

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

Theatre History Symposium—Call for Papers

In “Geographies of Learning: Theatre Studies, Performance, and the ‘Performative,’” Jill Dolan argues that feminist scholars and activists negotiate their position with “a gesture toward placing oneself within a critique of objectivity, but at the same time stopping the spin of poststructuralist or postmodernist instabilities long enough to advance a politically effective action.” In other words, in order to spin— our actions, our stories, our selves— we have to stop the spin long enough to respond and be heard. This year’s Theatre History Symposium asks participants to engage MATC 2018’s conference theme of “spin” by reflecting on both our relationship to “the spin” and our obligation to spin the material of theatre history, the material conditions of our work, and the movement of our methodologies. In what ways is our work as historians, teachers, practitioners, and scholars linked to processes of spinning, weaving, or spiraling? How do we as scholars negotiate the oscillations between the stasis and stillness of ourselves and our subjects? How is “spin” as propaganda, bias, public relations tactic, or political strategy imbricated in the sites of study the theatre historian engages? How might reflecting on our work as spin or as spinning shift our research methodologies? And in what ways does spin allow us to reconsider how theatre spins history? How history spins theatre?

The Theatre History Symposium invites participants to consider also the ways our sites of study reverberate within other fields such as sound, dance, politics, philosophy, folklore, and media studies. We welcome proposals that offer clear arguments that engage the provocative theme of “spin,” and we encourage work with a diversity of sites, research methodologies, theoretical engagement, and writing or presentation styles.

We are excited to announce that Dr. Esther Kim Lee will serve as this year’s Theatre History Symposium Respondent.

Please submit proposals via email in Word or PDF Format to thsmat@gmail.com and include the following:

- Your **name, title** (graduate student, faculty rank, independent scholar), **academic affiliation** (if applicable), and a **brief biography**.
- Your **contact information** (particularly email).
- The **title and abstract** for your paper. Please limit abstracts to **250 words**.
- Any **audiovisual elements** requested for your presentation. We cannot guarantee audiovisual support but will take requests into account when scheduling. Late requests may not be honored.
- We also welcome proposals for full panels. Contact the co-chairs for more information.

Theatre History Symposium Co-Chairs: Chandra Owenby Hopkins, PhD Shannon Walsh, PhD
Converse College Louisiana State University

All proposals must be received by October 15, 2017

Robert A. Schanke Award

The Robert A. Schanke Research Award is given annually to an untenured faculty presenter of the Theatre History Symposium and carries a cash award of \$500 and consideration for publication in *Theatre History Studies*, the Mid-America Theatre Conference journal. For consideration, submit your full, conference-length version of your paper to the co-chairs at the email address above by February 19, 2018.