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OCTA Newsletter



"Our State On Stage Fourth Quarter"

"BOARD HAPPENINGS"

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OCTA President, Martha Cherbini, has announced the appointment of these Advisors to the OCTA Board of Directors, for the 2008-2010 term:

Joe Freeman, Oklahoma Water Resource Board, Oklahoma City
Scott Richard Klein, Chair, Drama Dept, Cameron University, Lawton
Dr. Tom Houston Orr, Chair, Drama Dept, University of Oklahoma, Norman

These gentlemen will provide additional expertise to the OCTA Staff and OCTA Board. Each has previously served on the OCTA Board of Directors. Each has been involved with OCTA sponsored functions, such as the OCTA Fest and the OCTA Awards Banquet.

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PAST PRODUCTIONS

"ON THE ROAD WITH A THEATRE JUNKIE"



A slightly lighter schedule – due mostly to the fact that most theatres have a Christmas production, and October and November are typically light months on the statewide schedule.

Experienced "Doubt" at Heller. This is my favorite kind of theatre: the kind that leaves you with more questions than answers, and talking nonstop about what you've just seen. It is a fairly new play, small cast, limited set requirements, and should be a popular one in community theatres. Heller's production was a fine one, enhanced by their intimate atmosphere. Given a new movie coming out based on the play, it should also have good name recognition with audiences. The subject matter is certainly controversial, but most of you have heard my theory about giving an audience green beans along with their dessert in order to assure they are well-nourished!

Spent Halloween at Broken Arrow Community Playhouse with "Dracula: The Musical?" The show takes the Dracula legend and turns it on its head, adding clever music to the mix, along with a mysterious gypsy who causes spontaneous dancing! The familiar operatives are all there, with some twisted, in all senses of the word, new characteristics. A fun evening!

Attended "Don't Dress for Dinner," a classic farce, at my home theatre, Muskogee Little Theatre. Something very special happens in that very small theatre when an audience is really having a good time, which they were the night I was there. After "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" opens this weekend as a season add-on, the next production will be "Play it Again, Sam," by Woody Allen. I'll be directing, and looking forward to sitting in the back of the house watching the audience laugh.

This is a big weekend for openings in community theatres statewide – please check the calendar on the OCTA website and make it a point to visit another theatre in your part of the state. I'm a great believer in cross-pollination, and believe we always learn from others.



(above) Red Carpet Community Theatre's Junior Actors Guild Season Saturday's Theatre 101 class, Learn physical acting with Doobie Potter.

(below) The cast of Theatre Tulsa's recent "Master Class" combined the talents of Tulsa Opera and Theatre Tulsa.



"KATRINA – THE K WORD"

"Katrina – The K Word" is a new play published in 2008 by Lisa Brenner and Suzanne Trauth, with a cast of 6 men and 6 women of varying ages, physical builds and ethnicity. The script was developed from interviews with survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Brenner and Trauth have created a montage production, weaving the stories of New Orleans' residents together into a striking, moving performance piece.

The script is available on the internet at www.KatrinaTheKWord.com. You'll find information on how to download the play and make arrangements for production.

Royalties are a one-time payment of \$100.00, regardless of the number of performances.

"Every actor is required to play several characters," the Brenner and Trauth wrote. "Twelve are primary characters whose stories are told throughout the play; others simply "pop-in" to help someone else tell a story. Although costume pieces and props help to delineate these "pop-in" characters, acting choices might provide the clearest differentiation."

Set pieces are minimal. "The initial production used a set design that included a huge wall that moved and crashed to suggest the levees collapsing. A fourteen by

Have a great holiday season, and get in shape for it by seeing some of the seasonal fare at your local or regional community theatre!

"PLAYMAKERS CONTINUE IN-SCHOOL PROGRAM"



Emma Lawson as Wiley and Rylee Tate as the Dog in "Wiley & the Hairy Man." (Grove)

It's great when you walk into the school and the students yell happily: The Playmakers are here! YES! Even the teachers are happy to see us and truly appreciate what we are doing for the students.

Students in the sixth and seventh grades at Grove Public Schools were treated to subject matter that they would not otherwise study: Greek Theatre for the fifth graders and the Style of Realism for all seventh grade classes.

Playmaker volunteer teachers spent two hours with all fifth grade classes introducing them to Greek Theatre, complete with masks made by last year's classes. They also performed a short readers' theatre about Athena, Poseidon, Zeus, etc. They then saw a performance of Susan Zeder's "Wiley and the Hairy Man" which has many comparisons to components of Greek Theatre even though it is based on the African-American folk tale. Students from The Playmakers' new after-school program were the cast. After the performance, the volunteer teachers returned to the classes for an evaluative discussion about the play, the performance, and comparisons with the readers' theatre.

Two volunteer instructors performed a scripted lesson plan for seventh grade classes about the style of American Realism which developed after the Civil War. The discussion included not only Realism in theatre, but in visual arts, literature, and music.

"The Secret Life of Girls" by Linda Daugherty was performed by Playmaker youth actors. The play was chosen because it presented a realistic play which the students would understand. Its subject, cyber-bullying through the internet and cell phones, is a nationwide problem and has been given a lot of media attention in the past two years.

Grove is not immune from the problem. A follow up session in the classrooms evaluated the play and led to some very appropriate discussions about the subject of bullying and how to be a "defender" of someone being bullied.

The Playmakers are now preparing for the spring semester when they return to new 4th grade classes to teach some basic theatre elements. They have also begun work with one of the mid-school speech and drama classes who will perform a Commedia dell'Arte play for 6th grade students in late Spring.

All lesson plans are on the OCTA webpage. Revisions to them continues. Suzanne Boles, artistic director for The Playmakers will put the Greek Theatre lesson plan into a script before The Playmakers use it next year.

NEW YORK ART & THEATRE TRIP Tues, May 19, Through Sun, May 24, 2009

The University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, in Chickasha, OK, is sponsoring a 6 day, 5 night ART & THEATRE Tour to New York City from Tuesday, May 19, 2009 through Sunday, May 24, 2009. The tour is open to all adults over 18 who would like to join us and includes: round-trip airfare, Oklahoma City to New York City (airfare from Dallas is available and we have a land only (no airfare included) price so that you can make your own travel plans and meet us in NYC). Also included is round-trip transportation between the airport and the hotel; accommodations for five nights at the Edison Hotel in the Heart of the Theatre District at 47th and Broadway; tickets to two major Broadway plays/musicals chosen by the group leader; an introductory seminar about New York which includes tips on what additional shows to see, how to get half-price tickets to plays

twenty-four foot wall constructed of parallel 2X4s that resembled the studs of a gutted house was covered with personal and household items, many of which are mentioned in the play. When it tilted forward at the beginning of Part III, the objects fell off and smashed onto the stage floor... Both the sight of this wall toppling forward and the deafening sound of lots of props crashing to the floor were unnerving for the audience. The wall served as the visual focal point of the play—once the wall fell, clearing it of props, actors could walk through the open studs and climb on them.

It is possible to use a much simpler design that would have a similar visual and aural impact on the audience. What is most important is the feeling that the design provides: suddenly, startlingly, out of nowhere, human beings are inundated with the “stuff of life” and confront a constant, overwhelming reminder of what was lost as a result of the disaster.”

Suzanne Trauth is Professor of Theatre at Montclair State University and taught acting at the Sonia Moore Studio in New York. She is the co-author of Sonia Moore and American Acting Training: With a Sliver of Wood in Hand. You may also contact Suzanne Williams at 405-612-6814 for further information.

OFFICE HAPPENINGS



SCRAP-BOOKING VOLUNTEER NEEDED!!!

Hello all you creative members!! I've been cleaning out boxes and file cabinets and finding lots and lots of fun things. The OCTA office has several boxes of pictures plus news-releases from years past. If there is anyone that would like to volunteer their scrapbooking skills to get these organized, please let me know! Thanks for your help.

OCTA HISTORY

Archival and OCTA history boxes are now unpacked and filed. Many memberships are up for renewal the first quarter of 2009, so be looking for your invoice in the mail. Remember to send theatre updates and goings-on to the office so events can be posted to the web calendar.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

and art events, and advice as to subways, tipping, and sightseeing, as well as a New York Guidebook with lots of trip specific information. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, parent, or guardian.

6 Days in New York City for less than \$1,350.00

In addition to the basic tour, there will be a Theatre add on package and an Art/Museum package. With the Theatre package you can add one, two, or three additional plays chosen by the group leader, Roger Drummond. The Art package will consist of visits to the Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and a gallery tour led by USAO Art Professor, Jacquelyn Knapp. There will be plenty of free time to see more plays and/or museums and for individual shopping, sightseeing, and other adventures. Costs for the Art and Theatre add on packages will be based on the number and type of plays and/or museums selected.

Tour Costs for 2009*

USAO Student Quad (four to a room)	\$1,249.00 each
USAO Student Quad (four to a room)	\$1,249.00 each
Quad Rate (four to a room)	\$ 1,349.00 each
Triple Rate (three to a room)	\$ 1,649.00 each
Twin Rate (two to a room)	\$ 1,749.00 each
Single Rate (one to a room)	\$ 2,124.00 each

*OKC to NYC (Newark) based on current airport fees and fuel surcharges, any significant increases will need to be added.

**Subtract \$70.00 for airfare from Dallas to NYC (Newark) Travelers leaving from OKC and Dallas will be on the same flights from Dallas to NYC (Newark) and return.

***Subtract \$400 for land only (no airfare) price.

DEPOSIT A \$300.00 deposit is due by February 9, 2009, with the balance due by March 23, 2009. All deposits become nonrefundable after February 9, 2009. Trip cancellation insurance is available. \$100.00 will hold a spot on the tour until February 9, 2009.

TO JOIN THE TOUR, Please Contact:

Roger Drummond Tour Leader
(817) 423-5556 or 405-361-2554
e-mail - facdrummond@usao.edu
or
Jacquelyn Knapp Art
(405) 574-1303
e-mail - facknappj@usao.edu

USAO Mailing Address 1727 W. Alabama Ave., Chickasha, OK, 73018

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
PLEASE VISIT THE USAO WEB SITE
<http://www.usao.edu/>

Click on News and then on New York 2009 for more information.

We hope you will be able to take advantage of this great opportunity and join us on our next New York trip. Space is limited, so sign up soon.

SW THEATRE and FILM ASSOCIATION HONORS OCTA's ADVISOR JIMMY VAUGHN WITH TWO AWARDS!!

The SWTFA Hall of Fame Award recognizes an individual who has garnered national and/or international fame for their achievements in theatre and performing arts. The Paul Baker Founder's Award is presented to a person who has dedicated many years to the growth, improvement, fellowship and progress of the organization, giving time, money and

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WEBSITE STATISTICS

Fun Fact

www.oktheatre.org had 88,550 hits last month alone. The most popular day of the week was Tuesday with 15,400 hits and the busiest time of day was from 10pm to 11pm with 6,264 hits

Busiest pages were:

Library= 51,641
 Calendar= 8,756
 Newsletter= 3,735
 Links= 548

Best Referring Websites were

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

**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 and programs.

We have also added a slide show of the many pictures from our member theatres. If you have any pictures to add to the slide show, please send them to the webmaster at tacta@tacta.net. Send them today.

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.

Coming Soon!

**"You Asked For It --
 Summer in the Park
 with OCTA"**

July 25, 2009

HOLD THE DATE!

efforts above and beyond what is normally expected of an officer or member. The SWTFA board elected to combine the Hall of Fame Award with the Founder's Award to present Jimmy for his years of dedicated service to SWTFA and other organizations. No one more epitomizes these two awards more than 2008 recipient Jimmy Vaughn.

Jimmy spent his formative years in the U.S. Army. Following an honorable discharge in 1952, he was employed by the U.S. Government at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma. His government career was spent as an Inventory Management Specialist and Supervisor of Supply Commodities Management Office.

Jimmy has long been an advocate of the arts and theatre. His volunteer activities date back to the early 1960's when he became a charter member of the Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma. In 1970, he was a charter member of The Mummer's Theatre and later became a charter member of the Oklahoma Theatre Center. He served on the Board of Directors of the Assembly of Community Arts Councils of Oklahoma and in 1985 was elected to the OCTA Board of Directors. He served the OCTA board as VP of Long Range Planning (1985-6), President-Elect (1987), and President (1988). He became a charter member of the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) and went on to serve as Reporter (1986), Nominating Committee (1987), Chairman of the Archives Committee, Election Committee and History Committee (1988-9) and VP Membership (1990-1). In 1986, Jimmy received the Governor's Art Award for Community Service from OK Governor George Nigh and was named an honorary Lt. Governor the following year. He has been inducted into the OK Theatre Hall of Fame (1991) and is a member of the AACT College of Fellows.

During this period, Jimmy was active in the OK Congress for Arts and Humanities, Carpenter Square Theatre, Jewel Box Theatre, SW Theatre Association (now SWTFA) and the United Nations Association – OKC Chapter. He served in numerous capacities for these organizations and in 1992 was appointed to the position of Executive Director of SWTFA. During his tenure, he worked tirelessly to increase membership and member services was an integral part of the creation of a "central office" for SWTFA. Later he served on the Task Force that would propel the change to SW Theatre and Film Association. He has been honored as an SWTFA College of Fellows and served the organization with his special brand of energy and enthusiasm. He continues to serve the community as a nonprofit consultant.

Congratulations Jimmy on receiving these honors!!!

"BIG CHANGES ARE UNDERWAY AT HELLER THEATRE"



*OCTA 2004
 Theatre of the Year and
 Outstanding Production
 OCTA 2006
 Outstanding Production
 OCTA 2008
 Outstanding Production*

Heller Theatre (www.hellertheatre.com) is moving to Henthorne Recreation Center, 4825 S. Quaker (just six blocks away) and will re-open in February of 2009!

The move to Henthorne provides them with a new building, bigger lobby, more comfortable seating and increased seating capacity. The first show at the new location will be the Pulitzer Prize nominated play, "The Clean House", by Sarah Ruhl. Called "one of the finest and funniest plays you're likely to see" by the New York Times, "The Clean House" has played to rave reviews across the country (and most recently in Grove, Ok).

Heller Theatre had one final production ("Doubt") in the old building, which has been it's home for 26 years. The 27th Season will be the most exciting one yet, and they hope you join them on this journey! Currently under the direction of Julie Tattershall (with Frank Gallagher and Erin Scarberry), Heller Theatre's productions have won numerous awards including OCTA's Outstanding Production award three times running, as well as three Outstanding Director awards. Heller Theatre was named OCTA's "Theatre of the Year" in 2005.



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