2017 SETC Convention ● March 1-5 ● Lexington, KY

Saturday Keynote/Distinguished Career Award Winner
OSKAR EUSTIS, THE PUBLIC THEATER

Oskar Eustis, the highly acclaimed artistic director of The Public Theater who helped bring the Broadway hit musical *Hamilton* to the stage, will speak Saturday at the 2017 SETC Convention and accept SETC’s Distinguished Career Award at the Awards Banquet that night.

Recognized as one of the most important leaders in theatre today, Eustis came to The Public in 2005 from Trinity Repertory Company in Providence, RI, where he served as artistic director from 1994 to 2005. Prior to that, Eustis was associate artistic director at Los Angeles’ Mark Taper Forum and resident director, dramaturg and artistic director at Eureka Theatre Company in San Francisco. He is currently a professor of dramatic writing and arts and public policy at New York University. Throughout his career, Eustis has been dedicated to the development of new plays as a director, dramaturg and producer.

Don’t miss Oskar Eustis’s keynote: ‘The State of American Theatre’
4 p.m., Saturday, March 4, 2017

“I will discuss the changes and opportunities facing the nonprofit theatre in this tumultuous age, with references both to our successes and to where we are falling short, as a field,” Eustis said.

Registration: www.setc.org/register
LIVE IN CONCERT:
‘Ripley’s Greatest Hits’

SETC Convention attendees are in for a treat! Tony Award-winning actress and singer Alice Ripley will follow up her Thursday keynote address with a concert at 9 p.m., Friday, March 3.

Tickets are $15 and can be purchased through the convention registration portal. Seating is limited, so reserve your ticket early.

JUST FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:
‘Alice Ripley Masterclass and Pizza Party’

High school groups attending the SETC Convention will have an opportunity to join Alice Ripley on the opening night of the convention for a special event designed just for them. Ripley will present a workshop, “Ripley Mechanics,” which will focus on helping students break down habits and build up core integrity. Pizza also will be served. This event, scheduled for 5:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 1, is sponsored by Middle Tennessee State University. High school groups will receive invitations to attend this event when they register as a group to attend the SETC Convention. More info: claire@setc.org.

INTERESTED IN WORKING IN OUTDOOR THEATRE?
Get the Scoop in a Wednesday Night Workshop

Brandon Smith (Tecumseh!) and Brian Clowdus (Serenbe Playhouse) will share information about what it is like to work for an outdoor theatre organization, whether in a theatre or a found space, in a 7 p.m. Wednesday session at the SETC Convention: “All Outdoors Is a Stage: Working and Growing in Outdoor Theatre.” They will answer question such as: Are there differences between indoor and outdoor theatre? If so, what are they? Come find out if working outdoors is the career for you.
Charles M. Getchell Award

W.L. Newkirk Explores 1960s Thalidomide Scare in [Miss]

W.L. Newkirk, whose play [Miss] won SETC’s 2017 Charles M. Getchell Award, is a full-time playwright based in Celebration, FL. He’s also a retired physician who holds an undergraduate degree from Harvard and a medical degree from Ohio State University.

“I made films before I went to medical school and loved it, but I felt I could contribute more in life as a doctor,” he says. “So, I made this deal with myself that I would be a doctor until I turned 60, then I would go back to making films. But a strange thing happened early in my career as a doctor: I found success as a writer. So, I divided my time between writing and practicing medicine until 60. Since then, I’ve written full-time.”

Based on true events, [Miss] tells the story of Dr. Frances Kelsey’s epic battle with the William S. Merrell Company over the introduction of thalidomide – a drug found to cause severe birth defects – into the U.S. The idea for [Miss] came to Newkirk when he saw Kelsey’s obituary in 2015.

“I started researching her story and came across the court testimony of the Merrell executives in the case and couldn’t believe what they admitted doing,” Newkirk says. “So, I was off on a detective search ... The challenge was whether this complex true story about the approval of a drug at the FDA could be turned into a stage play.”

The answer was a resounding yes. [Miss] has been a finalist for several other awards, in addition to winning the Getchell Award.

Staged Reading: Check your SETC Convention program for the location of the staged reading and critique on Friday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m.
Have you created a design projection, a video or digital media for a hypothetical or realized production that you believe is award-worthy? Deadline is Jan. 27 for submissions to SETC’s first annual Projection Design Competition. This competition, sponsored by Broadway Media Distribution, is open to graduate and undergraduate designers. Three winners will be named and will receive prizes – 1st Place: $125; 2nd Place: $75; 3rd Place: $50.

More info: www.setc.org/design-competition

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Auditioning or Interviewing? Get Professional Feedback at Prep Sessions!

For Auditionees
Receive one-on-one coaching before your SETC audition at the “Musical Theatre Coaching Sessions,” beginning at 6 p.m., Wednesday, March 1, and continuing through the week. Both professional and college auditionees may sign up for 10-minute slots to run their auditions and get feedback from a professional vocal coach and an accompanist.
Sign-up sheets will be located outside the session rooms. Look for more details in the convention program.

For Job Candidates
Receive a review/critique of your resume on Wednesday night before the Theatre Job Fair opens. Constance Smith (Chipola Center for the Arts) and members of the SETC Professional Division will provide critiques and offer inside information about the Job Fair process at the “Theatre Job Fair: Production Resume Review” session from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1.
The session is open to all job candidates seeking technical theatre positions via SETC’s Job Fair. Look for more details in the convention program.

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SETC Design Competition Adds New Projection Award

Sponsored by

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Start planning your days at the 2017 SETC Convention soon with our mobile app, which will be available in February:
• in the Google Play Store (Android phone and tablet)
• in the Apple App Store (iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch)
• online at www.setc.org, allowing you to access info from your laptop

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www.setc.org
Don’t Miss Fringe Festival 2017!

This year’s Fringe Festival includes a fantastic array of shows, from a puppet theatre presentation to Breakneck Julius Caesar to a play produced as part of a Black Lives Matter-themed weekend. Make time in your convention schedule to catch the Fringe!

Thursday, March 2
Midnight
Tales from the Whiskey Barrel
Whiskey Barrel Theatre
Creators/Playwrights: Jason Ammons, Haley Ramsey
The wilder (whiskey-soaked) moments from Tennessee history come to life in this light-hearted puppet theatre presentation.

Friday, March 3
Noon - 1:05 p.m.
She Made Space
Hollins University Playwright’s Lab
Creator/Playwright: Meredith Dayna Levy
“An arrival is an arrival is an arrival is an arrival.” Echo traces her journey to her arrival in Paris, at the turn of the 20th century.

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Breakneck Julius Caesar
Timothy Mooney Repertory Theatre
Creator/Playwright: Timothy Mooney
Everything you need to enjoy Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar in one hour by one guy!

7:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Vicious Hillbilly
Creator/Playwright/Performer: Dawn Larsen
This one-woman show with original music, lyrics and spoken word is a poignant comedy about a progressive hillbilly woman’s dating experiences in the deep South.

Saturday, March 4
10:30 - 11:15 a.m.
The Ballad of a Borinqueneer
Creator/Playwright/Performer: Tanya Perez
A woman looks to find her cultural identity by unraveling the history of her family’s past.

Noon - 1:15 p.m.
Hands Up
Spelman/Morehouse Colleges
Creators/Playwrights: Nathan James, Nambi Kelley, Nathan Yunderberg, Idris Goodwin, Glenn Gordon, Dennis Allen II, Eric Holmes. Commissioned by the New Black Fest in New York City, it was produced this semester as part of a Black Lives Matter-themed weekend of events.

If you could improve stagecraft with a piece of technology – not just for one show but for the whole industry – what would it be? Have an idea? Then come to the SETC Convention Stage Technology Hackathon, produced by Kent State University’s College of the Arts.

Hackathons are community events where people with technical backgrounds come together, form teams around a problem or idea, and collaboratively prototype a solution from scratch, such as software, hardware or an object, within a set time allotment.

Interested teachers should bring their student teams of up to four members to the Hackathon registration area in the Exhibit Hall on Friday, March 3 at 4:30 p.m. The first 40 student registrants will be accepted. Each team will use the next 18 hours to solve a problem for stage technicians and create a working prototype to be demoed science fair style Saturday morning.

Projects will be judged by academic and industry professionals, and awards will be given. This event is open to college and high school students. Check your convention program for more information.

- Kevin Wolfgang, co-presenter with Jason Potts
Stacy “Alea” McKinley, an English teacher at Charleston County School of the Arts and a curriculum coach at Engaging Creative Minds in Charleston, SC, is the 2017 winner of SETC’s Innovative Playwriting Instruction Award. She will receive the award at the 2017 SETC Convention in Lexington, KY.

Inspirational High School Teacher Recognized

Stacy “Alea” McKinley, an English teacher at Charleston County School of the Arts and a curriculum coach at Engaging Creative Minds in Charleston, SC, is the 2017 winner of SETC’s Innovative Playwriting Instruction Award. She will receive the award at the 2017 SETC Convention in Lexington, KY.

Know a Deserving Teacher?
The Innovative Playwriting Instruction Award was developed to recognize high school teachers who are using playwriting as part of their curriculum in innovative ways. Nominations are accepted between March 1 and June 1 each year. More information: www.setc.org/innovative-playwriting-instruction

Have a Group Attending the High School Festival?
Non-Members of SETC Need Tickets

Anyone who is registered to attend the SETC Convention may watch performances in the SETC High School Theatre Festival, which will be held at Lexington Opera House. However, friends and family of festival participants and the general public need to purchase tickets. There are two blocks of performances (10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and 5 - 10 p.m.) on both Thursday, March 2, and Friday, March 3. Tickets are $20 for one block (five shows) and may be purchased on-site.

More info: www.setc.org/convention
Robert Kallos is the keynote presenter for this year’s Teachers Institute. His interactive afternoon presentation will focus on the “Speed Theatre Experience.” You won’t want to miss it! The Teachers Institute, an all-day seminar preceding the SETC Convention, offers an opportunity for in-service, continuing education credits and professional development. Enjoy a full day of demonstrations, inspiration and hands-on learning to take back to your classroom or theatre. Visit www.setc.org/teachers-institute for full details on the day’s activities.

Morning Tech Demonstrations: Thrifty Design Techniques
Don’t let small budgets stifle creativity for you or your students. Expert theatre artists start the day by sharing practical tech solutions for all areas of theatre design and production. Sessions include:

- **Scenic Design on a Dime**, presented by Shannon Robert of Clemson University
- **Thrift Store Costuming**, presented by Maura Cravey of Virginia Commonwealth University
- **Stress-free Sound**, presented by Michael Smith of Elon University
- **Low-budget Lighting**, presented by Matt Leckenbusch of Clemson University
- **Props on a Shoestring**, presented by Shannon Robert and Matt Leckenbusch

Below, the presenters share some of their favorite “designs on the cheap.”

**SHANNON ROBERT**
Favorite “on the cheap” accomplishment:
Creating a very realistic groundcover for *Proof* with pieced-together, discarded carpet (by using the backside: free), vinyl composition tile adhesive (5 gallons: $58.65), 2 large bags of peat moss ($3.88 each), topped with leaves and pine straw. A beautiful late fall dirt-with-fallen-leaves look for the entire floor for under $70.

**MAURA CRAVEY**
Cheapest budget you ever had and for what: $100 to do a feature-length film
What excites you about solving design problems without money?
It makes you think out of the box and draws on your creativity.

**MICHAEL SMITH**
Cheapest budget you ever had and for what: The cheapest was free – the whole show!
What excites you about solving design problems without money?
What excites me the most is how easy it has become with all of the free technology that’s out there.

**MATT LECKENBUSCH**
Favorite “on the cheap” accomplishment:
Clemson University’s version of *Eurydice*, where we used almost 18,000 water bottles and a mostly upcycled set. Don’t forget there is value in people, so where you save on money sometimes many hands are needed. (Click here to read an “Outside the Box” story featuring the *Eurydice* production in the Winter 2017 issue of Southern Theatre.)
PROFESSIONAL COMPANY SPOTLIGHT

Hiring through SETC: Dollywood

‘SETC Auditions have proven to be a consistent source of quality talent year after year.’
- Roger White, Entertainment Supervisor

SETC recently caught up with Roger White, entertainment supervisor at the Dollywood theme park in Pigeon Forge, TN.

When was your theatre founded? And what type of shows are you known for?
Dollywood, which began operations in 1986, produces musical theatre, country, 50s-60s rock, a cappella, streetmosphere, theatre for children, bluegrass, gospel and comedy shows. We do “book” shows and revue-type shows. All have a story related to our Smoky Mountain culture.

What type of theatre/stage do you have? And how many seats?
We have seven theatres. Indoor theatres (and the number they seat) are Celebrity Theater (1,700); Pines Theater (950); Showstreet Palace Theater (900); Dreamsong Theater (550); and Heartsong Theater (200). Outdoor theatres are Backporch Theater (500); and Valley Theater (335).

What are you currently producing?
For the 2017 season: Dreamland Drive-In, Little Engine Playhouse, Country Crossroads, The Gem Tones, Live at the Backporch and My People. We also produce seven shows at Christmas.

What other opportunities for work and development do you provide?
We offer key performers the chance to develop leadership skills as dance and vocal captains. Dollywood also promotes from within. Some of our performers have become stage managers, company managers, supervisors, producers and directors.

Where do you find actors and crew? Are they all paid professionals?
Dollywood Entertainment produces our own audition tour. We also audition at SETC, UPTA and, in the past, StrawHat. All of our performers and crew are paid professionals.

How long have you been involved with SETC? And how does SETC assist you in your operations as a theatre?
Dollywood has been involved with SETC for 25 years. SETC has been a great resource for our casting needs. We attend both Spring and Fall Professional Auditions.

More info: www.dollywood.com
Getting a Job through SETC: Pytron Parker and David Foster

Pytron Parker and David Foster recently appeared (left) in White Christmas at Mill Mountain Theatre in Roanoke, VA. They got their roles in the musical through SETC’s 2016 Spring Professional Auditions. Both also serve as dance captains for SETC’s fall and spring auditions.

Where do you work most often in theatre?

Pytron: I just returned to the stage after years of teaching dance. I worked on musicals sporadically and choreographed a lot, but most of my time and energy focused on the development of my students. At the beginning of 2016, I decided to take more risk and get back to the stage.

David: I am usually cast as a dancer in the ensemble of musicals, and in casino, theme park and cruise ship shows. I have also directed and choreographed. The last couple of seasons, I have spent time as supervisor of live entertainment at Cedar Point Amusement Park. This last season, I took on the challenge of being supervisor, assistant choreographer and director, as well as dancing in the night-time show Luminosity.

What have you been doing recently?

Pytron: It’s been a blast telling the classic story of White Christmas at Mill Mountain. It’s a beautiful musical. I will be touring with a national dance competition starting in January. I have plans to audition and assist as dance captain at SETC Auditions in March, and from there I hope the universe grants me my next professional job.

David: I recently had the opportunity to work with Tony Award-winning choreographer Andy Blankenbuehler in the remake of the classic dance movie Dirty Dancing. I did not audition for the gig, but was considered by a choreographer I worked with years prior who was assisting on the film. It just goes to show you never know who you are working with.

How has SETC assisted you in your goals as a theatre professional?

Pytron: SETC has been wonderful to me! It’s very professional and well-organized. It places you in the company of potential employers. Through SETC, I’ve been offered over five professional contracts with housing and other amazing benefits.

David: SETC has been a major influence in my career. It has given me the opportunity to showcase my talents as a performer, as well as my teaching abilities during the dance auditions. I am trying to remember all the jobs I got through SETC – so many offers from auditions and so many others through networking outside SETC with companies in attendance. They range from the first job I got through SETC – at Wild Adventures Theme Park – to Peach State Summer Theatre to Maine State Music Theatre, where I met the choreographer who recommended me for my role in the Dirty Dancing movie remake.
Michele Majer Discusses ‘In Other Habits: Theatrical Costume’ at 2017 Theatre Symposium

SETC’s 26th annual Theatre Symposium event, scheduled for the weekend of April 7 - 9, 2017, will focus on the theme of theatrical costume. The keynote speaker will be Michele Majer, a professor of clothing and textiles at the Bard Graduate Center: Decorative Arts, Design History, Material Culture, in New York City.

Majer (above right), who has served as an assistant curator of the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Costume Institute, specializes in the history of clothing and textiles from the 18th through 20th centuries. A research associate at New York’s Cora Ginsburg Gallery, she recently curated and edited the accompanying catalogue for the exhibition, Staging Fashion, 1880-1920: Jane Hading, Lily Elsie, Billie Burke, which examined the phenomenon of actresses serving as internationally-known fashion leaders at the turn of the 20th century.

What is Theatre Symposium?
Theatre Symposium is an annual weekend conference focusing on a single scholarly topic. International attendees gather to present papers and explore the topic as a group, thus creating an intimate opportunity for the sharing of ideas, concepts and opinions. Papers that are presented may be considered for publication in SETC’s scholarly journal Theatre Symposium.

Submit Paper Proposals Soon
Proposals are being accepted through January 9 for paper presentations at the event. For more information about presenting a paper or attending the Theatre Symposium event, click the link below. If you have questions, contact Editor Sarah McCarroll at smccarroll@georgiasouthern.edu.

More info: www.setc.org/theatre-symposium
Events: ACT College/University Festival and SETC State Screening Auditions; Community Theatre Festival; Theatre for Youth Festival; Walter Trumbauer Secondary Theatre Festival.

Number attending: College/University Festival/SETC State Screening Auditions: 205; Community Theatre Festival: 200; Trumbauer State Secondary Theatre Festival: 2,000.

Winners of Community Theatre Festival: Rabbit Hole, Leeds Theatre and Arts Center, Leeds, AL; The Glass Menagerie, Wetumpka Depot Players, Wetumpka, AL.

Winners of High School Theatre Festival: Children of Eden, Opelika High School, Opelika, AL; The Jungle Book, James Clemens High School, Madison, AL

Idea to share: Some of our Secondary Division district chairs print out name labels for scoring sheets of participants in individual events, saving judges time and spelling mistakes on names during competition. The College and University Division is discussing doing something similar for SETC screenings, making labels of names and auditionee numbers for the judges to affix to SETC screening forms.


Winners of Community Theatre Festival: The Amish Project, Theatre Winter Haven, Winter Haven, FL; Lady Day At Emerson’s Bar and Grill, Star Center Theatre, Gainesville, FL.

Winners of High School Theatre Festival: Charlie and Albernon, Gulf Breeze High School, Gulf Breeze, FL; The Children’s Hour, Boone High School, Orlando, FL.

Idea to share: We moved the Technical Auditions from Saturday morning to Thursday afternoon. It gave more time for callbacks on Friday and Saturday. We expanded our Inclusion Festival to four groups, showcasing four completely different types of inclusion theatre. We hosted our first Theatre Improv Jam competition, offering a first and second place prize in the team competition.


Winner of Community Theatre Festival: Last Train to Nibroc, Dalton Little Theatre, Dalton, GA.

Winners of High School Theatre Festival: Anatomy of Gray, Greater Atlanta Christian School, Norcross, GA; Starmites, Milton High School, Milton, GA.

Idea to share: Over the last few years, we have had some impressive keynote speakers. We would like to continue that tradition as often as we can, but big-name headliners are expensive and difficult to connect with. This year we were fortunate to be able to partner with the Augusta Symphony to bring Matthew Morrison (Glee) to our stage. The symphony contracted with him for a concert on the Thursday night of our convention. By partnering with the symphony and sharing the expense, we were able to provide our members the opportunity to purchase concert tickets at a discount AND able to book Morrison as our Friday keynote, with a brief photo session and a Q & A. We hope in future years to be able to partner with other local arts agencies to bring top-name entertainers to our conventions.
Kentucky Theatre Association
Jeremy Kisling
State Representative

Event: Annual conference.
Number attending: 687.
Winners of Community Theatre Festival: Who Am I This Time?, Theatre Workshop of Owensboro, Owensboro, KY; Cabaret, Paramount Players, Ashland, KY.
Winners of High School Theatre Festival: 1st: Still Waters Run Deep, Corbin High School, Corbin, KY; Runner-up: Cagebirds, Bryan Station High School, Lexington, KY.
Idea to share: This year, the Kentucky Theatre Association changed the High School Competition to a regional model. Our state drama programs were divided into five regional competitions, with the winners advancing on to a state competition. This allowed KTA to open up the annual conference schedule to accommodate more workshops and auditions, and provided more opportunities for networking and discussion. We hope this regional model creates an opportunity for more schools to compete without the costs of traveling so far. The Kentucky Theatre Association is excited about the possibilities and opportunities this model will provide us in the future.

North Carolina Theatre Conference
Angie Hays
Executive Director

Events: NCTC High School Play Festival and NCTC College Discovery Day.
Number attending: Approximately 5,000.
Winner of Community Theatre Festival: Junk, Hickory Community Theatre, Hickory, NC.
Winners of High School Theatre Festival: Boal, Central Academy of Technology and Arts, Monroe, NC; That’s Not How I Remember It, Lake Norman Charter School, Huntersville, NC.

South Carolina Theatre Association
Anita Sleeman
Administrative Director

Event: Annual conference: “Homegrown, South Carolina.”
Number attending: 1,012.
Winner of Community Theatre Festival: Of Mice and Men, Mill Town Players, Pelzer, SC.
Winner of High School Theatre Festival: A Taste of Sunrise, Woodmont High School, Piedmont, SC.
Idea to share: This year both our Community Theatre Festival and our High School Theatre Festival adjudication were done using Google Docs. This provided a much smoother process for scoring, selecting awards and providing respondent sheets at the conclusion of the festival. Adjudicators and participants alike loved the process. We had one or two people who kept on top of the adjudicators to ensure they were completing the score sheets after each performance and then adding comments. You must have Wi-Fi available in the theatre. Adjudicators brought their own laptops for scoring.

More info: www.setc.org/state-organizations
Event: Annual conference.  
Number attending: 1,200.  
Winner of Community Theatre Festival: The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens, and Count Leo Tolstoy, Cookeville Performing Arts Center, Cookeville, TN.  
Winners of High School Theatre Festival: 1st: Wiley and the Hairy Man, McGavock High School, Nashville, TN; 2nd: Mother Hicks, Nashville School of the Arts, Nashville TN.  
Idea to share: Two new ideas that worked for us this year: 1. We added a vendor representative to our Board of Directors. Larry Blyth, from Barbizon Lighting Company, added a new perspective and valuable insights to our board discussions. 2. We formed a “Dream Team” to help us with the convention. Ten college students – who volunteered to help with everything and anything – were given school credit, free food and a great conference to attend without charge. Their contribution to the success of the conference was invaluable. How about a third idea that always works? Invite to the convention a warm, accessible, funny, indefatigable guest artist. David Dwyer was all that. (Check him out on IMDb.)

Virginia Theatre Association  
Executive Director  
Perry Payne Millner  
State Representative

Number attending: 2,800.  
Winner of Community Theatre Festival: Dead Dog, Live Arts, Charlottesville, VA.  
Winner of High School Theatre Festival: That Was Then, Harrisonburg High School, Harrisonburg, VA; Runner-up: The Very Grey Matter of Edward Blank, Rock Ridge High School, Ashburn, VA.  
Idea to share: CreatIcon 2016: Curated symposium featuring panels and sessions on creativity in production, performance, technology, social change and scholarly endeavors, with keynote presentations by Natasha Tsakos, Google’s Jason Fahlstrom and Mercedes Herrero (Laramie Project, Curious Incident). Patrick Mullins presented a lunch session, “Locked Out,” describing the award-winning Virginia Stage Company’s creative collaborations during its year without a theatre, as its historic Wells Theatre home was under renovation. Featured all-conference performances included Norfolk State University’s and Virginia Stage Company’s joint production of Choir Boy, Virginia Stage’s new treatment of Oliver Twist, nightly piano bar with NYC’s Patrick DeGennaro and Lina Koutrakos, and more!

West Virginia Theatre Association  
Executive Director  
Gregory Mach  
State Representative

Event: Annual conference.  
Number attending: 288.  
Winner of Community Theatre Festival: Dani Girl, Landmark Studio for the Arts, Sutton WV; Always, Patsy Cline, Buckhannon Community College, Buckhannon WV.  
Winner of High School Theatre Festival: Emotional Baggage, Greenbrier East High School, Lewisburg, WV; The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon, by Musselman High School, Inwood, WV.  

Look for the Mississippi Theatre Association report in the March/April issue of SETC News.
Cast Your Vote for New Officers at March 4 SETC Business Meeting

Please take a few minutes to review SETC’s proposed slate of officers for 2017-18.

The officers and the Nominations Committee members pictured below will be presented for a vote by SETC’s membership at the annual SETC Business Meeting at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 4, 2017, immediately preceding the keynote address in the Hilton Lexington Downtown in Lexington, KY.

2017-18 Slate of Officers

President
Tiza Garland

VP, Services
Pat Gagliano

VP, Administration
Jeff Gibson

VP, Finance
David Wohl

Secretary
Maegan McNerney Azar

Past President
Alan Litsey

VP, States
Lee Crouse

VP, Divisions
Amie Kisling

2017-18 Nominations Committee

Shawn Paul Evans

Lynn Nelson

Esthere Strom

Susan Cato-Chapman

For bios of the slate of officers and the Nominations Committee members, visit www.setc.org/leadership/slate-of-officers

More info: www.setc.org/leadership
Forum Offers Opportunity for Theatre Producers to Network, Learn and Share

Not all theatre makers attend SETC’s annual convention to hire talent at our Professional Auditions and Job Fair. Some come to re-energize, network with colleagues and exchange ideas. SETC’s Producing Theatre Forum, held for the first time last year, was created specifically to serve this group, providing a meeting ground for the sharing of ideas.

This year’s forum at the SETC Convention in Lexington, KY, will feature two sessions on Saturday morning. The first panel explores the director’s role in facilitating the vision for the company’s artistic mission. The second panel focuses on the business side of making money over and beyond performances. Panelists receive the questions prior to the forum. Please join us!

The Dynamics of Directing in Professional Theatre
9 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
Producing theatre directors discuss how they choose the work they produce, how they use collaborative processes to engage others in their vision, and how they perceive and overcome challenges.

Questions posed to this panel include:
• How do you select the work you want to make?
• How do you collaborate? How do you lead a group of theatre artists? How do you fulfill the role of the director? Build the team? Transfer the vision?
• Theatre people are problem-solvers by nature. How do you problem-solve? How do you perceive and overcome obstacles or challenges?

Build Your Revenue Sources, Without Compromising Your Artistic Vision or Production Schedule!
10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Professional theatre managers discuss alternative revenue streams that support their work, sustain the organization and sometimes take on a mission of their own, sharing what works and what doesn’t.

Questions posed to this panel include:
• What unique methods do you use to increase your income?
• What marketing tools give you the best return? How do you measure them?
• What ancillary programs have increased your bottom line and expanded your mission?
• Have you noted revenue generation trends or ideas in other businesses that you think could work for the arts or theatre in particular?
Two recent SETC award winners have been named as finalists in the World Stage Design 2017 Exhibition, which will be held in Taipei next summer. Both will be featured in the Emerging Designers Exhibition at the event.

Josafath Reynoso, a 2015 winner of SETC’s Ready to Work Award and a 1st place winner in SETC’s Graduate Scenic Design Competition, will be featured for his work on *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at Triad Stage in Greensboro, NC, in September 2015. Now an assistant professor at Southeast Missouri State University, Reynoso got the opportunity to design *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* as part of SETC’s Ready to Work Award, which gives talented designers an opportunity to create designs for participating theatres.

Maranda DeBusk, who won 1st place in the SETC Graduate Lighting Design Competition in 2015, is a finalist for her work on *A Lesson Before Dying*. DeBusk is a graduate student in lighting design at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. More info: [www.wsd2017.com](http://www.wsd2017.com)

ExCom Meetings Scheduled for Jan. 6 - 8

SETC’s Executive Committee will meet Friday, Jan. 6 through Sunday, Jan. 8 at the Crowne Plaza Atlanta-Airport. The Endowment and Personnel Committees also will meet. All members may attend; board and committee members are expected to attend.

The University of North Carolina School of the Arts will use an anonymous gift of $10 million – the largest gift the school has ever received from an individual donor – to establish the UNCSA’s Institute for Performance Innovation, support the creation of a graduate animatronics program and advance a graduate program in gaming and virtual reality in the School of Filmmaking. More info: [www.uncsa.edu](http://www.uncsa.edu).

The United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) Board of Directors has committed $500,000 to increase the impact of three programs. This includes $85,000 to provide no-cost rigging inspections and safety training at high schools across the U.S. ([www.usitt.org/rsi](http://www.usitt.org/rsi)); another $85,000 to expand its diversity inclusion initiative ([www.usitt.org/gateway](http://www.usitt.org/gateway)); and $330,000 for innovation research grants for projects addressing technology challenges in the entertainment industry. More info about the grants will be announced at USITT’s annual conference March 8-11, 2017 ([www.usitt.org](http://www.usitt.org)).