



SETC NEWS

March / April 2007

Get Energized, Inspired at SETC

In March, I get to go home. The nice thing is that you can go home, too – and guess what? We're going to the same place.

I am not referring to the fact that SETC is coming back to Atlanta after a long hiatus. And I am not suggesting that I have any specific ties to that city. (I don't.)

What I am referring to is the fact that, in Atlanta in March, the miracle of SETC happens once more. For theatre people, especially theatre people from the Southeast, SETC is home in a special way.

In West Virginia, where I live, the home-

town papers every June start an annual ritual of announcing the Stalnaker reunion, the Drake reunion, the Freshour reunion... the list goes on and on.

We could announce the same thing. The Theatre Family Reunion happens in Atlanta this year, beginning on March 7.

It is not special just
(Continued on Page 6)

From the President

Dennis Wemm



SETC 2007: From 'Monologue Magic' to 'Pitch Happens'

Welcome to Atlanta! Sure, it is a bit early, but there is so much to do at SETC 2007 that you will want to get an early start.

I have good news and bad news. I'll share the bad news first. After you greet the Central Office staff and convention volunteers at the registration desk in Atlanta, the first thing you need to do is check the convention program for sessions to attend. Why is this bad news? The program is so full that your head may go into a tailspin. You could pick two or three events to attend for virtually every time slot of the convention. Good luck trying to decide where to go when! And don't forget to visit the Second Floor Lobby Info Hub for late-breaking information. There will be a bulletin board there, where any last-minute changes or

additions will be posted.

Now would you like the good news? I'm happy to tell you that, in this case, the bad news also happens to be the good news. SETC 2007 has a tremendous range of offerings, truly something for everyone!

You will find some surprises. You will even find some magic. It's true! The 2007 convention workshop schedule includes both "Monologue Magic" and "The 'Magic If' Made Simple."

Maybe you're a playwright? Sessions feature considerations of William Shakespeare, Molière, Harold Pinter, Richard Wright, Brian Friel and others. Joining us live will be 10-minute play guru Gary Garrison, along with Don LaPlant, the 2007 Charles M. Getchell Award winner. Of course, we also have our keynote speaker-playwrights Marsha Norman (*The Color Purple*; *'night, Mother*) and Tom Key (*Cotton Patch Gospel*).

You'll find a broad section of programs in other categories as well – acting, movement, design and technology, to name just a few.

(Continued on Page 2)

From the President-Elect

David S. Thompson



Info

in Atlanta

Want to register for the convention? Need information on a program?

Convention & Auditionee Registration/Pre-Registration Area is located in the First Floor Lobby, Hilton Atlanta. The Information Hub is in the Second Floor Lobby, Hilton Atlanta.

What's new in the exhibits area?

Product demonstrations given by your favorite exhibitors on stage! For times, check the marquee in the Exhibit Hall, located in Galleria Hall, Hilton Atlanta.

Setc 2007

Keynote Speakers

George Lowe
Actor, Voice Artist

2:30 p.m. Thursday

Tom Key

Actor, Director, Playwright, Artistic Director

2:30 p.m. Friday

Marsha Norman

Playwright, Teacher, Pulitzer and Tony Winner

3 p.m. Saturday

Off-site Atlanta Programs

High School Master Classes

Student-centered instruction provided by Keynote Tom Key and Theatrical Outfit

Location: Balzer Theater at Herren's

10:30 a.m. Thursday/Friday

Textile and Social History Tour

Free tour of clothing/textiles collection. Advance reservations required.

Location: Atlanta History Center

2 p.m. Thursday

Shakespeare's Original Practices

Hands-on session for actors, directors by Atlanta Shakespeare Company's Laura Cole

Location: The Shakespeare Tavern

9 a.m. Friday

Featured Atlanta Presenters

Check your convention program for workshops by Atlanta presenters:

Voice Acting...Keynote George Lowe

Dramaturgy...Alliance Theatre

Ensemble Directing...Dad's Garage

Improv Mania...Atlanta Workshop Players

Collision Project...Alliance Theatre

Artistic Direction...Atlanta theatre leaders

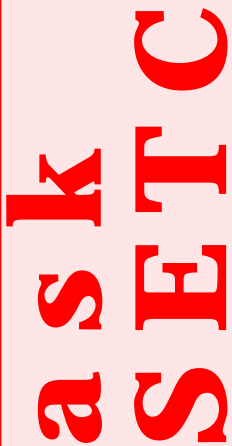
Puppetry...Center for Puppetry Arts

Pre-Convention Institute

Educating Theatre Educators

Seminar for K-12 Educators

Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Q What is the Interview Lounge at the 2007 SETC Convention?

A The Interview Lounge will provide an informal setting where professors can interview high school seniors and transfer students who are participating in the SETC Interviews. This area, equipped with tables and chairs, is located next to the Education Expo in Galleria Hall in the Hilton Atlanta. The Interview Lounge includes the area where high school student designs will be displayed, as well as the call-back boards for high school senior/transfer student auditionees and high school design students. Please note: The tables in the Interview Lounge are not to be used for permanent displays.

From the President-Elect

(Continued from Page 1)

Recorded performance also will be well represented. Voice acting will be addressed in "Voice-over Success Today" and by keynote speaker George Lowe (*Space Ghost Coast to Coast*).

How do you get into film? Find answers in "Auditioning for TV & Film," "Camera Auditioning: The Truth," and "Auditioning for Commercial\$." (No, that's not a typo.)

Speaking of auditioning, SETC is well-known for its various audition programs and related workshops, such as "Auditioning for Musicals," "The Musical Theatre Audition" and "Pitch Happens: Finding Your Voice for Musical Theatre Auditions." Students may want to seek out "Preparing Your College Audition," "University Scholarship Auditions" or "Getting into Grad School." If you would like to know more about helping others audition, SETC's Hardy Koenig and Betsey Baun will present their popular "Nail That Audition."

Actors can learn to speak in the dialects of New York, Ireland or France. They can learn movement based on Laban, Meyerhold, Pilates, puppets or clowns.

In addition to several panels on organization, safety and new products, designers and technicians can learn how to create fine costume trim, period jewelry and a swimming pool on stage.

To balance workshops on "Stage Grap-

pling," "Stage Combat for Secondary Schools" and "Old School Swashbuckling," we have "Managing Conflict in Theatre." We also have controversial topics in theatre for youth and secondary theatre along with what to do when you turn 60. Old meets new in "Classical Performance Techniques by way of 'Elimidate' and 'Jerry Springer'" and "Yo, Homey, Let's Go Check Out Jesus."

Did you keep reading all the way to the end? Then I'll let you in on a secret. You don't HAVE to wait until the convention to check out all of these great convention programs. You can steal a peek at the convention schedule online at www.setc.org. Happy reading – and don't forget to pick up your printed program in Atlanta!

SETC State Luncheon

1-2:20 p.m., Friday, March 9

*Sponsored by the 10 state theatre organizations
Crystal Ballroom, First Floor, Hilton Atlanta*

All Welcome!

*Tickets (\$16) available from Central Office
through February 26*

State Meetings, Reception

5:30-7 p.m., Friday, March 9

State meetings: 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Check program for location

Reception: 6:15-7 p.m.

Crystal Ballroom, First Floor, Hilton Atlanta

All Invited to Executive Committee, Board of Directors Meetings

Wednesday, March 7, 12:30-4 p.m.

SETC Executive Committee Meeting, followed by Board of Directors Meeting
All Board of Directors and Advisory Council members should attend, and all SETC members are invited to attend. Crystal Ballroom, First Floor, Hilton Atlanta

Sunday, March 11, 9 a.m.-Noon

SETC Executive Committee Meeting, followed by Board of Directors Meeting
All Board of Directors and Advisory Council members should attend, and all SETC members are invited to attend. Crystal Ballroom, First Floor, Hilton Atlanta

K-12 Institute Powers Up, Fall Grad Auditions Planned

We just can't help ourselves! SETC continues to expand its services and innovate its programming.

Two highlights to watch for include a powerhouse of programming for the K-12 Educating Theatre Educators Pre-Convention Institute on March 7 and the addition of Fall Graduate School Auditions this year.

Pre-Convention Institute

The pre-convention institute kicks off with one of the most dynamic arts speakers in the South, Susan Weiner, the executive director of the Georgia Arts Council. She'll address "Teaching through the Arts" – the theme for the day. The day continues with workshops focused on innovative methods of teaching theatre and integrating theatre into the classroom. (Kudos to Dean Slusser for his work in putting the program together.) Go to the SETC website for a

From the Executive Director
Betsey Baun



list of the full day of programs as well as the presenters' names. This is one not to miss!

Fall Graduate School Auditions

For several years, college and university representatives have asked SETC to offer graduate school auditions in the fall, in addition to our spring auditions. On September 8, SETC will hold Fall Graduate School Auditions at Spirit Square in Charlotte, NC.

Why September 8? Three reasons:

- 1) This is early enough in most school production schedules to allow recruiting professors to attend.
- 2) SETC holds Professional Auditions September 9-10. Many fall professional auditionees are at the beginning of their careers; some will still be considering advanced training. If they come a day earlier, they will not only have an opportunity to perform for the upcoming theatre season, but also to find a school for the following year.
- 3) We have a great facility already booked that weekend for SETC events.

Why Charlotte? It is central to our region, easy to get in and out of, and the McGlohan Theatre is a great facility where SETC has been holding Fall Board Meetings and Professional Auditions for the last six years. We couldn't begin to imagine a better location.

Look for more info on the SETC website. Also, join Don Wolfe at the Graduate School Meeting in Carter and Jackson rooms at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the SETC Convention.

Outdoor Drama Auditions Set for March 17

Eleven outdoor drama theatres will be seeking performers and technicians to fill more than 300 summer theatre jobs when the National Outdoor Drama Auditions are held March 17.

These auditions, open to anyone 18 or older who has previous theatre experience, are sponsored by the Institute of Outdoor Drama (IOD) on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Applications are due March 8. For more information and an application form, visit the institute's website at www.unc.edu/depts/outdoor or call 919-962-1328.

Companies slated to participate in-

clude: *Blue Jacket* (Xenia, OH); *Horn in the West* (Boone, NC); *The Lost Colony* (Manteo, NC); Roanoke Island Festival Park (Manteo, NC); Snow Camp Dramas (Snow Camp, NC); *Strike at the Wind* (Pembroke, NC); *Tecumseh!* (Chillicothe, OH); Texas Musical Drama (Canyon, TX); Theatre West Virginia (Beckley, WV); *Trumpet in the Land* (New Philadelphia, OH); and *Unto These Hills* (Cherokee, NC).



Institute of Outdoor Drama, UNC

Don't Miss SETC's Festivals

You'll find the best of theatre from around the Southeast at the 2007 SETC Convention. Check out the festivals below:

RIALTO THEATRE

Secondary School Theatre Festival
Thursday, March 8, 11:45 a.m.-10 p.m.
Friday, March 9, 10:45 a.m.-10 p.m.

BALDWIN BURROUGHS THEATRE, SPELMAN COLLEGE

Community Theatre Festival
Thursday, March 8, 8 a.m.-10:30 p.m.
Friday, March 9, 8 a.m.-10:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 10, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

GRAND BALLROOM EAST, HILTON ATLANTA

Theatre for Youth Festival
Thursday, March 8, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

10-Minute Play Festival
Thursday, March 8, 10 p.m.

Fringe Festival

Kick-off, Thursday, March 8, Midnight
Friday, March 9, 10:30 a.m.-Midnight
Saturday, March 10, 10:30 a.m.-1:45 p.m.

Fringe Festival Schedule

Thursday

Midnight *Jack*, Tom Foolery Productions, Winston-Salem, NC.

Friday

10:30 a.m. *One-Woman Native American Solo Performance*, Chattanooga (TN) State Technical Community College Professional Actor Training Program

Noon *Skinny*, Orianna Rhema Productions, Orangeburg, SC.

4 p.m. *A Play On Words*, Atlanta Workshop Players, Atlanta, GA

7 p.m. *The Merchant of Venice*, Louisiana State University MFA Program, Baton Rouge, LA. (Note: Adult themes, sexual content and strong language)

8:30 p.m. *Musical of Musicals: the Musical*, Chattanooga (TN) State Technical Community College Professional Actor Training Program

10 p.m. *Bitchplate Charlie*, autobiographical monologues and sketches, Matt Ames

11:30 p.m. *The Rambling Nut*, The Generous Company, New London, CT

Saturday

10:30 a.m. *The True Chronicle History of Hip Hop Lear (or The King of Blingland and His Three Daughters)* by Oyamo, Alliance Theatre Collision Project, Atlanta, GA

Noon *South Africa... Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, Tri-Cities High School Visual and Performing Arts Magnet Program, East Point, GA

States Report on Annual Conventions

Alabama State Convention

The 2006 Alabama Conference of Theatre (ACT) college festival was held October 27 and 28 at the University of South Alabama in Mobile. The SETC Screening Auditions, ACT College and University divisional meeting, a 10-minute play festival and three participating entries in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival drew more than 300 faculty and students.

Birmingham Southern College's production of *Urinetown* was chosen to represent Alabama at the regional Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) festival in February, 2007, as well as the University of Alabama at Birmingham's production of *Intimate Apparel*.

SETC screening auditions had 130 participants, with 56 passed on to regionals.

The Walter Trumbauer Secondary School Theatre Festival was held December 1 and 2 at the University of North Alabama in Florence. More than 1,100 students and sponsors attended this event, with 29 individual events and our one-act play festival. Of 13 entries, Spain Park High School's *Wiley and the Hairy Man* by Suzan Zeder was chosen as our entry in the SETC Secondary School Festival. Bob Jones High School's *The Adding Machine* by Elmer Rice and Shades Valley High School's *Separate but Equal* by Roy Hudson also received Best of Show awards.

The Community Theatre Festival had not been held as of mid-January.

Mel Christian
Executive Director, ACT

Mississippi State Convention

The Mississippi Theatre Festival was held January 11-14 at Gertrude C. Ford Center on the campus of the University of Mississippi in Oxford. The festival featured nine high school productions and seven community theatre productions.

Chosen to advance to the SETC Convention were *Smoke on the Mountain* from Starkville Community Theatre in Starkville, and *The Crane Wife* from Oak Grove High School in Oak Grove.

The festival also featured 23 workshops; two guest speakers, John Maxwell and Robert Cannon; a 10-minute play festival; college/university auditions, with over 50 auditioning students; and a theatre for youth festival, with six productions viewed by students from the Oxford/Lafayette County area.

A new addition to the festival this year was a Community Theatre Presidents' and Executive Directors' Summit that focused on how MTA could support Mississippi's community theatres.

Mississippi's screening auditions, held December 9 at Millsaps College, hosted 66 students from Mississippi, in addition to 188 out-of-region students.

The state Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, held November 1-5 at Mississippi State University in Starkville, featured six participating entries.

New officers are: Tom Booth, president; Stacy Howell, vice president; Chris Wooten, treasurer; and Ronnie Miller, secretary.

Sam Sparks
State Representative

design/tech

Meetings, events outlined

The SETC Design and Technology Committee has lined up a diverse schedule of workshops and presentations for SETC 2007, in addition to the annual SETC Design Competition.

Winners will be recognized in scenery, lighting and costume design, as well as craft and technology, at the undergraduate and graduate levels. (See Page 7 for details on the Design Competition Awards Ceremony and Reception.)



Troy Snyder

Be sure to take note of the following events during the March 7-10 SETC Convention:

Wednesday evening: Design/Tech Committee meeting for all interested and involved in the convention.

Thursday morning: Design Competition entries accepted.

Thursday afternoon: Entries viewed by guest adjudicators. Exhibition opens immediately following.

Thursday evening: "Talk-back" session with guest designers. Announcement of projects selected to be critiqued during main session on Friday.

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history

All invited to panels, meeting

The History/Theory/Criticism/Literature Committee is sponsoring several intriguing panels and presentations this spring, covering topics such as the transition from graduate student to teacher, the history of musical theatre in the German Democratic Republic and Harold Pinter in performance. Also look for presentations on approaches to history and historiography from several scholars currently



Steven Burch

researching books on theatrical practitioners. Our committee meeting will take place at noon, Saturday, March 10. All who are interested in what we do and would like to participate are cordially invited to attend.

*Steven Burch, Chair
History/Theory/Lit/Crit Committee
sburch@bama.ua.edu*

diversity

Move out of your comfort zone

Last fall, I began working on a full-length play about the Harlem experience. As a way to workshop the play, I worked with a local high school to stage the piece.

The young teacher working with me jokingly asked if people would find it strange for a young, white woman to direct a show about Harlem. And how would an audience react to hearing the praises of Harlem from a predominantly white cast? I told her that if I could teach hip-hop-loving black students to care about renaissance love stories, she could teach OC-watching white students to love renaissance Harlem.

Theatre makes such an impact on how we view ourselves and the world. What a perfect vehicle for diversity! Theatre is an educator: It teaches us the human experience. We cannot separate that from the art. It connects us to each other through

film/tv

Film Showcase in the works

It is hard to believe that another year has passed. At last year's convention, the sessions sponsored by the Film and Television Committee were very popular, with standing-room-only audiences. Sessions covered a wide range of topics, from how to audition for the camera to the business of the business. This year the sessions promise to be just as topical and popular. Some will expand on last year's themes, and others will cover new ground.



Richard Cowan

I am also happy to announce that, after several years of effort, we have located people who want to exhibit their films at the convention. This development occurred too late to get on the program for this year. However, I am in discussion with three producers who may be interested in presenting their work next year at a Film Showcase that I hope to establish. If all goes well, we can expand this into a juried festival along the lines of the Community Theatre Festival. I look forward to seeing all who are interested in film and television in Atlanta.

*Richard Cowan, Chair
Film/Television Committee
Rcowan@clemsun.edu*



MJ Etua

common experiences. It fascinates us with uncommon experiences.

Unfortunately we sometimes try to overcompensate our lack of recognizing that diversity by labeling authors and works. We often get so politically correct with the labels and categories that we overshadow the playwright's intent.

So how do we overcome the need to overcome? We open our minds to experiences outside our own comfort zone.

We celebrate those who have made
(Continued on Page 7)

religion

Explore intersection of faith, theatre

The Religion and Theatre Committee is delighted to announce a number of practical workshops exploring the interplay of faith and theatre activity. Anyone interested in theatre education on the church-related college campus will want to check out Kari Hatfield's session on Friday. Several workshops explore ways to use religious texts as a means for developing

new plays or training young actors. Look for those throughout the schedule. Once again, the national networking organization, Christians in Theatre Arts, will host an information session at the SETC Convention. Also, veteran actor Pat Cronin and master teacher Michael Kirkland reprise their successful session, "Religion and Theatre: Do They Still Work Together?"

Everyone is invited to the Religion and Theatre Committee meeting Thursday at 5:30 p.m. People of any faith – or none at all – are encouraged to share ideas to strengthen the committee's work within the organization.

Finally, the committee is pleased to note the participation of Tom Key in this year's conference, as Key's solo performances of the Book of Revelation and the works of C.S. Lewis have inspired thousands.

*R. Cliff Thompson, Chair
Religion/Theatre Committee
cthompson@fhu.edu*



Cliff Thompson

SETC
what's happening in

movement

Get physical, be silent

At Convention 2007, you'll find a magnificently diverse selection of Stage Movement Committee workshops and programs. Participants at SETC will be able to attend programs that explore physical theatre, physical story telling, physical awareness massage, preparation and warm-up, as well as releasing tension beyond the warm-up. Programming also includes physicalizing



Tiza Garland

a character's emotional life, physicalizing text and investigating stillness and silence as a movement choice. Look for programs in musical theatre dance, jazz and acting for the dancer. Stage combat programs range from unarmed grappling to the specific and refined use of the small sword.

Convention 2007 includes workshops in mime and clowning, Alexander, Suzuki and Pilates. This is an exciting year for Laban and Bartenieff teachers, analysts and enthusiasts, with a record-breaking number of programs offered on these subjects.

SETC 2007 marks the third year for our pre-convention meeting, titled "Explorations in Movement Training," held from 4 p.m. to 5:20 p.m., Wednesday, March 7. This is an opportunity for theatre movement profes-

sionals and educators to work among their peers to explore and experience various approaches to teaching movement. This year's topic is "A Movement Professional's Approach to Expanding the Creative Imagination in Scene Work – Supporting Super-Objective/Beat Objective in Movement Training."

Finally, please note that the Stage Movement Committee Meeting has been changed to Thursday, March 8 at noon.

*Tiza Garland, Chair
Stage Movement Committee
TizaG1@aol.com*

voice/speech

Exchange ideas at Saturday session

The Voice and Speech Committee has some exciting events planned for Atlanta, including a much-discussed double session exploring and exchanging methods of teaching, clarifying principles of pedagogy and training, and looking at burning issues or challenges we face as voice and speech professionals.

This event, for voice and speech professionals, teachers, trainers and coaches, is at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 10. Bring your burning issues as trainers, and be prepared to share strategies or exercises that have worked for you. The most important part of this event is the exchange of ideas and exercises.

We will again be combining expertise and collaborating with the Movement Committee in offering unified early-morning actor warm-ups Thursday, Friday and Saturday, led by presenters from both voice and movement interest areas.

Our workshop offerings this year range from "The Plays of Friel – Learning Northern Irish Dialect" (Daydrie Hague) to "The Voice of Diversity" (Nancy Lipschultz) to the popular "Writer's Voice" – combining voice work with guided writing (Rinda Frye).

We are looking for voice/speech trainers to attend each session and provide written feedback for the presenters. Please contact me if you have a desire to help out in this capacity. To get involved and generate ideas for next year's convention, join us for the Voice and Speech Committee meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 8.

*Marlene Johnson, Chair
Voice and Speech Committee
mrsplumm@yahoo.com*



Marlene Johnson

playwriting

Getchell winner, readings announced

One of the exciting events offered each year at the SETC Convention is the opportunity to experience new works.

Two Body Parts, by Don LaPlant, was recently announced as the 2006-07 winner of SETC's Charles M. Getchell Award by committee chair Kenn Stilson.

A staged reading of the play, directed by Robert W. Dillon, will be presented at 7 p.m. Friday, March 9, followed by a discussion of the play.

Two Body Parts was a finalist in the 2003 Last Frontier Theatre Festival and winner of the 2006 ATHE PlayWorks competition. According to the synopsis, this four-char-

acter drama explores "the personal impact of the struggle to maintain family and romantic relationships while seeking professional growth and career advancement." The playwright teaches at Emory & Henry College in Virginia.

Other finalists for this year's Getchell Award included: *Hugging the Shoulder*, by Jerrod Bogard; *Forward*, by Lauren Gunderson; *Touch the Face of God*, by Molly Hersage and Nancy Hersage; *Artist and Protector of Children: The Life of Henry Darger*, by Michael Merino; and *Dream On*, by Jeffrey Skinner.

Have a play you would like to enter in next year's contest? Now's the time to prepare it for submission. Entries will be accepted for the 2007-08 Charles M. Getchell Award competition between March 1 and

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Alan Litsey

acting/directing

Discover the tools you need

Nearly 80 Acting/Directing Committee workshops and presentations are scheduled for SETC 2007, including: "Meisner Approach in the Classroom," "University Scholarship Auditions," "Acting in Film," "Accents for Actors," "Eating, Diet and Exercise – The Actor's Hidden Tools," "The Harold: Long-Form Improv," "Music + Acting = Empowerment," "The Female Broadway Belt Voice," and "The 'Magic If' Made Simple."

Whether you are a student or a faculty member, you'll find many great opportunities to learn, participate and network during

the convention. To help our committee function more efficiently, please offer feedback and suggest programming for 2008.

I look forward to meeting you in Atlanta. Please introduce yourself to me. Also offer feedback or just say "hello" to our committee vice-chairs: Paul Crook, Lissa Graham-Schneider, Ursula Robinson and David Patton. I hope you come to SETC 2007 ready to learn, have fun and share your ideas.

*Patrick Gagliano, Chair
Acting/Directing Committee
pgagliano@newberry.edu*



Patrick Gagliano

2007
your interest area

From the President

(Continued from Page 1)

to those who have attended before and enjoy the opportunity to see old friends. Even if you are new to the area, even if you are new to theatre, you cannot mistake the feeling. There is an energy that flows through the halls, over the facilities, in the workshops, in the smiles, in the recognitions of shared experiences, in the explosions of adrenaline that fuel the performances, in the wave of congratulatory sound that washes over the banquet attendees as the secondary school winner is announced.

You cannot explain it to someone who hasn't experienced it. If you have been there before, you know what I am talking about. If it will be your first time, I truly envy you the experience.

You will feel a joy, an inspiration, an acceptance, an affirmation that you can then take back home with you as you continue your work. It will last you all the way until next year's convention in Chattanooga is announced. Then, next year, you will need to do it all over again.

I am sure that David Thompson knows by now what I learned while planning the

Orlando convention last year: SETC's annual event is a production, a collaboration, a mosaic that has no set plan or concept, other than providing what its individual tiles need to make each moment perfect, each part of the picture complete. Sure, you work like a dog to put it together, but you know that others will work just as hard to make their tiles both stand out and fit into the mosaic.

This all happens just because you are a member of the Theatre Family! You know when you come to the SETC Convention that you are home. See you at the family reunion in Atlanta!

Two Ways to Look Great
While Helping Talented Theatre Students

Get Your Designer Shirt Here!

Love wearing designer clothes? Then don't miss your chance to take home a one-of-a-kind shirt created by a famous or not-so-famous costume designer, who has donated the item to the SETC Endowment.

So how do you get one of these shirts? They will be sold at the SETC Convention through a Silent Auction, beginning Thursday, March 8 and concluding Saturday, March 10 by 10 a.m. Bid – and bid again! Don't miss your chance to own one of these designer originals. All proceeds go to build the scholarship award funds of the SETC Endowment!

Buy Your SETC T-Shirt Here!

Let everyone know you belong to the country's largest regional theatre organization! SETC T-shirts and golf shirts will be available for purchase at the Registration area in the Second Floor Lobby of the Hilton Atlanta during the convention. And, yes, all proceeds go to build the scholarship award funds of the SETC Endowment!



Need to Convert a PDF to Word? Web Services, Software Can Help

My granddaughter gave me a computer calendar program for Christmas, and I duly registered it. After clicking the "Notify me of new products" teaser, I immediately began receiving notices about all kinds of nifty things.

Today Broderbund sent a promo for IMSI® PDF to Word v3. Zing went the strings of my heart! My inability to copy a PDF (portable document format) file from Adobe Acrobat Reader into Microsoft Word has always frustrated me. I've also hated not being able to edit or insert comments into an Acrobat Reader document. Am I the only person in the world with this problem?

I started an Internet search of "How do I convert a PDF to a Microsoft Word document?" The responses convinced me that lots of people have the same concerns. I was fascinated to learn that there are services to which you can submit PDF documents you want to reformat. Zing! The reformatted document returns to you. One service will convert documents up to 12 pages for free; a typical charge for conversion services seems to be 15 cents per page.

Beyond conversion services, there are many programs offered to allow you to convert PDFs to Word on your own computer. I saw offerings ranging from \$39.95 (with free shipping) to \$129 plus shipping. There doesn't seem to be a huge difference among these programs. Some have bells; some have whistles.

Next I went to www.pdfzone.com/article2/0,1895,1815273,00.asp and found instructions on how to convert a PDF to Word within the Adobe Acrobat program itself. I failed and failed and failed again. I could copy a section of the PDF as a "snapshot" but I couldn't edit or work with the document's text. I could save the entire document to my "clipboard," but I lost all images and much of the formatting. It did preserve my fonts and their sizes – but that was not good enough.

Why didn't it work? Like many people, I have the free Acrobat Reader software – not the full Adobe Acrobat program. If you have purchased the full Acrobat program, all of this is moot. The Adobe Acrobat 7 program lets you do lots of swell conversion stuff. Furthermore, Adobe will soon release Adobe Acrobat 8, which will be even zingier! Obviously if you can afford it, and if you use it that much, Acrobat 8 and the accompanying Reader support is the way to go.

For the rest of us, though, a simple conversion program may do the job. Since I had noticed that several of the conversion programs I found during my Google search offered free trials, I went to www.investintech.com/prod_downloads2e.htm and tried the free trial. Zing! I was rewarded with an excellent copy of the PDF document in Microsoft Word, and all the goodies – fonts, different font sizes and graphics – converted effortlessly. Zing! Zing! Zing!

I haven't tried any of the other conversion programs I encountered in my Google search. I'll leave that up to you, but my next purchase will surely be one of these conversion programs.

Don Wolfe can be reached at: Wolfe@wfu.edu.



In Memoriam

Herbert M. "Tippen" Davidson Jr., 81, producer and founder of Seaside Music Theater, died January 23 of staph infection complications. He was president, CEO and co-editor of *The Daytona Beach News-Journal*, and was the driving force behind the News-Journal Center, an arts center where Seaside is housed, which was profiled in the Spring 2006 issue of *Southern Theatre*.

Diversity (Continued from Page 4)

significant literary contributions to theatre, no matter what they look like or where they come from. We express their works as examples of the human experience, not as just racial or gender experiences. We present the beauty of William Shakespeare and Lorraine Hansberry; David Mamet and Athol Fugard; Beth Henley and Mercedes Fouda.

And what is SETC's role in the expansion of diversity? We, as a membership, can support those who share with us alternate points of view and encourage the participation of theatre professionals with more varied backgrounds. All are welcome to bring their ideas to the Cultural Diversity meeting at 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 8.

As for my young co-educator, through a great deal of time spent researching, she was able to create an outstanding theatrical experience complete with original music and dance that truly reflected the spirit of Harlem. And yes, she found her students had come to love Harlem.

*MJ Etua, Chair
Cultural Diversity Committee
mjmetua@yahoo.com*

Don't miss the
SETC Design Events

Guest Designers Talk-Back Session

7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 8

SETC Design Awards Ceremony and Reception

8:30 p.m., Friday, March 9

Ceremony/Reception Sponsor: Vari*Lite

Winners of undergraduate and graduate Scenic Design, Lighting Design, Costume Design, and Craft and Technology Awards will be announced.

Design Award Sponsors are:

Scenic Design Awards: Sculptural Arts Coating
Lighting Design Awards: ETC, Electronic Theatre Controls
Costume Design Awards: In Honor of Irene Smart Rains
Craft and Technology Awards: PatternMaker Software

Sponsors and winners also will be announced at Saturday's SETC Awards Banquet

Do You Think Outside the Box?

Attention, designers. SETC is seeking submissions for a new *Outside the Box* book focusing on low-cost, innovative design strategies. More info? Contact Troy Snyder (Troy.Snyder@fairmontstate.edu) or Doug Brown (brownd@ncarts.edu).

Design/Tech (Continued from Page 4)

Friday morning: Critique of projects begins and continues throughout day.

Friday evening: Design Competition Awards Ceremony and Reception, sponsored by Vari*Lite.

Saturday morning: Design/Tech Committee business meeting.

*Troy Snyder Chair
Design/Tech Committee
Troy.Snyder@fairmontstate.edu*

Bring Your Law Questions to SETC Workshops

The ideal role I try to fill as an arts lawyer is to make people aware of legal issues related to their art form, so they can avoid legal conflicts and expensive court battles. That's exactly what I try to do through this column – and what I will strive to do at this year's SETC Convention, where I am presenting two workshops.

Over the past few years of writing this column, I've touched upon a wide assortment of topics, including copyright, contracts, Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), discrimination, personal injury, board of directors liability, income tax, intellectual property estates, rights of privacy and rights of publicity.

Volumes exist on each one of these topics, so clearly my purpose in these columns of 300 or so words is not to

Dan Ellison is a Durham, NC-based attorney who has concentrated on arts-related law and nonprofit law for 15 years. He is a past president and the current executive director of the North Carolina Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts. Have a question? E-mail him at: artandmuseumlaw@aol.com.

Note: The contents of this column are intended for general information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinion on any specific facts or circumstances.



Theatre and the Law
by Dan Ellison

make you an expert. What I want to do is to provide you with exposure to the legal issues involved in each topic, so that every now and then a yellow caution light (and occasionally a red stoplight) goes on in your head.

Be warned, however, not to overlawyer your artistic endeavors. I want you to think before you cross the street, but I don't want to keep you from crossing it. Occasionally, though, when the street traffic is especially treacherous, you might need to map out a different route to get to the other side.

At each of my SETC Convention sessions, I will present a broad overview of theatre legal issues and also provide time for some Q&A and discussion. I'm looking forward to seeing you there, from noon until 1 p.m. on both Thursday, March 8 and Saturday, March 10.

Playwriting (Continued from Page 5)

June 1. Details are online at www.setc.org/scholarship/newplay.asp.

Also check the SETC website for the announcement of the winner of this year's High School New Play Contest. The winning play will be presented in a reading at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, March 10, under the direction of contest chair Katie Watts. Students of The Walker School will read the winning play, and a discussion of the play will follow.

If you're a high school student, you can submit your play for the 2007-08 contest between October 1 and December 1. See details online at www.setc.org/scholarship/newplay.asp.

Finally, please join us for the Playwriting Committee meeting at 9 a.m. Thursday, March 8.

*Alan Litsey, Chair
Playwriting Committee
alitsey@bsc.edu*

Are You the Next Winning Playwright?

Entries accepted March 1-June 1
for the

2007-08 Charles M. Getchell Award

Details: www.setc.org/scholarship/newplay.asp



Southeastern Theatre Conference
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Greensboro, NC 27429-0868

SETC NEWS

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DINE, CELEBRATE AND DANCE IN ATLANTA!

Celebrate the magic of SETC 2007 with your fellow SETC members at the President's Reception (7 p.m.), Dinner/Awards Banquet (8 p.m.) and Celebration/Dance (10 p.m.) on Saturday, March 10, at the Hilton Atlanta. Purchase reserved tickets for banquet (\$26) from Central Office or at Registration Desk in Atlanta by Thursday, March 8. Dance admission is free.

Record Numbers Attend SETC Screening Auditions

The largest-ever number of persons went through the state screening auditions last fall, as SETC moved to a new, all-online registration system.

Over 1,800 people signed up for the state screenings – which, of course, means record numbers will be attending the Spring Professional Auditions in March.

Those registering for the screening auditions were required to complete the SETC

portion of their application online, including references. As we moved from paper forms to online registration, we had a few growing pains. Thank you to all who have made suggestions and worked with us on this mammoth change. Many improvements will be incorporated in next year's screenings.

The number of working professionals auditioning has held steady, and we also have a large number of Equity applicants for the Professional Auditions in Atlanta. It looks like 2007 will be a banner year for the Spring Auditions. So, companies, get your hiring caps on!

Writers, Editorial Board Members Sought for *Southern Theatre*

Would you like to write for *Southern Theatre* magazine? Or perhaps you would like to find out what's involved in serving on the Editorial Board? Come to the session, *How to Become a Writer or Editorial Board Member* for Southern Theatre, SETC's *Popular Magazine*, at 10:30 a.m., Friday, March 9. Check your program for the location.

SETC 2007

Atlanta, GA

March 7-11

Where to Send News

SETC News is published bimonthly for the Southeastern Theatre Conference. Deadline for the next issue is March 19.

Please send news items to:
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 E-mail: deanna@setc.org

or to:
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 Phone: 336-272-3645
 Fax: 336-272-8810
 E-mail: setc@setc.org
 Website: www.setc.org/

Make Plans Now to Attend

Fall Professional Auditions:
Sept. 9-10, 2007

**NEW
 for
 2007**

**Fall Graduate
 School
 Auditions:**
Sept. 8, 2007

Both held at Spirit Square, Charlotte, NC