



First Stage Position Announcement

Summer Academy Company Class Director (June 17-July 14 and July 22-August 18)

This position is seasonally contracted and will report to the Academy Director

Position Description

The Summer Academy Company Class Director is a 4 week contract, Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm. For the Summer Academy Company Class Director position you must believe in the mission of First Stage, to transform lives through theater, and work to create a safe, welcoming, inspiring and motivating environment for students, teachers and parents. We are seeking teaching artists with the expertise in any of the following areas: Direction for Musical Theater, Choreographing Dance for Musical Theater, Music Direction for Musical Theater, Contemporary Theater Direction, Classical (Shakespeare) Direction.

Company Class Staff will work with a young professionals for four weeks to broaden performance skills, deepen knowledge of theater, and produce a show. Each Company Class culminates in public performances on the Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday of the final week. Each show will be determined by the Academy Director. Shows are yet to be determined.

Musical Theater Company Class- June 17-July 12 (Performances July 12-14)

- Director
- Music Director
- Choreographer

Contemporary Company Class- July 22- August 16 (Performances August 16-18)

- Director

Classical Company Class- July 22-August 16 (Performances August 16-18)

- Director

Responsibilities for Academy Company Class Staff

- **Directing Rehearsals:** Lead and manage rehearsals for a high school students over a four-week period.
- **Process-Oriented Learning:** Develop a rehearsal schedule and implement a process-oriented approach to learning, encouraging students to explore and discover their artistic potential. Develop, document, and submit age and contextually appropriate lesson plans based on Academy guideposts.
- **Collaboration:** Work closely with students, teachers, and other staff to create a positive and inclusive creative environment.
- **Skill Development:** Provide constructive feedback to help students improve their acting, stage presence, and overall performance skills.
- **Safe Environment:** Maintain a safe learning environment through supporting student well-being, confidence, and personal growth.
- **Classroom Management:** Manage classroom behavior, procedures, and assessments.
- **Performances:** Attend all performances and facilitate curtain speeches as needed.
- **Meetings:** Attend all required Academy meetings and training sessions.

- **Production Oversight:** Manage all aspects of the production, including set design, costume coordination, and technical elements with help from the Academy Director and limited support from First Stage production staff. Company Class shows are **not fully produced productions** – these classes work on a limited budget. Company Class Directors must attend all production meetings and meet all deadlines given by production staff members and the Academy Director.

Qualifications

The Summer Academy Company Class Director must be a team player, lead by example, exhibit a strong work ethic and be committed to the First Stage philosophy of teaching *life skills through stage skills* and *transforming lives through theater*. Excellent communication skills are critical, along with the ability to adjust communications styles to varied youth, parent and professional populations. Prior teaching, directing, and experience creating curriculum, managing a classroom, and writing lesson plans is required. The position will require local travel to our main campus, Milwaukee Youth Arts Center (325 W Walnut St, Milwaukee 53212) or other satellite locations. The ability to pass a background check is required.

Compensation

This is a contracted position, for Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm during the weeks of June 17-August 16, 2024. These positions are paid \$700/week.

About First Stage

First Stage is Milwaukee's premiere non-profit theater for young people and families and has grown from a small theater group to a nationally acclaimed company drawing annual audiences of more than 135,000 people. With a season including six family series plays and one First Steps show (more than 300 performances annually), First Stage has become one of the largest programs in the nation. First Stage offers arts-in-education programs, spending more than 2,000 hours annually in classrooms throughout southeastern Wisconsin, and the First Stage Theater Academy, a professional theater training program teaching "life skills through stage skills" to 3,000 enrollments of young people ages 3 - 18 each year. It is one of the largest and finest programs of its kind in the nation. For more information about First Stage visit www.firststage.org.

To Apply

Please send cover letter and resume with your experience, availability between June 19- August 11, and which Company Class position(s) you wish to be considered for via email to Academy Director, J.T.

Backes: jtbackes@firststage.org.

FIRST STAGE is an equal opportunity employer and as such, we consider individuals for employment according to their abilities and performance. Employment decisions are made without regard to race, age, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, physical or mental disability, marital or veteran status, or any other classification protected by law.