



SETC NEWS

November / December 2008

SETC 2009: Join Us in Birmingham for Theatre's Biggest Convention Bargain

With the flagging economy, spurred by a failing housing market, and investment and insurance giants failing or being bailed out by the government, people are beginning to tighten their belts.

Add to that the cost of gas, and every expenditure you make becomes a decision linked to the quality of services or goods you are getting for your hard-earned money.

So the question is: How strong of an investment is your membership and participation in the Southeastern Theatre Conference?

In my view, the answer to that is... "one of the strongest investments you could make in your future."

The numbers in the chart at right show what a bargain SETC is, compared to other organizations you might belong to or plan to join. Not only is SETC's cost for an individual membership the lowest

in the group, but SETC's convention registration also is the least expensive. Convention

From the Treasurer

Chris Rich



CONVENTION	COST OF ATTENDING*
Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC)	\$175 (\$ 60 + \$115)
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)	\$315 (\$130 + \$185)
Educational Theatre Association (EdTA)	\$325 (\$ 75 + \$250)
American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE)	\$325 (\$110 + \$215)
United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)	\$449 (\$105 + \$344)
Live Design (LDI)	\$695 (\$ 0 + \$695)**

* Figures show cost of individual adult membership + individual convention registration at early-bird rate (where applicable).

** No membership required; cost is for full conference attendance.

registration for some of these other organizations is two to four times the cost of the SETC convention registration.

Now look at what you get for your money at the SETC Convention: over 300 workshops, daily keynote presentations, more than 40 shows in five festivals... and all the

networking you can pack into four days. For a small additional fee, you also can participate in the K-12 Institute, Auditions, the Design Competition and Job Contact Service.

If you are looking to economize this year, SETC can help in several ways.

(Continued on Page 4)

SAVE \$75 on SETC 2009 with early-bird registration!

Available online NOW through Dec. 19 at www.setc.org

2020 Visionary Committee Will Plan for Future

Once a year, I sit in a room and am told to "read the lowest line on the chart that you can see clearly." The problem is that I can't even see the chart without some sort of visual assistance. My vision has had to be corrected since I was in the fourth grade. For most of my life, I have relied on an eye care professional to help me see my way through life.

At our May meeting, the Executive Committee charged me with the appointment of the 2020 Visionary Committee. This is a committee that will take a facilitated look at the future direction of the organization. We chose the name "2020 Visionary Committee" because of its reference to

what is considered to be "good vision." Just as some of us rely on an eye care specialist to see well, SETC will tap a specialist to help us achieve a "good vision" for the organization. We are currently in the process of selecting an organizational consultant to work with us.

Some may ask why we are doing this. Those of us in the field of arts education are familiar
(Continued on Page 4)

From the President

Glen Gourley



What's Inside

- Need a Scholarship? Apply Now for SETC Money Page 2
- Attention, College Students: New Awards, Events in 2009 ... Page 3
- Nominate a Theatre Website for New Design Award Page 4
- Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About SETC 2009..... Page 5
- Fall Grad, Pro Auditions Win Good Reviews Page 6
- Theatre Symposium Calls for Papers on Stage Props Page 7

It All Starts in the States . . . Don't Miss Your Convention!

Workshops...Festivals...SETC Screening Auditions...and More Details: www.setc.org/membership/states.php

SETC Gives over \$20,000 Annually in Awards, Scholarships

You – or a student you know – could be the next winner of one of SETC’s major scholarships! SETC offers thousands of dollars of help to students entering undergraduate and graduate school to study theatre. For students entering graduate school, SETC offers scholarships for students interested in costume design, directing or theatre as well as for teachers returning to school for an advanced degree. For students entering college, SETC offers two scholarships: the SETC Secondary School Scholarship and the Polly Holliday Award. See details below.

The application deadlines are rapidly approaching for all of these awards and scholarships. If you’re planning to begin graduate or undergraduate school in 2009, don’t miss this opportunity to have SETC help pay for your education!

Awards for Students Applying to Graduate School

Marian A. Smith Award: \$2,300

For Graduate Study in Costume Design or Technology

More information/application: www.setc.org/scholarship/smith.php

Questions: E-mail committee chair Carey Hanson at costumes@olemiss.edu

Application deadline: Jan. 15, 2009

Robert Porterfield Award: \$3,400

For Graduate Study in Theatre

More information/application: www.setc.org/scholarship/porterfield.php

Questions: E-mail committee chair Cliff Thompson at cthompson@fhu.edu

Application deadline: Jan. 15, 2009

Leighton Ballew Award: \$3,300

For Graduate Study in Directing at MFA or PhD Program

More information/application: www.setc.org/scholarship/ballew.php

Questions: E-mail committee chair Marc Powers at mpowers@arts.usf.edu

Application deadline: Jan. 15, 2009

William E. Wilson Scholarship: \$6,500

For Graduate Study in Theatre/Speech by a Secondary School Teacher

More information/application: www.setc.org/scholarship/wilson.php

Questions: E-mail committee chair David Giambrone at dgiambrone@gmail.com

Application deadline: Jan. 15, 2009

Awards for High School Students

SETC Secondary School

Scholarship: \$2,100

For High School Senior

Planning to Major in Theatre

Criteria include: Planning to attend a college or university in the region to study theatre.

More information/application: www.setc.org/scholarship/secondary.php

Questions: E-mail committee chair Jesse Bates at jbates@asfa.k12.al.us

Application deadline: Jan. 15, 2009.

Polly Holliday Award: \$1,000

For High School Senior

Planning to Major in Theatre

Criteria include: Financial need, talent and potential for academic success. Named for and started by the actress who starred as the waitress Flo on the CBS sitcom *Alice*.

More information/application: www.setc.org/scholarship/holliday.php

Questions: E-mail committee chair Gary Weatherly at weatherlyg@mtbrook.k12.al.us

Application deadline: Jan. 15, 2009.

New Winner Named for 2008 Marian A. Smith Award

Jacki Blakeney, a third-year MFA graduate student in the costume technology program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is the new recipient of SETC’s 2008 Marian A. Smith Award for graduate study in design. Blakeney received the award after the original winner selected at the March convention did not pursue graduate school.



ask
SETC

Q Who is eligible to win SETC’s Sara Spencer Award?

A This award recognizes an individual or a group that has made a significant contribution to the quality of child drama in the SETC region. If you know someone that deserves recognition, you may e-mail your nomination to committee chair Brenda May Ito at may_brenda@colstate.edu. This award, first presented in 1979, honors the memory of Sara Spencer, a children’s theatre playwright, publisher and pioneer. More information: www.setc.org/scholarship/spencer.php. Application deadline: Nov. 15, 2008.

Know a High School Student Who Needs a KEAP Grant to Attend SETC Convention?

Four high school students will win Keynote Emerging Artists of Promise (KEAP) awards from SETC to attend the 2009 convention in Birmingham. These awards are for students who show promise in theatre and would benefit from a grant to attend the convention. Questions? Contact KEAP chair Chris Rich at rcrich@troy.edu. Nomination deadline is Jan. 15, 2009.

Details and application online:
www.setc.org/scholarship/index.php#keap

Know a Talented High School Playwright?

Submissions are being accepted through December 1 for SETC’s High School Play Contest. The winning high school playwright will receive \$250 and a staged reading of his/her play at the March convention. Questions? Contact Todd Ristau, contest chair, at tristau@hollins.edu.

Details and application online:
www.setc.org/scholarship/hsnewplay.php

DATES TO REMEMBER

KC/ACTF Region IV Festival: University of North Carolina Greensboro, Feb. 3-8, 2009
USITT Annual Conference and Stage Expo: Cincinnati, OH, March 18-21, 2009

New Awards, Events Announced for College/Grad Students in 2009

Graduate Designers: Enter Competition for 'Ready for Work Award'

What's even better than winning a cash award and recognition in the SETC Design Competition? How about winning both of those AND a chance to work in a prestigious professional setting?

SETC announces *Ready for Work Graduate Design Awards, in honor of SETC's 60th Anniversary, sponsored by SETC, Exhibitors and Member Companies.*

Three grand winners from the Graduate Design Competition will be offered *Ready for Work Awards* at the 2009 SETC Convention. One winner will be chosen from each of the following categories based on the excellence of his/her work: Costume Design, Lighting Design and Scenic Design.

Winners will have opportunities that range from a one-week work experience at a major costume studio or scenic house to hands-on design or technical experience. In addition to the unique award experiences, SETC offers \$600 to defray personal expenses.

The 60th anniversary *Ready for Work Awards* are being awarded in addition to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes currently sponsored by Sculptural Arts Coating, Inc., Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC) and in Honor of Irene Smart Rains.

Applications are online at www.setc.org/scholarship/designcomp.php.

Sound Designers: Enter Your Work in New Exhibition in 2009

Are you a college student who has created the sound design for a class project or a produced play? Then you may want to enter your design in a new event planned for the 2009 SETC Convention: the SETC Sound Design Exhibition.

This exhibition, to be held as part of the SETC Design Competition in Birmingham, will give sound designers an opportunity to spotlight their talents for hundreds of convention attendees.

"We've had several requests over the years to incorporate sound design as part of the competition," says Troy Snyder, chair of the SETC Design/Technology Committee. "This is an attempt to explore that and see how much interest there is. If it grows to the point where it sustains itself, it may become a juried competition with prizes."

Details for the 2009 event are still being worked out, but Design Competition rules are expected to apply to this exhibition. Graduate and undergraduate sound designers are eligible to participate after paying a \$20 entry fee (plus convention registration). Entrants will provide their own playback equipment. Look for more information in the next *SETC News* and online at www.setc.org. Questions? E-mail Snyder at troy.snyder@fairmontstate.edu.

All Students: Enter New SETC Young Scholar's Award Contest

Graduate and undergraduate students are invited to submit papers for a new SETC award – the 2009 Young Scholar's Award, a juried paper competition culminating in a panel at the 2009 SETC Convention in Birmingham, AL. One undergraduate and one graduate winner will be selected to receive \$225 cash awards and participate in a convention panel. Two runners-up will also be chosen.

Who can enter: Graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in spring 2009.

Topics: Submissions should relate to the four key interest areas of the award's sponsor: the SETC History/Theory/Criticism/Literature Committee. We focus on scholarly studies in those areas, but we are also interested in contemporary subjects, including: who teaches history, how we teach history, pedagogy, praxis vs. theory, censorship, telling/selling history, and subjects that support as well as resist traditional approaches to history, theory, criticism and literature.

Paper details: Papers should be in MLA style and should be presentation length of 20 minutes, or no more than 10 pages.

Submission deadline: Dec. 1, 2008.

Submission method: Preferred submission method is via e-mail, sent as a Microsoft Word attachment to llarsen@fmarion.edu. If submitting on paper, please mail five copies to the committee chair: Dr. Dawn Larsen, FMU/Fine Arts, 4822 E Palmetto St., Florence, SC 29506. Please include your name and contact information (including e-mail address).

Note: Winners must attend the 2009 SETC Convention to present their entries at the Young Scholar's Award panel.

More information: www.setc.org/interest/history.php#scholarAward. Or send an e-mail to llarsen@fmarion.edu.

Annual SETC Design Competition Offers Prizes, Recognition

Prizes
1st place: \$125
2nd place: \$75
3rd place: \$50

Open to undergraduate and graduate students
 at SETC member institutions

Entry postmark deadline: Jan. 28, 2009

For more information: www.setc.org/scholarship/designcomp.php

Sponsored by: Sculptural Arts Coating, Inc., Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC),
 In Honor of Irene Smart Rains, and PatternMaker Software

Costume Design Scene Design Lighting Design Technology/Crafts

Southern Theatre Wins National Award

SETC's quarterly magazine *Southern Theatre* was recognized nationally for the second year in a row in the annual communications contest sponsored by the National Federation of Press Women. The Spring 2007 issue received honorable mention in the 4-color magazine category. In presenting the award to Editor Deanna Thompson at the group's annual convention in Idaho Falls, Idaho, judges noted the magazine's "very clean layout – makes me want to keep turning the pages for more."

College/Grad Students: Apply for Ten-Minute Play Festival!

Thirty undergraduate and graduate SETC members will be selected to write, rehearse and perform in the annual Ten-Minute Play Festival at the SETC Convention on Wednesday and Thursday, March 4 and 5. The first 15 actors, 5 playwrights, 5 directors and 5 stage managers to be accepted will participate in the festival. So apply early!

To apply: Visit www.setc.org/festivals/10minuteplay.php, download and complete the form and return ASAP to festival chair Michael Carr (mcarr@sheltonstate.edu).

Deadline: Feb. 20, 2009

**AUDIT
SOUTHEASTERN THEATRE
CONFERENCE, INC.**

**Schedule of Cash Receipts, Disbursements
General Fund
Year ended June 30, 2008**

Income	
Membership dues	178,056
Committees and projects	55,074
Festivals	950
Conventions	414,381
Auditions	74,625
<i>Southern Theatre</i>	57,505
Contributions	7,455
Interest & dividends	41,363
Other	16,678
Total	846,087

Expenses	
Membership directory	435
<i>SETC News/Southern Theatre</i>	92,063
SETC Publications	17,482
Committees and projects	40,297
Festivals	11,111
Auditions	65,373
Conventions	98,446
Awards	27,143
Central office	433,671
Credit card discount	15,571
Management fees	11,333
Loss/(gain) on investment sales	(10,254)
Total	802,671

Revenue over expenses 43,416

Copies of the audit are available at the SETC Central Office by request.

From the Treasurer

(Continued from Page 1)

- **Register early to save big.**

Convention registration has begun, and early birds get a substantial discount. The early-bird cost for SETC membership and convention registration, which applies until December 19, is \$175 for an individual and \$100 for a student. From December 20 to January 28, the cost is \$200 for individuals and \$125 for students. After January 28, individuals pay \$250 and students pay \$175. You can see that investing in the SETC Convention early will save you \$75 that you can put toward hotel or food costs in Birmingham.

- **Stay in the convention hotel: the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel.**

SETC negotiates a special rate for hotel rooms in the convention center to save our members money. To get this discount of about 35 percent on room costs, SETC has to guarantee that our members will take a certain percentage of rooms. By staying in the convention hotel or hotels, you help SETC keep costs down for you. Convention

Call for Nominations: Website Design Awards

Have you visited a theatre website that works the way you want a website to work? Let us know about it. SETC is establishing a new award that will recognize theatre-related website design that is superlative, from an aesthetic and/or a functional standpoint.

Nominations are being accepted through February 1 for the new Award of Excellence in Website Design.



Sites will be recognized in nine categories:

- Professional Theatre
- College and University Theatre
- High School Theatre
- Theatre for Youth
- Community Theatre
- Commercial Sites (Suppliers and Manufacturers)
- Theatre Resources
- Individual Performer
- Digital Portfolio Site

Nominations will be accepted from current SETC members. This is your chance to let the southeast region know what you appreciate in a good website.

Nominated sites will be reviewed by a panel of judges, and winning sites will be listed on the SETC website. Representatives of selected sites and the nominating member will be invited to sit on a panel at the spring convention to discuss successful Web design. Winning sites will be recognized at the annual awards banquet.

Nominate as many sites as you like by filling out the short form online at: www.setc.org/awards/webdesign.php. If you prefer, you can send your nomination in an e-mail to kparks@randolphcollege.edu to be forwarded to the judges. Include the site address, your affiliation (if any) with the site, and a brief paragraph that details what you like about the site and what qualifies it as exceptional. Criteria for judging include ease of use, navigation, visual appeal, appropriateness for intended audience, and substance.

Interested in discussing website design? Join the TheatreWebsites group on Yahoo Groups (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TheatreWebsites/>) to talk about site design in an open forum started after an SETC workshop several years ago. You can also give and receive feedback and present your site for nomination at this forum.

- Ken Parks, Chair, SETC Website Committee

hotel rates this year are \$124 for single to quad occupancy. In addition to putting you in the center of the convention activities and keeping our hotel costs down, staying at the convention hotel also helps keep your overall **registration** costs down, too, because hotels give SETC a certain amount of meeting space in return for those guaranteed rooms. Ready to book? Call 205-324-5000 to book a room or register via a link on the SETC website at www.setc.org/conventions/2009hotels.php.

There are other ways you can save:

- **Carpool.**

Find others who plan to attend the convention and travel together.

- **Check out Southwest Airlines.**

If you are flying to the convention, you may want to investigate Southwest Airlines' service to Birmingham. This low-cost airline doesn't always show up in travel searches, but provides direct service to Birmingham from many Southeastern locations.

In the months leading up to the convention, SETC will continue looking for ways to

help members save money on convention travel. Please look for cost-saving tips, articles and information on the SETC website as we move closer to the 2009 convention.

From the President

(Continued from Page 1)

with external accreditation agencies that guide us through a self-evaluation and planning process. In that situation, it is a requirement. Some organizations go through this process to address a specific need, such as financial, internal or organizational difficulties. None of the above is the case with us. As we celebrate our 60th anniversary this March, we are stronger on all levels than we have ever been in the history of the organization. We are taking this step so that we can continue healthy growth and continue to serve our members on the professional level they have come to expect from us. We also want to ensure that, in another 60 years, SETC will still be both the largest and the leading regional theatre organization in the country.

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About SETC 2009 ... and Didn't Know Who to Ask

Registration is open now for the Southeastern Theatre Conference's 60th Anniversary

Convention in Birmingham, AL, on March 4-8, 2009. We hope you will join us. Each year the event gets bigger and better as the organization improves how we connect you to opportunity in theatre.

I hope these questions and answers will be helpful in your convention planning.

From the
Executive Director

Betsey Baun



When does the convention start?

Presentations, workshops and receptions begin at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4. Will this be your first time attending? Don't miss the 4 p.m. orientation session.

What happens during the all-day seminar for K-12 educators?

The K-12 Institute begins at 8 a.m. Wednesday, March 4, and promises a day filled with information on how to integrate theatre skills into the core curriculum and how to teach theatre skills as a stand-alone subject.

What is available for those interested in acting for the camera?

NEW for 2009: SETC will offer workshops and master classes in an on-site TV and radio studio. Studio size limits the number of attendees. Availability will be first-come, first-serve for workshops. Pre-paid, pre-registration is required for 3-hour master classes (check website for details).

What do you have for technicians who want to know more about studio work?

NEW for 2009: In addition to attending the above workshops and master classes, you can pre-register to participate in a simulation of producing a show.

How can I convince my graduate designers to enter the SETC Design Competition?

If being critiqued by some of the nation's top designers isn't enough (last year, all three had shows on Broadway and two won Tony Awards), then you might like to send them to Page 3 of this newsletter or to the SETC website to see the **NEW** opportunities for the top winners in Lighting, Scenic and Costume Design categories.

Where are the theatre festivals?

- The High School Theatre Festival is at the Convention Center in a 900-seat theatre that is home to the Birmingham Children's Theatre. Walk across the courtyard and you are there!
- The Community Theatre Festival is several blocks away in the Alabama School of Fine Arts. A shuttle will run during performances.
- Theatre for Youth, Ten-Minute and Fringe Festivals take place in the SETC Festival Space next to convention registration.

Is anything new for undergraduate college auditionees/interviewees and recruiters this year?

YES. Recruiters will get the names of all undergraduate candidates who are also performing in the High School Theatre Festival – and information on when they are performing in their school's 45-minute production. Also, recruiters and Ed Expo exhibitors will have the opportunity to display brochures on shared tables in the High School Theatre Festival lobby.

What's different for Professional Auditions this year?

Simultaneous briefings! Company reps, pre-professionals and professional actors will all be briefed separately at the same time, thus saving an hour of organization each morning. This will translate to a less rigorous day while also opening up more audition spaces for professional actors (age limit is now 19 years). Look to the website for details, including company information, salary ranges, and summer-only versus year-round positions.

What is the Masque Fundraiser?

Make a mask, and take a high-resolution photograph of it. Send the photo to Central Office by January 15, and then bring the mask with you to the SETC Convention. It will be entered into the Masque Competition and auctioned off in a Silent Auction. **YOUR MASK PHOTO and YOUR NAME**, with short bio, will be featured on the SETC website from February 1 through April 1. Category winners will receive prizes. The auction will benefit the scholarship funds. Each year SETC gives out more than \$20,000 to students continuing their education. Questions? Ask the originator of this event, costume designer Freddie Clements via setc@setc.org.

Who is invited to the Masque Gala?

Everyone. Wear a mask, a costume or just dress up spectacularly on Saturday night. Festivities begin at 7 p.m. with the President's Reception and continue with the banquet, awards and dancing. Don't have a costume? Rent one from the costume collection of The Playhouse, right up the street in Birmingham. They'll pick it up from you at midnight outside the Sheraton. Look for details on the website in December.

How do I register for SETC 2009?

You can register online at www.setc.org. Prefer to have a form mailed to you? Please call the Central Office at 336-272-3645. If you want a Word or PDF document e-mailed to you, e-mail us via setc@setc.org.

How can I save money?

Register by December 19, 2008, and you will receive the early-bird rate – a \$75 savings!

How can I save even more money?

Volunteer. Contact Nanette in the Central Office via nanette@setc.org for more info.

Why is the main hotel charging me my first night's room cost and another night if I cancel after the 7-day cancellation policy?

This fee helps protect our low convention rates. SETC is cheap for you to attend. Just look at the comparison chart presented in this newsletter with Chris Rich's Page 1 story. We cost less because we guarantee a specific amount of room nights, which covers



the costs for meeting space. Five years ago, we had no trouble filling those room nights. Now, with many people trying to cut costs, folks book several hotels and cancel one at the last minute. Or they depart early, leaving a vacancy. Or they alter their hotel plans at the last minute. This suddenly leaves unfilled room nights because no one else will book them at the last minute. Yet another problem is that some people book hotels **NOT** on our list. Over 1,000 of you did that last year. Because of these new patterns, we came within 2 percent of not meeting our guarantee last year. That's too close for comfort.

Bottom line is: If you don't utilize the heavily discounted rooms that SETC has negotiated for you, we will have to raise convention prices substantially.

EXCOM NEWS

by President Glen Gourley

A ccording to SETC rules, “The President shall include a report on the proceedings of the Executive Committee [ExCom] meetings to the general membership in the SETC Newsletter.” ExCom is composed of elected officers, a division representative and a state representative. The Board of Directors, composed of elected officers plus all division chairs and all state representatives, reviews ExCom actions and has authority to establish or revise rules. ExCom met Sept. 6, and took these actions (see website for complete minutes):

- Changed the following rules, upon the recommendation of the Bylaws Committee, to make the wording more succinct: Article X.5 (1), rule 1.5; rule 1.9; rule 1.11; rule II.2, rule II.8; rule III.12; rules IV.5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 18; rules IV.8, 13, 14, and 18; and rule IV.18.
- Amended Article I.4 to establish discounts as appropriate.
- Changed Rule I.1 to read, “All such motions must be submitted to the Bylaws Committee for comment before Board action.”
- Created “Rule I.12. Honorary Memberships. The Executive Committee may award Honorary Memberships in SETC to persons or organizations of its choosing, provided that such memberships are entirely honorary, including none of the rights and privileges of the several classes of membership enumerated in Article I of the Bylaws. The classes of membership in Article I of the Bylaws may not be awarded on an honorary or unpaid basis.”
- Deleted Rule II.5, eliminating the Ethics Committee, and deleted Rule II.6, eliminating the Local Arrangements Committee.
- Amended Rule II.13 by adding the following sentence: “The winner will be selected by Polly Holliday from among those finalists.”
- Amended Rule V.7 by replacing the existing rule with the following: “SETC News Responsibilities. All division chairs, state representatives, interest area chairs and other chairs shall submit appropriate items to SETC News on a schedule provided to them. This responsibility shall be included in all appropriate operations manuals.”
- Approved the Stage Movement and History/Theory/Criticism/Literature Manuals; approved a Website Design Award.
- All manuals are to be changed as follows: Part III will become Part I, Part I will become Part II with Part II becoming Part III. All manuals will be set in 12 point Times New Roman and structured in MLA outline form.

Fall Meetings, Auditions Held in Charlotte

Second Annual Fall Graduate Auditions Draw Additional Students, Schools

S ETC’s Fall Graduate School Auditions appear to be a keeper! The second annual fall auditions event, held Saturday, September 6, in Charlotte, NC, attracted 57 actors, nine technicians/designers and two directors for auditions or interviews – an increase of nine over last year. A total of 18 graduate school programs, including one located in Italy, participated.

Students said they liked the atmosphere, which they described as professional while still laid-back and comfortable. Many students said that, when they took part in other graduate auditions, the process seemed rushed and impersonal. By contrast, they felt that SETC’s auditions gave them the opportunity to make a personal connection with college representatives.

Fall Graduate School Auditions were added at the request of SETC’s membership and do not affect the traditional Spring Graduate School Auditions. By adding fall auditions, SETC hopes to provide help to recruiters earlier in the application process, enabling them to recruit from a larger pool for admission and/or financial aid. We now look forward to the Spring Graduate School Auditions in Birmingham. Questions? Please contact me at hardy@setc.org.

Fall Grad School Auditions Garner Praise

“I thought it was an excellent graduate audition – very well-run. The accompanist was marvelous, and I saw a number of excellent candidates for graduate school. Two of my top choices have already contacted me about my program and plan to visit in the coming weeks, so I’m quite excited by that. Thanks for a great audition experience.” - Rinda Frye, The University of Louisville

“I thought things went exceptionally well, and was impressed and pleased by the turnout as well as the organization of the event.” - Jerry McGonigle, West Virginia University

“The quality of the applicants was high this year.... We have eight serious and talented prospects, which made the trip very worthwhile.... I cannot emphasize enough how friendly, forgiving, supportive and hospitable the SETC staffs were to us.” - Gary Sloan, The Catholic University of America

- Hardy Koenig, Manager, Educational Theatre Services

Fall Professional Auditions Attract More than 260 Auditionees, 44 Theatres

T hose attending Fall Professional Auditions on September 7-8 held their breath as Hurricanes Hannah and Ike threatened to send stormy skies and heavy winds toward Charlotte. However, the forces of theatre prevailed. With only a smattering of rain, the auditions came off successfully. On hand were 44 theatres looking to hire for approximately 1,600 roles. Pre-registered auditionees totaled 245, and 17 “walk-ins” claimed their 60-90 seconds on stage. Within a week, some auditionees let us know they had already been hired! Remember: If you want to audition at the Spring Professional Auditions in Birmingham, you must pre-apply. Applications are available online for professionals.

- April J’Callahan Marshall, Manager, Professional Theatre Services

Professional Auditions Please Auditionees, Companies

AUCTIONEES:

“I loved this audition because I felt like I was really given the chance to show people what I can do. As a dancer, I am often given easy, cheesy combinations at auditions that the ‘actor who dances’ can do just as well as the ‘dancer dancer.’ At SETC’s [audition], the variety and levels of the dance combination really gave me the chance to show my technique and how I really move. Because of SETC’s [audition], I am booked from October-June!”

“This is by far the best combined audition I have ever attended.”

COMPANIES:

“Thanks so much for organizing and overseeing such a well-run and organized Fall Professional Audition in Charlotte. This was our first year, and we were pleased with every aspect. We’d like to go ahead and make our reservations for the spring SETC at the audition tables.” - Mark Smith, Artistic Director, The Legacy Theatre, Tyrone, GA

“The entire staff was very helpful and positive and friendly. I look forward to the spring.” - Stephanie Ansin, Artistic Director, The PlayGround Theatre, Miami Shores, FL

Papers Sought for Theatre Symposium

Humble stage properties are objects which often escape notice when they are functioning properly. The 2009 SETC Theatre Symposium event will focus on stage properties, the “things” used onstage. We encourage the submission of papers that take a variety of approaches to the topic – from practical to theoretical.

How are stage properties created? (How are objects constructed, acquired, stored? Altered for use on stage?)

How are props used? (By playwrights? Designers? Directors? Actors?)

How do properties convey meaning? (As signs? Through their materiality? Through their movement in space and time?)

See more potential subjects below.

Keynote speakers will be Andrew Sofer, author of *The Stage Life of Props*, and Bland Wade, director of stage properties at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

Selected papers from the symposium will be published in *Theatre Symposium*, the annual journal of the Southeastern Theatre Conference published by the University of Alabama Press.

Why Should You Participate in Theatre Symposium?

“I have attended three times – 2000, 2001 and 2007 – and hope to attend again.... This kind of small, intimate conference gives a relatively small group of scholars the opportunity to dive deeply into an issue and to make personal and intellectual connections that are not possible in a larger setting. The blend of established and emerging scholars also lends an excitement to the proceedings.

- Brian T. Carney, Managing Director
Kuntu Repertory Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA

SETC THEATRE SYMPOSIUM

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY, WINSTON-SALEM, NC

APRIL 3-5, 2009

THE PROP'S THE THING: STAGE PROPERTIES RECONSIDERED

Possible Paper Subjects:

- Historical considerations: the use/ significance of stage properties on the Elizabethan/Jacobean stage, in melodrama, naturalism, symbolism or other areas
- Properties within specific theatrical traditions: Beijing opera, commedia dell'arte
- Dramaturgical issues: ways props are used to expose character and relationships
- The translation from page to stage (from word to object)
- Individual plays/productions with interesting prop requirements or impressive use of props
- Prop as iconic experience/tradition (slapstick/seltzer bottle)
- Prop challenges: consumable props, weapons, props that have to break, trick props
- Protean props: single objects used to represent many other things on stage
- Mimed props: the absence of expected objects
- Training actors to manipulate objects on stage
- Real objects: handling props of historic or other significance/props with significance to actors (real skulls, objects passed from one performer to another) vs. meaning for an audience

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS: JAN. 12, 2009

Please send one-page paper abstracts to Dr. J. K. Curry, Editor, *Theatre Symposium*, Department of Theatre and Dance, Wake Forest University, P.O. Box 7264, Reynolda Station, Winston-Salem, NC 27109. Submissions by e-mail attachment are encouraged (Word document preferred). Questions? Contact Curry at curryjk@wfu.edu or 336-758-3941.

Submit a paper . . . make plans to attend!

PEOPLE on the move

Bailey Hanks, formerly a musical theatre student at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC, recently won the MTV “Search for Elle Woods” competition and is now starring on Broadway in *Legally Blonde*. She was one of 10 actors who competed in the 8-week MTV series for a chance to play the character Elle Woods on Broadway. Hanks grew up in Anderson, SC.

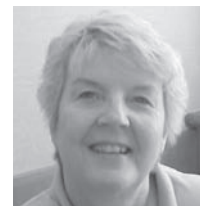


□ □ □

Executive Director **Betsy Baun** received two honors recently. Her one-woman play, *Joan of Arc: Alive!*, was accepted for further development at the Wild Acres Writing Workshop in the North Carolina mountains, where Baun spent a summer week writing and studying. In August, she was spotlighted in *99 Blocks*, a weekly downtown Greensboro publication, which included a story and photo spread about her work as a community activist, including her four-year stint as president of the neighborhood association in the historic district where she lives.

□ □ □

The Alabama Conference of Theatre and Speech has a new executive director, **Sue Ellen Gerrells**. She has been involved in community, high school and college/university theatre in Asia, Europe and the U.S. for more than 30 years.



□ □ □

Steven Burch was promoted in August to associate professor at the University of Alabama. He also has published a book, *Andrew P. Wilson and the Early Irish and Scottish National Theatres, 1911-1950* (Edwin Mellen Press). He encourages interested members to review it and to request their school libraries to order it (ISBN# 978-0-7734-5084-4). He



also has accepted a week-long residency at Stranmillis College in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in October 2008 and will deliver several lectures there.



Southeastern Theatre Conference
P.O. Box 9868
Greensboro, NC 27429-0868

SETC NEWS

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 GREENSBORO, NC
 AUTO
 PERMIT NO. 744

Bring Your Play to SETC's Fringe Festival!

Do you have a production you would like to showcase at SETC 2009? We are seeking groups to present plays in the sixth annual SETC Fringe Festival. For more info and an application, visit www.setc.org/festivals/fringe.php. Questions? E-mail SETC President-Elect Beth Harvey at beth@setc.org.

Page 8

What's in a Name?

NCTC Makes Event Inclusive – and Serves More Theatres

For many years, the North Carolina Theatre Conference (NCTC) has held a Professional Theatre Gathering in the summer for professional theatre operators to discuss such pressing issues as audience development, fundraising, financial management and advocacy.

In 2008, we questioned why this event should be limited just to “professional” theatres. After much discussion about the meaning of the word “professional,” NCTC determined that

all theatre companies share many more similarities than differences. The voices of all who work tirelessly to produce and support theatre were clearly needed – crucial, in fact – to the conversations at this event.

So NCTC expanded the scope of this gathering, and the end result was one of the most successful meetings in our history. By changing the “Professional Theatre” gathering to the “Producing Theatre” Gathering, we doubled the

number attending in 2008 – and also boosted the exchange of ideas in critical areas. More than 60 leaders, administrators, and board members – from community theatres, professional theatres, universities and arts councils – gathered at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem for two days of brilliant collaboration.

Want to know more about how we put together this event? Send an e-mail to me at angelahays@nctc.org.

- Angela Hays, Executive Director, NCTC

SETC 2009

Birmingham, AL March 4-8

Where to Send News

SETC News is published bimonthly for the Southeastern Theatre Conference. Deadline for the next issue is November 10.

Please send news items to:
 Deanna Thompson, Editor
 Phone: 336-292-6041
 E-mail: deanna@setc.org

or to:
 Southeastern Theatre Conference
 P.O. Box 9868
 Greensboro, NC 27429-0868
 Phone: 336-272-3645
 Fax: 336-272-8810
 E-mail: setc@setc.org
 Website: www.setc.org/

SETC Executive Committee Meeting

January 2- 4, 2009
 Central Office, Greensboro, NC

*All SETC members are invited to attend.
 Board members are encouraged to attend.*

Idea Swap
SETC Members
Share Initiatives
that Work