

Stagedoor's Interviews... The Official Scoop

Welcome to our interview process! Questions? Please feel free to email Chris with anything that pops into your mind, he loves questions. In fact here are some of the most common and their answers.

WHAT IS STAGEDOOR MANOR? We are a coed performing arts training center in a summer camp atmosphere. Our kids are highly motivated about doing theatre, film, dance, actually all types of performance. They come to us from a full spectrum of experience levels...from Little Susie who has always dreamed of being on stage to Johnny who has just finished a run on Broadway or wrapped a feature film (no exaggeration). Their typical day is 2 ½ hours of rehearsal in the morning, 3 ½ hours of theatre related classes in the afternoon, and 2 ½ hours of rehearsal in the evening...with a couple of hours of recreation time scattered throughout the day for them to relax and depressurize. In fact, that's a very rough sketch of the Stagedoor staff members' day as well. Our kids are very focused and dedicated to theatre, it's their passion...that passion and fire for theatre is what we look for in our staff.

WHAT'S THE FACILITY LIKE? In middle of the 20th Century the Catskill Mountains were a very popular vacation destination and several large resort facilities sprang up. Over the years these places closed due to a decline in tourism and many of them have now been converted into summer retreats, camps and private schools. Stagedoor is one of those old hotel complexes nestled in the heart of New York's Catskill Mountains. While trying to paint a true picture of the facility we don't want you to think it's getting ready to fall to the ground either...Stagedoor has a very rustic charm and part of that character includes the 40 coats of paint on the walls, 1960's architecture and somewhat worn carpets in spots...at the end of the day we are a camp, and by camp standards have a one of the more comfortable camps in America. The geographic region where Stagedoor is located is very rural with small lakes, hiking trails and tiny villages...as well as New York City less than a 2 hour drive. The campus is composed of the main building (our office-camper housing-staff housing-3 theatres), a couple of dorm facilities, our outdoor drama spaces, our 2 larger theatres, tennis courts, an outdoor pool as well as well kept lawns and a large open field.

WHAT KIND THEATRE SPACES ARE THERE? We have 8 onsite theatre spaces on varying configurations. We have 2 proscenium theaters (each seat about 350), a 300 seat theater in the round, 2 black box theaters (each seat about 100), a natural outdoor amphitheater, an outdoor pavilion style theater that seat about 250, and a Cabaret style space (which is sort of an open lobby area with a recessed stage on one side of the room).

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH GETTING PAID? You will be contracted for a specific salary for the entire summer...salary amounts vary depending on job & experience. For Session 1 & 2 you earn 25% of the contracted total and for Session 3 you earn the remaining 50%...however, your earnings are paid to you weekly on every Friday (for the final week your payday is the last day of camp). In your final paycheck we will deduct charges made on your canteen account (used during the summer to buy stuff from Stagedoor...phone cards, stamps, t-shirts & whatnot, any charges for visits to our camp doctor, etc.). **For example** let's pretend, for purpose of explanation, your salary is \$300 the breakdown would be:

Total contracted salary = \$300
Session 1 Earnings = \$75 (\$25 paid each week)
Session 2 Earnings = \$75 (\$25 paid each week)
Session 3 Earnings = \$150 (\$50 paid each week)

*Canteen Account Balance for buying 1 water bottle = \$10.00

Your final paycheck would be \$40.00.

**Americans Only: Taxes, Social Security & Medicare come out of every paycheck.

WILL I HAVE DAYS OFF? CAN I TRAVEL LOCALLY? Yes to both. Each staff member has one 24-hour day off per week. If you are into outdoor activities you will find many diversions in the area for your day off. We are approximately 2 hours from New York City for those of you who prefer a bit more urban distractions. Public transportation is relatively easy to access and car rental is possible. Also, there are many staff members will have cars and group trips are common. All sorts of local travel information will be available to you at camp.

WILL I GET SOME SORT OF ORIENTATION PRIOR TO THE KIDS ARRIVAL? Yes. On Wednesday, June 12th, 2013 everyone arrives at Stagedoor and that evening we all gather to meet each other and become acquainted with Stagedoor's philosophy and your summer home. Beginning Thursday morning there will be four days of orientation, in both large and small groups, during which you will cover all aspects of your job and the running of Stagedoor. There will also be time for you to get to meet and know your new friends on the staff.

For the rest of these questions it will vary depending on job and/or department so for simplicity we have categorized primary jobs titles into 3 categories.

TECH	Designers (Set, Lighting, & Costume), Carpenters, Swing Techs, Props, Scenic Artists, Costume Builders
ARTISTIC	Directors, Choreographers, Music Directors
COUNSELOR	Stage Managers, Asst Choreographers, Video Techs, MakeUp Artists, Lifeguards, Drama/Improv Teachers, Arts & Crafts, General (driver, merchandise, health center assistant)

*There are other jobs (office, kitchen, etc) but for this document let's just focus on the 3 above.

WHAT HOURS WILL I WORK? Working at a summer camp means that you will be working very irregular hours that make for a long day. However, you will get a 24 hour day-off every week. Exact working hours will vary greatly depending on your job & department. One thing to note here is that no matter what your job is we ALL work at Stagedoor is approached with a team attitude...everybody pitches in when & where needed, which means set and costume designers are also involved in building the shows, light designers help hang/focus each other's shows then run the board for their own shows, if we get into production week and are a little behind it's not uncommon for artistic staff & counselors to sew buttons on costumes or base coat sets and if there is a big rain and a space floods everyone (including the administration) is out there bailing water.

TECH: The first week of each session you will work mornings, have a couple of hours down time in the afternoon, and then start again early evening and finish around lights out time (10p) for the campers. Most of the first week will be spent in the shops. Week 2 sees the tech staff sleeping a little later and working longer into the night because you are starting to need to be in the space more and it's being used for rehearsals & classes all day. By production week all bets are off and tech staff may work well into the early morning hours and not wake till just before lunch. We've all worked in the world of theatre for a few years and know all about long & irregular work days...it's the same at a theatre camp.

ARTISTIC: For the first two weeks your days are typically going to be broken up into blocks of time somewhat reflective of the kid's days. In the morning you will have 2 ½ hours of rehearsal beginning at 9am. During the afternoon there are two 1-hour class periods followed by a 1.5 hour recreation period and then one more 1-hour class period...Artistic staff will teach these afternoon workshop style classes and be off during the afternoon recreation time. Then after supper, you will have another 2 ½ hours of rehearsal ending at 9p. During the 3rd week (production week) your schedule changes slightly as we no longer have afternoon classes but instead pick up an extra 3 hour rehearsal in order to accommodate 13 shows all trying to incorporate their various technical aspects.

COUNSELORS: The story is different and yet the same. While your day always starts at 8:15AM wake-up, you may work as late as 1:00AM if you are On-Duty that night. Built into your schedule though are blocks of "Free" or "Off Duty" time at various times depending on the day. Counselors with show related jobs (Stage Managers, Asst Choreographers) will be in rehearsals in the mornings & evenings with their off-time and counselor duties in the afternoon. Counselors whose job involves teaching everyday (Video, Teacher, Lifeguards, Arts & Crafts) will teach in the afternoon with their off-time and counselor duties being in the mornings or evenings. Counselors who do both (Asst Choreographers, MakeUp) will only teach every other day and follow the artistic schedule when teaching and have off-time/counselor duties in the afternoon on days they don't teach. If you are not On-Duty for the day then your day ends about 1 hour after camper curfew, once your campers are accounted for and in their rooms for the night. If counselors go off camp during this free time they must be back on camp by 1:30AM. Keep in mind that we are here for the kids and that's what they are, children...they get homesick, eat too much candy and get a tummy-ache, will want to talk to their roommates till all hours of the night, etc. You are their big sister or big brother and will be the person they want to help them in times of need, no matter what the time or what your schedule says. Your first and foremost responsibility is the welfare & safety of the campers...even if that means you are late to rehearsal or a miss a production meeting.

WHAT ARE THE HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS LIKE? First of all, staff members do not share rooms (or cabins or tents) with campers at Stagedoor. Our housing is in an old hotel so the rooming is very much like a college dormitory.

- ⇒ **Technical** staff will typically have one roommate in a wing of the facility that is completely separate from the campers. Your roommate will be someone else from the Tech staff but not someone with the same job as you.
- ⇒ **Artistic** staff will live in single rooms with a shared bath down the hall. The Artistic staff wing is somewhat secluded from the campers housing but not entirely, as it is a separate hallway of the same building.
- ⇒ **Counselors** typically live 4/5 to a large room with a private bath and these rooms would be on the same hallway as the campers they are assigned to supervise.

Our housekeeping staff is very meticulous and keeps the common areas of the various buildings at Stagedoor quite clean...however they do not clean your room, which is your responsibility. International staff will be provided with sheets, towels, pillows and blankets...Americans will need to bring their own. It's very much like living in a college or boarding school style dormitory.

The dining hall is a large air-conditioned cafeteria style room and ALL your meals are FREE. There are several hot food items on the line for every meal as well as a full salad bar for lunch & dinner. Fresh fruit and cereal are also offered at every meal. If you have specific dietary need (vegetarian, lactose intolerant, etc) our head chef is very good at accommodating your needs.

This should give you a good overview of Stagedoor Manor...also take a few moments to check out our main website (www.stagedoormanor.com) and if you still have questions ask Chris. We want you to be completely aware for what/where you are applying. Stagedoor is NOT easy and NOT a vacation...but an experience you will never forget and an unparalleled opportunity for career growth.

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*If phoning remember the time difference & to leave your number slowly & clearly if you get the voice mail.