

The 39th Annual Mid-America Theatre Conference
March 15 – 18, 2018
Hyatt-Regency Milwaukee
“SPIN”

Practice/Production Symposium - Call for Papers, Presentations, Workshops & Performances

The Practice/Production Symposium of the Mid-America Theatre Conference (MATC) is seeking proposals for paper and co-paper presentations, round-table discussions, organized panels, workshops, performances, and hybrid presentations that can be linked to the theme “SPIN” broadly construed, from the perspective of directors, actors, choreographers, technicians, designers, playwrights, dramaturgs, stage managers, and audience members. We seek to examine current and emerging challenges in all production disciplines, as well as analyze the creation and reception of theatre from a variety of perspectives. We especially encourage applicants to explore proposing formats that include active involvement on the part of both presenters and auditors.

Possible investigations of “SPIN” might include:

- How do/can theatre-makers spin their marketing to reach changing audience demographics?
- In what ways do turning points in an artistic process reveal greater truths or questions? And, how can rotating the lens to view an artistic challenge from a different perspective unlock its mysteries?
- What trajectories twist and turn along the way to allow us to arrive at our theatrical destinations?
- When and why is theatrical revolution necessary for theatrical evolution?
- What artistic revolutions have informed or altered our current theatre practices?
- How can spinning out of control be a boon, or nudge, to the creative process? Or, how does one stop an artistic process/project from spinning out of control? And should we?
- What is the value of revisiting old stories? Why do we remount, retell, and renew?
- When and how have staging or production innovations upended or overturned audience expectations?
- How do theatre companies successfully revolve their content?
- How does an audience spin the production's meaning(s) to meet their cultural context and needs?

Papers and presentations may be critical reflections or analyses of specific theatrical events, or theoretical investigations of the work of significant practitioners. All presenters will have the opportunity to submit their work to *Theatre/Practice*, a peer-reviewed, open-access online journal created to encourage, recognize, and disseminate rigorous and high-quality scholarship on the practice and theory of theatrical production and reception. Submissions to *Theatre/Practice* are limited to work presented as part of the conference’s Practice/Production, Pedagogy, and Playwriting Symposia.

Applicants should email 150-250 word abstracts that include the applicant’s name, rank, academic affiliation, address, telephone, email, presentation format (single paper or co-paper presentation, panel presentation, roundtable discussion, workshop, or performance), title of presentation, and a 2-3 paragraph description of the presentation. Please include any special technology needs in your abstract (such as audio or video projection), and note that technology accommodations can be extremely limited during the conference. Individual paper and co-paper presentations will be limited to a 15-minute maximum. Other formats will be limited to a 45-minute presentation period followed by a 25-minute audience discussion and question period.

Deadline for submissions: October 15, 2017

Please send submissions electronically as MS Word or PDF files to BOTH:

Drew Vidal, Ball State University: dvidal2@bsu.edu

Karin Waidley, Independent Scholar: karinwaidley@gmail.com