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# Mid-America Theatre Conference



ELEVENTH  
ANNUAL  
CONVENTION



## **THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM**

Theatre and the Erotic



## **DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM**

The Politics of Directing



## **CHILDREN'S THEATRE/ CREATIVE DRAMATICS PROGRAM**

Children's Theatre Entering the 1990s



## **PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS**

THE HOLIDAY INN METRODOME  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

MARCH 16, 17, 18, 1990

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# MID-AMERICA THEATRE CONFERENCE

## OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Glenn Q. Pierce, <i>University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas</i>
<b>Vice-President</b>	Judith Zivanovic, <i>Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas</i>
<b>Secretary-Treasurer</b>	Richard Poole, <i>Briar Cliff College, Sioux City, Iowa</i>

## CONVENTION OFFICIALS

<b>Program Chair</b>	Judith Zivanovic, <i>Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas</i>
<b>Theatre History Symposium Co-Chairs</b>	Rosemarie Bank, <i>Kent State University, Kent, Ohio</i> Michal Kobialka, <i>University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota</i>
<b>Directing Symposium</b>	Suzanne Dieckman, <i>University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri</i>
<b>Children's Theatre/Creative Dramatics Program</b>	Roberta Larson, <i>Emmy Gifford Children's Theatre, Omaha, Nebraska</i>
<b>Conference and Audition Registration</b>	Marilyn Heath, <i>University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas</i> Pam Hill, <i>University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas</i>
<b>MATC Auditions</b>	Robert Moulton, <i>University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota</i>
<b>Local Arrangements</b>	Glen Gadberry, <i>University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota</i> Kent Neely, <i>University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota</i>
<b>Special Assistance</b>	Paula Malone, <i>University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas</i>
<b>Holiday Inn Metrodome Representative</b>	Jessica Nord

## Convention Schedule

### Auditions

Auditions and interviews will be held in Aragon A. After registering, auditionees should check in at Aragon B at least 30 minutes prior to the audition time (earlier if possible). Auditions will be conducted Friday and Saturday, from 9:30 a.m. until approximately 4:30 p.m. with a break from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. both days. Dance auditions, also conducted in Aragon A, will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Callbacks will be held both evenings at the discretion of the producing theatre companies. They usually will be held in the producers' hotel rooms.

After registering, interviewees should check in between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in Aragon B. Interviews for technical and management positions will be conducted on Sunday morning beginning at 9:30 a.m. and run through approximately 12 noon.

### Program Locations

- ← All sessions for the Theatre History Symposium will be held in the Avalon Room at the Holiday Inn Metrodome.
- ↪ The Directing Symposium meetings will be held in the Filmore Room of the Holiday Inn Metrodome.
- The Children's Theatre/Creative Dramatics Programs will be held in Aragon E of the Holiday Inn Metrodome and at the Children's Theatre. Check the program for the site of each event.
- ↗ Production Workshops will be held in Aragon F of the Holiday Inn Metrodome.

### Conference Registration

Conference registration will begin at 3 p.m. Thursday, March 15, and continue until 6:00 p.m. The desk will be open at 8:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday, March 17 and 18, and will close at 4:00 p.m. It will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 18.

**All Conference or Audition Participants  
Must be Registered for the Conference.**

## MATC Convention Schedule Minneapolis, Minnesota

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

7:00-9:00 p.m. **PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS:**

### ACTF Talk-back



Jay Edelnant,  
*University of Northern Iowa*  
ACTF Region V Vice-Chair

Edelnant will moderate a session concerning the regional changes during the past year and will encourage response to policy, problems, changes, etc.

## Friday, March 16

MATC Session 1

9:00-10:15 a.m. **THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM:**

### **Avenues of Desire**



Chair: George Glenn,  
*University of Northern Iowa*

Agnes Pierron,  
*Paris, France*  
**Erotic Theatre in the *rue de la Sante***

Les Wade,  
*Louisiana State University*  
**Bourbon Street Burlesque:  
The Urban Erotic Zone**

9:00-10:15 a.m. **DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM:**

### **What's My Agenda: A Conversation Among Directing Methodologies**



Chair: William F. Mullen,  
*University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire*

Robert Hurst,  
*Southern Illinois University*  
**A Pluralist Approach**

Lawrence J. Knowles,  
*North Dakota State University*  
**A Socratic Approach**

Julia Pachoud,  
*Augustana College*  
**A Feminist Approach**

Paul Sannerud  
**A Scenographer's Perspective**

## Friday, March 16

9:00-10:15 a.m. **CHILDREN' THEATRE/CREATIVE  
DRAMATICS PROGRAM:**

NOTHING SCHEDULED

9:00-11:45 a.m. **PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS:**  
(double session)

### **Contact: Working With Others**



John Gronbeck-Tedesco,  
*University of Kansas*

This workshop will include exercises on enhancing contact with "an actor's greatest resource--other actors." Sources include Grotowski, object relations theory (especially Freud and Klein) and some more standard approaches to ensemble acting and improvisation.

## Friday, March 16

MATC Session 2

10:30-11:45 a.m. **THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM:**

### [Re]Presenting Eroticism

Chair: Laurilyn Harris,  
*Washington State University*

Yvonne Shafer,  
*University of Colorado*  
**Putting the Eros Back in Ibsen**

Sheila Stowell,  
*University of British Columbia*  
**The Tyranny of Fashion, the Process of  
De-eroticization in Representative Feminist Plays  
of the Edwardian Age**

10:30-11:45 a.m. **DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM:**

### Directorial Concepts

Chair: Robert Schanke,  
*Central College*

Kenneth Robbins,  
*University of South Dakota*  
**Concept/Vision: A Directing Perspective**

David J. Pasto,  
*Mount Holyoke College*  
**The Sexual Politics of Restoration Comedy:  
A Feminist Perspective**

Jan Sheeran,  
*Rockhurst College*  
**Cenodoxus 1989: Forces Campaigning  
for a Soul**

## Friday, March 16

10:30-11:45 a.m. **CHILDREN'S THEATRE/CREATIVE  
DRAMATICS PROGRAM:**

### Feminism and Children's Theatre: Three Voices

Chair: Amy Matthews,  
*Macalester College*

Kaarin S. Johnston,  
*College of St. Benedict*  
**'Girls' and 'Boys': Characters for  
Children's Theatre**

Julia Pachoud,  
*Augustana College*  
**New Directions: Feminist Process and  
Children's Theatre**

Joann Holonbeck,  
*College of St. Catharine's*  
**Children's Theatre and Feminism:  
Producing the Play**

10:30-11:45 a.m. **PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS:**  
continuation of double session (9:00-11:45 a.m.)

### Contact: Working With Others

John Gronbeck-Tedesco,  
*University of Kansas*

## Friday, March 16

MATC Session 3

12:30-1:45 p.m. **THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM:**

### **[De]Centering the Erotic**



Chair: Joe Roach, *Northwestern University*

Jill Dolan,  
*University of Wisconsin-Madison*  
**Excessive Sexualities: Gay and Lesbian  
Representations and the Erotic**

Morris Meyer, *Chicago, Illinois*  
**'I Dream of Jeannie': Performance as Scientific  
Display: An Interpretation of Trans-sexual  
Striptease**

Diane Odeen,  
*Minneapolis, Minnesota*  
**The Audience as Voyeur: Feminist  
Performance Art**

12:30-1:45 a.m. **DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM:**

### **Directorial Politics in Historical Perspective**



Chair: Michael Nash, *Kent State University*

Doug Paterson,  
*University of Nebraska-Omaha*  
**The Emergence of the Director:  
As Labor Manager**

Bob Adams,  
*University of Missouri*  
**Mysticism or Mandism: The Theatre of  
Meyerhold and Brecht**

Burnet M. Hobgood,  
*University of Illinois*  
**Stanislavsky's Strategy as a Teacher-Director**

## Friday, March 16

12:30-1:45 p.m. **CHILDREN'S THEATRE/CREATIVE  
DRAMATICS PROGRAM:**

### **Paper presentation and discussion**



Chair: Tracy Iwersen,  
*Emmy Gifford Children's Theater*

John A. Hofland,  
*Dordt College*  
**Drama as a Teaching Method**

12:30-1:45 p.m. **PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS:**



Vic Perillo,  
*Theatrical Agent, Los Angeles, California*

Session on the audition technique for stage  
and media.

## Friday, March 16

MATC Session 4

2:15-3:30 p.m. **THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM:**

### **Body Parts/Body's Part**



Chair: Robert Schanke,  
*Central College*

Barbara Clayton,  
*University of Wisconsin-Madison*  
Kim Marra,  
*University of Wisconsin-Madison*

**Phallocracy and Phallic Caricature: Re-Viewing  
the Iconography of Greek Comedy**

Paul Castagno,  
*University of Alabama*  
**The Radical Site of Desire: The Topoi of the  
Buttocks in Mannerist Images of the *commedia  
dell' arte***

Ian MacLennan,  
*Kent State University*  
**'Boying' Cleopatra: Homo-erotic Implications  
as the Establishment of Male Hegemony**

2:15-3:30 p.m. **DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM:**

### **Hegemonous Constructs: The Director as Joke?**



Chair: Marya Bednerik,  
*Kent State University*

Panelists:  
Gary Stewart,  
*Indiana State University*  
Mae Arnold Bell,  
*Minneapolis*

## Friday, March 16

2:15-3:30 p.m. **CHILDREN'S THEATRE/CREATIVE  
DRAMATICS PROGRAM:**

### **Imposing Values on a Captive Audience: Practical and Ethical Considerations in Selecting Appropriate Content for Young Theatre Audiences**



Moderator: Mark J. Hoeger,  
*Emmy Gifford Children's Theater,  
Omaha, Nebraska*

Rachel Torgerson,  
*Parent Advisory Council, Hutchinson High  
School, Hutchinson, Minnesota*

Moses Goldberg,  
*Artistic Director, Stage One,  
Louisville, Kentucky*

Michael Robins,  
*Producing Director, Illusion Theatre,  
Minneapolis*

2:15-5:00 p.m. **PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS:  
(double session)**



Bob Kelly,  
*Owner, Bob Kelly Cosmetics*

Kelly has 40 years experience as a Broadway,  
TV and film make-up artist. He will  
demonstrate age and special effects make-up.  
This workshop demonstration is sponsored by  
Norcostco of Minneapolis.

## Friday, March 16

MATC Session 5

3:45-5:00 p.m. **THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM:**

### Erotic Consumption

Chair: Eileen Kearney,  
*Pomona College*


Cynthia Jenner,  
*New York, New York*  
**Adele Shank's Consumer Erotics**

David Schlossman,  
*Chicago, Illinois*  
**Eroticism in a Culture of Greed:  
Caryl Churchill's Serious Money**

Mary Karen Dahl,  
*University of Wisconsin-Madison*  
**Howard Barker: The Politics of Desire**


3:45-5:00 p.m. **DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM:**

Workshop: **The Zen of Directing**

 Workshop Leader: Stuart Lenig,  
*University of Richmond*

## Friday, March 16

3:45-5:00 p.m. **CHILDREN'S THEATRE/CREATIVE  
DRAMATICS PROGRAM:**

 Chair: James Larson,  
*Emmy Gifford Children's Theater  
Omaha, Nebraska*

Robert Bly,  
*poet and National Book Award winner*  
**Mythology, Drama, & Children**

3:45-5:00 p.m. **PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS:**  
continuation of double session (2:15-5:00 p.m.)

 Bob Kelly make-up demonstration

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**6:00-9:00 p.m. EVENING BANQUET**

Aragon C & D

Guest Speaker: Michael Andrew Miner,  
*Artistic Director,  
Actors Theatre (St. Paul)*

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## Saturday, March 17

MATC Session 6

9:00-10:15 a.m. **THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM:**

NOTHING SCHEDULED

9:00-10:15 a.m. **DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM:**

### **Directorial Style and the Politics of Working with Fellow Artists**



Chair: Alan Klem,  
*Creighton University*

N. Joseph Calarco,  
*Wayne State University*  
**Dangerous Liaisons: The Negotiations of Director, Actor, and Designer**

Lynn-Steven Johanson,  
*Western Illinois University*  
**Directorial Utilization of Interpersonal Communication Skills in Creating a More Effective Rehearsal Climate**

Carla Waal,  
*University of Missouri*  
**The Politics of Directing in a Norwegian Institutional Theatre**

## Saturday, March 17

9:00-10:15 a.m. **CHILDREN'S THEATRE/ CREATIVE DRAMATICS PROGRAM:**

NOTHING SCHEDULED

9:00-10:15 a.m. **PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS:**

### **Directing the Viet Nam Experience** Part I (Part II in Session 10)



Bruce Browne,  
*University of Wisconsin Center--  
Sheboygan County*  
**Excerpts from the production, Shrapnel in the Heart, as done at the University of Wisconsin Sheboygan County campus. (Part II, Directing, 9:00 a.m. Sunday.)**

## Saturday, March 17

MATC Session 7

10:30-11:45 a.m. **THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM:**

### Photos, Piglets, Passion and Pomography



Chair: Peter Davis,  
*Tufts University*

Laurence Senelick,  
*Tufts University*  
**The Erotic in Early Theatrical Photography**

Rebecca Hilliker,  
*University of Wyoming*  
**The Male Fraternity of the Black Piglet:  
An Erotic and Soulless View of Woman  
as Madonna and Medusa, Virgin and Vampire**

Andrew Apter,  
*Agnes Scott College*  
**Theatre as Orgasmic Dream**

10:30-11:45 a.m. **DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM:**

### Directorial Ethics



Chair: Suzanne Dieckman,  
*University of Missouri*

Panelists:  
Theresa Larkin,  
*California State University-Los Angeles*  
Karen Greenler,  
*Cornell College*  
Meredith Alexander,  
*University of Wisconsin*

## Saturday, March 17

10:30-11:45 a.m. **CHILDREN'S THEATRE/CREATIVE  
DRAMATICS PROGRAM:**

### Story Theatre Workshop



Leader: Sara Edlin-Marlowe,  
*University of North Dakota*

10:30-11:45 a.m. **PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS:**

### Playing Actions



John Gronbeck-Tedesco,  
*University of Kansas*

This workshop will include exercises designed to heighten and sharpen the actor's ability to choose and play actions. Sources include Stanislavski, Moore, and Boleslavsky but also Gestalt psychology and bioenergetics.

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**12 noon- 1:00 p.m. LUNCHEON MEETING**

Aragon C & D

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## Saturday, March 17

MATC Session 8

1:30-2:45 p.m. **THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM:**

### Un[Dis]Covering Eros



Chair: John Gronbeck-Tedesco,  
*University of Kansas*

Karl Toepfer,  
*San Jose State University*  
**Nudity and Textuality in Theatrical Performance**

Wilfried Passow  
**Men Play Women-Women Play Men:  
The Semiotics of Gender Transfer on the Stage**

Kent Neely,  
*University of Minnesota*  
**Intimacy or Cruel Love:  
Displacing the Other by Self Assertion**

1:30-2:45 p.m. **DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM:**

### Gender Issues in Directing Shakespeare



Chair: Cindy Phaneuf,  
*University of Nebraska-Omaha*

Paul Meier, *University of Kansas*  
**Non-traditional Casting and the Politics of  
Transformation in Taming of the Shrew**

Delores Ringer,  
*University of Kansas*  
**A Feminist Politics of Directing:  
Two Gentleman of Verona**

Mira Wiegmann,  
*Concordia College*  
**The Yang/Yin of Love and the Integrated Self  
in A Midsummer Night's Dream**

## Saturday, March 17

2:00 p.m. **CHILDREN'S THEATRE/CREATIVE  
DRAMATICS PROGRAM:**

Featured Production  
**TOMIE DEPAOLA'S MOTHER GOOSE**  
by Connie Congdon



Produced by:  
The Children's Theatre Company  
Directed by: Myron Johnson

Respondent: Moses Goldberg,  
*Stage One, Louisville, Kentucky*

Discussion will take place on the stage  
immediately following the performance.

Fifty tickets for this production will be available  
at registration, for \$14.50 each. Make checks  
payable to Emmy Gifford Children's Theatre.

1:30-2:45 p.m. **PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS:**

NOTHING SCHEDULED

## Saturday, March 17

MATC Session 9

3:15-4:30 p.m. **THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM:**

### **Sex, Death, and Money**



Chair: Liz Ramirez, *University of Arizona*

Sam Abel,  
*DePauw University*  
**Music as Sexual Discourse in Opera**

Roxana Stuart,  
*New York, New York*  
**The Eroticism of Evil:  
The Vampire in Nineteenth-Century Melodrama**

David Wheeler,  
*Moorhead State University*  
**Mark Twain's The Gilded Age:  
A Tale of Passion**

3:15-4:30 p.m. **DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM:**

### **Women Directors: Whose Role Are We Playing?**



Chair: Johanna Dickey Kleeberg,  
*Gustavus Adolphus College*

Meredith Alexander,  
*University of Wisconsin*  
**Questions of a Feminist as Artist/Director**

Cynthia Goatley, *Macalester College*  
**Political Choices: A Feminist Director's  
Personal Point of View**

Karla Kirkwood, *Southwestern College*  
Johanna Dickey Kleeberg,  
*Gustavus Adolphus College*  
**Feminism and Shepard:  
Irreconcilable Differences?**

## Saturday, March 17

3:15-4:30 p.m. **CHILDREN'S THEATRE/ CREATIVE  
DRAMATICS PROGRAM:**

NOTHING SCHEDULED

3:15-4:30 p.m. **PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS:**

NOTHING SCHEDULED

## Sunday, March 18

MATC Session 10

9:00-10:15 a.m. THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM:

### Merchandizing the Body



Chair: Kae Koger,  
*University of Massachusetts*

Ron Wainscott,  
*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*  
**She Would Be Erotic: The Virtuous Role  
of the Post-World War I Sex Farceuse**

Mark Fearnow, *University of Indiana*  
**Sex Sells: Tobacco Road and the Economics  
of the Erotic In Depression America**

Donna Kulhawy, *University of Minnesota*  
**Theatre as Erotic Experience:  
Body and Space in Martha Clarke's Vienna  
Lusthaus**

9:00-10:15 a.m. DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM:

### Directing the Viet Nam Experience (Part II)



Chair: Glenn Pierce, *University of Kansas*

Bruce Browne, *University of Wisconsin Center-  
Sheboygan County*  
**Viet Nam Remembered:  
Theatre of the Community**

Claude File,  
*Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College*  
**The Need for Realism in the Presentation  
of the Viet Nam Text**

John Mayer, *University of Missouri*  
**Developing Ensemble in the Viet Nam Play:  
The Steppenwolf Model**

## Sunday, March 18

9:00-10:15 a.m. CHILDREN'S THEATRE/ CREATIVE  
DRAMATICS PROGRAM:

NOTHING SCHEDULED

9:00-10:15 a.m. PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS:  
(double session)

### A Doll's House: A ReCreation



Performance of an experimental production  
utilizing deconstructive acting and directing  
methods, specifically pertaining to feminist  
issues.

Bethany Larson and Sarah Becker,  
with four members of the company,  
*University of Kansas*

## Sunday, March 18

MATC Session 11

10:30-11:45 a.m. **THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM:**

### **Erotic Decadence**



Chair: Ron Engle,  
*University of North Dakota*

William Sonnega, *University of Minnesota*  
**Welcome to the Jungle: Postmodern Eroticism  
in Fassbinder's Garbage, the City and Death**

Andreas Hofele  
**The Function of the Erotic in the  
Theatre of Peter Zadek**

W. Van Watson,  
*University of Southern Maine*  
**The Semiosis of Eros: The Body as a  
Sign of Itself in the Theatre of Pasolini**

10:30-11:45 a.m. **DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM:**

### **The Politics of Controversy**



Chair: Paul Hustoles,  
*Mankato State University*

Zachary Bloomfield,  
*University of Missouri*  
**Earning the Right to Offend**

Mike McElhaney,  
*Southwest Missouri State University*  
**Coping with Controversy: The Normal Heart**

Respondent: Michael Nash,  
*Kent State University*

## Sunday, March 18

10:30-11:45 a.m. **CHILDREN'S THEATRE/CREATIVE  
DRAMATICS PROGRAM:**

NOTHING SCHEDULED

10:30-11:45 a.m. **PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS:**  
(double session continued)

### **A Doll's House: A ReCreation— Deconstructive and Feminist Methods in the Creation of a Performance Text**



A workshop/discussion of issues and process  
involved with the Doll's House project.

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**12:00 noon-12:30 p.m. MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Aragon C & D

**12:30-1:45 p.m. BRUNCH**

Herbert Blau,  
*University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee*  
**The Surpassing Body: Ideology and Desire**

**2:15 p.m. (approx.) BUSINESS MEETING**

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