

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Spring is just around the corner....trust me! I don't know about you, but with all the snow and cold this winter, I'm ready!

With the arrival of Spring, NOW is the time to be thinking about **OCTAFest 2010**. We are really excited to be staging this year's festival at the new Nancy O'Brian Center for the Performing Arts in Norman. It is a state-of-the-art facility, and we can't wait to get there! While last festival at the historic Pollard Theater in Guthrie was a blast, the facility had some limitations.

In particular, the loading and unloading facilities this time will be much more convenient. Details of participation guidelines are elsewhere in this newsletter as well as on our website: www.oktheatre.org

Many of your theatres will be participating in Festival this year, but what I want to do is encourage each of you to come to Festival as individuals, whether or not your home theatre is participating. Festival is only held every other year, and provides an unparalleled opportunity for learning more about both the business and artistic aspects of community theatre -- through watching the plays presented and participating in workshops conducted by theatre professionals. Networking is another advantage to attendance that can't be met elsewhere. You'll be able to talk to people from theatres across the state and region and find out what they're doing, what's working, and what resources they've used that you didn't know about. Ask somebody who's been -- it's a transforming experience!

Read all about **OCTAFest 2010**, find a buddy to share a room with, and take advantage of the Early Bird specials for registration. See you there!

OCTA OFFICE MOVE IS COMPLETE!!

Thanks to the help of several people and a few weekends, the OCTA office moved in December. We are now at Stage Center, the same building where Carpenter Square Theatre and OK Shakespeare in the Park are located. We now have the

ease of parking and NO faulty elevators!! The library is in order and ready for scripts to be checked out.

Come visit the new office when you are in downtown OKC!! OCTAFest 2010 will be here soon, so the office will be abuzz with activity.

Feel free to contact the office if we can be of help to you in any way....we are here to help keep Community Theatre alive and we could not do it without our supportive members. Thanks to all!!

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Get your OCTA Membership NOW!!!

- Purchase your OCTA Membership now online with a credit card!
- Or Mail in your Membership Form with a check!
- Two ways to purchase!
- Don't let it expire!

OCTAFEST IS COMING YOUR WAY THIS SUMMER

Join us at the Nancy O'Brian Center for Performing Arts, Norman for OCTAFest 2010, this summer July 29-August 1, 2010.

Start planning your theatre entry now. See the AACT Rules, OCTA Registration Forms, OCTAFest Registration Forms, OCTAFest Letter of Intent, OCTAFest Marketing Contest Rules under "**guidelines & forms**" on the OCTA Webpage.

If you are an individual that would like to attend festival, check out the Registration Form. (Notice there are **Earlybird Specials** this year!)

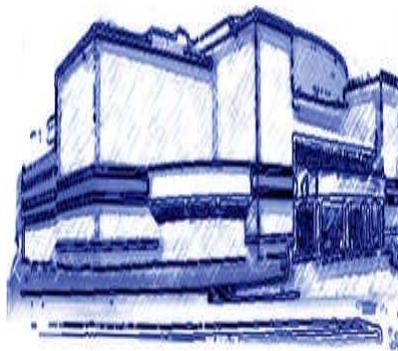
Set your calendars for

notable deadlines:

Entry Deadline—May 1, 2010
and **Marketing Entry Deadline**—
July 1, 2010.

If you have any questions,
please contact the office at

"Where Legends are Made"



405-236-0788 or email
oktheatre@sbcglobal.net
Check out our website
www.oktheatre.org for updated
festival information.

Volunteers are needed for
the numerous committees that
must organize the Festival.
Call the OCTA Office if
interested in helping.

Have questions about
OCTAFest? We will send a
representative to your theatre
and "tell it like it is." Hurry to set
your meeting before OCTAFest
2010.

Call Sooner Legends & Suites
405-701-8100 for lodging.

NATIONAL NEW PLAY CONTEST OPPORTUNITY

Play Submission Info

2010 New Works Fest
The Seven: Hidden Agendas

June 10-13, 2010

FUSION Theatre Company
Announces

Fifth Annual Short Works Festival

Seven fully-produced world
premieres.

Seven different directors.

A professional ensemble cast.

**One winning playwright will receive
transport and lodging to
Albuquerque for the festival.**

GUIDELINES FOR PLAY SUBMISSION

The plays should be inspired by the
theme: "**Hidden Agendas**"
Scripts may be a maximum of 10
pages.

Each playwright may submit up to

two scripts. Do NOT include the
phrase "Hidden Agendas" in the text of
the play. We are looking to mount
premiere productions of submitted
plays. If the play has previously
received a fully-mounted production,
please do NOT submit. Plays that have
been given public readings are
allowable.

You may submit up to two scripts
with this fee by following this link:

[www.fusionabq.org/
TheSevenSubmissions.htm](http://www.fusionabq.org/TheSevenSubmissions.htm)

MORE THAN PLAYS

A great article was shared with us about the Muskogee Little Theatre.
Check it out at:

[http://www.tulsaworld.com/scene/article.aspx?
subjectid=436&articleid=20100124_272_D3_Fromle654870&archive=yes](http://www.tulsaworld.com/scene/article.aspx?subjectid=436&articleid=20100124_272_D3_Fromle654870&archive=yes)

(Caption) Linda Sapienza, left, and Micheal Rappe rehearse the upcoming show
"The Foreigner" at the Muskogee Little Theatre. ADAM WISNESKI/Tulsa World



BRET JONES PLAYS ADDED TO OCTA LIBRARY

Some of you may know Bret Jones from his days in Oklahoma. He is currently Associate Professor and Director of Theatre at Wichita State University. He recently donated seven of his plays to our library. Below are the titles and summaries. They are now listed in our library and ready to be checked out for perusal. Contact the office if interested.

Night and Silence is the story of two professors who spend one night battling over ownership of art, literature, and death—all spurned by the discovery by one of them of Shakespeare's missing play: Love's Labour's Wonne. The stakes get higher as violence breaks out between the two...leaving only one left standing.

Type O Negative is a modern story set in an urban area. A woman invites

her rival to her husband's affections and a twisted plot of attempted murder, lies and chaos ensues. Infidelity and deceit lead to revenge.

The Field is set in the 1950s in Lyle, Oklahoma. A widow woman is left alone to tend to her husband's land and crops with the help of her sister and cousins. Her world is shaken when an oil lease man is shot and killed on her property. Who killed him and why?

The Onyx Sky, a newly wed couple is trying to survive and learn to love one another during the Dust Bowl period in Oklahoma. Personal relationships, family strife, and the tragic death of a brother thread together in this story.

Homefront, as WWII erupts with the Japanese attack of Pearl Harbor, men leave to go fight. Three sisters,

whose husbands have all joined the war, decide to live together and wait out the conflict, with personal struggles ensuing.

Thee & Thou, Shakespeare & Burbage are planning rehearsals for one of Will's plays—Julius Caesar. AS the actors banter back and forth, a roguish highwayman and his partner break into The Globe, he impersonates Shakespeare, and the farce begins!!

On the Air, the world of a small-time radio station in the 1940s is turned upside down when the world-famous The Shroud radio show takes over! As the show gets close to air time, the actor who portrays The Shroud is nowhere to be found—and then the station is overrun with Shrouds who all want to be on the air!

TURN TALE AND PERFORM

A week-long workshop, "Turn Tale and Perform," is scheduled for July 12-16, 2010, for students from the Grand Lake area, 3rd grade and above. It will present types of stories, especially folktales, their links to stage plays, and the comparable skills that are necessary for the storyteller and the actor. Storytelling is an art form that has a basic kinship with theatre and the stage actor. The soliloquy, the aside, and the monologue told to the audience, can be found in some traditional plays and are prevalent in modern drama. The skills prevalent in both disciplines

will give students a foundation in types of storytelling, its history throughout other cultures, and in theatre skills such as building a character, interpreting that character vocally, and improving breath control. Also, the students will select their own folktales and learn to adapt them for the stage. These creative theatre pieces will be presented for parents and friends on the last day of the workshop.

Laurette Willis, an OAC teaching artist, playwright and actor, will be the presenter and instructor for one day of the workshop, and will critique the students' work. Information about

Mrs. Willis may be found at <http://laurettewillis.com>.

The fee for the 5-day workshop is \$80/ student. Some scholarships will be available. Watch for more information on times and curriculum content.

This workshop will be the first of more workshops to be part of the 2010-2011 After-school program. Future workshops will continue the storytelling theme, but it will help students learn to tell stories for the stage through mime and dance, and improvisation.

OCTA LOSES LONG TIME SUPPORTER

Dr. Rolan V. Decker, 73, a chemistry professor at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Weatherford, for 31 years died of sudden cardiac arrest January 22, 2010 in Oklahoma City. He was born to Willis Ivan and Marjorie Evelyn (Bashaw) Decker in Bartlesville. A 1958 graduate of OSU, he also earned a Ph.D. from Purdue in 1965. After

retirement, Rolan pursued his other interests, music and theater. He married Priscilla Ruth Smith on January 14, 1961 in Ardmore. Survivors include his wife, a daughter and three sons, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, a sister and her family. Services were held at Mayflower UCC Church, 3901 NW 63rd Street, OKC, on Wednesday, Jan.

27, at 2 p.m. A tree planting and dedication ceremony on the SWOSU campus is also being planned. Memorial contributions may be made to Chemistry Department at SWOSU, Southwest Playhouse in Clinton, Mayflower UCC Church Music Fund, Federated Church in Weatherford, or First Presbyterian Church in Clinton.



Oklahoma Community Theatre Association

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Where Legends are Made!



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FEATURED THEATRE GROVE COMMUNITY PLAYMAKERS



(Left) The boy (Spencer Pogue) plays games with his Velveteen Rabbit (Kaemon Wilkison) in The Playmakers past holiday show "The Velveteen Rabbit."

(Right) The Velveteen Rabbit (Kaemon Wilkison) gets some advice about becoming Real from Skin Horse (Linda DuBois) in The Playmakers past holiday show "The Velveteen Rabbit."



Check out *The Grove Community Playmakers* at

www.gcplaymakers.com

Want your theatre to be featured? Send us some pictures!

CURTAIN TIME IN LONDON!

DISCOVER ENGLAND WITH RED CARPET COMMUNITY THEATRE

Red Carpet Community Theatre JAG Director, Tiphani Haraughty, will be taking a group to discover the magic of England on an EF educational tour. Haraughty announced today that she will take a group of students and adults to explore England during the 2011 spring vacation.

"According to a recent geography survey conducted by National Geographic, young Americans (18- to 24-year-olds) who traveled outside the U.S. in the past three years performed 40% better on the survey than those who did not. I'd like my students to know more about their world—the culture, the people, the languages of other countries," states Haraughty.

The nine-day tour includes stops in

London, Stratford, and Bath. "I can't wait to see the Globe in person," said 17-year-old Katie Currell, a member of JAG. "We're studying about all of these things, and now we'll have the chance to see what they're really like."



EF is the world's largest private educational organization with offices and schools in over 50 countries. EF offers language travel and cultural exchange programs for students of all ages and is dedicated to breaking down barriers of language, geography and culture. The company is headquartered in Cambridge, MA. For more information, visit eftours.com.

An organizational meeting for the EF Tour trip to London, March 2011 will be held Sunday, March 14 and Sunday, March 21 at 3 pm located at Red Carpet Community Theatre. The tour is open to anyone. School credit is possible. Age limit is 6 and older. Anyone between the ages of 6-11 must have an adult travel with them. For more information call (580) 225-1941 or go to www.eftours.com/enroll sign-in #: 487155. Come join our theatre adventure.