

As you know, attending college is a huge investment of time and money. You are searching for your home away from home for 4 years-- whether you choose to commute or to go away. There are many alternative schools and universities right on Long Island and in the state of New York of which most high school students are not even aware of their existence, their strength in vocation, and placement in the business of show business beyond the onstage performer. The goal is to go to college and then be gainfully employed... and my motto "not have student loan debt" or at a minimum be able to "pay it off". This is possible if you attend a program that has either a strong industry showcase for performers, a strong tie to regional equity theatre and partnership for intern paid internships that offer employment opportunities beyond performance-- casting/box office/marketing/tech/stage design/costume/lighting/sound/etc.

Below I have highlighted some of the colleges I feel have merit to explore because of the above mentioned options. Also some of these are state schools. Tuition is far less than the traditional schools most Long Island students compete to attend.

COLLEGE STANDOUTS

Suffolk Community College

http://department.sunysuffolk.edu/TheatreArts_A/6923.asp

- Selden Campus on Long Island -- I have had many students have success here. From performance opportunities, to tech opportunities, to working with masters like Ben Vereen – Original Broadway star of Pippin and most notable for his work onscreen in the epic series, "ROOTS". One of my students here also participated in a state, regional and then national competition for acting - monologues. She and my other two students transferred after completing their studies at SCCC to HUNTER College in NYC, PACE and the other student transferred to University of Texas.

(Not at NYSTEA; however this is a worthy step for the high school student who is not yet ready to go away and seeks a great transition to the next phase of their academic lives -- great great stepping stone)

SUNY at Buffalo

http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/academicprograms/th_about.shtml

No audition required for the BA theatre; however you audition for individual classes, performances, etc. They also have BFA programs in musical theatre, dance and theatre. These do require audition -- see website for details. Auditions take place in NYC.

SUNY Plattsburgh

<http://www.plattsburgh.edu/academics/theatre/>

Liberal Arts based - no audition. Awesome opportunity to participate in the Kennedy Center programs. Professional alumni.

Nazereth College

<https://www2.naz.edu/academics/musical-theatre-degree-program/>

<http://fingerlakesmtf.com/theatres/callahan-theater/index.html>

This is a small private college. However, their program is superior to Marymount, PACE and even Tisch NYU -- for the \$\$\$ you are getting a much richer personal intimate education with opportunity to stand out and WORK! They are affiliated with the Fingerlakes Musical Theatre Festival - professional artists with opportunity for students to participate perform. They have musical theatre and acting and tech programs.

OTHER NOTABLE MENTIONS

SUNY Pottsdam

<http://www.potsdam.edu/academics/majors/theatre.cfm>

BA no auditorium

Niagara University

<http://www.niagara.edu/theatre>

Small, private, Catholic college. Several BFA programs with alumni working on Broadway, regional tours, and film and TV. Performance and non performance programs offered.

SUNY at Brockport

<https://brockport.edu/theatre/Internships.html>

<http://www.brockport.edu/theatre/>

Great affiliation with the regional equity theatre (GEVA) professional theatre working with professional equity performers. Several opportunities to work both on stage and off stage in various departments of the theatre: tech, marketing, casting, costume, box office, public relations etc. Students work in paid and unpaid internships but usually equate to paid, gainful employment. Also offer a generous theatre scholarship annually.

Five Towns College

<http://www.dhpac.org/theater/>

<http://theatre-schools.com/five-towns-college>

Dix Hills, NY. This is the program that is run by Marie Danvers - and her husband Rob is an adjunct professor. Marie is head of department at Five Towns musical theatre program and her husband Rob is still a working professional actor who also teaches at the college. Marie is a personal friend - Long Island resident - Islip NY and wonderful human being. What she has done for this program and its students is amazing. There is so much opportunity to perform and I know first hand that since 2012, the graduating class has an amazing showcase practicum where each and every student lands agent / management representation and folks from NYC like casting Bernard Telsey, Tiffany Canfield, and top theatrical NY agents attend! This is a best kept secret on Long Island - Dix Hills.