

Stage Door Project: Designing A Raisin in the Sun

The **Stage Door Project** is a Geva Theatre Center education program designed to introduce talented and motivated students to the creative process and skills practiced by theatre professionals in the crafting of Geva productions.

The 2011-12 program is offered to **high school students** who identify an interest in the design opportunities of theatrical production, including **scenic, costume, lighting and sound design**.

Students will have unique access to visit several steps in the Geva production process, and share ideas directly with Geva artists. They will read and respond to a script, talk with a director about what a production can communicate through design and why, and visit Geva during the build, rehearsal, and technical rehearsal periods prior to attending a public preview performance.

A Stage Door candidate does not need to have extensive experience in a specific area of theatre design or technology, but a creative, inquisitive mind is a must. We believe that design is an interpretive process integral to storytelling, and seek students with the passion to create compelling stories. While we will explore the practical application of ideas, this program will emphasize why design choices are made over and above the technical solutions of how those designs are achieved. Candidates who can apply both rigorous analysis and imagination in their examination of a play will thrive with this opportunity.

This is not an apprenticeship or internship; students will not have hands-on participation in the Geva production. However, students will develop their own conceptual approach to the text alongside Geva artists, and create a research collage or other presentation of their interpretation of the play as it relates to their chosen area of design. This work may be displayed at Geva and added to the young artists' portfolios.

The sharing of insights, questions and process directly between working professional artists and students is the highlight of this program. We talk over pizza. We sit side-by-side in rehearsal. We share not only the lessons we've learned along the way, but also the challenges we're still solving. The journey is personal, immediate and fun, and every participant influences the process.

For more information about this program, please contact:

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Designing *Raisin in the Sun*

a Geva Theatre Center Stage Door Project

Program Timeline

Application deadline: November 7, 2011

Notification of acceptance: November 21, 2011

Required Sessions

Selected designers must commit to participating in all nine sessions.

Please note that these include one early dismissal from school, and two dates which fall during the 2012 winter break.

All sessions will be held at one of two locations:

Geva Theatre Center
75 Woodbury Blvd.
Rochester, NY 14607

Geva Scenic Shop
189 Martin St
Rochester, NY 14605

Friday, December 2

3:30-5:00pm

Full group discussion and program kick-off:

What is design? What is its role in storytelling? How does observation lead to art?

Designers will receive a copy of *A Raisin in the Sun* to read for the next session.

Monday, December 19

3:30-5:00pm

Meeting led by Skip Greer, Geva's Artist-in-Residence and Director of Education.

How do a director and design team begin to conceptualize a production?

A research assignment will be given for the designers to complete over the holiday break

Tuesday, January 17

3:30-5:00pm

Sharing and discussion of *Raisin in the Sun* research assignment

This project may be refined and enhanced over the next month into a final research collage or other presentation

Thursday, January 19

3:30-5:00pm

First visit to Geva shops, divided by design group

What are the specific tools, needs, resources & approaches of each design area?

Tuesday, January 31*

2:00-5:00pm

Sharing the Geva production designs for *A Raisin in the Sun*; designers observe Geva rehearsal process

*Early arrival at Geva required on this date

Tuesday, February 7

3:30-5:00pm

Second visit to shops, divided by design group

What are the next steps in realizing the vision?

Saturday, February 18**

2:00-4:15pm

Observe technical rehearsal

Wednesday, February 22**

4:30-7:00pm Arrive for end of tech; dinner and conversation with the director and the *Raisin in the Sun* freelance guest designers

7:30pm Attend preview performance! (Running time TBA)

Final projects to be shared, with possible display opportunity in Geva lobby

** These two dates fall during many schools' winter break; any participating designers must plan to be available for these sessions.

Monday, February 27

3:30-5:00pm

Post-performance observations and discussion

Design project displays to be returned at end of Raisin run, after March 25th

Program Candidate Requirements

The Stage Door Project: Designing A Raisin in the Sun is open to students in grades 9-12.

Candidates must be available for all nine program sessions.

Candidates must complete an application form, including:

- Choice of design area. Up to 4 designers will be selected in each of the design areas (scenic, costume, lighting and sound). Designers may indicate a first and second choice area of interest.
- Written responses to 4 short essay questions
- A resume of theatre, design, or other relevant experience
- Student and parent/guardian's signatures

Candidates must also provide:

- One signed letter of nomination from a teacher

Applications are due November 7, 2011.

Applicants will be notified of their acceptance status by November 21st.

Participation Fee: \$25

Fee can be waived in cases of financial hardship.

There is no fee to apply.