



BLACK HILLS COMMUNITY THEATRE

Technical Theater Internship

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Lead Instructor: John Easton, Jr.

Mission Statement

The mission of Black Hills Community Theatre's Technical Theater Internship is to enrich and educate our community about the technical skills used in the entertainment industry, with a predominant focus on the live performance subsector. By teaching these skills, we hope to foster a culture of ever-improving technical performances.

Technical Theater Internship

The Technical Theater Internship (TTI) is an unpaid internship provided by Black Hills Community Theatre (BHCT) at no cost to the intern. The TTI will focus on teaching interns important technical skills used by the entertainment industry. Upon completion or departure of the program, you may request letters of recommendation to schools or businesses of your choice.

Eligibility

The Technical Theater Internship is open to all students aged 13–19 from the Rapid City area. No prior experience is necessary to apply for the TTI; however, a strong interest in learning the technical theater trade is required. Applicants also are required to be in good academic standing with their school, unless they have already obtained a high-school diploma or GED.

Curriculum

The TTI curriculum is centered around a mixture of lecture and workshop learning in conjunction with hands-on studies. Interns will be expected not only to participate and attend lectures, but also to work alongside BHCT staff for at least two mainstage shows per season. Interns are also required to present a performance-based project every summer that they are part of the program.

Scheduling

The TTI has a routine schedule of two lectures or workshops per week, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. These workshops will be 2 hours long. Interns will be required to accumulate at least 12 hours of instruction time per month. This time may be reduced if the Intern is participating in outside performances such as high school theatrical productions or operating technology for other live shows.

Health and Safety

Technical theater is a physically demanding and mentally challenging discipline with significant risks to life, limb, and health. TTI interns will be required to observe all of the following health and safety guidelines set by the BHCT staff. Additional guidelines may be added depending on the situation.

Health

1. All interns will be required to submit a completed Emergency Contact sheet. This sheet is required in the event that an intern is injured while participating in the program.
2. Interns are encouraged to participate only while in good health. Illness can run rampant in the entertainment industry if left unchecked. If an intern is ill we would prefer that they stay home and recover so as not to spread illness to their fellow interns or performers.
3. The consumption of alcohol and the use of illegal drugs or abuse of prescription drugs are strictly forbidden in the TTI. Interns suspected to be under the influence or found in possession of these substances will be immediately dismissed from the program. Interns who are prescribed drugs which may impair their coordination will be retained but will refrain from hands-on work during their course of treatment. Additionally, the Performing Arts Center of Rapid City is a tobacco-free facility.
4. Stress is a constant companion in the performance industry. Interns who feel undue stress during their time with the program are encouraged to communicate with the lead instructor to set up a plan that will address it.

Safety

1. All interns are required to conduct themselves in a safe, professional manner.
2. Personnel are required to wear appropriate clothing and personal protection equipment (PPE) for certain activities. This includes closed-toe shoes, long-sleeve cotton or wool shirts, full-length denim pants, gloves, and eye protection. Avoid synthetics such as polyester.
3. Interns are required to operate under the supervision of at least one member of BHCT staff during all activities related to the internship. Interns will not be permitted to be in the building without a staff member present.
4. Weapons of any kind will not be permitted inside the building. In special lessons weapons may be used in the shop as references for prop fabrication, but interns will not be permitted to carry them. Violation of this rule will result in immediate dismissal from the program.
5. Interns are required to take and pass tool competency tests before being permitted to use any tools in the scene shop.
6. No horseplay or aggressive behavior will be tolerated.
7. Discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated.

Expectations

Interns should anticipate a fast-paced and rigorous training in the technical field.

Perfection should be strived for and a certain level of competence will be expected after portions of training. There will be long hours and multiple projects. Interns will fail in certain tasks and be expected to analyze their failures in order learn from them. In return, the Interns can expect in-depth training, opportunities to improve their skills in real shows, and the successes that come with time and competence.

Fields of Study

Technical theater comprises several component disciplines. The TTI will strive to teach the following fields to basic levels and will provide advanced training depending on the intern's interest and aptitude.

Lighting

Sound

Scenic construction

Properties

Stage management

Special effects