconsin, Green Bay

“I cannot say enough good things about the St. Croix Festival Theatre and their internship program. There is a supportive community in St. Croix and an amazing team of staff and interns to make impressive shows. The program challenged me to grow in teaching theatre classes to young children, and performing improv, while letting me still Stage Manage three shows. I even get to program a unique lighting design for a Cabaret! The host home program and Sunday dinners both provide a great way to get to know locals and the area - which is gorgeous! The program has run so long because it is very thoughtful about your time and ways to serve the community. I would recommend St. Croix Festival Theatre to anyone and return myself in a heartbeat.”

Isabel Dawson - Augustana University

“My time as an Acting Intern with Festival Theatre helped me grow personally and artistically. I bonded very quickly with the staff, summer company, and my host home. I felt lucky to be surrounded by kind, hard-working, creative people in a productive and passionate environment. Being an intern gave me the opportunity to work as a props coordinator for a musical, understudy a role in a comedic play, act in a dramatic piece, and assist as a teaching artist for their Art in Action camps. I found the many lessons and skills I learned during my contract quite valuable to take back to my university with me and apply in my craft as a Musical Theatre major. I will always remember my summer in St. Croix Falls with fondness and gratitude. “

Libby Crawford - Western Illinois University

"If you are in school for acting, or just coming out of it, I cannot recommend Festival Theatre more. A close knit, extremely supportive community is up in St. Croix Falls, that just wants a lot of live theater. This apprenticeship was phenomenal, including personalized collaborative training in Improv, Devised Theater, workshops, writing and so on, and then the real work/play of putting on the summer season! The best training is just doing it, and Festival does that. I got to play a medieval prisoner, a demented doctor, a knight, a goose, a rooster, perform improv and help write a play that I was in. And that was just my apprenticeship! I continued my work in the fall and winter to play Frankenstein's monster and then George in It's A Wonderful Life! Festival is the perfect venue for emerging actors who want to work hard, play harder, and learn more than they thought they could from fierce, experienced, yet Oh so compassionate people. I've grown more than I can say."

Franklin Huber - Illinois State University

"I feel I've done some of my best work at Festival Theater. Both summers were blessed with a group of actors and artists who continually support each other. My experiences are particularly marked by the welcoming creative atmosphere of Festival. I always felt free to pursue and learn my art without ridicule or judgment, only constructive criticism and joy for the work we do. Being an apprentice both summers was great, because Festival provided a place

Testimonials From Past Interns & Apprentices

to focus on your craft: creating art, exploring how to improve upon your own craft. And it's an absolutely gorgeous place to live."

Anna Lewein - University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

"What I think I loved most about being an apprentice at Festival Theatre was that I became an integral part of an artistic company of actors. Unlike some theatre apprenticeships where day to day you build sets and file papers with the off chance of earning stage time, I did important work on a daily basis. I got roles I could sink my teeth into, and projects that challenged me. Festival gives real, professional responsibility to its apprentices, so when I came back for a second summer and I saw how the theater was thriving even more than the first summer, it wasn't just the box office and it wasn't just the artistic and executive direction's victory. I could claim some of that accomplishment to be my own."

Kathryn Cesarz - University of Evansville

"This past summer, I was given the privilege of participating as an apprentice of the Festival Theatre Summer Company 2012. The year prior to that, I had been involved as an intern. As with the previous year, my summer experience with Festival was a very positive and unique experience in which I grew as an artist, a worker, and as a person in general. Various jobs offered and accepted in this position include leadership in the creativity camp, an expanded presence in the Children's Conservatory portion of the summer, the opportunity to direct in the short play festival night, and many others. As an apprentice, I felt more confident in my work and more responsible to ensure that Festival's high standards of entertainment, work ethic, and integrity were held accountable. The work experience and level of quality found in Festival Theatre is truly astounding, and I would recommend the experience to just about anyone who asked me."

Isaac Bont - University of Eau Claire

"Being an intern at the Festival Theatre in St. Croix Wisconsin could not have been a better introduction into the life of a working actor. While getting the opportunity to simultaneously work on two shows, teach young actors Shakespeare, work at a children's theatre camp, and have various backstage duties, I obtained a plethora of skills necessary to work in theatre at the professional level. If this was not enough, I was fortunate enough to have been surrounded by a crew of delightful, talented, driven people, all geared towards creating inspiring art for their community. St. Croix is such a wonderful place to spend a summer, and I recommend it to all actors, especially if they are beginning to make that transition from student into a professional career in theatre."

Katie Kleiger - University of Minnesota Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program

"There could not have been a more complementary experience to my in school acting training than my summer as an intern with St. Croix Festival Theatre. The support of the Festival staff, company, and community infused confidence and playfulness into my acting. I have never felt so at home away from home. Whether it was Friday night improv sessions, teaching creativity camps, or directing a new play for the one act contest, engaging with the St. Croix community through work as a creative artist was joyfully fulfilling."

Riley O'Toole - University of Minnesota Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program

"Working at Festival Theatre is a healing experience. The artists, the community, and the beautiful environment that surround you every day are blessings that you can't get enough of. I counted myself lucky for every morning I got to wake up and play around with the wonderful group of actors that graced me with their company. I would recommend Festival Theatre to any young actor who wants to do good work and also feel the freedom to truly play around with other artists. The feeling of support that I got from the company as well as the community is a joy that I'm glad I got to experience in my young life and I hope to return many more times to feel it again."

JuCoby Johnson - University of Minnesota Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program