Please read through these guidelines, the application form, and review our FAQs online before beginning any part of the application process, and refer to the evaluative criteria, particularly when crafting your artistic narrative, to ensure your best chance at acceptance into this competitive program.

Program Synopsis
The Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (SDCF), 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 new 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. Length of Observerships vary from project to project. As a general rule, most are between five and twelve weeks long, with occasional projects that are longer or shorter.

Each Observer receives a weekly stipend from SDCF and a project travel stipend. The weekly stipend in 2014 – 2015 will be at least $225 per week. To encourage participation in our regional Observerships, Observers on productions outside of New York City and away from their residences are given an additional housing and travel supplement if housing is not 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, those who complete an Observership will be awarded a free one-year SDC Associate Membership upon SDCF’s receipt of the Final Report if they are not already affiliated with SDC.

While we do not yet know our opportunities for 2014 – 2015, to give context of the opportunities within this program, examples of recent 2014 Observerships include:

- Commercial Broadway productions of Bullets Over Broadway and Big Fish directed and choreographed by Susan Stroman
- Atlantic Theater Company’s Off-Broadway production of The Threepenny Opera directed and choreographed by Martha Clarke.
- MCC’s Off-Broadway production of Hand to God directed by Moritz von Stuelpnagel.
- Signature Theatre’s Off-Broadway production of Appropriate directed by Liesl Tommy.
- South Coast Repertory’s production of Tartuffe directed by Dominique Serrand.
- Shakespeare Theatre’s production of Henry IV parts 1 and 2 directed by Artistic Director Michael Kahn.
- Maltz Jupiter Theatre’s production of The King and I directed and choreographed by Marcia Milgrom Dodge.
- Victory Gardens Theater’s production of The Gospel of Lovingkindness directed by Artistic Director Chay Yew.

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.SDCFoundation.org.

To apply, submit two single-sided copies of your application materials, collated in this order, with your full name and “SDCF 14-15 Observership” in the top right corner of EVERY page:

Page 1 – 2: Application Form
Page 3: Artistic Narrative: a one-page narrative explaining why an Observership would be beneficial (strict one-page limit)
Page 4: Resume: a one-page resume of directing and/or choreographic experience (strict one-page limit)
Page 5: Recommendation: a signed recommendation from a peer artist or mentor with whom you have worked. Please include this with your materials; do not send the recommendation separately as it hampers our evaluation process.
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Please include an application fee of $25 by money order or check payable to SDC Foundation. This fee is waived for SDC Members and Associates and in cases of financial hardship. Please let us know if this fee is prohibitive and we will waive it; this will not affect your application.

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

Application Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Observership Open House</td>
<td>July 8, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notification – early applicants</td>
<td>July 10, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application deadline</td>
<td>July 31, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notification</td>
<td>September 17, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observership Opportunities</td>
<td>earliest opportunities will be begin in September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observership Season completed</td>
<td>no later than June 30, 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The evaluation is multi-step with each complete Observership application evaluated by at least two members of the Observership Review Committee. The Committee will review all applications and select those best suited for this program, a program which requires applicants to have some prior directing or choreographic experience for observation to be of value. These accepted applicants will be invited to apply for Observership opportunities across the country throughout the season (as late as June 2015).

Evaluative Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based upon the following criteria:
- ARTICULATION: Ability to articulate an artistic focus or viewpoint
- BALANCE: We seek a variety of experience, geography, and artistic pursuits among accepted candidates as Observerships vary in place and level of responsibility.
- EXCELLENCE: An overall quality of excellence – in thought, purpose, understanding, imagination, focus
- 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.
- IMPACT OF OPPORTUNITY: Would this give access (s)he does not presently have?
- MATURITY: Appropriate maturity level, both personally and artistically, is 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

Placement Process

In 2013 – 2014, 235 of a total 421 applicants were accepted into the Observership Program. There is no fixed number of spots for acceptances.

Following acceptance into the program, candidates will be notified of each Observership opportunity. Interested candidates will submit a two-paragraph statement of interest to SDCF to be considered for a particular Observership. The Mentor will interview selected candidates from finalists chosen by SDCF staff and choose one individual to be their Observer for that project. Candidates not selected may continue to apply for all Observerships that season.

It should be noted that we offer 25 Observerships each season beginning in July, however the early deadline to be considered for the summer opportunities has now passed. Please do not let this deter you from applying. There will still be plenty of opportunities.
Observership Program
2014-2015 Guidelines

throughout the season. While we have far more candidates than opportunities, 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.

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 by phone or email to the Observer 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.

Observership opportunities are selected by committee; applicants may not solicit placements on their own, and master artists may not request a particular candidate.

Submitting an Application
Mail application materials to:

We regret that we cannot accept online applications.

Please make all checks payable to SDC Foundation and in the memo, please write “Observership.”

Contact
E-mail Opportunities@SDCweb.org or call 646.524.2226 with any questions.

SDCF is the nation’s only organization that exists to foster, support and promote the crafts of theatre directors and choreographers at all levels of career.

SDCF Programming in 2013-2014 is made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society and many generous corporations and individuals.

For additional information, visit SDCF online at SDCFoundation.org