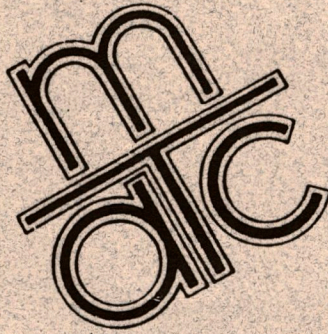


**18th Annual
Mid-America Theatre
Conference
1998**

March 12-15

**Embassy Suites
Omaha, Nebraska**



THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

The American Theatre: 300 Years of Accomplishment

DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM

**The American Director: 300 Years of Theory and
Practice**

PLAYWRITING SYMPOSIUM

The Post-Reading Critiques: Techniques or Tortures?

YOUNG SCHOLARS SYMPOSIUM

MID-AMERICA THEATRE CONFERENCE OFFICERS 1998

President

Lynn-Steven Johanson, Western Illinois University, Macomb,
Illinois

Vice-President

William Sonnega, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Rhona Justice-Malloy, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant,
Michigan

CONVENTION OFFICIALS

Program Chair

William Sonnega, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota

Theatre History Symposium

Julia Curtis, University of Nebraska at Omaha,

Tice L. Miller, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Directing Symposium

Mary Cutler, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North
Dakota

Matt Bliss, Fairmont State College, Fairmont, West Virginia

Playwriting Symposium

David A. Rush, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois

Young Scholars Symposium

Dorothy Chansky, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New
Mexico

Auditions

Julia Curtis, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Production Workshops

William Sonnega, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota

MATC FELLOWS

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

MATC INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

Bradley University
Central Lakes College
Cumberland County Playhouse
Emporia State University
Illinois State University
Loras College
Northern Iowa Community College
Pittsburg State University
Southwest Missouri State University
St. Ambrose University
St. Cloud State University
University of Illinois at Urbana
University of Missouri at Columbia
University of Nebraska-Kearney
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of Northern Iowa
University of South Dakota
University of Wisconsin-Madison

MATC Schedule March 12-15, 1998

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION Main Lobby

March 12, 3:00-9:00 pm
March 13 & 14, 7:00 am-4:00 pm

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

H *THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM*
Sessions will be held in Council Bluffs B

D *DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM*
Sessions will be held in Elkhorn A

P *PLAYWRITING SYMPOSIUM*
Sessions will be held in Council Bluffs A

Note: Auditions, Interviews and Audition Workshops will be held in Peter Kiewit Conference Center. Design/Tech interviews will be held Sunday morning in Council Bluffs A.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

Session 1: 3:00-4:15 pm

H *THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM*

TWENTIETH-CENTURY EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE COMPANIES

Chair: Charles Schultz, Northwest Missouri State University

Anne Fletcher, Winthrop University
New Playwrights Theatre

John R. Poole, Illinois State University
Making a Tree from Thirst: Acquiescence and Defiance in the Negro Federal Theatre Project in Alabama

Stacey Connelly, Trinity University
The American Theatre as Melting Pot: Erwin Piscator's Dramatic Workshop, 1939-1951

Session 2: 4:30-5:45 pm

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

THEATRE OF TESTIMONY

Chair: Larry Dobbins, Missouri Western State College

Jennifer Jones, University of Denver

Anarchy on the American Stage: Maxwell Anderson's God of the Lightning

Tamara L. Underiner, University of Minnesota

Staging a Precedent: The Retrial of an American Anarchist in 1931

Tom Woldt, Simpson College

Docu-drama in the Age of "Donahue": Emily Mann and the Theatre of Testimony

Session 3: 7:30-8:45 pm

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

THE ACTRESS IN AMERICAN NOVELS: BOTHERSOME, BEWILDERED AND BEWITCHING

Chair: Dorothy Chansky, University of New Mexico

Lisa Merrill, Hofstra University

Exercising "Sovereign Sway and Masterdom" over her Audience: Images of Charlotte Cushman in the Fictional Depiction of the Actress

Dorothy Chansky, University of New Mexico

Actress as Theatre: Dreiser's Sister Carrie and American Dreaming

Lesley Ferris, Ohio State University

Fictionalizing the Actress as Lesbian: Katherine Cornell and Quicksilver

D DIRECTOR'S COLLOQUIUM I

Panelists: YOU! = A Group Discussion

Topic: Sharing Our Strengths re: Controversial Issues on our Academic Stages

Special Session: 9:00-10:15 pm

H YOUNG SCHOLARS SYMPOSIUM

Chair: Dorothy Chansky, University of New Mexico

Evelyn Gildrie, University of Illinois

The Paradox in Early Twentieth Century American Dramatic Theory and Criticism

Stephen Berwind, Louisiana State University

Charles Ludlum's Critique of Ideal Love in Irma Vep

Jim Seymour, New York University

Romulus Linney and the American Urge for Spiritual Identity

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

Session 4: 8:00-9:15 am

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

AMERICAN VALUES OVERSEAS

Chair: Bill Grange, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Beth Cherne, University of Minnesota-Morris

Anti-Imperialism on Broadway: The Sultan of Sulu

Diane M. Almeida, University of Massachusetts at Boston

Teatro Puertorriqueno: A Search for Identity

Paul Walters, Rhodes University (South Africa)

The Crucible in a Society Where Witchcraft is Still Practiced

D DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM

DIRECTORIAL RISKS

Chair: Sarah Blackstone, Southern Illinois University

Mary Jo Sodd, Central College

Theatre Directors of Academic Theatre: Taking Risks or Playing the Status Quo?

Dennis R. Elkins, Walters State Community College

Rural Risks: Taking the Front Line Approach in Combating Theatrical Incognizance

Gwen U. Jensen, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Getting In Touch With Reality

P PLAYWRITING SYMPOSIUM

WORKSHOP, Part I: The Post-Reading Critiques: Techniques or Tortures?

Session begins with a reading of *Born on a Sunday*, a new play by Tom Walsh, University of Northern Iowa, directed by George Glenn, University of Northern Iowa.

Session 5: 9:30-10:45 am

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICAN DRAMA

Chair: Bill Hardin, Louisiana State University

Ron Wainscott, Indiana University

Let's Get a Divorce

Paul Lifton, North Dakota State University

Quintessentially American: Thornton Wilder at 10; Our Town at 60

Albert Wertheim, Indiana University

Getting Involved: 1935-1941

D DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM

AMERICAN REVISIONIST

Chair: Julie Rae Patterson-Pratt, University of Minnesota-Morris

Robin Stone, University of Missouri-Columbia

A New Look at Old Times

Mary Cutler, University of North Dakota

An "American Tradition": The Feminist Staging of Musical Comedy?

P PLAYWRITING SYMPOSIUM

Workshop continues from Session 4.

Session 6: 11:00-12:15 pm

MATC 1998 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Megan Terry, The Magic Theatre, Omaha, Nebraska.

Session 7: 1:30-2:45 pm

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY TOPICS

Chair: Peter Davis, University of Illinois

Sarah Blackstone and Joan McDermott, Southern Illinois University

Criminology of Violent Women in 19th Century Melodrama

Elizabeth Reitz Mullenix, Illinois State University

"[S]o unfemininely masculine": Surrogacy, True/False Womanhood, and the American Career of Fanny Kemble.

D DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM

AMERICAN THEATRE IN TIME AND SPACE

Chair: Gregg Henry, Iowa State University

Jim Williams, Bowling Green State University
Visual Rhetoric in Postmodern Directing

Julie Rae Patterson-Pratt, University of Minnesota-Morris
It's About Time, It's About Space, It's About . . . All in the Timing: A Gallery Theatre Production

Matt Bliss, Fairmont State College
Moving Through Time and Space: Performing Dramatic Transitions in Episodic Plays

P PLAYWRITING SYMPOSIUM

Workshop continues from Session 5.

Session 8: 3:00-4:15 pm

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

AMERICA'S POPULAR THEATRE

Chair: George Glenn, University of Northern Iowa

Billie Henderson Schuller, Theatre Museum of Repertoire Americana, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
The Evolution of the Ten as Theatre

Landis K. Magnuson, Saint Anselm College (New Hampshire)
Swedish-American Dialect Play

Killi Strickland-Hamman, University of Missouri at Kansas City
William Winter: A Stormy Voice in American Theatre

D DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM

KINESTHETIC APPROACHES

Chair: Mira Wiegmann, Concordia College

Dana Smith, Doanne College
Neuro-linguistic Programming (NLP) in Director Training and Theatre Pedagogy

Jean Thomsen, Arizona State University
Meyerhold and the Modern Actor: Emotional Inspiration Through Physical Action

P PLAYWRITING SYMPOSIUM

Workshop continues from Session 7.

Session 9: 4:30-5:45 pm

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

CONSIDERING THE HOMOSEXUAL IN AMERICAN THEATRE

Chair: Leslie Ferris, Ohio State University

Bill Harbin, Louisiana State University
George Kelly (1887-1974), American Playwright: Characters in the Hands of an Angry God

Elizabeth Drorbaugh, New York University
Homosexual Renderings of A Streetcar Named Desire

Kim Marra, University of Iowa
Clyde Fitch's Too Wilde Love

D DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM

THE AMERICAN DIRECTOR

Chair: William Lacey, University of North Dakota

Anne Fliotsos, University of Missouri-Columbia
Teaching the Unteachable: Interviews with Directing Teachers

Frances Ford, University of North Dakota
Directorial/Economic Choices Made in Two Distinct Varieties of Production/Direction

John Chase Soliday, University of Miami-Florida
The Guthrie Theatre 1970-1977: The Michael Langham Years

6:30 pm

EVENING BANQUET

Council Bluffs A

Keynote Speaker: Ken Washington, The Guthrie Theatre,
Minneapolis, Minnesota

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

Session 10: 8:00-9:15 am

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

THEATRE IN FLAMES

Chair: William Sonnega, St. Olaf College

Julia Curtis, University of Nebraska at Omaha
The Richmond Theatre Fire of 1811

Odai Johnson, Southwest Missouri State University
New York City Theatre Fires of the Nineteenth Century

Andrew M. Hayes
Chicago's Iroquois Theatre Fire of 1903

D DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM

DIRECTORIAL STRATEGIES

Chair: Mary Guzzy, Director, Industrial Arts Theatre

James Buglewicz, Missouri Western State College
From Analysis to Rehearsal: Developing a Vocabulary of Action

Samuel Zachary, Northern Kentucky University
The Personality Profile: A Director's Tool for Strengthening the Collaborative Process

Egla Hassan, Western Illinois University
Collaborating Successfully

P PLAYWRITING SYMPOSIUM

WORKSHOP, PART II: Plans for Future Activities

A one-hour session to discuss next year's MATC Playwriting Symposium.

Session 11: 9:30-10:45 am

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

OVERLOOKED CONTRIBUTIONS AND CONTRADICTIONS IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAN THEATRE

Chair: Mira Wiegman, Concordia College-Seward

Helen Huff, Brooklyn College
Malvina Pray

Shauna Vey, Leyman College
Stage Children of the 1890's

Dana Sutton, Graduate School of CUNY
John Brougham as Actor

D DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM

WHOSE PLAY IS IT ANYWAY? DIRECTORS CONFRONT ISSUES OF VOICE AND VISION

Chair: Andre Sedricks, Wayne State College

Nancy Hovasse, University of Illinois
Karen Libman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Peter Reynolds, Healthworks Theatre

Session 12: 11:00-12:15 am

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

INNOVATIONS IN THEATRE AND DRAMA

Chair: Ron Moyer, University of South Dakota

Norman Myers, Bowling Green State University
*Old Habits Die Hard: Margaret Anglin Produces
Shakespeare in the "New Manner"*

Michael Morrison
*Sex, Freud, and Shakespeare in the Roaring Twenties: The
1922 Barrymore-Hopkins-Jones Hamlet*

Jonathan Chambers, St. Lawrence University
*"The Messiah of the New Technique": John Howard
Lawson's Roger Bloomer and the Development of American
Expressionism*

D DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM

AMERICAN WOMEN

Chair: Sandra Lindberg, Illinois Wesleyan University

Becky K. Becker, Bowling Green State University
Robbie McCauley: Practicing Pedagogy Through Directing

J. K. Curry, Montana State University-Northern
Rachel Crothers: The American Playwright as Director

Session 13: 1:30-2:45 pm

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

INTERROGATING ASSUMPTIONS

Chair: Art Borreca, University Iowa

Ron West, University of Nebraska at Omaha
*Porgy and Bess: Opera, Pop Culture and the Marketing of
Assent*

Penny Farfan, University of Regina (Saskatchewan)
*From Birth and After Birth to One Shoe Off: Tina Howe and
Feminism*

August Staub, University of Georgia
*Public and Private Thought: The Symposium as the
Enthymeme of Aging in Ann Meara's After Play*

D DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM

PEDAGOGICAL APPROACHES RECAST

Chair: Norman Schroder, Bethany College

Mary Pratt Cooney, Wayne State University
Actor Training and Process Drama

Marci Gallagher, University of North Dakota
"Meisner Abuse": Sanford Meisner's Acting Theory

Session 14: 3:00-4:15 pm

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

RESCUING MINOR FORMS

Chair: Judith Zivanovic, Kansas State University

Leslie Goddard, Northwestern University
U. S. Suffrage Parades and the Construction of Women's Identities, 1908-1920

Ann E. Nymann, University of Wisconsin
African-American Female Images in Performance

Richard L. Poole, Briar Cliff College
Rescuing Minor Forms from "the Enormous Condescension of Posterity"

D DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM

GRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE AMERICAN ACADEMY STAGE AMERICAN CONTROVERSIES

Chair: Egla Hassan, Western Illinois University

Laurie Hinn, University of North Dakota
Darin, Kerr, University of North Dakota
C. J. Hosier, University of North Dakota
Sharyl Elshaug-Dorsher, University of North Dakota

Session 15: 4:30-5:45 pm

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

DIVERGENT VIEWS OF AMERICAN THEATRE

Chair: Kae Koger, University of Oklahoma

Gordon Hollis, The Golden Legend (Los Angeles)
The Historian of American Theatre as Scrap Collector

Tice Miller, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Popular Journalism and the Nineteenth-Century American Drama

Felicia Hardison Londre, University of Missouri-Kansas City
Bard-toons as Mirror of our Manias

D DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM

DIRECTORIAL INFLUENCES

Chair: Lynn-Steven Johnson, President, MATC

Leslie Atkins Durham, University of Kansas
Directing Stein Autobiographically: Robert Wilson's Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights

John Chase Soliday, University of Miami-Florida
The Duke of Saxe-Meiningen's Influence on Lawrence Booth's Direction of His "Joint Star" Tours with Edwin Booth

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Session 16: 8:00-9:15 am

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

AMERICA AS MELTING POT

Chair: Lynn-Steven Johanson, President, MATC

Christine Mather, Louisiana State University
Liberty for Some: Workman's Creative Vision of America

Timothy W. School, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
In Search of Dan Mulligan: Finding Truth in Harrigan and Hart's Theatre of Life

Peter Ukpokodu, University of Kansas
August Wilson and the Gods of Africa

Session 17: 9:30-10:45 am

H THEATRE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

ECONOMIC PRESSURES IN CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

Chair: Rex McGraw, Ohio State University

Jeffrey Ullom, University of Illinois
The Economics of Modern Regional Theatre: Audience, Adaptation, and Aspirations of Actors Theatre of Louisville

T. J. Walsh, University of Northern Iowa
The LORT Wars: Yours, Mine, or Ours?

Fergus G. Currie, Illinois State University, and Robert Bruyr,
Actors' Equity Association
The Rise and Fall of the American Dinner Theatre

D DIRECTOR'S COLLOQUIUM II

Panelists: YOU! = A Group Discussion

Topic: Where Are We Headed? A "Futurist" Discussion of
American Directing in the Academy

11:00 am

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING