ESU SUMMER THEATRE 2014
Company Information Sheet

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Important Dates

- March 14, 15: Home auditions
- May 28: Company gathering & picnic
- June 1: Company wiffleball game
- June 11: Opening Guild Dinner
- June 29: Summer Road Trip
- July 27: Closing picnic and Strike

About the home auditions

You will audition for the four shows with all of the directors on March 14, 15. On the basis of that audition, you will be cast/assigned to shows for the season. Because we make our final offers based upon these auditions, our company will not be set until after these auditions.

On the 14th you will do a prepared audition and on the 15th, you will do callbacks for the four plays. YOU WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE CALLED BACK FOR EACH PLAY.

Offers will be made via email during the ESU Spring Break--hopefully by Monday March 17. Signed contracts will be due a few weeks after that.

FAQs

- Salary is variable based upon years of experience.
- Pay periods are bi-weekly.
- Housing can be provided in university dormitories.
- Academic credits are available.
ABOUT THE SEASON

June 11-13

Blithe Spirit by Noel Coward (2M, 5W)
The smash comedy hit of the London and Broadway stages, this much-revived classic is about fussy, cantankerous novelist Charles Condomine, re-married but haunted (literally) by the ghost of his late first wife, the clever and insistent Elvira who is called up by a visiting "happy medium", one Madame Arcati. As the worldly and unworldly personalities clash, Charles' current wife Ruth is accidentally killed. Soon, she joins Elvira and the two "blithe spirits" haunt the hapless Charles into perpetuity. Blithe Spirit was first produced on Broadway at the Morosco Theatre in New York City on November 5, 1941. It was revived in an award winning revival in 2009. The play was part of the first season of summer theatre at Emporia State University in 1955.

Approximate running time: 120 minutes.

June 25-28

Nunsense by Dan Goggins (5W)
When the Little Sisters of Hoboken discover that their cook, Sister Julia, Child of God, has accidentally poisoned 52 of the sisters, and they are in dire need of funds for the burials. The sisters decide that the best way to raise the money is to put on a variety show, so they take over the school auditorium, which is currently set up for the eighth grade production of "Grease." Here we meet Reverend Mother Regina, a former circus performer; Sister Mary Hubert, the Mistress of Novices; a streetwise nun from Brooklyn named Sister Robert Anne; Sister Mary Leo, a novice who is a wannabe ballerina; and the delightfully wacky Sister Mary Amnesia, the nun who lost her memory when a crucifix fell on her head. Featuring star turns, tap and ballet dancing, an audience quiz, and comic surprises, this show has become an international phenomenon. With more than 5000 productions worldwide, it has been translated into 21 languages. Approximate running time: 120 minutes.

July 9-12

Too Many Cooks by Tom Smith (6M, 2W)
It's 1932 in Niagara Falls, Canada, where the rum-running business is at its peak. In the aftermath of the Crash, Irving Bubbalowe and his daughter, Honey, have risked everything they have to open a new gourmet restaurant. When their star - the renowned singing chef François LaPlouffe - fails to appear, tonight's grand opening is suddenly placed in jeopardy. However, when unemployed chef Frank Plunkett wanders in looking for work, Honey persuades him to masquerade as the missing LaPlouffe. The beleaguered Bubbalowe, meanwhile, also has to contend with Chicago gangster Alfonse Feghetti and his sidekick who have come looking for an illegal shipment of booze that, unbeknownst to Bubbalowe, has found its way into his basement. In addition, Bubbalowe has to keep at bay the hot-blooded Immigration officer Veronica Snook, on the trail of the vanished chef, as well as a suspicious teetotalling Mountie who is ready to arrest Bubbalowe for both murder and bootlegging. Madness ensues and Bubbalowe and the others create a hornet's nest of fabricated stories and identities as they try valiantly to save the restaurant - and themselves - from both the gangsters and the law.

Approximate running time: 120 minutes.

July 23-26

The Arkansaw Bear by Aurand Harris (1W, 5 actors)
Saddened and bewildered at her grandfather's approaching death, Tish runs to her "special tree." There, in a world of fantasy provided by her wish on a star, she meets the world's greatest dancing bear. He is old, like her grandfather, and is running away—from death. In trying to help him, she begins to understand the meaning of both life and death, which helps her to cope with her own sadness. The play blends realism and fantasy, pathos and humor. It is delightfully theatrical, with music, magic and dance, and enthusiastically applauded by children's audiences and family audiences. The Arkansaw Bear is an important work by America's foremost playwright for young audiences, sparkling with entertainment while also dramatizing, with poignancy, a universal truth.

Approximate running time: 50 minutes.