

About Bios at Emerson Stage

Your company manager may have recently announced that, “bios are due soon.” What does that mean? Do you get a bio? How do you write one? Here are your answers:

Bios are brief *professional biographies* that run in the program. Different theaters have different policies on who gets a bio. **At Emerson Stage, the policy is to give all actors a bio, as well as anyone who appears on the title page of the program.** Emerson Stage also includes the props master as a matter of course (LORT theaters usually include the props master as staff; here it's more of a design-level position).

Most theater companies will ask you to fit your bio to their style.

EmStage's style is to start with your Major and Year of Graduation. Then, list any EmStage credits, followed by additional credits in increasing level of regional distance. So: EmStage, other Emerson College, Boston theaters, other regional theaters. (Should one be so lucky as to have Broadway credits, those lead all other theaters). Below is a pretty standard example of a bio that fits this style:

Jason Pacella – Stage Manager

BFA Stage / Production Management '13. Emerson Stage credits include *Café Variations* (1st ASM) with Anne Bogart and the SITI Company, *The Golden Age* (1st ASM), *Coming of Age* (2nd ASM), *She Loves Me* (Production Supervisor), *The Actor / The Actor's Nightmare* (Asst. Production Supervisor). Other Emerson credits: The Kevin Bright Workshop, *Dear Edwina*, *Darling: A New Musical*, *The Songs of Shakespeare*, and *The Shakespearean Jazz Show*. ArtsEmerson credits: *Home* (SM) with The Civilians. He has worked with the Perkins School for the Blind on their annual gala in 2011 and 2012. Jason has spent summers working with The Cape Playhouse and Totem Pole Playhouse in PA.

When you're writing a bio, you're generally given a word count. For Emerson Stage, cast and creative bios are capped at 125 words. You don't have to use all 125, but...exceed that at your peril. However, **this does NOT mean you must eradicate all personality.** While your bio should be professional in nature, you are always invited to include personal details that make it come alive. **Below are some blog posts that talk about ways to do that.**

<http://reviewsyoucaniewns.blogspot.com/2011/09/how-to-write-bio-for-program-theatre.html>

Fairly lighthearted and funny article about what to put in bios, what not to put in bios.

<http://www.eclectecon.net/2013/08/theatre-briefs-13-writing-your-biography-for-the-programme.html>

Geared towards community theater, but still containing good examples of personality.