

Actors, Producers, Directors

Careers

Actors, producers, and directors express ideas and create images in theater, film, radio, television, and other performing arts media. They interpret a writer's script to entertain, inform, or instruct an audience. Although many actors, producers, and directors work in New York or Los Angeles, far more work in other places. They perform, direct, and produce in local or regional television studios, theaters, or film production companies, often creating advertising or training films or small-scale independent movies.

Actors perform in stage, radio, television, video, or motion picture productions. They also work in cabarets, nightclubs, and theme parks. Actors portray characters, and, for more complex roles, they research their character's traits and circumstances so that they can better understand a script.

Some work as "extras," with no lines to deliver. Some actors do voiceover and narration work for advertisements, animated features, books on tape, and other electronic media. They also teach in high school or university drama departments, acting conservatories, or public programs.

Producers are entrepreneurs who make the business and financial decisions involving a motion picture, television show, or stage production.

They select scripts, approve the development of ideas, arrange financing, and determine the size and cost of the endeavor. Producers hire or approve directors, principal cast members, and key production staff members.

Directors are responsible for the overall creative decisions of a production. They interpret scripts, audition and select cast members, conduct rehearsals, and direct the work of cast and crew. They approve the design elements of a production, including the sets, costumes, choreography, and music.

Actors, producers, and directors work under constant pressure. Many face stress from the continual need to find their next job. To succeed, actors, producers, and directors need patience and commitment to their craft. Actors strive to deliver flawless performances, often while working under undesirable and unpleasant conditions. Producers and directors organize rehearsals and meet with writers, designers, financial backers, and production technicians. They experience stress not only from these activities, but also from the need to adhere to budgets, union work rules, and production schedules.

Job Outlook

Employment in these occupations is expected to grow 11 percent during the 2008–18 decade, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Expanding cable and satellite television operations and increasing box-office receipts of major studio and independent films will increase the need for workers.

Earnings

Median hourly wages of actors were \$16.59 in May 2008. The middle 50 percent earned between \$9.81 and \$29.57. Median hourly wages were \$14.48 in performing arts companies and \$28.72 in the motion picture and video industry.

Median annual wages of producers and directors were \$64,430 in 2008. The middle 50 percent earned between \$41,890 and \$105,070. Median annual wages were \$85,940 in the motion picture and video industry and \$55,380 in radio and television broadcasting.

Related Occupations

Other performing artists who may need acting skills include:

- Announcers
- Dancers and choreographers
- Musicians, singers, and related workers
- Makeup artists, theatrical and performance
- Set and exhibit designers

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Educational Opportunities in Actors, Producers, Directors at LCCC

Associate of Arts

The associate of arts degree is designed for students who intend to continue their education after LCCC. The associate of arts degree does not have a specific major, but elective courses can be used as transfer credits toward a number of different majors at the bachelor's degree level at the LCCC University Partnership and other universities.

The associate of arts degree is awarded to a student successfully completing programmatic requirements. Candidates completing the associate of arts degree may transfer with junior standing to the four-year college or university of their choice. Since requirements at transfer institutions vary widely, each student should consult the catalog of the transfer institution and plan her/his program with a college counselor. There are virtually no limitations to the programs that can be pursued as LCCC can customize associate of arts programs to meet the transfer college/university's requirements.

Students pursuing the associate of arts degree may also select electives, or complement their curriculums, by choosing from such courses as communication, performance, film appreciation, introduction to American cinema, civic and collegiate chorale, civic concert and jazz bands, civic orchestra, fundamentals of music, piano, vocal ensemble, instrumental ensemble, music theory, sight singing and ear training, music history, music appreciation, music as a world phenomenon, introduction to theater, introduction to stagecraft, introduction to lighting, techniques of acting, voice and movement, directing workshop and theater laboratory.

About Lorain County Community College

Lorain County Community College continues to experience enrollment growth because attending LCCC is the most economical way to reach educational goals that help graduates become valuable players in the future economic growth of the county and region. Because of the variety and quality of learning opportunities LCCC provides, enrollment has grown 78 percent since 2000.

Lorain County Community College, which opened in 1963, is one of Ohio's leading colleges delivering credit programs at its Elyria campus and outreach centers in downtown Elyria, Lorain, Wellington and Brunswick. Plus more than 200 courses are offered via distance-learning education options, and the Associate of Arts degree can be completed entirely online.

Students can choose from more than 80 educational programs. Students can complete the first half — and sometimes more — of a bachelor's degree through LCCC's University Partnership, which brings eight universities to the LCCC campus offering 40 bachelor's and master's degree programs. Students can upgrade, retrain and improve current life skills.

In addition to providing a great education for those who enter college with aspirations of a degree, LCCC helps those who have changed their career goals, who want to broaden their horizons, and who want to return to work. LCCC provides learning and training for those who want to move up but find they need new or improved skills for the kind of professional opportunities they seek.

LCCC faculty is recognized locally and nationally for their work as professors and in other areas. They all have advanced degrees and real world experience and understand their primary responsibility at LCCC is to teach classes.

LCCC is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, which is the regional accrediting authority for Ohio colleges and universities. Since opening its doors, LCCC has served more than 300,000 people. More than six million students enroll annually in credit courses at America's community colleges, representing about 46 percent of all students in higher education and about 56 percent of all first-time college entrants.

 **Lorain County
Community College**

 **The University
Partnership**
of Lorain County Community College

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