



**18th Annual
Mid-America
Theatre Conference
1997**

March 13-16

**Arlington Park Hilton
Arlington Heights, Illinois**

THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM:

**Theatre and Its Audience:
What Makes Theatre Popular?**

DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM:

Directing for the Contemporary Audience

THEATER FOR YOUTH:

Theatre Games—Inter/Intra-Active Performance for Youth

YOUNG SCHOLARS SYMPOSIUM



**MID-AMERICA THEATRE CONFERENCE
OFFICERS 1997**

President

George Glenn, *University of Northern Iowa,
Cedar Falls, Iowa*

Vice-President

Lynn-Steven Johanson, *Independent Scholar,
Macomb, Illinois*

Secretary-Treasurer

Noreen Barnes-McLain, *Southern Illinois
University, Carbondale, Illinois*

CONVENTION OFFICIALS

Program Chair

Lynn-Steven Johanson, *Independent Scholar,
Macomb, Illinois*

Theatre History Symposium

Sarah J. Blackstone, *Southern Illinois University,
Carbondale, Illinois*

David Krasner, *Southern Illinois University,
Carbondale, Illinois*

Directing Symposium

Egla B. Hassan, *Western Illinois University,
Macomb, Illinois*

Lynn-Steven Johanson, *Independent Scholar,
Macomb, Illinois*

Theatre for Youth

Rhona Justice-Malloy, *Central Michigan
University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan*

Young Scholars Symposium

Jonathan Chambers, *St. Lawrence University,
Canton, New York*

MATC FELLOWS

Arthur Ballet, 1988
Jed Davis, 1988
Patricia McIlrath, 1988
Charles Shattuck, 1990
Ron Engle, 1993
Burnet Hobgood, 1994
Glenn Q. Pierce, 1997

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Main Lobby

March 13, 3:00 - 9:00 pm
March 14 & 15, 7:00 am - 4:00 pm

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

- H** Theatre History Symposium sessions will be held in Conference Room 15
- D** Directing Symposium sessions will be held in Conference Room 16
- Y** Theatre for Youth sessions will be held in Conference Room 5 on Friday and in Conference Room 3 on Saturday
- Banquet and Performance will be held in the Illinois Room

Note: Auditions, Interviews, and Production Workshops have been cancelled.

MATC SCHEDULE: MARCH 13-15, 1997

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

Session 1: 3:00 - 4:15 pm

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

CENSORSHIP: AMERICAN RESISTANCE TO POPULAR CULTURE

Chair: Mary Trotter, *Northwestern University*

Randy Kapelke, *Tufts University*
The Audience's Role in Preventing the Censorship of *Sappho* in 1900 and *Mrs. Warren's Profession* in 1905.

Heather S. Nathans, *Tufts University*
"Uses Public and Private:" Business, Civic Virtue, and the Founding of the First Boston Theater

Billie Henderson Schuller, *Henderson Players*
Raised on the Road

NOTES

Session 2: 4:30 - 5:45 pm

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM**MONOLOGUES, CONVERSION, AND
INTERNMENT: RACE AND POPULAR
CULTURE**Chair: Jonathan Chambers, *St. Lawrence
University*Yuko Kurahashi
**The Internment Camp Series at the East West
Player and Its Reception Among the
Audience**Jennifer Mosier
**Watching the American Melting Pot: The
Ethnic-American Monologist Before 1940**Diane M. Almeida
**Popular Conversion: Aztec Drama in 16th
Century Mexico**

Session 3: 7:30 - 8:45 pm

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM**RACE, RESISTANCE, AND
REPRESENTATION**Chair: Bill Sonnega, *St. Olaf College*John R. Poole, *Eastern Illinois University*
**Performing Resistance in the Negro Minstrels
of the Deep South**Steve Hart, *University of South Carolina*
The Resonance of *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Session 3A: 9:00 - 10:45 p.m.

YOUNG SCHOLARS' SYMPOSIUM

Chair: Jonathan Chambers, *St. Lawrence University*

Papers to be announced.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Session 4: 8:00 - 9:15 am

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM**BELLS AND WHISTLES: PLAYBILLS,
REVIEWERS, AND THE ORAL TRADITION**Chair: Sarah Blackstone, *Southern Illinois
University*David Gowan, *St. Catherine's College*
**Playbills, Posters, and Programmes: Their
Function and Development**Richard E. Kramer
The Power of the Reviewer—Myth or Fact?Andrew Davis, *New York University*
**Burlesque Comedy: Working in the Oral
Tradition****D** DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM**DEVELOPING PRODUCTIONS FOR
CONTEMPORARY AUDIENCES**Robin Stone, *University of Missouri-Columbia*
**A Production Matrix for *The House of
Bernarda Alba***Andrew Ryder, Ray Mannila, and James Brandon,
Bowling Green State University
Creating the Magic of *The Illusion*

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM**BEAUTY PAGEANTS, WRESTLING, AND MAE WEST: THE FEMINIZATION OF AMERICAN POPULAR CULTURE**

Chair: Noreen Barnes-McLain, *Southern Illinois University*

Jennifer Jones, *University of Denver*
The Beauty Queens as Deified Sacrificial Victim

Sally Shedd
The Theatre of Professional Wrestling: A Reading of Gender Ideology in Wrestlemania VIII

Yvonne Shafer, *St. John's University*
More than Sex: The Amazing Popularity of Mae West on Stage

D DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM**PANEL DISCUSSION: MULTICULTURAL CASTING IN THE MIDWEST**

Chair: Norman J. Myers, *Bowling Green University*

Directors and actors from productions of *Born Yesterday* and *The Good Times are Killing Me* discuss the use of color-blind casting and audience response

Rhona Justice-Malloy, *Central Michigan University*

The Magic Circle—Developing Inter-Active Performance Through Improvisation

Kevin Malloy
Story Play: Improvisation and Audience Participation in the Performance of Stories

Session 6: 11:00 am - 12:15 pm**ALL-CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SESSION****DEFINING POPULAR ENTERTAINMENT**

Brooks McNamara
New York University and The Shubert Archive

Session 7: 1:30 - 2:45 pm**H** THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM**PINNING DOWN POPULARITY: AMERICAN AUDIENCES AND THEIR LEARNED "WAYS OF SEEING"**

Chair: Noreen Barnes McLain, *Southern Illinois University*

Dorothy Chancky, *University of New Mexico*
The Race for Visibility: The Dallas Little Theatre and *The No 'Count Boy*

John Istel, *City University of New York*
Norma Corwin's *The Rivals* (1957-59)—The Lincoln-Douglas Debates in the Age of Show Business

Shari Troy, *City University of New York*
This is Who We Are Not: Purim With the Bover Hasidim

D DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM**FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES**

Mary Cutler, *University of North Dakota*
A Feminist Theatrical Event

Penny Farfan, *University of Regina*
**Feminism Metatheatricality and Mise en
 Scene in Maria Irene Fornes' *Fefu and Her
 Friends***

Y THEATER FOR YOUTH**RIPPLES: THE STUTTHOFF PROJECT**

Chair: Gretta Berghammer, *University of
 Northern Iowa*

**A presentation/discussion by faculty and
 students of the University of Northern Iowa
 on an international performance piece on the
 Holocaust devised at the concentration camp
 in Stutthoff, Poland**

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM**GENDER AND HISTORICIZATION OF
 POPULAR THEATRE**

Chair: Emily Kelly, *Northwestern University*

Elizabeth Reitz Mullenix and John Austin, *Illinois
 State University*

**Barnum's "Gift From Heaven:" Female
 Iconography. Gender Production,
 Nationalism, and Jenny Lind**

Margaret Werry
**The Politics and Theatrical Politics of HClane
 Cixous: a Populist Ethics for the American
 Stage?**

Sherry D. Engle
**Pleasing the Women: Identity and Meaning in
 Theatre for Early Twentieth-Century Female
 Spectators**

D DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM**THE DIRECTOR'S TALENT**

Burnet Hobgood, *University of Illinois*
 Tom Mitchell, *University of Illinois*
**Presentation based on the continuing study
 of the director's work in the theatre and
 focusing on the elements which make up the
 "talent" in a director**

Session 9: 4:30 - 5:15 pm

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM**LIGHT, SPACE, TIME, AND PLACE:
POPULAR THEATRE AND CULTURAL
AESTHETICS**Chair: George Glenn, *University of Northern
Iowa*William Condee, *Ohio University*
**Rise and Fall of the Moustache: Opera House
and Culture in Late-19th and Early-20th
Century Appalachia**Matt Bliss, *Alcorn State University*
**Theatrical Identity and the Cultural
Landscape***emilyjanof*
Victor Emeljanow, *University of Newcastle,
Australia***Henry Irving's Kiss of Death**Odai Johnson, *Southwest Missouri State
University*
Theatre: an Efficacy Index**D** DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM**DIRECTING IN THE HINTERLANDS**Paul Siemers, *Northeastern Louisiana University*
**Challenging Plays, Challenging Audiences:
Progressive Theatre in a Regressive Culture**Dana Smith, *Doane College*
**Shakespeare and the Farmer's Kid: A
Midsummer Night's Dream at Doane College**

EVENING BANQUET 6:00 pm

and

ALL-CONFERENCE PERFORMANCE 7:30 pmRichard L. Poole & Company, *Briarcliffe College***THE MEDICINE SHOW OF THE GREAT
DR. BALTHAZAR T. ARCHIMEDES PRESENTS!**

———— SATURDAY, MARCH 15 ————

Session 10: 8:00 - 9:15 am

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM**FIN-DE-SIECLE USA: THE FORMATION OF
AMERICAN POPULAR CULTURE**Chair: Jennifer Jones, *University of Denver*Ronald Wainscott, *Indiana University*
Westward EastD. Layne Ehlers, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*
**Stock Actors, Audiences, and Changing
Public Morality in America's Heartland at the
Turn of the Century**Emily Kelly, *Northwestern University*
**Blazing Guns and Necktie Parties:
Lawlessness and Violence in the Frontier
Melodrama***2216 W. Morse
Chicago 60645*

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM**UNHOLY ALLIANCES: MEDIEVAL, COMEDIA, AND THE BODY IN POPULAR CULTURE**

Chair: Leigh Clemmons, *University of Minnesota*

Richard Stockton Rand, *Purdue University*
The Once and Future Survival of Commedia dell'arte

Melissa Vickery-Bareford, *University of Missouri-Columbia*
Politics, Patronage, and Prostitution: Arts Funding in Sixteenth Century Italy

Michael Schurter, *University of Minnesota*
Vernacularizing the Sacred Body: Religion, Theatre, and Govern-mentality in the Carmina Burana

Y THEATRE FOR YOUTH**UNify: THEATRE UNI'S PERFORMANCE OUTREACH TEAM**

Chair: Gretta Berghammer, *University of Northern Iowa*

Faculty and students of the University of Northern Iowa in a workshop presentation.

D DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM**RE-ENVISIONING THE CLASSICS**

D. Layne Ehlers, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*
Who Speaks for the Gods? Contemporary Classicism and Gender in Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*

Matt Bliss, *Alcorn State University*
Halftimes and Hallelujahs: Directing Theory and Theatricalized Audience

Session 12: 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM**EASTERN EUROPEAN POPULAR ART**

Chair: David Krasner, *Southern Illinois University*

Lisa Bernd, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*
Rave Reviews for Jews: The Popularity of Jewish Performances in Poland Today

Leigh A. Clemmons, *University of Minnesota*
Musings on National Narration and the "Popular" in Berlin Dada Performace

Lynn Dierks, *Northwestern University*
Defining a New Germany in Nuremberg: The Reception of Ernst Toller's *Masses and Man*

Lauren McConnell
Popular Theatre and Its Reflection of Slovak National Identity

D DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM

No session is scheduled

Y THEATRE FOR YOUTH

August W. Staub, *University of Georgia*
**Theatre, Computer Games, and the Re-Vision
 of Spiritual Space**

Session 13: 1:30 - 2:45 pm

H THEATER HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

**RITUAL AND CARNIVAL: POPULAR
 THEATRE AND THE MARDI GRAS**

Chair: Lesley Ferris, *Louisiana State University*

David Sedevie, *Louisiana State University*
**Chicken Chasing at the Boundaries:
 Performance on the Prairies of Louisiana**

Tony Medlin, *Louisiana State University*
**The Survival of Bambara: Religious Ritual
 and the Display of the Mardi Gras Indians**

Leslie Ferris, *Louisiana State University*
**Carnival Crossings: Peter Minshall's The
 River/Carnival in Trinidad**

D DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM

PANEL DISCUSSION: NUDITY ON STAGE

Lynn-Steven Johanson, *Independent Scholar*
 Elga Hassan, *Western Illinois University*
 George Glenn, *University of Northern Iowa*

Y THEATRE FOR YOUTH

THE BUBALONIAN ENCOUNTER

An inter-active performance piece on forced
 sexual touching. Presented by Child
 Protection Services, Isabella and Gratoit
 Counties, Michigan. Directed by Kevin
 Malloy. Performed by students from Central
 Michigan University

Session 14: 3:00 - 4:15 pm

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

**BUILDING CENTERS: POPULAR THEATRE
 AND THE NATION IN A NEW SOUTH
 AFRICA**

Chair: Kristina Stanley, *University of Illinois*

Michael Arthur, *University of Texas-Austin*
**Looking for a People's Theatre: Developing
 Cultural Policy for a New South Africa**

Megan Lewis, *University of Minnesota*
**Staging the Afrikaner: Dean Opperman's
 Donkerland and the New South African
 Landscape**

Kristina Stanley, *University of Illinois-Urbana*
**The Creative Arts Workshops: Playing
 Against the Margins in a New South Africa**

D DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM**POTPOURRI**

Melissa Vickery-Bareford, *University of Missouri at Columbia*

A Quest of Vision: Directing Adaptations of Popular Literary Works

John B. Schmor, *Truman State University*
Directing and Devising: Creating New Theatre for New Audiences from Scratch

Donovan T. Johnson, *Independent Scholar*
The Glass Sunset: Motivations Behind Film Conventions in Two Plays

Session 15: 4:30 - 5:45 pm

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM**NATIONALISM, IDENTITY, AND THE DEAD**

Chair: Elizabeth Reitz Mullenix, *Illinois State University*

Mary Trotter, *Northwestern University*
Making a National Audience: Collaboration vs. Authority on the Abbey Theatre Stage

Norman Myers, *Bowling Green State University*
Revealing Ancient Mysteries: Katherine Tingley, Theosophy, and Staging "Things Greek"

Tom Woldt, *Simpson College*
King Lear, Candide, or Kirby Puckett?: Popular Play-Making in Minneapolis

Les Wade, *Louisiana State University*
A Theatre of the Dead: Commemoration and New Orleans Cemeteries

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

Session 16: 9:00 - 10:15 am

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM**THE MAKING OF THE AMERICAN CHARACTER**

Chair: Robert Schanke, *Central College*

Kathleen A. McLennan
The Tragic Quest for Narrative Identity in the Plays of Sam Shepard

Bill Sonnega, *St. Olaf University*
Beyond Liberal Audience: White Privilege and Performance

Susan Rae Applebaum, *Northwestern University*
The 1903 Stage Play *The Little Princess* by Francis Hodgson Burnett Reconsidered

10:30 - 11:45 am

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING