

Actors

SOC: 27-2011 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$47,840

Median Salary

57,000

Employment

+0.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Some college

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 15.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

5.0/10 - Fair work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.0/10	Investigative	5.6/10
Artistic	9.6/10	Social	7.4/10
Enterprising	6.2/10	Conventional	4.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Creativity, Interpersonal skills, Memorization skills, Persistence, Physical stamina, Reading skills, Speaking skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Actors are performing artists who bring **characters and stories to life through live performance, film, television, and digital media**. They interpret scripts, embody roles, and convey emotions, motivations, and narratives to audiences using voice, movement, and expression. Their work blends creativity, discipline, and collaboration across a wide range of entertainment and media formats.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy creative expression, storytelling, and working in collaborative, performance-driven environments.

What Do Actors Do?

Actors portray characters and perform scripted or improvised material in front of live or recorded audiences.

Common responsibilities include:

- Studying scripts to understand characters and storylines
- Memorizing lines, cues, and stage directions
- Rehearsing with directors and fellow performers
- Performing roles on stage, on set, or on camera
- Taking direction and adjusting performances as needed
- Developing characters through voice, movement, and emotion
- Promoting productions through interviews or appearances

Types of Acting Work

Actors may specialize in different performance mediums:

- Stage Actors: Perform in live theater productions.
- Film Actors: Appear in movies and short films.
- Television Actors: Perform in scripted or episodic series.
- Voice Actors: Provide voices for animation, games, or commercials.
- Commercial Actors: Appear in advertisements or promotional media.
- Digital and Motion Capture Actors: Perform for online content or CGI-based roles.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Actors combine creative talent with technical and interpersonal skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Training Pathway

Paths into acting are diverse and talent-driven:

- Formal Acting Training (common): Drama schools, conservatories, or university programs
- Workshops and Acting Classes: Ongoing skill development
- Auditions and Casting Calls: Primary entry into roles
- On-the-Job Experience: Learning through live or filmed performances
- Continuous Practice: Refining craft and technique

Where Do Actors Work?

Actors work in a wide range of creative environments:

- Theaters and Performing Arts Venues
- Film and Television Studios
- Streaming and Digital Media Platforms

- Advertising and Commercial Production Firms
- Voice Recording Studios
- Independent and Freelance Productions

Work schedules are irregular and project-based.

How Much Do Actors Earn?

Earnings vary widely depending on role size, experience, and industry:

- Entry-Level or Background Actors: Often earn daily or hourly rates
- Union Actors or Lead Roles: Typically earn higher negotiated pay
- Established Actors: May earn significant income from major productions

Income can fluctuate significantly year to year.

Is This Career Difficult?

Acting is highly competitive and emotionally demanding. Actors face frequent auditions, rejection, and irregular income while continually refining their craft. The challenge lies in maintaining resilience, consistency, and creative growth in an uncertain and competitive industry.

Who Should Consider Becoming an Actor?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Love storytelling and performance
- Are comfortable expressing emotion publicly
- Thrive in creative, collaborative environments
- Can handle uncertainty and rejection
- Are passionate about honing a creative craft

How to Prepare Early

- Participate in school or community theater
- Take acting, voice, or movement classes
- Practice memorization and improvisation
- Learn audition and performance techniques
- Build experience through student or independent productions

Actors transform words on a page into living experiences, using imagination, discipline, and emotional truth to connect audiences with stories that entertain, inspire, and reflect the human experience.