



Company of Fools

A proud part of the Sun Valley Center for the Arts

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sunvalleycenter.org

JOB TITLE: COMPANY OF FOOLS MANAGING DIRECTOR

ABOUT COMPANY OF FOOLS

Company of Fools (COF) is one of only three professional theatres in Idaho and is located in the mountain resort community of Sun Valley. COF produces the work of today's greatest playwrights, augmented by occasional productions of classics. COF's work is marked by an emphasis on the connection between theatre and community, a commitment to excellence in acting and design, and the signature intimacy of our theatrical home, the Liberty Theatre, which seats fewer than 245 patrons.

The Company was founded in 1992 in Richmond, Virginia, as a response to an essay by the visual artist Cecil Collins entitled "The Vision of the Fool." In Collins' essay, the fool embodies truth, joy, creativity and a childlike wonder at all that is magical and mysterious. The response took the form of a question: "What would it be like to have an acting company that embodies the qualities of the fool?"

In November 1996, Company of Fools relocated to Hailey, Idaho. Twenty-one years later, COF has grown and evolved into an award-winning theatre that produces a full season of plays while providing arts-in-education programming for the community including a play reading season and the development of new work. In November 2012, the Company merged with Sun Valley Center for the Arts (The Center), becoming part of a 47-year-old organization that is now the largest arts institution in Idaho. The Center's Artistic Director supervises the COF Managing Director and their partner, the COF Artistic Director.

Complementing the COF Main Stage Series are the collaborative offerings of The Center's BIG IDEA projects (two or three annually). For more than 15 years, The Center has focused on creating original, multidisciplinary projects that explore themes that are topical, relevant and artistically muscular. Uniting visual arts exhibitions, theatre, film, performing arts, lectures and other educational programs around a single topic or idea, these multidisciplinary projects are designed to provide multiple entry points for our community into a dialog around a subject of currency. All Big Idea projects are created to stimulate the imagination, promote conversation and provoke thought. COF Artistic Director participates in developing programs for these Big Ideas along with other Center program directors in the visual arts, the humanities, music, film and, occasionally dance. Big Idea projects are developed by this professional team under the guidance of The Center's Artistic Director.

Beyond our work onstage, COF and The Center also provide dynamic arts-in-education programming targeted primarily to grades K-12. In addition, all of COF's productions and programs are embedded with a highly-tuned understanding of the unique community they serve.

THE COMMUNITY

Located in South Central Idaho, the Wood River Valley is at the edge of the Sawtooth and Challis National Forests. Sun Valley has been referred to as "America's First Destination Ski Resort" and offers recreational activities galore. Nestled in the spectacular Rocky Mountains, Sun Valley Resort is one of the great winter ski destinations. To the north of Ketchum/Sun Valley lies the Sawtooth Wilderness, which boasts over 200,000 acres of natural splendor, with opportunities for hiking, fishing, mountain biking, white-water rafting and more. With all of these natural amenities and a terrific climate (an average humidity of only 30 percent), the community attracts an athletic, active population that embraces a healthy, enriched lifestyle. Many bright, accomplished professionals and their families spend winters and summers in the Valley, and many choose to leave metropolitan areas to make this their year-round home. With excellent public and private schools and an abundance of arts, culture and recreation, this is an ideal place to raise a family. The well-educated, well-traveled population demands diverse and exceptional arts and culture programs.

In 2015, ArtPlace named Sun Valley one of America's Top Twelve ArtPlaces—vibrant communities identified as being exceptionally successful in combining the arts, artists, and venues for creativity and expression with independent businesses, restaurants and a walkable lifestyle. Also, *Smithsonian* magazine recently included Ketchum on their third annual list of cultural gems as one of the 20 Best Small Towns to Visit in 2014.

THE POSITION

The Managing Director will manage the day-to-day administrative, business and development operations of a busy theatre and, in collaboration with the COF Artistic Director, will produce exemplary theatre experiences that are in keeping with The Center and COF missions and in service to this community. Key responsibilities include:

- Deliver COF artistic season with emphasis on fundraising, finance, organizational structure, and operations in support of The Center's mission and vision
- Develop and manage COF annual budget
- Direct management and administrative tasks to support COF artistic program including supervision of COF Company Manager and working with Center marketing, box office and development staff
- Participate in COF and Center institutional planning around branding, audience development, community relations and strategic planning
- Assist in season development and directing productions, if appropriate to candidate's experience and interests
- Contract with playwrights, directors, actors and set, light and costume designer's according to industry and equity standards
- Cultivate patron relationships and work with development department to identify funding sources
- Represent the theatre and its mission at industry and public events

EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Company of Fools is seeking an individual with considerable administrative and management talent, passion for the theatre, a belief in arts-in-education, and a proven ability to advance institutional aims. We welcome applications from non-profit and business leaders, theatre directors, designers, actors, development professionals and arts managers. We expect a candidate to have:

- A master's degree in theatre or equivalent professional experience
- Significant management/operational experience working at professional theatres
- Experience and desire to manage people, nurturing their best work

- A sincere interest in collaborating across disciplines and in exploring ideas of contemporary resonance
- Artistic taste, talent and skill
- Excellent communication and relationship skills
- A passion for being a strong artistic voice in a small, vibrant community

To apply, please email resume, cover letter and references to information@sunvalleycenter.org. Include “Company of Fools Managing Director” in the email subject line.

Company of Fools and Sun Valley Center for the Arts are an equal opportunity employer. Applicants from diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.