

**Mid-America Theatre Conference**  
**March 2011 – Minneapolis, MN**  
**Business Meeting**  
**(163 attended)**

- I. Approval of Minutes – Minutes approved from March 2010 Business Meeting.
- II. Announcements/Executive Committee Report
  - President Ann Haugo reported on 2 items from the Executive Committee Meeting:
    - The Committee is establishing a Nominating Committee to nominate officers and Fellows. There is a provision in the By-Laws for the Committee to appoint committees as needed. The creation of a Nominating Committee should make the selection of officers and Fellows a more definable and transparent process. The Nominating Committee will not be involved in symposia business, such as the selection of chairs/co-chairs.
      - The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President will sit on the Nominating Committee, ex-officio and report to the Executive Committee.
      - All other members will serve a 3 year term.
      - All interested and willing to serve should contact Scott Magelsson.
    - We need to elect a new Treasurer. Jen Blackmer needs to step down due to profession and personal obligations. She has nominated Tyler Smith.
      - Motion was made and seconded for Tyler Smith to serve as Interim for 1 year, and leave elections on the usual cycle.
      - Motion carried and Tyler was thanked for his willingness to serve.
- III. Theatre History Studies Report – Rhona Justice-Malloy thanked Cheryl Black for her great work as book review editor. She also noted that last issue was especially large, a “monster issue,” but the press was fabulous and very helpful with this large endeavor. The journal currently has 750 domestic subscriptions, and 25 foreign. Vol. 31 is at press, and Rhona is accepting submissions for vol. 32 with a deadline of 5/15. There is no theme for vol. 32
- IV. Acting/Directing Symposium Journal Proposal – Peter Campbell reported that he has a mock-up available for viewing, has an editorial board, a review process, and has solicited submissions from last year’s symposium. Submissions will also be solicited from this year to create the first issue. The call for papers was available at the Registration desk, but all copies were taken, so interested attendees can contact Peter directly.
  - A motion to launch the journal was made and seconded.

- Discussion followed:
  - A budget is not needed at this point. The journal will be launched/hosted at Peter's school with his students helping. Assuming a successful launch, MATC will need to eventually make plans for future.
  - Greg Doren, Jennifer Goodlander, Rhona Justice-Malloy, Suzanna Marrow, Deanna Toten-Beard have agreed to serve on the editorial board at this point.
  - Mission Statement and Call for Papers
  - The journal is using Creative Commons as the licensing tool so ownership belongs to writers.
  - Submissions are limited to Symposium submissions.
  - The Editorial board will consider advertising the journal after they're officially cleared to launch.
    - Suggestion received to add a blurb about the new journal to MATC's ATHE ad.
  - A friendly amendment was made and accepted to approve a 2-year launch and review at that end of that time period
- Motion carried.

#### V. Conference Planning 2013 and 2014

- Chicago, March 1-4, 2012 – Chicago, as always, will be more expensive, but we negotiated a better room rate at Hyatt and addressed AV support issues with Hyatt. AV is contracted to an outside company, but the problems have been communicated and we should have better support. We will also have a better place for registration (not a hall).
- Concerns reported:
  - At the current conference, attendees reported being told they could only have 2 nights at conference rate and 3<sup>rd</sup> at full-rate. They were told that the MATC block was full, and this happened well before cut-off date. Conference Planner John Fletcher will try to address this situation with our Hyatt liaison today. He also asked that all attendees please let the conference planner know immediately when this sort of thing happens so it can be addressed with the liaison.
    - A question was raised about the possibility of having a gluten-free meal option at the Keynote Lunch. All attendees were asked to note any dietary issues when they register because if we know about these needs in advance, the hotel will address them.
- 2013 – Noting that our constituency makes up a wide swath of the country, Conference Planner John Fletcher announced that St. Louis is the current target since Kansas City's Hyatt is unable to accommodate us for our usual dates.

- 2014 – We’re looking at an eastern location but are not certain about returning to Cleveland. Recommendations were received for Cincinnati, Austin, San Antonio, or Houston.
  - Attendees at the meeting were asked about meeting outside our historical Midwest region. Concern was raised about being sensitive about meeting in territories where other conferences reside, like the Southeast Theatre Conference. Concern was also raised about number of attendees who are currently driving, but would have to fly. One attendee noted that results from last year’s survey listed conference location as most important factor in deciding to attend.
  - The official MATC states are currently: Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.
  - A motion was made to trust the Executive Committee to look at outside of area questions.
  - The Committee then asked for serious questions/concerns about doing that:
    - (a) Point raised that this is a core value of MATC
    - (b) Asked that we also consider where other conferences are sending folks because they’re choosing exotic spaces and thus taking more funding.
    - (c) We need to consider big-hub airports
    - (d) Suggested asking Fellows to weigh in on this issue too
    - (e) If we do go outside our normal area, we must check and communicate with other orgs/conferences meeting in this area
    - (f) Could also consider moving conference later but that increases hotel prices etc. too because we move out of “winter” rates
  - The Executive Committee will look very seriously at this issue and consider options.

#### VI. Other Business

- Arvid Sponberg reported on the upcoming Chicago Theatre Conference. It started with interest collected at MATC 2 years ago. It will occur May 18-22, 2011. They received 135 proposals and have selected 75. Half of these will be papers by theatre scholars and others are panels, lecture/demonstrations, and workshops by theatre makers (scholars in morning and theatre makers in afternoon) so both areas can benefit. No programming is planned in the evening to promote attending theatre and informal conversations. The goal of this conference is starting conversations between scholars and makers about what needs to be

addressed. The program is set and available on the website: <http://:colum.edu/TheatreSymposium>. All events will be held 1140 South Wabash (owned by Columbia College). Registration is \$95 and can be completed online; there are no official arrangements for lodging or food. Arvid expressed thanks for the support of MATC for this endeavor.

- Fellow Bob Schanke recommended buying a domain name to address the problem of finding MATC on web. Web Master Mark Mallett reported that we're optimized as much as possible for search engines and limited because of Western Illinois University's web page. The Executive committee will look into this option.
- Question was raised about a theme for next year. Nothing is set, but the intersection of labor and politics - "The Work" – is under consideration. Conference Planner John Fletcher noted that he'd appreciate any suggestions/feedback, and that the theme will be announced soon.
- Jane Purse-Wiedenhoeft brought a concern to attendees in the spirit of the conference theme of community. She noted grave concerns about the situation in Wisconsin and losing a way of life, because the right of collective bargaining is being removed. She reported talking with the Executive Committee about putting forward a statement of support but doesn't want to impose her politics on other members. Instead, she urged everyone to educate themselves about what's happening in their own state. She asked that all write to senators and congressman to express their opinions, whatever those are, but cautioned against using a school e-mail as this might be against policy.
- Meeting adjourned at 3:04 pm.

## Appendix A

# THEATRE/PRACTICE

THE ONLINE JOURNAL OF THE ACTING/DIRECTING SYMPOSIUM OF  
THE MID AMERICA THEATRE CONFERENCE

### CALL FOR PAPERS

Based on work presented in the Acting/Directing Symposium of the Mid America Theatre Conference, *Theatre/Practice* is an open access online journal created to encourage, recognize, and disseminate rigorous and high quality scholarship on the practice and theory of acting and directing.

Submissions to *Theatre/Practice* are limited to work presented in the Acting/Directing Symposium of the Mid America Theatre Conference. Symposia participants are invited to submit publication-ready versions of their papers by **June 1, 2011** to Peter A. Campbell at [pcampbel@ramapo.edu](mailto:pcampbel@ramapo.edu). For the first issue, the editors will consider work from the 2010 and 2011 conferences.

Since the Journal's aim is to encompass various forms of scholarship, it is organized into two primary sections that allow for different types of scholarly work about acting and directing. The First Person section is for essays, documentation, dialogues, accounts, or manifestos based on significant firsthand practitioner experiences of acting and directing. The Third Person section is for essays, documentation, dialogues, accounts, or manifestos based primarily on another practitioner's work in the fields of acting and directing.

Submissions will undergo a blind peer review by at least one reader and editor. Manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with the most recent editions of the MLA or Chicago style guides. Manuscripts can be submitted electronically in MS Word or plain text formats. All submissions must be accompanied by a note to the editor that includes the title of the work, the author's name(s), positions, and institutional affiliations. The work should not be under consideration, or in print, elsewhere. If your manuscript is accepted for publication, it will appear in a PDF format that is available for both reading online, and downloadable and printable forms.

We also welcome submissions of photographs to complement manuscript submissions. Up to 10 photographs may be mailed on CD or flashdrive in JPEG format to Peter A. Campbell, Ramapo College of New Jersey, 505 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430. Make sure to send appropriate permissions and credits for any photographs.