

4th Annual Convention MID-AMERICA THEATRE CONFERENCE

In Conjunction With FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY THEATRE

Theme: "Building on Strength"



Love Opera House, Fremont, Nebraska

March 18-20, 1983
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa

Welcome to the fourth annual convention of the Mid-America Theatre Conference. The cover illustration spotlights our theme "Building on Strength." Not too many years ago hundreds of midwest towns boasted their local opera houses. Many of them are now gone, but others like the one in Fremont, Nebraska, are under restoration. That rich heritage is part of our strength.

This convention program focuses on our strengths. We are joining forces with the regional Festival of American Community Theatre (FACT)--the top six community theatre productions will be showcased. We are continuing the successful history symposium, student auditions, and the design competition. In addition, we are capitalizing on our other strengths by providing guest speakers, an adjudication workshop, numerous performance workshops, and opportunities for dialogue.

Our region is already strong, but I hope that this convention will help us build on that strength and make it even better.

--Robert A. Schanke
Program Chairman

The Region V FACT Festival

Every two years, the American Community Theatre Association sponsors a nationwide series of play festivals. The festivals begin in January and February at the state level; the winner of each state festival then continues to one of nine regional festivals.

The plays being produced this weekend at the E.C. Mabie Theatre are the winning representatives from states in the Region V area: Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa. They are competing to determine which theatre will represent Region V in the National FACT Festival, to be held in June in Haines, Alaska.

The performance schedule is included in this program along with the schedule of MATC events. We have arranged the program so that Festival performance times do not conflict with the schedule of workshops and other special events.

Box Office Information

The E.C. Mabie Theatre is located in the middle of the University campus, on the west side of the Iowa River. To get there from the Iowa Memorial Union, take the foot bridge across the river, then turn right and walk north past the Art Building and Art Museum. The Theatre is the next building north of the Art Museum.

The box office in the lobby of Mabie Theatre will be open one hour before the first scheduled performance each day, and will remain open until after the beginning of the final performance of that day.

Tickets may be purchased for \$5.00 per day, good for all Festival performances for that day. Or you may buy a packet of tickets, good for all three days, for \$12.50.

Adjudication

Following each performance, there is a period of one half hour set aside for an immediate adjudication of each production. Our three distinguished adjudicators for this year's festival are:

- Winona Fletcher, Professor of Theatre and Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University.
- John R. Wilson, managing Director of the community theatre of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. When John was managing director at Lincoln, Neb., he coordinated the 1973 National FACT Festival
- David M. Young, Washington, D.C., Executive Producer of the American College Theatre Festival.

CONVENTION PROGRAM

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

- 9:00-12:00 p.m. **ATA Commission on Theatre Research**
Grant Wood Room
Chair: Barry Witham, University of Washington
Participants:
Rose Bank, Purdue University
Roger Gross, University of Arkansas
Felicia Londre, Univ. of Missouri-Kansas City
James Moy, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison
Harold Nichols, Kansas State University
- 12:00- 7:30 p.m. **Registration & Exhibitions**
Ballroom Lobby
Registration 12:00-4:00 p.m. in Ballroom
Registration 5:30-7:30 p.m. in Mabie Theatre
Design Competition Exhibition in
Indiana Room
Frontier Theatre Exhibition in
Indiana Room
- 1:00- 2:00 p.m. **MATC Business Meeting:** Regional Officers
and Convention Planning Committee
Kirkwood Room
Chair: Kent Neely, University of Minnesota
- 1:15- 2:45 p.m. **Moving Into Characterization: A Workshop**
Michigan Room
Chair: Jennifer Martin, University of Iowa
A workshop in physical approaches to
characterization. Designed for participation.
- 2:00- 4:00 p.m. **History Symposium Panel No. 1: "Literary
and Musical Approaches to Theatre"**
Illinois Room
Chair: C.J. Gianakaris, Western Michigan
University
Geraldine Maschio, Iowa State University,
"Sources and Resources in the Musical
Theatre: The Musical as an Adaptive Art."
Elizabeth H. Nash, University of Minnesota,
"Selected Examples of Geraldine Farrar as
Actress"

Denis Salter and Kenneth DeLong, University of Calgary, "C.G. Stanford's Music to Tennyson's **Becket**: A Composer's Interpretation of the Drama" (to be presented by Dr. DeLong)

Judith Milhous, University of Iowa, "The Economics of Opera and Theatre in London, 1685-1720"

Rosemarie K. Bank, Purdue University, "Theatre and Narrative Fiction in the Work of 19th Century American Playwright Louisa Medina"

2:30- 4:00 p.m. **Is There a REAL Theatre Outside New York?**
Miller Room

Chair: Robert Welk, University of Nebraska-Omaha

Adjudicator: John Ezell, Director of Design at Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival and Head of the Design Program at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

3:00- 4:00 p.m. **Voice Dynamics Workshop**
Michigan Room

Chair: Howard Martin, University of Iowa
Workshop and Discussion

3:00- 4:00 p.m. **Adjudication Workshop No. 1**
Ohio State Room

Chair: Ron Willis, University of Kansas
Explores methods of communicating about productions in effective ways. Participants should attend the Friday evening FACT performances and attend all three adjudication workshops.

3:30- 4:30 p.m. **Coffee Hour**
Big 10 Lounge

5:30- 7:15 p.m. **All Conference Dinner**
Triangle Ballroom

Speaker: Margaret Croyden, New York critic, journalist, and author of **Lunatics, Lovers, and Poets: The Contemporary Experimental Theater**. She will be speaking on "The State of the Theatre."

7:30-11:10 p.m.

FACT Performances and Adjudications

Mabie Theatre

7:30- 7:45 Opening Remarks: John Harper, Festival Coordinator and D.C. Spriestersbach, Univ. of Iowa Vice-President

7:45- 8:45 NEBRASKA PERFORMANCE

8:55- 9:25 NEBRASKA ADJUDICATION

9:30-10:30 MINNESOTA PERFORMANCE

10:40-11:10 MINNESOTA ADJUDICATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

7:30 a.m. -

7:30 p.m.

Registration & Exhibitions

Registration 7:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Big 10 Lobby

Registration 5:30-7:30 in Mabie Theatre

Design Competition Exhibition in Indiana Room

Frontier Theatre Exhibition in Indiana Room

8:00- 9:15 a.m.

Continental Breakfast with ATA

Big 10 Lobby

ATA President Richard Fallon and President-elect Bernie Rosenblatt will present a brief talk about ATA at 8:30 a.m.

8:00-10:00 a.m.

Adjudication Workshop No. 2

Ohio State Room

Chair: Ron Willis, University of Kansas

8:15- 9:15 a.m.

Faces in the Crowd: How to Survive & Succeed in Mass Auditions

Illinois Room

Chair: Bruce Van Blarcom/Bruce Hertford, University of Minnesota-Duluth

A demonstration covering each phase of the mass audition process. Featured will be a videotape presentation illustrating the "do's" and "don'ts" of auditioning.

9:30-11:00 a.m.

Theatre PR & the Electronic Media: Sell out or Flop?

Purdue Room

Chair: Kay Fliehr, Past President of ACTA

Panel:
Joel Knudson, Director of Public Relations,
Omaha Community Playhouse
Jim Wockenfuss, Director of Hancher
Auditorium, Iowa City
Jim Robertson, Topeka Civic Theatre

9:30-11:00 a.m. **Sources of Motivation for the Actor**
Michigan Room
Chair: Hollis Huston, The MUM Company, St.
Louis
Panel:
Diana Lee, Washington University
Members of the MUM Company
A lecture/demonstration with audience
participation.

9:30-11:00 a.m. **History Symposium Panel No. 2**
"Adaptations of Shakespeare"
Illinois Room
Chair: Ronald G. Engle, University of North
Dakota
George D. Glenn, University of Northern Iowa,
"The Merry Wives Operatized"
Robert A. Schanke, Central College
**"Eva Le Gallienne: A Servant to
Shakespeare"**
Stephen M. Vallillo, New York City, "The
Shakespearean Productions of the Federal
Theatre Project"
Laurilyn J. Harris, Washington State Univer-
sity, "Otherwise I Must Have Incumbered the
Stage with Dead Bodies: Nahum Tate's **King
Lear**"

9:30-11:00 a.m. **Renovating & Restoring Theatre Spaces**
Northwestern Room
Chair: William J. Langley, Central College
Panel:
Ron Jerit, Theatre Consultant
Herb Stone, Architect
Harvey Sweet, University of Northern Iowa
Informal discussion with slides and drawings
of actual renovation projects.

9:30-11:00 a.m. **Kafka's "The Trial": From Novel to Play
Production**
Minnesota Room
Chair: Bruce Sweet, St. Cloud State University
Panel: Bruce Sweet: "The Eyes Have It:
Adapting and Directing Kafka"
Richard Baschky: "The Half Open Door In
Western Civilization: Scene Design
Concept"
Harvey Paul Jurik: "Color, Shape, and Texture:
Organic Costume Design"
Duane Olson: "Life Is More Than A Chinese
Puzzle: The Role of The Dramaturge."
Kelly Shea: "Researching the 'Music' of Kafka:
Vangelis."
Lois Vossen: "The Stage Manager as Person-
nel Director, Movement Coach, and
Business Administrator: Communication
Center."
Mark Snidarich: "The Assistant Stage
Manager as Legs, Hands, and Heart:
Rehearsal 'Carpenter'."
Jane Holst: "Acting Kafka/Sweet: The Light as
Movement Impulse."
Todd Hanson: "Flexible Sound in Multiple
Character Creation."

10:30-11:30 a.m. **Coffee Hour**
Big 10 Lounge

11:15-12:30 p.m. **Alexander, Alignment, and the Neutral Mask**
Michigan Room
Chair: Judith Pratt, University of Nebraska-
Lincoln
A workshop using the neutral mask and the
Alexander technique.

11:15-12:30 p.m. **Creative Dramatics for Children**
Harvard Room
Chair: Vicky Grube, University of Iowa
Participant: John Nelles, University of Iowa
A workshop demonstration of the creative
dramatics process, implementing skills of
dialogue, movement, and sensory skills.

11:15-12:30 p.m. **FACT sponsored Directing Workshop**
Ohio State Room
Chair: David Young, Producing Director,
ACTF
Participants: Members of the Fort Madison,
Iowa, Community Theatre.

11:15-12:30 p.m. **Now You See 'Em, Now You Don't -- or,
Whatever happened to all the Volunteers?**
Wisconsin Room
Chair: Twink Lynch, Association of Kansas
Theatre
A discussion/presentation of the mutual
problems in recruiting and retaining
volunteers. Some theory on management
and motivation.

11:15-12:45 p.m. **History Symposium Panel No. 3: "The Visual
Artist and the Theatre"**
Illinois Room
Chair: Harold J. Nichols, Kansas State
University
R.W. Vince, McMaster University, Hamilton,
Ontario, "Pageantry and Iconology"
Stephen Watt, University of Tennessee,
"Historical Drama and Historical Painting in
Victorian England: The History Plays of Tom
Taylor and W.G. Wills"
Jerrod A. Phillips, Northeastern University,
"Artistic Styles Reflected in Designs for **The
Magic Flute**"
Judith A. Viargues, University of California,
Davis, "Visual Theatre in the San Francisco
Bay Area"

12:45- 2:15 **New Scene Painting Techniques**
Mabie Theatre Scene Shop
Chair: Gerry Leahy, University of Iowa
A mini-version of the United Scenic Artists
Masters Class, demonstrating painting on
non-traditional materials, stained glass,
dimensional textures, and plastics in
sculpture.

12:45- 2:15 p.m. **Educational Theatre: Wherefore Art Thou?**
Michigan State
Chair: Jay Edelnant, University of Northern
Iowa
Panel:
Ruth Weiner, Carleton College
William, Waack, University of Northern Iowa
A discussion of the status of university theatre
departments, departments of limited size,
and high school programs.

12:45- 2:15 p.m. **Theatre: A Forum for the Elderly**
Michigan Room
Chair: Ron Clark/Jody Hovland, Riverside
Theatre Iowa City, Iowa
A workshop based on a grant project funded
by the Iowa Humanities Board, demonstrat-
ing exercises designed for the long living as
well as readings of brief scripts.

12:45- 2:15 p.m. **Moving With Style: Costume Support for the
Actor**
Harvard Room
Chair: Barbara Byrne/Karen Thornburgh,
University of North Dakota
A lecture/demonstration of the influence
period fashion has on the actor's movement.

12:45- 2:15 p.m. **Discovering Resources for Documenting Your
Theatre's History**
Minnesota Room
Chair: Wayne Hamilton, University of
Minnesota
Panel:
Judith Zivanovic, South Dakota State
University
Richard Poole, Briar Cliff College
Tice Miller, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Discussion of the "detective work" involved in
locating photographs, programs, news
articles, etc.

2:30- 4:00 p.m. **Beyond Danny Newman -- Aggressive
Audience Development in the 80s.**
Northwestern Room
Chair: David P. Hirvela, Iowa State University

Panel:
Marilyn Anderson, Iowa State University
Jay Edelnant, University of Northern Iowa
Geraldine Maschio, Iowa State University
Exploration of theoretical and practical ways
to develop new audiences, expand financial
bases, and promote community awareness.

2:30- 4:00 p.m. **Costume Rendering Techniques**
Minnesota Room
Chair: James M. Miller, University of Missouri-
Columbia
The designer will present samples of finished
renderings and then show how the effects
were achieved.

2:30- 4:00 p.m. **Improvisation as One Approach to the Theatre**
Michigan Room
Chair: Brian Way, visiting faculty, University of
Nebraska-Omaha
The workshop will be largely participatory
with all working together. Working clothes
desirable.

2:30- 4:00 p.m. **Directing a New Script**
Harvard Room
Chair: Robert Hedley, University of Iowa
Lecture and Discussion of the Director/
Playwright collaboration on new works for
the professional theatre. Includes con-
tractual rights.

2:30- 4:00 p.m. **Audition and Performance: An Approach to
Acting for Community Busy People** (FACT
sponsored session)
Purdue Room
Chair: John Wilson, Broken Arrow (Oklahoma)
Community Theatre

3:45- 4:45 p.m. **Coffee Hour**
Big Ten Lounge

2:30- 4:30 p.m. **History Symposium Panel No. 4: "Architects
and Theatre Architecture"**
Illinois Room
Chair: Tice L. Miller, University of Nebraska-
Lincoln

Carol Blitgen, Clarke College, Iowa, "Il Teatro
Olimpico: Masterpiece or Compromise"
Briant Hamor Lee, Bowling Green University,
"Architects and auditoriums of Turn-of-the-
19th Century France and Italy"
Ron Jerit, Jerit/Boys Inc., Arts Design
Consultants, Oak Park, Illinois, "Current
Trends in Theatre Architecture"

4:15- 5:45 p.m. **Full-Time Professional Community Theatre
Directors Roundtable**
Minnesota Room
Chair: Charles Stilwell, Waterloo Community
Playhouse
Each director should bring one exciting new
thing that happened at his theatre.

4:15- 5:45 p.m. **Is Designing for Television in Your Future?**
Ohio State Room
Chair: Robert Welk, University of Nebraska-
Omaha Lecture/Discussion on the
opportunities in Cable TV.

4:15- 6:15 p.m. **Detailed Scene Work: The Emotional Stage**
Harvard Room
Chair: Rex McGraw, University of Nebraska-
Lincoln
Participants: John Merriman and Carolyne
Hood
Lecture/discussion but mostly demonstration.

4:15- 6:15 p.m. **The Wooden Crane: An Improvisation
Workshop**
Michigan Room
Chair: R. Craig Hamilton, Iowa State University

4:45- 6:15 p.m. **History Symposium Panel No. 5: "Filmmakers
and Poets in the Theatre"**
Illinois Theatre
Chair: Felicia Hardison Londre, University of
Missouri-Kansas City, Chairman of Theatre
History Symposium
Spencer Golub, University of Virginia, "The
Pattern in the Floor: Rozewicz's Body
Politic"
Roger Gross, University of Arkansas,
"Recovering Shakespeare's Verse Rhythms"

Gay Gibson Cima, Georgetown University,
"The Actor's Art in Creating Pinter's
Cinematic **Old Times**"
Louis Fantasia, University of Southern
California-Los Angeles, "How the Actors'
Studio and Cinematic Acting Set Back
Theatre in America by a Generation or Two!"

6:30- 7:30 p.m. **Supper Meeting of State Chairman of MATC
Frontier Theatre Project**

7:30-10:55 p.m. **FACT Performances and Adjudications**
Mabie Theatre
7:30- 8:30 N. DAKOTA PERFORMANCE
8:40- 9:10 N. DAKOTA ADJUDICATION
9:15-10:15 KANSAS PERFORMANCE
10:25-10:55 KANSAS ADJUDICATION

10:45-12:45 am **Cabaret & Open Cash Bar**
Ballroom
Hosts: Central College Chapter of Alpha Psi
Omega
All interested convention registrants and
student auditionees will have the
opportunity to showcase their talents.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

8:00- 1:00 p.m. **Exhibitions of Design Competition and
Frontier Theatre**
Indiana Room

8:30-10:00 a.m. **All Conference Breakfast**
Main Lounge
Speaker: Caroline Schaffner, of the original
Schaffner Players. Curator, The Museum of
Repertoire, Americana. Topic -- Trouping
Thru Iowa in the 1920s. Winter and Summer.
Will show Documentary Film -- "Toby in the
Tall Corn."

10:00-11:00 a.m. **Adjudication Workshop No.3**
Ohio State
Chair: Ron Willis, University of Kansas

10:15-11:45 a.m. **History Symposium Panel No. 6: "Post-
Modern Performance Art"**
Illinois Room
Chair: James S. Moy, University of Wisconsin-
Madison
Frantisek Deak, University of California, San
Diego, "The Art of Personality: Art as a
Human Project"

Arnold Aronson, University of Virginia,
"Spalding Gray: Performance Artist as
Playwright and Actor"
Barry Witham, University of Washington,
"Performance Art: Implications for
Contemporary Theatre"

11:00- 2:25 p.m. **FACT Performances & Adjudications**
Mabie Theatre
11:00-12:00 S. DAKOTA PERFORMANCE
12:10-12:40 S. DAKOTA ADJUDICATION
12:45- 1:45 IOWA PERFORMANCE
1:55- 2:25 IOWA ADJUDICATION

11:45- 1:15 p.m. **History Symposium Panel No. 7: "The Arts of
the Russian Theatre"**
Eugene K. Bristow, Indiana University, "Forms
and Styles in Russian Drama, 1882-1932"
Michael McLain, University of California, Los
Angeles, "Nikolai Okhlopkov: Staging
Aesthetics in Perspective of Mass Actions
and Medieval Practices"
Lendley Black, Emporia State University,
"Artists of the Kamerny Theatre"
Herbert Marshall, Southern Illinois University,
"Boris Livanov: Soviet Actor"

1:30- 2:30 p.m. **MATC Business Meeting, Evaluation &
Discussion**
Michigan State Room
Chair: Kent Neely

2:30- 3:20 p.m. **All Conference Luncheon**
Main Lounge

3:30- 4:00 p.m. **Closing Ceremonies & FACT Awards**
Mabie Theatre

MID-AMERICA THEATRE CONFERENCE Council and Officers

CRO: Kent Neely, University of Minnesota
Vice CRO: Robert Larson, Luther College
Sec/Treas: Tice Miller, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Rep/ATA: Harold Nichols, Kansas State University
ACTA: Richard Fliehr, Minneapolis
SSTA: Nadine Charlsen, Wichita
UCTA: Ronald Moyer, University of South Dakota
ACTF Region V North: Bob Badal, Moorhead State University
ACTF Region V South; Patrick Gouran, Iowa State University
CTAA: Janet Rubin, University of Northern Iowa

MATC Convention Committee

Chair: Robert Schanke, Central College
Local Arrangements: Lewin Goff, University of Iowa
Auditions: Carolyn Rutherford, Nebraska Theatre Caravan
Design Competition: Robert Welk, University of Nebraska-Omaha
History Symposium: Felicia Londre, University of Missouri-Kansas City

MATC AUDITIONS

Chair: Carolyn Rutherford

Iowa Memorial Union

Friday: 9:00-4:30

Saturday: 9:00-5:00

HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

“Crosscurrents: The Arts of the Theatre”

Chair: Felicia Londre

Papers presented in Iowa City will be eligible for publication in forthcoming issues of **Theatre History Studies**.

MATC Scenic and Costume Design Competition is sponsored by Allied Theatre Crafts of Kansas City, Missouri and Electro Controls, Inc. of Salt Lake City, Utah. John Ezell, Scene Designer for the University of Wisconsin-Madison Theatre Department, is the judge for this year's competition.