Production Opportunities 2020

chautauqua theater company
Production at Chautauqua Theater Company 2020

Chautauqua Theater Company

Chautauqua Institution is a not-for-profit, 750-acre community on beautiful Chautauqua Lake near Jamestown, New York, where approximately 7,500 persons are in residence on any day during a nine-week summer season, and a total of over 170,000 people attend scheduled public events. It has performance venues, historic hotels, a golf course, tennis courts, and educational and recreational facilities.

Chautauqua Theater Company (CTC) is one of the four arms of the Performing Arts (theater, music, dance, opera). CTC has been the resident theater company on the grounds of the Institution for 37 years. We produce 2 full mainstage productions, 3 week-long New Play Workshops, and a community tour of a Shakespeare play with approximately 10 performances throughout the summer. Each show is fully realized and we do it all with a collaborative spirit over the course of only 9 weeks!

The Bratton Theater, the home to our mainstage productions, was built in 1885 and is one of the oldest buildings on the grounds of CHQ. It was originally built as a schoolhouse for the summer program and accordingly, its original name was “Normal Hall”. In 2000, a major renovation took place and the beautiful, 269 seat, newly named Bratton Theater was inaugurated.

Chautauqua Institution is often referred to as an intellectual and artistic Brigadoon, arising from the mist every summer. In this very remote location, some of the best minds and talents in the world gather together to explore, discuss, inform and question the ideas and beliefs of the day. Whether it’s at the daily morning lectures in the newly renovated 5,000 seat amphitheater, or on the porch of the historic Athenaeum Hotel, or in one of the music practice shacks across from the theater offices, dialogue and curiosity thrive at Chautauqua.

Because we are within a larger organization committed to education and the arts, there is so much to take advantage of here. From arts presentations (symphony, ballet, opera, visual arts) to headliners in the amphitheater (like Allison Krause, The Avett Brothers, Jay Leno, and Diana Ross) and the daily morning lectures (with speakers like Andrew Young, Ira Glass, and Wendell Pierce). We encourage all of our staff to take full advantage of every opportunity at Chautauqua. Most of them are absolutely FREE to you as a member of the Theater Company. Additionally, company management makes sure there are occasions for kayaking and lake time as a group throughout the summer.

Chautauqua Institution’s Mission Statement

Chautauqua Institution is dedicated to the exploration of the best in human values and the enrichment of life through a program that explores the important religious, social and political issues of our times; stimulates provocative, thoughtful involvement of individuals and families in creative response to such issues; and promotes excellence and creativity in the appreciation, performance and teaching of the arts.

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What is the 2020 season at Chautauqua Theater Company?

Our 2020 Mainstage Season:

*Sense and Sensibility* by Kate Hamill, July 3-19

*The Pill Play* by Tyne Rafaeli, August 14-23 (*this is a brand new commission!*)

New Play Workshop Series:

*New Play Workshop #1 (TBD)*, July 24-26

*New Play Workshop #2 (TBD)*, July 29-31

*No Child* written and performed by Nilaja Sun, August 4-7

Shakespeare in the Park:

*Twelfth Night* adapted by Sarah Elizabeth Wansley, July 1-19

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What are the production opportunities at Chautauqua Theater Company?
There are so many ways to get involved at Chautauqua Theater Company. We offer paid apprenticeships, staff positions, and fellowships.

Apprenticeships
Each of our apprentices is an integral part of our creative team, bringing special skills and talents that are valued and recognized within each department.

Scenic Apprentice
At Chautauqua, as a scenic apprentice you will fabricate, build, install, and strike professionally designed scenery for multiple mainstage and workshop productions. You will have the opportunity to learn: rigging techniques; how to read draftings from designers; collaboration and teamwork; safety regulations and operating procedures; wood and metal building techniques; scenic painting methods. You may act as runcrew on at least one mainstage production in the season.

Props Apprentice
As a props apprentice, you will build, source, paint, upholster, and fabricate properties for all of our productions as a member of the properties team. You will act as runcrew on at least one mainstage production in the season. Additionally, based on your skill level, there are design opportunities on show-specific projects.

Costumes Apprentice
In this role, you will build, alter, stitch, and prepare professionally designed costume pieces for all of our mainstage productions. You will act as runcrew for at least one mainstage production and, depending on your skill level, you will have the opportunity for design projects within the summer season. You will learn about maintenance, sourcing, quick-rigging, and theatrical construction of costume pieces.

Lighting Apprentice
A newly-defined apprenticeship this year, we are excited to offer electrics and lighting experience through this apprenticeship. You will have the opportunity to work alongside IATSE crew in our electrics department while loading-in, hanging, focusing, loading-out, assisting in changeovers, and potentially running the lighting console during a mainstage production.

Sound Apprentice
This apprenticeship is brand new this year! With our Audio Supervisor and our returning Engineer, you will round out the audio team for the summer. Within the audio department, you will have the chance to practice rigging speakers, reading sound plots, programming and editing QLab, assisting with setting up headsets/com, and running the sound console for productions on stage. You will also get the chance to work closely with other departments when assisting with changeovers or even potentially running a show!

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Artistic and Marketing Apprentice
You will have the opportunity to be involved with not only the marketing team, but the artistic director and his creative team in this apprenticeship. Within the marketing department, you will be present at Bratton Theater at the top of every show, engaging with audience members, selling merchandise and being a public face for CTC. You will also learn how to implement marketing promotions, assist on digital and social media campaigns, complete audience research and gather marketing materials for season and show programs. As a member of the artistic team, you will assist the Artistic Director and Artistic Associate with casting, planning for talkbacks, scheduling, dramaturgy, and audience development.

Stage Management Apprentices
As a stage management apprentice at Chautauqua, you will work directly with Equity stage managers as an active member of the team. You’ll practice scheduling, plotting in rehearsals, pre-production paperwork, runcrew/deck crew, maintaining databases and tracking notes from rehearsal, acting as a liaison between departments and the rehearsal room, as well as several opportunities to act as SM or ASM on special projects.

Company Management Apprentice
Working as a member of the company management team gives you a plethora of experience and responsibility. Working with the rest of the Co-Man team, you’ll be navigating hospitality needs for the entire company, including greeting company on arrivals, coordinating travel and pick-ups, maintaining guest artist and company housing, coordinating first rehearsal meet and greets, plus planning and implementing opening night parties. You’ll also practice your administration and budgeting skills. You will contribute not only to the production process but to the full summer experience for our entire company!

Production and Facilities Management Apprentice
You will work with all departments as a liaison between artistic and production. Some of your adventures will include acting as a production assistant and assistant production manager on special projects; dealing with facilities issues; tracking production schedules; creating inventories and purchasing; coordinating daily operations; helping with load-ins, changeovers, and strikes; administering and documenting safety protocols; and assisting each department as the needs arise.

With each of our apprenticeships:

1. You will receive a small season stipend plus shared housing on campus with a summer-long meal plan (3 meals a day).
2. You will be part of a larger team within each department, working with your peers and supervisors to create professional work.
3. You will establish professional relationships with designers, directors, performers, and working professionals in the field from all over the country.
4. You will have the opportunity for professional development training on site.
5. You will have the chance to attend some of the offerings from the Institution for free.
6. Your department supervisor will offer one-on-one meetings as requested for professional development and to address any desires or concerns you may have through the course of the summer.

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Production Staff Positions

At Chautauqua Theater Company, we push the boundaries of the Chautauqua Institution community, asking our audiences to stretch to their limits and examine their own lives through reflection on live art. Together, we create spectacularly realized professional productions as part of a 9-week season, working with some of the top designers and directors in the country.

This summer, we have the following positions available for application.

**Scenic:**
- Master Carpenter, Scenic Carpenter, Stage Carpenter, Assistant Scenic Painter

**Costumes:**
- First Hand/Stitcher, Wardrobe Supervisor

**Props:**
- Assistant Properties Master, Props Artisan

**Sound:**
- Sound Engineer/Board Operator

**Lighting:**
- Master Electrician, Light Board Operator/Programmer

**Stage Management:**
- Two (2) Assistant Stage Managers (non-equity)

**Company Management:**
- Assistant Company Manager

**Marketing/Public Relations:**
- Community Engagement Coordinator/Co-House Manager

To apply for one of the above positions, please email jobs@ctcompany.org. Please put the job title you are applying for in the subject line (ex. “Application: Props Artisan”) and include your resume with three references and a cover letter telling us what you would bring to our team.

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**Fellowships**

We offer five fellowship opportunities during the summer season. They include: Directing, Sound Design, Scenic Design, Lighting Design, Costumes Design. Generally, our fellows are graduate students or people who have just finished their graduate degree.

Our Design Fellows act as assistant designers on both mainstage productions and serve as the lead designers for our New Play Workshop series, working with some of the most talented established and emerging directors and playwrights.

For more information about the fellowship program, you can visit our website at [www.chq.org/the-conservatory/design-directing-conservatory](http://www.chq.org/the-conservatory/design-directing-conservatory).

All of that sounds cool. What are the additional perks of working at Chautauqua Theater Company?

As a member of the summer company at CTC, you are in for the best summer of your career! By joining our team, you join the deep network that is our CTC alumni - just look at some of the places we’ve worked outside of the summer:


**Regionally:** East West Players (L.A., CA), American Repertory Theater (Cambridge, MA), Ojai Playwrights Conference (Ojai, CA), Two River Theater (Red Bank, NJ), Geffen Playhouse (L.A., CA), Florida Studio Theater (Sarasota, FL), Local Theater Company (Boulder, CO), Epic Theatre Ensemble (NYC), The Playwrights’ Center (Minneapolis, MN), The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (Philadelphia, PA), The Wilma Theater (Philadelphia, PA), The Guthrie Theater (Minneapolis, MN).

**Touring:** Justin Timberlake, Brittany Spears, Kings of Leon, *The King & I*, *Once*, *42nd Street*, *An American in Paris*, *Aladdin*, Moscow Ballet.

In addition to the collaborative spirit and nature of the company as a whole, there’s also so much stuff to do in your time off while in Chautauqua! The world’s top speakers, performers, artists, and leaders convene at Chautauqua Institution each summer to inspire a community and it is free to you as a member of CTC. Plus, you will relish in the natural beauty of the lake, the hills, and the gorgeous sunsets. There may even be a company party on the beach at Lake Erie - it’s almost like living at summer camp all season!

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I think I get it, but what if I have more questions?

If you have more questions, please feel free to be in contact with us.

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Pictures: Into the Breeches by George Brant, How the Light Gets In by E.M. Lewis, One Man, Two Guvnors by Richard Bean

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