

POOR Theatre?

30TH Mid-America Theatre Conference

March 5-8, 2009
Hyatt Regency Chicago



30th ANNUAL

Mid-America Theatre Conference

**March 5-8, 2009
Hyatt Regency Chicago
Chicago, Illinois**

POOR THEATRE?

MATC Officers

President: Mary Cutler,
University of North Dakota

1st Vice President: Ann Haugo,
Illinois State University

2nd Vice President/Conference

Planner: Scott Magelssen,
Bowling Green State University

Associate Conference Planner:

John Fletcher,
Louisiana State University

Secretary: Kathy Privatt,
Lawrence University

Treasurer: Jennifer Blackmer,
Ball State University

***Theatre History Studies*, the journal of
the Mid-America Theatre Conference**

Editor, Rhona Justice-Malloy,

University of Mississippi

Book Review Editor, Cheryl Black,

University of Missouri-Columbia

Website/Listserv: Mark Mallett,
The Richard Stockton College of

New Jersey

www.wiu.edu/matc

Program Design: Jody DeCremer,
College of Fine Arts, Illinois State University

Symposia Chairs

Theatre History Symposium

John Fletcher, Louisiana State University
Robert B. Shimko, University of Houston

Directing/Acting Symposium

Peter A. Campbell, Ramapo College
John Soliday, University of Miami

Playwriting Symposium

Paul Bernstein, Rutgers University-Camden
Jon Herbert, Ozarks Technical
Community College
Graduate Liaison: Season Ellison, Bowling
Green State University

Pedagogy Symposium

Scott R. Irelan, Augustana College
Mark E. Mallett, Richard Stockton College

Emerging Scholars Symposium

Sara Freeman, University of Oregon
Stacey Connelly, Trinity University

Graduate Coordinator

Elizabeth Cawns, Louisiana State University
Karalee Dawn, University of Maryland

MATC Fellows

Arthur Ballet, 1988
Jed Davis, 1988
Patricia McIlrath, 1988
Charles Shattuck, 1990
Ron Engle, 1993
Burnet Hobgood, 1994
Glen Q. Pierce, 1997
Julia Curtis, 1999
Tice Miller, 2001
Felicia Londre, 2002
Robert Schanke, 2002
Weldon Durham, 2003
Fergus Currie, 2005
Billy J. Harbin, 2006
Kent Neely, 2006
Judith Zivanovic, 2006

The Robert A. Schanke Research Award

The Robert A. Schanke Research Award recognizes excellence in theatre scholarship through an award presented by the Theatre History Symposium of the Mid-America Theatre Conference.

In 2005, a gift of \$5,000 was made by Professor Robert A. Schanke to establish an award that recognizes research excellence initially presented at the Mid-America Theatre Conference. The Mid-America Theatre Conference has matched Professor Schanke's gift to establish a \$10,000 award. A noted theatre educator and scholar for over forty years, he edited *Theatre History Studies*, the journal of the Mid-America Theatre Conference, for thirteen years. He is the author and editor of several volumes of theatre scholarship, including most recently, *Angels in the American Theater: Patrons, Patronage, and Philanthropy*. His other titles include *Gay and Lesbian Theatrical Legacy*, coedited with Billy Harbin and Kim Marra; *"That Furious Lesbian": The Story of Mercedes de Acosta*; *Women in Turmoil: Six Plays by Mercedes de Acosta*; *Staging Desire: Queer Readings of American Theater History*, coedited with Kim Marra; *Passing Performances: Queer Readings of Leading Players in American Theater History*, coedited with Kim Marra; *Shattered Applause: The Lives of Eva Le Gallienne*; *Eva Le Gallienne: A Bio-Bibliography*; and *Ibsen in America: A Century of Change*.

The Robert A. Schanke Research Award is given annually to an untenured faculty presenter of the Theatre History Symposium and carries a cash award of \$500 as well as subsequent publication of the paper in *Theatre History Studies*, the journal of the Mid-America Theatre Conference.

Announcement of the recipient of the Robert A. Schanke Research Award will be made during the all-conference luncheon on Saturday, March 7, at 12 noon.

Recipients of the Robert A. Schanke Research Award

Ellen MacKay, 2005 "Toward a New Theatre History of Dionysus"

Shauna Vey, 2006: "The Master and the Mademoiselle: Gender Secrets in Plain Sight in Non-Text Based Antebellum Performance"

Scott Irelan, 2007: "Goon, Warrior, Communitarian, and Mythos: The Lincoln Legend of Dramatic Literature and Live Performance"

Robert B. Shimko, 2008: "The Miseries of History: Shakespearean Extremity as Cautionary Tale on the Restoration Stage"

Theatre History Symposium Respondent

Jean Graham-Jones

Jean Graham-Jones is Professor of Theatre at the City University of New York's Graduate Center. An expert in contemporary Latin American theatre and performance, she is the author of *Exorcising History: Argentine Theater under Dictatorship* and the editor / translator of two Argentine play collections: *Reason Obscured: Nine Plays* by Ricardo Monti and *BAIT: Buenos Aires in Translation*. Graham-Jones is also a former editor of *Theatre Journal* and currently serves on the editorial boards of *Latin American Theatre Review*, *Theatre Journal*, and *Contemporary Theatre Review*.

THURSDAY March 5TH

Registration: 12 noon – 9:00 p.m. Skyway Conference Center

Session #1: 1:00-2:15

History Symposium 1: **Poor Theatre in Hard Times**

Skyway 260

Chair: Robert Shimko, University of Houston

Elizabeth Osborne, Florida State University

“Legal Lunacy and Cultural Critiques: The Federal Theatre Project’s *There’s a Law Against It*”

Michelle Granshaw, University of Washington

“The ‘(Un)willingness’ of the Chicago Workers Theatre, 1933-5”

Kelly Carolyn Gordon, Brevard College

“Class Act(resses): How Depression-Era Stage Actresses Utilized Conflicting Cultural Ideals for Women to Fight Economic Crisis in Their Community”

Acting/Directing Symposium 1: **Teaching a New Dog an Old Trick: Using Theatre of the Past to Create Theatre of the Future**

Skyway 272

Chair: Jane Purse-Weidenhoft, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh

Reesa Graham, Mary Baldwin College

“Teaching a New Dog Old Tricks - Directing Contemporary Texts with Early Modern Practice”

Matthieu Chapman, Mary Baldwin College

“Glitter with No Gold - Staging Good Quality Theatre on a Shoe String Budget”

Solomon Romney, Mary Baldwin College

“Dogs Teaching Each Other Tricks - Short Rehearsals and No Directors in the Actor’s Renaissance Season”

Pedagogy Symposium 1: **Impoverished Teaching and Learning: Plagiarism in the Theatre Classroom**

Skyway 265

Chair: Chase Bringardner, Auburn University

Heather May, Auburn University

“How I Spent My Summer Research Grant; or, Adventures of a First-Year Faculty in the Academic Honesty Maze”

Eileen Curley, Marist College

“An Homage to Sparknotes?; Why Student Plagiarize”

Stacy Jacob, Texas Tech University

"Administrating Plagiarism: Balancing the Costs to Higher Education with Opportunities for Student Development"

Playwriting Symposium 1:

Skyway 269

Anna Peterson, Membership Manager & Literary Associate,
The Playwrights' Center, Minneapolis
"How to Bring New Plays and Playwrights to Your Campus."

Session #2: 2:30-3:45 (Thursday)

History Symposium 2: Class War: Poverty, Power, and Agency in the Early 20th Century

Skyway 260

Chair: Noreen C. Barnes, Virginia Commonwealth University
Lisa Kelly, Virginia Commonwealth University
"Upstart Women and Social Pariahs, Social and Political Calls to Action in *Mrs. Warren's Profession*"
Chanelle R. Vigue, Bowling Green State University
"Slumming It: 'Poor' Representation in *One-Third of a Nation*"
Catherine Vrtis, Tufts University
"Paris and the Trenches: War and Class in Jean Giraudoux's *The Madwoman of Chaillot*"

History Symposium 3: [title of panel about musicals]

Skyway 272

Chair: Carolyn Roark
Ellen M. Peck, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
"American Operetta: Highbrow, Lowbrow, or Somewhere in Between?"
Charles Eliot Mehler, Louisiana State University
"Musical Theatre and Middlebrow Audiences"
Bryan M. Vandevender, University of Missouri-Columbia
"Lamenting Charity: Remembering, Romanticizing, and Reviewing *Sweet Charity*"

Acting/Directing Symposium 2: Poor Theatre in Praxis I

Skyway 265

Chair: Peter A. Campbell, Ramapo College
Shelby Hibbs, Baylor University
"Myers Briggs and *Waiting for Godot*: A Director's Exploration of Psychology and Beckett"
Lloyd Nerenberg, Stony Brook University
"The Efficacy of Words on Stage: an exploration of speech acts performed within productions"
Kristin Leahey, University of Texas, Austin

"Harriet Jacobs: The Classism of Young Black Bodies in Performance"

Ronald Zank, University of Missouri-Columbia

"Inge's Picnic as Bare Bones *Bacchae*: 'Poor Theatre' as Richer Choice"

Pedagogy Symposium 2: Towards a "Poor" Pedagogy: Theorizing the Alternative Classroom with Graduate Student Teachers

Skyway 269

Chair: Joshua M. Galligan, Virginia Commonwealth University
Helen Lewis, Tufts University
"This is not the Kander and Ebb Version: Re-imagining the European Cabaret in the Experimental Classroom"
Rachel Mansfield, Tufts University
"Ephemeral Pleasures: Teaching Popular Entertainment in Adult Education"
Hesse Phillips, Tufts University
"Sinking to New Depths: Integrating Theory and Practice in the Teaching of Low Comedy"

Session #3: 4:00-5:15 (Thursday)

History Symposium 4: Taking It in the Class: Punks, Gays, and Dystopian Plays

Skyway 260

Chair: John Fletcher, Louisiana State University
Ray Schultz, University of Minnesota-Morris
"Not Just a Monolith: Notions of Gay 'Class' Distinctions in Terrence McNally's *Love! Valour! Compassion!*"
Brad Klypchak, Texas A&M University-Commerce
"I Promise Things Get Better": Infusing Nostalgia with Dystopia in Bert Royal's *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*"
Anthony Hostetter, Temple University
"Towards a Punk Theatre: The Anti-Institutional Drama of Madi Distefano"

Acting/Directing Symposium 3: Poor Theatre in Praxis II

Skyway 272

Chair: Ron Zank, University of Missouri-Columbia
Jane Purse-Weidenhoeft, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh
"Grapes of Wrath: A Story of Hope in the Midst of Despair"
Amber McGinnis Jackson, Baylor University
"Losing the Freedom to Fail: When Art Comes Second to Economics"
Greg Doran, University of Prince Edward Island

"Is This Seat Taken?: Exploring the Spectator-Actor Relationship"

Acting/Directing Symposium 4: Quick and Easy, Here and Now
Skyway 265

Chairs: Theresa Lang, Boston College and Wanda Strukus, Northeastern University

Anne Beck, Eastern New Mexico University

"Overnight Success" in Eastern New Mexico: Getting Out the Play"

Theresa Lang, Boston College

"We can do it ourselves': Student-Run Play Festivals"

Wes Pearce, University of Regina

"But we spent all our money on the poster': Trials and Tribulations of 'Fringing' within the Academy"

Wanda Strukus, Northeastern University

"Everybody Wins: Developing Artists and Audiences in the Theater Slam"

Pedagogy Symposium 3: Solo Faculty in the Collaborative Arts; or, As Poor as It Gets

Skyway 269

Chair: Scott R. Ireland, Assistant Professor, Augustana College

Cat Gleason, UW-Platteville

"One on One: Solo Theatre and the Student Actor"

Landis J. Magnuson, St. Anselm

"Create your own Colleagues: Solo Faculty and Former Students as Collaborators"

Pamela Jamruszka Mencher, Red Rocks Community College

"Integrating Academic Theatre Programs and Productions in the Two-Year College Environment"

Dinner Session: 5:15 – 6:30 (Thursday)

Playwriting Symposium: Orientation and first read-through

Skyway 269

Executive Committee Meeting

Session #4: 6:30-7:45 (Thursday)

History Symposium 5: Boys' Clubs

Skyway 260

Chair: Robert Shimko, University of Houston

Robert Shimko, University of Houston

"Those Who Had Dependence on the Stage': Appeals by Out-of-Work Theatre Professionals in Interregnum England"

Casy Kaleba, University of Maryland-College Park

"Now Thrive the Armorers: The Performance of Chivalric Nostalgia in Victorian Men's Clubs"

Christopher Nelson, Louisiana State University

"Laughter, Carnavalesque, and Class Subversion in Early Restoration Theatre"

John M. Berry, University of Minnesota-Duluth

"Towards a Pre-Literate Theatre: The Rites of Freemasonry in the Modern Age"

Acting/Directing Symposium 5: Thrift and Craft

Skyway 269

Chair: Greg Doran, University of Prince Edward Island

Janet Wilson, Illinois State University

"Engaging Student Actors with Chekhov"

Dan Venning, City University of New York Graduate Center

"Three Sisters: Realism and Poor Theatre"

David S. Sollish, Bowling Green State University

"It's the Hard Knock Life': Presenting Professional Theatre in Hard Economic Times"

William Addis, Bakerloo Theatre Project and Ryan Howe, University of Pittsburgh

"Affordable,' 'Professional,' and 'Classic': Limitations and Creativity in Troy, NY"

Pedagogy Symposium 4: Finding the Rich in "Poor" Techniques

Skyway 265

Chair: Thom Davis, University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign

Wes D. Pearce, University of Regina, Saskatchewan

"Starving Actors no more!: Moving towards a Pedagogical Model of Theatre and Entrepreneurship"

David Charles, Rollins College

"Ten Rich Rewards from a "Poor" Performance Pedagogy: Improv as Scripted Actor Training"

Dana Smith, Truman State

"Theatre Across the Curriculum: the Staged Reading Series"

Articles in Progress I :

Articles-in-Progress Workshop 1

This session is open to workshop participants only.

Skyway 272

Chair: Rhona Justice Malloy, *Theatre History Studies*; Ron Shields, *Theatre Annual*

Valleri Hohman, University of Illinois

"Sol Hurok's Balancing Act: Managing Russian Artists in America, 1921-1974"

S.I. Salemsky, University of California, Los Angeles

"Hidden Energetics: 'Female Hysteria,' Sarah Bernhardt, & Oscar Wilde's *Salome*"

Lindsay Adamson Livingston, City University New York

"This is the Place': Performance and the Production of Space in Mormon Cultural Memory"

Erin Hood, University of Wisconsin, Madison

"Surviving Yet Not Surviving But Being': Radical Black Power Femininities in the Dramas of Sonia Sanchez"

Articles-in-Progress Workshop 2

This session is open to workshop participants only.

Skyway 272

Chair: Carolyn Roark, *Ecumenica*; Stuart Hecht, *New England Theatre Journal*

Vanessa Baker, Bowling Green State University

"Thirty thousand plus thirty thousand plus thirty thousand...': Grief and Mourning in Eric Ehn's *Two Altars, Ten Funerals (All Souls)*"

Bethany Wood, University of Wisconsin, Madison

"Incorporation of the Incar(nation): Dorothy L. Sayers's *The Man Born to be King*

Marel A. Stock, Brigham Young University

"Cambodian-Mormons Square Dance: How the Cambodian-Mormon Community Performs its Dual Identity"

Kyle Conway, Texas Tech University

"Eroding the Spectrum: Meaning-Making in the Works of Will Eno"

Session #5: 8:00-9:15 (Thursday)

History Symposium 6: Classy, Sassy, and a Little Bit Dirty

Skyway 260

Chair: Alan Sikes, Illinois State University

Jeff Grace, Indiana University

"I Don't Really Know the Procedures': Sexual Codes and the Elimination of Class in 1960s Gay Bathhouses"

Eric Colleary, University of Minnesota—Twin Cities

"Burn Everything: Jack Smith and the Power of the Camp Object"

Kenneth Elliott, Rutgers University

"Jack Smith's 'Moldy Aesthetic': Finding the Class in Trash"

Emerging Scholars: Undergraduate Student Panel

Skyway 272

Chair, Sara Freeman, University of Oregon and Stacey Connelly, Trinity University

Marti Lyons, Illinois Wesleyan University

"How skinny I got, and how fucking weird I was': Michael Shannon, Sarah Kane, *Woyzeck* and Experiential Theatre"

Lizzy Pecora, Allegheny College

"The Blessing of *Angels in America*: More Life. The Reagan Administration and AIDS"

Nate Speare, DePaul University

"The Present Actor: My Experience of Pantheatre's eclectic workshops in their Myth & Theatre Festival"

Acting/Directing Symposium 6: Considering the Actor

Skyway 265

Chair: Janet Wilson, Illinois State University

Laura Wayth, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire

"Building Bridges and Cutting Costs: Training Actors to Think Like Visual Artists"

Susanna Morrow, Trinity University

"Poor me!': Performing Trauma and Protecting the Actor"

Wendy Mortimer, Ball State University

"Bridging the Divide Between Actor and Text"

Richard Sautter, Independent Scholar

"The Value of Poverty: Finding One's Voice in the Pause"

Pedagogy Symposium 5: SPECIAL SESSION

Skyway 269

Chair: Mark Mallett, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

SPECIAL SESSION— "Theater and the Liberal Arts: Merits and Metrics."

Fellows' Opening Night Reception and Graduate Student Meet and Greet

9:30 – 12 midnight

Comiskey, West Tower, Bronze Level

Hors d'oeuvres & cash bar

FRIDAY March 6th

Registration 8am-4:30 p.m. Skyway Conference Center
Continental breakfast 8:00 am - 9:00 am,

Session #6: 9:00-10:15

History Symposium 7: **What to Study, What to Produce, and How to Teach**

Skyway 260

Chair: Robert Shimko, University of Houston
Patrick D. Murphree, Northwestern State University of Louisiana
"The Pleasures of Mediocrity: or, Why We Should Study Poor Plays"
Deleah Waters, Brigham Young University
"Guiding the Tradition"
Robin Whittaker, University of Toronto
"Toward the Rehistoricization of Amateur Theatre Practice: The (Undisciplined) Case of Edmonton's Walterdale Playhouse"
John Patrick Bray, Louisiana State University
"Towards a Poor Playwright: The Memetic Emptying of the Dramatists' Toolkit"

History Symposium 8: **THS 7: Poor Theatre in the Big Easy**

Skyway 272

Chair: Les Wade, Louisiana State University
Robin Roberts, Louisiana State University
"Coconuts and High-Heeled Shoes: The Place of Class in New Orleans Carnival Parades"
Matthew Yde, Ohio State University
"Grotowskian *Lehrstück*: The History of American Racism on Stage with Jose Torres Tama"
Anne-Liese Juge-Fox, Louisiana State University
"National New Orleans: Rebuilding Performance"

Acting/Directing Symposium 7: **Poor Theatre in Praxis III**

Skyway 265

Chair: Peter A. Campbell, Ramapo College
David Charles, Chelsea Dygan, Dustin Schwab, and Rob Yoho, Rollins College
"Crossing the Poor Divide: Improvising *Murder* in a Box Set"
Shawna Kelty, University of Missouri-Columbia
"Independent Actors Theatre: Poor Theatre in Praxis"

Playwriting Symposium 2: **Staged Reading**

Skyway 269

GUN METAL BLUE BAR by K. Frithjof Peterson,
Western Michigan University
Dramaturg: Jordan Schildcrout, Ohio University
Actors:
Ricky: Theo Langesen, Rutgers University, Camden
Henry: Dennis Stafford, Ozarks Technical Community College

FOOD FOR SOUL by Judith Zivanovic, Kansas State University

Director: Season Ellison, Bowling Green University
Dramaturg: Herman Farrell, University of Kentucky
Actors:
Beauregard: Jon Herbert, Ozarks Technical Community College
Cheryl: Stacy Joyce, Missouri State University
George Lincoln Markowitz: Theo Langesen, Rutgers University, Camden
Jan: Sarah Wiggan, Missouri State University
Bag Lady: Kimberly Tony Koral-Evans, University of Arizona

Session #7: 10:30-11:45 (Friday)

History Symposium 9: **The Cowgirl, the Cougar, a Keene, and the Queen of the Sluts**

Skyway 260

Chair: John Fletcher, Louisiana State University
Heidi L. Nees, Bowling Green State University
"Parlor Performances: Annie Oakley's Staging of Victorian 'Class' in the 'Wild West'"
Christin Essin, University of Arizona
"Aline Bernstein: Class, Gender, and the Scenographic Archive"
Vincent Landro, Millikin University
"The Fox and the Hedgehog: Laura Keene Versus Wallack's New York Theatre, 1855-1863"
Jennifer Kokai, University of Texas—Austin
"Molding Class: Patience Wright and 18th Century Transatlantic Standards for Women Performers"

History Symposium 10: **Classics Redressed**

Skyway 272

Chair: Jessica Hester, SUNY Oswego
Chandra O. Hopkins, University of Kansas
"Oh, Look, She is Coming Into the Land of the Dead Now":
Eurydice and the Postmodern"

Marissa Guillén, University of California—Santa Barbara

“Commercial and Cultural Liability of Aristophanes”

David Coley, Louisiana State University

“Coming to Us Live Via Satellite: Performance and Audience Expectations for *The Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD*”

Joy Shih-Yi Huang, Louisiana State University

“A Reverse Alchemy: Capitalism, Epistemology, and Ethics in Mary Zimmerman’s *Metamorphoses*”

Acting/Directing Symposium 8: Media and Boundaries

Skyway 265

Chair: Laura Wayth, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire

Peter A. Campbell, Ramapo College

“Rich Video, Poor Video: The Crucible of Art and Logistics”

Deke Weaver, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

“I Love you, I Hate You: Video Projection in Live Performance and Theater”

Michelle Stephens, Richland Community College

“In Real Life (IRL): Challenging Theatre’s Boundaries”

Playwriting Symposium 3: Staged Reading

Skyway 269

THE CRUCIFIXION OF MOE AND IRA by Lynn-Steven Johanson, Western Illinois University

Director: Aaron Oster, West Chester University

Dramaturg: Megan Geigner, University of Chicago

Actors:

Ira: Ray Schultz, University of Minnesota, Morris

Moe: Michael Fisher, Rutgers University, Camden

LIFE 101 by Robin Rice-Lichtig, New York City

Director: Nancy Jones, University of Kentucky

Dramaturg: Megan Geigner, University of Chicago

Actors:

Natalie: Missy Thibodeaux-Thompson, University of Illinois, Springfield

Arthur: Ray Schultz, University of Minnesota, Morris

Lunch Break: 12:00-1:15 (Friday)

Conference co-chairs’ meeting; assemble at registration area. Symposium chairs from this year’s conference and those identified for next year.

Session #8: 1:30-2:45 (Friday)

History Symposium 11: Follow the Money: Regional Theatres

Skyway 260

Chair: Robert Shimko, University of Houston

Andrew Gibb, Miami University of Ohio

“Buff Chandler, the Center Theatre Group, and the Historical Roots of Los Angeles’s Unique Pattern of Arts Funding”

Pamela Decker, Ohio State University,

“Class Acts in Collaboration: University Theatre, Regional Theatres, and the Beginning of U/RTA”

Stephanie Lein Walseth, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

“Now You See Me: Unmasking the Politics of Cross-Cultural Theatre Practice”

History Symposium 12: Epic Estrangements

Skyway 272

Chair: Natalya Baldyga, Florida State University

Sarah Crockarell, University of Colorado-Boulder

“Base-Born Sodomite”—The Conflation of (Deviant) Sexuality and Class in Marlowe’s and Brecht’s Versions of *Edward II*”

Stefka Mihaylova, Northwestern University

“Brecht Versus Du Bois: Watching Race Critically in Venus by Suzan-Lori Parks”

Stacey Connelly, Trinity University

“Coddling Capitalists: Erwin Piscator’s Class Act”

Acting/Directing Symposium 9: Legacies of Grotowski

Skyway 265

Chair: Tamera Izlar, Howard University

Nancy Jones, University of Kentucky

“Grotowski’s Legacy”

Kenneth Haight, Dickinson State University

“Channeling Jerzy: The Poor Theatre of Anne Bogart and Declan Donnellan”

Theresa May, University of Oregon

“Translating the Mountain: Issues in site specific production”

Matt Saltzberg, University of Missouri-Columbia

“Sacred Theatre: An Auto/Ethnographic Exploration of Suzuki/Viewpoints and Composition in Directing John Pielmeier’s *Agnes of God*”

Playwriting Symposium 4: Staged Reading

Skyway 269

DA'NILE by Joshua Mark Nanninga,

Stephen F. Austin School of Theatre

Director: Michael Mellas, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dramaturg: Aaron Oster, West Chester University

Actors:

Bob: Sean Cummings, Rutgers University, Camden

Mr. Winkles: Thom Davis, University of Illinois

Betsy: Sarah Wiggan, Missouri State University

FREEBOX by Kato Buss, University of Oregon

Director: CeCe McFarlan, University of Missouri, Columbia

Dramaturg: Season Ellison, Bowling Green University

Actors:

Jones: Dan Chen, Los Angeles

Sarah: Angela Harmon, Rutgers University, Camden

Session #9: 3:00-4:15 (Friday)

History Symposium 13: Classifying Blackness

Skyway 260

Chair: Kate Roark

Carol Bunch Davis, Texas A&M University-Galveston

"Talking B(l)ack: Class and 'Authentic Blackness' in Alice Childress' *Wine in the Wilderness*"

Andrew Carlson, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign

"'Oteller and Desdemonum': Defining Blackness in the Shakespeare Minstrel Play"

Kevin Byrne, City University of New York-Graduate Center

"Any Town in Jimtown: How *Shuffle Along* Traveled the Nation"

Rebecca Hewett, University of Texas-Austin

"Looking at One's Self Through the Eyes of Others':

Representations of Middle-class Femininity in W.E.B. Du Bois's *The Star of Ethiopia*"

History Symposium 14: Dreams, Nightmares, and Harsh

Realities on the US Stage

Skyway 272

Tech: Y (Ferris, Johnson)

Chair: Kyle Gillette

Lesley Ferris, Ohio State University

"Class Currents: Sophie Treadwell's *Machinal* and Staging Execution"

Jordan Schildcrout, Ohio University

"Middlebrow Theatre and the Classless Utopia in Post-War America: *Harvey and Born Yesterday* on Broadway"

Katie Johnson, Miami University

"Class Acts and Racialization in O'Neill's *All God's Chillun Got Wings* (1924)"

Christine Woodworth, University of North Carolina-Greensboro

"Back-Alleys to Basements: Narratives of Class and (Il)legal Abortion on the American Stage"

Acting/Directing Symposium 10: Poor Theatre in Praxis IV

Skyway 265

Chair: Deke Weaver, University of Illinois, Urbana – Champaign

Rachel Chaves, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

"Taking up Space: Dismantling Representation in Homelessness Theater"

Brenda Varda, University of California, Riverside

"99-seats and 99-cents: Waiver Theatre in Los Angeles"

Garret Schneider, Ohio University

"On the Weekly Execution and Generation of New Plays at Ohio University: A Five-step Model for Creating a Lasting, Failure-oriented Play Lab"

Laura Purcell Gates, University of Minnesota

"Disorientation in Devised Theatre: Space for the New"

Playwriting Symposium 5: Staged Reading

Skyway 269

OCTOBER by Janeice Scarbrough, Eastern New Mexico University

Director: Penelope Walrath Cole, University of Colorado, Boulder

Dramaturg: Paul Bernstein, Rutgers University, Camden

Actors:

Elaine: Jane Purse-Wiedenhoeft, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh

Beth: Nancy Ellis, Rutgers University, Camden

NUMBER 76 by David-Matthew Barnes, Penn State University,

Altoona

Director: Marissa Guillen, University of California, Santa Barbara

Dramaturg: Brett Janecek, University of Iowa, Iowa City

Actors:

Mario: Marcelo Carrascosa, Rutgers University

Ana: Stacy Joyce, Missouri State University

Session #10: 4:30-5:45 (Friday)

History Symposium 15: When Research Gets Sexy...

Skyway 260

Chair: Henry Bial, University of Kansas

Alan Sikes, Illinois State University

"Sex, Class, and Cross-Dressing: Taking Stock of the Transvestite Actress"

Shannon Walsh, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

"Leotards and Leopard Print: Women's Performance at the 1905 Mammoth Physical Culture Exhibition"

Julie Vogt, University of Wisconsin-Madison

"Outbid on Ebay: Lowbrow Burlesque Research Outside the Academy"

History Symposium 16: Heading For the Hills

Skyway 272

Chair: Elizabeth Osborne, Florida State University

Chase Bringardner, Auburn University

"Salves to Soothe your Socio-Economic Standing: Appalachian Medicine Shows, Consumerism, and the Performance of Class"

Megan E. Geigner, University of Chicago

"Chautauqua's Shakespeare: How the West Developed a Middle Class Through Performance"

David Sollish, Bowling Green State University

"Theatre in the Mountains: The Convergence of Two Theatrical Bodies in a Rural Community"

Acting/Directing Symposium 11: Poor Theatre and Collaboration

Skyway 265

Chair: Nancy Jones, University of Kentucky

Tamera Izlar and Sherril Berryman-Johnson, Howard University

"The Bluest Eye: Collaborating to recreate Morrison's compelling story onstage with limited economic resources"

Co-presentation: "The Production of Return to the Upright Position

by Caridad Svich: A Study of 9/11 and the Art that Followed"

Cate Brewer, Virginia Commonwealth University

"Directing a Politically Charged and Poetic Piece: A Director's Journey Through the Production of Caridad Svich's Return to the Upright Position"

Melissa Carroll-Jackson, Virginia Commonwealth University

"Vocal Direction: How to Approach a Poetic Piece in a Realistic Manner"

Playwriting Symposium 6: Staged Reading

Skyway 269

MEMORY by Danielle Vinitzki, University of Colorado, Boulder

Director: Ronald Zank, University of Missouri, Columbia

Dramaturg: Jordan Schildcrout, Ohio University

Actors:

Woman: Penelope Walrath Cole, University of Colorado, Boulder

Man: Ray Schultz, University of Minnesota, Morris

ROAD TEST by Dan Chen, Los Angeles

Director: Anne Beck, Eastern New Mexico University

Dramaturg: Sarah Myers, University of Texas, Austin

Actors:

Jack: Thom Davis, University of Illinois

Jill: Angela Harmon, Rutgers University, Camden

Evening Free

or

7:00 pm Playwriting Symposium FRINGE FESTIVAL

Skyway 260

Dogs Are Evil by Damon Chua, Los Angeles

Lunch Break by JR Robles, Middle Tennessee State University

Polar Bear God (2) by Deke Weaver, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Executive Committee Meeting: Place TBA

SATURDAY MARCH 7th

Registration 8am-4:30 p.m. Skyway Conference Center
Continental breakfast 8:00 am - 9:00 am

Session #11: 9:00-10:15 (Saturday)

History Symposium 17: **All Too Real?**

Skyway 260

Chair: Chase Bringardner, Auburn University

Kyle Gillette

"Poor Things: Props, Poverty, and the End of the Economy in Sam Shepard's *Action*"

Lindsey Mantoan, University of Texas-Austin

"Living Newspaper Education: Curriculum Mandates, Funding Challenges, and Theatre in the Classroom"

Christina Gutierrez, University of Texas-Austin

"Nature Theatre of Oklahoma's *No Dice*: the (High?) Art of Conversation"

Les Wade, Louisiana State University

"Class Identity in New British Drama: Martin Crimp's Post-human Response"

History Symposium 18: **Theatre in the Streets, Puppets in the Driveway**

Skyway 272

Chair: Esther Kim Lee, University of Illinois—Urbana-Champaign

Jeanne Willcoxon, St. Olaf College

"Off the Beaten Track: Driveways, Puppetry, and the Art of Making Contact"

Kanchuka Dharmasiri, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

"Taking to the Streets: Intersections of Space, Audience, and Power in the Wayside and Open Theatre in Sri Lanka"

Ian Bradford Ngongotaha Pugh, Ohio State University

"Street Performance and the Socioeconomics of 'Poor Theatre'"

Acting/Directing Symposium 12: **Grotowski and Creation**

Skyway 269

Chair: Brenda Varda, University of California, Riverside

Carrie Klypchak, Texas A&M University – Commerce

"Finding a Way: Merging Craft and Survival in North American Cultural Laboratory (NaCl)"

Ben Spatz, City University of New York Graduate Center

"The Significant Other: Consensual Power Exchange in the Actor-Director Relationship"

Brett Janecek, University of Iowa

"Undermining Universalism: Analyzing aesthetic assumptions of the 'well-made play' in a 21st Century Context."

Ian Tweedie, Virginia Commonwealth University,

"Poor Theatre is Freedom: 2 Students, No Money, and a Library"

Pedagogy Symposium 6: **Assessing a "Poor" State of Affairs**

Skyway 265

Chair: Vanessa Baker, Bowling Green State University

Jim Williams, Winona State University

"I Got a Theatre Degree...That's Why I'm Poor"

Michael Daehn, Ball State University

"The Siamese Puzzle-How High School Theatre Culture Must Change for University Theatre Programs to Survive (and vice versa)"

Deborah Palmes, North Central College

"Educating Our Evaluators"

Session #12: 10:30-11:45 (Saturday)

Emerging Scholars: **Graduate Student Panel**

Skyway 269

Chairs: Sara Freeman, University of Oregon and Stacey Connelly, Trinity University

Catherine Young, CUNY Graduate Center

"Imaging Domestic Poverty: Intertextuality Between O'Casey's *Juno and the Paycock* and Ngugi's *I Will Marry When I Want*"

Kato Buss, University of Oregon

"Remember Me"

Timothy Schaeffer, Bowling Green State University

"Lord, what these weathers are cold! Ecocriticism and *The Second Shepherd's Play*"

History Symposium 19: **Case Studies of Class Acts: Theatre Companies**

Skyway 260

Tech: Y (Smith)

Chair: Christin Essin, University of Arizona

Tom Mitchell, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign

"The Mummings of St. Louis: The Working Class Theatre that Created Tennessee Williams"

Kate Roark

"Your Delinquency is a Bagatelle": New York's Business Class and the Rise of James Hackett, the Park Theatre's First American Star"

Tamara Smith, University of Texas-Austin

"The Lord's Anointed and a One-Cent Reward: Class and Race in American Depictions of Edmund Kean"

Julia Curtis, University of Nebraska-Omaha

"The Chatham Garden Theatre, From Pleasure Garden to Race Riot"

Directing Symposium 13: Creating The Class Project: a panel presentation

Skyway 272

Chair: Katie Issel, Jennifer Pytleski, Rachel Shapiro Cooper, Daphnie Sicre, New York University

Pedagogy Symposium 7: Pedagogical Echoes of the "Poor"

Skyway 265

Chair: Richard Sautter, Independent Scholar-Artist

John Robert Moss, Seven Hills School for Boys and Vanessa Passini, Virginia Commonwealth University

"A Bunch of Savages": Utilizing Grotowski's Physical Acting Techniques at Seven Hills School for Boys"

Chad Eric Bergman, North Park University

"Big Ideas Through Bantam Stages: Using Chicago's Storefront Theatre Model as the Foundation for a Theatre Curriculum"

Amy Franklin, University of Toronto

"Towards a 'Poor' Presentation: What Can Jerzy Grotowski Teach Engineering Students in the Digital Age?"

12:00-2:00 (Saturday)

ALL CONFERENCE LUNCHEON, followed by Conference Keynote

Plaza Ballroom, Green Level, East Tower

Presentation of the Robert A. Schanke Award

Address by E. Patrick Johnson, Northwestern University

E. Patrick Johnson is Chair, Director of Graduate Studies and Professor in the Department of Performance Studies and Professor in the Department of African American Studies at Northwestern University. A scholar/artist, Johnson has performed nationally and internationally and has published widely in the area of race, gender, sexuality and performance. His one-man show, "Strange Fruit," which is an autobiographical meditation on race, gender and identity politics, toured for five years to over 20 college campuses. His book *Appropriating Blackness: Performance and the Politics of Authenticity* published by Duke University Press in 2003, won several awards, including the Lilla A. Heston Award, the Errol Hill Book Award, and was a finalist for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. He also co-edited *Black Queer Studies: A Critical Anthology*, published by Duke University Press in 2005. His most recent book, *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South—An Oral History*, is published by the University of North Carolina Press and is the inspiration for his current show, "Pouring Tea: Black Gay Men of the South Tell Their Tales," which he has toured since 2006. "Pouring Tea" will be produced by About Face Theater in the fall of 2009.

2:00 – 3:00 (Saturday)

MATC BUSINESS MEETING

Skyway 260

All MATC members are encouraged to attend.

Session #13: 3:15-4:30 (Saturday)

History Symposium 20: Theatre Studies, Theatre Patterns, and (Mid-America) Theatre Conferences

Skyway 260

Chair: John Fletcher, Louisiana State University

Dan Venning, City University of New York-Graduate Center

"A Program of Study: A History of the Theatre Studies Major at Yale"

Peter A. Davis, University of Illinois—Urbana-Champaign

"The Myth of Escapism: The American Theatre during Periods of Economic Turmoil"

Henry Bial, University of Kansas
"Region of Influence: The Mid-America Theatre Conference from
1980 to the Present"

Playwriting Symposium 7: Staged Reading

Skyway 269

Ubu Pus, Ibi Evacua by McFall Castleman,
Sewanee School of Letters
Director: Jeanie Balch, University of Colorado, Boulder
Dramaturg: Dan Venning, City University of New York
Actors:
Father: Vérole Aaron Oster, West Chester University
Auhaitique: Luke Baber, Ozarks Technical Community College

Emily Dickinson's Sister by Claudia Barnett,
Middle Tennessee State University
Director: Penelope Walrath Cole, University of Colorado, Boulder
Dramaturg: Dan Venning, City University of New York
Actors:
Grace: Nancy Ellis, Rutgers University, Camden
Kate: Missy Thibodeaux-Thompson, University of Illinois,
Springfield
Mary Ann: Angela Harmon, Rutgers University, Camden

Acting/Directing Symposium 14: International, Universal, Poor?

Skyway 265

Chair: Carrie Klypchak, Texas A&M University – Commerce
Selena Ambush, Penn State Altoona
"129.83"
Monica Gontovnik, Ohio University and Universidad del Norte,
Colombia
"Kore Dance Theater, a Colombian Poor Theater Success"
Richard Wilcox, York University
"The Wrecking Ball: Demolishing Government Through Theatre"

Pedagogy Symposium 8: Creating "The Class Project":

A Workshop Session

Skyway 272

Chair: Daphnie Sicre, NYU
Rachel Cooper, NYU
Jennifer Pytleski, NYU
Jatie Issel, NYU

Session #14: 4:45-6:00 (Saturday)

History Symposium 21: Ethnicity/Ethnography

Skyway 260

Chair: Robin Roberts, Louisiana State University
Laura Dougherty, Arizona State University
"Voice/Class: The Practice of Voice and Speech, the
Performance of Class"
Kimberly Tony Korol-Evans, University of Arizona
"Classifying' *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*: Cross-Gender and
Cross-racial Casting and Performance"
Esther Kim Lee, University of Illinois—Urbana-Champaign
"A Study of Traditional Korean Peasant-Class Performances in
North America"
Rachel Chaves, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
"Registering the Impression: The Labors of Ethnographic
Practice in Community-Based Theatre"

History Symposium 22: Classing Up Adaptations

Skyway 272

Chair: Jeanne Willcoxon, St. Olaf College
Arvid F. Sponberg, Valparaiso University
"Class Act: Claudia Allen's Victory Garden's Adaptation of
Stuart Dybek's *I Sailed With Magellan*"
Melissa Lee, Ohio State University
"Choosing Poor: A Case Study of Filter's *Twelfth Night* by William
Shakespeare"
Bethany Rose Banister Rainsberg, Ohio State University
"Translation, Adaptations, and the University Stage:
Re-Interpreting Greek Tragedy in America"
Erin Bone Steele, University of Maryland
"A Bicycle on the Hanamichi: Japanese Theatre at the Turn of the
Century"

Acting/Directing Symposium 15: Art as a Vehicle: Theatre that Transforms

Skyway 265

Chair: Noreen Barnes, Virginia Commonwealth University
Vanessa Passini, Virginia Commonwealth University
"Stripped down performance: The Living Canvas and the use of nudity on
stage"
Paul Valley, Virginia Commonwealth University
"Vocal Acrobatics: Exploring the voice as a vehicle for artistic and
personal growth"
Diana Christopher, Alexander Technique Urbana
"Inhibit, Redirect and Transform: An actors approach to the Alexander
Technique"

Rebecca Bernard, Virginia Commonwealth University
"Masked Discovery: Humanity and truth in masked performance"

Playwriting Symposium 8: Staged Reading

Skyway 269

AWAKE by Jeff Nichols, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Director: Nancy Jones, University of Kentucky

Dramaturg: Claudia Barnett, Middle Tennessee State University

Actors:

White Dreamer: Sarah Crockarell, University of Colorado, Boulder

Black Dreamer: Season Ellison, Bowling Green State University

Melanie Kirkland: Daniella Vinitski, University of Colorado, Boulder

POLAR BEAR GOD by Deke Weaver, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Director: Kenneth Elliot, Rutgers University, Camden

Dramaturg: Jon Herbert, Ozarks Technical Community College

Actors:

Man: Deke Weaver University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Evening Free

or

7:00 pm Playwriting Symposium FRINGE FESTIVAL

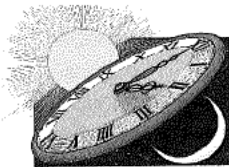
Skyway 260

Bad Timing by Steven Fletcher, Ozarks Technical College, Missouri

Liberal Arts by Don LaPlant, Emory and Henry College, Virginia

Shoved by Debra Bruch, Michigan Technological University

R E M I N D E R



**It's daylight savings time!
Don't miss the morning sessions!**

Please set your clocks one hour FORWARD tonight!

SUNDAY MARCH 8TH

Continental breakfast 8:00 am - 9:00 am

Session #15: 8:00-9:15

History Symposium 23: Class in the Canon

Skyway 260

Chair: Robert Shimko, University of Houston

Christopher J. Mitchell, Eastern Illinois University

"Son of a Servant Woman": Working-Class Angst in Strindberg's Pre-*Inferno* Drama"

Jessica Hester, SUNY Oswego

"Challenging the New World Order: Genet, Ionesco, and Aury Textually Perform Nihilism"

Andrew Blasenak, Ohio State University

"The King's (Business) Men: An Examination of the Early Modern Sharer System for Modern Theatre Companies"

Acting/Directing Symposium 16: A Poor Theatre in Prisons:

Exploring Pedagogy and Production in Correctional Centers as Opportunities for Empowerment

Skyway 272

Chair: Dennis Schebetta, Bellevue College

Steven Decker, University of Wisconsin - Waukesha County

"Theatre Production to Find a Better Way in a Juvenile Detention Center"

Emmy Kreilkamp, DePaul University

"Myths and Monologues: empowering women inmates to tell their own stories"

Scot Purkeypille, University of Notre Dame

"Tipping the Paradigm; Breaking Habitual Behavior with Theatre Exercises in a Co-ed Juvenile Detention Center"

Playwriting Symposium: Staged Reading

Skyway 269

BEST AVAILABLE by Dennis Stafford, Ozarks Technical Com. C.

Director: David Donkor, Texas A&M University

Dramaturg: Herman Farrell, University of Kentucky

Actors:

Man #2: Marcello Carrascosa, Rutgers University, Camden

Burt: Sean Cummings, Rutgers University, Camden

Mary: Angela Harmon, Rutgers University, Camden

Man #1: JR Robles, Middle Tennessee State University

WASH WITH THE OUT by John Perovich,
The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
Director: Robin Reese, Penn State, Altoona
Dramaturg: Sarah Myers, University of Texas, Austin
Actors:
Jake: Thom Davis, University of Illinois
Caroline: Sarah Wiggan, Missouri State University
Stanley: Deke Weaver of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Articles-in-Progress Session II

Skyway 265

This session is open to workshop participants only.

Articles-in-Progress Workshop 3

Chairs: Sandra Shannon, Theatre Topics; Scott Magelssen,
Workshop Coordinator
Robin Reese, Penn State Altoona
"Athlete of the Heart"
Ofer Ravid, York University
"Movement, Perception, Concepts: The Interplay of Experience in
Viewpoints Practice"
Dani Snyder, Illinois Wesleyan
"Rehearsals for Revolution?: Participatory theatre, dominant
discourses, and democratic tensions"
Julie A. Noonan, Ottawa University
"Popular Voices: Amplification, Rock Music and Democracy in
Grease"

Session #16: 9:30-10:45 (Sunday)

Theatre History Symposium 24: Theatre History Symposium

Response Session

Skyway 260

Chairs: John Fletcher, Louisiana State University
Jean Graham-Jones, City University of New York-Graduate Center,
Respondent

**Acting/Directing Symposium 17: Hopeful Acts: Empowerment
through Transformation**

Skyway 272

Chair: Peter A. Campbell, Ramapo College
Dennis Schebetta, Bellevue College
"Empowerment through Ensemble and Collaboration: Examining
the Development of the devised production of *7 Minutes to
Midnight*"
Michael J. Vettere, III, Illinois State University
"Free Play: Playing and the Art of Theatre"

Boone Hopkins, University of Kansas
"Towards an Ideal Body: Rehearsing the Limits of a 'Poor
Theatre'"

Playwriting Symposium 10: Staged Reading

Skyway 269

WHICH WAY TO SOMEWHERE by Amanda Healy,
Villanova University
Director: Nancy Jones, University of Kentucky
Dramaturg: Brett Janecek, University of Iowa, Iowa City
Actors:
Girl #2: McFall Castleman, Sawanee School of Letters
Woman: Nancy Ellis, Rutgers University, Camden
Girl #1: Sarah Wiggan, Missouri State University

LEMONADE by Sarah Myers, University of Texas, Austin
Director: Kenneth Elliott, Rutgers University, Camden
Dramaturg: Tony Koral-Evans, Arizona State University
Actors:
Mother: Jane Purse-Wiedenhoef, University of Wisconsin,
Oshkosh
Daughter: Stacy Joyce, Missouri State University

Close of Conference

Please join us for the
31st annual Mid-America Theatre Conference,
Hyatt Regency Cleveland at the Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.