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How To Start Your Own Theater Company



Synopsis

With advice and instruction from an experienced actor and theater director, this pragmatic, authoritative guide imparts backstage know-how for wouldbe playhouse practitioners on everything from fundraising and finding a space to selecting plays and navigating legal issues. Chronicling three seasons at Chicago's award-winning Congo Square Theatre, this journey behind the curtain reveals the nitty-gritty details—such as managing rent, parking, and safety issues; determining tax status and calculating budgets; and finding flexible day jobs—that are often overlooked amid the zeal of artistic pursuit. Inspired by Congo Square's own unique inception, the valuable how-to also speaks directly to the many underserved audiences who want to create their own companies, including African American, Asian American, Latino, physically challenged, and GLBT communities. With lists of Equity offices, legal advisers, and important organizations, this complete resource is sure to help ambitious theater lovers establish and maintain their own successful companies.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an awesome inside guide to what it takes to start a successful theatre company from the ground up. It is written through the lens of an actor with raw experience.

Autobiographical, informative, and witty, this book gives us a backstage view into what it really takes to run a theatre company. It also speaks candidly and personally about getting a day job in a new city in order to survive, stay healthy, and network while you plan. The information to getting started are all in one place, which makes it a great detailed reference guide for people just getting started or

who have already begun. A great book to have in your library if you're thinking about venturing into non for profit theatre.

This book is a nice little read, unfortunately it is not terribly helpful or practical. The book is more anecdotal. It spends most of its time talking about the experiences of the author without sufficiently explaining how to start a theater company. Also, it is heavily skewed towards actors and does not consider that other people involved in the theater might be interested in starting theater companies for their own reasons.

An interesting starting point and useful, in that regard, but it is cursory and rather superficial. Specifics would make this far more useful as a tool, but it's a good jumping off point and glad I found it.

Being in the process of starting my own theater company, Mr Nelson's book was the one stop shop I was looking for. Not only are there great tidbits for how to start your own theater company but several "what not to do's" when venturing out on your own. We have made this required reading for all of our founders and plan on using this book to check in throughout this whirlwind adventure. Thank you again for sharing your knowledge.

Con conversationally written, and filled with the author's experiences and recommendations. Time will tell about the true usefulness, but certainly have a better appreciation of the pitfalls and joys than before.

Not everything this book has is useful, but as I am starting up my own theatre company of sorts I find it's guidance to be pretty good from time and again.

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