

WORKING IN THEATRE: Teaching Artist

Name: _____

CENTER
THEATRE
GROUP



Teaching artists are independent contractors hired by a school, theatre, or other organization to teach theatre. Unlike theatre teachers, teaching artists do not need a teaching credential, and do not work full-time for a school district or single school. Many are working actors who supplement their income by teaching workshops or classes on the side. A single teaching artist could be contracted to run acting workshops for a theatre company, teach physical theatre to middle school students at a public school, and work with a social service organization to help veterans build confidence through improvisational comedy games. Most have undergraduate degrees in their art form, and many have graduate-level (master's) degrees as well. There is no formal process for becoming a teaching artist, so getting started can be difficult until you start to build a teaching resume. Becoming a teacher's assistant at the college level is a good way to get started, as is volunteering for arts organizations in their education departments.

Note to students: You'll get the most out of this video if you watch it twice. Watch it once, and then read the questions below before the second viewing.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1 According to Juan, a teaching artist uses the art form to inspire others and to “create either future artists or just great people.” What practical life skills do you think you might learn in an acting workshop led by Juan?

2 Juan mentions one aspect of his job is prepping students to see plays. What might you want to know or think about before you see a piece of theatre? Why?

3 What do you think are the differences between a “teaching artist” and an “arts teacher?”

4 Juan mentions learning from his students. What kinds of things do you think he learns? Have you ever learned from someone you've taught?

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1 What can you identify with or what speaks strongly to you in the video?

2 Juan started as an actor. Choose a skill you think teachers and actors share and explain why it is important in both professions.

3 There are many ways to “teach” someone something. Describe a time you helped someone learn (in or out of school, formally or informally). Did you enjoy teaching? Why or why not?

4 Juan mentions patience more than once. Do you see yourself as a patient person? How do you stay patient in difficult circumstances? If not, what might you do to help yourself be more patient with others?

FURTHER ACTIVITIES:

1 Take the Career Path Quiz. First, answer the questions for yourself, and then take it a second time as you think a teaching artist might answer them. What conclusions can you draw about your interests?

2 Juan got his start at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, which is one of many companies around the country with a focus on education (like Center Theatre Group). Research another theatre company that offers courses or workshops. What kind of programs are offered?

3 Juan attended California Institute of the Arts (CalArts). CalArts has degree programs in many areas of the arts. Look at the various “Programs of Study” and explore one of them. What degrees are offered? What types of classes are required? What are the prerequisites for admission?

Visit CTGLA.org/WorkingInTheatre and select “Teaching Artist.”

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