

Mid America Theatre Conference  
General Business Meeting, 3 March 2007  
Minutes

The General Business Meeting of the Mid America Theatre Conference 2007 was called to order by Chair Bill Jenkins at 2:05 p.m., in the Lake Superior A Suite of the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis.

Deanna Toten-Beard offered, as a Treasurer's Report, a provisional statement, pending processing and depositing registrations in hand and expenses from the Conference. Bill assured the membership that the Conference was expected to show a profit.

Conference Co-Chairs for 2008 were introduced:

Acting/Directing – Jane Purse-Wiedenhoef  
Pedagogy – Christine Frezza, Scott Irelin  
Playwriting – Penny With (?)  
Theater History – Henry Bial, John Fletcher  
Emerging Scholars – Peter Campbell, ??  
Graduate Student Liaison – Elizabeth Cawns

The introductions were followed by a general appeal for participation and promotions in Kansas City.

An overview of planning for MATC 2009 was presented. One strategy being pursued by the Board and Conference Planners, as a way of negotiating the best price and venue, involves returning to prior sites, or leveraging bookings with specific chains in different cities. This consideration, along with issues of connectivity, local theater/arts attractions, and attempting to keep the conference within reach of the majority of the members, produced a short list of cities: Chicago, Cleveland, Louisville and St. Louis.

After some discussion by the membership, the slate of cities was modified to: Chicago, Louisville, Minneapolis and New Orleans.

Rhona Justice-Malloy reported on *Theatre History Studies*. There was a problem, on the part of University of Alabama Press, with the 1<sup>st</sup> issue mailing. This has been investigated, and appears to be resolved.

Bill commended the Board for their efforts over the past year, and especially recognized the work of Ann Haugo and Scott Magelssen preparing this year's Conference.

The floor was opened to general questions and discussion. Among the topics raised:

The theme for Conference 2008. One possibility that evoked general interest centered on questions of "translation."

Bill announced that the Call For Papers deadline for all Symposia will be 15 October 2007.

Interest was expressed in adding a "welcoming event" along the lines of the General Meeting for opening day of the Conference. The Fellows' Reception has always been considered such an activity.

A question of publishers' exhibits was raised. In the past, publishers have been reluctant to invest in smaller conferences, such as MATC. With the Conference's continued growth, there may be more interest. Conference planners will explore the possibility further.

The membership was reminded of the importance of Fellows nominations, and the nominating procedure was briefly explained.

A question concerning participation and attendance at panel sessions was raised. Heretofore, no precise record has been maintained. Symposium Co-Chairs were asked to keep track of attendance at individual panel sessions in the future, and to report to the Conference Planner.

A suggestion was made to separate the Article-In-Progress workshop from the Theater History Symposium, to general agreement.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Mallett  
Secretary