



## Professional Acting Apprenticeship

EXPERIENCE | TRAINING | COLLABORATION

### About Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati

Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati (ETC) is a professional, nonprofit Equity theater located in the heart of historic Over-the-Rhine. Founded in 1986, ETC is recognized as a leading arts organization in the region, dedicated to producing bold, contemporary plays and musicals that engage, challenge, and inspire. As Cincinnati's premiere theater destination for new and innovative works, ETC is committed to fostering local talent, advancing arts education, and contributing to the cultural vitality of our community. Each season, the theatre welcomes thousands of patrons from across the region and beyond, offering a vibrant and inclusive space that celebrates diverse stories and perspectives. With its strong reputation for artistic excellence and community impact, Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati provides a dynamic and rewarding environment for individuals passionate about the performing arts.

### Job Title: Acting Apprenticeship

Ensemble apprentices are valued for their essential role in the organization's operations and mission. It is very important to us that applicants are well informed about our Apprenticeship Program, this position, and our theatre, so please do not hesitate to ask questions.

### Dates: August 2026–July 2027

The 2026–2027 ETC Professional Acting Apprenticeship season is mid-August 2026 to mid-July 2027. Typically, before rehearsals start, the apprentices will participate in scheduled orientation sessions in August. Rehearsals for the first show of the season will commence mid-August, with our season opener in mid-September. The apprenticeship season will conclude with the apprentices starring in their own fully produced show. Specific start and end dates will be confirmed via forthcoming production calendars and agreements.

### Position Summary

The Professional Acting Apprenticeship is an eleven-month paid position. The program is a great fit for the theatre maker who has had some hands-on experience or some formal training. The apprenticeship is designed to support early career professionals in the development of necessary skills and experience to further their careers in theatre. Under the training, mentorship, and supervision of the Director of Apprenticeship Programming, the Apprenticeship Program Associate, and the Production Stage Manager, the apprentice experiences the many layers of producing theatre professionally. Over the course of a season, each acting apprentice will be given rotating assignments for each show. This may include but is not limited to auditioning for each show that a role is applicable or for an understudy position; observing rehearsals; understudying rehearsals; attending rehearsals; learning and rehearsing a running crew position and attending curated events.

### Essential Functions

Each Apprentice will take on an assignment that will become their job, which may include:

- Rehearse and perform an acting role in the subscription series for the full rehearsal and performance schedule if cast by the Producing Artistic Director and/or visiting directors
- Step into the role of a contracted actor and perform as an understudy for: ticketed performances, AEA put-in rehearsals and/or other rehearsal(s) at the discretion of the Producing Artistic Director
- Perform as an understudy in scheduled understudy rehearsals and performances
- Fulfill production crew assignments, including but not limited to assistant stage managing; sound, light or video board operator; properties, costume, or set running crew; assistant house managing; light maintenance, and housekeeping
- Assist with other duties such as strike and possible ushering
- Perform predetermined hospitality or other organizational duties

- Follow schedules, guidelines, protocols, and health and safety directives by ETC and AEA
- Participate in the development or selection of the season-end apprentice production
- Attend rehearsals and perform in the season-end apprentice production

### **Required Skills and Experience**

- Some knowledge, experience, and efficiency as a theatre performer
- A desire and willingness to learn by doing and observing
- Basic knowledge of Actors' Equity Association rules, guidelines, and resources
- A desire to work with and become an essential part of the ETC team

### **Work Environment and Physical Demands**

- Ability to lift, carry, push, and pull up to 30 pounds
- Ability to climb stairs multiple times a day
- Ability to sit and stand for extended periods of time
- Ability to work in low light/dark settings
- Occasional stooping, kneeling, and crouching
- Digital dexterity and hand-eye coordination

In addition to the duties listed above, ETC expects the following of each employee: adheres to ETC policies and procedures; works in a safe manner; performs duties as workload necessitates; maintains a positive and respectful attitude; communicates regularly with supervisor about departmental issues; demonstrates efficient time management and prioritizes workload; demonstrates regular and consistent attendance and punctuality; meets department productivity standards; participates in ETC events as needed or required; and completes other duties as assigned.

### **Compensation**

A reasonable schedule and fair pay are important to us. The apprentice receives a weekly rate for hours worked that is above the current livable wage rate for the area. Further details will be discussed in the interview process. ETC supports the apprentice in seeking outside part-time employment. However, it is important to ensure that any outside employment not hinder the apprentices' theatre schedule.

Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati is an equal opportunity employer, dedicated to fostering a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in every aspect of our work—onstage, offstage, and throughout our community. We are committed to recruiting an inclusive community of artists and administrators who reflect our world and actively strive to be an antiracist theatre. We strongly encourage qualified individuals from all backgrounds and life experiences to apply, especially those especially those under-represented in the theatre field and who bring diverse perspectives to our team and enrich the stories we tell.

**Application window is open December 15, 2025– February 12, 2026.**

**To apply, go to:** <https://ensemblecincinnati.org/apprentice-program/> to submit the online application. Following receipt of your application, we may contact you for an in-person or Zoom interview. No phone calls, but applicants may email any questions to [apprentice@ensemblecincinnati.org](mailto:apprentice@ensemblecincinnati.org).