2018 SETC Convention • March 7-11 • Mobile, AL

Please join us in welcoming Saturday Keynote, Design Competition Adjudicator, and Distinguished Career Award Winner

JANE GREENWOOD
Tony Award-Winning Costume Designer

Winner of a 2017 Tony Award for her work on The Little Foxes, Jane Greenwood is a costume designer extraordinaire whose creativity has captivated Broadway audiences and critics for more than 50 years. Her latest Broadway show, The Parisian Woman, opened in late November.

At the 2018 SETC Convention, she will provide her expertise as an SETC Design Competition adjudicator, share her inspirational career story as a Thursday design keynote and a Saturday keynote speaker, and accept SETC’s Distinguished Career Award at the annual Awards Banquet.

Originally from Liverpool, England, Greenwood designed her first Broadway production, The Ballad of the Sad Café, in 1963. Over the years, she has designed 138 shows for Broadway, in addition to designing for other theatres and for opera, dance, film and television. Nominated 21 times for a Tony Award, she received the Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2014. Since 1976, she also has guided new generations of designers as a professor at the Yale School of Drama.

Jane Greenwood’s Keynote: 2:30 p.m., Saturday, March 10, 2018

Registration: www.setc.org/register
Thursday Keynote:
ACTOR CHRIS CHALK

You may remember his Drama Desk Award-nominated performance as Cory in 2010’s Fences on Broadway. Or you may have caught him on TV in The Newsroom or Homeland or in the Academy Award-winning 2013 film 12 Years a Slave. Or you may be watching him this year on TV as Lucius Fox in Fox’s hit show Gotham.

SETC is excited to welcome Chris Chalk, a multi-talented actor who has won accolades for his work from stage to screen, as the Thursday keynote speaker at the 2018 SETC Convention in Mobile. Chalk, who went to high school in Asheville, NC, and earned his theatre degree at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro in 2001, will share his journey from student to successful actor in a 2:30 p.m. presentation on Thursday, March 8.

JUST FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:
CHRIS CHALK WORKSHOP AND PIZZA PARTY

Do you know some young actors who would love to participate in a workshop with Chris Chalk? High school groups attending the SETC Convention will have an opportunity to join Chalk on the opening night of the convention for a special event. Following a pizza dinner, Chalk will present a workshop geared just to high school students from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 7. The event is sponsored by Middle Tennessee State University. High school groups will receive invitations to this event when they register as a group to attend the SETC Convention. More info: claire@setc.org.

Friday Lunch Speaker:
ACTOR CHUCK WAGNER

If Broadway is where you want to be, don’t miss Chuck Wagner’s presentation and workshop at the SETC Convention. Wagner, who got his start through SETC, went on to star on Broadway in a number of roles, including five years as the Beast in Disney’s Beauty and the Beast. He will:

• Speak at the SETC luncheon on Friday, March 9. His topic: “I Found My Love at SETC.” Reserve tickets ($20) when you register for convention.
• Present an auditions workshop, “Broadway and Beyond,” geared to aspiring Broadway performers, at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 9.

More info: www.setc.org/keynotes
**SETC Design Competition Adds New Technical Direction Award**

Are you a graduate or undergraduate student who has provided technical direction/construction for a production that you believe is award-worthy?

Then you may wish to enter SETC’s first annual Technical Direction & Construction Design Competition. Deadline for submissions to this competition, which is sponsored by Productions Unlimited, Inc., is Jan. 29, 2018. Three winners will be named and will receive prizes – 1st Place: $125; 2nd Place: $75; 3rd Place: $50.

**Details:** 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,” offered at various times on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during convention 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 7. 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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**Plan your days at the 2018 SETC Convention with our mobile app, which is now available to download:**
- in the Google Play Store (Android phone and tablet)
- in the Apple App Store (iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch)
- on the SETC website, allowing you to access info from your laptop

*Check back closer to convention for the final schedule.*

**Additional Information:**
- **Setc.org**
- **More info:** www.setc.org/convention
- **January / February 2018**
- **3**

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**Sponsored by**

*Productions Unlimited, Inc.*
Masquerade is the theme of this year’s SETC Silent Auction, an event held annually at the SETC Convention to generate funds for the SETC Endowment, which awards scholarships to students.

You are encouraged to:

- **donate a mask or costume piece of any style** to this year’s Silent Auction.
- **buy a mask or costume piece** at this year’s Silent Auction.
- **wear a mask or costume** to the Masquerade-themed Awards Banquet in Mobile.

More info: www.setc.org/silent-auction

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**Fringe Festival 2018!**

Don’t miss the 15th anniversary SETC Fringe Festival in Mobile! We have arranged an impressive lineup of diverse and thrilling shows. You will see an impromptu cabaret show performed as an homage to friends; an epic Samurai tale – as told by an idiot; a new twist on Lady Macbeth, including her pal – Megan; Dino-erotic (yep – you read that correctly!); Lewis Carroll’s “Alice” stories shared through rap, puppetry, and masks; a comic sci-fi thriller that takes us 300 years in the future … and more!

The power of the solo performer is front and center at this year’s festival, with six of the eight shows presented by professional solo artists. In addition, a couple of outstanding groups of younger performers bring their creativity to the Fringe.

Your SETC Convention badge gives you free admission to all of these events! Fringe Festival performances will be held at a variety of times, including late-night and daytime performances on Friday and Saturday.

For titles and full show descriptions, go to: [www.setc.org/fringe-festival](http://www.setc.org/fringe-festival). Schedule will be posted soon – you don’t want to miss these outstanding presentations!

- Pat Gagliano, SETC VP of Services

Learn from the Fringe at the masterclass, “Conquering Theatrical Style,” presented by Fringe performer Timothy Mooney (above) on Thursday, March 8, at 10:30 a.m.

Get a start on creating your own solo show at “Artistic Entrepreneurs: Self-Producing on the Fringe,” a panel featuring several Fringe performers, on Friday, March 9, at 10:30 a.m.

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**Do You Know Someone Who Belongs in the SETC Hall of Fame?**

Nomination deadline: Feb. 1, 2018


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More info: [www.setc.org/fringe-festival](http://www.setc.org/fringe-festival)
Charles M. Getchell Award

Sean Michael McCord Explores Life’s Passages in Moving

Sean Michael McCord, whose play Moving won SETC’s 2018 Charles M. Getchell Award, is a writer living in Charlottesville, VA.

He has written a number of short plays, but Moving is his first full-length play. McCord says he was “stunned and humbled” to win SETC’s Getchell Award.

“When I learned that I had won, I was in a state of disbelief for a while,” he says. “I actually kept checking the SETC website regularly to make sure that it hadn’t all been a big mistake. I sometimes still feel that way.”

McCord spent a number of years as a struggling screenwriter in Los Angeles after earning a BFA in film from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). He eventually moved to New York and then to Charlottesville, where he built a 26-year career in information technology at the University of Virginia.

His son’s interest in theatre led McCord to a local playwriting group – and soon “I was completely hooked,” he says. Currently pursuing an MFA in playwriting at Hollins University, McCord was instrumental in starting the Charlottesville Playwrights Collective (CPC), a group of writers who join together to produce their works in Charlottesville. Moving was the first play presented by CPC in September 2017.

Staged Reading:
Check your SETC Convention program for the location of the staged reading and critique of Moving on Friday, March 9, at 7 p.m.

About the Play
Moving was inspired by the apartment in Los Angeles that “was my first bachelor pad after graduating from UCLA,” Sean Michael McCord says. “I lived in that place for five formative years in my 20s and was intrigued with the idea of how many people had lived there before me and how many more would live there after I left.”

“The story begins in 1985 on the day that Paul – a not-very-successful Hollywood screenwriter with whom I share some biographical details – is moving out of that apartment and meets a cute girl who is moving in. Each act of the script jumps forward several years as different characters move in or out of the same space. ... Ultimately, it’s a story of how the choices we make when we are younger impact us later, and how we get wiser over time.”
130-Plus Schools Recruit at SETC Convention

SETC continues to attract schools from across the nation to recruit students at the annual SETC Convention. Those planning to attend in 2018 include:

- Accademia dell’Arte
- Actors Studio Drama School at Pace U
- Alfred U
- Alma College
- AMDA College & Conservatory of the Performing Arts
- The American Academy of Dramatic Arts
- Appalachian State U
- Arcadia U
- Atlantic Acting School
- Auburn U
- Auburn U Montgomery
- Austin Peay State U
- Ave Ret U
- Ball State U
- Belhaven U
- Belmont U
- Berry College
- Brevard College
- California U of Pennsylvania
- Campbellsville U
- Carnegie Mellon U
- Catawba College
- Clemson U
- Coastal Carolina U
- Colby College
- College of Charleston
- Davidson College
- Dell’Arte International School of Physical Theatre
- East Tennessee State U
- Florida International U
- Florida School of the Arts
- Florida Southern College
- Florida State U
- Furman U
- Gainesville Theatre Alliance
- George Mason U
- The George Washington U
- Georgia Southern U
- Greensboro College
- Heidelberg U
- Hollins U
- Illinois State U
- Illinois Wesleyan U
- Jacksonville U
- James Madison U
- KD Conservatory College of Film & Dramatic Arts
- Kent State U
- LaGrange College
- Lee U
- Lees-McRae College
- Liberty U
- Limestone College
- Lipscomb U
- London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art
- Long Island U/Post
- Louisiana State U
- Louisiana Tech U
- Mary Baldwin U
- Michael Howard Studios
- Middle Tennessee State U
- Mississippi State U
- The Mississippi U for Women
- Mount Vernon Nazarene U
- Murray State U
- National Theater Institute
- The Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre
- New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts
- New York Film Academy
- North Greenville U
- Nova Southeastern U
- The Ohio State U
- Ohio U
- Oklahoma City U
- Open Jar Institute
- Palm Beach Atlantic U
- Pepperdine U
- Point Park U
- Powerhouse Theater Training Program at Vassar
- Professional Actor Training Program at Chattanooga State
- Radford U
- Regent U
- Reinhardt U
- Rollins College
- Rowan U
- Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
- Salisbury U
- Sanford U
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- Sewanee: The U of the South
- Shenandoah U
- South Carolina School of the Arts at Anderson U
- Southeast Missouri State U
- Southern Illinois U
- Southern Union State Community College
- Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas
- Stella Adler Studio of Acting
- Stephen F Austin State U
- Tennessee State U
- Texas State U
- Texas Tech U
- Theatre of Arts
- Troy U
- The U of Alabama
- U of Alabama at Birmingham
- U of Alabama in Huntsville
- U of Central Florida
- U of Cincinnati College-CCM
- The U of Georgia
- U of Kentucky
- U of Louisville
- U of Memphis
- The U of Mississippi
- U of Mobile
- U of Montevallo
- The U of Mount Union
- U of Nevada, Las Vegas
- U of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- U of North Carolina Greensboro
- U of North Carolina School of the Arts
- U of South Alabama
- U of South Carolina Aiken
- U of Southern Indiana
- The U of Southern Mississippi
- U of Tennessee
- U of Tennessee Chattanooga
- U of West Florida
- U of West Georgia
- Valdosta State U
- Virginia Commonwealth U
- Virginia Tech
- Wake Forest U
- Wayne State U
- West Virginia U
- West Virginia Wesleyan
- Western Carolina U
- Western Illinois U
- Western Michigan U
- Wilkes U
- William & Mary
- Winthrop U
- York Theatre Company
- Young Harris College

More info: setc.org/auditions

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 the Mobile Civic Center. 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 8, and Friday, March 9. Tickets are $20 for one block (five shows) and may be purchased on-site.

More info: www.setc.org/convention

Inspirational High School Teacher Recognized

Kimberly Patterson, who teaches and manages the theatre program at Oxbridge Academy in West Palm Beach, FL, is the 2018 winner of SETC’s Innovative Playwriting Instruction Award. She will receive the award at the 2018 SETC Convention in Mobile, AL.

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.

Read more about Patterson’s innovations and get application information for the award: www.setc.org/innovative-playwriting-instruction

More info: www.setc.org/convention
Suzan Zeder is recognized internationally as one of the nation's leading playwrights for family audiences. She is author of a host of well-known and beloved plays, including *Mother Hicks* and *Wiley and the Hairy Man*. She is the former Head of Playwriting/Directing at the University of Texas at Austin and a six-time winner of the Distinguished Play Award from the American Alliance of Theatre Education (AATE).

Jim Hancock is a founding faculty member of the Professional Actor Training Program at Southern Methodist University and a nationally-known movement specialist and teacher of movement for actors. Zeder and Hancock co-wrote *Spaces of Creation: The Creative Process of Playwriting*, and they travel the country leading classes inspired by the book.

**Boost Your Creativity and Learn Practical Ideas You Can Take Back to the Classroom**

Don’t miss your opportunity to engage in hands-on, experiential learning with two distinguished theatre artists, Suzan Zeder and Jim Hancock, at SETC’s 13th annual Teachers Institute.

This day-long event is designed for high school and middle school teachers who use or integrate theatre techniques into their classroom, directors of theatre arts programs, teaching artists, and students studying to be theatre educators. The Institute offers an opportunity for in-service, continuing education credits and professional development.

**Meet the 2018 SETC Teachers Institute presenters:**

**Suzan Zeder** is recognized internationally as one of the nation’s leading playwrights for family audiences. She is author of a host of well-known and beloved plays, including *Mother Hicks* and *Wiley and the Hairy Man*. She is the former Head of Playwriting/Directing at the University of Texas at Austin and a six-time winner of the Distinguished Play Award from the American Alliance of Theatre Education (AATE).

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Zeder and Hancock co-wrote *Spaces of Creation: The Creative Process of Playwriting*, and they travel the country leading classes inspired by the book.

**Sign up soon to participate:**

The 2018 Teachers Institute will be held Wednesday, March 7, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m in Mobile, AL. Cost is $85, which includes lunch. The pre-registration deadline is Noon ET on Monday, Jan. 29, 2018. To register or get more information, visit [www.setc.org/teachers-institute](http://www.setc.org/teachers-institute).

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**Why Do I (and My Theatre Education Students) Attend the Teachers Institute?**

“The Teachers Institute has become a regular and anticipated part of my annual SETC experience. Not only does it provide an opportunity to connect with other theatre educators and teaching artists, I also come away with valuable information on trends in arts education, new perspectives to consider, and useful, practical ideas to take back to my classes. It’s a great investment – a yearly boost of inspiration and information for my own teaching! It also offers an incredible opportunity for my university students majoring in theatre education to gain valuable insights and perspectives, pick up classroom strategies and ideas for activities, begin their networks, and learn firsthand about what’s really happening in the world of arts education.”

- Tori Lee Averett, chair, Department of Theatre and Dance, and coordinator, K-12 Theatre Education Program, Troy University, Troy, AL
Looking for a Full-Time Job?  
Companies Will Be Hiring for Year-Round Work at SETC’s 2018 Theatre Job Fair in Mobile

Did you think that the SETC Theatre Job Fair was just for summer work? It’s WAY more than that! At last year’s SETC Job Fair in Lexington, KY, hiring companies listed more than 700 full-time openings, in addition to internships, apprenticeships and summer positions.

The jobs available at professional companies range in skill level from beginner to advanced and often there are not enough candidates to fill all positions. If you are looking for the next step in your career, download info from www.setc.org/theatre-job-fair for the SETC Theatre Job Fair, which takes place March 8-10, 2018, at the SETC Convention in Mobile! Pre-registration deadline is: Noon ET, Monday, Jan. 29, 2018. Pre-registered candidates are admitted to the Job Fair before those who register on-site.

Who’s Hiring for What This Year?
Listings received so far include year-round jobs in:

- Development
- Scenic Artistry
- Costumes
- Light Design
- Sound Design
- Paint Charge
- Props
- Stage Management
- Production Management
- General Tech
- Pyrotechnics
- Carpentry
- Wigs
- Electrics
- Education
- Administration
- Master Carpentry
- Sound Supervision

See the full lineup at www.setc.org/theatre-job-fair. Look for the header “Who’s Hiring?” and click to view the list. Check back often before the convention for updates!

Whether you are looking for full-time or summer work, make plans now to attend SETC’s Theatre Job Fair, one of the largest theatre job fairs in the nation!

More info: www.setc.org/theatre-job-fair
Game On, Stage Managers!

**So you think you’re a pretty amazing stage manager?**

**Come test your skills at the annual Stage Management Games at the 2018 SETC Convention.**

Participants in the games compete round robin in five events: blocking notation, lines notes, book cueing, scale ruling a ground plan, and prop preset. Equity stage managers and stage management faculty judge the work in each category.

The top three point winners from these five rounds then compete in a final event where they are given one minute to study a script and cues and then have to call the show live.

**EmptySpace Technology** sponsors the event each year and provides the top three winners with a portion of a year's subscription to Virtual Callboard.

This year the Stage Management Games will take place Thursday March 8, 2018, at 7 p.m. The games are limited to the first 25 stage managers who sign up. Sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m. in the room where the games take place. Check your convention schedule for more information and location.

Stage managers of all levels are welcome to participate, and fans are encouraged to attend as well to cheer on their favorite stage manager.

- Shawn Paul Evans

**Fourth Ready to Design Sponsor Added**

**Serenbe Playhouse**, located in the Atlanta metro area, this year joins **Lexington Children’s Theatre, The Rose Theater** and **Triad Stage** in sponsoring SETC’s Ready to Design Awards. Each company will offer a graduate student designer participating in the Design Competition at the 2018 SETC Convention in Mobile, AL, the opportunity to work as a designer on an upcoming production at their theatre. More info: [www.setc.org/ready-to-work](http://www.setc.org/ready-to-work)
Rhonda Blair Discusses ‘Theatre and Embodiment’ at 2018 Theatre Symposium

SETC’s 27th annual Theatre Symposium event, scheduled for the weekend of April 13 - 15, 2018, will focus on the theme of embodiment. The keynote speaker will be Rhonda Blair, a professor of theatre history and solo performance at Southern Methodist University’s Meadows School of the Arts in Dallas, TX.

Blair (above left), explores how current research on the brain, body, thought, feeling, language, interpersonal dynamics and cultural “ecologies” can inform and empower us when we make theatre. In addition to research, teaching and directing, she has done original and collaborative performance work since the 1980s. Blair is the co-editor of Theatre, Performance and Cognition: Languages, Bodies and Ecologies (Methuen 2016) and the author of The Actor, Image, and Action: Acting and Cognitive Neuroscience (Routledge 2008).

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 Friday, Jan. 19, 2018, 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.
Events: ACT College/University Festival and SETC State Screenings; Community Theatre Festival; Walter Trumbauer State Secondary Theatre Festival.

Number attending: College/University Festival/SETC State Screenings Auditions: 234; Community Theatre Festival: 101; Trumbauer State Secondary Theatre Festival: 2,942.

Winners of Community Theatre Festival: The End of a Line, Theatre Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa, AL; Doubt, A Parable, South City Theatre, Pelham, AL.

Winners of High School Theatre Festival: Radium Girls, Hoover High School, Hoover, AL; The Recovery Act by Dwayne Craft, Bob Jones High School, Madison, AL.

Idea to share: Our Secondary Festival has a separate category from One-Acts called Studio. One-Acts may have extremely elaborate scenic, lighting, sound and other design and technical execution. Studio plays are strictly limited to universal, nondescript set pieces and work lights. This category allows smaller programs that may not have many resources to bring one-act plays to the district competition and then to the state festival.

Event: Annual conference.
Number attending: 1,800.

Winner of Community Theatre Festival: 27 Wagons Full of Cotton, Venice Theatre, Venice, FL.

Winners of High School Theatre Festival: And They Dance Real Slow in Jackson, Gulf Breeze High School, Gulf Breeze, FL; Collected Stories, Boone High School, Orlando, FL.

Idea to share: Three ideas: 1) FTC implemented its own version of the Hackathon, taking inspiration from the 2017 SETC Convention Hackathon. Winning team members each received a $10 Starbucks gift card. 2) All SETC Preliminary Professional Auditions candidates were given buttons identifying them as auditionees. As these auditionees visited the College Expo, the button called attention to their theatrical status. 3) All High School and College Transfer Auditions candidates were given buttons identifying them as auditionees. (Their button was different from the SETC Preliminary Professional Auditions button.) When these students visited the College Expo, they were given preference for discussion and interviews with colleges/universities/conservatories.

Event: Annual conference: “Play West.”
Number attending: 1,514.

Winner of Community Theatre Festival: Don’t Dress for Dinner, Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre, Augusta, GA.

Winners of High School Theatre Festival: Earnest and the Pale Moon, Davidson Fine Arts School, Augusta, GA; Failure: A Love Story, Lakeside High School, Atlanta, GA.

Look for the Mississippi Theatre Association report in the March/April issue of SETC News.
Kentucky Theatre Association

Jeremy Kisling
State Representative

North Carolina Theatre Conference

Angie Hays
Executive Director

South Carolina Theatre Association

Kris McIntyre
State Representative

Event: Annual conference.
Number attending: 525.
Winner of Community Theatre Festival: Flowers for Algernon, Actors for Children Theatre, Flatwoods, KY.

Winners of High School Theatre Festival: 1st: Alice in Wonderland, SCAPA @ Lafayette, Lexington, KY; 1st runner-up: Waylen, Owensboro High School, Owensboro, KY; 2nd runner-up: Freak the Mighty, Spencer County High School, Taylorsville, KY.

Idea to share: This was the second year we had schools compete in a regional competition before moving to the state conference. KTA made this move for two reasons: 1) We wanted to serve more schools (we had 26 high schools compete from across the state). 2) This change has improved the quality of the work overall, with productions getting more than just one response. The goal is to offer support to our high school teachers while increasing the quality of the overall work in our productions.

Events: NCTC High School Play Festival and NCTC College Discovery Day.
Number attending: Approximately 4,500.
Winner of Community Theatre Festival: No state community theatre festival.

Winners of High School Theatre Festival: Tuesdays and Sundays, North Moore High School, Robbins, NC; Eurydice, Charlotte Country Day School, Charlotte, NC.

Idea to share: This year, the NCTC Theatre Admin Intensive, originally designed for college juniors and seniors, was also open to emerging leaders. Participants learned about numerous administrative topics, including fundraising, marketing, advocacy and nonprofit governance. The Intensive is a great resume credit and an opportunity to learn from prominent industry leaders. The 2018 Theatre Admin Intensive will be held April 9 at Triad Stage in Greensboro, with Angie Hays and special guest Richard Whittington, founding managing director of Triad Stage.

Event: Annual conference.
Number attending: 1,200.
Winners of Community Theatre Festival: I Am My Own Wife, Proud Mary Theatre Company, Spartanburg, SC; The Last Five Years, Aiken Community Playhouse, Aiken, SC.

Winners of High School Theatre Festival: Growing Up Wonderland, Blythewood High School, Blythewood, SC; The Sins of Sor Juana, Carolina Forest High School, Conway, SC.

Idea to share: This year we started Convention Bingo, in which each participant received a BINGO board with squares for attending various workshops, keynotes and performances throughout the convention. For each BINGO board submitted, they could receive a free ribbon or pin from our excellent merchandise table to affix to their name badges. This became a fun competition to see who could win the most adornments.

More info: www.setc.org/state-organizations
Tennessee Theatre Association

Rex Knowles
State Representative

Event: Annual conference.
Number attending: 867.
Winner of Community Theatre Festival: 2017 festival cancelled.
Winners of High School Theatre Festival: 1st: Animal Farm, Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville, TN; 2nd: Medea, Nolensville High School, Nolensville, TN.

Idea to share: This year, the TTA Board implemented an advocacy plan. This plan will provide guidance for the board as we seek to raise awareness of the importance of theatre and the arts across the state. Members of the TTA Board are responsible for corresponding with local and state representatives to advocate for arts funding, as well as meeting with other constituents, such as local school boards. Arts funding is, unfortunately, always in jeopardy and the recent political climate elevates the need for planned and intentional advocacy on the part of dedicated arts patrons and professionals.

Virginia Theatre Association

Perry Payne Millner
Executive Director

Event: Annual conference.
Number attending: 2,500.
Winner of Community Theatre Festival: A Raisin in the Sun, Academy Center of the Arts, Lynchburg, VA.
Winners of High School Theatre Festival: 1st: Second Samuel, Heritage High School, Lynchburg, VA; Runner-up: Immersed, Jamestown High School, Williamsburg, VA.

Idea to share: We held a curated symposium, UP! 2017, featuring panels and sessions on diversity and inclusion in theatre, dance, comradery, social change and scholarly endeavors, with keynote presentations by Dear Evan Hansen’s Mike Faist, Newsies’ Tommy Bracco, and NYC performer and music director Billy Stritch. Featured all-conference performances included Signature in the Schools’ original production of Smile Lines, Norfolk State University and Virginia Stage Company’s joint production of The Parchman Hour, Virginia Wesleyan University’s production of Into the Woods, a nightly piano bar with NYC’s Patrick DeGennaro, and more.

West Virginia Theatre Association

Dennis Wemm
Executive Director

Event: Annual conference.
Number attending: Approximately 375.
Winner of Community Theatre Festival: Women on Fire, MT Pockets Theatre, Morgantown, WV.
Winners of High School Theatre Festival: Little Shop of Horrors, Westside High School, Clear Fork, WV; Relative Strangers, Jefferson High School, Shenandoah Junction, WV.

Idea to share: The best thing that came out of convention planning was the resurrection of an old idea from SETC: the Local Planning host. WVTA was dedicated to moving the annual conference out of our “comfort zone” of the north central region of the state. The southern tier of West Virginia had not hosted a conference in the history of the organization. The beautiful campus of Concord University, located in Athens, WV, near the southern border of the state, was chosen to host this year’s event. Due to the large amount of support from our host and double duty from the WVTA board members who were able to attend, we were able to mount a full, memorable conference.
Cast Your Vote for New Officers at March 10 SETC Business Meeting

Please take a few minutes to review SETC’s proposed slate of officers for 2018-19.

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 10, 2018, immediately following the keynote address in the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile, AL.

2018-19 Slate of Officers

President
Jeff Gibson

VP, Services
Lee Crouse

VP, Administration
Maegan Azar

VP, Finance
David Wohl

Secretary
Rebecca Beasley

Past President
Alan Litsey

VP, States
Kris Rau McIntyre

VP, Divisions
Tom Booth

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

2018-19 Nominations Committee

Tiza Garland (chair)

Mary Fran Crook

Pat Gagliano

Jen Nelson Lane

Shannon Robert

More info: www.setc.org/leadership
SETC Pays Tribute to Two Individuals Who Helped Grow and Shape the Organization

SETC lost two of its great leaders in December. Our organization stands on the shoulders of what they accomplished during their tenure at the organization. On behalf of all who carry on the good work of our predecessors, we thank them for their work well done.

Marian A. Smith, who died at 89 on Dec. 15, was at the helm for 26 years as SETC’s first Administrative Director and later Executive Director. While I never had the honor to personally know Marian, her legacy lives on. Under her leadership, SETC grew its membership from several hundred to several thousand. Marian’s influence extended beyond SETC. She was active in the American College Theater Festival, which awarded its Gold Medallion of Excellence to her, and she co-founded the North Carolina Theatre Conference, which named its Distinguished Career Award in her honor.

David Weiss, who died at age 89 on Dec. 18, not only was a Past President of SETC, but also played a key role in the growth of the Institute of Outdoor Drama (now Institute of Outdoor Theatre, which became part of SETC this year), serving as a board member and a consultant on feasibility studies for new outdoor drama projects. He aided in the design of 18 outdoor drama facilities and 47 indoor theatres. He also was a founder of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education and was active in USITT. In 2003, he was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Theatre.

REMEMBERING Marian A. Smith

“Without Marian, SETC might not have survived. She was a heavyweight in the Executive Director’s chair. She fought for what she thought best, let the majority rule and made the best of the results.”
- Don Wolfe, SETC President, 1994-95
(See more tributes, Page 16)

REMEMBERING David Weiss

“David was a brilliant artist, educator, world traveler, historian, theatre designer, mentor and friend. He made everyone better and will be missed dearly.”
- Kevin Breen, entertainment lawyer, Los Angeles, CA, and former student
(See more tributes, Page 16)

More info: www.setc.org
REMEMBERING SETC LEADERS

HAVE A QUESTION FOR SETC CENTRAL OFFICE?
Find the right contact to answer your question

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Organization
Leadership

REMEMBERING
Marian A. Smith

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“When I think of Marian, I think of a Southern lady. She was gracious and always made me feel welcome in her home. She always got the job done in an efficient manner.”
- Walter Shipley, SETC President, 1993-94

“Marian, the face of SETC for many years, was a pioneer in American theatre. As a pioneer at heart: adventurous, daring, forceful, independent, generous. In a word, Marian was indomitable. And, on top of all that, she could be a hell of a lot of fun.”
- Tom Stephens, SETC President, 1991-92

“Marian served SETC with decades-long commitment, great strength, professional integrity and enduring friendship. She was born to lead us, and we shall always be enormously grateful.”
- Scott Parker, SETC President, 1981-82

“Marian was a Steel Magnolia – Southern tough and Southern gracious. She was absolutely dedicated to SETC and led and served it fearlessly.”
- Ward Haarbauer, SETC President, 1980-81

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“David Weiss: grace, ease, joy. He was the compass that gave my life direction. It’s as simple as that.”
- Ed Stern, former artistic director, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, and former student

“He never stopped instructing me. The day after Marian Smith’s death (two days before his own passing), he wrote me, saying, ‘Don’t grieve. Remember all the fun we had.’ And I will do that for you, my dear, dear friend and teacher.”
- Scott Parker, retired director, Institute of Outdoor Drama, and former student

**In Memoriam**

Cliff Fagan, 91, of Greenwood, SC, died Friday, Nov. 10, 2017. A former member of SETC, he was a longtime volunteer with the Greenwood Community Theatre.