Company of Fools

A proud part of the Sun Valley Center for the Arts

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COMPANY OF FOOLS

Job Title: COF Associate Artistic Director
Reports To: COF Artistic 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. Under the leadership of Artistic Director John Glenn, 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 of 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 years later, COF has grown and evolved into an award-winning theatre that produces a full season of plays while providing substantial arts-in-education programming. In November 2012, the Company merged with Sun Valley Center for the Arts (The Center), becoming part of a 45-year-old organization that is now the largest arts institution in Idaho.

Complementing the 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 programs and exhibitions that consider themes that are topical, immediate and artistically muscular. These multidisciplinary projects are designed to stimulate the imagination, promote conversation, provoke thought and engage the community.

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 in Blaine County, 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 majestic Sawtooth Wilderness Area which boasts over 200,000 acres of natural splendor, with opportunities for swimming, 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 combined with 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 Associate Artistic Director will serve as the right-hand associate to the Artistic Director and manage the day-to-day artistic operations of a busy theatre. We will tailor the position to the individual we hire, but key responsibilities are likely to include:

- Directing productions, if appropriate to candidate’s experience and interests
- Directing readings and special events for the theatre
- Serving as Project Director for all COF educational programs
- Participating actively in season planning / Reading and recommending plays for production
- Taking an especially active role in the planning and supervision of Company of Fools’ reading series and special projects
- Acting as a primary liaison for visiting directors and other artists
- Serving as talent scout for designers, directors and actors
- Representing the theatre and its mission at industry and public events
- Developing, implementing and leading an internship program
- Supervising interns and any other assigned full- or part-time staff members
- Participating in short- and long-term institutional planning
- Possessing exemplary writing and verbal skills

EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS
Company of Fools is seeking an individual with considerable talent, passion for the theatre and arts-in-education, and the ability to advance institutional aims. We welcome applications from theatre directors, designers, actors and other theatre artists. We expect a candidate to have:

- A degree in theatre or equivalent professional experience
- Artistic taste, talent and skill
- Significant experience as a working artist at professional theatres
- Experience managing people and collaborating across disciplines
- A track record of effective oral and written communication
- A passion for being a strong artistic voice in a small, vibrant community

We provide our employees with a full benefits package and a competitive salary commensurate with experience.

Please email resume, cover letter and references to Denise Simone at dsimone@sunvalleycenter.org.
Company of Fools and Sun Valley Center for the Arts are an equal opportunity employer. Applicants from diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.