

## **Drama Therapist**

### ■ **Job Description**

Drama therapy is used to maintain health as well as to treat dysfunctions, including emotional disorders, learning difficulties, geriatric problems, and social maladjustments. Drama therapy may be a primary treatment modality, or part of a larger treatment plan. Drama therapists evaluate, treat, and conduct research with individuals, groups, and families, using improvisation, role playing, puppetry, mime, and other theatrical arts.

### ■ **Job Settings**

Hospitals, clinics, schools, prisons, nursing homes, halfway houses, and community centers

### ■ **Projected Need**

Nationally and in Illinois, overall employment of recreational therapists is expected to increase more slowly than average through 2010.

Employment will decline slightly in hospitals and nursing homes, which are expected to shift recreational therapy services to outpatient settings. Fast employment growth is expected in assisted living, outpatient physical and psychiatric rehabilitation, and services for people with disabilities.

Some drama therapists and psychodramatists are also finding employment opportunities outside of the usual health care field. Such therapists might conduct therapy sessions at corporate sites to enhance the personal effectiveness and growth of employees.

### ■ **Salaries**

Salaries vary according to educational background, experience, and geographic location. Starting salaries range from \$20,000 to \$30,000 per year. Those with administrative or management responsibilities may earn between \$35,000 and \$50,000.

### ■ **Related Careers**

Other rehabilitative therapies, counseling psychology, and social work

### ■ **Differences in Training**

Drama therapists are trained in theatre arts, psychology, psychotherapy and drama therapy. Areas of study include improvisation, puppetry, role-playing, mask work, pantomime, psychodrama, theories of personality, and group process. A list of colleges and universities offering drama therapy courses can be obtained from the National Association for Drama Therapy.

### ■ **Credentials**

The National Association for Drama Therapy offers registration as a drama therapist (RDT). Applicants for registration are evaluated on the basis of education, drama/theatre training, drama therapy training, supervision, and work experience.

### ■ **Advanced Training**

Advanced training is offered through intensives and workshops given at the National Association for Drama Therapy annual conferences and related conference programs.

### ■ **Resources**

National Association for Drama Therapy  
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