

EXCELLENCE FOR THE EIGHTIES!



**Mid-America Theatre Conference
Convention I**

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

MARCH 28 - 30, 1980

Mid-America Theatre Conference
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Omaha, Nebraska

EXCELLENCE FOR THE EIGHTIES!

Howard Johnson Motor Lodge - 72nd and I-80
Omaha Community Playhouse - 6915 Cass

America Theatre Association, Region V Representatives

Chief Regional Officer: Harold Nichols, Kansas State University
Sec./Treas.: M. Kent Neely, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
UCTA: Julia Curtis, University of Nebraska-Omaha
SSTA: Judith Rethwisch, Afton Senior High School, St. Louis
CTAA: F. Scott Regan, University of Northern Iowa
ACTA: Anna Marie Thatcher, Group Theatre, Rapid City, S.D.
ATSL: R. Scott Lank, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Conference Program

Friday, March 28

3:00-8:00 P.M. Registration and Exhibitions.
INTERNATIONAL EAST ROOM.

3:00-4:30 P.M. Business Meeting:
Regional Officers and Conference Planning Committee.
CARIBBEAN ROOM
Presiding: Harold Nichols, CRO; Tice Miller, Co-Chair MATC
80.

5:00 P.M. Cash Bar.
POOL SIDE
Will continue after the dinner.

5:30 P.M. Chief Regional Officer's Dinner.
INTERNATIONAL WEST ROOM
Presiding: Harold Nichols, CRO; Speaker: Jed Davis, University
of Kansas, ATA Fellow and Past President.

7:30 P.M. Readers Theatre Performance and Discussion.
CASPIAN ROOM
"My Cup Runneth Over — Experimentation and Exploration."
A twenty minute show presented twice with different treatments.
Presiding: Nadine Charlsen, Haysville Campus High School,
Kansas.
Participants: Fiona Smart and Diana Scoular, Haysville Campus
High School.

8:45 P.M.

"A Mixed Bag, or Friends, Family and Other Strangers!"
From a conversation between two curious children to a group of
reminiscent mothers reflecting on parenting.
Humorous readings from works by Neil Simon, Carl Reiner,
Erma Bombeck, and Shirley Jackson.
Performers: The Lincoln High School Readers Theatre Company
(Lincoln, Nebr.)
Director: Joan Lazarus.

8:00-10:30 P.M.

A New Audience: The Deaf and Hearing Impaired.
INTERNATIONAL WEST ROOM
Workshop Leaders: Nancy Timmins, Program Director,
Metropolitan Arts Council; Sherri Srb and Dick Hagen, Iowa
Western Community College, Interpreter Training Program;
Ricky Smith, deaf mime, Metropolitan Arts Council; Ginny
Winsor, Business Manager, Omaha Community Playhouse;
Tony Schreiber, Counselor for the Hearing Impaired Program,
Metro Tech Community College, and John M. Heidger,
Director, Forissant Valley Theatre of the Deaf, St. Louis.

SESSION I: Overview Access: What This Means for the Deaf
Audience.

Introduction to Sign Language, Working with Interpreters,
Artistic Concerns, and Marketing.

SESSION II: In-Depth session on specifics for theatres
considering offering interpreted performances next season.
Script preparation, Rehearsal, Production, Hiring Interpreters,
Box Office and House Management, Directing, and Resources.

11:00 P.M.-1:00 A.M.

Cabaret Theatre. R. Scott Lank, MATC Student Representative
INTERNATIONAL WEST ROOM
Participating: Dexter Adams, Amy Mills, Kathy Saylor, Kirby
Henderson, R. Scott Wolfe, Patty Raun, Pamela Kenney, Cary
Wayne Noble, Caron Buinis, Blake Hambrick, Eric Hager:
UNL Students.

Saturday, March 29

8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.: Registration and Exhibitions.
INTERNATIONAL EAST ROOM.

8:00-9:20 A.M.: Business Meetings.
HOWARD JOHNSON'S.

Secondary School Theatre, Judith Rechwitz.
CASPIAN ROOM.

Children's Theatre, F. Scott Regan.
ATLANTIC ROOM.

University and College Theatre, Julia Curtis.
CARIBBEAN ROOM.

Community Theatre, Anna Marie Thatcher.
PACIFIC ROOM.

9:30-10:50 A.M.: Sessions

Climb, Inc. from Minneapolis. Creative Dramatics with the Handicapped
INTERNATIONAL WEST ROOM.

Remodeling Old Theatre Spaces: A Tour of the Remodeled Theatre Spaces in the Omaha Area.
MEET IN HOWARD JOHNSON'S LOBBY.

Conducted by: Robert Welk, University of Nebraska -Omaha (repeated at 2:00 P.M.)

Curriculum Planning for the 1980's: The Place of the BFA/MFA
CARIBBEAN ROOM

Presiding: David Jorns, University of Missouri-Columbia.

Denny Bettisworth, University of Missouri-St. Louis,

"From Page to Stage: The Place of the BFA/MFA in the 80's"
Tice Miller, University of Nebraska-Lincoln,

"Excellence in the BFA/MFA Programs: Can We Afford It?"

Greg Kunesh, Oklahoma University,

"Excellence in the BFA/MFA: Can We Ignore It?"

Joe Schulte, St. Louis University High School,

"The Future in Theatre or Future Shock."

So You Want to Host a Festival?

PACIFIC ROOM

Presiding: Anna Marie Thatcher, Region V Representative, ACTA.

This seminar will provide an opportunity to share ideas and ask questions about hosting community theatre festivals. Guidelines for the Festival of American Community Theatres '81 will be presented. Bring your own ideas to share!

11:00 A.M.-12:20 P.M.: Sessions.

Workshop in Theatre Combat
INTERNATIONAL WEST ROOM

Conducted by: Richard Nichols, University of Nebraska at Lincoln

New Plays for the Child Audience
CARIBBEAN ROOM

Presiding: Ed Kessell, Director of Children's Theatre, St. Louis Community College.

Excerpts from four or five new plays for children will be pre-viewed through semi-staged readings by area college students.

Frontier Theatre in the Mid-West.

CASPIAN ROOM

Presiding: Robert Schanke, Central College, Pella, Iowa.
Participants: Richard L. Poole, Briar Cliff College, Sioux City, Iowa.

"A Visit to the Peavey Grand Opera House."

Weldon Durham, University of Missouri-Columbia.

"Popular priced Repertory Companies in turn of the century St. Louis."

Lawrence J. Hill, University of North Dakota

"Hells on Earth": Nineteenth century attitudes towards variety Theatre.

Robert Schanke, "Ibsen on the Plains."

So You Want to Host a Festival (Part 2)

PACIFIC ROOM

Presiding: Anna Marie Thatcher.

Safety in the Theatre: What OSHA Requires and How to Bring Your Theatre into Compliance.

ATLANTIC ROOM

Presiding: Robert Welk, University of Nebraska-Omaha
Participants: Darrel W. Rose, Nebraska Department of Labor and Safety.

12:30-1:50 P.M.: Sessions

Beginning Acting: I Can't Imagine It

INTERNATIONAL WEST ROOM

Presiding: Tom Carlisle, University of Northern Iowa.

Religious Theatre in the Mid-West.

ATLANTIC ROOM

Presiding: Norman Fedder, Kansas State University.

Participants: Wilma Ringstrom, President, Ecumenical Council for Drama and Other Arts. St. Louis, Missouri. Dale Rott, Bethel College, Minnesota. Editor, *Religion and Theatre*. Norman Fedder, Chairperson, Religious Theatre Program, ATA.

Design Portfolio, Resume, and Letter of Application.

CASPIAN ROOM

Presiding: Greg Hill, University of Kansas

This is a practical session dealing with the best way to prepare design material for presentation to a prospective employer.

Towards a Better Secondary Theatre. Successful solutions to common problems will be discussed and demonstrated by panel members.

CARIBBEAN ROOM

Presiding: Peg Shafer, Benson High School, Omaha. Panel: Nadine Charlsen, Haysville Campus High School, Ks.

"Audience-Administrative Support; Improving the Performance Space; Increasing Student Expectations."

Judy Rethwisch, Afton Senior High School, St. Louis

"Student Training: A Means to an End." Packets available. Ron Kenney, Webster Groves High School, St. Louis.

"Rehearsal Techniques."

The Training of a Director.

ATLANTIC ROOM

Presiding: Rex McGraw, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Panel: Rex McGraw, "Directors are Developed not Born." F. Scott Lank, Graduate Student, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, "Finding the Right Direction Program."

David Larsen, Managing Director, Lincoln Community Playhouse. "Training for the Professional Director."

2:00-3:20 P.M.: Sessions

Comparison and Evaluation of Memory Lighting Systems.

ATLANTIC ROOM

This session develops a system for comparing memory systems and evaluating available systems.

Presiding: David Thayer, University of Iowa.

Panel: Harvey Sweet, University of Northern Iowa

Ron Olson, Kiegel Brothers, New York, N.Y.

Charles Levy, Strand-Century, New York, N.Y.

Remodeling Old Theatre Spaces: A Tour of the Remodeled Theatre Spaces in the Omaha Area (a repeat of the morning tour).

MEET IN HOWARD JOHNSON'S LOBBY

Conducted by: Robert Welk, University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Primary Resources in Theatre Management: People and Money.

PACIFIC ROOM

Presiding: Clyde Bassett, University of Nebraska-Omaha Panel: Twink Lynch, Executive Director, AKT. "An Overview."

Robin Trylof, Executive Director, Nebraska Arts Council "Public Funding of Theatre."

Kent Neely, Managing Director, Rarig Center, University of Minnesota. "Small Gift Solicitation: A Case Report."

Twink Lynch, "Managing People (paid and unpaid)."

Rhetoric Analysis: A Text Centered Approach to Acting.

INTERNATIONAL WEST ROOM

Presiding: Jay Edelnant, University of Northern Iowa.

Children's Theatre Companies and the Public School System.

CARIBBEAN ROOM

A panel discussion on how children's theatre companies can better serve the school systems.

Presiding: F. Scott Regan, University of Northern Iowa. Panel: Carolyn Rutherford, Nebraska Caravan Theatre Company. Jim Eisenhardt, Technical High School, Omaha, Nebraska. Odra Bradley, Principal, Technical High School, Omaha. Lee Beger, University of North Dakota.

3:30-4:50 P.M.: Sessions

Playwriting in the '80's

CARIBBEAN ROOM

Reading and discussion of selected plays.

Presiding: Ron Engle, University of North Dakota

Panel: John Orlox, Literary Manager, Cricket Theatre,

Minneapolis, Felicia Londre, Dramaturg, Missouri

Repertory Theatre.

Critics of the ACTF: Curse Them or Bless Them.

ATLANTIC ROOM

Presiding: Julia Curtis, University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Presenter: Ron Willis, University of Kansas—"The Art of Production Criticism."

Respondents: Judith Radcliff, Actress, Firehouse Dinner Theatre, Omaha. Thomas Carlisle, University of Northern Iowa. Murray North, Dean, College of Fine Arts, University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Choreography for the Non-Dancer.

INTERNATIONAL WEST ROOM.

Presiding: Joan Lazarus, Lincoln High School, Nebraska.

Participant: Linda Videtich, Dance Consultant, State Dept. of Education, Nebr.

This participation/presentation will cover basic elements of movements, together with musical staging and choreography. Practical suggestions will be offered about which shows to do with the dancers you have available.

Designer-Director Communication.

PACIFIC ROOM

Presiding: Greg Hill, University of Kansas

Panel: David Thayer, University of Iowa. Lewis Shelton, Kansas State University. Francis J. Cullinan, University of

Missouri-Kansas City. Jed Davis, University of Kansas.

5:00-6:20 P.M.: Sessions

Playwriting in the '80's

CARIBBEAN ROOM

Reading and discussion of selected plays (Cont.)

Firearms on the Stage: Safety and Procedure—lecture/demonstration.

ATLANTIC ROOM

Presiding: George Glenn, University of Northern Iowa.

Basic Lighting Techniques—lecture/demonstration.

CASPIAN ROOM

Conducted by: John Uthoff, Kansas State University.

Arts in the Schools: Gaining School Administration Support for Your Arts Program.

PACIFIC ROOM

Presenter: David Gooder, Theatre of Western Springs.

5:30-6:45 P.M.: Cocktail Hour

INTERNATIONAL EAST ROOM

Meet the Companies

STUDIO THEATRE OMAHA COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE

Question and answer session with auditioners

Presiding: Ron Moyer, University of South Dakota.

7:00-11:00 P.M.: Saturday Evening Theatre

MATC salutes the theatre organizations in Omaha. This evening has been set aside for you to attend one of the area productions. Your choices include: *The Make Believe Doctor* by Moliere in a new translation by Nancy Duncan.

Junior Theatre Center, 3504 Center Street, 345-4849.

Admission: Adults \$3.50/ students 13 and up \$2.50/ 12 and under \$1.75.

Omaha Junior Theatre Board of Directors hosts a party for CTAA members, OJT staff and cast following the performance. Location: Emmy Gifford's, 3636 Burt Street. Please sign up with Nancy Duncan by Friday night (Mar. 28). Other available productions:

Omaha Ballet: *Les Sylphides*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Pas de Trois*, and *World Premiere* by Thomas Enckell.

Opheum Theatre, 409 South 16th Street

Time: 8:00 P.M.,

Irma La Douce

Firehouse Dinner Theatre, 514 South 11th Street

Buffet begins at 6:30 P.M.

Accommodations by Nick Hall

Midtown Upstairs Supper Theatre, 221 South 19th Street

The Mousetrap by Agatha Christie

Norton Theatre, 5021 Underwood, 8:00 P.M.

Aladdin

Puppet Theatre, 511 South 11th Street, 2 and 4 P.M.

Two Gentlemen of Verona

Creighton University Theatre

Little Theatre, 449-2636, 8:00 P.M.

10:30 P.M.-12:30 A.M.: MATC Party

INTERNATIONAL WEST ROOM

Host: College of Fine Arts, University of Nebraska-Omaha Dr. Murray North, Dean. Music courtesy of MATC students.

Sunday, March 30

8:30-10:20 A.M.: Mid-America Theatre Conference Goal Setting Session

CARIBBEAN ROOM

This is an all-conference event for planning the future of MATC. Presiding: Twink Lynch, Executive Director, Association of Kansas Theatres.

10:30-11:30 A.M.: Sessions

Rhythm Safari

INTERNATIONAL EAST ROOM

An Afro-Ethnic workshop exploring the rhythm, dance, poetry, and song of black people in America, Africa, and the Islands. This program utilizes authentic African dress, instruments, and other artifacts collected during the performer's travels and studies in Africa.

Presented by: Omaha Junior Theatre

Directed by: Nancy Duncan

Participants: Aleanne Carter and Sondra McSwain.

11:45 A.M.: All Conference Brunch

INTERNATIONAL WEST ROOM

Presiding: Harold Nichols, Chief Regional Officer, MATC

Speaker: Richard Russell Ramos, Artistic Director, Tyrone Guthrie Theatre, Minneapolis.

Topic: "Building a World-Class Theatre in the Mid-West."

2:30-4:00 P.M.: Business Meeting

CARIBBEAN ROOM

Regional Officers Conference Planning Committee.

MATC Community Theatre Director's Workshop, Omaha Community Playhouse Board Room

Directors: Charles Stilwill, Executive Director, Waterloo Community Theatre;
Charles Jones, Executive Director, Omaha Community Playhouse.

Schedule

Friday, March 28:

3:00 P.M. Registration at Motel.

3:00-6:00 First Directors Meeting.

6:00-8:00 Dinner break.

8:00-10:00 Second Directors Meeting.

Saturday, March 29:

8:00 A.M. State Business Meetings at Motel.

9:00-5:00 Third Director's Meeting.

5:00 Dinner break.

Evening open.

Sunday, March 30:

9:00 A.M. Rap up session.

Summer Theatre Auditions Omaha Community Playhouse Studio Theatre

Ron Moyer, University of South Dakota

At the MATC conference a number of summer theatre companies will hold auditions. Audition sessions will be conducted on Friday, March 28, from 8 to 11 P.M.; Saturday, March 29, from 9 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.; and Sunday, March 30, from 9 A.M. to noon.

Audition registration fee (all auditionees must be registered for the convention): \$3.00 for all ATA members; \$5.00 for non-members.

Student Design Competition

Designs will be displayed in the International East Room. The competition will be divided into three divisions. Each division will be divided into two areas:

Divisions: Undergraduate

Graduate

Open

Areas: Scenery Design

Costume Design

Judges: Janice Stauffer, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Greg Hill, University of Kansas

Jim Othuse, Omaha Community Playhouse

MATC Convention:

Program Planning Committee Co-Chairs:

Tice Miller, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Charles Stilwill, Waterloo Community Playhouse

Local Arrangements Chairperson:

Suzanne Dieckman, Creighton University

Exhibits and Displays:

Joyce Cavarozzi, Wichita State University

Recorders:

Charles Railsback, Doane College
Carolyn Rutherford, Nebraska Caravan

Publicity Chairperson:

Carol Russell, Omaha, Nebraska
Debbie L. Neff, Kansas State University

Local Arrangements Committee:

Delia Haller, Creighton University
Barb Walton, Creighton University
Rick Brayshaw, Creighton University
Dave Yates, Omaha Junior Theatre
Phil Stone, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Judith Pratt, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

MATC Program Planning Committee:

Clyde Bassett, University of Nebraska-Omaha
Lee Beger, University of North Dakota
Thomas Carlisle, University of Northern Iowa
Joyce Cavarozzi, Wichita State University
Julia Curtis, University of Nebraska-Omaha
Suzanne Dieckmann, Creighton University
Nancy Duncan, Omaha Junior Theatre
Ron Engle, University of North Dakota
Ron Frederickson, Emporia State University
David Jorns, University of Missouri-Columbia
Piet Knetsch, Bethany College (Kansas)
R. Scott Lank, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Joan Lazarus, Lincoln High School (Nebraska)
Rex McGraw, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Tice L. Miller, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Ron Moyer, University of South Dakota
Harold Nichols, Kansas State University
Richard Nichols, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Peg Shafer, Benson High School, Omaha
Robert Schanke, Central College, Pella, Iowa
Graham Thatcher, Group Theatre, Rapid City, S.D.
Anna Marie Thatcher, Group Theatre, Rapid City, S.D.
Nancy Timmins, Metropolitan Arts Council (Omaha)
John S. Uthoff, Kansas State University
Tim R. Waggoner, Fremont High School (Nebraska)
Robert Welk, University of Nebraska-Omaha
Ginny Winsor, Omaha Community Playhouse

About Our Honored Guests

Richard Russell Ramos is presently Artistic Advisor for the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis. His association with the Guthrie spans twelve years during which time he spent two seasons working directly with Sir Tyrone Guthrie and returned subsequently as both director and a member of the acting company. In New York, Mr. Ramos has acted on Broadway, off-Broadway, at the Lincoln Center, on television, and in major films. Mr. Ramos has devoted his career primarily to the regional theatres. He was a member of the original San Francisco Actors Workshop and has acted and/or directed at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Rochester, New York's GeVa Theatre, Arena Stage in Washington, Williamstown Theatre Festival and Actors' Theatre of Louisville.

Climb, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota, is an expert and talented group that adds extra vitality and dimension to the usual creative dramatic art form. Because of his/her limitations, the handicapped person is usually excluded from participating in the arts. Climb's artists/educators devote themselves to devising, implementing and teaching special creative dramatics' classes to persons with handicaps. Climb's classes are unique and structured so that even severely handicapped persons can benefit artistically, therapeutically and educationally.

David Gooder, President-Elect, ATA, is a graduate of Harvard College and Northwestern Law School, has a law practice in Chicago and is active in bar association activities. He has been an actor, building fund Chairman and Board Chairman of Western Springs Theatre, ACTA President, and on the Illinois Arts Council.

And Special Guest, **Al Veys**, Mayor of Omaha.

This convention is partially sponsored by the Metropolitan Arts Council, Omaha, the Nebraska Arts Council, and the National Endowment of the Arts.

Cover Photograph: University of Iowa, **ACTF National Selection Distilling Spirits**, Julie Kramer as Leslie and Joe Vetter as Joan.