

January 2020

# Mid-America Theatre Conference Newsletter

## Vol 41 Number 1

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### **Sandra Richards to Speak**

Dr. Sandra Richards emerita, African American, African, African Diaspora, and American theatre scholar, will be the keynote speaker at the MATC luncheon on Saturday, March 7, 2020. Richards' work includes *Ancient Songs Set Ablaze: The Theatre of Femi Osofisan*, *The Routledge Companion to African American Theatre and Performance*, and numerous articles on a range of black dramatists.

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## Tour of the Goodman Theatre

La Donna Forsgren, our Associate Conference Coordinator, has arranged a tour at the Goodman for the morning of Friday, March 6, 2020 at 11am. The tour is limited to 20 people and sign up for the tour is available here: <https://forms.gle/TDH6hE2D8jqQ53ML8>

- The cost for the tour is \$5 (payable to MATC).
- The tour group will leave for the Goodman promptly at 10:30am for an early arrival.
- Options for travel to the Goodman include: 20-minute walk, 10:34am #29 bus (12-minute ride), or your own ride-share/taxi.
- Group will meet tour guide, Chris Smith, in the Goodman lobby.

## Chicago, Chicago!

Preparations are moving along on the 2020 MATC in Chicago at the Embassy Suites Downtown Magnificent Mile from March 5th-8th. We are working hard to insure a cost-effective and memorable weekend.

We are also working hard to provide support to our membership through a variety of ways.

- Parent-Scholar/Artist and Family Friendly:
  - Nursing room
  - Children's Play Room
- Self-Care:
  - Quiet Room for work or simply to nurture your inner introvert with some quiet downtime
  - Saturday 8am Yoga session with Dr. Emily Rollie

The MATC registration fee includes:

- 3 continental breakfasts (limited as breakfast is provided for hotel guests)
- Fellows Reception appetizers and desserts w/cash bar
- Keynote conference luncheon (all entrees are gluten free this year)

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- AV support for Friday and Saturday sessions
  - Discounts on Theatre Tickets

## **Embassy Suites Downtown Magnificent Mile**

The MATC Embassy Suites block reservation includes:

- Single or double 2-room suites (max occupancy 4 adults) @ \$149/night
- Complimentary made to order breakfast (W-F 6:30-9:30am; Sat/Sun 7:30-10:30am)
- Complimentary evening reception (drinks - must be 21+ to consume alcoholic delights)
- Complimentary Wifi in guest rooms
- Business center - also known as "I need to print a copy of my play or paper"
- Each room has a microwave, refrigerator, and coffee maker
- Indoor pool and fitness center - bring your swimsuit and your work out gear! Work out/run/practice yoga/swim with your CP before the start of each day!

The MATC Room Reservation block is limited and the cut-off is February 13, 2020. While we try to accommodate as many members as possible within the block, we can't guarantee rooms beyond our contracted number of rooms.

## **Accessibility**

In addition to their ADA compliance for access to spaces, Embassy Suites

- Provides Assistive Listening Devices for meetings upon request
- Welcomes Service Animals

## **As MATC presenters, we invite you to consider the following conventional accessibility measures:**

- Bring the materials you need on a thumb drive. Internet access may not be available in your presentation room.
- Bring a few print copies for audience members who would like to follow along with you.

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- Offer large-print copies (17-pt. or larger) of your full presentation and handouts at your session (feel free to add a disclaimer: "Please do not distribute without the expressed permission of the author" and include your name and contact information).
  - Provide audio description of visual images, charts and video/DVDs, and/or open or closed captioning of films and video clips.
  - If a microphone is offered to you, please use it.

If you incorporate Powerpoint slides into your presentation:

- use a high contrast color reading scheme (i.e. white background, black font or the reverse)
- use a templated slide format
- use a sans-serif font, such as Arial, and maintain a large font size
- provide minimal text on each slide (only a few points)
- incorporate audio description of all images, graphs, charts on your slides

## Extended Deadline for Nominations

The Nominations and Appointment Committee has extended the deadline for submissions to **February 1st**. We are looking for a cast of **characters** to lead MATC into the future! Looking for reasons to lead? Then follow us on Instagram (@matctheatre) or join our [Facebook Group](#) to find out why current and former leaders have stepped up. (If you are a former MATC leader (fellow, co-chair, member of the executive committee, member-at-large, etc.) and you'd like to share YOUR reasons for serving MATC, visit <https://forms.gle/kmQH8jFVkhjhDRQZA> (photo optional!))

This year we seek nominations and self-nominations for the following positions, which will be **elected** by the membership at MATC:

- Associate Conference Coordinator
- Secretary

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- Nominations & Appointments Committee Members-At-Large (nominations from the floor only in Chicago)
  - Graduate Student Liaison (elected by graduate student members only)

We also seek nominations and self-nominations for the following positions, which will be **appointed** by the Nominations and Appointments Committee:

- Co-Chairs for the following symposia: Theatre History, Pedagogy, Playwriting, Practice/Production
- Co-Chair for the Emerging Scholars sessions and the Articles-in-Progress / Pitch Your Book sessions

**The Associate Conference Coordinator** is the beginning of the officer sequence in MATC, typically moving to Vice President/Conference Coordinator, then President-Elect, and eventually President; this ensures that the incoming President will be familiar with the procedures of the Executive Committee and the organization of the conference itself. The **Secretary** is a member of the Executive Committee and will record and maintain the minutes of all business meetings, act as the custodian of all MATC historical documents, and work with the Webmaster to provide relevant materials for the MATC website and list-serv. This is a two-year position, elected in years ending in even numbers. **Nominations & Appointments Committee Members-At-Large** serve a two-year term on the NA Committee (see charge above). The **Graduate Student Liaison** coordinates social activities and the Graduate Student Assistance Fund and serves as a point of communication between graduate students and the Executive Committee. **Co-chairs** are responsible for overseeing individual symposia, which includes working with the conference coordinator to craft the call-for-papers, solicit proposals, coordinate sessions, communicate with participants, and represent their symposia. Co-chairing is a two-year commitment; the second year the co-chair will represent the symposia on the NA Committee.

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**To nominate an individual,** send a nomination (no more than 1 page), including the individual's contact information, to Chris Woodworth at [president\\_elect@matc.us](mailto:president_elect@matc.us).

**To self-nominate:**

- **For an ELECTED position,** send a description (250-300 words) of your qualifications and plans for the office to Chris Woodworth at [president\\_elect@matc.us](mailto:president_elect@matc.us). This description will be distributed via the MATC list-serv, on MATC social media accounts, and on-site at the conference, prior to the election.
- **For an APPOINTED co-chair position,** send a current CV including contact information AND a brief letter describing qualifications and interest in the position, your history with MATC, and your vision for this role to Chris Woodworth at [president\\_elect@matc.us](mailto:president_elect@matc.us).

**The deadline for all nominations is ~~January 10, 2020~~ EXTENDED TO FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>.**

For more information on the organization, please see the website (<http://matc.us>) or contact Chris Woodworth at [president\\_elect@matc.us](mailto:president_elect@matc.us)

Sincerely,

The Members of the Nominations and Appointments Committee:

Chris Woodworth, Nominations Chair & President-Elect	Heidi Nees, Theatre History Symposium Co-Chair
Catalina Florescu, Member-at-Large	Justin Maxwell, Playwriting Symposium Co-Chair
Shirley Huston-Findley, Member-at-Large	Karen M. Dabney, Pedagogy Symposium Co-Chair

Questions about the conference? Contact Shawna Mefferd Kelty @ [planner@matc.us](mailto:planner@matc.us)