
MID-AMERICA THEATRE CONFERENCE



Thirteenth Annual Conference
Fairmont Hotel
Chicago, Illinois
March 12-15, 1992



Theatre History Symposium
Avarice and the Theatre



Directing Symposium
The Director and the Text



Children's Theatre/
Creative Drama Program
When I Grow Up:
Empowering Children to Imagine
and Mold the Future



Production Workshops

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

ADMINISTRATORS WORKSHOP

7:00-10:00 p.m., Regent Room

**Heaven (and My Colleagues) Help Deliver
Me From Challenging Times**

Judith Zivanovic
Kansas State University
MATC President

Issues suggested by attendees will be discussed. Administrators and those interested in administration and/or issues facing departments/colleges are encouraged to attend and share your ideas.

MID-AMERICA THEATRE CONFERENCE 1992

OFFICERS

President	Judith Zivanovic, <i>Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas</i>
Vice-President	Suzanne Dieckman, <i>University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri</i>
Secretary-Treasurer	Mike Kramme, <i>Culver-Stockton College, Canton, Missouri</i>

CONVENTION OFFICIALS

Program Chair

Judith Zivanovic, *Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas*

Theatre History Symposium

Robert Schanke, *Central College, Pella, Iowa*
Gresdna Doty, *Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

Directing Symposium

Lynn-Steven Johanson, *Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois*
Egla B. Hassan, *Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois*

Children's Theatre/Creative Drama Program

Peggy Endres, *CLIMB Theatre Company, St. Paul, Minnesota*

Production Workshops

Suzanne Dieckman, *University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri*

Conference and Audition Registration

Glenn Q. Pierce, *Overland Park, Kansas*

MATC Auditions

Robert Schanke, *Central College, Pella, Iowa*

Dance Auditions

Lindy Bartruff, *Moorhead, Minnesota*

Accompanist

Patricia Rusk, *Chicago, Illinois*

Local Arrangements

Fergus G. Currie, *Actors' Equity Association, Chicago, Illinois*

Conference Registration

Conference registration will begin at 3 p.m. Thursday, March 12, and continue until 9:30 p.m. in the Chancellor Foyer. The desk will open at 8 a.m. Friday and Saturday, March 13 and 14, and will close at 4:00 p.m. It will be open from 8:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Sunday, March 15.

Program Locations



Theatre History Symposium sessions will be held in the Regent Room.



Directing Symposium sessions will be held in the State Room.



Children's Theatre/Creative Drama sessions will be held in the Ambassador Room.



Production Workshops will be held in the Chancellor Room.

Auditions

Auditions and interviews will be held in the Moulin Rouge Room. Auditionees should check in there after registering, at least 30 minutes prior to the audition time and earlier if possible. Auditions are scheduled between 8:30 a.m. and noon and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Friday, March 13, and Saturday, March 14. Dance auditions, also in the Moulin Rouge Room, will be held at the end of the day. Callbacks will follow the auditions.

Interviews for technical and design positions will be held on Sunday, March 15, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

MATC Session 1

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

Greed or Benevolence: Setting the Stage



Chair: Julia Curtis
University of Nebraska-Omaha

Kim Marra,
University of Iowa
**Frohman Makes Adams: Avarice and the Syndication
of Feminine Virtue**

D. Layne Ehlers,
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
The Woodward-Shubert War of 1907

Paul S. Newman,
Concordia College
**Profits and Benevolence: Theatre Managers at the
Turn of the Century and Their Influence in Their
Communities**

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

Culturalism and the Text



Chair: Lynn-Steven Johanson,
Western Illinois University

Robert Gardner,
Gustavus Adolphus College
**Finding Hakamadare:
The Director as Cross-Cultural Interpreter**

Wallace Sterling,
University of Akron
**A Consciousness Raising:
White Director and African-American Plays**

Amy Ludwig,
Northwestern University
Rebuilding the House that Cisneros Built

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

MATC Session 1

CHILDREN'S THEATRE/CREATIVE DRAMA PROGRAM

9:00-10:15 a.m.

Storytelling the Future



Presenter: Rives Collins,
Northwestern University

Creating, telling, acting and authoring stories to help
young people imagine and mold their futures.
Interactive workshop.

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

Exercises in 20th-Century Acting Styles



Graham Sullivan Cooper,
Western Illinois University

Creating acting as an "artless art" -- tuning the mind
and body to reach for the moment without straining
to "act" -- through exercises in relaxation and ritual.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

MATC Session 2

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

Avarice, Art, and the Entrepreneur



Chair: Bill J. Harbin,
Louisiana State University

David Schulz,
University of Washington
**Feasting on Shakespeare: The Conspicuously
Consuming Theatre of Herbert Beerbohm Tree**

Robert A. Schanke,
Central College
Eva Le Gallienne's Battles With the Budget

Amela Baksic,
Louisiana State University
**From Witchcraft to Money-making:
The Genesis of New Orleans Voo Doo**

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

Manipulating the Text



Chair: Cindy Gendrich,
University of Missouri-Columbia

Mira Wiegmann,
Concordia College
The Director Questions the Text

Andre Sedriks,
Wayne State College
**In Search of a Good Dance Partner:
Director's Choice**

Ihor Ciszewycz,
New Generation Players, Columbus, Ohio
**Re-working a Dramatic Text for the Stage by a
Director: A Historical Perspective**

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

MATC Session 2

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

For Those for Whom the Future Seems Bleak



Presenter: Peg Endres,
director, CLIMB Theatre Company, St. Paul, MN

Improvisation, play making, and theatre activities to instill a sense of future, hope and self-worth in emotionally and behaviorally disordered, disadvantaged, incarcerated and/or court adjudicated youth aged 6-18 years.

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

**Movement Workshop:
Making Ideas Live in the Flesh**



Michael Sokoloff,
*free-lance director/choreographer and part-time
instructor at the Theatre School, De Paul University*

Exploring some basic techniques to make the actor's physical life express his internal life.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

MATC Session 3

THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM - 1:00-2:15 p.m.

**The Show Business:
Economics and the American Theatre**



Chair: Rosemarie Bank,
Kent State University

Peter Davis, *University of Illinois*

**The Rise of a National Currency in the 1830s and Its
Impact on Touring British Stars**

Bruce McConachie, *College of William and Mary*
The Actors' Protective Union of 1863

Weldon Durham, *University of Missouri-Columbia*
**A Hypothesis Concerning the Shubert Organization's
Practices In Acquiring Finance Capital**

Margaret Knapp, *Arizona State University*
Corporatization of Non-Profit Theatre in the 1960s

DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM - 12:30-1:45 p.m.

Textual Analysis



Chair: Johanna Dickey-Kleeberg,
Gustavus Adolphus College

Shirley Huston-Findley,
University of Missouri-Columbia

**Lanford Wilson's "The Rimers of Eldritch":
A Phenomenological Approach to Analysis and the
Directing Process**

Lynn-Steven Johanson, *Western Illinois University*
**Subtextual Analysis: Revealing the Fictional and
Functional Levels in the Text**

Kazimierz Braun, *University of Buffalo*
The Method of Reading of the Drama by a Director

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

MATC Session 3

CHILDREN'S THEATRE/CREATIVE DRAMA PROGRAM

12:30-1:45 p.m.

**Drama for Children and Youth Who are Deaf
or Hard of Hearing**



Presenter: Marian Lucas,
deaf actor/teacher, St. Paul, MN

This workshop will feature a unique perspective on drama culled from 15 years' experience in theatre and teaching, including study at Gallaudet University and with National Theatre Institute of the Deaf, along with a lifetime of living and communicating in two cultures: hearing and deaf. Workshop will be interpreted.

PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS - 1:00-2:15 p.m.

Vocal Preparation for Performance



Nan Withers-Wilson,
Northwestern University

In this voice workshop, Professor Nan Withers-Wilson, Ph.D., will guide the participants through a progressive sequence of vocal and physical exercises designed to prepare the actor's voice for performance. Addressing such areas as breath awareness, vocal resonance, articulatory flexibility, and connecting voice to character, this warm-up represents a useful model for the actor's pre-rehearsal and pre-performance vocal preparation.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

MATC Session 4

THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM - 2:30-3:45 p.m.

Shifting Opportunities and Shifting Appetites



Chair: John Mayer,
University of Missouri

David Carlyon,
Northwestern University

**Dan Rice and Greed for Position: The 19th-Century
Circus Clown as Gentleman and Artiste**

Kathryn Oberdeck,
University of Michigan
**The Vaudeville Syndicate and the New Hierarchy of
Female Consumption**

Tracy C. Davis,
Northwestern University
**Economic Philosophy and 19th-Century British
Entertainment**

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

Director and Designer Approach to the Text



Chair: Thomas O. Mitchell,
University of Illinois

Panelists: John Stark,
scene designer, Illinois State University

Cary Libkin,
director, Pennsylvania State University

John Brooks,
costume designer, Loyola University

Thomas O. Mitchell,
director, University of Illinois

Using a common text, "The Trojan Women," directors and designers discuss their approach to sharing ideas in the collaborative process.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

MATC Session 4

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

Techniques Ideas Methods Activities for Special Youth



Presenter: Ted Rubenstein,
Institute for Therapy Through the Arts, Winnetka, IL

Interactive workshop.

PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS - 2:30-3:45 p.m.

Character Development Through Improvisation



Joyce Pauley,
director of theatre, Oak Park River Forest H.S.

This workshop will explore two levels of improvisation -- creating a "shared reality" or filling in the gaps in a play and releasing core emotions through improvisational techniques. The format will include demonstrations as well as participation.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

MATC Session 5

THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

no program scheduled



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

Feminism and the Text



Chair: Eglá Hassan,
Western Illinois University

Karen Rasch,
University of Missouri-Columbia
Making the Foreign Familiar

Elliot Jackson,
Northwestern University
**Feminism and the post-Brechtian Aesthetic:
An Examination of the Premiere of Liz Lochhead's
"Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off"**

Lesley Rathkamp,
University of Missouri-Columbia
**"Quilters": Biography, Autobiography and Fictional
Femininity**

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

MATC Session 5

CHILDREN'S THEATRE/CREATIVE DRAMA PROGRAM

3:45-5:00 p.m.

**Directing Youth Performing for Children:
Challenges and Solutions**



Presenter: Walt Pimlott,
director, playwright, Minneapolis, MN

Workshop will present methods and practices for setting up successful children's theatre programs in secondary school settings and highlight both the challenges and solutions posed in directing young actors to perform for child audiences.

PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS - 3:45-5:00 p.m.

no program scheduled



EVENING BANQUET

5:15-8:00 p.m., Crystal Room

Speaker: Fergus G. Currie,
*assistant national executive secretary/Midwest
regional director, Actors' Equity Association*

**Professional Theatre in Chicago
and the Midwest**

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

MATC Session 6

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

'Filthy Lucre': The Playwrights' Vision



Chair: Leslie Wade,
Louisiana State University

Assunta Kent,
Northwestern University
**'And What of the Night': Fornes' Apocalyptic Vision
of American Greed and Poverty**

Henry I. Schvey,
Washington University
**Avarice and Greed in Ben Jonson's "Volpone" and
David Mamet's "Glengarry Glen Ross"**

John Fleming,
University of Texas
Romulus Linney Looks at the Business of Greed

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

The Director and the Dramaturg: Three Models for Academic Theatre



Chair: Annie McGregor,
Purdue University

Panelists: John Watson,
University of Oregon
John Schmor,
Northeast Missouri State University
Annie McGregor,
Purdue University

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

MATC Session 6

CHILDREN'S THEATRE/CREATIVE DRAMA PROGRAM
begins 9:00 a.m.; continues through Session 8

Presenting Three Plays for Empowerment



Chair: Peg Endres,
director, CLIMB Theatre Company, St. Paul, MN

Part One (in performance):
**Roger Gross' Pop Opera "Zorro, Merlin, Astra
and the Famous Bobby Purvis"**
Presenter: Roger Gross et al., *University of Arkansas*

Part Two (in review -- videotape, script, scenework):
Peg Wetli's "In Search of Somebody"
Presenter: Leigh Anne Adams,
director, CLIMB Theatre Company, St. Paul, MN

Part Three (staged reading):
Tom Balmer's "The Christmas Salameh"
Presenter: Tom Balmer,
director, Black Hawk Children's Theatre, Waterloo, IA

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

Basics of Comic Improvisation



John Mayer, *University of Missouri-Columbia*

Based on Second City exercises, this workshop is designed to demonstrate a fun way to establish comic improvisational structures.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

MATC Session 7

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

**Avarice Thematicized:
The Second Deadly Sin**



Chair: Gladys Crane,
University of Wyoming

William Van Watson,
Washington University
"La roba": Giovanni Verga's Materialist Center

Donnalee Dox Kulhawy,
University of Minnesota
Thirsting for the Blood of the Infidels:
Analyzing the Representation of Jews in the East
Anglian "Play of the Sacrament"

Amy M. Atchley,
Louisiana State University
The "Very God of Marriage" Viewed by Aphra Behn
and Susan Centivre

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

The Directing Process and the Text



Chair: Robert Gardner,
Gustavus Adolphus College

Paul Siemers, *University of Minnesota*
Directing the Singer-Actor: A Synergistic-Holistic
Approach to Text-Based Performing in Music Theatre

Matthew Bliss,
University of Missouri-Columbia
A Space of Time:
A Director's Approach to Intermission

Egla Hassan, *Western Illinois University*
"Walking Home":
The Role of the Director in a Play with No Text

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

MATC Session 7

CHILDREN'S THEATRE/CREATIVE DRAMA PROGRAM
began 9:00 a.m.; continues through Session 8

Presenting Three Plays for Empowerment



see Session 6 for description

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

**Shortcuts to Shakespeare Performance:
Improving Audition Monologues**



Dan Gately,
Atomic Talent Exchange, Chicago

Developing a Shakespearean monologue needn't be a painful experience. This workshop will explore basic techniques for improving your repertoire of Shakespeare soliloquies.

LUNCHEON and PROGRAM

12 noon-1:00 p.m., Imperial Room

Speaker: Larry Sloan,
artistic director, Remains Theatre

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

MATC Session 8

THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM - 1:00-2:15 p.m.

**Avarice Thematicized II:
Some Contemporary British Views**



Chair: Tice L. Miller,
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Christopher McCullough,
University of Exeter
Caryl Churchill's "Serious Money" and The Big Bang

Paul Siemers, *University of Minnesota*
**Avarice Thematicized:
The Dramaturgical Response of British Second Wave
Playwrights to Post-War Capitalism**

John E. O'Connor, *Buena Vista College*
**Howard Brenton and David Hare, and Contemporary
Capitalist Society**

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

Directorial Considerations



Chair: Woody Hood,
University of Missouri-Columbia

Thomas O. Mitchell and Burnet M. Hobgood,
University of Illinois
**The Director's Work with the Text:
Foundation of an Impression Structure**

Roger Gross,
University of Arkansas
Directing the Structure of the Play

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

MATC Session 8

CHILDREN'S THEATRE/CREATIVE DRAMA PROGRAM
began 9:00 a.m.; continues through Session 8

Presenting Three Plays for Empowerment



see Session 6 for description

PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS - 1:00-2:15 p.m.

The Business of Being an Actor



Fergus G. Currie,
*assistant national executive secretary/Midwest regional
director, Actors' Equity Association*

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

MATC Session 9

THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM - 2:30-3:45 p.m.

**The Lure of Gold:
Schemes, Scams, and Spectacles**



Chair: Judith Zivanovic,
Kansas State University

Audrey Colby,
Northwestern University

The Gold Pyramid House: A Genuine Replica

Klaus van den Berg,
Indiana University

**An Obsession: Strindberg's Gold-Making and the
Dissolution of Reality in "To Damascus"**

Kenny Gannon,
Louisiana State University

**High Culture and Civic Greed:
The Failure of New Orleans' Armstrong Park**

Jim Frick,
Louisiana State University

**Steel Spurs and Natural Heels:
Native and Outsider Cockfighting in South Louisiana**

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

**Psychophysical Approaches
for Non-Traditional Texts**



Workshop leader: Tom Whitaker,
University of Texas-Austin

Participants are invited but not required to bring a piece of text, which may include poetry, song or monologue. Comfortable clothing is encouraged.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

MATC Session 9

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

**A Survey of Plays Today Noted for Waking
Imagination to Awareness of the World At
Large**



Presenter: Orlin Corey,
Anchorage Press

Presenter will review works of Aurand Harris, Suzan Zeder, Wendy Kesselman, and Theodore Fara. Note will be taken of such works as "MacBeth," "Huckleberry Finn," "Cats," and "The Secret Garden," works well-known to the adult and beloved by the child who meets them.

PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS -- 2:30-3:45 p.m.

Warm-Ups for Shakespeare



Bill Hutson,
Creighton University

Charles Constant,
professional actor, Chicago, IL

Exercises for preparing vocally and physically for the Shakespearean performance. Active participation required of all who attend this workshop.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

MATC Session 10

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

Journeys Into Excess: The German View



Chair: Ron Engle,
University of North Dakota

William Sonnega,
University of Minnesota

**The Politics of Decadence:
Fassbinder's "Garbage, The City and Death"**

Rebecca Hilliker,
University of Wyoming
Brecht, Breugel and "Teatrum Munde"

Peggy Mecham,
New York University
Brecht and Weill and "The Seven Deadly Sins"

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

The Director and New Playscripts



Chair: Mira Wiegmann,
Concordia College

Paul Castagno,
University of Alabama

**Exploring Thresholds: Positivizing Director/Dramaturg
Relationships in the Development of a New Playscript**

Peter Larlham,
San Diego State University

**Workshopping:
Playmaking in the South African Theatre**

Johanna Dickey-Kleeberg,
Gustavus Adolphus College
Team and Traverse: Playmaking in Great Britain

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

MATC Session 10

CHILDREN'S THEATRE/CREATIVE DRAMA PROGRAM

no program scheduled



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

**Martial Movement Meditation:
A Discipline for Actors and Human Beings**



Robert W. Dillon,
Southeast Missouri State University

Stage combat techniques as a way of liberation and
empowerment.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

MATC Session 11

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

Commodification of Playwrights and Products



Chair: Zachary Bloomfield, *Joliet Junior College*

Sarah J. Blackstone,
Southern Illinois University

Whose Play Is It Anyway? An Examination of 50 Years of Copyright Infringement by the Chicago Manuscript Company

Denise A. Walen,
University of Minnesota

**In Pursuit of Royal Patronage:
John Lyly and Queen Elizabeth I**

Patricia Flanagan Behrendt,
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Scrooge: The Revisioning and Refunctioning of the Second Deadly Sin

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

Envisioning the Text



Chair: Paul Siemers, *University of Minnesota*

Judy Lee Oliva,
Northern Illinois University

Realizing a Non-Traditional Text for a Traditional Audience: A Director's Approach to "On the Verge"

Suzanne Burgoyne Dieckman
and Shirley Huston-Findley,
University of Missouri-Columbia
Revisioning "The Rainmaker": Folklore, Feminism and Translation of Modern American Drama

Raymond Smith,
Kansas City, Kansas, Community College
Women Waiting For Godot

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

MATC Session 11

CHILDREN'S THEATRE/CREATIVE DRAMA PROGRAM

no program scheduled



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

Right Brain/Left Brain: An Exploration into Theatrical Communication



Phil Klapwyck,
University of Missouri-Columbia

Through roleplaying, this workshop will delve into backstage/onstage relationships, with the goal of improving communication between artistic and technical theatre personnel.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

12 noon-12:30 p.m., Crystal Room

BRUNCH - 12:30-1:45 p.m., Crystal Room

Speaker: Barbara Gaines,
*artistic director, Shakespeare Repertory Theatre
of Chicago*

BUSINESS MEETING

2:00 p.m. (approx.), Crystal Room
