Theater degrees prepare students for careers

Aldemaro Romero Jr.
CUNY Bernard M Baruch College

How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!
Follow this and additional works at: https://academicworks.cuny.edu/bb_pubs
Part of the Higher Education Commons

Recommended Citation
Romero, Aldemaro Jr., "Theater degrees prepare students for careers" (2014). CUNY Academic Works.
https://academicworks.cuny.edu/bb_pubs/853
Navin said the last few miles of work that a graduate with a degree in theater can do is not just acting. A good example of all the things you can do with a theater degree is Wendy Elms, a native of St. Louis who received her bachelor’s degree in theater from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She said that she traces her interest in the theater to her mother.

“I wasn’t so much a professional at that time. I was in first grade and there was a school play and I was terrified. I wanted nothing to do with it,” she said. “But my mother told my teacher I would do it and I got pushed into playing a little rabbit. It wasn’t much, and it probably got away from me. But when the got to high school, I went to East St. Louis. I was in the drama club, and that’s when a much broader world from behind the stage opened up to me.

“It’s really a kind of a culture shock when you start college. You’re learning the education of theater and you’re trying to audition or about being a technician or a director or producer and you’re going out and being the real world. And then you audition and you get to do every last cast. It’s an amazing experience.

“A lot of parents are scared that their kids are not going to learn to be actors and fail, but there are so many careers,” she said. “There are designers, technicians, carpenters, electricians, mathematicians, scientists, artists and writers. There are many careers in theater if you think people need to figure out what their actual interest in the theater realm is and then go from there. My recommendation is to realize theater is more than acting. It’s not just who is in the limelight because when you are in theater, it’s just as important who is not. You have to really market yourself because nowhere is going to be given to you. You have to find your own work and network and build your own career. You have to really go out and be the real world in the theater realm, you have very straight outcomes.

“I got involved because a woman I was working with got cancer and she had to give up her job. I got inspired,” she said. “She was my motivation.”

“Beyond that, Navin said she’s involved with the battle against breast cancer because in a way, we all are affected by cancer. We all know someone that has been affected by breast cancer,” she said. “It’s our way to give a little back to those people for their struggles.”

Navin said over the last few years, four women she knows have been diagnosed. “Breast cancer can happen to anyone,” she said. “I know two breast cancer survivors, and I think they are very strong and inspirational people.”

“In addition, the seminar will include updated information and change on cancer in general,” said Navin.

The current head of OSHA, David Michaels, “informed the call to action to bring breast cancer awareness to those who are the best for the job.”

“OSHA inspection workshop offered

A woman is talking in the middle of a room, looking at the camera, with her hands up. She is wearing a white shirt and has long hair. The room is well-lit and there are windows in the background. The woman is speaking.