

# YOUTH CAREER ASSOCIATION

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## ENGLISH MAJORS AND ACTING?

A career in theater is not the first thought that comes to an English major, but it is a thought which merits some consideration. Lisë Gorman, Professor of Literature at the University of Texas at San Antonio, said, "You can make your character more believable if you understand their reasons for being the way that they are". Actors and actresses have an innate ability to become someone else, to ensnare you in the belief that they are this person, when in

reality they are not. A writer does exactly the same thing. A writer presents to you a character in a certain situation and causes you to believe that whatever happens to that character is plausible, nay, actual.

Before you completely disclaim acting as a possible career for English majors, take a look at some examples. Did you know that Sigourney Weaver, David Duchovny, Vin Diesel, and Reese Witherspoon were all English majors? We will



Theater Faces, ClipArt

take a look at the first two examples in this issue and see their thoughts on having an English degree.

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### Special points of interest:

- Sigourney Weaver and David Duchovny were English majors in college.
- English majors from BYU-I stormed the Globe Theater, frightening local British law enforcement.
- YCA employs students.

## SIGOURNEY WEAVER: AN ENGLISH MAJOR

Sigourney Weaver always knew that she wanted to be an actress, and yet she studied English at Stanford. Why is that? "Weaver credits her Stanford literature study for the motivation needed to play the role," says Kevin Cool of STANFORD Maga-

zine. All English majors read stories and analyze characters. The study of fictional characters benefits an aspiring actor in two ways: they learn how certain personalities react to others, and they learn how the character they portray in their film/

stage production acts around other characters. Cool said, as stated by Weaver, that, "If that character remains meaningful, it's because of what my English major endowed me with".

(Cont. p. 2)

## (CONT.) SIGOURNEY WEAVER: AN ENGLISH MAJOR

(Cont. from p. 1)

However, why is English important to Weaver as a person? What are the benefits of an English degree?

"A great education," one that is tailored to you specifically, "makes you a contender for life," Weaver says proudly. Education opens up limitless possibilities when compared to someone without an education. When you learn, you become proficient. When you are proficient, you become an expert. When you are an expert, you are given authority. Our very beings have an ambition to do great things and become great people. Weaver recognized

that an English degree would be the most beneficial to her intended career, so she pursued it.

Another value of an English degree is the sacred bonding



Sigourney Weaver, Collider.com

that it can produce. Weaver touched on this when she said, "There is an ancient human need to come together and tell stories. Since 9-11, I feel people have a renewed interest in experiencing stories together. It's a fertile time for creativity, maybe because it's a troubling time. Young people are trying to figure out what's happening around them" (Cool). Students everywhere can attest to that. We are living in difficult times. The value of telling stories, reading them alone, or performing them is the same: it is a catalyst for creativity, where it can flourish and beautify someone else's life.

## GRADUATING ENGLISH MAJORS PARTICIPATES IN THEATER

A month until graduation finds the majority of English Majors at the University of Texas taking part in the production of *Fidelio*, Beethoven's only opera. Faculty is astonished at the numbers participating, and the vocal skills of their writers.

"People came to the show and told us we were in the wrong major." Says Lizzy Snow, a junior studying English, "Apparently we

*"They didn't expect that sort of skill from a bunch of book worm writers."*

were spectacular! They didn't expect that sort of skill from a bunch of book-worm writers." Indeed, it was astonishing to the population of students.

Some hostility was formed between the English majors and the Drama Majors for the first time in the history of the school. Faculty is wary of this development and the potential outbreak of violence it may create. It can be acknowledged by everyone that drama kids and writers can be extremely temperamental and flighty when at their worst.

## NEW BOOK: HOW TO GET INTO ACTING

New York Times Bestseller "How to Get Into Acting" has been on the shelves for three weeks, and sales are soaring. This new self-help guide to a career in acting is selling very successfully in the large metropolitan cities of our nation, and there is talk of it being translated and sold in foreign countries.

When publishers researched

the demographics of buyers, they were unsurprised to find that 48%—nearly half of all buyers—were college students. When deeper research was proposed, junior editor James Camden of Penguin Books took on the challenge.

After extensive research, he was surprised to find that: "They were all English majors! I couldn't believe

it!" He explained to his senior editor of Penguin Books his findings and senior editor Kevin Linton was struck with the answer. An entire chapter of the book was dedicated to explaining how reading literature, understanding human behavior, memorizing lines, and analyzing passages are all things that actors do. Coincidentally, it's what English majors do as well!

## DAVID DUCHOVNY: POET AND ENGLISH MAJOR

David Duchovny is a talented actor, and has earned a B.A., an M.A., and is working on a Ph.D. in English, says Dr. Del Doughty. One would expect an actor to study drama, but not Duchovny. According to Gustaf Molin, an employee of the Internet Movie Database, Duchovny was “a keen poet and writer,” in college, and won many awards for his work. One such award was a “college prize by the Academy of American Poets” because of his literary work. How else has Duchovny’s degree helped him in his work? It has been scientifically proven in a study done by the



David Duchovny, Celebritysurgery.com

University of Utah that “Brain pathways are made up of inter-

connected neurons,” which means that the more you read something, or see it, or say it, the easier you will remember it. This is because you create pathways in your mind which get deeper and deeper the more they are ‘used’. A key part of an actor’s job is memorizing passages of script. English majors often memorize poems, passages from literature, etc. These correlate because in each instance the person is developing the same mental skills, even though they are being used in different settings.

## DOUBLE MAJOR: ENGLISH AND DRAMA

Catherine Bennet, a freshman at the University of Texas, has spurned the advice of her friends and family and decided on a double major. Her mother advised against it, saying that she would find it hard to get work after school. Her father felt that she was picking “fun” majors, instead of lucrative ones. “They expected me to become a lawyer or a doctor, you know, something that would make a ton of money. But I didn’t want that—I didn’t want to live

my life knowing that I passed up the opportunity of studying what I love.” Cathy epitomizes the bravery she reads about in epic poems—that of a hero (or in this case, heroine) who is on a quest for a treasure, and her treasure is the knowledge she will

*“I didn’t want to live my life knowing that I passed up the opportunity of studying what I love.”*

gain while studying drama. “What my parents don’t know is that I plan on studying to become a screen writer. I’ve got the skills and the desire to go into it, so really, the world is my oyster.” Indeed. The Bennet’s do not know that professional screen writers in Hollywood make as much, if not more than lawyers. YCA says, “Let her study her passion! Happiness is more important than money.”

## ENGLISH MAJORS STORM THE GLOBE THEATER IN LONDON

British patrol was shocked when a swarm of college students took over the Globe Theater. Though casualties were few, one guard gave a statement as he laid on the ground with a broken leg. “They came out of nowhere,” he mumbled, tears streaming down his face from fear and pain, “I heard one yell out to another how excited they were to be able to ana-

lyze the language of Shakespeare. It took me a few moments to figure out that they were all English majors.” English majors are known for their love of literature, but this seemed an extreme instance to local media. “We never thought something like this would happen.” Says BBC reporter Anne Eliot, “And once further investigation was done, we were aston-

ished to find that they were all American college students attending Brigham Young University and visiting England on something called a Brit-Lit Tour.” Local law enforcement currently has the building on lockdown, and authorities wonder how they will convince the students to leave the country peacefully.

## THE ENGLISH MAJOR FAUX EDITION

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*If you can dream it, we can help you get there!*

Check out our site!  
[www.fauxyca.com](http://www.fauxyca.com)

  
**Faux Newsletter**

*The Youth Career Association (YCA) proudly supports the future leaders of tomorrow. Our purpose is to give youth ideas of what careers they would be interested in, and how to fulfill their goals in that respect. YCA has been helping the youth of America find careers specifically tailored to each individual since 1913, from the flappers of the 20's to the hippies of the 60's. Each issue of our magazine contains a more general guide to youth on popular careers, careers they would not immediately consider, and the education it will take to get there. Helping youth all over Texas reach their vocational goals is our specialty! For more information, call Danielle Gorman at 210-765-4321 or visit our website, [www.fauxyca.com](http://www.fauxyca.com)!*

## YCA EMPLOYS LOCAL STUDENTS

In a new change of leadership, the Head Council of the Youth Career Association has decided to open their employment doors to students.

"We are looking for kids who are ambitious. We want students who are serious about their education, serious about their career, and serious about their life. Too often teens drop out or perform poorly in school because they do not have the desire to succeed. We are hoping that by bringing onto our staff dedicated, honest, and hard-working students we will be able to, in a sense, show

them off. We want the slackers to see their potential by seeing it harvested in one of their peers. The leaders of tomorrow must be the very best that mankind can supply. It is imperative that we ensure that our dream for the future is possible."

After a statement like that, it may seem that the new leadership of YCA is taking a harsher stand. Students should not be afraid however because YCA has their best interests at heart. We want them to succeed and sometimes tough love is the only way to get to a person. The youth of today should have a

goal, a dream, an ambition—because without ambition, humans are nothing. Without a goal, we have nothing to strive for, and we allow our lives to become stagnate. Don't let that happen to you before you even graduate! *If you can dream it, we can help you get there!*

-YCA Senior Editor