



SETC NEWS

September / October 2008

It's Not too Late to Register!

FALL GRADUATE SCHOOL AUDITIONS & INTERVIEWS



- ACTOR AUDITIONS
- DESIGN/TECH PORTFOLIO REVIEWS
- DIRECTOR CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Who: Actors, designers/technicians and director candidates seeking Fall 2009 grad school admission. School representatives from theatre graduate programs.

Where: Charlotte, NC

When: September 6, 2008

How: Contact Hardy Koenig in the Central Office via e-mail (hardy@setc.org) or phone (336-272-3645)

Deadline: September 3, 2008

MORE INFO:

www.setc.org/auditions/graduatefall.asp

SCHOOLS ATTENDING

(as of July 21, 2008):

- Brooklyn College
- Catholic University of America
- Louisiana Tech University
- North Carolina School of the Arts
- Rutgers University
- Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
- Stella Adler Studio
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- West Virginia University

Community Theatres Have Expanded Opportunities to Perform at 2009 SETC Festival in Birmingham

Are you from a state that typically has four or more entries in its community theatre festival? Then a trial program announced recently by the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) may be exciting news to you.

AACT recently announced that it will allow states with four or more entries in their state community theatre festivals to send two entries on to the regional festival as part of a trial program. Previously, all states sent just one winner to the regional event.

The change not only gives more community theatres a chance to perform at the regional level this year, but also provides those attending the convention in Birmingham with an opportunity to see even more of the region's best community theatre at the 2009 SETC Community Theatre Festival!

SETC Benefits from 'Thinking' of Members

One day while standing in my office, I picked up my SETC president's gavel, waved it around the room and exclaimed, "Cleanupditus." Nothing happened. "Hmm," I thought, "maybe this is the wrong spell."

So I tried, "Straighthenupidus." Again, nothing happened.

I came to the realization that I gained no magical powers when I was presented the presidential gavel. The truth is that the magical powers of SETC lie within its membership and are a direct result of communication – among the membership, the board, the Executive Committee (ExCom) and the Central Office staff.

One of the most life-changing lessons my late father taught me was to "always remember son, nobody 'thinks' the same way you do."

That's why it's so important that we all bring our "thinking" to the SETC table. At our Executive Committee meeting in May, four out of eight members were new to the committee. In our discussions, we examined the organization and the work at hand. We

asked, "Why are we doing this?" or "How are we going to do this?" from the start. We shared our own and our constituents' perceptions about the organization as we engaged in a new meeting format.

Our new format was a shift from the traditional meeting style, in which individuals take their turns presenting items, to a discussion based on prioritized agenda items. All participants submitted their information prior to the meeting under one of three headings: high priority, item for discussion, or information item. The pre-meeting preparation grounded new and old attendees, while the new procedure aided open communication and a lively dialogue ... and all without the magical gavel, forgotten at home.

(Continued on Page 7)

From the President

Glen Gourley



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It All Starts in the States!

Don't Miss the Excitement at Your State Convention!

See Pages 4-5 for Details, Dates, Sites of Conventions and Auditions

ask SETC

Q When and how can I reserve a room for the March 4-8, 2009 SETC Convention?

A Now is the time to reserve your room in Birmingham! Go to the SETC website (www.setc.org) for a complete list of hotels, their locations (with map), and the procedure for contacting each hotel.

Q Which one is the “Convention Hotel”?

A The Sheraton Birmingham is connected to the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Center and the Medical Forum meeting space – which are the locations for all events except the High School and Community Theatre Festivals. It is also the only hotel where you have the option of booking rooms online at www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/settheatre. You can also make reservations by calling the hotel at 205-324-5000.

Q Are there any details I should be aware of?

A Yes. If you wish to stay at the Sheraton, your first night’s deposit is non-refundable. In addition to requiring pre-payment for your first night when you reserve, the Sheraton also has a 7-day cancellation policy. That policy specifies: If you cancel within 7 days of your scheduled arrival date, you will be charged for an additional night, plus a 14 percent penalty fee in lieu of tax.

The other hotels all have 7-day cancellation policies, which charge one night’s lodging if you cancel your reservation within 7 days of your scheduled arrival date. In addition, several hotels have early-departure fees.

Why are the reservation guidelines so strict? The rate you pay to attend the SETC Convention remains the cheapest of all the regional and national theatre conventions because we negotiate using a specific number of hotel rooms in exchange for free meeting space. If our attendees do not stay in the hotels we are working with, or cancel at the last minute and leave rooms empty, SETC does not meet its guaranteed rooms quota – and we have to pay. Not only would SETC be charged for the slippage, but the natural trickle-down effect would be significantly higher room rates for you.

In 2008, we made our quota by a mere 2 percent. If our slippage had been slightly larger, SETC would have been charged about \$45,000. That is very scary, especially when you understand that we started the convention with **SOLD-OUT** hotels!

2009 Theatre Symposium Examines the Impact of Stage Props

Humble stage properties are objects which often escape notice when they are working properly. Yet they are significant given their potential to convey meaning and enhance dramatic effect and conversely to disrupt the stage illusion through malfunctioning. (Think of the gun that misfires, a dish that is broken accidentally, or any object that is obviously from the wrong time period.)

The 2009 SETC Theatre Symposium event will take a new look at stage props, considering such questions as: How are stage properties used by playwrights, actors, directors and designers? How do props convey meaning? How are props created? How are objects constructed, acquired, stored or altered for use on stage?

Keynote speakers will be Andrew Sofer, author of *The Stage Life of Props*, and Bland

Wade, director of stage properties at the North Carolina School of the Arts.

Theatre Symposium is a scholarly meeting held annually by SETC. Selected papers from the event are published in the journal *Theatre Symposium*.

The 2009 event will be held April 3-5 at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC. J. K. Curry, an associate professor of theatre at Wake Forest University, is planning the event and will serve as editor of the journal that follows on the topic of stage properties.

Watch for the call for papers in the next issue of *SETC News*. If you have questions, e-mail Curry at curryjk@wfu.edu.



J. K. Curry

SETC Offers Scholarships, Awards for College, Grad School

Need Money to Attend Undergraduate School?

Each year SETC accepts applications from high school students for the following scholarships and awards:

✓ **SETC Secondary School Scholarship**

\$2,100 to a high school student upon entering a college or university in the SETC region to major in theatre. Deadline: January 15, 2009.

✓ **Polly Holliday Award**

\$1,000 to a student entering undergraduate school to study theatre. Deadline: January 15, 2009.

Need Money to Attend Graduate School?

Each year SETC accepts applications for the following scholarships and awards, which are given to qualified students pursuing master’s degrees:

✓ **Leighton M. Ballew Award**

\$3,300 to a student pursuing a graduate degree in directing. Deadline: January 15, 2009.

✓ **Robert Porterfield Award**

\$3,400 to a student entering graduate school for the first time to pursue a degree in theatre. Deadline: January 15, 2009.

✓ **Marian A. Smith Award**

\$2,300 to a student pursuing a graduate degree in costume design and/or technology. Deadline: January 15, 2009.

✓ **William E. Wilson Award**

\$6,500 to a high school educator pursuing a graduate degree in theatre or speech and theatre. Deadline: January 15, 2009.

Details and application forms:
www.setc.org/scholarship

High School Teachers: Do You Know a Student...

...who has strong potential in theatre and deserves to attend the SETC Convention on a KEAP Award?

The **Keynote Emerging Artists of Promise (KEAP) Award** is presented annually to four high school students who show promise in theatre and would benefit from receiving a grant to attend the SETC Convention. Nomination deadline: Jan. 15, 2009.

...who has written an outstanding play that should be recognized?

SETC's High School New Play Award recognizes a play written by a high school playwright in the SETC region. The winner receives \$250 and a staged reading at the 2009 SETC Convention in Birmingham. Application window: Oct. 1 to Dec. 1, 2008.

More info and application forms:

Visit the Scholarships/Awards area on the SETC website at www.setc.org

New Contact Info?

Does SETC have your current e-mail and postal addresses? If you've changed your address recently or you haven't heard from SETC in a while, visit <http://setc.matchingneeds.com> to log in to your record and update your contact information. E-mail setc@setc.org for help.

A Movement Coach Teaches Movement ... and More

So what do you do?" It is a question I hear often at cocktail parties, dinner parties and in other social situations.

"I teach at the University of Florida," I answer, thinking that my broad and generalized response will suffice. Then my enthusiasm and lack of humility kick in, and I can't hold back the excitement and pride I have for my job. I quickly follow up with, "I teach movement for the actor, acting and stage combat."

"So what martial arts do you know?" comes the reply, as if part of a script. "I bet you could beat me up!"

I am continually surprised when non-theatre people assume that I do martial arts and that I would pummel someone to a pulp. How do I explain what I do?

But even more shocking to me is the fact that many in **THEATRE** don't understand what a movement professional does. Until we better explain what we do and our talents and our training, other theatre professionals won't know how they can best use our talents.

A few years ago, I was called to work on a show as a movement coach. The director told me he was having a hard time getting a solid sense of character from a particular actor. After watching rehearsal, I requested a private coaching session with the actor. The director happily agreed.

During the session, I explored several ideas with the actor, including physical habits that might be generated from the character's profession and ways the actor could physicalize how the character felt in the presence of other characters. We explored psychological gesture as well as Laban Effort Actions and Shaping. The next night, the director said he loved the actor's clear physical choice, emotional connection to the text, and open interaction with the other characters on stage. But, he said, he didn't think I was going to "change the acting." He then scolded me, "I just wanted you to help him move."

I was astounded. This was someone in my field. How could he think that I could help this actor connect to the character through movement and **NOT** affect the acting choices?

Yes, as a movement coach, I can coach and teach period styles, "how to stand," and movement that developed out of particular circumstances of certain time periods. However, I also teach preparation of the body for rehearsals, how to use the body for character exploration and creation, and how an actor can release out of certain physical and emotional choices made in rehearsal in order to "de-role" before going home.

I don't just teach people how to "fight for fake." I teach expression of thought and emotion that incorporates full use of the body. I teach how to use all of our senses to create a world onstage that the actor can believe in. All of this I do through movement. The movement can be as subtle as breath or as spectacular as a sword fight. I teach actors that making a solid physical choice for their character will influence every other aspect and interaction of that character.

Yes, trying to explain what I do is sometimes hard. Doing what I do is fascinating.

From the Secretary

Tiza
Garland



Make Plans Now to Attend SETC's Fall Events in Charlotte

Hotel Accommodations & Callback Headquarters

Omni Charlotte Hotel, 132 E. Trade St., 800-843-6664

Fall Meetings,
SETC Committees:
September 5-6

Fall Graduate School Auditions,
Portfolio Reviews and Interviews
September 6

Fall Professional
Auditions:
September 7-8

*Special thanks to the North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center
for its generous support*

**Executive
Committee Meeting
Saturday, September 6
9 a.m. - 12 noon, 1 - 4 p.m.**

*SETC members are invited
to attend ExCom meetings.
Board members are expected
and encouraged to attend
these meetings to participate
in discussion of proposals
before the board.*

Join Us for an Opening Night Reception

8 p.m., Friday, September 5

Sponsored by the Metrolina Theatre Association

What's Onstage at Your State Convention? Find Out Here!

It's almost time for state conventions. And this year the states have some great events planned – ranging from an *FTC Idol* show to a VTA Fringe Festival.

Check out the invitation from your state below. States not included did not submit information. (See Page 5 for more information on convention and audition locations and dates.)

Florida: The 53rd Florida Theatre Conference, taking place in November 5-8, promises a vibrant festival of secondary schools, community theatres and theatre for youth performances and auditions. New this year – *FTC Idol!* Alongside performance and design workshops are “Best Practices” roundtables for varying interests, including administration and teaching artist methodologies. More info: www.flatheatre.org.

Georgia: Georgia Theatre Conference State Convention. October 15-19, 2008. Albany. Hosted by Theatre Albany and Darton State College. Two high school theatre

festivals! Master classes for college students! The Georgia Repertory Ensemble of Artists and Theatres program! “Oscars”-style awards ceremony! And much, much more! More info: www.georgiatheatreconference.com.

Kentucky: Kentucky Theatre Association Fall Conference. November 7-9. University of Kentucky (Lexington). This year's convention includes high school and community theatre festivals, pre-SETC auditions and numerous workshops. Also slated for the conference are summits to begin working to add unified college auditions for high school juniors and seniors. More info: www.theatreky.org.

Mississippi: Join the Mississippi Theatre Association in historic Natchez for its annual convention January 15-18, 2009. Festivals include Theatre for Youth, Secondary, 10-Minute Play, and Community Theatre, as well as individual events, workshops, playwriting competitions, college auditions and lots of fun. More info: www.mta-online.org.

North Carolina: The North Carolina Theatre Conference is pleased to announce the dates for the 2008 NCTC Fall Theatre Gathering! The gathering will take place November 20-22 at Greensboro College. Events include the state High School Play Festival (Nov. 20/21), SETC Screening Auditions (Nov. 21) and the College/University Auditions and Fair (Nov. 22). More info: www.nctc.org.

South Carolina: The South Carolina Theatre Association's 2008 convention, *The Faces of Theatre*, will be held at Newberry College, Newberry Opera House and the Newberry Firehouse Convention Center in Newberry on November 14-16. Guest artists include mask creator and mime Doug Berkey and dialogue/dialect coach Eric Armstrong. More info: Contact scta@collabefforts.com.

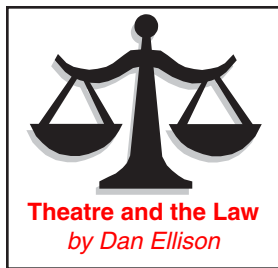
Virginia: Join us for the upcoming Virginia Theatre Association conference, to be held Halloween weekend (October 31-November 2) in Reston, featuring a Broadway speaker, a seasonally appropriate performance by The Core Theater Ensemble (guaranteed to scare you witless), and the first VTA Fringe Festival, offering an expanded performance venue. More info: www.vtasite.org.

Rising Costs Create Financial Concerns, Need for Controls

Money. It's on everybody's minds right now. Individuals and businesses, faced with the rising cost of seemingly just about everything, are taking some time to evaluate their financial situations.

Will your theatre be adversely affected by the gargantuan rise in energy costs? As your theatre looks to new and creative ways to lessen the impact of those costs, make sure you are covering all the legal issues.

With basic operating expenses more than doubling in some cases, you might choose to open your space to other groups or other uses during your own down times. If you do so, be sure that insurance and personal injury issues are covered in any rental agreement. Also be sure to note that, under some circumstances, your rental income may be considered unrelated business income,



subject to tax that your non-profit might not have considered.

Perhaps your theatre wants to initiate a “carpool to the theatre” program. If so, you need to take steps to limit your liability exposure in case the carpool driver gets into an accident going to or from the theatre (or, perhaps even worse, a carpooler turns out to be a criminal of some sort).

New programs should always have a legal vetting. Most of the time it won't keep you from having the program, but rather will inform you of the risks, if any, and ways to decrease the risk.

My final sad-but-true warning for these challenging times: As individuals face financial turmoil, the temptation to steal and embezzle increases. Case in point: In a recent case involving a 14-year symphony employee who embezzled \$160,000, the attorney noted that the employee had been going through “hard financial times.”

A nonprofit board has a duty to be a good steward of its finances – and that includes making sure there are good financial controls in place.

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.

PEOPLE on the move

Champagne Sundays, a play by SETC Past President **Thomas W. Stephens**, was performed at the Capital Fringe Festival in Washington, DC, in July. Produced by the Renaissance Theatre Company of Lynchburg, VA, it was directed by Stephens.

Steve Willis, a theatre professor at Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, NC, had a staged reading of his play, *Diana Sands: A Certain Toughness of Spirit*, at The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York City in June.

Carl Lefko, chair of the Department of Theatre and Cinema at Radford University in Virginia, began a two-year term as president of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) on July 1.

Barbara Hartwig, SETC's auditions choreographer, will be a lecturer/artist-in-residence at Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina in 2008-09. She will teach dance and choreograph a fall musical.

ALABAMA**College/University Event:**

University of Alabama Tuscaloosa
Tuscaloosa, AL
College Festival: Oct. 25-26, 2008
Auditions: Oct. 25, 2008

High School Festival:

Troy University, Troy, AL
Dec. 4-6, 2008

Auditions Coordinator:

Lee Van Dyke
University of South Alabama
Mobile, AL
W: 251-460-6305
E-mail: lvandyke@usouthal.edu

SETC State Representative:

Michael Howley
Alabama State University
Montgomery, AL
W: 334-229-4278
E-mail: mhowley@alasu.edu

FLORIDA**Convention/Auditions:**

Lakeland Center, Lakeland, FL
Convention: Nov. 5-8, 2008
Auditions: Nov. 7-8, 2008

Auditions Coordinator:

Des Gallant
Florida Atlantic University
Boca Raton, FL
W: 561-297-3872
E-mail: dgallant@fau.edu

SETC State Representative:

Steve Bayless
Gibbs High School
St. Petersburg, FL
W: 727-893-5452
E-mail: bayless727@aol.com

GEORGIA**Convention/Auditions:**

Darton College
Albany, GA
Convention: Oct. 16-19, 2008
Auditions: Oct. 17-18, 2008

Auditions Coordinator:

Kimberly Garcia
Columbus State University
W: 706-568-2048
E-mail: garcia_kimberly@colstate.edu

SETC State Representative:

H. Duke Guthrie
Valdosta State University
Valdosta, GA
W: 229-333-5820
E-mail: dguthrie@valdosta.edu

KENTUCKY**Convention/Auditions:**

University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY
Convention: Nov. 7-9, 2008
Auditions: Nov. 8-9, 2008

Auditions Coordinator:

Tim Davis
Bluegrass Community and Technical
College
Lexington, KY
W: 859-246-6672
E-mail: woundedeagle8@yahoo.com

SETC State Representative:

Kathi E.B. Ellis
Kentucky Alliance for Arts Education
Louisville, KY
H: 502-897-3314
kellis@kyartsed.org

MISSISSIPPI**Convention:**

City Auditorium
Natchez, MS
Jan. 15-18, 2009

Your state convention and auditions schedule

Auditions:

Hinds Community College,
Raymond, MS
In-State: Dec. 6, 2008
Out-of-Region: Dec. 7, 2008

Auditions Coordinator:

Alison Stafford
Hinds Community College
Tupelo, MS
W: 601-857-3267
E-mail: aestafford@hindscs.edu

SETC State Representative:

Tom Booth
Tupelo Community Theatre
Tupelo, MS
W: 662-844-1935
E-mail: 1tb@bellsouth.net

NORTH CAROLINA**Convention/Auditions:**

Greensboro College
Greensboro, NC
Convention: Nov. 20-22, 2008
Auditions: Nov. 21, 2008

Auditions Coordinator:

David Schram
Greensboro College
Greensboro, NC
W: 336-272-7102 x243
E-mail: schramd@gborocollege.edu

SETC State Representative:

John Hartness
Barbizon Lighting Company
Charlotte, NC
W: 704-372-2122
E-mail: jhartness@barbizon.com

SOUTH CAROLINA**Convention/Auditions:**

Newberry College
Newberry, SC
Convention: Nov. 14-16, 2008
Auditions: Nov. 15, 2008

Auditions Coordinator:

Dale Savidge
North Greenville University
Tigerville, SC
W: 864-977-2081
E-mail: dsavidge@ngu.edu

SETC State Representative:

Leslie Dellinger
Lexington High School
Lexington, SC
H: 803-957-9863
E-mail: Lgdellinger@aol.com

TENNESSEE**Convention/Auditions:**

Renaissance Center
Dickson, TN
Convention: Oct. 23-26, 2008
In-State Auditions: Oct. 25, 2008
Out-of-Region Auditions: Oct. 26, 2008

Auditions Coordinator:

Meleia Lewis
Dyersburg State Community College
Dyersburg, TN
W: 731-286-3261
E-mail: mlewis@dscs.edu

SETC State Representative:

Melissa Shafer
East Tennessee State University
Johnson City, TN
W: 423-439-5837
E-mail: shaferm@etsu.edu

VIRGINIA**Convention/Auditions:**

Reston Hyatt
Reston, VA
Convention: Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 2008
Auditions: Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2008

Auditions Coordinator:

Wesley Young
Radford University
Radford, VA
W: 540-831-5484
E-mail: wyoung@radford.edu

SETC State Representative:

Mac Damron
Mills E. Godwin High School
Richmond, VA
W: 804-750-2600
E-mail: cmdamron@henrico.k12.va.us

WEST VIRGINIA**Convention/Auditions:**

Glenville State College
Glenville, WV
Convention: Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2008
Auditions: Nov. 1, 2008

Auditions Coordinator:

April Daras
Davis and Elkins College
Elkins, WV
W: 304-637-1360
E-mail: darasa@davisandelkins.edu

SETC State Representative:

Greg Mach
West Virginia Wesleyan College
Buckhannon, WV
W: 304-473-8855
E-mail: mach@wvwc.edu

Do You Live or Go to School Outside the Region?

If you are located outside SETC's 10-state region and wish to audition, check the chart below for your audition location. The state where you go to school or reside determines your audition site.

Audition Site	Out-of-Region States Auditioning at This Site
Kentucky	Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin
Mississippi	Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas
Tennessee	Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, N. Dakota, Oregon, S. Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming
Virginia	Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont
West Virginia	Ohio, Pennsylvania

More info: www.setc.org/auditions/state/screening.asp

New Central Office Employees Serve Members in Educational Theatre

SETC has two new employees in the Central Office – well, one new face and one that will be familiar to many members.

Hardy Koenig, who served as educational theatre services manager for four years before accepting a teaching job in

Minnesota last year, has returned to his former job at SETC.

“I enjoyed my time at Minnesota State University Moorhead. The students were great, the school was supportive – and I got to direct a really cool production of *Sweeney Todd*,” Hardy says. “But it was not

home, and we knew we couldn’t stay there for the long haul. We are glad to be back in the South, and I appreciate the opportunity to work with the members of SETC again.”



Hardy Koenig

Hardy will work part-time this fall in the Central Office.

As educational theatre services manager, he will handle undergraduate and graduate auditions and interviews, coordination of festivals, and advertising for *Southern Theatre* magazine and the SETC Convention Program.

In addition to his SETC work, Hardy will be teaching acting and introduction to theatre classes at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, as well as leading an acting class and a literature for the stage course at Catawba College in Salisbury, NC, this fall.

Cheryl Ann Roberts has joined SETC as a part-time assistant in the educational theatre services area.

In addition to working with SETC member schools, Cheryl Ann will assist on advertising sales and billing, as well as planning and execution of the annual College, University & Training Program Directory for *Southern Theatre* magazine. Her duties also will include marketing auditions/interviews for undergraduate and graduate students, assisting with membership and helping with preparations for the upcoming SETC Convention.

Cheryl Ann’s previous experience includes 17 years in the reservations and customer service areas at US Airways. When the airline merged with America West, the customer relations office was relocated to Tempe, AZ, and Cheryl Ann decided to remain on the East Coast.



Cheryl Ann Roberts

As she tried to decide “what she wanted to be when she grew up,” she looked to theatre, which she refers to as her “career hobby.” Cheryl Ann has been involved with community theatre for 20 years – working in a variety of roles including performer, stage manager, box office assistant, concession worker and board member.

“Since theatre is a very big part of my life, I am very honored and excited to be part of SETC,” Cheryl Ann says.

Podcasters Seek Segments on Regional, Community Theatre

While podcasts are not breaking news for the world at large, they are new to SETC’s world. At SETC’s 2008 convention, two podcast producers recorded interviews and notes which were later podcast to anyone savvy enough to subscribe to their services or even to visit their websites. If this is news to you, go to their websites and listen to what they have to say.

The two podcasters are *The Inexplicable Dumb Show* (www.inexplicabledumbshow.com/ids-86-the-renegades-of-funk) and *Your Neighborhood Stage* (www.neighborhoodstage.com/index.cfm). If you want to visit these sites, go to SETC’s home page, pull down “Annual Conventions” and check “Past Conventions,” then slide right on to 2008 Chattanooga, TN. On the page that comes up, click on the righthand bottom link, “Convention Podcasts.” You will be transmitted to a display of these two producers. Use the logos as links to their Web pages. If you do a Google search, you probably will not get the specific SETC podcasts.

For the uninitiated (as I am), here is a little basic information about podcasting. According to *The New Oxford American Dictionary*, a podcast is “a digital recording of a radio broadcast or similar programs, made available on the Internet for downloading to a personal audio player.” While the concept originally related to iPod, it has since become available to anyone who has a program to play music on a computer.

With a little exploration, I discovered that *The Inexplicable Dumb Show* (hosted by Tee Quillen and John Mauldin) is for professional actors. To quote the site, “*The Inexplicable Dumb Show* is a weekly podcast that focuses on the life of professional actors! We highlight professional, regional theatre companies, discuss union issues for actors, conduct interviews with a wide variety of people from ‘The Business’ and highlight audition opportunities from professional theatres all over the world! We also have weekly feature segments where we discuss various issues that actors face while seeking work and the various goings-on at educational theatre programs from all around the globe! We love the theatre, especially those theatres around the world that are not in the limelight as much as theatres in New York, Chicago or Los Angeles. There’s good theatre happening all over the place and people need to know about it! That’s where we come in.”

Whew! A lot of visual and audible energy flies out of the computer. These people are wound up for sure. The site is loaded; in addition to lots of links, advertising and news about the current podcast, the archives bristle with links to past podcasts.

Personally, I’m concerned that everything is on a black background; reading the screen closely is a pretty intense experience.

Your Neighborhood Stage is devoted to community theatre. Chris Laning is identified as producer/co-host; Rob Scardino and Staci Cobb are co-hosts.

The group produced a podcast series for the 2007 AACTFest in Charlotte, NC, and already has a tentative agreement to do the same for AACTFest ’09 in Spokane, WA.

The producers of *Your Neighborhood Stage* want to provide more service to the community theatre family. “But to make this archive truly worthwhile, **WE NEED MORE SEGMENTS**. This is where you come in. If you have directed, produced or played an integral role in a production of a show you have particular liked, we want to hear about it. View our ‘Show of the Week’ outline for an idea for what we are looking for. Once you have a segment (or several) ready, just contact us and let us know. We will explore the options for recording the segment.”

Are there more podcast producers in the Southeast who are looking for an audience? Please let me know at wolfe@wfu.edu. This column is a good place to inform the SETC membership about the region’s podcast activity.



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 May 23-24. (Complete minutes can be found on the SETC website.)

Actions include:

- The KEAP Award will be added to the Endowment Income/Expense Sheet
- A rule change affecting manuals was approved. It specifies that the order of all manuals will be changed so that the operating procedures become Part I, thereby making Part II “Policy from Higher Authority” and Part III “Regulations from this Constituency”
- ExCom will meet with a Past Presidents’ Subcommittee named “Speaking Its Mind to the SETC Executive Committee” on Friday, September 5, at the fall board meetings in Charlotte.
- ExCom is exploring the possibility of (and procedures for) extending officers’ terms from one year to two years.
- Treasurer Chris Rich was charged to consult with the previous two treasurers to update the bylaws and manual pertaining to the treasurer’s role so that they reflect current operation and best practices within the industry. This is to be completed in time for examination by the Bylaws Committee and presentation to the board in September.
- Money was allocated for a new Graduate Design Award, with the name and details to be announced this fall.
- The Awards Banquet at the March convention will be a Masque Ball with costumes optional.
- The budget was amended and referred to the Finance Committee to add money to begin a facilitated, directional self-study. The core committee will be appointed by the president and called the “2020 – 20/20 SETC Committee.”

Endowment Contributions

Thanks to Don Loeffler and Ginger Willis for contributions to the SETC Endowment Fund.

Join Arts Action Fund as a Citizen Activist; Let Candidates Know the Arts DO Matter!

Do you want to influence this nation’s policy on the arts?

But you don’t have time.

Do you want someone to help make your voice heard?

But you don’t have the funds to make that happen.

Stand up and be counted! This is quick – painless – and important.

The Americans for the Arts Action Fund already is in place to help you make a difference. While you focus on creating your art and making a living, this organization advocates on your behalf.

But we also have a responsibility to stand up and be counted. Our numbers will make the difference. Close to 3 million people work in the arts nationally, but many are too busy working to take the time to do more.

Here is an opportunity to let a nonprofit organization work on your behalf.

Your Name Counts

The Arts Action Fund’s goal is to enlist, by 2013, one million citizen activists who will help ensure that arts-friendly public policies are adopted at the federal, state and local levels, and public and private resources are maximized.

I challenge **YOU** to help make that happen. You can become a member of the Arts Action Fund by going to www.ArtsActionFund.org, and clicking on “join.”

SETC mails this newsletter to over 4,000 people. If each one of you joins and asks 10 others to do the same, SETC alone will have contributed 40,000 plus citizens who believe in the arts. We all know how numbers can influence politics.

From the
Executive Director

Betsey Baun



In addition to joining the organization, you also can use its website to reach your Congressional representatives.

Your Questions Count

Arts Action Fund has made it easy for us to advocate both for the support of arts in general and for arts education. You don’t even have to come up with your own questions.

Here are the organization’s prepared Arts Policy Questions to Ask Your Federal Candidates:

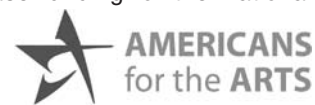
1. What steps would you take to significantly increase funding for the National Endowment for the Arts so that our community’s arts organizations can present more high quality arts programs for all of our citizens?

2. What specific federal education policies would you promote so that our children can receive a comprehensive arts education in their local schools?

This column will be posted on the SETC website at www.setc.org. Please use it. Copy the questions, and e-mail them to your representatives and senators. A little effort will go a long way. An oft-quoted statistic is the following: When Congressional representatives receive **ONE** letter, they figure that there are at least **100 OTHER INDIVIDUALS** that have similar views. Just imagine if we **ALL** wrote.

These questions can be adapted for state and local candidates as well. So put them to work.

More info: www.ArtsActionFund.org.



From the President (Continued from Page 1)

You can learn some of the “thinking” that emerged from our meeting in the ExCom News report at left. Next, let us know what you are thinking. The SETC communication network is vast and vastly under-utilized. The most efficient way to provide communication is through your area’s representative, and the most efficient way to find this individual is through the SETC website. You also can call the Central Office, and the staff there will steer you in the right direction. And don’t forget – you’re always invited to e-mail me: glen@setc.org.

As SETC and ExCom move into the future, communication is essential. Through respectful and open communication, all of us can successfully map out the future direction of the Southeastern Theatre Conference.

As the opening song of the musical *Pippin* by Stephen Schwartz states: “We’ve got magic to do....” So communicate and become part of the “magic.”



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

SETC NEWS

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Ooops! No Job?

Land an **onstage role** at SETC's Fall Professional Auditions in Charlotte, NC! Walk-ins accepted September 8!
 Land an **offstage position** through SETC's Job Contact Service, a free online service for job seekers!

More info: www.setc.org

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SETC 2009: Your Mask Can Help Grow the Endowment

Do you have a beautiful mask gathering dust in your costume room or in your imagination? Help us make 2009 the year of the mask at the SETC Convention!

There are four ways to get involved:

- Donate a mask to the SETC Silent Auction, to be held at the 2009 SETC Convention in Birmingham, with all proceeds going to benefit the SETC Endowment Fund.
- Purchase a mask at the Silent Auction and help SETC grow its Endowment Fund, which supports scholarships and awards.
- Create a mask in a special mask-making workshop at SETC 2009.
- Wear a mask that you created or one that you purchased at the Silent Auction to a Masque Awards Banquet and party celebrating SETC's 60th anniversary at the convention.

The mask-themed auction will be part of a series of annual themed auctions to benefit the SETC Endowment Fund.

Please begin to think of any contribution that you may be able to make to the 2009 auction. Mask donations may be original designs created especially for the auction, masks from specific plays, or masks created for a class project.

If you have a mask to contribute or know of one that you can create for the auction, please send an e-mail to me. Include a short description and/or a picture of the mask and an estimated value. If you don't have a mask to contribute, remember we also will need buyers at the auction! Thank you in advance for your support.

- *Freddy Clements, Endowment Committee member, e-mail: JSUdesigner@aol.com*



Photo by David Hawkins

SETC 2009

Birmingham, AL March 4-8

Where to Send News

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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
 Web site: www.setc.org