



# In the Wings

with *Octa*

~ YOUR UNIFIED NETWORK OF COMMUNITY THEATRE ~  
ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL THEATRES  
AND PLANTING SEEDS OF LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE.

## Letter from the President

It is really going to happen! For the last couple of years the OCTA Board has discussed the possibility of doing a youth conference over Spring break. This great event, **Theatre 101**, is going to take place March 20-22 on the Oklahoma State University campus in Stillwater! Just think of it, two full days learning all aspects of theatre with some of the best presenters in the state.

I am so passionate about giving young men and women an opportunity to work in theatre. I have personally seen the change it can make in young lives. We watched a brief performance from "Legally Blonde, The Musical" at The Brass Ring in Ardmore a couple of years ago. We asked them afterwards what their favorite experience from

working on this piece was. All of them, at some point in their statement, talked about how close they had become. I see this in the productions I have had the pleasure to stage manage. I see theatre as a safe place for acceptance, affirmation, learning team work, becoming a part of something very special.

This is our hope for the upcoming **Youth Conference, Theatre 101**. We want to help these young people feel good about themselves, make some great new friends and go home with a new understanding of what it takes to do live theatre. The information is on our website [www.oktheatre.org](http://www.oktheatre.org). Help us get the word out and please support this event for OCTA.

~ Sally Barnes



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Will they be there?



Will you?

# OCTA Fall Workshop

by Camie Hayes

I had the opportunity to attend the audition workshop sponsored by OCTA last fall. The audition workshop was taught by Tulsa native, Clayton B. Hodges, a working professional actor now living and working in Los Angeles.

There were about 15 - 17 people in the class ranging in age from 17 to 65. The presentation was a refreshingly honest workshop that addressed what really goes on during the audition process.

Clayton openly addressed the issue that when actors are going in to audition for a role, the majority of determining factors are already out of an individual actor's control. Age, hair color, eye color, weight, height, male, female, they've already cast the role, etc. He pointed out that most actors stress about factors **they cannot control** - instead of controlling one of the few factors they can - **their audition performance**. He also pointed out that all actors should use the audition process as a **springboard for future work** in TV, film or live theatre.

Clayton spoke to the fact that how an actor dresses and acts during the audition process is extremely important. Auditions are an integral part of the business aspect of entertainment, and actors should come dressed in nice business casual clothes. Hair and makeup should not be over the top for women, and showing up in ripped up jeans and a dirty shirt isn't going to cut it. No swearing, staying calm. Even before you enter the audition room, there are people all around you that are watching how you conduct yourself.

Clayton asked everyone to tell the group what their favorite piece of candy is. Not sure what the point was to that except to make me hungry. Nevertheless, mine is See's Dark Chocolate California Brittle. He used the very apt analogy that actors need to bring their own **unique factor** to an audition - being the best "green M&M" was his term - so that when the time comes for a show that requires a green M&M in the cast, the director and/or casting personnel will remember your green M&M performance and call you in for another look.

Clayton also gave practical advice and critique to those of us who were brave enough to do some monologue work for

the class. He gave us valuable information about always standing still, owning the space that you are working in. Finding a place two feet above the heads of the casting personnel and/or director to speak to when auditioning. And ideas on how to quickly change an actor's look for the actor doing two audition pieces back to back - such as wearing a coat or jacket in one role and then taking off the jacket, or taking off glasses, when performing in another role.

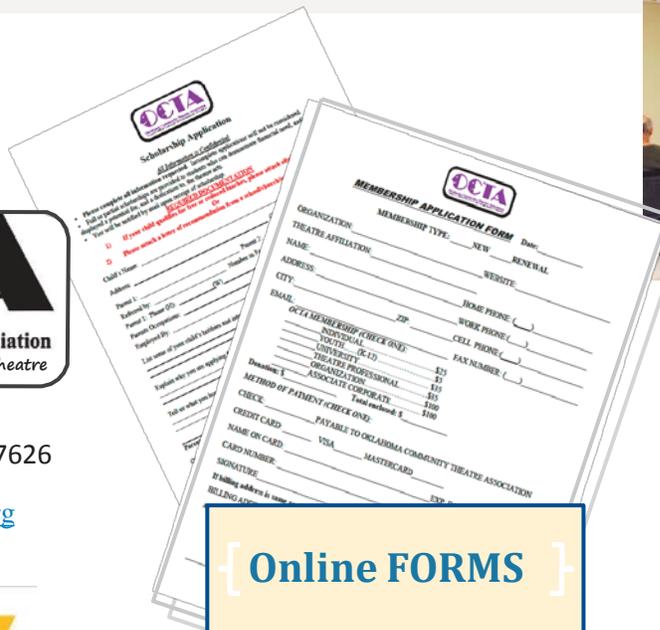
I found the class to be very insightful, encouraging, and hopeful. I came away with a new perspective on the overall audition process - not to see it as rejection, rather as presenting my most authentic self. And that takes a lot of pressure off of me feeling like I need to "compete" against other actresses. Clayton also stressed that those of us who do community theatre should see ourselves as professionals - because we do the work that we love - and that is worthy of respect. Personally, I look forward to the day when I get cast as the best See's Dark Chocolate California Brittle that a play is looking for. For now, I need a piece of candy.



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1. Membership
2. Scholarship
3. Theatre 101
4. Festival 2014

## YOUR OCTA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

An On-line Newsletter

A Library and Resource Center

We maintain an extensive library of reading copies of scripts and theatre resource materials.

Networking Opportunities

Performance & Audition Reminders

Significant Educational Events

Recognized & Vocal Representation

Within our local community and state promotional and governing bodies.