FIND YOUR NEXT ROLE AT SETC FALL AUDITIONS
Registration Opens May 16

WHERE AND WHEN ARE SETC FALL PROFESSIONAL AUDITIONS?
Auditions will be held at the Crowne Plaza Atlanta-Airport Hotel in Atlanta, GA, Sunday, Sept. 11, and Monday, Sept. 12.

WHO CAN AUDITION?
Auditionees must be at least 19, must have a minimum of two paid professional credits or be current Equity members, must have two references from the directors of shows where they earned paid professional credits, and cannot be in school.

WHAT ARE QUALIFIER AUDITIONS?
Actors who have only one professional contract and MFA students who will graduate in December can try out for a slot in the Sept. 11 Fall Professional Auditions by participating in “qualifying” auditions on Saturday, Sept. 10.

WHAT IS “THE STAGE IS YOURS”?
This is the Fall Auditions social event, where you can have fun and show your talents from 7 to 9 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 10. Mix, mingle and, if you like, get on stage before fellow auditionees and company reps. Have a bassoon? Come play. Are you a juggler? Show us your stuff. Just want to act? Present a monologue or share a scene. Don’t want to do anything but socialize? Join us for the fun! Cash bar.
Join Us for ExCom, Board and Committee Meetings

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: May 13-14
SETC’s Executive Committee will meet May 13-14, 2016, at the Wingate by Wyndham Hotel in Rock Hill, SC. Interested members are welcome to attend. Contact Quiana at 336-272-3645 or quiana@setc.org for more details.

2016 FALL MEETINGS: Sept. 9-10
Each year on the first weekend after Labor Day, SETC committees, the Advisory Council, the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors come together to discuss SETC business. This year’s Fall Meetings will be held Sept. 9-10, 2016, at the Crowne Plaza Atlanta-Airport Hotel, 1325 Virginia Ave, Atlanta, GA 30344.

All members may attend; board and committee members are expected to attend. For more information about the hotel and schedule and to make your reservations, visit www.setc.org/board-meetings.

ExCom Report
by Tiza Garland

✓ Approved a motion that the Executive Committee and the Executive Director accept the recommendation of the Institute of Outdoor Theatre (IOT) Task Force to move forward with a plan to make IOT part of SETC, along with the recommendations outlined in their report, which include examining the legal, financial, and structural implications of this action for SETC.

✓ Approved a motion that the Executive Director form a small committee to work with her on preparing possible options for staff compensation and classifications in order to comply with proposed Department of Labor regulations on exempt/non-exempt status tentatively scheduled to go into effect in September and that these options be reported to the Executive Committee at its May meeting.

✓ Approved motions to accept the President, Secretary, Archives and Bylaws manuals.

✓ Approved the fiscal year 2017 SETC budget.

✓ Approved a motion to transfer $100,000 from Corporate Reserves, with $50,000 moved to General Unallocated and $50,000 to the KEAP Fund.
SETC/USITT LINK ● Nov. 11-13 ● Atlanta, GA

Make Plans to Attend the 3rd Annual LiNK Graduate School Interviews, Auditions and Networking

SETC and USITT will partner again for the third annual LiNK Graduate School Interviews and Auditions. Schools and prospective applicants will come together for a weekend of auditions, interviews and networking on November 11-13, 2016, at the Crowne Plaza Atlanta-Airport Hotel in Atlanta, GA.

In 2015, 50 graduate programs from all over the United States were at LiNK recruiting for all areas of theatre study. Registration for graduate programs will open in early July, and registration for students will open in mid-August.

For more information about LiNK, including recruiting programs that attended last year, please visit www.setc.org/link.

It’s Time to Plan Your Workshop Proposals for the 2017 SETC Convention

See below for important deadlines if you would like to propose a workshop for the 2017 SETC Convention in Lexington, KY. Questions? Email Vice-President of Services Pat Gagliano at patrick@setc.org or Program Manager Quiana Clark-Roland at quiana@setc.org. Or visit www.setc.org/workshop-proposals for more details.


OPENING: Workshop Proposal Submissions
DEADLINE: Audio/Video Equipment Requests
DEADLINE: Workshop Proposal Submissions
OPENING: 2016 Convention Registration
NOTIFY: Workshop Proposal Accepted
NOTIFY: Workshop Proposal Declined
DEADLINE: Convention Registration by Presenters
CONVENTION: 2017 SETC Convention Begins

More info: www.setc.org
Getting a Job through SETC: Daniel Gonzalez – 42 Callbacks!

Daniel Gonzalez, a senior musical theatre major at East Carolina University, attended the SETC Professional Auditions in March – and wowed companies with his audition. He and another auditionee (see Page 5) tied for the highest number of callbacks.

How did you feel about your 40+ callbacks at the recent SETC Professional Auditions?
I actually didn’t realize I got so many! When I was in the callback room, I didn’t have time to write all of them down. So, I wrote down the ones I was interested in – about 35 callbacks. I was surprised and ecstatic that so many companies enjoyed my audition. Unfortunately, I didn’t have time to rejoice and reflect until a few days later!

Did your callbacks lead to a job?
Yes, I was able to book a year-long, paid internship with the regional theatre Playhouse on the Square in Memphis, TN, which was exactly what I wanted. My contract begins on May 10, and I start rehearsals for Sister Act in the part of Joey on the same day. This is literally three days after I graduate from college.

What was your first professional job?
My first professional job happened to be The Lost Colony, which I got through SETC Professional Auditions. I got to work with the incomparable Ira David Wood, who gave me the opportunity to play one of the principal characters in the symphonic drama when I was only a sophomore in college. I learned a lot from my first professional job, and I’m glad I was able to get it through SETC.

What types of shows do you like to do best?
I like musicals with challenging scores and intriguing themes. I love shows that make you think and give a good balance of spectacle and serious acting work.

What’s the favorite play or musical you have been involved with?
My favorite musical I have ever been in is the one I am in now – a production of Spring Awakening by a student-run theatre company called 5th Street Players at ECU. It is such a powerful musical with such an important message. It also doesn’t hurt that the music is beautifully arranged and dynamic. It has been such an amazing experience working with a talented cast and a moving show.
Getting a Job through SETC: Daniel Velasquez – 42 Callbacks!

Daniel Velasquez, a senior musical theatre major at the University of Alabama, attended the SETC Professional Auditions in March – and wowed companies with his audition. He tied with another auditionee (see Page 4) for the highest number of callbacks.

How did you feel about your 40+ callbacks at the recent SETC Professional Auditions?
It was a weird mix of overwhelming joy and overwhelming panic. I felt like I couldn’t really enjoy the moment because I had to really get going to get to as many of these companies as possible, but I was so thankful to have that many opportunities.

Did your callbacks lead to a job?
Yes, I very recently got my first professional job, which is at Norwegian Cruise Lines. They saw me at SETC and sent me some extra material to film and send back to them, and then they offered me a job!

How has SETC assisted you in your goals?
I have been involved with SETC for three years, although this is the first year I have been passed through the pre-screening process. SETC has definitely opened a lot of doors for me. There aren’t a lot of professional auditions around Tuscaloosa, so SETC is kind of crucial to finding summer work/professional work for the whole department.

What types of shows do you like to do best?
I really enjoy doing pop/rock musicals. I had the opportunity to play Jason in Bare: A Pop Opera not too long ago, and it is one of my favorite roles.

What’s the favorite play or musical you have been involved with?
My favorite experience so far was this year when I got to work on The Countess of Storyville. It is a new musical, and the creative team decided to do a workshop/production of it at the University of Alabama to get the project on its feet. It was an exceptionally cool experience because of the people that I got to work with. Many of the lead roles in the show were played by New York- or Los Angeles-based actors who had credits all over the place (Broadway, West End, television and film, etc.). We also got to work with a highly established and awarded creative team. It was really a very valuable experience.

Herb Parker, author of the new book A Monologue Is an Outrageous Situation! How to Survive the 60-Second Audition shares the following nugget:
“To help young actors make choices that are more dynamic and exciting (so they can do their best work and maybe get the job!), it is important to think of a monologue as being spoken in the midst of an outrageous situation, caused by LOVE.”

Find the book here: www.routledge.com/products/9781138120013

More info: www.setc.org/fall-professional
Remembering Greensboro: Quotes, Awards and People

On the pages that follow, we share award winners, photos and what you liked best about SETC 2016, which drew one of the highest numbers of attendees in SETC history. The 2016 SETC Convention also attracted a record number of Theatre Job Fair applicants and the highest number of Design Competition entries in recent memory.

KEYNOTES

• The keynote speakers, particularly Peter Schumann from Bread and Puppet and Pearl Cleage, were really the highlight of the event for me.

• I loved hearing Bill Oberst Jr.’s story and challenge to pursue work that is meaningful to you.

• Jim Warren provided me with fantastic information that can be applied to my spring direction of a Shakespeare comedy!

• I loved the design keynote speakers! They were knowledgeable, personable and created such a sense of joy about the theatre.

• I absolutely loved listening to Ms. Cleage. She was so inspiring and open with us. While I enjoy hearing about speakers’ experiences with “making it” in theatre, I much preferred Ms. Cleage’s “real-life” talk that reached far beyond those who plan to pursue acting as a career.

Keynote Emerging Artists of Promise (KEAP) Award recipients for 2016 were (left to right) Sarah Wallace, Westside High (WV); Riley Taylor, Pelham High School (AL); Sydney Prather, White Station High School (TN); and Tanner McGee, Oak Grove High School (MS). Tonya Hays, KEAP Award chair, is shown center.
Graduate School Scholarship winners

CONVENTION LOCATION

- This is one of my favorite locations. Excellent availability for all your convention needs, i.e., food, all meeting rooms on-site and free parking!
- Wonderful location, and whenever I had trouble navigating, there was always someone around to help guide me where I needed to go.
- It was great to have everything within walking distance as this was the key to maxing out additional workshops.
- This was an incredible location! So impressed with the accommodations and the accessibility of the conference center.
- Please do Greensboro again.

Ready to Work Award winners

- Winners of SETC’s Ready to Work Award are chosen from graduate entrants in the Design Competition. In addition to a cash prize from SETC, each winner receives the opportunity to design a show at a theatre. The 2016 winners and the theatre where they will work are (right to left): Olivia Trees, Triad Stage, Greensboro, NC; Manuel Ramirez Guevara, Lexington Children’s Theatre, Lexington, KY; Bridgette Dreher, Omaha Theater Company, Omaha, NE.

Tom Behm Scholarship for professional development

- The 2016 winner is Julie Woods-Robinson of the University of Central Florida.

More info: www.setc.org/scholarships-awards
Undergraduate Scholarship Winners

Award recipients from left: Polly Holliday Award, Faith Craig (right), Corner Theatre Academy (AL), with chair Gary Weatherly; 2015-16 Secondary School Scholarship, Kaylie Rose Elward (right), Pelham High School (AL), with committee member Kendall Kiker.

High School Festival

- Every school that attended put on the best show they could’ve done.
- Work ethic is so high for teens.
- Overall, amazing!

Winners of High School Festival sponsored by Norcostco

The winner of the High School Festival was Rock Ridge High School (VA) for its production of Ernest and the Pale Moon.

The runner-up in the High School Festival was Central Academy of Technology and Arts (NC) for its production of The Diviners.

Left: Tony Cimino-Johnson, director of the winning play. Right: Larry Robinson, director of the runner-up.

Best Actress: Hayley Shipley, Dr. Phillips High School (FL), The Seagull
Best Actor: Gaige Robinson, Central Academy of Technology and Arts (NC), The Diviners
Winners of Community Theatre Festival
sponsored by Dramatists Play Service

- Actors’ Warehouse (FL) won for Tshepang. Shown left to right are Pat Bellis, Mandisa Haarhoff, Jan Cohen, Steven Butler and Jamaili Tyler.

- Wild Hare Productions (SC) won for Lone Star. Shown left to right are Wally Dorn, Chris Allen, Bess Park (director), and Jon Lee, (sound and lights).

- Steven Butler, Best Actor, and Mandisa Haarhoff, Best Actress. Both won for their work in Tshepang, presented by Actors’ Warehouse (FL).

COMMUNITY THEATRE FESTIVAL
- The UNCG facility for Community Theatre was excellent!
- The highlight of my experience was the Community Theatre Festival.

FAVORITES AT THE CONVENTION
- Teachers Institute on Puppets: Outstanding! The presenter was knowledgeable, approachable and fun!
- I was able to talk to 13 companies about job opportunities all in one place. I’ve already had two follow-up emails. Loved the Stage Management Olympics!
- The Bob Fosse workshop was my favorite! I’m so thankful that I had the opportunity to go.
- I love the camaraderie of the design events!
- All the booths were cool. It was like a candy store.
- Fun, insightful, eye-opening and helpful! Loved everything the convention had to offer!
Costume Design Awards sponsored by Wardrobe Witchery

Graduate Costume Design Award Winners

Properties Design and Construction Awards sponsored by Friends of Props

Undergraduate Costume Design Award Winners

More info: www.setc.org/design-competition
Scenic Design Awards sponsored by Sculptural Arts Coating, Inc.

Graduate Scenic Design Award Winners
(Left to right) 3rd Place, Henry Wilkinson, A Lesson Before Dying, University of Tennessee-Knoxville; 2nd Place, Nicole Bianco, The Golden Dragon, University of Florida; 1st Place, Bridgette Dreher, Macbeth, Indiana University.

Undergraduate Scenic Design Award Winners
(Left to right) 3rd Place, Brandon Roak, Loot, Clemson University; 2nd Place, Rebecca Johnson, Rent, East Carolina University; 1st Place, Lindsey Purvis, Women in Arms, Berry College.

Sound Design Awards sponsored by Shure, Inc.

1st: Sound Design
Curtis Miller
Frankenstein: Dawn of a Monster

Stage Management Games sponsored by Empty Space Technology

(Left to right) 3rd Place, Tony Antunez, Florida School of the Arts; 2nd Place, Ariel Ryals-Trammell, Lees-McRae College; 1st Place, Emily Hambridge, Virginia Commonwealth University.

www.setc.org/design-competition
2016 SETC CONVENTION: DESIGN COMPETITION

Lighting Design Awards sponsored by Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.

Graduate Lighting Design Award Winners
(Left to right) 3rd Place, Aaron Bowersox, Sweet Charity, Indiana University; 2nd Place, Maranda DeBusk, Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play, University of Tennessee-Knoxville; 1st Place, Yu Lei, Side Show, Kent State University.

Undergraduate Lighting Design Award Winners
(Left to right) 3rd Place, Taylor Jensen, The Pillowman, Furman University; 2nd Place, Christine Dorsey, Agbedidi, University of Florida; 1st Place, Haley Brown, Durang/Durang, Furman University.

Costume Crafts and Technology Awards sponsored by Norcostco
(Left to right) Honorable Mention, Sydney Moore, Commedia Mask, George Washington University; Honorable Mention, Samantha Llanes, Metal Work, Ohio University; 3rd Place, Olivia Trees, Millinery, University of Tennessee-Knoxville; 2nd Place, Rachel Buechele, Darzee the Bird Puppet, Florida State University; 1st Place, Magdalena Tortoriello, Scaled Period Corset, Indiana University.

1st: Crafts and Technology
Magdalena Tortoriello
Scaled Period Corset

More info: www.setc.org/design-competition
Why do you attend the SETC Convention? For the workshops? Performances? Auditions? Inspiration?

If inspiration is one of the reasons, I hope you had an opportunity to hear the Friday presentation by Nina Ozlu Tunceli (right), chief counsel of government and public affairs at Americans for the Arts and executive director of the Americans for the Arts Action Fund. As part of our mission to connect you to opportunities in theatre, we were delighted this year to welcome Nina as our guest speaker for Friday’s States Luncheon. Recognize her name? Maybe you have received emails from Nina. If so, I encourage you to read them.

I attended the luncheon and was inspired by Nina’s presentation. She shared some of her strategies for arts advocacy and detailed the stance of each current Presidential candidate regarding his or her support for arts.

Overall, Nina shared the kind of positive message we need to hear for those times when things seem to be going against us, especially in this era of continued budget cuts. Americans for the Arts is an organization that advocates on our behalf, obtaining federal funding for arts organizations and helping to expand employment in the arts.

The organization is energized by people like you and me. When the right leaders organize passionate people, the advocacy is powerful. Americans for the Arts helps us become a voice that is heard.

More info: www.americansforthearts.org
Article VI of SETC’s Articles of Incorporation states, “No substantial part of the properties or income of the Corporation shall ever be used or employed directly or indirectly by the Corporation for the purpose of carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation.” However, SETC may signify support or disapproval of events or instances that directly affect the free expression of its constituencies.

After North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory signed House Bill 2, the so-called “bathroom bill,” into law on March 26, 2016, SETC sent a letter to McCrory stating that we believe the law is discriminatory. With our Central Office located in North Carolina and our most recent convention held in the state as well, we thought it was important for SETC to make its views known.

What are the key provisions of House Bill 2?
“House Bill 2: Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act” makes several changes to North Carolina law, but the most controversial is the provision requiring transgender people to use bathrooms and changing facilities “based on their biological sex” in public schools, public universities and public buildings in North Carolina.

Another section of the law addresses the protection of rights in employment and public accommodations, declaring that workers are protected against “discrimination or abridgment on account of race, religion, color, national origin, age, biological sex or handicap by employers which regularly employ 15 or more employees.” You will note that biological sex is mentioned, but sexual orientation and gender identity are not.

SETC is committed to nondiscrimination
SETC has a history of supporting nondiscrimination and continues to support the rights of all people to freely express themselves without the expectation of a legal authority limiting their individual human rights.

I am proud to share with you SETC’s nondiscrimination policy, which supports our philosophy of inclusion. Rule V.2 says: “The right to membership, to hold office, and to participate in SETC activities, including (but not limited to) conventions, meetings, auditions, and performances shall not be abridged because of age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, military veteran’s status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or any other characteristic protected by law.”

More info: www.setc.org/hb2-response-letter
SETC Theatre Symposium Event Focuses on Cross-Cultural Dialogue

The annual SETC Theatre Symposium was held April 22-24 at Agnes Scott College in Atlanta. Scholars from institutions around the globe presented research related to the topic “Cross-Cultural Dialogue on the Global Stage” at the event organized by editor Becky Becker.

Theatre practitioner and scholar Anita Gonzalez served as keynote speaker, presenting “Theatre as Cultural Exchange: Stages and Studios of Learning.”

Gonzalez encouraged participants to consider three ways of engaging in cross-cultural dialogue: through collaboration, through cultural exchange and by finding the global in the local.

These and other themes circulated throughout the weekend’s dialogue as participants presented papers on topics ranging from cross-cultural conceptions of classical theatre, to Eastern influences on Western works, to cross-cultural dramaturgy.

Rounding out the weekend with an inspiring response to the symposium, Gonzalez reminded theatre scholars and practitioners that “diversity of thought” is just as important as visual diversity as we bring cross-cultural work to our classrooms, production seasons and scholarly work.

SETC thanks the faculty and staff of Agnes Scott College, and particularly former editor David Thompson, who has now hosted Theatre Symposium on his home campus six times during the past decade. SETC also thanks associate editor Sarah McCarroll, along with past editors J.K. Curry, Phil Hill, Scott Phillips and Bert Wallace for their contributions.

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Selected papers from the event will be chosen via a peer-review process to appear in the journal Theatre Symposium 25, scheduled for publication in summer 2017.

All individual members of SETC receive a copy of the journal as a benefit of membership.

More info: www.setc.org/theatre-symposium
MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Apply for ATHE Leadership Institute

Applications are being accepted through May 15 for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education Leadership Institute, to be held August 9-11, 2016. Each candidate must be nominated by a chair or a dean via a one-page letter of nomination. For more information, visit the ATHE website at www.athe.org/?page=LI_About.

Lynn Meadows Receives National Award

Lynn Meadows Discovery Center for Children, an interactive children’s museum in Gulfport, MS, that includes the Wings Performing Arts Program, is one of 10 recipients of the 2016 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation’s highest honor given to museums and libraries for service to the community. Congratulations to Tonya Hays (left), director of the Wings Program and chair of SETC’s KEAP Committee.

In Memoriam

Debra Barnum, a longtime theatre teacher and arts leader in Florida, died Feb. 25, 2016, at age 65. For many years, she was the records clerk for SETC’s High School Auditions Committee. She also was active in the Florida Theatre Conference and was a former president of the Florida Association for Theatre Education, a former Thespian state director and a former regional director of the Educational Theatre Association.

Scot Copeland, producing artistic director of Nashville Children’s Theatre for more than 30 years, died Feb. 24, 2016. He was 62. The chair of SETC’s Theatre for Youth division in the 1980s, he was a longtime advocate for quality professional theatre for young people. He had been scheduled to serve as a respondent for SETC’s Theatre for Youth Invitational Festival at the 2016 convention. Survivors include his wife René, the producing artistic director at Nashville Repertory Theatre.