

Internship Opportunities

One of the best ways to make the leap from the university to a professional props career is to do an internship with a professional theatre. Internships are often listed on theatre websites under Employment, Jobs or Careers.

By engaging with craftspeople, designers, and directors in the professional environment students learn professional work standards and develop professional contacts. Using and learning the products found in the regional theatre or summer theatre prop shop develops the skills and experience necessary to apply for entry level positions.

Most interns are expected to work the same hours as paid staff and depending on the skills of the individual may be assigned as an assistant to a full time staff member or even given individual projects to complete.

Beyond learning professional technical skills, an internship also gives exposure to the communication, organization, and leadership qualities needed to manage a prop build and run a prop shop.

To find an internship search the websites of a regional or summer theatre of interest. Many have links available describing the opportunities for employment. On the theatre webpage look for a link under a header such as: Opportunities, Employment, Jobs, Education, Training, or Internship.



Joseph Galloway



Kelly Fin

Who is SPAM?

S*P*A*M (The Society of Properties Artisan Managers) is an association of professional Prop Managers and Educators.



Mackenzie Cunningham



Visit our website at
www.propmanagers.org

CAREERS IN PROPERTIES

Interested in a prop career? There are many different opportunities, but what do you need to know? Where do you start?



Society of Properties Artisan Managers



Alexandra Wisbiski

Education and Training

Many universities and colleges across the US offer at least one class in stage properties and most have classes in stagecraft or costuming teaching skills that are adaptable for work in a prop shop. Typical class offerings such as costume construction, carpentry skills, metalworking and welding, drafting, design and décor, fabric dyeing and painting, millinery, or costume crafts can form the foundation of a prop training curriculum.

Classes in other departments around campus can supplement theatre specific classes. Art classes in sculpture, drawing, painting, graphics, jewelry, or textiles teach good artisan skills. Architecture and industrial design classes offer drafting, interior design, and production technique classes in wood, plastics and metal working.

A good prop person is truly a “Jack or Jill of all trades”. Every hobby, interest, or experience adds to the body of knowledge informing the skill set of a qualified prop artisan. Every day events coupled with an observant and curious mind can form a body of knowledge and develop the skills necessary to have a successful prop career.

Job Titles

Properties Director or Master
 Assistant Properties Master
 Properties Artisan

- Craftsperson
- Soft Goods
- Carpenter

Properties Buyer or Shopper
 Properties Journeyman

Management Skills

Organization
 Flexibility in the work process
 Creativity
 Eye for detail
 Flair for design
 Color Coordination
 Textural sympathy
 Creative adaptability
 Drafting/sketching/graphic communication
 High production standards
 Self-motivated
 Innovative thinking
 Research skills
 Computer skills – word/ spreadsheet/graphics
 Memory for details/sizes/visuals

Artisan Skills

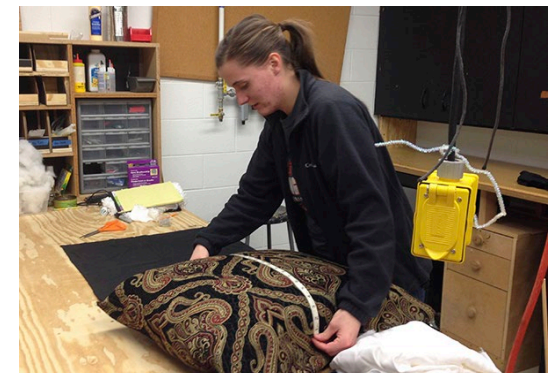
Sewing
 Welding/metal working
 Furniture construction/restoration
 Woodworking
 Plastics construction
 Upholstery
 Faux painting
 Radio control
 Pneumatics
 Special Effects
 Calligraphy
 Model making
 Graphics layout
 Molding & Casting
 Jewelry making
 Quilting/embroidery/knitting
 Papier-mâché
 Leather work
 Painting – acrylics/watercolor/portraiture
 Floral arrangement
 Sculpture – 3D carving or foam carving
 Electrical construction & wiring
 Crafts
 Photography
 Fabric dyeing and distressing
 Matting and framing
 Draping, Fabric layout & pattern making
 Musical instrumentation
 Weaponry & pyrotechnics



Christopher Kesel



Rachel Kaplow



Abby Kuchar