

NETC News

volume 14 number 2 spring 2005

A Quarterly
Publication of the
New England Theater
Conference, Inc.

UNH ArtsReach and TRY Offerings for Young Audiences and Artists

The University of New Hampshire Department of Theatre and Dance has been touring since early February *And Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank*. The ArtsReach troupe will be performing on Wednesday and Friday mornings through May 10, at NH, MA, and ME schools (6-12th grade), community centers/groups, and nursing/senior homes that are within a two-hour drive of Durham, NH.

Winner of the American Alliance for Theatre and Education Distinguished Play Award, this contemporary multimedia docudrama is about two teenagers, Eva Schloss and Ed Silverberg, who were childhood friends of Anne Frank. Through teen eyes, we can see the Nazi plot to destroy an entire race: from the concentration camps and the forced wearing of yellow stars to the ripping apart

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Photo by UNH Photo Services

And Then They Came for Me...

Front to back: Kara Russo, Shannon Marshall,
Jason Cotting, Steve Freitas

NETC Convention 2005 News!

NETC is pleased to announce that plans are moving ahead for the 54th Annual NETC Conference which will be held at the Sheraton Colonial Hotel & Golf Club in Wakefield, MA. The facility is directly accessible from Route 128 (Exit 42), and nearby routes 93, 1 and 95 as well.

The Conference theme this year, *The Art of Making Art...Putting It Together*, speaks to the collaborative effort any theatre project or process requires. The Program Committee eagerly awaits your input on proposals. What kind of presentations/workshops/speakers would you like to see at this year's conference?

Co-planners for the event are Tim Fitzgerald of the Wellesley Players, Jim Ferguson of the Secondary Division, and from the Arlington Friends of the Drama, Celia Couture and Maryann Swift.

This year's NETC Annual Conferences dates will be Thursday, November 10 through Sunday November 13, 2005 and the hotel is offering some phenomenal rates for NETC guests—\$ 82 per night! That's a great price for a great hotel with great accessibility. Please mark your calendars now and check the website for information on Registration, coming soon.

The Conference theme this year, *The Art of Making Art...Putting It Together*, speaks to the collaborative effort any theatre project or process requires. We hope to have a significant selection of programming from producing, directing, playwriting, technical, acting and dance specialties included this year's conference. The choice of what and who to invite to present at the convention is largely taken from proposals submitted by members and friends from our 5 divisions: Professional, Community, Children & Youth, Secondary and College/University. The Program Committee eagerly awaits your input on proposals. What kind of presentations/workshops/speakers would you like to see at this year's conference? A Preliminary Proposal Form is

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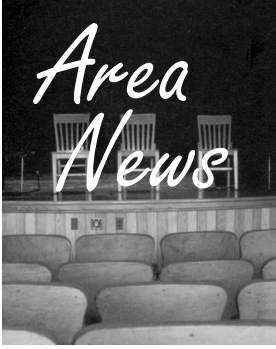
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new england
NETC
theatre conference



Discussion on Gay Marriage following Production of *La Cage aux Folles*

by Ben Markham

Massachusetts State Senator Jarrett T. Barrios will be leading a discussion on marriage rights and the Constitution following opening night of The Longwood Players' production of *La Cage aux Folles* on Friday, April 22.

La Cage aux Folles, a musical comedy based on the French film by Jean Poiret, brought into the pop culture vernacular with the movie *The Birdcage*, starring Robin Williams and Nathan Lane. This Tony award-winning romp from Jerry Herman (*Mame*, *Hello, Dolly!*) and Harvey Fierstein comes to Cambridge in the wake of recent controversy surrounding gay marriage in Massachusetts.

The story revolves around Georges, the owner of a drag club called "La Cage aux Folles," and his flamboyant partner, Albin, the star of the La Cage stage. When their son's conservative future in-laws come to town, the show's themes of love, tolerance, and the meaning of family shine clearly through all the laughs.

Sen. Barrios, who represents the Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex district of Massachusetts, will be speaking to theatre-goers on these and other themes following the opening night performance. Barrios gave a moving speech about gay marriage at the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention last year, and he has been an active voice in the ongoing debate surrounding

proposed amendments to the Massachusetts State Constitution that would ban gay marriage.

"I will continue to oppose any amendment which would write discrimination into the Constitution, because however you word it these amendments will deny rights and responsibilities to loving, caring families in Massachusetts."

—MA State Seantor Jarrett Barrios

In a message on the Senator's web site addressed to constituents, he states, "I will continue to oppose any amendment which would write discrimination into the Constitution, because however you word it these amendments will deny rights and responsibilities to loving, caring families in Massachusetts."

The Longwood Players, now in their seventh season in the Boston area, will be presenting the musical comedy *La Cage aux Folles* at the Cambridge Family YMCA Theater in Central Square on April 22, 23, and 28, 30.

For more information or to order tickets, visit www.longwoodplayers.org.

College Actors Recognized by NETC

Once again this year, NETC recognized excellence in the acting auditions of two outstanding college actors at the Region I festival of the Kennedy Center American College Festival at Rhode Island College, January 26–30. At the Saturday night awards ceremony, the winners (chosen by KCACTF judges at the semi-final round) were announced. Both were also finalists. Evelyn Garcia of Fitchburg State College was recognized by NETC for Excellence in Classical Acting for her dynamic interpretation of Olivia in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Paul Melendy, from Salem State College took away the NETC prize for Excellence in Comic Acting for his performance of a scene from *Antic Spring*, by Robert Nail.

Students are nominated for the competition from the casts of productions throughout the year on their

home campuses. At the regional festival, the nominated students and their partners perform vie with hundreds of other student actors through a grueling first round (wherein the nominees perform a scene with their partners). Thirty two nominees are called back for a semi-final round, and on the afternoon of the last day of the festival, sixteen finalists perform two scenes and a monologue in the last round.

Garcia also performed selections from *Blood Wedding* by Federico and *A Shayna Maidel*, by Barabar Lebow. Melendy's other selections were from *Prelude to a Kiss*, by Craig Lucas, and Shakespeare's *Richard III*.

Recipients of the NETC Excellence in Acting awards each receive a one hundred fifty dollar prize.

Actorsingers' Celebrate 50th Anniversary With Gala January 22

The Actorsingers, a community theater group in Nashua, NH, celebrated the beginning of its next 50 years by holding a Gala ball at the Crowne Plaza in Nashua. Despite the threat of the impending snow-storm that eventually dumped 30 inches on Nashua, members and former members from around the country were in attendance, some traveling from as far away as California. Among those on the guest list were 25 past presidents and 14 life members from throughout the organization's long history.

Before the banquet, President Bob Frasca announced the creation of Actorsingers' newest and highest honor the "Wall of Fame," to which he named John Liljeberg and Betty Badeau as the very first recipients. Together Betty and John represented over 90 years of participation in the group and exemplified the very best of what it meant to be an Actorsinger and what it will mean to be awarded a spot on the Actorsingers' Wall of Fame in the future.

After a fine meal, a group of members performed an original musical spoof of many Actorsingers productions, its members and organization. A silent auction was also held to raise money for the Actorsingers' Scholarship fund. In addition to the festivities much Actorsingers' memorabilia and artifacts were on display.

Actorsingers began in the Church of the Good Sheppard in 1955 by performing Gilbert and Sullivan's *Mikado* under the guidance and direction of the church music director, James Woods. Performed with two pianos, it was such a success that another production was planned. In fact three productions of public domain material were performed in 1956 and the group was off and running.

In 1959 the organization began sponsoring productions by the Junior Actorsingers as an outlet for the talented children of adult members and other youth in the Nashua area.

In 1961 a set of by-laws were written and the group was formally incorporated under the name of Actorsingers to reflect the organization's interest in performing musicals.

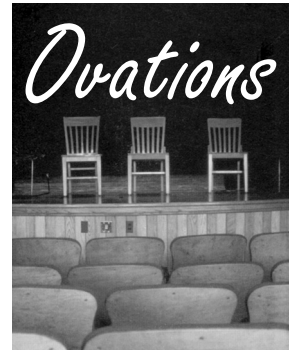
By 1963, the group separated from the church and moved out into the wider Nashua community. They began performing in local school gym-stage auditoriums. In 1965 they first performed in the Edmund Keefe Auditorium in what was at that time the auditorium for the high school. At 1200 seats it is one of the larger performing venues in the state.

They also began using an orchestra and began to perform musical pieces popular at the time. In 1975 they purchased a building that had been a Catholic school and turned it into a rehearsal hall. They paid off the mortgage in record time and have continued to grow membership and audience.

Now in addition to adult and productions for young performers through the Junior Actorsingers, the Actorsingers recently has also instituted a group for teens who have taken on several challenging pieces. In addition to performing, over the years Actorsingers have also tried to develop the talents of members working backstage, increasing the complexity of technical capabilities available for performances and increasing available local technical talent.

Throughout their history the Actorsingers have been an active supporter of the general Nashua arts community by participating in fund raising for the Arts and Sciences Center in the 1970's. They are presently an active member of the Nashua Arts and Humanities Coalition. In addition they have held fund raisers in conjunction with the local high school band, global tsunami relief and offer college scholarships for younger members.

Over the past 50 years, the Actorsingers have continuously performed musical theater and become a strong institution celebrated throughout the greater Nashua area. They are looking forward to all the adventures and challenges that the next 50 years have in store. Stay tuned for the Actorsingers' 100th anniversary in 2055!

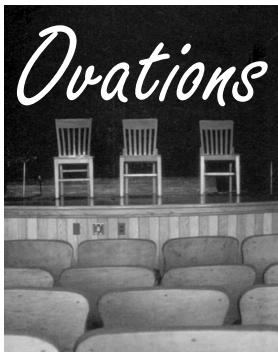


NETC NEWS: CALL FOR ARTICLES!

We are seeking fun, informative, and insightful articles about recent or upcoming events in the New England theatre community.

Contact Ann Marie Shea at ashea@worcester.edu, call 617-424-9275, or visit us on the web at www.NETCOnline.org!

Deadline for upcoming issue: May 1, 2005



Third Annual New Hampshire Theatre Awards

The 3rd Annual New Hampshire Theatre Awards, complete with black ties, a red carpet, limos and cameras, were presented on February 4 at Manchester's Palace Theater.

Thirty-four professional and community theater groups participated throughout the past year by presenting plays and musicals that were adjudicated by selected members of the participating groups.

The professional awards were given at a special reception held just prior to the actual ceremony. The big winners were The Peterborough Players and North Country Center for the Arts in Lincoln. The awards were announced by Rick Broussard, editor of *New Hampshire Magazine*, the primary sponsor of the awards since its inception and Peter Ramsay, artistic director of The Palace Theater.

The professional awards were:

- Best Play**—*About Time*, The Peterborough Players
- Best Musical**—*Chicago*, North Country Center for the Arts (NCCA)
- Best Original Play**—*Laughing Stock*, The Peterborough Players
- Honorable Mention Award**—Yellow Taxi Productions
- Best Actor, Drama**—James Whitmore for *About Time*
- Best Actress, Drama**—Heather Hamilton for *Much Ado About Nothing*, Advice to the Players of Sandwich
- Best Supporting Actor, Drama**—Michael Page for *Laughing Stock*
- Best Supporting Actress, Drama**—Sevanne Martin for *Laughing Stock*
- Best Director, Drama**—Gus Kaikkonen for *About Time*
- Best Actor, Musical**—John Antony for *Chicago*
- Best Actress, Musical**—Natalie Newman for *Chicago*
- Best Supporting Actor, Musical**—Jeremy Wood for *Chicago*
- Best Supporting Actress, Musical**—Lisa Karlin for *Chicago*
- Best Director, Musical**—Brett Smock for *Chicago*
- Best Choreographer**—Brett Smock for *Chicago*
- Best Musical Director**—Jason Tucker for *Chicago*
- Best Lighting**—Matthew Fick for *Chicago*
- Best Set Design**—Jen Price for *Chicago*
- Best Costumes**—Joan St. Germain for *Chicago*

During the fast paced ceremony, which lasted for just over 3 and a half hours, two special awards were given. "The Matty Award for Vision and Tenacity" which was named after NH Theatre Awards co-founder Matt Gregg was presented by Mr. Gregg to Ken Martin and Mark Delancey of M & D Productions of Conway. In its five year history, M & D Productions raised nearly \$40,000 for various community non-profits thru the

proceeds of the 30 plays it presented. They managed to do so despite some personal and professional hardships.

The Francis Grover Cleveland Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Carol Lucha Burns, theater professor at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, by her students Gary Lynch and Peter Dunbar. Ms. Burns' driving force helped establish the Musical Theatre and Youth Drama programs into major forces within UNH's theatre department, where she's been since 1969.

Community theater awards were also given during the main ceremony which saw performances of The Pittsfield Players' *1776*, Music and Drama Company in Londonderry's *Cabaret*, Actorsingers of Nashua's *Man of La Mancha*, and Peacock Players of Nashua's *Just So*. A special presentation was given by the cast of "Bosom Buddies," made up of women who survived breast cancer which was introduced by the group's creators—Leah Carey and Jodi Picoult.

The community theater awards given were:

- Best Play**—*Wit*, New England Academy of Music and Drama
- Best Musical**—*Cabaret*, Music and Drama Company of Londonderry
- Best Original Play**—*Christmas Stories*, The Misfit Toys Players of Nashua
- Best Original Musical**—*Boomers—Promises Made Not Kept*, Actorsingers of Nashua
- Honorable Mention Award**—The Leddy Center for the Arts of Epping
- Best Actor, Drama**—Paul Melendy for *The Compleat Works of Wm. Skespr (Abridged)*, Ghostlight Theater Company
- Best Actress, Drama**—Maria Barry for *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Bedford Off-Broadway
- Best Supporting Actor, Drama**—Richard Kirtley for *The Senator Wore Pantyhose*, Bedford Off-Broadway
- Best Supporting Actress, Drama**—Sally Nutt for *Wit*
- Best Director, Drama**—John Sefel for *Richard III*, Ghostlight Theater Company
- Best Actor, Musical**—Brian Waldron for *Cabaret*
- Best Actress, Musical**—Alexandra Socha for *Just So*, Peacock Players of Nashua
- Best Supporting Actor, Musical**—Jon Martin for *1776*, The Pittsfield Players
- Best Supporting Actress, Musical**—Lindsay Devino for *Just So*
- Best Director, Musical**—Wayland Bunnell for *Lucky Stiff*, Community Players of Concord
- Best Choreographer**—Bethany Cassidy for *Just So*
- Best Music Director**—Judy Hayward for *Cabaret*
- Best Lighting**—Ryan Brown for *Footloose*, RB Productions of Concord
- Best Set Design**—Mo Demers for *1776*
- Best Costumes**—Sharon Burnston for *1776*
- Best Children's Theater**—Peacock Players
- Best Youth Theater**—Andy's Summer Playhouse of Wilton

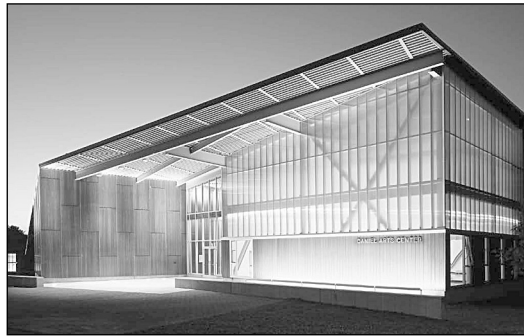
ITT Honors Arts Center at Simon's Rock

United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) has announced the winners of 2005 Merit Awards for architecture. The jury chose seven projects nationally, including one in New England, Daniel Arts Center for Simon's Rock College of Bard, Great Barrington MA. The USITT 2005 Conference & Stage Expo in Toronto, Canada, March 16 to 19 featured a special session to explore the diverse nature of all eight award recipients. The awards banquet was scheduled for March 19.

Each of the award-winning projects was represented at a display as part of USITT's Stage Expo, on view March 17 to 19.

The Daniel Arts Center, named in honor of Jeannette Snead Daniel, grandmother of Emily H. Fisher, Chair of the College's Board of Overseers, was designed by Ann Beha Architects of Boston and constructed by Mullaney Corporation of Leominster, Massachusetts. The 50,000 square foot center provides new performance, studio and classroom facilities for the college's theater, dance, music and visual arts programs. Its primary performance spaces are a 350-seat main stage theater, the 100-seat Murray and Patti Liebowitz Studio Theater, and the Susan and Mark Beckerman Dance Studio.

The center's visual arts wing contains painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, electronic arts, production and editing studios, as well as black and white and

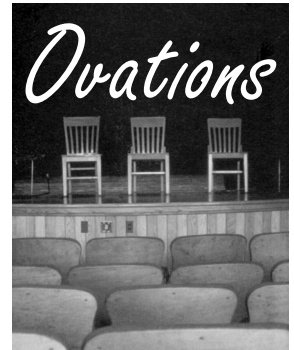


The Daniel Arts Center of Great Barrington, Massachusetts

color darkrooms, a film processing room, tape and slide libraries, a computer laboratory and distance learning classroom, three other classrooms and eight faculty offices.

A separate shop building, which includes 3-D design, sculpture and ceramics studios, a wood/metal assembly shop, a welding shop, a sculpture terrace, and two faculty offices completes the Daniel Arts Center. The shop building will also provide space for set design and construction.

This is the 12th year that USITT has sought out the best in new, renovated, or reused spaces for special recognition. The awards are open to all theatre and performances space projects completed in the past 10 years. The awards recognize the buildings themselves along with architect, associate architect, theatre consultants, and acoustical consultant who worked to create them.



UNH ArtsReach and TRY Offerings for Young Audiences and Artists

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of families. Live actors and actual videotaped interviews from these Holocaust survivors are woven together to recreate chilling scenes from their lives during World War II. This engaging presentation will reawaken our views about tolerance and provide some insight to our misunderstandings about life. And as in the play, fear and sadness can become a promise for the future and provide a profound message about hope and acceptance.

The production will also be staged on campus April 20 to 23 at 7pm; April 23 also at 2pm; April 24 at 2pm in the UNH Hennessy Theatre at the Paul Creative Arts Center, Durham, NH.

Tickets are priced \$7.50 for general admission, \$6.50 for Seniors/Children 12 & under/UNH ID, and \$5.50 for members of groups of 15 or more. For tickets call 603-862-2290. Inquiries: 603-862-2150.

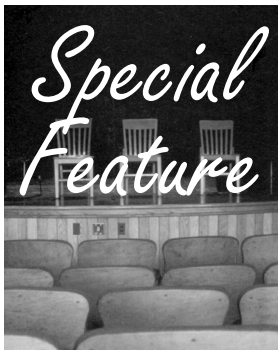
The production is directed by Raina Ames, the UNH Director of Theatre Education., Artistic Director for

UNH Theatre Resources for You (TRY). TRY, a division of the UNH Department of Theatre and Dance, provides ArtsReach tours to promote theatre and to enhance education and culture in surrounding New England communities.

UNH is also offering After School Theatre Workshop every Tuesday, March 22–May 3 from 3:45–5:00PM in the Paul Creative Arts Center. This 7-week series entitled THEATRE ACADEMY will be offered for grades 6–8.

This drama series will challenge students to take their acting to the next level. Students will study acting technique through the use of puppetry, character development, improvisation, and playwriting—all tools for creating their performance showcase. Teachers will incorporate vocalization, character motivation, and puppetry construction.

To register or to request a brochure, call 603-862-0093 or email cgagnon@cisunix.unh.edu. The cost is \$49 per student which includes the 7-class series and materials. Registration is suggested by Monday, March 14.



"The Forum" Tenth Edition: My Top 15 Theatre Gripes

by *Suzanne M. Ramczyk, Ph.D.*

Professor of Theatre Arts, Bridgewater State College and NETC Executive Secretary

Ok folks, since due to an endless stream of mind clutter, I am unable to focus on any one, specific topic, this time around (taking the lead from several of my favorite newspaper columnists), I will compose herein a list of my favorite theatre "gripes." If you would like to take umbrage with anything I say, I heartily encourage you to do so in the form of a short email reply that we will print in our next edition of NETC News. Further, if you are so motivated as to write your own "Forum" piece to express an opinion (or gripe) about any aspect of the art or business of Theatre, I'm always looking for writers. Contact me at sramczyk@bridgew.edu.

So, here goes. Fifteen of my top/favorite theatre gripes:

1. Men in women's roles. OK, producers, directors, artistic directors, yes, I understand that men in drag are certainly funnier than any woman could ever be in her own gender-specific clothing; and further, men are just funnier (and, maybe, better) at playing women than women are. But give us a break, please. Since the vast majority of roles in the entire cannon of Western Theatre are male and since female actors vastly outnumber male actors, just cast us women maybe as an act of charity, huh!

2. "Charity," how about "courtesy?" What the heck are "courtesy" charges, anyway? Increasingly, they are tacked on to these \$80-plus tickets I'm buying these days? And how about those \$2.50 to \$5.00 per ticket "building charges!" Whose rent bill is it anyway? Oh yeah, these charges are over and above the \$5.00 to \$10.00 "handling fees." I'll skip the "courtesy." Be rude for all I care because I'd rather pay \$80 for my \$80 ticket than almost \$100! Next time a company calls me for its annual "Begathon," I think I'll tack on a \$10.00 "courtesy" charge, ask for a donation towards my mortgage, and deduct these from my donation.

3. Ok, I know I wrote an entire essay dedicated to this, but directors and designers still aren't getting it: Unless you are Charles Mee and purposely want to drown out some of your own text, LET ME HEAR THE TEXT!

4. Yeah, you've heard this one before too, but I just can't stop complaining. Producers and Artistic Directors: You know, sometimes when you cast those TV stars, they just can't talk on stage! You know?

5. All right, I won't diss only professional theatre. Why is it that some High School directors still think there are only two musicals in existence? I'll give you a cou-

ple of hints: 1. that nasty stuff that accumulates on top of your range, and 2. "B" to the third power.

6. Ok, ok, I'll be the first to admit that I like to dream up "edgy" productions of classic plays. But it seems so many plays these days are so "deconstructed," one would not know what play she was seeing without the program in hand? And what the heck do the lyrics of grand opera have to do with the texts of Shakespeare anyhow?

Speaking of Broadway, why is a "little girl voice" requisite to making it in Broadway musical theatre these days? Bring back Carol Channing and Ethel Merman!

7. Oh, speaking of programs, when did ushers stop "ushering?" It seems that once I find someone to show me where my seat is, and after I climb over at least six people, I realize I have no program. So I get up and climb back out and track down a "helpful" usher who directs me to the box at the back of the house. Enough said.

8. I mean, really, how many twenty-something bimbos (not a gender-specific word in my vocabulary) can really be heralded as great actors—even actors, for that matter! Geesh!

9. Playwrights who exercise control in the casting of plays they wrote over forty years ago. How about trusting a director? Producer? Let go for heaven's sake!

10. "Product Placement" in Broadway shows! Oh well, it works on film so why not? Print ads aside, I guess the theatre has gotten away with being "commercial free" entertainment for far too many centuries. "Honey, don't we need a new SONY television and sound system? How about that Nikon camera?"

11. And speaking of Broadway, why is a "little girl voice" requisite to making it in Broadway musical theatre these days? Bring back Carol Channing and Ethel Merman!

12. Oops, back to regional, academic, and community theatre: just how cute can those "Unwrap you candies now" announcements become, I ask you?

North Shore Music Theatre Wins Two National Awards at the 'Junior Theater Festival' in Atlanta

Twenty five students from North Shore Music Theatre's Youth Performance Academy traveled to Atlanta, Georgia January 15 and 16 to perform at the second national Junior Theater Festival, and came back with an experience of a lifetime and major awards for Outstanding Achievement in Musical Performance and Choreography. The festival, produced by Music Theatre International (MTI), celebrated students who perform and produce musical theater and brought together teachers and theater professionals from around the world for performances and new techniques to bring back to their communities.

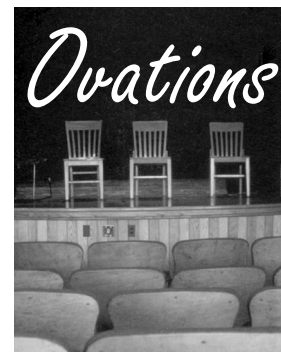
Students from thirty schools and education groups from across the country performed excerpts from 11 Broadway Junior productions. NSMT's Youth Performance Academy was one of only 3 student groups selected to premiere selections from Disney's *Aladdin Junior* and Disney's *Cinderella Kids*. These musicals are newly-created stage adaptations of Disney animated and live action films which will be made available to schools through (MTI) this year. NSMT's students performed for an adjudication panel composed of respected national and international leaders in the musical theater community including Jeremy James Taylor, founder of Great Britain's National Youth Music Theatre, and Russell Ochocki, who has directed over 100 productions for both youth and professional theater.

NSMT's Youth Performance Academy received awards for Outstanding Achievement in Musical Performance and Outstanding Achievement for Choreography for their performance of Disney's *Cinderella Kids*.

"MTI was thrilled with the talent and professionalism of all of the groups at this year's Junior Theatre Festival," remarked Tim McDonald, MTI Director of Education. "It is amazing how school children continually raise the level of all expectations when they are given the opportunity to perform these versions of the great Broadway musicals that have been adapted specifically for them."

In addition to the Festival performances, the students participated in a Vocal Master Class with *American Idol* musical director Michael Orland and NSMT's Associate Director of Education, Derek Bowley.

North Shore Music Theatre's award-winning theatre arts and education programs and youth performances annually reach over 100,000 students. The Theatre's Youth Performance Academy attracts thousands of students from 4-18 years old who are interested in the exploring the world of music, theatre and dance and honing their craft. With partnerships with Music Theatre International (MTI) and Disney Theatricals, NSMT has become the model for schools and organizations around the country and is one of the region's leading providers of theatre arts and education programs.



The Forum: Top 15 Theatre Gripes continued from previous page

13. Have you seen those "chain" e-mail letters designed to stop the proliferation of productions of the "indecent and immoral" Vagina Monologues? Shame on you Eve Ensler for being concerned about local shelters, women's centers and the like, such as the women's crisis center our annual production typically supports. Oh, did I mention that almost all State and Federal funding to this center has been cut?

14. Ok, getting near the end, so I have to offer my personal "beef" with our illustrious president, a logical progression somehow. (And I don't mean Tom Mikotowicz.) Times are pretty sad when the entire country can watch/hear better farce coming out of the Oval Office than from most of the American Theatre!

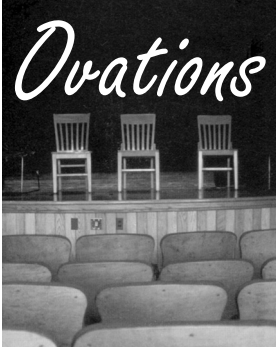
15. And finally, times are certainly sad when many theatres feel the **need** to consider including *Mother Courage* in forthcoming seasons. My humble advice: make it part of a "twofer" offer along with *Ubu Roi*.

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found elsewhere in this mailing and we invite your enthusiasm and ideas. Please note the deadline for proposals is April 15, and we'd like to consider your suggestions, so get them in early!

For our secondary school division students and teachers, we are delighted to be bringing back our 4th Annual Olympiad, where the students get to show their stuff and compete in various theatrical design and performance arenas. In addition to a special social function for our student attendees, we plan to offer an informational high school/college fair opportunity, so watch the website and Convention Calendar for more information on dates and particulars. And please plan to register early!

Please contact the Convention Co-Planners with your questions, ideas and suggestions at mayres1@aol.com. We look forward to planning with you!



North Shore Music Theatre Celebrates 50 Years

The year was 1955 and North Shore Music Theatre, the brand new theater-in-the round, was ready for patrons for the very first time. Now, 50 years and millions of patrons later, the award-winning North Shore Music Theatre (NSMT) is celebrating a very special landmark: 50 years of providing exceptional entertainment to legions of people throughout New England.

One of the last remaining non-profit arena-style theaters in the United States to produce musical theater, NSMT has become the largest non-profit professional theater in New England. NSMT Artistic Director and Executive Producer Jon Kimbell, who has been at the helm for 22 years, has crafted a 2005 season of musical theater that is reflective of NSMT's rich past and thrilling future. The 2005 season includes four NSMT premieres; a co-production of *Abyssinia* with Goodspeed Musicals, one of most requested new works at NSMT; and *Camelot*, a timeless classic directed by Tony Award winner Jack Hofsis.

Sponsored by Comcast, the 2005 Musical Series includes:

Thoroughly Modern Millie (Regional Theater Premiere)
Winner of six Tony Awards, including Best Musical of 2002, this Regional Theatre Premiere of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* will be directed and choreographed by Barry Ivan (NSMT's *Miss Saigon*, *Chicago*, *Footloose*). The musical, sponsored by Danvers Savings Bank, will play April 26–May 15, 2005.

Fame: The Musical (NSMT Premiere)

The global phenomenon that began as an Academy Award-winning movie, and then became an Emmy Award-winning TV series, finally became an international musical theater sensation. With its high-octane blend of youthful energy, hope and passion, *Fame: The Musical* just might live forever. It will be directed and choreographed by Richard Stafford, director of NSMT's smash hit productions of *Swing!* and *Cats*. The show will run May 31–June 19.

Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*
(NSMT Premiere)

Families from all over New England will delight in the NSMT premiere of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. Originally created for television by the legendary team of Rodgers and Hammerstein, this magical musical will be directed by Greg Ganakas, who directs NSMT's annual production of *A Christmas Carol* and was responsible for the acclaimed production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in 2001. This show is sponsored by Beverly National Bank. The show will be playing July 12–July 31.

Abyssinia

(Co-Production with Goodspeed Musicals)

The most requested New Work in NSMT history, will

return from August 23–September 11, 2005. Born during a terrifying tornado, Abyssinia Jackson is a young African-American woman blessed with an angelic voice and an amazing ability to heal. But when tragedy strikes, she loses faith—and begins a courageous journey of renewal and rediscovery. Audiences be inspired by the story and moved by the gospel, jazz and ragtime rhythms. Under the direction of Stafford Arima, who directed NSMT's 2005 production of *Aida*, the show is co-produced with Goodspeed Musicals and sponsored by Arbella Insurance Group.

Camelot (Directed by Tony Award winner Jack Hofsis)

Tony Award-winner Jack Hofsis will direct an all new production of Lerner and Loewe's *Camelot*, playing September 20–October 9, 2005. Audiences will join King Arthur, Guenevere and Sir Lancelot in this epic saga of love and betrayal, set to the soaring melodies of Lerner and Loewe.

The Full Monty (NSMT Premiere)

The 2005 subscription musical season concludes with a special 4-week run of this heartwarming, upbeat comedy, playing October 25–November 20, 2005. Based on the hit movie about six unemployed steel workers in Buffalo, New York, who discover just how far they're willing to go to make some quick cash, this show will also be directed and choreographed by Barry Ivan, a veteran director of more than 15 musicals at NSMT. Recommended for mature audiences. Sponsored by Sheraton Ferncroft, Danvers.

Throughout the 2005 season, NSMT will also host several special events to celebrate their 50 years and to bring the theatre experience even closer to the audience. These events include:

Meet the Theatre

Meet the Theatre allows the audience to ask questions of the cast and creative staff and find out what happens behind the scenes to make the show go on. These discussions occur immediately after the show in the theater following the second Tuesday evening and the third Saturday matinee of each show.

Out at the North Shore

This evening for the GLBT community offers the chance to meet members of the cast and enjoy live entertainment at a free post-show reception at Overtures, North Shore Music Theatre's on-site restaurant. Sponsored by *In Newsweekly*, the Greater Boston Business Council, the Beverly Athletic Club and Different Tastes. Reception occurs the third Thursday evening of each show.

Spotlight on History—New in 2005!

Celebrate our country's rich cultural heritage by arriving early to take part in our new Spotlight on History pre-show educational series. Partnering with the Essex National Heritage Commission and the Wenham Museum, each

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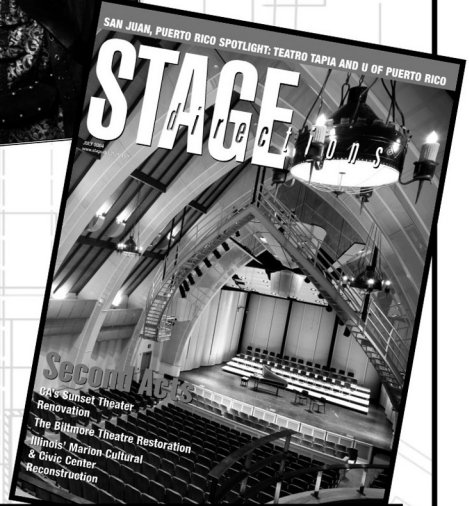
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Julie Harris Guest Artistic Director at Harwich Winter Theatre

Harwich Winter Theatre is offering Jean Anouilh's *The Lark*, the captivating story of the trial of Joan of Arc, through April 3. The stellar cast under the Guest Artistic Direction of Julie Harris includes David C. Wallace, Lou Maloof, Jack Kerig, John Williams, Stuard Derrick, Karen McPherson, Rich McKey, Gary Mitchell, Zach Philbrook, Susan Sard White, Miranda White, Jenna Cappello and Adam Foster with Nadia Schuessler as Joan of Arc.

Ms. Harris received her second Tony Award for originating the role of Joan on Broadway, in the French historical drama described as "a memorable picture of a moment that is immortal in history and exalting on stage." The design team includes Andrew Arnault (set design) J Hagenbuckle (sound design), Tim Healy (lighting design) and Robin McLaughlin (costume design). Performances are on Friday and Saturday nights at 8 PM Sundays at 4 p.m. No performance is scheduled on Easter Sunday, March 27.

Other offerings in the 2004–2005 season at Harwich Junior Theatre include *Celebrate Broadway!*, from April 15–May 4, a musical extravaganza that the entire family will love featuring songs from such Broadway hits as *Wicked*, *West Side Story*, *Avenue Q* and *Swing*. Performances are scheduled for Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. A special school vacation matinee will be offered on Wednesday, April 20 at 2 PM.

Dan Goggin's *Nunsense* will return for a run May 19–June 12, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 4:00 p.m.

To purchase tickets call 508-432-2002 ext 4 or online at www.capetix.com. Directions to the theatre can be found at the HJT homepage www.hjtcapecod.org.

Animus Ensemble presents for colored girls...

The Animus Ensemble presents its new production of Ntozake Shange's *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf* from March 25 through April 2, 2005 at the Boston Center for the Arts, BCA Plaza Theatre, 539 Tremont Street in Boston's South End.

Directed by John Ambrosino, the award-winning for *colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf* celebrates the passion of black women through story, dance, and music, creating vibrant snapshots of seven women as they overcome oppression and transform lives ensnared to ones with wings.

The original New York productions won Obie, Audelco, and Outer Circle Critics Awards, as well as garnering Tony, Grammy, and Emmy nominations. The play's originality, lyricism, and powerful imagery earned it a Broadway run that surpassed 740 performances. Through this choreopoem, a poetic form that integrates words and dance, Shange presents a timeless message of pride and a heart full of hope. In an age when civil liberties are again uncertain, *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf* has a renewed poignancy that crosses racial boundaries.

Performances are schedule for March 25–April 2, 2005, Wednesday through Sunday evenings at 8pm, with 3pm matinees on Sunday, March 27 and Saturday, April 2.

Tickets are \$25 General Admission and \$15 for Students and Seniors with ID. Reservations are available through all Boston Theatre Scene outlet locations (527 Tremont St. and 264 Huntington Ave.), over the phone at 617-933-8600, or online through www.BostonTheatreScene.com.

Worcester State College Stages *The Glass Menagerie*

The Department of Visual and Performing Arts at Worcester State College will stage Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* for two weekends beginning April 14. The role of Amanda Wingfield, matriarch of the troubled family, will be played by Ann Marie Shea, who is retiring after more than three decades of producing theatre at the college. Others in the cast are students Greg Mason as Tom, Kate Ferreira as Laura and Phil Bailey as Jim O'Connor.

The play concerns the fortunes, or lack thereof, of the Wingfield family, deserted by their father years earlier, as they strive to find "happiness...and just a little bit of good fortune" in the dark days of the Depression in a shabby dwelling in St. Louis. Putting all her resources on the chances of salvation by a prince charming in the form of a "gentleman caller" for her fragile daughter, Amanda struggles to strengthen the listless daughter and at the same time tame the dangerous restlessness of her talented son.

Theatre professor John Howell Hood, director, is also designing the show, with Susan Johnson Hood providing costume design. Chris Cloutier is the audio designer.

Performances are scheduled Thursdays through Sundays, April 14, 15, 16 and 21, 22, 23 at 8 p.m. and April 17 and 24 at 2 p.m. School groups are welcome to book at group discount rates. For further information call 508-929-8843. The WSC Administration Theatre is located at 486 Chandler Street in Worcester. The theatre is handicap-accessible.

Message from the President

by Tom Mikotowicz

President, NETC Board of Directors

As we enter a new year for NETC, there are great events to delight theatricians who are looking for employment, or who want to run or attend workshops in theatre. First of all, our March auditions, which draws people from all across the United States, is occurring on March 18, 19, and 20th in Natick, Massachusetts. This large scale event serves to bring over 900 producers and performers, as well as technicians, together for future employment. For them, it has historically been a successful event. For our organization, it has also been a significant contribution to New England theatre and beyond. The mission of NETC is that it strives to promote theatrical activities throughout the region, serving individuals, groups, and institutions. To that end, the NETC Auditions, expertly run by Joe Juliano, is a major element in fulfilling our charter.

As well, our convention is another major event which serves the mission. This coming November, the convention will be at the Wakefield Sheraton, just outside of Boston. Our convention committee is made up of Maryann Swift, Chair, and co-planners Tim Fitzgerald, Jim Ferguson, and Celia Couture. They have been busy developing the contract for the hotel, planning the award recipient list, and organizing the overall event. Now, their next task is to develop programming for the

convention that will serve each of the five divisions. They will be sending out program proposal forms, as well as posting it on our website. Individuals interested in offering a workshop, panel, or paper presentation should submit their ideas on our official form.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite interested parties in becoming members of our board of directors. We have a large group of hard-working volunteers who manage our major events, and serve to manage the overall operations of NETC. If you are the kind of person who likes to volunteer and contribute to the arts, you should consider becoming part of our organization. We have five divisions: Community, Secondary, Youth & Children's, Professional, and College and University theatre. Each of the divisions, generally, have open positions that need to be filled. So contact our main office, or me personally via email at miko@maine.edu if you want to learn more about our board positions.

Finally, last year was a great success with our auditions and later with the Portland convention. If you missed either of these events, make sure that you don't miss them this year!



NSMT Celebrates 50 Years

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show will feature a different historical topic related to the show on stage. This bonus humanities presentation is free of charge and open to the public. It's our gift to the community that has helped shape our 50-year history! These discussions occur prior to the second Saturday matinee of each show.

Subscriptions to the 2005 season range from \$132 to \$315 for all 6 shows. Single tickets for the 2005 musical season will range from \$68-\$30. Single tickets for all NSMT Musicals, including the 17th annual production of A Christmas Carol, will go on sale March 14th to NSMT Donors; March 21st to NSMT Subscribers; and April 3rd to everyone.

To subscribe to the 2005 Musical Season, purchase tickets or for more information, visit the NSMT web site at www.nsmnt.org, contact the North Shore Music Theatre Box Office at (978) 232-7200, or go to the Box Office at 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, 01915.

Stowe, VT Theatre Guild Audition Schedule for 2005

The Stowe Theatre Guild of Stowe, VT, is auditioning for:

A Chorus Line—Dance Workshop March 19
10:00 am–noon at Stowe High School, and
Auditions March 26 9:00 am and March 27 2:00 pm
(Production dates July 20–August 6)

A Day in Hollywood, A Night in the Ukraine—
June 4 and 5, times to be determined.
(Production dates September 21–October 8)

All shows will run Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 pm.

Stowe Theatre Guild may be reached at
(802) 253-3961, info@stowetheatre.com
www.stowetheatre.com

Who's Who at NETC

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tom Mikotowicz, President, *University of Maine, Orono*
Russell Swift, Executive Vice President, *The Groton School*
Jim Quinn, Vice President for Administration and Finance and Clerk of the Corporation, *Bridgewater State College*
David Frieze, Vice President for Communication and Development, *freelance writer, director, critic*
Suzanne Ramczyk, Executive Secretary, *Bridgewater State College*
Hank Zappala, NETC Management, *Emerson College*
Linda Murphy Sutherland, Immediate Past President, *Huntington Theatre Company*

DIVISION DIRECTORS

College/University Theatre Division

Dorisa Boggs, *Roger Williams University*
Ann Marie Shea, Chair, *Worcester State College*
Luke Sutherland, *Community College of Rhode Island*

Secondary School Theatre Division

Maureen Doucette, *Hopkinton Middle High School, NH*
Linda Potter, Chair, *Acton-Boxborough Regional Jr. & Sr. High Schools*
Jeffrey Watts, *Lawrence High School*

Youth Theatre Division

Jeanie Furlan, *Acton-Boxborough Regional Jr. & Sr. High Schools*
Ron Jones, *freelance actor/director*
Carol Korty, *playwright*

Professional Theatre Division

Robert Libbey, *The Grand, Ellsworth, MA*
Kevin Russell, *Arts Boston*

Community Theatre Division

Charles Emmons, *New Hampshire Community Theatre Association*
Jennifer Howard, Chair, *Burlington Players, Inc.*
Sharon A. Wilcox, *Thomaston Opera House, CT*

Directors-At-Large

Tim Fitzgerald, *Wellesley Players*
Donna O'Bryant, *Actorsingers of Nashua, NH*

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Summer Theatre Auditions

Joseph Juliano, Jr., *Hamden Public Schools*

2005 Convention Planners

Maryann Swift, Chair, *Arlington Friends of the Drama*
Celia Couture, *Arlington Friends of the Drama*
Jim Ferguson
Tim Fitzgerald, *Wellesley Players*

NETC/New England Theatre Journal

Stuart Hecht, *Boston College*

Long Range Strategic Plan

Kevin Russell, *Arts, Boston, Boston Theatre Works*

College of Fellows, Dean

Sigurd Jensen, *Southern CT State University, retired*

Annual Excellence in Theatre Awards

Tim Fitzgerald, *Wellesley Players*

Moss Hart Awards

Maureen Doucette, *Hopkinton Middle High School, NH*

John Gassner Memorial Playwriting Award

Steven Capra

Aurand Harris Memorial Playwriting Award

Jay DiPrima

Marie Phillips Service to NETC Award

Bevie Lord

Leonidas A. Nickole Theatre Educator of the Year Award

Ann Marie Shea, *Worcester State College*

Constitution and By-Laws

Sigurd Jensen, *Southern CT State University, retired*

Nominating Chair

Russell Swift, *The Groton School*

NETC Newsletter

Ann Marie Shea, *Worcester State College*

AACT Liaison

Patricia White

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