

### Program Synopsis

The Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (SDCF), the not-for-profit foundation affiliated with the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), offers its Observership Program to give early-career Directors and Choreographers the opportunity to observe the work of master Directors and Choreographers as they create productions on Broadway, Off-Broadway and at leading regional theatres across the country. SDCF Observers have access to the entire rehearsal process, from first rehearsal through previews to opening night.

Observers are guaranteed the opportunity to observe, first-hand, the techniques, disciplines, approaches and insights of master artists as they create new productions and revive classics. The exact nature of each Observership will vary depending on the needs and desires of the Mentor Director or Choreographer.

Each Observer receives a weekly stipend of \$200 from SDCF and a project travel stipend. Observers on productions outside of New York and away from their residences are given a small housing supplement if housing cannot be provided. The Observer receives the first half of the stipend at the start of the Observership and the second half upon SDCF's receipt of the Observer's Final Report. In addition, any Observer who is not already a member of SDC will be awarded a free one-year SDC Associate Membership upon SDCF's receipt of the Final Report.

### Applicant Eligibility

Anyone with serious interest in pursuing a career in Directing and/or Choreography may apply for the Observership Program. Previous Observers are eligible to re-apply.

### Application Process

The Observership Application can be downloaded at [www.SDCweb.org/sdcf](http://www.SDCweb.org/sdcf). *Please read through the entire application form before beginning any part of the application process.* Along with the completed application form, applicants are asked to supply:

- a one-page statement explaining why an Observership would be beneficial
- a one-page resume of directing and/or choreographic experience
- a signed recommendation from a peer artist or mentor with whom the applicant has worked
- an application fee of \$25 by check or money order to SDC Foundation (fee waived for SDC Members and Associates).

Please note that completed application materials cannot be submitted online, they must be submitted by mail or by hand delivery.

### Application Timeline

Application workshop	May 6, 2013
Application workshop posted online	May 25, 2013
Recommended application deadline*	June 1, 2013
Observership Opportunities	begin no earlier than July 1, 2013 (the earliest will be posted prior to this date)
Observership Open House	July 8, 2013
Notification – early applicants	July 15, 2013
Application deadline – later eligibility*	July 31, 2013
Notification – later applicants	September 17, 2013
Observership Season completed	no later than June 30, 2014

\*Those applying after June 1 will only be eligible for Observerships posted after notification of acceptance. To be considered for all opportunities beginning July 10, return completed application materials to SDCF by June 1 (postmark or hand-delivery date).

All applicants will be invited to the Observership Open House as well as other SDCF Programs and special SDC events throughout the year regardless of acceptance into the program. Most events are free of charge.

### Evaluation Process

Each completed Observership application is evaluated by at least two members of the Observership Review Committee. The Committee will review all applications and select those best suited for Observership opportunities. These accepted applicants will be invited to apply for Observership opportunities throughout the season (until June 2014) across the country.

Those who apply by June 1 will be notified of their acceptance status by July 15. Those applying after June 1 will hear by September 10. In the event of early Observerships, beginning prior to July 10, all applicants who apply by June 1 will be eligible, regardless of evaluation results. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply by June 1.**

### Evaluative Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based upon the following criteria:

- **ARTICULATION:** Ability to articulate an artistic focus or viewpoint
- **EXCELLENCE:** An overall quality of excellence – in thought, purpose, understanding, imagination, focus
- **IMPACT OF OPPORTUNITY:** Would this give access (s)he does not presently have?
- **INITIATIVE:** Demonstrated pursuit of experience; viable candidates should be honing their craft as much as possible, with a demonstrated deep interest in being a director or choreographer, and not waiting for opportunities or programs to enable them to do so. *A degree is not necessary for acceptance.*
- **MATURITY:** Appropriate maturity level required to be in the rehearsal room, to understand nuanced environments, and to respond accordingly
- **TIMELINESS:** Ability to benefit from this specific experience at this specific time in candidate's career
- **VARIETY:** We seek a variety of experience, geography, and artistic pursuits among accepted candidates as Observerships vary in place and level of responsibility.

### Placement Process

In 2012 – 2013, 188 of a total 312 applicants were accepted into the Observership Program. There is no fixed number of spots for acceptances; all applicants who are evaluated as ready for this program are accepted, historically approximately 60% of applicants.

Following acceptance into the program, candidates will be notified of each Observership opportunity. Interested candidates will submit a two-paragraph statement to SDCF about why they are best suited for that Observership to demonstrate their interest. The Mentor will then interview selected candidates and choose one individual to be the Observer for that project. Candidates not selected may continue to apply for all Observerships that season. *While we have far more candidates than our 25 opportunities each season, many accepted candidates do not apply for any of the 25 opportunities.*

Following acceptance, via email, we will offer tips on submitting statements of interest for opportunities. Most Observerships last somewhere from four to eleven continuous weeks, and you only apply to Observerships that fit your interest and schedule.

### Responsibilities

The Observer is expected to attend and participate in all rehearsals, meetings and events as specified by the Mentor. Each Observership begins with the first rehearsal, continues through previews, and concludes upon the show's press opening. *The Observer must be available for the entirety of this process; it's hard to be part of the team if you are not in the room consistently.*

SDCF staff will be available to the Observer at all times to address any questions or concerns.

Within two weeks of the completion of the Observership, the Observer will submit a brief Final Report outlining his/her experiences and thoughts on the program as well as the impact on his/her career and/or work. Following receipt of the final report, the Observer will be sent an application for a free one-year Associate Membership to SDC and the final installment of his/her stipend. **NOTE: The free Associate Membership only applies to those not already members of SDC, and you are not an Associate SDC Member through the Observership Program until you complete an Observership, submit a final report, and apply for the Associate Membership through the SDC Membership application.**

Observership opportunities are selected by committee; applicants may not solicit placements on their own.

### Submitting an Application

**Mail** application materials to: SDC Foundation  
1501 Broadway Suite 1701,  
New York, NY, 10036  
ATTN: Observerships.

### **We regret that we cannot accept online applications.**

Make all checks payable to SDC Foundation  
and in the memo, please write "Observership."

### Contact

E-mail [Foundation@SDCweb.org](mailto:Foundation@SDCweb.org) or call 646.524.2226 with any questions.



# Observership Program 2013-2014 Overview

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