

Middle-earth Studios Job Information

What is Middle-earth Studios?

Since 1976 we have been dedicated to enriching children's imaginations through the art of puppetry and our unique interactive costume-storytelling. During the summer season we perform from our two stationary theaters located at Knoebels in Elysburg, Pennsylvania, and at the Land of Make Believe in Hope, New Jersey. Our goal is to entertain guests, empower young audiences, and create joyful memories for the generations of families visiting the parks.

Who are we looking for?

Middle-earth Studios is looking for folks with any range of experience in the dramatic arts, both beginners and seasoned performers. Ideal candidates are excited to learn more about the art of storytelling, improvisation, and puppetry. Applicants should be energetic and comfortable interacting with park guests in character. Performances take place outdoors in a variety of weather conditions; the ability to adapt and perform in challenging situations is a must. If you want to share our love of art and entertainment with children and their families, this is the job for you!

How do we make magic memories?

On a typical day, two performers work together in a variety of roles. All performers wear costumes, make announcements over a microphone, dress volunteers, and clean and organize our performance space. Company members are expected to learn how to process merchandise sales, and be willing to learn how to fix costumes, props and technical equipment.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **The Storyteller**
 - Engages the audience with sound and story
 - Memorizes a 15 - 20 page script
 - Memorizes timing for music and sound effects
 - Cues sound tracks during storytelling
 - Uses a microphone and operates a sound system
 - Utilizes vocal range to create character voices and evoke emotion
 - Receives notes and uses feedback to improve performance
 - Works with The Blocker to move volunteers through the actions of the story
- **The Puppeteer**
 - Engages the audience with puppetry and sound
 - Learns puppetry technique to perform with Marionettes (puppets on strings), Hand-mouth Puppets (Muppet style puppets), and glove puppets.
 - Memorizes timing for music and sound effects
 - Cues sound tracks during the performance
 - Develops character voices (not always necessary)
 - Directly speaks to audiences through the puppet

- Learns lip-sync and choreography to pre-recorded tracks
- Performs from a 4 ft. marionette bridge
- Performs in small spaces
- Uses body strength to hold up and manipulate puppets during 10 - 30 minute shows

Land of Make Believe performers won't have to learn marionettes

- **The Blocker**

- Engages the audience with direction and imagination
- Guides participants through story actions by touch and instruction
- Dramatically acts out the story to motivate audiences
- Keeps all participants safe during the performance (ex. catching a falling child or monitoring make believe sword fights)
- Works with The Storyteller to arrange movement and set up scenes
- Puppeteers the Unicorn puppet at the story's climax

What do we provide our performers?

Middle-earth Studios is an opportunity to grow as a paid theatre artist. You will expand your range of vocal expression, improve improvisation skills and become better at public speaking. As a puppeteer you will learn about puppet construction and animation techniques. Additionally, there are chances to learn about stagecraft, costume making, and prop construction. As a company we want to share our experience and knowledge. This is your time to build friendships, gain new perspectives, and learn more about yourself!

Youth Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are for young folks between the ages of 12 – 16 who have a desire to learn more about performance, puppetry, and stagecraft. Little to no theatre experience required! Apprentices are only expected to block shows, but can do more if they so desire. This is a chance to work with experienced artists, build interpersonal skills, and make a money during the summer!

How do I apply/audition?

Please fill out an application before reviewing the **Audition Side**.

Go to:

www.middleearthstudios.org/mesjobs

or follow the link to our online application:

<https://www.jotform.com/middleearthstudios1/middleearthstudiosjobs>

Once you've submitted your application, carefully read the **Audition Side**.

Call or e-mail to schedule an audition to be held in person or video.

Contact Information

For further questions and information contact us via phone or e-mail.

E-mail: middleearthstudios1@gmail.com Website: www.middleearthstudios.org

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