SCHOOLS: LINK provides a cost-effective way for graduate schools to audition and interview large numbers of prospective graduate students for programs in acting, directing, design, technology, arts administration and stage management. Schools gain access to registered students and a space to promote their programs for only $125. Registration is open now at www.setc.org/link14.

APPLICANTS: LINK provides graduate students with “one-stop shopping” for programs in their areas of interest for just $40. Registration begins in August.

USITT (United States Institute for Theatre Technology) approached SETC about joining forces to create this program. LINK replaces the Fall Graduate Auditions and Design-Technical Interviews that SETC has held for the past eight years.

“We have long thought that our event date right after Labor Day weekend was too early for most applicants and school representatives,” says SETC Executive Director Betsey Horth. “When USITT approached us about this partnership, we checked with our loyal schools. All supported the change, as did our board!”

USITT Executive Director David Grindle notes that SETC and USITT complement each other in mission and membership. “Rather than compete to serve the same people, we all agreed working together would best use resources and best serve our constituents,” he says. “SETC’s strengths paired with the strengths of USITT will make for a partnership in which everyone comes out ahead.”
SETC Fall Meetings Schedule

WHAT ARE FALL MEETINGS?
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 Friday, Sept. 5 and Saturday, Sept. 6, in Atlanta, GA. All members may attend; board and committee members are expected to attend. See full calendar at www.setc.org/board-meetings.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 5
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Committee Meetings
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Board Forum
9:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Board Reception

SATURDAY, SEPT. 6
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Advisory Council Meeting
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Nominations Committee Meetings
11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting
4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 p.m. Board of Directors Dinner

ExCom Report
by Jack Benjamin

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.

The Board of Directors and the Executive Committee met in Mobile on March 5, 8 and 9. The following actions were taken by the Board (full minutes available on SETC website at www.setc.org/board-meetings):

• Approved significant changes to the bylaws and rules of the organization.
• Approved proposed budget.

President Jack Benjamin announced that he will be appointing a task force to study the tenure and promotion document from the College and University Division. He requested all to provide names of those who might be interested in serving.
Registration Opens May 15 for Fall Auditions

WHERE AND WHEN ARE SETC FALL PROFESSIONAL AUDITIONS?
Auditions will be held in Atlanta, GA, Sunday, Sept. 7 and Monday, Sept. 8.

WHO CAN AUDITION?
Auditionees must be at least 19, have a minimum of two paid professional credits or be current Equity members, and cannot be in school.

WHAT ARE QUALIFIER AUDITIONS?
Actors who have only one professional contract or MFA students who will graduate in December may be allowed to try out for a slot in the Sept. 7 Fall Professional Auditions by participating in “qualifying” auditions on Saturday, Sept. 6.

WHAT IS MONOLOGUE SLAM?
Mix and mingle with other auditionees and company reps attending the auditions from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 6. A limited number of auditionees will have an opportunity to try out their material and receive feedback in a fun and social atmosphere!

WHERE WERE SETC’S SPRING 2014 PROFESSIONAL AUDITIONEES AND COMPANIES FROM?

AUDITIONEES
From 37 states and the District of Columbia

COMPANIES (AUDITIONS AND JOB CONTACT SERVICE)
From 34 states and the District of Columbia.

MORE INFO:
www.setc.org/fall-professional
or email: april@setc.org

More info: www.setc.org/auditions
Hiring through SETC:
Companies from A to V Filled Onstage and Offstage Roles in Mobile

Whether they were looking for actors at the Professional Auditions or offstage workers at Job Contact Service, theatres from across the country found lots to like at the 2014 SETC Convention in Mobile.

**Alabama:** Adam Miller, Theatre Tuscaloosa
SETC Job Contact is a wonderful way to connect your organization with new talent. We came seeking new directors, choreographers, scenic designers, and lighting designers, and we left with a huge stack of potential new artistic partners.

**Georgia:** Brian Clowdus, Serenbe Playhouse
SETC Job Contact was fabulous for us! We received loads of resumes and emails of interested artists … We were able to hire our tech company through this process.

**Louisiana:** Nicholas Frederick, Jefferson Performing Arts Society
With the Job Fair, I was able to hire all of my interns for the upcoming season without having to search for them. And to make things better, I think these young men and women are of an even higher quality than some of the ones that I have hired in the past.

**Maine:** Curt Dale Clark, Maine State Music Theatre
Maine State Music Theatre comes away with cast members and technicians from SETC every year!

**Maryland:** Kevin Hasser, National Players
Each year, we see faces at SETC that we don’t see anywhere else, and have cast consistently from the conference. It’s a great conference, and we love going.

**Nebraska:** Kyle Toth, Omaha Theater Company
SETC has become our primary resource for recruiting.

**New York and California:** J. Steven White, Harold Clurman Laboratory Theatre & Stella Adler Theatre
SETC continues to be the best organized of all the conferences which our theatre attends. The actors whom we’ve seen over the years – so many of them make their way to New York and LA. SETC is a developmental ground for our company.

**New York:** Katherine McCreary, Chautauqua Theater Company
My experience hiring at SETC for a prior company made me push for Chautauqua Theater Company to start attending. We now do 80% of our production hiring through SETC Job Contact!

**North Carolina:** William Patti, Highlands Playhouse
We have managed to eliminate several open calls in favor of one weekend at SETC.

**Texas:** Cloyce Kuhnert, Texas Musical Drama
The talent that we hire from SETC integrates beautifully with our community. The amount of ability we see seems to get better and better every year!

**Virginia:** James Scales, Heritage Theatre Festival
I saw many more talented applicants than I had positions available. I could have filled my positions two or three times over.

More info: www.setc.org
Getting a Job through SETC: Auditionees Succeeded in Mobile

The number of roles available at the SETC Spring Professional Auditions increased by 214 this year, to 2,241. Auditionees had a great time showing their stuff to the companies in Mobile, and many already have one or more contracts. In our survey, 83 percent of auditionees said they will be back next year.

I’ve been to SETC three times now and I am in love! … I will always return!
Tierny Breedlove (2 contracts)

It was a great experience. I love SETC! It’s so nice to see so many theatres in one audition.
Alexa Shanahan (1 contract)

Thank you so much!! I had a great experience this year! (and it was my first conference.)
Mary Kathryn Johnson (1 contract)

Thanks for all your hard work!
Rebecca McGraw (2 contracts)

This was my first SETC and I am so grateful for the experience.
D.J. Curtis, Jr. (1 contract)

Along with an offer I turned down, I have had two callbacks in New York … for national tours.
Mike Burke (waiting on possibilities)

Looking forward to next year!
Dee Selmore (3 contracts)

Thank you for helping me book my first professional acting gigs! Very pleased … I’ll be back next spring.
Mike Magliocca (2 contracts)

I love SETC and all the opportunities it presents! I will definitely continue to attend this conference.
Colton Montgomery (1 contract)

Thank you for a great experience!
Alea Figueroa (1 contract)

Auditions for theatre are different from those for film/TV in that you often know which character you will be reading for, and you typically have a chance to view the script ahead of time. However, many of the tips in the article below by film/TV auditions coach Craig Wilson are still relevant in the theatre setting – especially when you’re working on a character.

HATE YOUR AUDITION MATERIAL?

Read the story here: http://tinyurl.com/kmzq66w

More info: www.setc.org/spring-professional
Remembering Mobile: Quotes, Factoids, Awards and People

Did it seem like there were a lot of people in Mobile? There were! Attendance at the 2014 SETC Convention totaled 4,436, an increase of 356 over last year. And was the home of Mardi Gras a great place to visit? As one respondent put it in our annual post-convention survey, “The city of Mobile served as a wonderful host. What fun!”

On the pages that follow, we share award winners, photos ... and what you liked best about SETC 2014.

KEYNOTES

- Keynote speakers were absolutely wonderful!
- Wonderful speakers this year. Wonderful keynote speakers. First year I found all of them interesting and educational!
- Bob Moss was exceptionally encouraging, and very pleasant to listen to.
- Keynote speech with Terence Mann was amazing! It was great to hear from a well known professional in the business.

More than 700 people attended the THEATRE FOR YOUTH FESTIVAL this year.

More info: www.setc.org
2014 SETC CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

WORKSHOPS/PRESENTERS

- I loved the variety of costume and makeup workshops. More of those are always welcome.
- The workshops I took were excellent, informative and useful.
- I really loved the way they got the students to “network” at the tech mixer. It was a fantastic idea, and it even inspired me to think about actually teaching a techie networking workshop.

OVERALL CONVENTION

- Overall, I was very impressed with the convention. I relocated to the South from California and this blows away anything that I’ve seen on the West Coast.
- Can’t wait for SETC 2015!

Ready for Work Award Winners

Winners of SETC’s Ready for Work Award are chosen from graduate entrants in the Design Competition. In addition to a cash prize from SETC, they receive the opportunity to design a show at a theatre. Becki Stafford (second from left), University of Florida, was selected to design a show at Triad Stage in Greensboro, NC, by Preston Lane (third from left). Eric Abele (second from right), Lexington (KY) Children’s Theatre, selected Annie Rupprecht, Florida State University, and Kristen Geisler, University of Tennessee, to design shows. A side note: Abele was the first Ready for Work Award winner. Shown at left is SETC Executive Director Betsey Horth.

Graduate School Scholarship Winners

Award recipients (clockwise from top left): William E. Wilson Award, Melissa Newton, with chair Dean Slusser; Leighton Ballew Award, Tiza Garland, with chair Paul Crook; Denise Halbach Award, Thomas Azar, with Denise Halbach; Robert Porterfield Award, Stefanie Lehmann (right), with chair Abby Kiker; Marion Smith Award, Jacquelyn Loy, with chair Freddy Clements.

Cara Brunow, recipient of the first Tom Behm Award for professional development.

Robert Plowman, winner of the Charles M. Getchell New Play Award, with play project chair Todd Ristau.

More info: www.setc.org/scholarships-a-awards
High School Scholarship Winners

Award recipients from left: Polly Holliday Award, Olivia Skillern, with chair Gary Weatherly; Secondary School Scholarship, Jenn Nichols, with chair Jesse Bates; High School Playwriting Award, Caleigh Derreberry, with chair Meredith Levy.

High School Festival Winners

Best Actress: Linda Perla, James F. Byrnes High School (SC)

Best Actor: Shidarius Barrett, Central Academy for Technology and Arts (NC)

High School Festival runner-up: James F. Byrnes High School (SC), Women of Troy. Above, director Carol Sutton.

High School Festival winner: Central Academy for Technology and Arts (NC), The Parchman Hour. Above, director Larry Robinson.

More info: www.setc.org/high-school-theatre
Community Theatre Festival: Two Winners

Tupelo (MS) Community Theatre won for *The Santaland Diaries*. Shown front are Tom Booth, director, and Todd Barnett, who starred as Crumpet the Elf. Back row from left are members of the production’s stage crew: Mallory Davidson, Bronwyn Teague, Meredith Martin and Suzanne Oakley.

Wetumpka (AL) Depot Players won for *The Fantasticks*. Shown front are Bill Nowell, Jeff Langham and Patty Holley. Back row from left are Colgan Meanor, Stephen Dubberley, Jimmy Veazey, Lex Morton, Kristy Meanor and Christina McCarty.


COMMUNITY THEATRE FESTIVAL

- The community theatre festival was wonderful. You felt welcome in the space.
- The theatre was gorgeous and the tech staff professional. Couldn’t ask for a better venue.
- The Saenger was a terrific facility and their crew could not have been more accommodating. It was one of the best facilities I have seen for any community festival yet.

CONVENTION STAFF AND SET-UP

- Terrific, helpful staff. Great, thorough scheduling. Wonderful workshops.
- The woman who coordinates Job Contact was fantastically helpful. I was completely impressed and quite frankly I will suggest Job Contact to everyone because of her great attitude and helpfulness.
- I really liked that the Education and Commercial Expos, Design/Tech Competitions, Job Contact, and a workshop space and even a café were all in the same giant room. It gave more of a feel of a convention to have the “root” of the convention in that one area – it was as if everyone was coming together to enjoy the convention.

More info: www.setc.org/community-theatre
Costume Design Awards in Honor of Irene Smart Rains

1st: Graduate Costume Design
Alyssa Couturier-Herndon
The Rocky Horror Show

1st: Graduate Costume Design
Isabela Tavares de Melo
Hairspray

1st: Graduate Costume Design
Poua Yang
Mary Stuart

Graduate Costume Design Award Winners
Three-Way Tie for 1st Place:
(Left to right) Alyssa Couturier-Herndon, The Rocky Horror Show, University of Florida;
Isabela Tavares de Melo, Hairspray!, Virginia Commonwealth University;
Poua Yang, Mary Stuart, University of Tennessee.

Properties Design and Construction Awards
sponsored by Friends of Props

(Left to right) 2nd Place: Kristin Viola, Scenic Art for Dancing at Lughnasa, University of Southern Mississippi; 1st Place: Christopher Foote, Confetti Cannon for Hairspray!, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Undergraduate Costume Design Award Winners
(Left to right) Honorable Mention: Emily Faulkner, The Comedy of Errors, Berry College; 3rd Place: Kiyoshi Shaw, Dracula, Virginia Commonwealth University;
2nd Place: Matt Adkins, Miss Witherspoon, Francis Marion University; 1st Place: Sophia Choi, Love Never Dies, Virginia Commonwealth University.
Scenic Design Awards sponsored by Sculptural Arts Coating, Inc.

Undergraduate Scenic Design Award Winners
(Left to right) 3rd Place: Jacob Sailer, One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest, Virginia Commonwealth University; 2nd Place: Benjamin Burke, Other Desert Cities, Virginia Commonwealth University; 1st Place: Matthew Buttrey, The Tempest, Southeast Missouri State University.

Graduate Scenic Design Award Winners
(Left to right) Honorable Mention: Christian Hershey, The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Diety, Virginia Commonwealth University; 3rd Place: Jason Ammons, The Whipping Man, University of Tennessee; 2nd Place: Christopher Rhoton, Chicago, Indiana University; 1st Place: Josafath Reynoso, The Hairy Ape, University of Tennessee.

Sound Design Awards sponsored by Shure, Inc.

(Left to right) Honorable Mention: Joseph Palermo, The 39 Steps, Stetson University; 3rd Place: Andrew Crews, The Two Gentlemen of Verona, Florida School of the Arts; 2nd Place: Kurt Davis, Marisol, University of Mississippi; 1st Place: William Wacker, Sweeney Todd: The Melodrama, Virginia Commonwealth University.

1st: Graduate Scenic Design
Josafath Reynosa
The Hairy Ape

Stage Management Olympics sponsored by Empty Space Technology

(Left to right) 3rd Place: Kate Lindsay, University of Mississippi; 2nd Place: Lorely Dedrick, Point Park University; 1st Place: Brittany McMahon, Northwestern University of Louisiana.

More info: www.setc.org/design-competition
2014 SETC CONVENTION: DESIGN COMPETITION

Lighting Design Awards sponsored by Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.

1st: Graduate Lighting Design
Kenneth Foster
The Whipping Man

Graduate Lighting Design Awards
(Left to right) 3rd Place: Cyndi Hoffman, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Kent State University; 2nd Place: Jaccuelyn Cox, Tribes, University of Arkansas; 1st Place: Kenneth Foster, The Whipping Man, University of Tennessee.

Undergraduate Lighting Design Awards
(Left to right) Honorable Mention: Tyler Rowe, The Sweetest Swing In Baseball, Centre College; 3rd Place: Elisabeth Becraft, Psycho Beach Party, Frostburg State University; 2nd Place: Luke Cresson, Hairspray!, Virginia Commonwealth University; 1st Place: Margaret Peebles, Legally Blonde, Kent State University.

Costume Crafts and Technology Awards sponsored by Norcostco

(Left to right) 3rd Place: Annie Rupprecht, 19th Century Hand Embroidery Silk Shoes, Florida State University; 2nd Place: Grace Mimbs, Baroque Wired Whisk Collar, Savannah College of Art and Design; 1st Place: Lindsay Austria, 18th Century Woman’s Gown, Virginia Commonwealth University.

1st: Crafts and Technology
Lindsay Austria
18th Century Woman’s Gown

More info: www.setc.org/design-competition
It’s Time to Plan Your Workshop Proposals for the 2015 SETC Convention

See below for important deadlines if you would like to propose a workshop for the 2015 SETC Convention in Chattanooga, TN.

Questions? E-mail Tiza Garland at tiza@setc.org.

Thanks to the following for their contributions to the SETC ENDOWMENT

September 2013 through April 2014

Jerry Bangham  
Adanma Barton  
Jesse Bates  
Stephen Bayless  
Tom Behm  
Theresa J. Bush  
Martha Cooper  
Kirk Corley  
Christopher Cowles  
Elizabeth Dooley  
Joseph Fry  
Lindsay Fussell  
Nancy Gall-Clayton  
Tiza Garland  
Janet Gray  
Anthony Haigh  
Denise Halbach  
Andrew Kiechin  
Alan Litsey  
Donald Loeffler  
Russell Luke  
Elaine Malone  
Jennifer Matthews  
Ben McCarthy  
Maegan McNerney  
C. F. Merriles  
Mary Norman  
Eric Olson  
Vicki Parrish  
Sarah Pennington  
Anna Quirk  
Chris Rich  
Julie Richardson  
Courtney Scofield  
Dean Slusser  
John Spiegel  
Jillian Thompson  
Dennis Wemm  
Ashleigh White  
Donna White  
David Wohl  
Melody Yasi
After returning from the 2014 SETC Convention, I realized how lucky I have been to serve this organization in so many positions over the last 25-plus years.

Starting as a member and moving on to become a committee chair, a board member and an officer of SETC, I have had the opportunity to serve an organization that supports theatre. My efforts have been rewarded on many levels. I have received satisfaction from seeing how our auditions, scholarships, competitions and other programs help open doors. I have built lasting friendships with fellow board members. And I have met amazing individuals who have given their time and talent to create theatre.

You, too, can create memories through SETC. All you have to do is get involved! As you can see below, there are many ways to have an impact. If you are interested in serving as an officer, committee chair or board member (or helping in any other way), please contact me at jack@setc.org, Nominations Chair Chris Rich at rcrich@troy.edu or anyone on the Executive Committee (see Page 2). You’ll be glad you did!
Become a Life Member Now – Before Rates Go Up on July 1

Membership and convention rates are increasing on July 1 of this year. The Board of Directors voted in favor of a small increase, effective for the 2014-2015 year.

Act fast, and you can save money on a Life Membership!

If you become a Life Member by June 30, you will save 10 percent and your fee actually goes to support the Endowment Fund, which helps fund SETC scholarships. You can even designate the scholarship award that receives your contribution. And, because Life Memberships support the Endowment, they are TAX-DEDUCTIBLE! Contact Central Office’s Rachel Blake at rachel@setc.org for more information on how you can become a Life Member! The cost of a Life Membership currently is $1,200. After June 30, it will be $1,320.

General membership fees after June 30:

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2015 SETC Convention registration fees (includes membership):

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2015 SETC Convention registration fees (membership not included):

For Life Members or current members paid thru 6/30/15. (Please verify before sending.)

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On-site Registration

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If you purchased a 2014 convention registration, your SETC membership is paid through Dec. 31, 2014.
SETC Theatre Symposium Held in Atlanta

The SETC Theatre Symposium held its 23rd annual conference April 11-13 at Agnes Scott College in Atlanta. Three dozen scholars – representing 25 institutions from across the U.S. – presented research related to the topic, “Theatre and Youth,” at the event, organized by editor David S. Thompson.

The keynote speaker was Suzan Zeder, the award-winning playwright, educator and theatre for youth advocate (shown at right in picture above, with participant Ann Marie Gardinier Halstead). Zeder recently retired after 25 years at the University of Texas at Austin, where she held the nation’s first endowed chair in theatre for youth. She used the occasion to share the news that she has just completed the process of transforming *Wiley and the Hairy Man*, arguably her best-known and most popular play, into a new musical.

Zeder’s keynote address was playfully titled, “Theatre and Youth: It’s All About the Prepositions.” During a lively 90-minute session, she discussed developments in theatre for, by, about and with youth. At the same time, she managed to preview symposium papers by discussing the authors’ abstracts as they might relate to the prepositional phrases she used as inspiration.

Panel topics ranged from education to social change, original dramas to adaptations, native forms to international hits, Peter Pan to Pinkalicious.

SETC thanks the faculty and staff of Agnes Scott College, associate editor Jane Barnette, and former editors J. K. Curry, Phil Hill, Scott Phillips and Bert Wallace for their contributions. Selected papers will appear in the journal, *Theatre Symposium 23*, scheduled for publication in summer 2015.

Would You Like to Immerse Yourself in Playwriting for a Week?

Playwright Wendy MacLeod, Thursday’s keynote speaker at the 2014 SETC Convention, is one of the faculty leading the Kenyon Playwrights Conference in Ohio from June 8-15. For more information, visit [www.kenyoninstitute.org/programs/playwrights-conference](http://www.kenyoninstitute.org/programs/playwrights-conference).

SETC Executive Committee Meeting Scheduled in Greensboro

The SETC Executive Committee meets May 23-24 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC. All members are invited to attend. Details and times? Email us at info@setc.org.