

**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**



Hello fellow OCTA Members! OCTA is so proud to send two extraordinary shows to AACT Region VI festival this year. Broken Arrow's "Gin Game" and Ponca City's "Proof" are profoundly effecting productions of two prize winning plays. Both directors, Martha Cherbini and Tom Cowley, are past-presidents of OCTA and have been involved in festival for many years. It is heartening in this time of strife for the arts in our nation, that there are community theatres whose efforts produce such deeply human works. We salute them and wish them well.

Set your calendars! OCTA is having a "**Summer Celebration!**" This **July 30** at the Wyndham Hotel in Oklahoma City, we will welcome the entire state to attend a one-day conference with workshops and highlighted by an Awards Luncheon. Look on the OCTA website for further details.

All I have heard recently is about cutting funding for the arts in our country and our state. What I know is that the arts are an integral part of the economic development of any community. What I know is that the arts are part of a necessary education for our young people. What I know is that Sands Springs, OK is developing a thriving arts group, Paul's Valley has hosted plays, concerts and is now looking at establishing a performing arts space, Carpenter Square after being flooded out of their downtown space has found a great temporary home for its current outstanding season, Duncan is performing a serious drama about family abuse in partnership with the Women's Haven and Youth Services to highlight Women's Abuse month and Broken Arrow and Ponca City theatres are performing at regional festival in Lewisville. The arts are woven in the fabric of our communities. They are important to those of us who participate and attend, and they are important for our children. For many years, I thought that producing theatre was for the audience that comes. Older and wiser, I now understand that we do it for ourselves...because we have the passion for it and we are compelled. Tell your stories to your legislator or representative. It is our stories that matter.

Sharon Burum, OCTA President

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- Or Mail in your Membership Form with a check!
- Two ways to purchase!
- Don't let it expire!

## **OCTA CONFERENCE AND AWARDS LUNCHEON**

Join us July 30, 2011 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in OKC for our Summer Conference. Gary Burton—Associate Professor, Mass Media, Communication, Theatre Texas A & M University—Commerce, TX, will lead us through two great workshops: “The Human Map” and “The Secret Golden Triangle of Theatrical Art: Negative Space, Movement and Symbiosis. Followed by Awards Ceremony.

### **POSSIBLE 2011 AWARDS**

#### **OCTA BILL CRAWFORD MEMORIAL AWARD**

presented to a Very Important Person  
In Recognition for their Services and Devotion to the  
Oklahoma Community Theatre Association

#### **OCTA HALL OF HONOR**

is presented for an Outstanding Contribution to  
the Development of Community Theatre

#### **JEANNE ADAMS WRAY SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD**

who has contributed Significantly and indirectly to the Recognition  
and success of Quality Theatre in the State of Oklahoma

#### **OCTAVISION AWARD**

presented to a organization for having established Goals  
and successfully accomplishing these Goals through the  
Cooperation of Board of Directors and Theatre Patrons.

#### **OCTA THEATRE OF THE YEAR**

for the Outstanding Theatre for its Contributions to the Community that  
are within the Scope and Mission of Oklahoma Theatre Association

#### **TONY BATCHELDER WEB SITE AWARD**

is presented to the theatre in recognition of Excellence  
in maintaining the Best Web Site for Oklahoma Community Theatre

#### **OCTA CORPORATION OF 2011**

is presented in recognition and special  
services to enhance the mission of a Community Theatre  
in the State of Oklahoma

#### **OCTA NEW THEATRE of 2011**

is presented to who has been active in doing  
community theatre during the past five years in Oklahoma

#### **CHARLES HAIR OCTA VOLUNTEER OF 2011**

is presented for the volunteer hours devoted to  
making a difference in their theatre and Oklahoma

## 2011 OCTA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



**JULY 30, 2011 WYNDHAM GARDEN HOTEL, 2101 S. MERIDIAN AVENUE, OKC 73108**

**8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Registration**

**8:45 – 10:00 a.m.**

**“The Human Map”** This is a concept Gary developed over the years but he has never presented the idea. It is about patterns, and the user, no matter how lost you may feel in making patterns. What he does is literally uses a simple drawing of 1/2 person, with a minimum of measurements to create the pattern as you measure. A person could literally have a body garment created and ready to baste for a fitting, within 15 minutes of the actor getting measured. It is quite literally a “MAP” because it tells you where “home is, and then gives the directions and distances to go. After arriving at this stage, the “integrity flow” and the “science of seams” will guide the cutter to make the garment emulate any style or period and have the garment move beautifully.

Keynote presenter will be GARY BURTON, Associate Professor, Mass Media, Communication, Theatre, Texas A & M University – Commerce. A talented professional, well known throughout the Southwest USA for his creative and unique Costume designs; his Workshop presentations; his Director’s skills; his ability as a playwright; and his technical skills as a very successful Costume Designer, Set Designer, Light Designer and Director. Gary has been invited to the Oxford Round Table in Oxford, England in 2008 and 2009. From ACTF, KCACTF, USITT and SWTFA: has received Excellence in Technical Direction Awards. Superior Set Design Awards, Excellence in Lighting Design Awards, Excellence in Costume Design Awards.

**10:00 – 10:15 a.m. Break**

**10:15 – 11:30 a.m.**

**“The Secret Golden Triangle of Theatrical Art: Negative Space, Movement and Symbiosis”** This presentation links design elements, directing and acting as they integrate into the three points of this Golden Triangle. Symbiosis and Movement and Negative space are vital parts of understanding the whole theatrical creative process. Though none of these by itself is new, this particular way of integrating them together can be eye opening for any of the theatricals arts.

**12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Luncheon and Awards**

**1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Special Guest Speaker**

**Wyndham Garden Hotel Oklahoma City Airport**  
2101 South Meridian Ave - Oklahoma City , OK 73108  
405-685-4000 F/: 405-681-3941

*When making room reservations, you must mention the ‘OKLAHOMA COMMUNITY THEATRE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE’ to obtain the \$89 + tax rate. Breakfast is included.*

## EXCELLENT "GIN GAME" ALL TOO REAL

By  
**JAMES D. WATTS JR.**  
 World Scene Writer  
 Published: 5/8/2011 2:28 AM  
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*"Gin Game" director Martha Cherbini (middle) coaches actors Karyn Maio and Tom Berenson. JAMES GIBBARD/Tulsa World*

### **There is no such thing as a friendly game.**

Someone is going to have to lose, for one thing. And if the game is all that one has in life ... well, sometimes the thrill of victory is a sensation not too far removed from the agony of defeat.

D.L. Coburn's "The Gin Game" is, on the surface, the story of two people who meet on the porch of a run-down nursing home and engage in a series of cards games and conversation.

Weller Martin has been there a few months, and knows enough about the way things are to spend as much time as possible outside, playing endless games of solitaire to avoid the vapid entertainers, the horrible food and the patronizing staff.

When a new resident, Fonsia Dorsey, steps out onto the porch to escape from the activities of "Visitors' Day," Weller suggests they pass the time with a few hands of gin rummy.

From that moment - although neither of them realize it - the war is on.

Broken Arrow Community Playhouse's production of "The Gin Game," which it premiered in 2009, is being presented as the final show of Theatre Tulsa's season.

It's a collaboration that benefits both companies. Theatre Tulsa had to scrap a scheduled show because of some copyright issues. The Broken Arrow company, which last month took top honors at the regional competition of the American Association of Community Theatres, needed a way to raise additional funds to continue on to the national finals in June.

But the real beneficiaries are people who want to see one of the better American plays of the last couple of decades, and a couple of exceptional performances by Tom Berenson and Karyn Lee Maio.

Coburn's play is tightly constructed, with hardly a wasted word in the script. Even with an intermission, "The Gin Game" takes about 90 minutes to play out its tragicomic hand.

And "tragicomedy" is the best word to describe this play. It contains a great deal of humor - often of the gallows' variety, given the setting - yet the final shattering moments come about because of the all-too-real, all-too-human flaws of its characters.

Berenson has played Weller Martin before, and his ease with, and understanding of, his character is evident from the first turn of a card. He handles Weller's

transformation from genial cantankerousness to apoplectic rage to helpless despair with great skill; nothing is overplayed, yet nothing is missed.

Maio does something equally stunning with Fonsia. She starts out as a kind of innocent, distracted and unsure, someone so concerned about asserting herself that she covers her mouth as if to hold in her words.

But as time goes on, and Fonsia wins game after game, and more and more secrets are revealed, Maio's voice and posture start to change and you realize that Weller has no idea exactly what he's unleashed by insisting on yet more rounds of cards.

Director Martha Cherbini stages the action and guides the actors in ways that allow all the nuances of Coburn's script - about the way we treat our elders, about the way the lies we tell ourselves to protect ourselves from some kind of harm will inevitable fail us, about the way some people can destroy themselves by trying to win at all costs - to unfold naturally and resonate in quietly effective, and ultimately devastating, ways.

## REGIONAL HONORS

Oklahoma Community Theatre Association is **EXTREMELY** proud of our two productions at Regionals. They took home **NUMEROUS** awards **PLUS** are advancing to Nationals!!

Below is a list of the Region VI results:

For the first time Region VI had 10 shows, 2 from each of the 5 states in our region.

Advancing to National AACT festival in Rochester, NY:

**Broken Arrow's "The Gin Game"** Karyn Lee Maio and Tom Berenson were in the All-star cast

Also advancing:  
Ohlok Performing Arts Center, Grapevine, TX "Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead"

First alternate:  
Mahogany Ensemble Theatre, Doyline, LA "For colored Girls who

have Considered Suicide when the Rainbow is Enuf"

2nd Alternate:  
**Ponca Playhouse's "Proof"**  
Chris Schelp was All Star cast

Also received:  
Excellence in Lighting Design  
Excellence in Set Design

Other members of the all-star cast:  
Angelique Feaster Evans from Doyline, LA  
David Anthony Burger Bastrop, TX  
Valentine Pierce from New Orleans, LA

Evan Spreen from Grapevine, TX  
Mat Purvis from Grapevine  
Kristin Payne from Grapevine  
Patrick Rucker from Las Vegas, NM

Other awards:  
Grapevine, TX received :  
Excellence in Ensemble Award  
Excellence in Direction  
Audience Acclaim Award  
South Arkansas Arts Center, El

Rorado, AR  
Excellence in Original Music for "Same Time, Next Year"  
Ashe Cultural Arts Center, New Orleans, LA with "A-Musing" won the Backstage Award  
Bastrop Opera House, Bastrop, TX with "Souvenir" won Excellence in Costume Design  
"Mahogany Ensemble Theatre, Doyline LA with "Colored Girls" won Excellence in Sound Design and Excellence in Choreography

**"The Gin Game"** will be performing at Nationals in the very first play slot!

I'm sure there will be lots of 'benefits' that we can all attend to help make the trip to NY in June!!

**CONGRATULATIONS  
BROKEN ARROW  
COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE  
AND  
PONCA PLAYHOUSE !!!**

## SUMMER CAMPS AT HENTHORNE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Clark Theatres will hold a series of Theatre Camps over Summer 2011 at the Henthorne Performing Arts Center. This is a great opportunity for children ages 8 (must have completed 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) to 14 who are interested in getting involved in theatre. The camp includes classes on acting, dancing, and other performance skills.

The cost is \$175 per two week session.

The dates for summer theatre camps at Henthorne Park are:

Session 1: June 13-24  
Session 2: June 27-July 8 (No camp on July 4th)  
Session 3: July 11-22  
Session 4: July 25-Aug 5

***We start taking enrollment April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 am***

Classes begin at 8:30 am and

end at 4:30 pm. The camp has early drop off at 7:30 am and late pick up at 5:30 pm. Children will need to bring a sack lunch each day. There will be performances for family and friends the last two days of each session beginning at 5:15 pm and lasting until 6:30 pm.

***For more information call (918) 746-5065.***

## OCTA OFFICE MOVE IS COMPLETE!!

Our New Physical Address:  
**720 W Wilshire Blvd  
Ste 101 E  
PO Box 57626  
Oklahoma City, OK 73157-7626**



Oklahoma Community Theatre Association

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[www.oktheatre.org](http://www.oktheatre.org)



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

## FEATURED THEATRE MUSKOGEE LITTLE THEATRE

Muskogee Little Theatre's production of  
"Chicago" April 1-10, 2011



Check out Muskogee Little Theatre at

[www.muskogeelittletheatre.com](http://www.muskogeelittletheatre.com)

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

## DISCOVER ITALY AND GREECE!

### DISCOVER ITALY AND GREECE WITH RED CARPET COMMUNITY THEATRE

Red Carpet Community Theatre JAG Director, Tiphani Haraughty, will be taking a group to discover the magic of Italy and Greece on an EF educational tour. Haraughty announced today that she will take a group of students and adults to explore Italy and Greece during the 2012 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 ten-day tour includes stops in Rome, Florence, Capri, Pompeii, Delphi, and Athens. "I can't wait to see the Colosseum, Olympic Stadium and tour Vatican City in person," said 15-year-old Elizabeth



Wasson, 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](http://eftours.com).

The tour is open to anyone. For more information call (580) 225-1941 or go to [www.eftours.com/enroll](http://www.eftours.com/enroll) sign-in #: 1026831. Come join our theatre adventure.