

SDCF *Observership*

2008-09 Application

This program is designed to serve directors and choreographers only; you must be an artist in one of these disciplines to qualify. Read this form (both sides) and fill it out carefully. Incomplete or unspecific answers can reduce your chances for being considered.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ E-mail _____

Evening Phone _____ Fax _____

1. Are you a (*check all that apply*):

Director

Director/Choreographer

SSDC Member

Choreographer

SSDC Associate

2. Have you been an SDCF Observer in the past?

No

Yes

If yes, on what show/in what year? _____

If you have already received an SDCF Observership in a particular venue – Broadway, off-Broadway or regional theatre – you will not be eligible for another SDCF Observership in that particular venue. However, you will be eligible in any other venue for which you have not yet observed.

3. What kinds of productions are you most interested in observing? (CHECK **NO MORE THAN FOUR [4] BOXES.**)

Broadway

Regional

Experimental

Revivals

Off Broadway

Musical

Classics

New Work

4. List **FIVE (5)** directors and/or choreographers who exemplify the kind of work in which you are most interested.

(This is not meant to imply that Observerships with these artists will be available. It is intended only to give SDCF an idea of the type of artist who is doing the kind of work that interests you. The answers to this question should reflect your answer to Question #3.)

5. How did you hear of the SDCF Observership program? (*check all that apply*)

SDCF E-Blast

SSDC Newsletter

Publication: _____

SSDC/SDCF Website

A Friend

Other: _____

6. List educational degrees and professional training programs, including institutions and years in which they were completed. (*You must complete this question even if this information appears on your resume.*)

Degree: _____ Year: _____ Inst: _____

Degree: _____ Year: _____ Inst: _____

...OVER, PLEASE

Program Description

The *Observership* program of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (SDCF) was established to offer young, 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, primarily in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco. SDCF Observers have access to the entire rehearsal process, from first rehearsal to opening night.

The exact nature of each *Observership* varies depending on the needs and desires of the Mentor Director or Mentor Choreographer. It must be remembered that these are *Observerships*, not assistantships. However, you will be guaranteed the invaluable opportunity to observe, first-hand, the techniques, disciplines, approaches and insights of master artists as they create new productions. Anything more is up to you, the Mentor and the circumstances of the rehearsal. By making yourself available to the director, writer and production team, your role may develop into something more.

Each *Observership* includes a modest stipend to help defray the recipient's expenses during the rehearsal period. The Observer receives half 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 SSDC will be awarded a free one-year SSDC Associate Membership upon completion of his/her *Observership* and SDCF's receipt of his/her written Final Report.

Application/Selection Process

- Once a completed *Observership* application is received by SDCF, it is entered into our online database and hardcopy "Active" file for consideration throughout the season (until June 2009).
- SDCF does not identify *Observership* opportunities prior to application filing. SDCF solicits directors and choreographers to be Mentors; applicants may not solicit placements on their own. Once a Mentor agrees to participate in the *Observership* program and a specific show is selected, SDCF has a detailed conversation with the Mentor to determine what type of Observer – qualities, skills, experience, career level, background, etc. – would best serve the production.
- Prior to submitting applications to the Mentor Director or Choreographer to review, SDCF will contact all applicants via email to determine availability and interest for the specific opportunity. SDCF reviews applications from all interested and available candidates in an attempt to match the information submitted with the Mentor's specifications. From the total pool of applications, approximately ten applicants are selected for submission to the Mentor Director or Choreographer who then determines whom he/she would like to interview. Candidates selected for an interview will be contacted by SDCF by telephone or email. The interview is an opportunity for the Mentor and candidates to talk about the project's requirements, expectations, responsibilities, etc.
- After these interviews, the Mentor selects one individual to be the Observer for that project. The application materials of candidates not selected are returned to the "Active" file for consideration in future *Observerships*.
- The Observer is required to attend and participate in all rehearsals, meetings and events as specified by the Mentor. The duration of each *Observership* typically begins with the first rehearsal and concludes upon the show's opening. The Observer's tasks during this period vary from project to project, subject to the Mentor's needs.
- Within two weeks of the completion of the *Observership*, the Observer is required to submit a brief Final Report outlining his/her experiences and thoughts on the program as well as the potential impact on his/her career and/or work. Upon receipt of the final report, the Observer will be sent an application for a free one-year Associate Membership to SSDC and the final installment of his/her stipend.

When submitting this application, please include:

- **ONE PAGE directing and/or choreographic resume.** Your resume should clearly represent which productions you have directed and/or choreographed and should reflect that you are serious about pursuing a career as a stage director or choreographer. Lists of performance credits and unrelated work experience are unnecessary.
- **ONE PAGE statement of why an SDCF *Observership* would benefit your artistic development.**
- **\$15 APPLICATION FEE** (check or money order made payable to: SDC Foundation).

DO NOT INCLUDE: REVIEWS, QUOTES, VIDEOS, PHOTOS, LETTERS OF REFERENCE OR BIOS.

Return application materials to SDCF no later than **SEPTEMBER 8, 2008.**

Important Note: Observers will be placed on productions prior to the September deadline. Submitting your application early will enable you to be considered for more opportunities.

SDC Foundation, 1501 Broadway Suite 1701, New York, NY 10036.

www.sdcfoundation.org

Tel. 212-391-1070, ext. 252

Fax 212-302-6195

SDCF's *Observership* Program is made possible by generous support from the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, New York State Council of the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

