



"Our State On Stage"

Second Quarter

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The OCTAFest Registration information is now on the OCTA website. Click on [OCTAFest 2008](#) for all the news and information about the upcoming Festival in Guthrie, in July. We will be adding more in the next few months.

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"OCTAFest Adjudicators Confirmed"

A High School Drama teacher, a College Drama Professor and a Theatre Director of a large not-for-profit theatre will adjudicate the 21st Oklahoma Community Theatre Association Festival of Plays in Guthrie, July 24-27.



Morrie Enders returns to OCTAFest from Michigan where he is the Artistic Director of Kalamazoo Civic Theatre. He served as Artistic/Managing Director of La Crosse Community Theatre in Wisconsin for 18 seasons. During his tenure, LCCT received numerous awards at the state, regional, and national levels of AACTFest. His production of "Cotton Patch Gospel" was performed in Heidelberg, Germany for Region 10. The Fantasticks represented the United States at the 1st Yakumo International Theatre Festival in Japan and received the People's Choice Award. He has presented workshops on directing, musical theatre directing, and media relations. Morrie currently serves on the AACT board as Vice President-Membership. As an adjudicator, Morrie has worked on the state and regional level. He is a musical theatre recording collector and sometime New York City tour guide.

PAST PRODUCTIONS



(above) Red Carpet Community Theatre Junior Actor's Guild Season Saturdays production/cast picture of "School House Rock, Live! Jr." March 1 and 2, 2008. Check out our website www.rcct.org



Cranston Dodds is a professional theatre director/ manager and instructor, and formerly President of the Texas Nonprofit Theatres. He is currently the Drama Instructor at Mildred High School in Corsicana, TX. He has been Director of Bravo Productions, Inc., Artistic Director of Warehouse Living Arts Center, and Staff Director for Casa Manana Theatre. He has taught at Navarro College and was Managing Director for Denton Community Theatre. He has conducted seminars throughout Texas on topics ranging from Directing to Establishing a Successful Board of Directors. He has directed and performed in over 200 productions and has written several plays which have been performed at such colleges and universities as Texas Tech, Trinity, Duke, Southwestern, University of North Carolina, Lewis and Clark, Clemson and others. He has produced and directed the professional union production of "A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline" at the Caravan of Dreams in Ft. Worth. During its three month run, the Ft. Worth Star Telegram called this production "The Supreme Patsy Play." Cranston has served as commentator for the Texas Youth Festival several times and has adjudicated several state festivals. He placed second in the state of Texas for UIL One Act Play festival in 2006. Cranston's awards include Best Director, Distinguished Service Award, Alumni Appreciation Award as well as serving as President and Board of

Governors of several organizations.



Sapulpa Community Theatre, Inc. cast of last months production of "A Bad Year for Tomatoes" by John Patrick.



Stephen Slaughter is founder of the first two-year Associates of Arts Degree in Theatre in Louisiana. Steve has been responsible for the development of the Theatre Program at Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC) and is enjoying the completion of the new BPCC theatre. He received his BA degree in Speech from Louisiana Tech University and his Masters in Drama and Communication from the University of New Orleans. Steve has held the position of President and Vice-President of the Theatres of Louisiana. On the regional level he has served as Member-at-Large and Vice President of Membership for the Southwest Theatre and Film Association, and as conference host for the 1999 Southwest Theatre Conference in Shreveport, LA. Steve has adjudicated state and regional AACTFests for over ten years and has presented many workshops. He has produced or directed 48 shows. Steve has written twelve musical shows for children. He also writes and produces for many local Mardi Gras balls and is known for loving a good time. Steve has received many awards and citations, including the BCPP Chancellor's Award, the Amoco National Award for Design Excellence, first place in set designs for the American College Festival (ACTF) and ACTF festival. He is the recipient of the SWTFA Robert Lightsey Award for Community Service and other SWTFA's Distinguished Service Awards and Meritorious Service Awards.

"OCTAFest Workshops"

Thursday, July 24, 2008

KATIE DAVIS: "Auditioning" – An introduction to being a professional "auditioner" for all ages. Covers choosing material, setting a slate, and do's and don'ts of amateur or professional tryouts.

Friday, July 25, 2008

CRANSTON DODDS: "Ann Bogarts's Viewpoints"-A basic, introductory technique of improvisation dealing with space and time. Intended for Directors and Actors to develop staging and improvisational blocking.

STEVE SLAUGHTER: "Choosing a Winning Script for AACT-Fest"—Successes and failures observed in 15+ years of adjudication for AACT-Fest on the state, regional, and national levels.

Saturday, July 26, 2008

MORRIE ENDERS: "Confessions Of A Media Slut"- Pointers on how to improve media relationships and promote your show. Tips on dealing with reporters, sniffing out the right story angle, and throwing yourself unmercifully in the media's face.

CLAYTON GUILTNER: "Directing- Creating Stage Pictures"- Learn to get the most out of your staging by storytelling through creative blocking! Both beginning and experienced directors will benefit from exploring innovative new techniques.

"These theatres will tread the boards at the Pollard!"

If you are part of one of these theatres, encourage people from your community to come to Festival and support these Thespians who give so much, culturally and economically.

Chickasha Community Theatre
Poteet Theatre, OKC
Heller Theatre, Tulsa
Theatre Tulsa
TACTA, Tulsa
Red Carpet, Elk City
Regional Actors Community Theatre (ReACT), Tonkawa
Ardmore Little Theatre



Grove Playmakers had a successful run of Ron Hutchinson's "Moonlight and Magnolias." Lots of audience laughs helped this cast get through all the bananas and peanuts every night!



Grove mid-school drama students learned a lot about Commedia Dell'Arte in their joint production with the Grove Playmakers, "The Love For Three Oranges." The show was part of The Playmakers' in-school program and was performed for all 6th grade students.



George Nelson and Barbara Murn performed in Heller Theatre's last production of the season, "Recent Tragic Events" in Tulsa.

Stagecoach Community Theatre

Schedules of performances will be posted after June 28, 2008.

History of the OCTA Awards

For those of us who weren't part of OCTA some twenty years ago, it is helpful to be able to call on those who were for an understanding of OCTA's history and progress. In an effort to get this "institutional memory" out of heads and onto paper, so to speak, Jimmy Vaughn, Past President of OCTA and now on the Advisory Board, has contributed his recollections of how the Awards began and who their namesakes were or are. For his description of the history of the awards in general, see the OCTA Web Page. We reprint here one of the awards.

OCTA THEATRE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Many members of OCTA make outstanding contributions to their communities that are within the scope and mission of OCTA. To honor the OCTA 20th Anniversary, the 1989 Board of Directors elected to establish an award for the Theatre that had made the biggest impact upon their community. The Theatre of the Year must have had a continuous production season for several years with at least two productions each year. The theatre must have an elected Board of Directors.

With the decision to again hold an Annual Conference in the odd-numbered years, the award will, once again, fit its title, instead of being given only at OCTAFest.

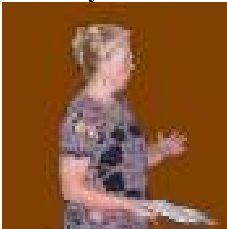
If you wish to nominate a theatre, the nomination folder or packet should include an outline of the theatre's activities over the past years, should note any growth or positive change in the organization, the contribution to the local community, and major achievements/projects completed in the past. In other words, brag about their accomplishments!



Theatre Tulsa presented "Love, Sex, and the IRS" at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center in April.

OFFICE GOINGS ON

Darrellyn Hoffman



Things at the office have really been hopping as we get ready for OCTAFest 08.

1. 106 membership invoices have been mailed out with 75% renewals.
2. I've been involved with the many festival planning meetings and helped coordinate adjudicator arrangements. Letters of Intent for entries were requested and nine theatres are currently entered. Getting my running shoes on to begin processing entry paperwork and the MANY registrations coming into the OCTA office.
3. I've attended several workshops at the OKC Community Foundation where OCTA has two endowments. These have been very informative sessions regarding "Planned Giving," the Foundation's opportunities for

Previous Winners:

- 1992 Shawnee Little Theatre
- 1993 Watonga Community Theatre
- 1994 Muskogee Little Theatre
- 1996 Broken Arrow Community Playhouse
- 1996 Ponca Playhouse
- 1998 Town & Gown Theatre, Stillwater
- 2000 Lawton Community Theatre
- 2002 Red Carpet Community Theatre, Elk City
- 2004 Heller Theatre, Tulsa
- 2006 Grove Community Playmakers

SUPPORT OCTA!

There is a new page on the website entitled "Support OCTA." It describes the regular donation process as well as the new John Kirkpatrick Centennial Endowment Challenge through the OKC Community Foundation, in which OCTA has two endowments. If donors contribute to one or both of these endowments by December 31, 2008, up to \$5000 of the donations in each fund will be matched dollar for dollar. Go to the website to read more about the purpose of the OCTA endowments. These endowments need to grow to help OCTA help you. Help Us Meet the Challenge!

Meet Your Board

OCTA, and the matching Kirkpatrick Challenge.

4. I've kept the OCTA calendar of performances updated on the webpage, as well as emailing reminder notices to all members regarding opening nights in their communities.

That's it in a nutshell....can't list it all!!

Thanks,
Darrelyn



Martha Cherbini, OCTA President elect

WEBSITE STATISTICS

Fun Fact

www.oktheatre.org had **85,657** hits last month alone. The most popular day of the week was Thursday with **17,999** hits and the busiest time of day was from 10pm to 11pm with **6,371** hits

Busiest pages were:

Library= **68,896**

Calendar= **10,058**

Newsletter= **5,410**

Links= **1,106**

Best Referring Websites were

www.theatretulsa.org, www.tacta.net, Yahoo Search, Google, and MSN.

TACTA gets Kaiser Family Foundation Grant

The Tulsa Area Community Theatre Alliance has received a grant from the good folks at the Kaiser Foundation for \$5000 to use to help develop community theatre audiences in the Tulsa area. It will be spent mostly on Youth Projects, Advertisements, and Graphic Support.

Take a minute to visit
our Web Page at
www.oktheatre.org

There you'll find lots of interesting stuff such as information on membership, programs, and, of course, OCTFest 2008.

All programs and services of the Oklahoma Community Theatre Association are funded in part through the generosity of the Oklahoma Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The last two years have been ones of change and challenge for the Oklahoma Community Theatre Association. It has been amazing to see this Board of Directors, from all across our big state, from all types of "day jobs," use their considerable time and talents to pilot this organization.

I especially want to acknowledge my predecessor, Suzanne Boles, for the countless hours she has devoted to making sure OCTA not only survived, but thrived. With a hard-working group of directors (who I won't try to single out, but who know who they are and what they've done) and our dynamic and dependable office assistant, Darrelyn Hoffman (and the volunteered irreplaceable counsel of Jimmy Vaughn), we are making plans for great things for this organization!

I came to OCTA as an advisor in 2000 after being active in Muskogee Little Theatre. It was at MLT that I learned to love all aspects of community theatre – the business part gives me as big a rush as being on stage. I love my day job as an attorney with Bonds, Matthews, Brennan & Bonds, PLLC, in Muskogee, but depend on theatre to feed my soul.

So what are my plans as President? To increase the visibility and viability of OCTA, and to make sure that every community theatre in the state knows who we are and how we can help them develop and enhance their theatre. How am I going to accomplish that? The most tangible thing I am doing is making a pledge to our Board and to our members: I will visit each and every community theatre in the state during my tenure, hopefully during the first year. This is biting off a chunk, but it's also selfish – the experience of seeing the different ways in which community theatres meet the challenge of providing quality theatre under sometimes difficult physical and economic conditions is a source of immense gratification for me. As an example, I recently had the pleasure of seeing a wonderful production of "Arsenic and Old Lace" at the newly-minted Sand Springs Community Theatre. In less than a year they have built a community theatre and staged a production that could stand toe-to-toe with many of the long-established theatres in the state. How exciting is that?

Looking forward to two years of excitement!

Heller Theatre Welcomes Erin Scarberry



Erin Scarberry recently joined the staff at Heller Theatre in the fall of this year.

Erin Scarberry fell in love with the theatre 14 years ago in her first acting role. Since then, Erin has also worked as a director, designer and teacher in both academic and

professional settings. She received her BFA in Theatre from the University of Oklahoma and was an Irene Ryan nominee in 2002. Erin founded Artemesia Stage Company, serving as its Artistic Director for 3 years before moving to Chicago in 2003, where she designed and directed original plays for several local companies. Some of her favorite productions include "Fuddy Meers" and "The Shape of Things." She has taught children's theatre for almost 8 years and loves exposing young people to the art form. She is excited to join the Tulsa theatre community.



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