Don’t Miss SETC’s Upcoming Events

FALL UNIFIED PROFESSIONAL AUDITIONS
Aug. 27-28, Atlanta, GA
Registration: Open now
Early-bird deadline: July 15
Online registration deadline: Aug. 15
See Page 2 for sampling of companies casting.
For more info and to register:
www.setc.org/fall-professional

SCREENING AUDITIONS
October-November (date varies by state)
Registration: Opens Sept. 15
See Page 4 for a list of event dates and registration deadlines for each state. Don’t live in one of the SETC states? You can still participate. Visit www.setc.org/setc-screenings for details and for locations where out-of-state auditionees are screened.

INSTITUTE OF OUTDOOR THEATRE CONFERENCE
Oct. 17-19, Atlanta Metro Area, GA
Online registration: Opens Aug. 17
See Page 14 for story on conference location at Serenbe Playhouse.
For more info and to register:
www.outdoor-theatre.org/conference

LiNK: GRADUATE SCHOOL AUDITIONS
Nov. 10-12, Atlanta, GA
Online registration: Opens Aug. 14
More info: www.setc.org/link
Companies will be casting for many types of shows, including dinner theatre, cruises, holiday shows, children’s theatre, regular season shows, outdoor shows, theme parks and more. Here are a few examples of theatres that have already registered, numbers of roles available and shows being cast:

**RWS Entertainment Group (1,200+ roles)**
Booking for: Holland America Cruise Line’s shows on 11 luxury ships with itineraries worldwide; Hersheypark’s 2017 holiday and summer shows; 10+ theme parks for Halloween, holiday and summer seasons; resorts; and year-round corporate events and brand experiences.

**Norwegian Cruise Line (200 roles)**
Rock of Ages; Million Dollar Quartet; After Midnight; Swing! The Musical; Priscilla, Queen of the Desert; Jersey Boys

**The Legacy Theatre (100+ roles)**
Taffeta Christmas; Junie B. Jones Jingle Bells, Batman Smells; Million Dollar Quartet; Polka Dots: the Musical; Hairspray

**Circa ‘21 Dinner Playhouse (56 roles)**
Freaky Friday; Church Basement Ladies in Rise up O Men; Bridges of Madison County; Mamma Mia; Mama Won’t Fly

**Dollywood (50+ roles)**
Christmas in the Smokies; It’s a Wonderful Life; MistleTones; O Holy Night; ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas

**Missoula Children’s Theatre (50 roles)**
Treasure Island; Peter and Wendy; Cinderella; The Tortoise versus the Hare; Alice in Wonderland; Jack and the Beanstalk; Rapunzel; Gulliver’s Travels

**Springer Opera House (18 roles)**
Newsies, West Side Story

**Cornwell’s Dinner Theatre (TBA)**
Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree; Old Rugged Cross; Savannah Sipping Society; Welcome to Gator Grove; Nunsense Amen; Chili Con Carnage (Murder Mystery); Christmas Again!
Getting a Job through SETC: Jamie Unger Beaner

Jamie Unger Beaner will be heading to Ohio this fall to perform with Blue Gate Musicals in The Confession, thanks to a contact she made last year at SETC’s Fall Unified Professional Auditions.

How long have you been involved in theatre?
My path to professional theatre is a little different from many performers. I originally went into music education and not until graduate school did I seriously pursue a performing career. I have been performing professionally since finishing my master’s degree in 2014.

Where are you currently working?
I am playing Vi Moore in Ozark Actors Theatre’s production of Footloose.

What’s the favorite play or musical you’ve been involved with?
It’s hard to pick just one! I loved playing Milly in Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. I also loved doing Sister Act last summer at Circa ’21. Dancing around in a nun habit was a hoot!

How do you get most of your jobs?
Unified auditions are definitely my favorite way to book work. Video submissions can be helpful, too, but it’s so nice to be able to actually meet with directors and interact face-to-face.

How has SETC assisted you in reaching your goals?
I attended SETC’s Fall Unified Professional Auditions in the fall of 2016. The event was so well-organized and the staff was so helpful that I was able to focus on the audition itself and not so much about all the logistics. I was fortunate to be called back by several theatres and got to meet personally with The REP (Seaside, FL), Blue Gate Musicals and Granbury Theatre Company (Granbury, TX). As a result, I ended up booking a contract with Blue Gate for the fall of 2017.

Other than your work in theatre, what’s extraordinary about you?
I also have served as music director or vocal captain, play the piano, and am strong in sight-reading music. These skills are somewhat unique for an actor and I think they have helped me to be more of a helpful asset to companies with whom I have worked.

More info: www.setc.org/theatre-jobs
How to Be the Right Person for the Role!

I am occasionally surprised when, in the middle of producing/rehearsing a show, an actor asks me or a member of my team, “When is your next audition?” Finding the right person for the right role is a vital and central part of the casting process, of course, but what exactly is it that makes someone the “right person” for the job?

I find it curious that many actors/performers that I work with seem blissfully unaware that the time we spend together working on a project is part of the audition process. Throughout the entire production period, the production and management teams are keenly aware of the actors who are on time, prepared and positive, and willing to take direction. We pay close attention to those actors who lead their peers in the right direction, as well as the actors who have personal agendas.

Registration Opens Sept. 15 for SETC Screening Auditions

Screening auditions held throughout the fall provide an opportunity for talented performers not yet working as full-time, professional actors to secure an auditions slot at the SETC Professional Auditions in March.

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Actors, be advised: The community we work in is small, and most theatre companies and professionals are in close communication. We greatly want to see and help you succeed, we want to help advance your career, and we are supportive of you and your goals. But be consistently aware that your professionalism and work ethic are on full display throughout the rehearsal and run of the show. Your work, both on and off stage, is a tremendous factor when we consider you for future roles and employment.

In short, remember that whether you display an attitude or laziness, or you put in extra effort and work, you are adding to the body of work that represents your professional career. Your attitude, work ethic, positivity, professionalism, willingness to work hard, ability to take direction, and how well you work with others are as much a part of the audition process as the 90 seconds of material you perform at your next audition.

Help yourself to be the right person for the role by being the right person in the role.
SETC continues to expand services with the goal of “connecting you to opportunities in theatre.” The most recent manifestation of this mission is the SETC Grants Program – making its debut this summer! Grants are being offered in two categories. Both are an outgrowth of strategic planning efforts that identified the need (and overwhelming desire) to provide additional opportunities for engaging and developing professional companies and their staffs.

CONVENTION GRANTS
Convention grants are for professional theatres that are not SETC members. These grants are designed to introduce new professional producing organizations and their staffs to the best that SETC has to offer – the annual convention.

Funds from these grants will help recipient organizations pay for staff travel to Mobile, AL, where they will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of professional development and networking activities – including workshops, keynotes and performances at convention.

If you know of an organization that is not a member of SETC – but should be – help connect them with this opportunity!

STAFFING DEVELOPMENT MATCHING GRANTS
Staffing development matching grants are for professional organizations that are current SETC members. The primary goals of this program are to support member companies that need talented and skilled professionals to work on specific projects or seasons, and to provide opportunities to emerging professionals interested in pursuing careers in theatre.

The SETC Grants Program was founded as a complement to successful existing SETC initiatives such as Ready to Work, Theatre Job Fair and Professional Auditions, which provide important work opportunities that help professional artists advance their theatre careers.

Help us make the inaugural year of the SETC Grants Program a success by spreading the word to companies and individuals you think may be interested.
Interested in a Pro Company Grant? Here Are the Details

SETC recently announced two new grant programs for professional companies. (See story, Page 5.) Here is a summary of who is eligible for each grant and what is offered to recipients:

**CONVENTION GRANT (for non-members of SETC)**

➤ **What are the Benefits?**
Professional theatres selected for this grant will receive funds to send staff to the 2018 SETC Convention in Mobile, AL, for networking and professional development opportunities. Specifically, the theatres will receive:

• Complimentary one-year organizational membership and up to four individual memberships to SETC for calendar year 2018 (total value: $385).
• Complimentary 2018 convention registration for up to four staff members (total value: up to $1,080).
• Cash (up to $800) for reimbursement of travel, lodging and/or meal expenses.

➤ **Who’s Eligible?**
Organizations applying for this grant must:

• Be non-academic professional theatres, not primarily funded by a college or university.
• Currently possess and have possessed 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, as defined by the IRS, for at least two years prior to applying for this grant.
• Not have been an SETC organizational member for at least two years.

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT MATCHING GRANT (for SETC members)**

➤ **What are the Benefits?**
Professional theatres selected for this grant will receive matching grant funds of up to $2,000 to support existing programs or to develop new programs that provide emerging theatre professionals with experiential learning opportunities. Theatre companies may include cash or in-kind services in meeting the 1:1 match requirement.

➤ **Who’s Eligible?**
Organizations applying for this matching grant must:

• Be non-academic professional theatres, not primarily funded by a college or university.
• Be current SETC organizational members and have been for at least one year.
• Currently possess and have possessed 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, as defined by the IRS, for at least two years prior to applying for this grant.
• Provide an internship or mentorship opportunity to a rising professional during the grant period.
• Provide matching funds and/or in-kind services to support the internship or apprenticeship.

More info: www.setc.org/theatre-company-grants
Historic Saenger Theatre Will Host Festival at 2018 SETC Convention

Each of us involved in the SETC Community Theatre Festival has special memories. Personally, I can’t think of a more enjoyable experience than our visit to the historic Saenger Theatre in Mobile, AL, in 2014. And the good news? We will be there again in 2018!

Nearly a Century of History
Located in the Lower Dauphin Street Historic District and dedicated in 1927, the theatre has witnessed thousands of performers, acts, ballets and musicals throughout its history. The theatre is a Mobile landmark, known for its architecture and ties to local culture.

Technical Specs
Beyond the beauty of the building, directors will be pleased to know that the loading doors are 8 feet wide x 9 feet, 11 inches high, and the proscenium is 41 feet wide and 43 feet deep. The stage includes four sets of black velour legs, as well as an upstage traveler, white cyc and scrim. More technical specs will be available here in the coming weeks.

Great Location for Festival
Past Community Theatre Division chair Kristy Meanor notes that the Saenger is within walking distance to the Mobile Convention Center, hotels and local restaurants.

“Our group had a wonderful experience performing in their historic space in 2014,” she says. “The staff was excellent and made our festival experience one to remember!”

Kristy also has a little advice for those of you who will be bringing shows.
“The auditorium seats 2,000,” she says. “Plan your sets to pull downstage, and start teaching your actors to project!”
See you in Mobile!
Theatre for Youth Festival:
Have Your Show Critiqued by Two Youth Theatre Powerhouses!

Have you been thinking about bringing a show to SETC’s Theatre for Youth Festival? This is the year to do it! Those who bring shows to the 2018 festival in Mobile, AL, will receive feedback from two of the top names in the field of theatre for youth. Serving as respondents for the 2018 Theatre for Youth Festival will be:

Suzan Zeder
A world-renowned playwright known for her plays for young and family audiences, she also is professor emeritus for the University of Texas at Austin’s Department of Theatre and Dance.

Ernie Nolan
An award-winning playwright and director formerly based in Chicago, he became the executive artistic director of Nashville Children’s Theatre in February 2017.

Who Can Bring a Show to the Festival?
Professional, college/university and youth theatres may apply to bring shows to the Theatre for Youth Festival, which annually includes three productions presented for an audience of convention attendees and local youth. The festival is invitational and non-competitive. The respondents provide verbal feedback for each of the productions.

If you are interested in bringing a production to the 2018 Theatre for Youth Festival in Mobile, please contact festival chair Cassady Gorrell at csgorrell@gmail.com. We are so thrilled about this year’s festival and hope to see you in Mobile!
Top 5 Reasons Your Students Should Come to the SETC Convention

Many high school teachers have the misconception that there’s nothing for their students to do at the convention if the school’s show isn’t chosen for the High School Theatre Festival. But that couldn’t be further from the truth!

Here are the top 5 opportunities for your high school students at the convention:

1. **Undergrad Auditions and Design-Tech Interviews**
   Students can audition or interview for entrance and scholarships at more than 100 colleges, universities and training programs. This is a great way for them to knock out an audition or an interview with all the top schools at once!

2. **Ed Expo**
   Last year, 149 colleges, universities were at Ed Expo, looking for high school students to enroll at their schools. This is a wonderful way for your students to meet recruiters in person and see if one of these schools is the right fit.

3. **Workshops**
   There are tons of workshops where students can learn new theatre skills or advance their knowledge of the field. Workshop topics include stage combat, mask making and acting techniques, just to name a few.

4. **High School Festival Performances**
   The High School Theatre Festival performances are open to all SETC members. This is a great opportunity for students to catch some excellent shows put on by their peers – and to support high school theatre!

5. **Social Events for High School Students**
   Students can enjoy food and fun at events just for them, such as the high school pizza party (left) held onstage at the site of the 2017 High School Theatre Festival. The pizza party preceded a workshop just for high school students, presented by Tony Award-winning actress Alice Ripley.

More info: www.setc.org/high-school-theatre
Make Sure Your School Connects with Students at the 2018 SETC Convention

I encourage you to make plans early for Mobile in 2018. The 2017 SETC Convention in Lexington, KY, broke records, hosting the largest number of college/university exhibitors to date. A total of 149 schools attended.

Get a booth at Ed Expo!
Having a booth in Ed Expo allows you to not only represent your school, but also highlight your department. You can rent a booth for just $260 if you reserve it by the early-bird deadline in December. Your school also needs to be an organizational member of SETC, pay a recruiting fee of $25 (for grad and undergrad recruiting), and register each of your school representatives for the convention.

Each booth includes a standard 6-foot table, two chairs and a sign with the school’s name and booth number. Suggestions of items you should bring: displays with pictures of past productions, pamphlets or brochures, trinkets to give out (pens, cups, candy) and, most importantly, your smiling face! It’s also a great idea to have current students help work the booth, so recruits can meet and talk with them about their experiences. If you need extra items for your booth – such as carpet and padding, additional furniture, custom signage or AV equipment – they can be ordered from Exhibit Services for a fee.

Get a Seat at Auditions and Interviews!
Undergraduate and Graduate School Auditions and Design/Tech Interviews are another great opportunity for recruiting at the SETC Convention.

At the undergrad level, high school juniors, seniors and community college transfers audition in front of the masses of college professors. Callbacks can be conducted, providing a one-on-one opportunity to get to know the auditionees. It is a full day of auditions, but when and where else would you have a chance to see over 300 students from all over the United States?

The Graduate School Auditions and Design/Tech Interviews are also a full-day event at the convention. If your school has an early deadline for acceptance, don’t forget about LiNK, which happens in the fall (more info here: www.setc.org/link).

Even though Mardi Gras will have ended two weeks before we arrive in Mobile next year, it seems appropriate to share a French Cajun phrase as we look ahead to the SETC Convention: “Laissez les bon temps rouler!”
Reach Nearly 5,000 SETC Members (and More Online Readers) via an Ad in Southern Theatre Magazine

Move quickly to book your ad in the 2018 volume of Southern Theatre! Our quarterly magazine circulates to nearly 5,000 individuals and organizations, as well as numerous libraries. In addition to reaching members via the print magazine, advertisers extend their reach further via the digital version, which is published online with live links to advertisers’ websites. Advertising space is available both in the magazine and in the annual SETC College, University & Training Program Directory, an insert to the Winter issue of the magazine.

Thanks to the 2017 advertisers in Southern Theatre
(click on advertiser name to view its theatre website)

- Arts People
- Broadway Media Distribution
- Catawba College
- Disney
- East Carolina University
- Fairmont State University
- Guilford Technical Community College
- Illinois Wesleyan University
- Indiana University
- InterAmerica Stage, Inc.
- Juilliard School
- Long Island University
- Maine State Music Theatre
- Manhattanville College
- Mary Baldwin University
- Mississippi University for Women
- Neighborhood Playhouse
- NY Conservatory for Dramatic Arts
- Piedmont College
- Rider University
- Shakespeare and Company
- Stella Adler Studio of Acting
- Texas Tech University
- University of Alabama Birmingham
- The University of Mississippi
- University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- University of North Carolina School of the Arts
- University of Virginia
- University of West Georgia
- URTA
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia Tech University
- Wake Forest University
- West Virginia University

ADVERTISING DEADLINES FOR SOUTHERN THEATRE

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For more information or to place an ad in Southern Theatre, visit www.setc.org/advertising or email Clay at clay@setc.org.
FALL EVENTS

FALL PROFESSIONAL THEATRE AUDITIONS
Aug. 27-28, 2017, Atlanta, GA
Professional Actor/Dancer Pre-Registration:
Open Now - Aug. 15
Professional Company Registration:
Open Now - Aug. 15
Professional Qualifiers:
Open Now - Aug. 15
Hotel Reservations:
Open Now - Aug. 10

FALL BOARD/ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS
Sept. 8-10, 2017, Charlotte, NC
RSVP: Open Now - Aug. 25
Hotel Reservations: Open Now - Aug. 23

INSTITUTE OF OUTDOOR THEATRE (IOT) CONFERENCE
Oct. 17-19, 2017, Serenbe Playhouse, Metro Atlanta Area, GA
Registration: Opens Aug. 17
Hotel Reservations: TBA

SETC SCREENING AUDITIONS
October-November, 2017, All SETC States
Registration: Opens Sept. 15; deadlines vary by state
Applications: Available online; for information, please visit www.setc.org/setc-screenings
*Note: Individuals who are passed from the SETC Screening Auditions will have specified deadlines to register for the SETC Convention and Spring Professional Auditions. Dates are also noted on the screening information.

LiNK: YOUR CONNECTION TO ADVANCED THEATRE DEGREES
November 10-12, 2017, Atlanta, GA
Recruiting School Early Registration: Aug. 14 - Sept. 29
Student Registration: Aug. 14 - Sept. 29
Hotel Reservations: Open Aug. 14 - Oct. 18
School and Student Late Registration: Sept. 29 - Oct. 27

WINTER EVENTS

EXCOM MEETING
December 2017, Date and Location TBA

IOT SUMMER THEATRE AUDITIONS
Jan. 13, 2018, Greensboro, NC
Registration: Dec. 6 - Dec. 20 at noon ET (or until all slots are filled)

SPRING EVENTS

69TH ANNUAL SETC CONVENTION
March 7-11, 2018, Mobile, AL
Workshop Proposal Submissions with AV Requests:
Open Now - Sept. 1
Workshop Proposal Submissions without AV Requests:
Open Now - Sept. 15
Fringe Festival Applications: Open Now - Oct. 16
Convention Registration: Oct. 16 - Jan. 29 at noon ET
Early-bird Convention Registration Deadline:
Dec. 15 at noon ET
Professional Auditionee Registration Deadline:
Jan. 15 at noon ET
Hiring Company Registration Deadline for Professional Auditions and Theatre Job Fair: Jan. 22
Final Pre-Registration Deadline for all other individuals and events: Jan. 29 at noon ET
Convention Hotel Reservations: Opens Nov. 6

SETC THEATRE SYMPOSIUM
April 13-15, 2018, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA
“Theatre and Embodiment”
Abstract Submission Deadline: Jan. 5
Registration Opens: Feb. 1
Early-bird Registration Deadline: March 16
Pre-Registration Deadline: March 30

EXCOM MEETING
May 2018, Date and Location TBA

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

SETC is proud to provide financial support to students, professionals and producing theatre companies through theatre grants, scholarships and awards. Submission acceptance dates and deadlines vary. For more information, please visit www.setc.org/scholarships-awards.

More info: www.setc.org
Meet Bradley Branham: Your Convention Logistics Guru

What do you do in the SETC Central Office?
I work directly with the programming chair, the VP of Services and workshop presenters to develop programming for the annual convention. This includes overseeing the coordination and planning of all conference logistics and programming, processing and scheduling of workshop proposals and special events, as well as overseeing the volunteer and convention operations. Outside of convention, I assist the executive director in developing new initiatives, board programming, projects and communication.

What is your involvement in theatre?
I have a degree in theatre performance and previously served as managing director of the Virginia Theatre Association. I most recently directed Almost, Maine by John Cariani and played Cassio in Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest’s production of Othello.

What do you enjoy about your work at SETC?
I have the grand opportunity to help others through theatre, a means which I love dearly. We are constantly discussing new ways to provide opportunities and resources for those who believe in the power of theatre as much as we do.

Meet Jean Wentz: Your First Contact via Phone and Email

What do you do in the SETC Central Office?
My voice is often the first one members hear when they call the office. I am also the email guru, receiving, answering or forwarding emails from info@setc, iot@setc and grants@setc, along with emails directly to jean@setc. I help get convention registrations into the database, work the registration area at convention, and more ... really anything anyone needs me to do.

What is your involvement in theatre?
Both my degrees are in theatre. I act when I can with community (and occasionally professional) theatres in the Piedmont Triad area. I am currently in Spirit Gum Theatre Company’s production of Clown Bar.

What do you enjoy about your work at SETC?
I love everyone in the Central Office. They are all so great at what they do, and we all work together very well. And this year’s convention was so fun and invigorating. There is something electric about the atmosphere there.

The Executive Committee met in Atlanta, GA, May 7-8, 2017. Actions taken by the Board include:

- Approved the Auditions Committee Manual.
- Approved the Design and Technology Committee Manual.
- Approved amended budget to include $1,000 for financial management under Endowment.
- Approved bringing a motion to the Board of Directors to update Rule I.17.
- Approved moving forward with the Hall of Fame as outlined by Secretary Maegan McNerney Azar, with an initial budget of $700 for FY18.

Full minutes are available on the SETC website at www.setc.org/leadership/minutes-archives.
IOT Is Now Part of SETC

2017 Conference to be Hosted by Serenbe Playhouse

This past year has been an exciting transition period for SETC and the Institute of Outdoor Theatre (IOT), which officially became part of SETC on July 1. We are looking forward to IOT’s annual fall conference, which will focus on site-specific theatre and will be hosted by Serenbe Playhouse and its executive/artistic director, Brian Clowdus.

WHAT IS SERENBE?
Serenbe is a community located in Chattahoochee Hills, GA (just outside of Atlanta) that believes in biophilia, the instinctive and innate tendency of humans to connect with nature. The founders have done much to create a community that minimizes stress and optimizes health. The four hamlets of Serenbe focus on elements such as the arts for inspiration, agriculture for nourishment, health for well-being and education for awareness. Cultural events include outdoor theatre presented by Serenbe Playhouse.

SERENBE PLAYHOUSE: GREEN, SITE-SPECIFIC THEATRE
Serenbe Playhouse is dedicated to producing site-specific performances that immerse audiences in nature and that model green practices by reclaiming, repurposing and recycling materials. Serenbe Playhouse takes advantage of the many interesting locations in the community to produce theatre. These include sites such as The Inn Meadow, The Animal Village, The Hay Barn, The Wildflower Meadow, The Horseman’s Meadow and the Natural Playground.

In addition to finding exciting outdoor locations to present works such as Cabaret, Macbeth and Miss Saigon, Serenbe Playhouse has initiated a residency program to promote site-specific outdoor theatre. The writers-in-residence program specifically supports the creation of outdoor, site-specific plays.

JOIN US
Serenbe Playhouse’s commitment to outdoor performances and eco-friendly practices makes it an excellent site for this year’s conference. All are invited to this event, which brings together leaders of outdoor theatres to share experiences and explore new concepts.

More info: www.setc.org/about/iot
SETC has embarked on a 10-month, multi-layer study of the Professional Screening Auditions process. The purpose of this research is to gather facts and accurately gauge the effectiveness, scope and impact of the current screening auditions process. Our goal is to keep the professional screening auditions strong and viable for all parties involved, from the actors and professional companies to the state organizations that host the Screening Auditions.

Part One of data-collection has been completed. Task force members individually reached out to the constituents they represent in the organization. State representatives, state executive directors, audition coordinators (past and present), professional company reps, and auditionees (both passed and non-passed) were invited to complete the five-question, qualitative survey. Questions were kept wide open so that each respondent would rely on his or her own perspective.

Below are the survey results thus far. Two points regarding responses: Individuals who hold multiple roles answered only once. The response percentage from screened auditionees was remarkably low, skewing our total percentage of responders. We are devising a different way to reach this group.

Analysis of the data is underway and will help define the next set of surveys. We hope to include roundtable discussions in the fall as well.

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<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Office Staff*</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Company Representatives</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>37.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>2152</strong></td>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
<td><strong>251</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.71%</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

* April Marshall and Betsey Horth did not take the survey
Sue Ellen Gerrells, chair of SETC’s Community Theatre Festival in 2017 and the former executive director of the Alabama Conference of Theatre, was honored as an AACT Fellow by the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) at its 2017 festival. The award is a lifetime designation for AACT members who have contributed significantly to the idea and ideal of community theatre.

Josafath Reynoso, 2015 winner of SETC’s Ready to Work Award, won the Gold Award for Emerging Designer in Set Design at the World Stage Design 2017 Exhibition in Taipei. His winning entry was the design he created as a Ready to Work winner for Cat on a Hot Tin Roof at Triad Stage in Greensboro, NC.

In Memoriam

Mark Sumner, 93, a former leader of both SETC and the Institute of Outdoor Drama, died June 20, 2017, at his home in Chapel Hill, NC. He spent his life dedicated to theatre and to helping improve and sustain outdoor theatres across the country. He served as director of the IOD from 1964 until 1989, laying the foundation for the organization (now the Institute of Outdoor Theatre). He also was active in SETC, serving as president in 1969-70 and receiving SETC’s Suzanne M. Davis Memorial Award for outstanding service in 1978. An actor, a director, a playwright and a producer, he also was a consultant who helped launch numerous outdoor dramas. “Best estimates are that Mark was instrumental in helping establish some 30 outdoor dramas in 20 states, and sustained many more that span the country from Ramona in Hemet, CA (established in 1927), to The Lost Colony in Manteo, NC (opened in 1937) . . . both of which are still running,” says Scott Parker, who followed Sumner as director of the IOD. After Sumner’s retirement, the IOD honored his rich legacy by establishing a lifetime service award for outdoor theatre in his name: the Mark R. Sumner Award. Survivors include his wife, Glenn Geddings Sumner, and six children.

“Mark was legend, and his fingerprints are all over the IOD member theatres. It is a bit sobering to think, ‘Where are the Mark Sumners of tomorrow? Who will pick up the torch and inspire young impressionable artists to do more than is possible?’”

- Fred Adams, Founder
Utah Shakespeare Festival