



SETC NEWS

March / April 2009

Not Just for Students: Workshops, Master Classes Offer Fresh Insights for Educators, Professionals

Whether you are coming to SETC 2009 as a teacher, a professional or an emerging artist, you'll find plenty of learning opportunities in the more than 300 workshops and master classes that will be offered. Here are two late-breaking highlights you won't want to miss. Also see Pages 4-5 for major events planned in your interest area.

Acting: East Coast to West Coast

Looking for advice from a talent scout who knows the New York market? Or the L.A. scene? Thanks to an unexpected schedule change, SETC audiences will get the best of

both coasts. Mark Redanty, head of the New York office of Bauman, Redanty & Shaul Talent Agency, will join best friend David Shaul, head of the firm's Los Angeles office, for Thursday's keynote address and musical theatre master class. Whether you're a teacher, a student or a professional, you won't want to miss this insiders' perspective.



Mark Redanty



David Shaul

Design: Turn on the Lights!

Looking for a better way to learn or teach lighting? Come explore the "Light Lab" concept at a series of workshops and labs during the SETC Convention.

Kenton Yeager, head of graduate lighting
(Continued on Page 8)

Watch Masked Performers... Make a Mask... Buy a Mask... Wear a Mask to a Gala Event!

This is the year of the mask at the SETC Convention, as the organization celebrates its 60th anniversary. Events range from an opening night masked cabaret performance to a Masque Gala on Saturday night. In between, you'll find hundreds of ways to unmask your future!

Here are a few of the mask-themed events you won't want to miss:

BEHIND THE MASK: A CABARET WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 9-10 P.M.

Where can you see masked singers and dancers, a tap-dance Harlequinade, commedia performers, tango dancers and a sneak preview of Tim Mooney's one-man Molière show? Come to the Cabaret, presented opening night in the Sheraton Atrium by University of Alabama students and others led by Raphael Crystal.



Mask photo courtesy of New Orleans native Rob Faust of Faustwork Mask Theatre.

CREATING THE PERFECT MASK FRIDAY, 6:30 P.M. & SATURDAY, 10:30 A.M.

This workshop is for students, who will receive materials and help to create custom masks to wear to Saturday evening's
(Continued on Page 2)

Setc 2009 UNMASK YOUR FUTURE

Keynote Speakers

David Shaul/Mark Redanty
Partners/Owners

Bauman, Redanty & Shaul Talent Agency
"Stage and Screen Agents' Talk-Back"

2:30 p.m. Thursday

Beth Leavel

Tony Award-Winning Actress
"From SETC Auditions to a Tony Award"

2:30 p.m. Friday

Eugene Lee

Tony Award-Winning Set Designer
Winner of the SETC Distinguished Career Award
"The Adventures of Eugene Lee"

2:30 p.m. Saturday

Master Classes

Pitch Happens

Judith Farris, Broadway Vocal Coach
Kenneth Stilson, Author, Acting Is Believing
10:30 a.m. Thursday
Free; Open to all

Musical Theatre Mastery

David Shaul and Mark Redanty
Thursday Keynote Speakers/Talent Agents
5:30 p.m. Thursday
Free; 12 participants already chosen
Open to all for observation

TV Studio Training: Screen Acting

Richard Robichaux and Joan See
Actors/Teaching Artists
Thursday, 9 a.m.-Noon or 4 p.m.-7 p.m.
\$50; Limited to 20 attendees each session
No observation opportunities
Visit www.setc.org to sign up

TV Studio Training: Voiceovers

Richard Robichaux
Actor/Teaching Artist
Thursday, 1-3 p.m.
\$40; Limited to 20 participants
No observation opportunities
Visit www.setc.org to sign up

Info
in
Birmingham

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

Convention & Auditionee Registration/Pre-Registration Area is located in the Sheraton Ballroom Lobby. Also in that area you will find the Information Hub, the Message Board, and a display of masks available in the Silent Auction.

SETC 2009: 'We've Got Magic to Do... Just for You!'

Stephen Schwartz wrote those words for *Pippin*, but they also set the stage for the many opportunities you will find at the 60th anniversary SETC Convention in Birmingham, nicknamed the "Magic City."

This year's convention includes 390-plus events, occurring in a very short amount of time and all concentrated in the city's center, making it easy to see all and do

From the
President-Elect

Beth
Harvey



all. From makeup and masks to finding your inner harlequin, from Molière to Mamet, from puppets to gobos, there are many opportunities to explore the diversity of theatre. This year, we also have exciting film/TV master classes (listed on Page 1).

If you are just getting started in your career, or if you need new professional energy, SETC never fails to deliver the support and the opportunities you need to make it happen.

If you are already settled in your career, maybe it is time to consider giving something back? SETC relies on volunteer leaders to make every convention happen, and we always are looking for new connections. Volunteers are not only critical to the planning and running of the convention, but also to year-round planning. If you want to become involved, now or later, please contact me at beth@setc.org. No experience is needed – only energy and desire!

Here are some meetings where you can learn more about SETC and its volunteer opportunities. All SETC members are invited to attend these sessions.

SETC Orientation: In addition to figuring out how to navigate the 2009 convention, this is where you get the big picture of ALL the events volunteers help make happen. Wednesday, 4 p.m.

2010 and Beyond: This is a time for constructive feedback about the convention, setting the stage for future improvements. Saturday, noon.

Advisory Council Meetings: Check out what committee members do! The Advisory Council is made up of all interest committee chairs and division representatives. Wednesday and Saturday, 10:30 a.m.

New Board Training: Hear what is expected of board members at the new board orientation. Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Business Meeting: Participate in new

officers' election and other SETC business. Saturday, 2:30 p.m.

Executive Committee (ExCom) and Board of Directors Meetings: Learn what SETC leaders do. ExCom includes elected officers plus a divisional representative and an interest area representative. The Board is composed of ExCom, plus state and di-

visional representatives. ExCom/Board of Directors meeting, Wednesday, 12:30 p.m.; Board of Directors Business and Budget Meeting, Sunday, 10 a.m.; ExCom Meeting with Central Office Staff, Sunday, 11 a.m.

Note: All ExCom, Board and Advisory Council members are required to attend their meetings.

Who's Coming to SETC in Birmingham?

- **THE LARGEST NUMBER OF SCREENED AUDITIONEES IN A DECADE.**

SETC has 675 screened actors, singers and dancers from 27 states auditioning at the Professional Auditions in March. This is the highest number of qualified performers we have had in the last 10 years.

- **A RECORD NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL EXHIBITORS.**

Forty-six companies will occupy a total of 60 booth spaces in the Commercial Exhibits area in Birmingham. (In 2008, there were 38 companies, using 48 booth spaces.) Visit Commercial Exhibits to register for Passport to Prizes, with a daily drawing. Saturday's grand prize is free convention registration for 2010.

- **A NEAR-RECORD NUMBER OF EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITORS.**

With 90 college/university/training school exhibitors registered at printing time, Ed Expo is on track to matching last year's all-time high of 99.

- **A LARGE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL ATTENDEES.**

At printing deadline, 1,991 number of individuals had registered to attend this year's convention compared to 1,686 at the same time last year.

- **PRESENTERS AND ORGANIZERS OF NEARLY 400 EVENTS.**

SETC 2009 includes 396 events, including 320 workshops and presentations.

- **YOU!**

It's not too late to take advantage of the many opportunities at SETC 2009. Register on-site in Birmingham at the convention, March 4-7.

Masks *(Continued from Page 1)*

Masque Gala Reception and Banquet. Materials donated by and session led by Heather Hogg, Sherry Harper-McCombs, Claire Walker, Michele Belson, Rebecca Britton and Freddy Clements.

SILENT AUCTION: MASKS FOR SALE! THURSDAY-SATURDAY

Bid in a silent auction for a mask you can wear to Saturday night's Masque Gala Reception and Banquet. All proceeds from the auction go to the SETC Endowment to fund scholarships. Those donating masks include: Becky Britton, University of South Alabama; Savannah Cahill, student, Jacksonville (AL) State University; Freddy Clements, Jacksonville (AL) State University; Loribeth Gonzalez; Tobias Layman, student, Jacksonville (AL) State University; Sherry Harper-McCombs, Dickinson University; Heather Hogg, University of Richmond; Scott Merrill, Alabama Shakespeare Festival; Sharon Morgan, University of Alabama Birmingham; Colleen Muscha, Florida State

University; and Claire Walker, Florida State University.

MASQUE GALA RECEPTION/BANQUET SATURDAY, 7 P.M.-MIDNIGHT

Mask and costume are optional for this 60th anniversary celebration, which begins with the President's Reception at 7 p.m., continues with the Masque Gala Awards Banquet at 8 p.m. and concludes with the Dance from 10 p.m. to midnight. Need a costume? See below!

I NEED A COSTUME!

If you can't – or don't want to – pack a costume to wear to the Masque Gala, you can rent one in Birmingham. Two costume companies will be offering rentals in their booths in the Exhibit Hall: Playhouse Costume and Scene Shop and Norcostco Atlanta. And don't forget – you can buy a mask in the Silent Auction!

A Salute to SETC's Past, Present and Future

In my last column for the SETC newsletter as president, I would like to thank the "past, the present and the future."

In thanking "the past," I would like to express my gratitude to SETC past presidents David Thompson, Jack Benjamin and Denise Halbach for their advice and their shoulders during this past year.

To give thanks to "the present," I must acknowledge our executive director, Betsey Baun, my friend and colleague during these past couple of years. I cannot place a value on the gracious assistance I have received from the hard-working Central Office staff and from our "SETC Editor Extraordinaire" Deanna Thompson in continually making me "look good in print." To continue thanking "the present," I would like to express both appreciation and admiration to the current Executive Committee. These individuals have given of their time and talents to ensure

the continued success of our organization.

To thank "the future," my gratitude goes out to the individuals who have agreed to serve on the 20/20 Visionary Committee: David Wohl, Ginger Willis, Alan Litsey, Jacque Wheeler and Betsey Baun. As the organization begins a formal self-study, these are the individuals who are going to be at the core of the process. You will find their charge in the Executive Committee report at right.

Being that we are a volunteer-driven organization, we also should say a big "thank you" to each other. See you in Birmingham, where we will toast ourselves in celebration and gratitude at our 60th anniversary gala.

From the President

Glen Gourley



A Time of Transition – in Theatre as Well as in Washington

Transition – a word filled with promise and hope that acknowledges an ambiguous future, suggesting we are heading toward something different from the present.

Not only have we seen transition in the political world this year, but we also are experiencing turmoil on professional, corporate and personal levels. We can't escape the fact that our field – our art, our livelihood – is in transition as well.

Key question for us all: What are we going to do about it? Many of us have already initiated action; others are still identifying options. I invite you – actually, I implore you – as a community immersed in the theatre arts to come together in Birmingham to do more than "business as usual." Let's commemorate SETC's 60th anniversary gathering in a meaningful way.

Leave the complaints at home or work and use your precious time at the convention to move forward. Discuss your challenges together, share the innovations you're implementing and explore the future. Try inserting the simple phrase "How to..." in front of the challenge you are stating. With this language, you invite yourself and others to explore new options.

Find out what's going on by talking to

convention attendees involved in all sectors of the theatre network. When this article went to print, nearly 2,000 individuals had already committed to spending their precious time and money to attend the 3½ days of the SETC Convention.

Come away with hope. It's not easy. Theatres are closing. (Longtime professional theatre member Seaside Music Theater closed its doors in October.) Universities are cutting back. Emerging artists are struggling. But folks, this is not new to us. The arts are constantly innovating to survive. The only difference now is that we have to re-create ourselves with the rest of the world. We should be leading the way, as we know how to do it.

Join us for a thoughtful 60th anniversary celebration as we, too, embrace transition.

From the Executive Director

Betsey Baun



EXCOM NEWS

by President Glen Gourley

According 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 in January and discussed:

- Past Presidents' Subcommittee on "Speaking Its Mind to the Executive Committee" and Bylaws Committee report.
- Executive director's annual evaluation.
- Missing and non-active committee chairs, division chairs and festival chairs.
- Going to an online newsletter.

ExCom also:

- Approved changes to the President's Manual and discussed changing language in all governing documents concerning descriptions of the duties of the Treasurer.
- Acknowledged the President's appointment of the 20/20 Visionary Committee (members listed in President's Column at left) and approved the following charge:

Preamble

Recognizing the importance of the Southeastern Theatre Conference, Inc., in serving the artistic, educational and professional needs of the theatrical community within its core region and beyond, the President with the support of the Executive Committee wishes to ensure a clear vision for the ongoing vitality of the organization. Clarity of vision depends upon an understanding of past history, current practices and future directions. Accordingly, the 20/20 Committee is charged with implementing a dynamic strategic planning process.

Charge: Phase 1

The committee will:

1. Identify possible consultants or facilitators with appropriate expertise;
2. Recommend a consultant/facilitator to the Executive Committee who will assist in developing and implementing a strategic planning process;
3. Ensure that the committee and the selected consultant will be able to complete subsequent phases of strategic planning that will recommend improvements in organizational functions including, but not limited to, organizational structure, leadership development, financial practices and member services;
4. Complete its charge by March 2009 ideally, and no later than the May/June 2009 meeting of the Executive Committee.

Drop-In, Open-Door Dialogues: Room G, 3rd Floor, Medical Forum: Ask someone to join you for a dialogue at one of the tables anytime between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. during the convention, or join a facilitated discussion at noon Thursday, or 9 a.m. Saturday. (Look in your convention program for details.)

2010 and Beyond: Noon, Saturday. Join several board members and Executive Director Betsey Baun to help fashion SETC's future service to the theatre community.

acting/directing

Refresh your skills at SETC

What gets you jazzed as an actor? What do you want to learn more about?

Chekhov technique? Mark Monday of Kent State University has you covered.

Alexander? Sarah Barker of the University of South Carolina can help you out.

Meisner and Lecoq? Try the workshop led by Steve Snyder from Bradley University.

Maybe you're interested in working on your improv skills. Sample workshops led by Don Stallings from Atlanta Workshop Players or Wade Hughes from Missouri Valley College.

How about character building? Look in on workshops by Douglas Schutte from Kentucky Theatre Association or Paul Bawek from Florida Southern.

Perhaps you would like some audition help? We have numerous audition workshops, led by such talented people as Ursula Robinson, Jonathan Awari, Mark Paladini and Sara Falconer (to name just a few).

Speaking of auditions, you DEFINITELY don't want to miss the fabulous master class with keynote speakers David Shaul and Mark Redant. They will be leading 12 musical theatre actors in a workshop to demonstrate what current producers and agencies are looking for. Come and observe!

Finally, please make plans to attend the Acting/Directing interest area meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 5.

*Paul B. Crook, Chair
Acting/Directing Committee Chair
pcrook@latech.edu*



Paul Crook

design/tech

Don't miss design events, Eugene Lee

Design/tech events at SETC 2009 kick off Wednesday evening, March 4, with a Design/Technology Committee meeting to finalize plans for the week's events. Later that day, join us for the second annual Design-Tech Mixer, sponsored by Selecon and Vari*Lite! A huge success last year, this social event, from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., is an opportunity to network before the frenzied pace of the convention begins.

Other events include: **Thursday morning:** Design Competition entries accepted,

9-11 a.m. **Thursday afternoon:** Entries viewed by guest adjudicators; exhibition opens to public. **Thursday evening:** "Talk-back" session with guest designers, 7:30-9 p.m. Announcement of projects selected to be critiqued during juried session on Friday. **Friday morning:** Juried critique of projects, 8:30 a.m., followed by non-juried responses. **Friday evening:** Design Competition Awards Ceremony, lighting sponsored by Vari*Lite, 8:30 p.m. **Saturday morning:** Design/Tech Committee business meeting.

New this year: Three winners in the Graduate Design Competition will be offered "Ready for Work" awards providing them with a job experience and networking opportunities. Also, a sound design critique session will be held at noon Saturday as we plan for a sound design competition next year.

Finally, don't miss Saturday's keynote address by Eugene Lee, one of the most important designers working today on Broadway and elsewhere.

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



Troy Snyder

diversity

Check out workshops, Fringe Festival

Birmingham is well-known for its historical identity. Once a hotbed of the civil rights movement, the "Magic City" has been transformed into one of the more progressive cities in the South.

Join us in Birmingham for a number of events celebrating cultural diversity.

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



MJ Etua

Here are just a few of the workshops that celebrate cultural diversity. Look for more info on these and other workshops in your convention program: **Teaching August Wilson to Diverse Populations**, presentation with hands-on demonstration by Shondrika Moss-Bouldin; **Black Girl Smile, Fringe Festival Performance**, 8:30 p.m. Friday, presented by Twa NaNaBuluku and Cross-

roads Youth Initiative of Atlanta; **A New Stage In Life: The Seasoned Performers**, a panel led by Barbara Sloan on the growing field of senior theatre.

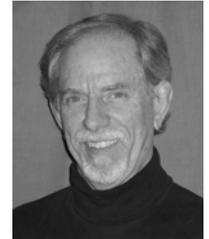
film/tv

Try hands-on camera work

The Film and Television Committee is offering more than a dozen workshops, including sessions on acting in industrials, auditioning for commercials, developing scripts, networking in New York, going to L.A. and creating film projects.

We are always looking for new people and new ideas. If you are interested in the work of our committee, please come to our meeting at noon on Saturday. All are welcome.

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



Richard Cowan

Here are just a few of the special offerings in film/TV. Look for more info on these and other workshops in your convention program: **Lights, Camera, Action!**, a hands-on class providing an opportunity to do behind-the-scenes TV production in an on-site studio and on location in Birmingham; SETC's first-ever **Master Classes in TV Studio Training: Screen Acting** and **TV Studio Training: Voiceovers**. These classes will be taught in an on-site studio by nationally-known teaching artists. Limited space available. (Fee; see Page 1 for details.) Visit SETC website for more info; e-mail beth@setc.org with questions.

history

See first Young Scholar's Awards

The History/Theory/Criticism/Literature Committee had a tremendous response to the Young Scholar's Award, our first annual scholarly paper competition for students.

We invite all convention attendees to come on Friday, March 6, at 10:30 a.m. to the **Young Scholar's Awards Panel**, which will feature the winners and runners-up. One graduate winner and one undergraduate winner will each receive a \$225 cash prize.

For this first award, we had 11 undergrad-

SETC 2009

what's happening in your interest area

uate submissions and three graduate submissions, and we had to turn an additional seven people away because they were either not in a program or they missed the deadline. The committee plans to continue this award in 2010, so watch for informational flyers about the 2010 Young Scholar's Award and panel.

Also be sure to look for the many workshops sponsored by our committee this year, including: **Corn, Cons, Queens Under Canvas: Tent Theatre in Rural America; Dramaturgy. What in the Word is it?;** and **The Connection of Mythology in Children's Theatre.**

We invite you to attend our committee forum and meeting at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 7.

*Dawn Larsen, Chair
History/Theory/Crit/Lit Committee
llarsen@fmarion.edu*



Dawn Larsen

movement

Explore masks and more

Are you a member of the Stage Movement Committee? If you're a member of SETC, you are! Join us at our committee meeting Thursday from noon to 12:50 p.m. This is the time to suggest workshops for Convention 2010, to brainstorm ideas for collaborative programming and to meet 2009 program presenters. Be sure to attend this short meeting to ensure quality programming at next year's convention.

In case you were wondering, it IS happening! The annual **Explorations in Stage Movement** program will take place on Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity for movement professionals and educators to share how they approach themes and concepts in acting through movement.



Tiza Garland

The movement programming for this year's convention is superb, with several programs that highlight the theme

of the convention: masks. (See story, page 1.) Also look for programs in dance, Laban; an introduction to "The Expressive Actor"; movement approaches to Shakespeare;

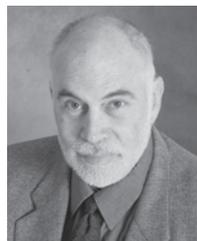
Michael Chekhov; Lecoq; the use of energy centers; stage combat; Alexander Technique; Viewpoints; and more!

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

playwriting

Attend play readings, workshops

One of the highlights of the Playwriting Committee's sessions at SETC 2009 will be a staged reading at 7 p.m., Friday, March 6, of this year's Getchell Award-winning play, *Honeyboy* by Tommy Trull. The intriguing synopsis: "A dead magician's reclusive widow sacrifices her privacy for help normalizing her strange, troubled son – but there may be too much of his father in him." Gary Garrison, playwright and Dramatist Guild Executive Director for Creative Affairs, is our respondent.



Steve Burch

We also will hold a reading of *Gavriilo* by Jonathan Van Gils, the winning play in the High School Playwriting Competition. Be sure to check out our workshops, including several geared to developing young writers' voices, such as **Playwriting for Middle School Drama Classes**, and **Writes of Spring: Celebrating Young People's Writing Through Theatrical Production**. Actor/playwrights may want to investigate **Developing a Solo Performance**.

Our committee meeting takes place at 9 a.m. Thursday, March 5. The Playwriting Committee is a place for all committed playwrights (or would-be playwrights) to gather together to talk about problems, joys and any items of interest to those of us who attempt to create worlds and people them.

*Steve Burch, Chair
Playwriting Committee
sburch@as.ua.edu*

religion

Find faith, theatre connections

The Religion and Theatre Committee will host a variety of SETC 2009 workshops that explore the intersec-

tion of faith and the performing arts. Check your convention program for a full list.

Consider attending workshops

on interpreting *Romeo and Juliet* through a Christian lens (**Holy Palmer's Kiss: Producing Romeo and Juliet with a Christian Perspective**, Thursday, Noon), the place of the Christian actor in the entertainment marketplace (**Quo Vadis? The Christian Actor in the**



Cliff Thompson

21st Century, Part III, Thursday 1 p.m.), and techniques used to produce successful dramas in church (**Postmodern Drama and the Church**, Thursday, 4 p.m.).

Networking sessions will also be held, providing a way for those who are interested in faith and theatre to come together at the convention.

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

voice/speech

Share what's hot in 'Burning Issues'

Members of the Voice and Speech committee will be offering more than a dozen workshops at the convention this March, representing many methodologies, including Lessac, Fitzmaurice and Linklater work.

We also have sessions on exploring voice, breath and text work to bring Shakespeare's verse off the page and onto the stage.

Although we have fewer dialect offerings this year, you won't want to miss our Thursday afternoon **Spice Up your Dialects** workshop on Arabic.

Please join us for our Voice and Speech Meet and Greet at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and for our business meeting Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Even more exciting is a special session for voice specialists, **Burning Issues in Voice**, which will be held at 7 p.m. Friday in a space that will allow us to share our exercises with one another. Be sure to attend and let your voice be heard.



Rinda Frye

*Rinda Frye, Chair
Voice and Speech Committee
rinda@bellsouth.net*

States Report on Annual Conventions, Provide Festival Results

ALABAMA Conference of Theatre

Event and number attending: College/University Festival: 250. Trumbauer High School Theatre Festival: 1,500. Alabama Community Theatre Festival: 98.

Winners of Community Theatre Festival: *Once a Pond. A Time*, Arts Council of Trussville, AL; *Trip to Bountiful*, Theatre 98, Fairhope, AL.

Winner of High School Theatre Festival: *Forbidden Broadway*, Huntsville High School, Huntsville, AL.

Idea to share: Online Swap Meet.

One suggestion that has come up is to include a "Swap Meet" section on our website when it's up and running. This section would offer member organizations a place to post their needs/wants as well as list those items they no longer use/need. For instance, ACT had two office computers and only needed one. With a bit of research, I discovered Seasoned Performers, one of our community theatres, was in desperate need of a computer so we were able to donate our extra machine to them. Having a place for groups to "hook up" would be beneficial to all.



Sue Ellen Gerrells

Sue Ellen Gerrells
Executive Director

MISSISSIPPI Theatre Association

Number Attending: Over 675.

Winners of Community Theatre Festival: *Catfish Moon*, Starkville Community Theatre, Starkville, MS; *Rent School Edition*, Actors Playhouse, Pearl, MS.

Winner of High School Theatre Festival: *All in the Timing*, Laurel Christian School, Laurel, MS.

Tom Booth
State Representative

Are You SETC's Next Winning Playwright?

Entries accepted March 1-June 1
for the 2009-2010

Charles M. Getchell Award

www.setc.org/scholarship/newplay.php

NORTH CAROLINA Theatre Conference

Number attending: 800-plus.

Winner of Community Theatre Festival: *Equus*, Haywood Arts Regional Theatre, Waynesville, NC.

Winner of High School Theatre Festival: *As You Like It*, Charlotte Christian School, Charlotte, NC.

Award Recipients: Marian A. Smith

Distinguished Career Award - Robin R. Farquhar; Herman Middleton Distinguished Service Award - David Schram; College/University Award - University of North Carolina School of the Arts; Community Theatre Award - Theatre Charlotte; K-12 Theatre Educators Award - Diane Rogers; George A. Parides Professional Theatre Award - Blowing Rock Stage Company.

Angie Hays
Executive Director

'Click here for a free scan!'

Don't Fall Victim to the Top 10 Malware Attacks

The new Toshiba laptop my family gave me for my birthday warmed my cockles right down to the carpet. While my Dell laptop is still serviceable, it's beginning to show signs of approaching death. This ultra-cool Toshiba has a 14" screen and a numeric keypad at the right of the keyboard. I immediately loved it.

Then disaster struck. I began to get pop-ups warning me that my computer was vulnerable to a virus attack. I should click "here" and download virus protection. I could even have a free scan to see if my computer had any problems. Wow. "Free scan" wiped out my last rational thought. I clicked and quickly learned that not only did I have 43 suspected viruses, but I also had 127 other problems that I could fix immediately, *right after I downloaded a virus protection program for the reasonable fee of \$90 (or was it \$99?)*. I recovered my rational thought and realized that I might have literally invited a virus into my computer.

I talked to my son-in-law, Vincent, a former Air Force MP who builds computers from scratch. He walked me through each pop-up and quickly discerned that I had been invaded by aliens from cyberspace. He went off to research my problems. The instant he left the house, my screen showed the blue screen of death. (If you don't know what "blue screen" is, consult Wikipedia.)

The next morning Vincent called to say he could solve my problems. He got my laptop, took it home and, three hours later, had eliminated the invaders. He found a program that sought out the Trojans, worms and viruses and banished them to the outer reaches of space. He also installed "Spy Doctor," "Ad-Aware" and "Bit Defender." My computer is more secure than it ever has been.

As the writer of "Theatre Bytes" for *SETC News*, I found this adventure had a side benefit: It was a great topic for a column. Those who want to be informed about the problems lurking in the electronic shadows can Google this phrase: "channelweb top 10 malware attacks of 2008." (Even easier, just go to the SETC website at www.setc.org, where you'll find a link on the home page to "Top 10 Malware Attacks of 2008.") On this link, you'll find important information for computer users who surf the Web. You'll be amazed at the sheer malevolence at work out there. One perpetrator infected a link to President-Elect Obama's victory speech with an information-stealing Trojan horse. Other Web thugs take delight in using Facebook connections to lift information from users' profiles. You may be shocked to learn that part of Russia's attempt to bring the nation of Georgia back under control included messing up Georgia's government websites. Another shocker: Some websites offering tickets to the Beijing Olympics were simply scams that pirated credit card numbers.

Now, do as you are told: Read "Top 10 Malware Attacks of 2008." If you are to survive as a devoted user of the World Wide Web, you'll have to work to stay informed.

Don Wolfe can be reached via e-mail at wolfe@wfu.edu





Birmingham Children's Theatre will present The Snow Girl, the story of a young girl living in a land of pure white snow and ice, as told through dialogue and dance.

Theatre for Youth Festival Thursday March 5

9 a.m. *The Snowgirl*, Birmingham Children's Theatre

10:30 a.m. *Rewind*, Atlanta Workshop Players

Noon *1,001 Arabian Nights: The Story of Aladdin*, Virginia Stage Company

Socialize with SETC Friends in Birmingham!

Here are just a few of the informal and formal socializing opportunities at SETC 2009:

Design-Tech Mixer, 8-9:30 p.m. Wednesday. Sponsored by Selecon and Vari*Lite. Open to all in design and technical fields.

Presenters' Thank You Reception, 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday. Open to convention workshop presenters. Presenter's ribbon required.

States' Southern Social, 1-2:20 p.m. Friday. Sponsored by state theatre organizations. Open to all. Reservations required. \$20. Purchase through Central Office or buy on-site at Registration Desk until noon Thursday, March 5.

SETC State Meetings/Reception, 5:30-7 p.m. Friday. Sponsored by Theatrical Rights Worldwide, Inc. Open to all.

SETC President's Reception, Awards Banquet and Masque Gala, 7 p.m., Saturday. Open to all. Banquet ticket: \$30. Purchase through Central Office or buy on-site at Registration Desk until 5 p.m. Thursday, March 5.

ASK
SETC

Q I would like to write a story for *Southern Theatre*. How can I get more information on the magazine's needs?

A Come to the session, **How to Become a Writer or Editorial Board Member for Southern Theatre, SETC's Popular Magazine**, at 4 p.m., Friday, March 6. This workshop will provide information on writing for the magazine and serving on the Editorial Board. Attendees' questions will be answered as well.

Does a Merger with Another Theatre Make Sense for Your Company?

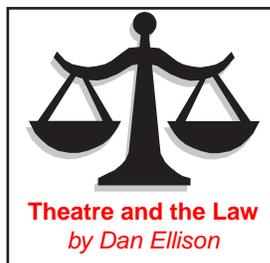
In the past few weeks, I've read news accounts about a number of nonprofit theatres around the country that have huge budget deficits – and are on the brink of closing.

Some are considering merging with other theaters or arts organizations. There is a certain logic and potential economy to combining forces and resources. However, any group considering a merger must carefully examine all the pluses and minuses involved.

First, you need to make sure that the other organization has a mission that is compatible with your own. If it doesn't, then any merger thoughts are probably way off base!

Second, you must carefully examine the finances and obligations of the other organization. Once you merge, what used to be theirs, is now yours – for better AND worse! In a merger, you don't get just the assets. You get all the debts, contractual obligations to provide services, employment contract obligations, employee union obligations, donor restrictions, years of bad record-keeping, potential lawsuits and other claims that haven't even been served yet. Make sure there is a good paper trail showing the ownership of all the corporation's assets, including intellectual property rights. (What happens if a grandchild of the founder comes by next year, carrying a document showing that the Ming vase in the lobby was just on loan?)

Third, look carefully at the programs, activities and structure of the other organization. Does it have programmatic commitments?



Are your forms of governance compatible? Who will stay on the new board and who will not? (Are there some big egos involved that might butt heads?) Is one a membership organization and the other not? What is the other organization's reputation? Are your donors on board with the merger plan? Are there any big donors that might

change their donation/bequest plans? What name will the new merged organization have?

Fourth, examine whether the merger will affect your tax-exempt status. It might, if the mission of the merged organization is different from the mission of the existing one. Because corporations are governed by state law, your state will have specific statutes regarding mergers. There will be specific forms to file and procedures to follow that may vary state to state.

Not sure this is for you? An alternative to merger may be letting the other organization dissolve and then transfer its assets to your organization.

Finally, recognize that a merger is not something that can be accomplished quickly. You must take your time doing the research – and, as is the case when you buy a used car, there is some risk involved.

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 or come to his SETC 2009 sessions – at noon Friday and Saturday. Check your program for location.

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.



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SETC NEWS

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2010 SETC CONVENTION SITE ANNOUNCED!

Make plans now to be in Lexington, KY... March 3-7, 2010

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Light Lab (Continued from Page 1)
at the University of Tennessee Knoxville, who is co-writing a book on light labs with Beverly Emmons, will lead the workshops. Those who are interested MUST come to the first Light Lab workshop at 9 a.m. Thursday to learn about the process and get projects. Studio time to complete projects will be offered in an on-site Light Lab Thursday and Friday. Completed projects will be shared from 9 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. Saturday. **NOTE: There also is a special session on teaching lighting in the Light Lab at 9 a.m. Friday.** Check your convention program for more details on the Light Lab workshops.

What is a Light Lab?

A Light Lab, in its most basic form, is a dark place where you can turn on the lights. This can be a small, simple model box on a table or a large, complex, dedicated lighting

studio. The lab that will be used at the SETC Convention is a small 1-to-6 scale lab.

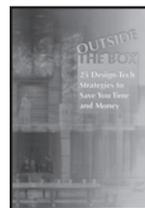
Who will benefit from a Light Lab?

Yeager says that anyone that designs light, studies light, teaches light, or even just thinks about light can benefit from a lab.

More info? Contact Kenton Yeager at kenton.yeager@gmail.com

Outside the Box Book on Sale

Does your theatre library include SETC's *Outside the Box* book, offering money-saving and time-saving design tips? Visit the SETC booth in the Exhibit Hall to purchase a copy in Birmingham.



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 March 12.

Please send news items to:
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Fax: 336-272-8810
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Website: www.setc.org/

C/U Recruiters: See High School Auditionees Perform on Stage!

Would you like to have the opportunity to see a student applicant onstage in a production – not just performing a monologue? This year, you can! All college and university recruiters who signed up to participate in Undergraduate Auditions will receive helpful new information in their arrival packets: a list of when and where they can watch performances by auditionees who are cast in shows in the High School Theatre Festival.

How do you want your SETC News? Take the 60-second survey at www.setc.org