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OCTA Newsletter



"Our State On Stage" Special Edition

SUMMER IN THE PARK WITH OCTA OCTA 2009 Conference held at Heller @ Henthorne, Tulsa, Oklahoma

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BOARD MEETING



**WORKSHOP-JULIE
TATTERSHALL**

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**SUMMER IN THE
PARK
SPONSORS**



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Keynote presenter was Jim Carver, who is well known as an adjudicator and presenter in Oklahoma. James Carver was literally born backstage. Jim's earliest memories of theatre come from watching his parents in hundreds of rehearsals and performances. He claims to have learned his craft by osmosis from the back row of the theatre where his parents propped him up in a seat while they rehearsed.

Educated at Michigan State University, he worked in television for a while before he joined the professional staff of the Kalamazoo Civic Players in 1958 as a production assistant-building, painting, teaching and directing. In 1974, Jim was named the Managing Director. Under Jim's guidance, the theatre grew to be one of the largest in the country, presenting twenty-two productions each year with 800 volunteers and a professional staff of seventeen. Jim has directed hundreds of

In this workshop we explored an acting technique that produces amazing results. The use of imagery in scene study makes those speeches real and personal. Not like any acting class we've ever had before.



BREAKFAST



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**REGISTRATION
9:00-9:30 a.m.**



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Workshop – "IMAGINE THAT!!" – Jim Carver

plays and has acted as many roles. He has developed an international reputation as a director: two of his productions were selected in national competition to represent the United States at international festivals, the most recent being "Dancing at Lughnasa" at the World Amateur Theatre Festival in Monaco. He has adjudicated countless AACT Festivals, including twice at the national. He is in constant demand as a workshop leader. Jim has served as President of AACT and from the group received its highest award for a lifetime of leadership in community theatre. He presently lives in Colorado and directs for community theatre nationwide.



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10:00-10:55 a.m.

Theatre Stage Combat – Tony Batchelder

This workshop taught the areas of hand to hand Stage Combat for black box, proscenium arch, and film. At the end of the workshop participants were able to perform a small fight scene

Tony is President of the Tulsa Area Community Theatre Alliance and House Manager at the Tulsa Performing arts Center.

He has an Associates Degree in Community Journalism, NEO A&M, Miami, Ok, and a B.A. in Speech with Minors in Math and Education, NSU, Tahlequah, Ok.

For more info you can check out his website at <http://www.abatchelder.com>



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10:00-10:55 a.m.

Audio workshop- Frank Gallagher

An audio workshop focused on finding, creating and editing sound effects. Using web resources found mostly free on the web, a huge variety of sound effects and music can be at the fingertips of any theatre group. We learned how to edit multiple sounds together, add echo and other effects, even change keys of music.

Frank Gallagher designs, teaches, and directs with Heller and Clark Theatres in Tulsa. He is former tech director at Oral Roberts University and the University of Texas at Dallas.



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11:00-11:55 a.m.

What is expected from a stage manager...in other words, the stuff you should be doing – Courtney DiBello

In most community theatres, it is difficult to find an individual willing to serve as a production's stage



manager. Most see themselves on stage, not backstage. In this workshop, we explored the vital nature of the stage management position. There is more to the job than most are aware.

A native Oklahoman, Courtney DiBello currently serves as stage manager for Canterbury Choral Society season of concerts as well as the Norman Ballet Company's annual Oklahoma Nutcracker. Courtney has a BFA from the University of Oklahoma in Drama, Technical Theatre and a MFA from Yale School of Drama.



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11:00-11:55 am

Democratizing Dance - Creating Choreography for the Non-Dancer- Sara Phoenix

Sara took non-dancers and made them look spectacular as they eased their way through a musical. We examined how to use movement to clarify a point, to accentuate music, and to make those non-dancers look like they've had years of experience. Luckily, no dance experience was necessary for this journey outside the choreography box.

Sara Phoenix is an award-winning actress, dancer, director and choreographer with a BFA in Theatre from the University of Oklahoma. Having worked in many community theatres and high schools, she has experience with both seasoned dancers and new performers. Sara is the director of the Potteet Theatre's John and Jen, the AACT Region VI winning production, which will be performed this summer at the National AACT Festival in Tacoma, Washington.



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12:00-2:00 p.m.
LUNCH





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Awards distributed during the 2009 Conference were:



Doobie Potter, OKC

HALL OF HONOR is awarded when there is deemed a worthy recipient. Criteria include the nominee's contributions to state and local community theatre, involvement in all aspects of theatre work, and OCTA.



Oklahoma Arts Council

JEANNE ADAMS WRAY SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD is given to those selected people who are not working with community theatre in Oklahoma, but have or are making contributions to its progress.



Shonda E. Currell, Elk City

BILL CRAWFORD MEMORIAL AWARD is given on very special occasions to a person or member organizations in recognition of services and devotion to OCTA and its theatres.

OCTA SPOTLIGHT AWARDS



**David Gray
Heller Theatre**

WEBSITE STATISTICS

Fun Fact

www.oktheatre.org had **83,828** hits from July 3 to Aug 3, 2009. The most popular day of the week was Friday with **22,945** hits and the busiest time of day was from 6pm to 7pm with **7,840** hits

Busiest pages were:

Library= **23,000**
 Calendar= **13,000**
 Newsletter= **11,000**
 Conference= **7,000**
 Links= **4,000**

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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.

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.



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Grove Playmakers, Grove

OCTAVISION is given to an OCTA member theatre which has established and successfully accomplished a substantial long-range goal.



Ardmore Little Theatre, Ardmore

THEATRE OF THE YEAR is given to an OCTA member theatre, operating within a Board of Directors structure, which has accomplished at least 10 continuous seasons with at least two productions each. This is the most prestigious award a theatre can receive in Oklahoma.



Vicki King
Grove Playmakers



Sherry Whisman & Karyn Maio
Sapulpa C.T.

Not Pictured

Connie Stuart
Theatre Tulsa

David Thompson
The Stage Door, Yukon

Judy McGlasson
Theatre Bartlesville

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2:00-3:00 p.m.

Telling the Real Story Through Blocking--Jim Carver

Forget the dialogue, we examined how blocking comes from subtext and tells the audience what's really going on.



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2:00-3:00 p.m.

"Psychology of Emotion"- Julie Tattershall

Research on emotions is still a relatively new field of study. Emotions have been the tool box for the actor and as the acting methods change over the years on how to communicate to the audience the intent of the play, emotions become more layered. Plays have become more intimate and the acting also needs to communicate with greater skill the layering effect of emotions for a character. We learned some of the psychology of emotions and how actors and directors can apply them.

Julie Tattershall is the Artistic and Managing director of Heller Theatre and Clark Theatre for the City of Tulsa, Park and Recreation Department. She has directed over 70 plays, developed a national original play contest, created an improvisational troupe which has been performing for the last eighteen years, performed in over 300 improvisational shows and implemented touring projects throughout Tulsa area.

She co-founded the Tulsa Area Community Theatre Alliance in 1998. She has worked for Harwelden, the Tulsa Art and Humanities Council since 1988 and was with the Artist in the Schools program from 1988-2004. She was also part of the Oklahoma Artist in Residence program for two years.

She was an actress in the national tour for "Where Red Fern Grows" with the Omaha Theatre Co. She taught theatre programs in several alternative education schools in the Tulsa area and was the creator of Women Writes, a touring theatre project on social issues, which performed for 23 times in four year and received a governors citation of appreciation.

For more information you can go to her website at www.jtattershall.com



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