Dear Industry Professional,

This summer, Chautauqua Theater Company seeks graduate design students for our design fellowship program. The design fellows, in lighting, scenery, costumes, and sound will function as assistant designers for two mainstage productions alongside experienced professional designers, and as designer on three new play workshops with established directors.

The design fellowships are modeled on our conservatory program which recruits fourteen actors and five fellows each year from the finest training programs in the country. Like the conservatory students, the design fellows will receive housing courtesy of a Chautauqua Institution scholarship. The design fellows will also receive a weekly stipend, which is a little more than $200 a week.

We instituted the design fellowships over twelve years ago as a way to commit to emerging designers in the same way that we are committed to emerging actors. The fellowships provide a very valuable and unique opportunity for graduate level design students to hone their skills working side by side with experienced professionals, but also to meet future colleagues (young actors, directors, writers and fellow designers), and to provide a bridge between training and career.

In the last twelve years the positions have been filled by graduate students from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Yale, Carnegie Mellon, Boston University, University of California San Diego, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, SMU and the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers.

In all cases the young designers will be working with talented mentors and establishing valuable professional contacts. CTC maintains full shops in all departments; and the productions and the new play workshops are all performed in the beautifully renovated Bratton Theater. If you are interested in learning more about CTC please visit our website at ctcompany.org
The design fellow will be principal assistant on each of two mainstage productions and will design two - three new play workshops (modeled on the O’Neill, the new plays rehearse for four - seven days, performed for three and are offered design and technical support).

The term of engagement is for approximately ten weeks. There would be some flexibility working out exact dates with each individual.

Interested graduate design students should submit a resume with reference contact information, and a brief cover letter, via email to Fellows@ctcompany.org and we will arrange for a brief phone interview as necessary. We plan to make decisions about awarding the fellowships around the end of February/beginning of March.

Please feel free to forward a copy of this letter to your students or any other industry professional who may have an interest in referring their students to us.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

All the best,

Sarah Clare Corporandy
Managing Director
Chautauqua Theater Company
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312.399.6911
Chautauqua Theater Company Conservatory Program
Summer 2020, June 14 - August 16
(Some fellows may be required to start as early as June 11)

What is the Conservatory?
The Conservatory is the core of the Chautauqua Theater Company. The 14 actors, 4 design fellows and one directing fellow we accept into the program are offered an unparalleled opportunity to bridge the gap between their training and professional careers. Working side by side with nationally recognized professionals on stage and off, the conservatory experience is challenging, supportive and deeply impactful. Best of all, it is made up of exceptional theater artists from across the country, giving everyone an opportunity to make connections and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Where and what is the Chautauqua Institution?
Located on beautiful Chautauqua Lake in western New York, the Chautauqua Institution is a renowned summer center for arts, recreation, and learning that welcomes nearly 200,000 people from all over the world to its season of programs, performances, lectures and activities. The theater is just one part of a very rich intellectual and cultural summer festival. In addition to the theater, the Institution is home to professional symphony, opera, and ballet companies, a thriving visual arts center and attendant summer school programs in each discipline.

What is the 2020 CTC season?
The 2020 season will include: Two full productions, One Solo Show, Two new play workshops, a touring Shakespeare piece and a host of additional events.

How much does it cost?
IT'S FREE. All Conservatory members receive full fellowships covering tuition and housing. Unlike many summer theaters where you pay them for the privilege of building scenery or serving concessions, at Chautauqua all you are expected to do is develop and practice your craft. A rarity among summer programs, CTC invites you to join a company of your contemporaries and future peers and pays for you to do it. All you have to do is get there.

What about housing & food?
The Chautauqua Institution provides housing with private rooms and shared living space in Institutional housing. There is also a small food stipend

How do you say Chautauqua?
She-tô'-kwe

More Information on the Design Fellowships
Interested graduate design students should submit a resume with reference contact information, and a brief cover letter via email to Fellows@CTCompany.org. We will arrange for an interview as appropriate.

Overview
In 2006, as a way to commit to emerging designers in the same way that we have always been committed to emerging actors, Chautauqua Theater Company instituted the Design Fellowship program as part of our Conservatory. The fellowships provide a very valuable bridge between training and career, offering the opportunities for graduate level design students to both hone their skills working side by side with experienced professionals and to work with future colleagues (young actors, directors, writers and fellow designers).
What is entailed in a Design Fellowship?
The Design Fellows serve first and foremost as Assistant Designer on all full productions. They also design two to three of our New Play Workshop signature readings (within the given constraints) giving them the opportunity to work closely with professional directors and playwrights in intensive one-week collaborations. Involvement in special projects and additional programming varies in each department. As CTC is a small but substantial operation, Fellows are also expected to provide additional skilled labor as needed within their departments. Fellows work under the supervision of both the artistic director and the production manager.

Is there a Stipend?
Yes. Like the conservatory actors, the design fellows receive scholarships from the Chautauqua Institution which covers the cost of housing. The design fellows will also receive a weekly stipend in recognition of their role as working members of our production team. The term of engagement is for nine - ten weeks, with a staggered start by department.

Who should apply?
Applicants have generally been designers who are currently enrolled in graduate training programs. Those having recently completed their training, or at an equivalent stage in their artistic journey are also welcome to apply. In past seasons the positions have been filled by graduate students from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Yale School of Drama, The University of Texas at Austin, Carnegie Mellon University, Boston University and CalArts among others.