Traveling Players

TECHNICAL THEATRE INTERVIEWS

WELCOME!

We're so excited for you to interview! We can't wait to meet you – or see you again!

HOW DO I INTERVIEW?

You can interview **virtually or in person** (at our Studio in Tysons, VA). Either way, you must register for an interview. We only have a few spots in our Technical Theatre Apprenticeship Program, so don't delay.

Once you register, we will contact you to schedule your 30-minute interview (or 60-minute interview for Technical Theatre Troupe).

WHO WILL BE AT THE INTERVIEW?

- Technical Theatre interviews will be solo.
- Your interviewer – Morgan Shotwell, Props Designer & Thespian Ensemble Director

Interested in acting, too? Some Techies split their summer between the shops and the stage.
You could perform in either Shakespeare Ensemble &/or Comedy Ensemble.
You would need to audition for acting, too.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE INTERVIEW?

We know that technicians can shine in different ways, so we organize our interviews to allow different strengths to shine. You will present selections of your past work as a portfolio. During the interview, you will discuss your portfolio, any art/sewing/technical experience, and what you would like to learn over the summer. You will also hear more about the Traveling Players conservatory experience – both as a technician and a summer student.

Those applying for Technical Theatre Troupe (6 weeks) will have a couple of practical tasks to perform during their interview.

AM I INTERVIEWING TO WORK IN A PARTICULAR SHOP?

No, all apprentices will work and receive training in both the costume shop and the scene shop, gaining fundamental skills in both areas of design and construction. Day-to-day, apprentices move between the shops, working as a team. As the program progresses, students will select projects to focus on, which may lean more heavily towards costuming or scenic/prop/puppetry work.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE INTERVIEW?

You could be accepted, declined, or called back. Decisions are generally sent via email a week after your audition, and you have a week to accept the offer. Our goal is to give everyone we welcome to Traveling Players an incredible summer and rewarding challenge!

While rare, technicians may be asked to do a second interview if we feel the need to discuss your skills and/or interests further.

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THE DIGITAL PORTFOLIO:

Please photograph or scan your work, then upload the photos and documents into a PowerPoint that can be easily shared during your interview. Multiple photos of the same item from different angles, as well as process shots, are highly encouraged.

Technical Theatre Apprenticeship (3-week) Interviewees:

- Please include **3 – 5 items** in your portfolio

Technical Theatre Troupe (6-week) Interviewees:

- Please include **5 – 7 items** in your portfolio.
- Please also fill out the **Technical Theatre Troupe Interview Card** (pg. 4)

Below are some examples of what you can include, but please do not feel limited by this list. If you have created or worked on something awesome that shows off your skills as a technician and artist, we want to see it!

- **Design Renderings of sets, costumes, puppets, or props you have created** – Sketch or digital
- **Costumes or clothing that you have created or assisted on** – Fashion, Theatrical, or Cosplay
- **Props you have created or assisted on** – Theatrical or Cosplay
- **Puppets that you have created or assisted on** – Theatrical or Cosplay
- **Models, paint elevations, or photos of sets or set pieces that you have worked on**
- **Run sheets or other theatrical paperwork you created or worked with**
- **Paintings or drawings** – any medium, non-digital preferred
- **Sewing samples** – Hand or Machine
- **Sculptures** – any medium
- **A page from your sketchbook**

Some helpful guidelines for the portfolio

- Am I proud of the pieces I have chosen?
- Are these pieces related to the skills I would like to learn this summer?
- Do I have progress photos for any of my portfolio pieces? (If so, please include them.)
- Am I prepared to talk about the process I used to create these pieces? Inspiration, materials, time, strategy, lessons learned, etc.

Questions? Just ask! Call us at 703-987-1712 or email us at outreach@travelingplayers.org.

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ON INTERVIEW DAY:

VIRTUAL:
Before logging on, set up your computer in a well-lit space, and double-check that you can share your digital portfolio.

Please be sure to eat beforehand - no starving artists! Have a full water bottle close by. Please turn your phone off once you're connected.

IN PERSON @ OUR TYSONS STUDIO:
Before arriving, please be sure to eat - no starving artists! Bring a laptop with your portfolio or email it to Morgan Shotwell (outreach@travelingplayers.org) ahead of your interview. Bring a water bottle. You will turn off your phone during the interview.

GOT ANY ADVICE FOR ME?

Organize your portfolio and practice presenting it at least once. You should be able to talk through the basic steps of your creative and technical process for each piece. Then relax and have fun -- you're going to do great!

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO GETS IN?

We accept technicians who we believe are ready to work in a fast-paced shop, are team players, and are eager to learn. We want students who are a good fit for our shops and our community. Students who have been with Traveling Players before know the power of a strong, well-balanced team. But how do you create a cohesive and effective team? You need a mix of experiences and backgrounds – technicians with different skill sets and growth opportunities — all eager to support and challenge each other to do their best work.

You will have your best interview if you relax, have fun, and take pride in your work!

Break a leg! We can't wait to see you!

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TECHNICAL THEATRE TROUPE INTERVIEW CARD

*Please only fill this out if you are applying for our **6-week** Technical Theatre Troupe.*

Name: _____ Nickname: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____ Pronouns: _____

Cell Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

School attending: _____

What are you most interested in learning this summer? Is there an area of technical theatre that you would like to specialize in?

What are you most excited about for Technical Theatre Troupe?

What are you most worried about for Technical Theatre Troupe?

What is your favorite piece of art or artist? What do you like about it/him/her/them?

Identify 3 of your strengths as an artist or designer.

Identify 1 of your weaknesses as an artist or designer.

What do you think you can contribute to the Troupe and the tour process?