

## Greetings from Festival Theatre!

Below you will find information regarding Festival Theatre's Intern and Apprenticeship 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 huge opportunities to practice craft, with obvious admiration and respect for what these young professionals are accomplishing.**

We are opening our 27th Summer Series with *1776*! A current trend in theatre right now is to explore non-traditional casting options. On a national level, the best example is the current blockbuster Broadway musical *Hamilton* -- which depicts the life of Alexander Hamilton casting primarily people of color. We plan to cast *1776* with an all-female cast -- we think this will be a fun and interesting way to freshen up this 50-year-old musical and provide a new look at these pivotal days in our nation's history.

Our second show, running in rep with *1776*, is Neil Simon's *Rumors*. Neil Simon is one of the greatest comedic writers of the 20th Century, and *Rumors* is one of his funniest farces. This play is fast-paced and filled to bursting with nonstop jokes and physical comedy.

The final show of our summer repertory season is *The Children's Hour*, an emotional drama, written by an under-produced playwright. The story takes place in an all-girls boarding school and follows the destruction wrought by an angry student's false accusation that the school's two headmistresses, Martha and Karen, are engaged in a love affair.

We are also looking for a number of Interns and Apprentices who are interested in design or production positions for these three shows. Apprentices may be hired through Fall and/or Winter and should consider if they are interested in working on *Death of a Salesman*, *It's A Wonderful Life: A Radio Play* and/or our Youth and Family Series show *Children of the Mystic River*.

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, and hope that this will help you decide whether to pursue sharing your talents with our community.

Please spend some time reading through this letter, the Intern/Apprenticeship Info Sheet and looking over our website at [www.festivaltheatre.org](http://www.festivaltheatre.org) to familiarize yourself with our theatre. To apply, or for more information, please send an email introducing yourself to [artsedfestivaltheatre@gmail.com](mailto:artsedfestivaltheatre@gmail.com). You will need to receive, review, and complete the Intern/Apprentice Application. Applicants must interview, audition, and/or submit an audition for consideration. Please prepare a classical monologue, a contemporary monologue, and 16-32 bars of a song (to be sung a cappella or with CD accompaniment provided by yourself).

On behalf of Co-Artistic Directors Jaclyn Johnson and Seth Kaltwasser and all of us here at Festival Theatre, thank you.

Best,  
Rachel Kuhnle  
Arts Education Director and Artistic Associate  
St. Croix Festival Theatre  
[artsedfestivaltheatre@gmail.com](mailto:artsedfestivaltheatre@gmail.com)

## **Testimonials From Past Interns & Apprentices**

"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 Ohso 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 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**

"Being an apprentice at Festival Theatre was some of the hardest but most rewarding work I've done. In general, you're busy, you're involved, but you're also part of a caring group of artists and host families. Personally, I think the atmosphere is the best part: Festival offers a supportive community in which young actors are challenged to try new things. I had the opportunity to act, teach, paint, improvise (my first public improv performances), direct, and devise. Over the course of the summer, I grew as an actor and as an individual, and I am so grateful to have had this opportunity!"

**Lynn Bixler University of Minnesota ~ Morris**

"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**

## **Testimonials From Past Interns & Apprentices**

“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**

“I left St. Croix Festival Theater feeling like I had discovered a whole new set of skills. Before coming to the internship I had just thought of myself as an actor. While I am still pursuing a career in performance, the team at St. Croix showed me I have a lot more to offer. I was given the chance to teach theater to all different ages. I learned from a professional concert singer how to tell a story through music. I participated in a centering workshop and spent a day working with horses. My acting improved because I was able to act in a musical and a Shakespeare show in the same summer. Our company also put on a high energy improv show every Friday night. If you want an active and eye opening internship, where you will be challenged in many different ways Festival Theater is the place for you!”

**Kelsey Peterjohn University of Minnesota Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program**

“I had an absolutely wonderful experience at Festival Theatre in the summer of 2014. Not only did I get to have fun making great theatre with fantastic artists, but I made some lifetime friends in the process. The summer company of 2014 is a group of people that I will never forget, which is a testament to the leaders of Festival Theatre and their ability to see great qualities in the artists that audition for them. Being from Chicago I learned very quickly that the host home families that work with Festival Theatre are some of the kindest and most supportive people that exist. They truly go above and beyond to make your experience a great one. I highly recommend working with this theatre as it provided me with one of the best, most unforgettable summers of my life.”

**Steven Czajkowski Illinois Wesleyan University**