Theatre and Communication Arts Programs Available at Bemidji State University:

**Major:** Theatre (B.A.)

**Fields of Emphasis:** Theatre Production, Theatre History/Literature, Performance Studies

**Minor:** Theatre

**Department Website:** http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/theatre_speech

**Major Highlights:**

**Theatre:** The importance of theatre in the cultural history of both the East and the West cannot be disputed. The theatre curriculum at Bemidji State University is designed to provide a broad general base of theatre knowledge within the context of a sense of how global cultures affect the ways in which people think, feel, and act. Theatre majors prepare for professional internships, entry-level work in the theatre profession, and/or graduate study. Earning a degree in theatre at Bemidji State University offers far more than preparation for the work world, however. Because of the collaborative nature of theatre and because of the small size of the Theatre program at Bemidji State, students who study and work in Theatre here have multiple opportunities in all areas of theatre. Theatre production work is an important component of the Theatre major, providing the student numerous chances to connect theory with practice. *All Bemidji State University students are welcome to audition for and work on BSU’s theatrical productions. They need not major or minor in theatre.*

**Communication Arts:** Understanding the nature of oral communication and acquiring the skills to be an effective oral communicator in a variety of situations is essential in the contemporary world. The Department of Theatre and Communication Arts is firmly committed to offering a number of communication courses (most of which are designated as Liberal Education options) to help students achieve oral communication skills. Particular focus is placed on public speaking, interpersonal communication, listening, and small group discussion. Majors in the Department of Theatre and Communication Arts are urged to pursue at least one year of foreign language study.

**Employment Areas:**

The "Occupational Outlook Handbook" reports that in 2006, actors, producers, and directors held about 163,000 jobs, primarily in motion picture and video, performing arts, and broadcast industries.

**Projected Demand for Theatre and Communication Arts Majors in Minnesota:**

MnCareers reports that the outlook for actors is fair. The field is very competitive. The average salary is $12.90 per hour. For producers and directors, the outlook is also fair, with strong competition, and an average salary of $29.20 per hour.

**Projected Demand for Theatre and Communication Arts Majors Nationwide:**

The DISCOVER guidance system reports that the demand for actors is growing moderately with a 1.2% expected growth rate per year, and an average salary of $38,500 annually in 2009. Some well-known Actors earn very high salaries, creating the false impression that actors are highly paid. Earnings for most actors are low because employment is so erratic. Many actors supplement their income by holding other jobs in other fields.

**Placement Information for Theatre and Communication Arts Graduates:**

Of the 2008-2009 Bemidji State University theatre (B.A.) graduates, 33% reported continuing their education within one year of graduation. This does not include students who were not seeking employment, furthering their education, unavailable, or had unknown status.

Majors in the Department of Theatre and Communication Arts are urged to pursue at least one year of foreign language study. Students are also encouraged to discuss with their advisor the option of a second major or minor that might strengthen or complement their major.
A Partial List of Employers Who Have Hired BSU Theatre and Speech Communication Graduates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACS Security</td>
<td>Site Supervisor</td>
<td>Minneapolis, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>By the Yard, Inc.</td>
<td>Customer Service</td>
<td>Jordan, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Tix</td>
<td>Graphic Designer</td>
<td>St. Paul, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dell'Arte International</td>
<td>Assistant Producing Artistic Director</td>
<td>Blue Lake, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Presbyterian Church</td>
<td>Director of Music/Drama</td>
<td>Shakopee, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macalester College</td>
<td>Theatre Department Technical Director</td>
<td>St. Paul, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Bunyan Playhouse</td>
<td>Stage Manager</td>
<td>Bemidji, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Lake School District</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Red Lake, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Fe Opera</td>
<td>Properties Crew</td>
<td>Santa Fe, NM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilson's Leather</td>
<td>Assistant Manager</td>
<td>Greenville, SC</td>
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</tbody>
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Colleges and Universities Where BSU Theatre and Communication Arts Graduates Have Gone to Continue Their Education:

- Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN
- London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art, London, UK
- Portland State University, Portland, OR

Note 1: Some of the above job/career titles require advanced degrees or specialized training.

Note 2: Degrees alone do not get students jobs. Internships, summer jobs, volunteer work, part-time jobs, work-study positions, and active participation in student organizations on campus are all ways to become more competitive in a tight job market.

Note 3: Personal Competencies: it is also recommended that individuals be competent in a variety of communication methods, and computer skills are a must.

Bibliography:

- Bemidji State University Undergraduate Catalog 2006-2008. Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN (2009)

For more information, please contact the Career Services Office in 102 Sanford Hall or call us at 218-755-2038 or toll free at 800-657-3726.