



## What is the Junior Ambassador Program?

High school juniors and seniors can dive into the theater world through BPA's Junior Ambassadors program. This unique opportunity provides an excellent educational and hands-on volunteer experience, beyond-the-stage, in the performing arts. During an entire school year, Junior Ambassadors serve as volunteer theater ushers in Blumenthal theaters and attend a series of seminars, through which they learn about different career opportunities in the performing arts. Students also enhance their interpersonal skills, build self-confidence, and develop new networks of peers and professionals through the program.

## What are the Requirements to Apply?

Students must be juniors and seniors in high school, maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average, and have stellar character references.



## Here's what our Junior Ambassadors have to say about the program!

*"Now, not only do I appreciate the presented art, but also the passionate work put into making each show wonderful for the theatre-goers."*

*"My ability to connect with others over our similar appreciation of the arts has helped me to work past my tendency to blend into the background."*

*"As a person who loves performing, the Blumenthal Performing Arts Junior Ambassador Program has been one of the main highlights of my Junior and Senior year. I have been so used to being on stage and being an usher has taught me the importance and value of serving others. I am grateful for the experiences from this program that have shown me how I can serve my own community."*

## TOP 5 REASONS TO JOIN BLUMENTHAL'S JUNIOR AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

- ❖ Have an Enjoyable Volunteer Opportunity!
- ❖ See World-class Theater!
- ❖ Learn about Career Opportunities in the Arts!
- ❖ Meet New Friends!
- ❖ Scholarships!



## Components of the Program

**Orientation and Training** Before serving your first shift as a volunteer usher, you will receive professional training from our seasoned Front of House staff, as well as an opportunity to receive additional training in customer service.

**Volunteer Ushering** Once your training is completed, you are strongly encouraged to serve as a volunteer usher once per month from October to April. You can choose your own schedule of shows, including major Broadway tours, resident company performances, exclusive concerts, or even community talent events! Generally, each usher shift is approximately 4 hours, and usually nights or weekends – perfect for a student schedule!

**Monthly Seminars** All students will be required to attend at least 5 of the 7 seminars held at the beginning of each month. Seminars are typically held the first weekend of each month, and generally last between 90 minutes to 2 hours. Some topics will include *Digital Marketing & Social Media, Fundraising in Arts Non-Profit, Resumes & Interviewing, The Broadway Hustle, Tech Theater & the Magic Backstage, as well as BPA Venue Tours.*

**Mid Year Social** Blumenthal's Education Department hosts a party for our Junior Ambassadors to socialize, have fun, and get to know each other! Typically in January, our last few socials have included food, games, trivia, icebreakers and team building activities.

**Annual Year-End Banquet** Each year, our students are treated to a banquet where they are honored for their year of service as a Junior Ambassador. Each student receives a commemorative gift for the year, and you and are invited to enjoy a delicious dinner!

**Scholarship Awards** At our Annual Banquet, 4 students receive modest scholarship awards to be used towards their college education. These scholarships are exclusive to the Junior Ambassador program!

## Important Dates

Date	Description
June 25	Returning Students Application Deadline (must resubmit full application packet minus letter of recommendation)
September 3	New Student Application Deadline
<b>September 25</b>	<b>Orientation and Training (Mandatory)</b>
October - April	Monthly commitment of seminars beginning of each month as well as volunteer ushering assignments
January 22	Mid-Year Social
April 23	Year-End Awards Banquet



## Seminar Opportunities

### Keynote: Post-COVID?

COVID-19, as we all know, created huge challenges for Blumenthal and the theater industry as a whole for over 14 consecutive months. We will hear from Blumenthal CEO, Tom Gabbard, and VP of Education, Andie Maloney, on the ways in which BPA creatively navigated a time of economic uncertainty and the future vision for the Blumenthal, Charlotte and Broadway communities- as the light shines brighter on a full reopening strategy for arts and culture.

### How to Find Your Path

Blumenthal's education department introduced a new initiative designed to help students who may need a little help in making their path. By attending this seminar, students will learn ways to discover and strengthen their best selves, whether they intend to pursue a career in the arts or just be a lifelong ambassador. Led by Tommy Prudenti, education special programs manager, students will participate in engaging conversation and activities in an effort to help them find their own way.

### 5: Behind the Scenes

From load in to load out, technical theater operations are an integral part of any theater. Behind the curtains of any performance exists a team of experts who handle lighting, sound, carpentry, costumes, wigs, and stage management. In this seminar, you will be treated to an extensive behind-the-scenes tour of some of Blumenthal's beautiful theaters with our own VP of Operations!

### Get Your Best Agent

Learn how to be your best agent for any path! No matter a student's college or career plans, learning how to write a professional resume and learning best practices for job interviews are skills that every person should have. Learn from a regional career consultant as they teach students the in's and out's of resume writing and selling yourself in an interview. Discover ways to make your own path and goals!

### Arts Career

Interested in learning about various opportunities for careers in the arts? In this seminar, a panel of Blumenthal professionals will describe various career paths in the arts and share their personal stories and the unique paths they took to their current job. Learn about how you can combine your passion for the performing arts with enjoyable and stable career choices! Arts administration is an exciting career field that includes everything from graphic design to fundraising to planning festivals to theater education!

### All About the Benjamins - Fundraising Strategies in Arts Non-Profit

Community service and volunteerism are vital components to many of Charlotte's nonprofit organizations. In this seminar, local nonprofit leaders will discuss the importance of volunteers in their organizations, and perhaps offer ways students can help! Hear first-hand stories from community volunteer leaders about the impact of their work in our own community. After a great conversation, you will get a chance to volunteer in a different way to Blumenthal and prepare materials for some of our great summer programs.



### **The Broadway Hustle - How Artists Rally in a Gig Economy**

Community service and volunteerism are vital components to many of Charlotte's nonprofit organizations. In this seminar, local nonprofit leaders will discuss the importance of volunteers in their organizations, and perhaps offer ways students can help! Hear first-hand stories from community volunteer leaders about the impact of their work in our own community. After a great conversation, you will get a chance to volunteer in a different way to Blumenthal and prepare materials for some of our great summer programs.

*\*Please note that the specific schedule of seminars is contingent upon availability of instructors and Blumenthal staff. Seminars will usually be held the first weekend of every month, and students will be given ample notice of content, guest instructors and any relevant updates.*



**Health and safety are a top priority for Blumenthal Performing Arts. We will continue to follow applicable state and local guidelines regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and in-person gathering. Participants in the Junior Ambassador program will receive detailed information and any safety protocol that may still be in place before the start of the program.**