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## **BARTER THEATRE IS SEEKING:**

**COMMITTED, HARDWORKING THEATRE ARTISANS WHO ARE DEDICATED TO A LIFETIME OF GROWTH; YOUNG ACTORS AND OTHERS WHO ARE READY TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR WORK AND GROWTH; THEATRE ARTISANS WHO SEEK A CONSISTENCY OF QUALITY.**

**\*WE WANT PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BE GREAT AND ARE WILLING TO MAKE THE LONG TERM COMMITMENT NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THAT.**

**\*WE WANT PEOPLE WHO ARE HUMBLE ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT A GREAT ARTIST IS ONE WHO IS ALWAYS LEARNING.**

### **BARTER THEATRE BARTER PLAYERS/APPRENTICE PROGRAM SUMMER AND YEAR-ROUND**

#### **ACTING: PLAYERS AND APPRENTICES**

**PLAYER:** A Barter Player is defined as a young professional who has graduated from college or equivalent experience. The pay range is \$150 - \$200 per week and housing, as well as health insurance, is provided. The dates of commitment are: May 14, 2007 -- late August, 2008. The Barter Players perform a season of shows for young audiences at the theatre during most of the year and are on tour around the southeast during January, February, and March in addition to other duties and performances noted below.

**APPRENTICE:** Barter Theatre defines an Acting Apprentice as someone who is still in college or has equivalent experience. Acting Apprenticeships only take place during the summer months, and there is no pay but housing is provided. The dates of commitment are: May 14, 2007 – August 18, 2007. Many schools have offered college credit to students who take part in our summer apprenticeship. Need based stipends are available.

**DUTIES:** The duties of both Apprentices and Players are similar: Performing a season of shows for young audiences at the theatre, taking roles on Barter stages in Equity productions and/or work on crews for performances on Barter stages in Equity productions. (Barter Players usually take about two to five roles in the Barter season. These roles might be small roles or they might be leading roles.) Apprentices and Players will be asked to perform a variety of duties for both the summer season for young audiences and The Barter Theatre as a whole. The program is designed to give the young artist an intensive experience that includes a well-rounded view of all aspects of theatre.

**ETCETERAS:** Equity Membership Candidacy points are available. Hours are very long and days off come few and far between. Each member is required to grow as a theatre artist on a daily basis. Barter does and will continue to hire its Players and Apprentices as full professionals. We have a long history of seeing young actors through their first years as professionals and training them as directors, playwrights, designers, etc. Occasional classes on a variety of subjects might be offered if time permits.

**WHAT WE TEACH:** Honest Acting. We do not indicate emotions. We do not make sounds with words. We seek the particular truth and honesty to be found in each play. We believe that both the internal world and external world of the actor is equally important. We use the works of William Shakespeare as a laboratory for training. We seek fearlessness. We put the needs of the audience, the play, the company ahead of all other needs. We expect and demand that each actor take responsibility for his growth as an artist on a daily basis. We teach through practical application.

## **IMPORTANT POINTS CONCERNING BARTER PLAYER/APPRENTICE PROGRAM:**

1. The work of the company is seen by some of the finest directors and actors in the country. The chance to establish long lasting relationships with these theatre professionals is quite possible. In addition, the future employment opportunities for the dedicated actor are numerous. Between the Player company season, Barter Theatre and Barter Stage II, over twenty-five plays are produced yearly. Former and current Player/Apprentices are given consideration for available jobs. This is due in part to loyalty towards Barter Company members, although the dominant reason is simply that the Players and Apprentices that have worked with us over a period of time are the best-trained young actors in the country. We believe that our current and former Player/Apprentices are among our most valuable resources.
2. Both Players and Apprentices will be asked to do many jobs from facilities tours to running spotlights and everything in between. We demand that any assigned job is done with the same quality and enthusiasm for excellence as is our acting work.
3. Negative attitudes, complaining, low energy, etc. are not tolerated. If a member is destructive to company morale or a negative energy is brought to rehearsal, performance, or any other job, the company member will be asked to answer for their lack of consistent dedication and may be fired. The very best from every actor at every rehearsal and performance is demanded regardless of fatigue or any other outside influence. As a result of this policy, we maintain a healthy, positive, creative atmosphere that makes possible the kind of top quality work that is our standard. In addition, this policy promotes fun through its intolerance of negativity. Anyone who does not think they are capable of maintaining the demeanor and work ethic described here with consistency on a daily basis for the entire period of their association with Barter should not apply.
4. **THE WORK IS LONG AND GRUELING.** The average day for Players/Apprentices will be 8:30 am to 11:00 PM with a day off every now and then when possible. The hours are long and the actor learns to focus and apply his/her skills under these difficult conditions. We do not allow fatigue to inform the quality of our work.
5. For the conscientious actor, we guarantee an intensive experience that will raise the skill level of the actor drastically in a relatively short period of time.
6. In the past, members of the Player/Apprentice company have been given the opportunity to expand their range of professional skills and learning into other areas of theatre. These include: Directing for the Barter Players on tour and at the theatre; Directing for Barter Theatre; Writing plays for both the Barter Players and Barter Theatre; Moving into leadership positions as Associate Artistic directors of the Barter Players and Barter Theatre; Designing for the Barter Players and Barter Theatre.
7. When a Player/Apprentice begins a season with Barter we consider that day to be the beginning of his/her new professional life. Professional standards immediately go into affect and the member is asked to leave former standards behind as they will no longer serve in this new environment.

**ONLY THE STRONGEST, MOST RESILIENT ACTORS WITH UNRELENTING POSITIVE ATTITUDES AND A STRONG DESIRE FOR EXCELLENCE NEED APPLY.**

**HOW TO APPLY:** Barter Theatre is in attendance at most large, regional auditions such as SETC, UPTA, ATLANTA UNIFIED. There is also a local audition in Abingdon each December. (Check our website: [www.bartertheatre.com](http://www.bartertheatre.com) for information on the local audition.) In addition, a prospective Player/Apprentice can email Katy Brown at [barterplayers@bartertheatre.com](mailto:barterplayers@bartertheatre.com) for information on how to schedule an audition/interview in Abingdon at other times of the year.

Selection of the Barer Players and Apprentices is usually complete by late March of each year.