Monologue Slam!!

Join your fellow professional auditionees and company representatives from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6, for Monologue Slam!!, emceed by Lee Buckholz (right), associate producer at Derby Dinner Playhouse in Clarksville, IN. This mixer will provide a great opportunity to network with company reps and other actors – and you might even get a chance to showcase your talent!

All auditionees attending will be invited to place their names in a bucket. If your name is pulled out of the bucket, you will have one minute to wow the panel, which will give vital feedback on your work.

“It’s so amazing how SETC is constantly working to meet the needs of its members!” says Buckholz. “The creation of the Monologue Slam!! is the perfect example of a fun and innovative way for actors to ‘test drive’ their material, get some helpful feedback and shake off the nerves before the actual audition.”
New Pricing Option Offers Reduced Rate to Professional Companies at Fall Professional Auditions

SETC is now offering a special three-year pricing option to professional companies that attend Fall Professional Auditions.

Companies that commit to attending Fall Professional Auditions for a three-year period will pay an advance fee of $110 – which includes the normal $50 fee for the first year and reduced fees of $40 for the second year and $20 for the third year.

This new option is retroactive to 2013. So any company that attended Fall Auditions last year can attend both this year and next year for a two-year fee of $60 (just $10 more than the regular yearly fee).

The new three-year pricing option was suggested by longtime professional company representatives. In addition to providing regular attendees with monetary savings, the three-year option allows SETC to generate more interest with auditionees by publicizing in advance the names of companies that will be attending auditions.

Companies can sign up for this pricing option when they register for Fall Professional Auditions. Go to www.setc.org/fall-professional, scroll down to “Register below by clicking on one of the following categories:” and click on “Theatres.”

Have You Made Plans to Attend 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.

ASK SETC

Q I am a professional actor who won’t know my availability for the Fall Professional Auditions until around September 1, after the registration deadline. Is there any way I can walk in if I find I am available?

A Yes, walk-in registration is available at the Fall Auditions. However, you will pay a higher fee. The cost for walk-ins is $60. All walk-ins will audition on Monday, Sept. 8. More info will be available after noon, Aug. 22, at www.setc.org/fall-professional

More info: www.setc.org
PROFESSIONAL COMPANY SPOTLIGHT

Hiring through SETC: Top Hat Productions

‘SETC assists Top Hat by providing us with quality talent – both actors and staff.’ - Dennis McKeen, Top Hat Productions

SETC recently caught up with Dennis McKeen at Top Hat Productions, which produces shows for Cornwell’s Dinner Theatre in Marshall, MI.

Tell us about your theatre.
Top Hat Productions was founded in 1989 as a touring company, with a mission of producing quality theatre with a heart. In 2001, it became the resident company at Cornwell’s Dinner Theatre, which has a 155-seat proscenium theatre.

What type of shows do you produce?
We produce musicals, both large and small. Our first production was Smoke on the Mountain. We are currently producing Suds, which will be followed by Ring of Fire in August 2014.

Where do you find your actors and crew? And are they all paid?
All cast and crew members are paid. We have hired through SETC for 15 years. We also attend UPTA auditions, find some cast and crew in New York, and hold in-house auditions.

What is the most unusual or interesting fact about your theatre?
Our dinner theatre only serves turkey – no beef, no chicken, no fish. The theatre is located in Cornwell’s Turkeyville, a turkey-themed restaurant that dates to 1968.

How does SETC assist you in your operations as a theatre?
SETC helps by controlling the quality of actors, which allows us to present quality theatre.

More info: www.turkeyville.com
Getting a Job through SETC:
Dametria ‘Dee’ Selmore

Dametria Selmore was offered three contracts after the SETC Professional Auditions in March – and will soon make her professional theatre debut at Mill Mountain Theatre.

How long have you been involved in theatre?
I have been performing in plays since 2000, when I was cast in Schoolhouse Rock. I have worked extensively in community theatre and university theatre in the Tallahassee area, where I earned a bachelor’s degree in theatre performance at Florida A&M University and a master’s degree in theatre education at Florida State University.

What role are you working on now?
I am currently in the process of preparing for the lead role of Effie in Dreamgirls, which will be playing at the Quincy Music Theatre (Quincy, FL) in late August. The past few weeks have been spent doing script analysis, lots of singing, and watching videos of Motown and other performers of the era. It’s not really like doing work because it’s so much fun.

How long have you been involved with SETC?
This is my second consecutive year participating in the SETC Professional Auditions. Last year, I got several callbacks, including one from Joy Dewing Casting, which called me back a second time to audition in New York for a national tour. This year I had six callbacks and was offered three contracts. I accepted a contract to portray Calpurnia in To Kill a Mockingbird in October at Mill Mountain Theatre in Roanoke, VA, and am waiting to hear about a second potential contract.

How has SETC assisted you as a theatre professional?
I have been introduced to a vast network of professionals and hopefuls that I would not have come into contact with otherwise. SETC has helped me strengthen my theatre network and has given me amazing audition experiences – and of course, my first professional theatre job!
What Are the Top Four Ways that SETC Connects You to Opportunity?

SETC is a professional theatre powerhouse! Whether you are looking for professional theatre work, aiming to hire qualified professionals or seeking artistic nourishment, the SETC Convention in March provides all of the above – and much more! SETC also connects professionals to jobs at Fall Auditions and offers year-round job matching services via the online jobs board.

**Fall Professional Auditions**
Approximately 30 professional theatres will gather at Fall Professional Auditions in Atlanta on Sept. 7 and 8 to audition over 200 actors as they cast their seasons. Registration for both companies and actors is now open. More info: [www.setc.org/fall-professional](http://www.setc.org/fall-professional).

**Spring Professional Auditions**
Approximately 90 professional theatres from across the nation audition 800 actors at the annual SETC Convention, one of the nation’s top audition opportunities. Professional actors apply online; performers who are not yet working professionals may obtain an audition slot by qualifying at one of the professional screening auditions that are held at 10 locations. Screening details: See box at left or visit [www.setc.org/setc-screenings](http://www.setc.org/setc-screenings).

**Job Contact Service (Theatre Job Fair)**
SETC hosts one of the nation’s largest offstage theatre job fairs, with 850-plus participants looking to fill offstage theatre positions. SETC also offers a continuous service, Job Contact Bulletin, to connect theatre companies with theatre professionals year-round. More info: [www.setc.org/job-fair-job-contact-service](http://www.setc.org/job-fair-job-contact-service).

**Keynotes, Workshops with Top Professionals**
In addition to auditioning and looking for an offstage job, you have the opportunity to hear from world-renowned keynote speakers, attend master classes, and enjoy a plethora of exciting workshops at the SETC Convention, to be held March 4-8 in Chattanooga, TN, in 2015.

SETC connects you to vital professional experiences. I hope to connect with you in Chattanooga!
Take the Leap: Enter the Community Theatre Festival in Your State

If you have never entered your community theatre festival at the state or regional level, make this the year! Having entered, adjudicated and run community theatre festivals at various times, I can tell you that you shouldn’t feel intimidated by the prospect. I would like to share some important information and some food for thought that may make it easier for you.

First, some basics:
You most likely will begin by entering a production in the community theatre festival in your state. Then, if your production is chosen as a winner in that festival, you will represent your state at the SETC regional festival in Chattanooga, TN, on March 4-8, 2015. The SETC Community Theatre Festival is held every year, but the national AACTFest is only held every two years. This is a national year, so if you are lucky enough to place at the SETC festival this year, you could find yourself representing not only your state, but also the Southeast region at the AACTFest 2015 national festival in Grand Rapids, MI.

Now, some tips for success:
• Read your festival manual. Because this is a national year, all the festivals you are involved in should follow the AACT Festival Handbook. Go to www.aact.org, find Festivals/Events, locate AACTFest on the dropdown menu, and go to “AACTFest Handbook & Related Documents.” You can print the handbook or download it as a pdf. Read it thoroughly. Know what forms you have to complete. Know the procedures. The manual is there to help you navigate and enjoy the festival experience.
• Don’t be afraid to ask questions of your festival chair or anyone else who is there to assist you. They want you to do well!
• See as much of the festival as possible. I learned so much by watching other theatres perform at the festival. I watched their load-ins, performances, load-outs and adjudications as much as I could. Listen, learn and enjoy.
• Network with other theatres. I have met great people at the festival that I now consider friends. Those contacts can be so helpful. I know there are people out there that I can call or email if I need help or advice – and those are people with other theatres throughout the region, not just near my theatre.
• Put a smile on your face, and your best foot forward. This may be a competition, but more importantly, it is a celebration of theatre! Cheer each other on, thank your tech crew, exchange ideas, and enjoy the ride.

The Fantasticks, presented by Wetumpka Depot Players of Alabama, was one of two winners of the 2014 SETC Community Theatre Festival.
Universities, Professionals, Youth: We Want to Showcase Your Work

Each year, the SETC Convention includes a Theatre for Youth Invitational Festival. We are currently seeking theatres to participate in the 2015 festival in Chattanooga, TN.

Did you know that . . .

• We look for three different types of productions to showcase in the festival? Each year we like to showcase a university production, a professional production, and a youth theatre production at the festival.

• Over 300 young people from Chattanooga will get to experience the shows that are a part of the festival? SETC has a partnership with Allied Arts of Chattanooga, which connects us with young people who are able to come and see companies and shows that they would otherwise not get to experience.

• Festival participants will receive personal, constructive and insightful feedback from professional theatre artists from around the country? Every year we bring in two respondents with varied experiences to give feedback to both actors and producers.

• The Theatre for Youth Invitational Festival is already accepting applications for the 2015 SETC Convention in Chattanooga? The deadline for application is Nov. 15, 2014, so you still have plenty of time to apply. However, we are ready to accept applications today!

• You can apply online to be part of the 2015 Theatre for Youth Festival? Simply visit www.setc.org/theatre-for-youth and click on “Download the 2015 Theatre for Youth Invitational Festival Application.” For more information, please contact me at amiekisling@gmail.com. See you in Chattanooga!
Help Your High School Students Become Lifelong Artists

I recently ran across the following quote from Pablo Picasso: “Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist as he grows up.”

As theatre educators, we have a responsibility to help all students realize they can continue in the arts, specifically theatre, as they grow up. The skills we teach will carry our students much further than just our high school stages. We have a great opportunity to share with our students how they can take these skills into every phase of their lives.

Connecting your students to SETC early on is a great way to help them see how they can remain artists as they grow up. Whether your school is selected by your state to bring a show to our High School Theatre Festival or not, I encourage you to find a way to bring students to the SETC Convention, scheduled for March 4-8, 2015, in Chattanooga, TN.

Bringing students to the SETC Convention gives them the opportunity to:

- Apply for scholarships.
- Meet with college representatives.
- Attend workshops.
- Meet and get to know other creative people like themselves.
- Hear keynote speakers and industry experts describe how they continued to be artists as they grew up.
- See other high schools perform in our High School Theatre Festival.
- Watch a community theatre festival production to see how they can continue in theatre beyond high school.

Be sure to check out all the scholarships that SETC offers and share those with your students this year. (See links at left.) Let’s have more students than ever apply this year. And let’s also have more teachers then ever nominate students for the KEAP Award.

I hope to meet you – and some of your students – in Chattanooga in March. As one of the lines in the Holstee Manifesto says, “Life is about the people you meet and the things you create with them.”
It’s Easy to Propose a Workshop for SETC 2015 in Chattanooga!

Do you have a great idea for a workshop or presentation at the SETC Convention, but are not sure how to propose it? Or perhaps you want to present, but don’t have a workshop idea? Let the College and University Theatre Division help you!

Division Vice-Chair Maegan McNerney Azar and I want to encourage all division members to propose workshops. The more, the merrier! If you’re not sure about your workshop concept, or just want to bounce around some ideas, shoot me an email at pcrook@latech.edu. I’m happy to be a sounding board.

How to propose a workshop
Simply point your browser to www.setc.org/workshop-proposals and follow the directions to complete the online proposal form. You will be notified via email about the status of your proposal in mid to late November.

Now, the fun part: the ideas!
Maegan and I have chatted with professors and colleagues and have come up with some workshop possibilities, should you care to explore them. See if one of these topics sparks your interest. If so, take it and run with it!

Possible topics:
• Rubrics and assessment in performance classes
• Creating syllabi
• Technology in theatre classrooms and onstage
• How to build a social media platform for your department
• Tackling onstage nudity and other sensitive issues in a college environment
• How artists can navigate university politics effectively
• Cross-curricular and inter-departmental collaboration
• How theatre can become the “face” of your institution
• Local grant money and how to find it

Remember, these are just suggestions. I know many of you have your own fantastic ideas, so start planning and start proposing now!
Looking for a Graduate Theatre Program?
Student Registration for LiNK Opens Aug. 1

What is LiNK?
LiNK is a weekend-long event that allows prospective graduate students to connect, in one place, with numerous graduate level theatre programs in acting, directing, design, technology, stage management and arts administration.

When and where is LiNK?
LiNK will be held Friday, Nov. 14 and Saturday, Nov. 15, 2014, at the Hilton Atlanta Airport in Atlanta, GA.

What does it cost?
The cost is only $40 for an individual to attend LiNK for auditions, interviews and portfolio reviews. Special room rates, free internet and free parking have been negotiated at the Hilton to make this event even more economical for all.

Who sponsors LiNK?
LiNK was developed jointly by SETC and USITT to provide a convenient and affordable way for graduate schools and applicants from all over the country to connect. As the platinum sponsor for LiNK, Focal Press will provide a Friday evening social event that will give school representatives and applicants a chance to meet and converse in a casual setting.

What schools will be there?
Visit www.setc.org/LiNK14 for the most up-to-date listing. As of June 30, the following institutions had committed to attending LiNK:

- Boston University
- DePaul University
- Florida State University
- Louisiana Tech University
- Rutgers University
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- Southern Illinois University – Carbondale
- Stella Adler Studio of Acting/Art of Acting Studio
- University of Alabama
- University of Georgia
- University of North Carolina School of the Arts
- University of Texas at Austin
- University of Memphis
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Wayne State University

SCHOOLS CAN REGISTER NOW FOR LiNK!
Registration is currently open for schools. The cost for a graduate program to recruit at LiNK is $125. That fee includes registration for school representatives, a display table for promotional materials, and access to all applicants’ online materials prior to the event.

DETAILS:
Information about registration and the areas for which schools are recruiting can be found at www.setc.org/link14.

QUESTIONS:
Contact Claire Wisniewski in the SETC Central Office at 336-272-3645 or claire@setc.org.

More info: www.setc.org/LiNK14
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

2014 - 2015 SETC Calendar

Aug. 1, 2014  Student registration opens for LiNK: Your Connection to Advanced Theatre Degrees
Aug. 21, 2014 Deadline: Hotel reservations for Fall Meetings/Auditions
Aug. 22, 2014 Deadline:
◆ Online submission of professional actor/dancer applications for Fall Professional Auditions
◆ For POSTMARK on applications by companies for Fall Professional Auditions
Sept. 5 – 6, 2014 Fall Board/Advisory Council Meetings, Atlanta, GA
Sept. 7 – 8, 2014 Fall Professional Auditions, Atlanta, GA
See Page 6 for list; or check with your state coordinator, your college or university theatre department; or visit www.setc.org/setc-screenings
Oct. 15, 2014 2015 SETC Convention registration opens
Mid-November 2015 SETC Convention hotel reservations open: www.setc.org/hotel-info
Nov. 14 -16, 2014 LiNK: Your Connection to Advanced Theatre Degrees, Atlanta, GA
Nov. 15, 2014 Deadline:
◆ Fringe Festival applications
◆ Convention program advertising
Nov. 21, 2014 Deadline: SETC Young Scholar’s Award entries
Dec. 18, 2014 Deadline:
◆ Early bird convention registration
◆ Early bird Commercial Exhibits and Ed Expo reservations
Jan. 14, 2015 Final Deadline:
◆ Convention Commercial Exhibit space reservations
◆ Education Expo space reservations (Non-Commercial Exhibits)
Jan. 15, 2015 Deadline:
◆ Professional AUDITIONEE application/registration
◆ Refund requests – no refunds after this date
◆ SETC Secondary School Scholarship (High School Students)
◆ Keynote Emerging Artist of Promise (KEAP) Award (High School Students)
◆ William E. Wilson Scholarship applications (High School Teachers)
◆ Denise Halbach Award applications (Graduate Study in Acting or Musical Theatre Performance)
◆ Leighton M. Ballew Award applications (Graduate Study in Directing)
◆ Robert Porterfield Award applications (Graduate Study)
◆ Tom Behm Award applications (Theatre for Youth)
Jan. 16, 2015 Deadline: Convention program to printer; no changes after this date.
Jan. 21, 2015 Deadline:
◆ Polly Holliday Award applications (High School Students)
◆ Marian A. Smith Award applications (Costume Design)
Jan. 22, 2015 Deadline: EMPLOYER registration for Spring Auditions and Job Contact Service
Jan. 28, 2015 Deadline:
◆ Online applications from auditionees for Graduate Auditions and Undergraduate Auditions/College Interviews
◆ Entries in Graduate and Undergraduate Design Competition (Scene, Costume, Lighting, Crafts/Technology)
◆ Convention advance registration (Individuals, students and seniors)
◆ Applications by college and university institutions and representatives for Graduate and Undergraduate Auditions/Interviews
FULL FEES WILL BE CHARGED to all applications postmarked after this date and on-site
Feb. 18, 2015 Deadline: Convention hotel reservations
March 4 – 8, 2015 66th Annual SETC Convention, Chattanooga, TN

More info: www.setc.org
College-University Directory Goes Live in Fall 2014

The SETC College, University & Training Program Directory, published annually in the Winter issue of *Southern Theatre* magazine, will also be published online as a live, searchable directory beginning in the fall of 2014. Listings will be searchable in several categories (such as degree type and interest area).

The online version will list all schools that are members of SETC. It will be updated during the year to add information for schools that recruit at the SETC Convention, so the information is easily accessible to auditionees.

Questions: Contact Claire Wisniewski in the SETC Central Office at 336-272-3645 or claire@setc.org.

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 Executive Committee met in Greensboro, NC, on May 23 and 24, 2014. The following action was taken by the Board. (Full minutes are available on the SETC website at www.setc.org/leadership/minutes-archives.)

- Approved the following change to Rule 1.6: “… May meeting will be the weekend following the second Sunday in May.”

Updated SETC Membership Directory Is Now Online

Looking for the contact information of another SETC member? The updated SETC Membership Directory is now online. Just log in to your account at http://setc.matchingneeds.com to access the directory. Note: The directory includes, and is accessible to, individual members only, not students and organizations.

Reserve Your Ad Space in *Southern Theatre* Magazine

SETC is now booking ads for the 2014-15 volume of *Southern Theatre*, our quarterly magazine. For more information or to place an ad, visit www.setc.org/advertising or email Tracy Hall at tracy@setc.org.

More info: www.setc.org
Support Your Colleagues!
Enjoy Outdoor Drama This Summer

Summer is a time when many people flock to beaches, pools, camps, mountains and theme parks. Others plan to do those things around the house that they have put off through the cold months leading up to summer.

As I began to look and plan what we were going to do this summer, I was reminded that many students and colleagues were not planning vacations at all. Instead, they were busy preparing themselves for the gig known as “summer theatre.”

The choices abound for anyone who wishes to attend theatre this summer throughout the country, including historical outdoor dramas and Shakespeare festivals in a number of states.

So why not take in a show or two? It’s great theatre, and you are supporting the membership of SETC! See the list below for ideas. Or visit the Institute of Outdoor Theatre website at www.outdoor-theatre.org. See you on the road!

Traveling this summer? Here are some SETC member outdoor theatres that would love to have you in the audience:

- Utah Shakespeare Festival, Cedar City, UT
- Unto These Hills, Cherokee, NC
- Trumpet in the Land, New Philadelphia, OH
- The Lost Colony, Manteo, NC
- Texas Outdoor Musical Drama, Canyon, TX
- Tecumseh!, Chillicothe, OH
- Serenbe Playhouse, Chattahoochee Hills, GA
- Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Boise, ID
- Horn in the West, Boone, NC
- Santa Fe Opera, Santa Fe, NM

Many of these theatres offer discounts to SETC members. Email april@setc.org for more information.
Senior Adult Theatre: Embrace This Trend in Your State

Are you seeing a growing senior theatre movement where you live? In recent years, more and more communities are starting senior (55 and older) theatre groups. In Florida, where I serve as executive director of the Florida Theatre Conference, we have responded to this surge of interest in senior theatre by developing a new theatre division: the DraMature Division.

How are senior theatres organized and what do they perform?

Some senior theatre groups are independent, and others are part of established theatre companies. Programs created with the senior actor in mind range from readers’ theatre to variety shows to full-length productions.

A good example in Florida is the Golden Troupers, created almost 20 years ago by the Ocala Civic Theatre under the leadership of Executive Director Mary Britt. This group offers performance opportunities for older actors and provides an outreach to the community. Golden Troupers are goodwill ambassadors, often serving clubs and organizations that could not come to the theatre. As a readers’ theatre group, the Golden Troupers can easily travel and perform in almost any type of meeting space.

How can you incorporate senior theatre into a state festival?

As we prepared to launch our new senior theatre division in Florida last year, the Florida Theatre Conference invited the Golden Troupers to present their work in a Senior Showcase at the 2013 FTC Festival. The Troupers performed short, comic readings and several songs and then took questions from the audience. Members of the group wrote all of the readings, which included works that have been published by ArtAge Publications. The showcase was such a hit that several additional groups want to participate in the 2014 FTC Festival.

In addition to hosting the Senior Showcase again this year at our annual festival, we also are expanding our offerings to include specific workshops and seminars geared to those involved in senior theatre.

I encourage each state organization to explore options to incorporate senior theatre into their state festivals.

More info: www.flatheatre.org/dramature.html
When Can You Book a Room for SETC 2015? Hotel Reservations Open November 10

It is around this time every year that people start asking, “When can I reserve a hotel room for the next convention?” Actually, folks start asking a lot earlier – sometimes at the previous convention!

We are trying something new this year: opening up hotel reservations closer to the actual date of the event. This is a practice that is increasingly popular for conventions in the meeting planning industry. It gives people a little extra time to be sure of their schedules before committing to a hotel room. We hope you will find the timing beneficial as you plan your trip to SETC’s 66th annual convention.

Hotel reservations for the March 4-8, 2015 annual convention will open on November 10, 2014.

Here are a few additional things you will want to know:

- All reservations will be made directly with the convention hotels. You will find the hotel listings on the SETC website in October.
- Fourteen days prior to your arrival, the hotel will charge your credit card for the entire stay that you have booked. **Note to self:** If I have to cancel my room, I will do so more than fourteen days before my planned arrival date!
- There are payment options for groups.
- Individuals willing to book and guarantee Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday night reservations should contact SETC’s Central Office before Oct. 30 at info@setc.org or 336-272-3645. You will be invited to pre-reserve.
- Hiring theatres should contact April J’C Marshall at april@setc.org for information on their hotel reservations.

More info: www.setc.org/convention
Crowdsourcing Helps Student Pay for Travel to SETC Convention

Remember Cassie Garner, the University of West Georgia student who used the crowdsourcing site GoFundMe to raise money for a trip to the 2014 SETC Convention?

SETC News shared her quest to attend the SETC Convention in our January/February 2014 issue. Cassie related then that she was graduating in May and wanted to look for a job as a theatre props designer, scenic charge or carpenter at the SETC Convention. I contacted her recently to find out how it worked out.

Was crowdfunding a success for you?
GoFundMe was a huge success in helping me go to SETC this past March. With the help of donations of $1,150, my trip was fully funded.

Did you get a job at the SETC Convention?
I got a job at The Lost Colony, the outdoor drama in Manteo, NC. It’s the same job I had with them last year: assistant props master/scenic charge artist. I maintain and repair stock props, beginning with rehearsals through the run of the show. I also run the Stage Left props track. As the scenic charge artist, I maintain the quality of painted flats, set pieces and props. I mix paints to match the work already applied, keep stock of the paints and maintain the paint area.

Do you have a job lined up after that position ends?
I don’t have a job yet for after the summer. However, I have interviewed with Geva Theatre Center in Rochester, NY, and am waiting to hear back from them.

What advice do you have for others on raising money through GoFundMe?
The best advice I have for anyone who wants to use sites such as GoFundMe is to be genuine, give as much information as you can about your situation, and explain clearly your reasons for needing funds. There are always people looking to help someone in need or help those who want to fulfill a dream.
Avoid Contract Disputes by Spelling Out Agreement Details

It is amazing how unclear the language in a contract can be. In general, a contract (or agreement) requires a “meeting of the minds” – i.e., the parties know the terms and conditions and agree upon them.

If the language is unclear, ambiguous and non-specific, it could mean that there is no real meeting of the minds. That can cause headaches and ultimately lawsuits! It is in everybody’s best interest to have a document that truly represents what the parties knowingly are agreeing to. Follow these four steps to avoid disputes.

Remember the purpose
Keep in mind that the reason for a contract is to identify the terms and conditions of how the parties are going to work together in a way that benefits all the parties.

Include specifics
If you want to be sure that the contract will allow you to do something (or prohibit the other party from doing something), spell it out. If, for example, you have a contract that gives you a non-exclusive license to produce and videotape a play and you know you want to sell copies of the videotape, you could add language that begins with one of my favorite clauses: “Notwithstanding any language or interpretation to the contrary, Theatre X has the right to sell copies of the audio-video recording of The Play.”

Don’t remove protections for ambiguity
Under general contract law rules of construction, if there is an ambiguity in a term, a court will interpret it in favor of the nondrafting party. Presumably, the drafter of a document has the ability to write something in unambiguous terms. Recently, I have seen “boilerplate” language specifically removing that general rule of contract interpretation. Not a good idea – unless you are the drafter!

Read the contract before signing
The crucial (yet often missed) step in reviewing a contract is to thoroughly read it. If there are words or abbreviations that you don’t understand, ask about them! Don’t sign the contract until you are comfortable with it.

Dan Ellison is a Durham, NC-based attorney with a concentration in arts-related and nonprofit law. He can be reached at artandmuseumlaw@aol.com. 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 circumstance.
IOD Is Now the Institute of Outdoor Theatre

The Institute of Outdoor Drama is now the Institute of Outdoor Theatre (IOT). In announcing the name change, the organization noted that, “In 1963 when the Institute was founded, the organization focused exclusively on serving the American historical drama movement. In the ensuing years our membership expanded to include Shakespeare festivals, musicals, religious and contemporary plays, and today we aim at serving all types of outdoor theatre around the world. To reflect both this reality and mission, our Board has approved changing our name to the Institute of Outdoor Theatre (or IOT).” More info is available on the new website: www.outdoor-theatre.org.

IOT also announced that the National Archives’ National Historical Publications and Records Commission has awarded a grant to East Carolina University’s Joyner Library to process IOT’s archives. The grant is part of the commission’s Documenting Democracy: Access to Historical Records program, which funds projects that promote the preservation and use of the nation’s most valuable archival resources.

In Memoriam:

Hazel Hall Brennan

Hazel Hall Brennan, a longtime professor of theatre at Columbus State University in Columbus, GA, passed away on May 18, 2014, at the age of 73. Active for many years in SETC, Brennan served as President of the organization in 1984-1985. More information: www.legacy.com/obituaries/ledger-enquirer/obituary.aspx?pid=171096611

Newton Neeley

Newton Neeley, a former professor of theatre at the University of Montevallo in Alabama, passed away on June 29, 2014. He served as SETC President in 1987-88. Details were not yet available on a memorial service at press time.