—Acting career

(Continued from Page 5)

cepted only when the number of persons of a particular type on the list — for example, athletic young men, old ladies, or small children — is below the foreseeable need.

In recent years, only a very small proportion of the total number of applicants have succeeded in being listed.

An actor employed as an extra in a film has very little opportunity to advance to a speaking role in that film.

The length of an actor's or actresses's working life depends largely on skill and versatility. Great actors and actresses can work almost indefinitely.

On the other hand, employment becomes increasingly limited by middle age, especially for those who become typed in romantic, youthful roles.

Due to the factors discussed, persons who intend to pursue an acting career may find unstable employment conditions and financial pressures.

Employment Outlook

Overcrowding has existed in the acting field for many years, and this condition is expected to persist.

In the legitimate theater, motion pictures, radio, and television, job applicants greatly exceed the jobs available.

Moreover, many actors and actresses are employed in their profession for only a part of the year.

Motion pictures and TV have greatly reduced employment opportunities for actors in the theater.

Although a motion picture production may use a very large number of actors during filming, films are widely distributed and may be used for years.

Also, some American-produced films are shot in foreign countries, resulting in reduced employment opportunities for American actors and actresses.

Television employs a large number of actors on TV programs and commercials.

However, employment in this media has been reduced by the FCC ruling that decreased major TV network prime time programming.

Local stations often substitute with reruns or with low cost game shows that employ few actors.

Also, the trend toward 1-to-2-hour programs and more reruns shortens the period of employment and reduces the number of persons needed.

One possibility for future growth in the legitimate theater lies in the establishing of year-round professional acting companies in cities. The number of such acting groups is growing.

The recent growth of summer and winter stock companies, outdoor and regional theatre, repertory companies, and dinner theaters also has increased employment opportunities.

In addition, some increases may be likely in the employment of actors on television in response to expansion of the Public Broadcasting System, UHF stations, and cable TV.

The development and wider use of video cassettes also may result in some employment opportunities.

These media will have a positive influence on employment only if original material and programs result, not reruns or old movies.

Though the field of acting as a whole is expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations through the mid-1980's, the number of persons seeking to enter the profession is expected to far exceed available openings.

Even highly talented young people are likely to face stiff competition and economic difficulties.

Earnings and Working Conditions

Actors and actresses in the legitimate theater belong to the Actors' Equity Association; in motion pictures, including television films, to the Screen Actors Guild, Inc., or to the Screen Extras Guild, Inc.; in television or radio, to the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA).

These unions and the show producers agreements which set minimum salaries, hours of work, and other conditions of employment.

Each actor also signs a separate contract, which may provide for higher salaries than those specified in the basic agreement.

The minimum weekly salary for actors in Broadway productions was about $285 in 1978. Those in small "off-Broadway" theaters received a minimum of $175 a week.

For shows on the road, the minimum rate was about $295 a week.

(All minimum salaries are adjusted upward automatically, by union contract, commensurate with increases in the cost of living as reflected in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index.)

In 1978, motion picture and television actors and actresses earned a minimum daily rate of $172.50, or $604 for a 5-day week.

For extras, the minimum rate was $52.50 a day. Actors and actresses who did not work on prime time network television received a minimum program fee of about $232.50 for a single program and 8 hours of rehearsal time. Television actors also receive additional compensation for reruns.

However, annual earnings of actors and actresses are adversely affected by the frequent periods of unemployment experienced by many.

According to recent surveys by the Actors' Equity Association (which represents actors who work on the stage) and the Screen Actors Guild, almost three quarters of their members earned $2,500 or less a year from acting jobs, and only about 3 percent earned over $25,000 from such work.

Because of the frequent periods of unemployment characteristic of this profession, many actors must supplement their incomes by maintaining other, non-acting jobs.

In all fields, many well-known actors and actresses have salary rates above the minimums. Salaries of the few top stars are many times the figures cited.

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Many colleges now teach hotel management courses

Nature of the Work

Hotel managers are responsible for operating their establishments profitably and satisfying guests.

They determine room rates and credit policy, direct the operation of the kitchen and dining rooms, and manage the housekeeping, accounting, and maintenance departments of the hotel.

Handling problems and coping with the unexpected is an important part of the job.

Managers who work in small hotels may do much of the front office clerical work, such as taking room reservations and assigning rooms.

In some small hotels and many motels, the manager is also the owner and may be responsible for all aspects of the business.

General managers of large hotels usually have several assistants who manage various parts of the operation.

Because the hotel restaurant and cocktail lounge are important to the success of the entire establishment, they almost always are operated by managers with experience in the restaurant field.

Other areas that usually are handled separately are advertising, rental of banquet and meeting facilities, personnel and accounting.

Large hotel and motel chains often centralize some activities, such as purchasing and advertising, so that individual hotels in the chain may not need managers for these departments.

Managers who work for chains may be assigned to organize a newly built or purchased hotel or to reorganize an existing hotel or motel that is not operating successfully.

About 137,000 hotel and motel managers worked in 1978. More than a third were self-employed.

Training, Other Qualifications

Experience generally is the most important consideration in selecting managers. However, employers increasingly are emphasizing college education.

A bachelor's degree in hotel and restaurant administration provides particularly strong preparation for a career in hotel management.

In 1979, about 30 colleges and universities offered 4-year programs in this field.

However, applicants to these programs may face increasing competition in the coming years.

The courses in hotel work that are available in many junior colleges and technical institutes and through the American Hotel and Motel Association also provide a good background.

A college program in hotel management usually includes courses in hotel administration, accounting, economics, data processing, food service management and catering and hotel maintenance engineering.

Students are encouraged to work in hotels or restaurants during summer vacations because the experience gained and the contacts made with employers may help them to get better hotel jobs after graduation.

Managers should have initiative, self-discipline and the ability to organize work and direct the work of others. They must be able to concentrate on details and solve problems.

Some large hotels have special on-the-job management training programs in which trainees rotate among various departments to acquire a thorough knowledge of the hotel's operation.

Outstanding employees who have not had college training may receive financial assistance to help them acquire a degree.

Most hotels promote employees with proven ability, usually front office clerks, to assistant manager and eventually to general manager.

Newly built hotels, particularly those without well-established on-the-job training programs, often prefer experienced personnel for managerial positions.

Hotel chains may offer better opportunities for advancement than independent hotels, because employees can transfer to another hotel in the chain or to the central office if an opening occurs.

Employment Outlook

Employment of hotel managers is expected to grow more slowly than the average for all occupations through the mid-1980's.

Some job openings will occur as additional hotels and motels are built and chain and franchise operations spread.

However, most openings will occur as experienced managers die, retire, or leave the occupation. Applicants having college degrees in hotel administration will have an advantage in seeking entry positions and later advancement.

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