

# NETC News

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

volume 15 number 1 winter 2005–2006

## 40th Annual NETC Theatre Auditions

March 18, 19, 20, 2006

by Joseph Juliano, Jr., NETC Management

The annual NETC Theater Auditions provide a service whereby producers and directors of New England and other theatres from throughout the country meet in a group to audition and interview candidates for positions in summer and year-round professional theatres as performers, designers, technicians, and theatre/production staff. The Auditions bring together over 1,000 actors, singers, dancers, technicians and other theatre practitioners.

---

**An average of 60 companies are represented at these auditions annually, offering both job-in and full-season employment, as well as apprentice and intern positions and Equity Membership Candidacy Programs. Casting companies and professional theatre training companies and conservatories are also represented.**

---

These theatres offer both job-in and full-season employment, as well as apprentice and intern positions and Equity Membership Candidacy Programs. An average of 60 companies are represented at these auditions annually, including summer and year-round theatres (Equity and non-Equity), college-based summer theatres, repertory companies, Shakespearian and Renaissance Festivals, outdoor dramas and faires, music theatres, touring companies, theme parks, children's theatres, and dinner theatres, whose seasons include the classics, dramas, musicals, comedies, and revues. Casting companies and professional theatre training companies and conservatories are also represented.

These auditions are open to non-Equity members and Equity Membership Candidates. **Equity members are not eligible to apply.**

continues on page 4



Celebrating the success of the 2005 convention, co-planners MaryAnn Swift (l.), Celia Couture (2nd from R.) and Tim Fitzgerald (r.) share a glamorous moment with actress Betsy Palmer.

## 2005 Convention Memories

by Tim Fitzgerald, 2005 Convention  
Co-Planner and Awards Chairperson

Can it be that it has been over a month since we all got together in Wakefield, MA, for the 2005 NETC Convention! As one of the convention co-planners for this year's event, I can honestly say that it was a very satisfying and enjoyable time for all who attended.

I got to talk with many vendors and presenters and attendees as I was moving around the convention from the Sheraton Colonial Hotel to the Colonial Center and was pleasantly surprised to hear so many wonderful comments on the wonderful seminar offerings and the Olympiad activities to the hospitality of the hotel staff.

There really WAS something for everyone—from Chris Cardoni's fight choreography workshops to Jon Kimball's heartfelt keynote address to The Rebels performance to the audition workshop with Suzanne Ramczyk and *Shear Madness'* Michael Fennimore to Lawrence Maslon's History of American Musicals discussion. I could go on and on with accolades that have been relayed to me but leave it to say, a good time was had by all.

On Saturday evening, more than 100 people attended the Awards Banquet which honored national, regional and local groups and individuals for their achievement and contribution to theatre. Joined by my two lovely

continues on page 11

## inside this issue

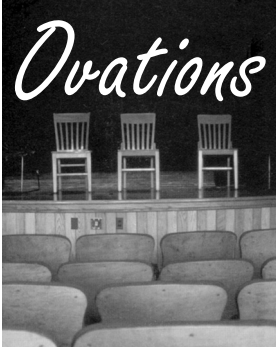
Ovations  
page 2

Area News  
page 3

Upcoming Events  
page 6

Opportunities  
page 8

new england  
**NETC**  
theatre conference



## New England Artist Charms and Infuriates at International Theatre Festival

by Carol Korty

The only American production chosen to present at the ASSITEJ 15th Festival in Montreal, Québec, this past September was Jonathan Cross, artistic director of The Cosmic Bicycle Theatre in New York City. Born and raised in New Hampshire, Jonathan majored in performing arts major at Emerson College, where he masterminded one of the school's comedy teams. His off-beat version of theatre animates an amazing array of objects rescued from curbside trash. Why were some adults in the audiences upset by Jonathan Cross' piece, *Objet?* In part, I think, because it was the only America production invited to present. (Québec is rather testy about the USA these days.) Americans said it wasn't representative of mainstream theatre for youth in this country. They were right about that. But do creative artists really set about creating a piece that is representative of their country? I think not. Besides, Jonathan has always intentionally placed himself on the fringe. That's why the artistic director of the ASSITEJ festival chose his off-beat work. And, by the way, the large group of middle school kids at the performance I attended responded with enthusiasm.

Its main character, not unlike Chaplin or Keeton, is Everyman/Everychild going through the routines of life, trying to make sense of the world around him. He's urged on by a pixyish clown. Together they explore and make use of an astonishing collection of objects—

trunks, clocks, bells, umbrellas, coffee pots, and so forth—with great inventiveness. I found the production delightful, filled with pathos and whimsy. But its innovative and experimental nature meant it couldn't be everybody's cup of tea.



Jonathan Cross' *Objet?*

ASSITEJ (Association Internationale du Théâtre pour l'Enfance et la Jeunesse, aka International Association of Theatre for Children and Youth) was founded in the 1950s to promote excellence in theatre for young audiences. Every three years it holds a congress and festival. This year thirty-six companies presented from September 20–30th. They came from Québec (naturally), Manitoba, Mexico, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, France, Denmark, Germany, Spain, Israel, Japan, and the United States.

In addition to Cross' piece, the festival offered many other productions. I saw a stunning Japanese piece

continues on next page

## NETC NEWS: CALL FOR ARTICLES!

NETC NEWS is your medium for publicizing what is happening in all areas of theatre in New England.

We accept articles of up to 1000 words from all members—season's programs, awards, and other news.

Send all materials to [ashea@worchester.edu](mailto:ashea@worchester.edu)  
(WORD format, pictures in jpeg,  
preferably high resolution 300 dpi)

Want to voice a strong opinion on theatre-related issues?  
Send "FORUM" pieces to [sramczyk@bridgew.edu](mailto:sramczyk@bridgew.edu)

Deadline for upcoming issue: February 15, 2006

Keeping in mind that there may be as much as a six-week turnaround between deadline and actual publication, please prepare time-sensitive material accordingly.

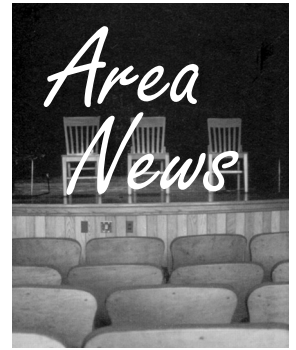


## In Memoriam

New England Theatre Conference lost a true friend and hard worker on December 6, 2005, with the passing of Ramona Zappala of Saugus, MA. For many years, Ramona was a familiar figure to convention-goers, dedicating many volunteer hours to hosting the registration desk, and always making everyone feel welcome. We are all grateful to have had one last chance to share time with this wonderful, warm personality as she honored us with her presence at the recent convention to receive the well-earned 2005 Marie Philips Service to NETC award.



Ramona Zappala



## New England Artist Charms and Infuriates

continued from previous page

drawing on techniques from Kabuki, No, and Kyogen. Did it matter that characters sang and spoke in Japanese? No, although fortunately that particular production made use of printed translation into French and English over the proscenium arch. But a Québec production of *Baba Yaga* in French was clearly understood because of the skilled performance and direction. It moved me to tears. There was an Argentinean clown couple whose story was an ode to love and longevity. And a fresh, young dance company from Quebec City in a piece well-named as *Clash*. The Danish company's production of *The Little Matchgirl* cleverly avoided the saccharin by comic interaction between the main storyteller and her miscreant sound man. I was particularly taken by *Desert Dream*, a Québec piece created for high school audiences. (I appreciated its having been translated into English for this festival.) The production made use of video camera and projection on stage along with live actors as the narrator created a film about his lost brother, using equipment readily available to many teenagers. It packed a wallop with its message about relationships and its manner of presentation.

In summary, the festival was a feast. It covered a range of genres: drama, puppetry, dance, and opera. Some pieces were tight and neat. Others rough and bold. I found a few boring and pretentious. Others moved me deeply.

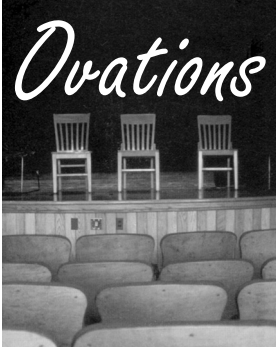
There was more. The best of the "more" for me was Playwright's Slam, hosted at the festival café by the ASSITEJ/USA center. Late one evening, we were treated to ten playwrights from USA, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, and France, reading snippets of their newest work. What fun to hear the work, visit with friends old and new, while eating and drinking together.

What does an ASSITEJ Congress and Festival have to do with NETC, you ask? As much as you'd like to make of it. It's a growing organization, with full chapters in 70 countries and adjunct centers in another 10. Its goal is to stimulate and promote excellent, professional theatre for young audiences. But as delegates from many countries point out, in their cultures theatre audiences are not segregated by age. And I have found that a beautiful piece of theatre moves me, regardless of its intended audience. Furthermore, attending the tri-annual Congresses has given me unique travel opportunities that focus on theatre art and connect me with artists around the world.

Past sessions have been held in Prague, The Hague, Venice, Albany, East Berlin, Madrid, Lyon, Moscow, Adelaide, Stockholm, Havana, Rostov on Don, Tromso, and Seoul. The 16th Congress will again be hosted by Adelaide, Australia. For more information, go to [www.assitej.org](http://www.assitej.org) or [www.assitej-usa.org](http://www.assitej-usa.org).

### NETC ELECTIONS!

Check out the masthead on back page for names of newly installed officers and board members.



## NSMT Receives and Raises Record Breaking Amounts

North Shore Music Theatre (NSMT), 2005 NETC award-winner, has been named recipient of a \$30,000 Chairman's Extraordinary Action Fund grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support the restoration of musical instruments, costumes and sets that were destroyed or damaged during the fire on July 14, 2005. U.S. Congressman John F. Tierney (D-Salem) announced the grant, which is the maximum amount an organization can receive.

"I am pleased to announce that North Shore Music Theatre has been awarded a \$30,000 federal grant. Its award-winning education programs and acclaimed performances are a vital component of the North Shore community," said Congressman Tierney.

As a result of the extensive electrically-caused fire in July, the entire interior of the theater, including seats, stage lifts, ceiling panels and insulation needed to be replaced. The theater reopened on November 1, 2005 with a production of *The Full Monty*, (which was a featured performance at the NETC annual convention.).

Actors in North Shore Music Theatre's *The Full Monty* raised \$50,000 for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (BC/EFA) during the show's 3 week run. This is a record breaking collection for NSMT. Donations were collected from audience members after each show. In addition, the cast autographed more than 500 posters, donated by Minuteman Press of Beverly, that were given in exchange for a \$20 donation. "This total is truly extraordinary," says Jon Kimbell, NSMT Artistic Director and Executive Producer (and NETC 2005 Convention Keynote Speaker). "This would not have been possible without the hard work of this talented cast, the donation of the posters from Minuteman



North Shore Music Theatre's cast of *A Christmas Carol* find much to celebrate with abundant blessings of receiving and giving.

Press and the generosity of our patrons. Our audience is truly the best in the region."

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS is the nation's leading industry-based, not-for-profit AIDS fundraising and grant making organization, raising funds for AIDS-related causes across the United States, including Massachusetts. Since its founding in 1988, BC/EFA has raised millions of dollars for critically needed services for people with AIDS, HIV, or HIV-related illnesses, as well as working closely with other organizations, such as The Phyllis Newman Women's Health initiative, which assists women and their families who are affected by cancer.

## 40th Annual NETC Theatre Auditions

continued from page 1

Applicants must be college students or adults, **18 and older**. High school students or individuals under 18 are **not** eligible. In addition to young performers, producers are interested in seeing mature, adult talent with professional experience and/or experience in community or summer theatres, for both seasonal and job-in employment. Producers will also be interviewing musical directors, designers, and applicants for technical and staff positions.

All applicants must pay an application and processing fee. The fee for current NETC members (membership paid for 2005-2006) is \$30.00. For non-members, Audition fees are \$45.00 for students and \$55.00 for

non-students. Non-member Audition fees include membership in NETC through August 2006.

Please note that all fees are non-refundable and do not guarantee an audition appointment.

The Auditions are held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1360 Worcester Road (Route 9), Natick, MA.

Complete information, instructions and application form are all available at our website: [www.NETCOnline.org](http://www.NETCOnline.org) or from our office at 215 Knob Hill Drive, Hamden, CT 06518, Telephone: 617-851-8535, Fax: 203-288-5938.

# Message from the President

by *Jim Quinn*  
*President, NETC Board of Directors*

Dear NETC members,

Our annual convention in November was a great event. The Wakefield Sheraton and Golf Club in Wakefield, MA was a surprisingly great spot for a weekend of interesting, entertaining, educational, and emotional theatrical events. The success of the event is due in part to the hotel staff, NETC board members, our operations manager, and many other volunteers who gave so much of themselves. Praise to the workshop presenters who shared their expertise, the awardees who inspired us with their love and devotion to our craft, but primarily, to our convention co-planners Tim Fitzgerald, Celia Couture, and Maryann Swift. They did a beautiful job of orchestrating every moment, from beginning to end. My sincerest congratulations goes to them and to everyone who contributed to the success of the event.

Speaking of conventions, our next one will be in a New England location more commonly associated with great theatrical happenings—New Haven, CT. We will be returning to the Omni Hotel, a convention site we have enjoyed in the past, and we are still looking for one of our members from Connecticut to take on the role of one of the convention co-planners! The early planning has already begun, so if you are interested, please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

Another service provided by NETC to the New England theater community is our annual Theater Auditions, and this year marks our 40th anniversary. Our manager, Joe Juliano, reports that we can expect the usual full house at Natick, MA, which has proven to be an excellent location. Producers who would like to attend should e-mail Joe through our website [www.netconline.org](http://www.netconline.org).

**A personal note to all members:** NETC is a board-run organization which means that the board makes decisions for the organization. However, the input that goes in to these decisions needs to come from those we serve, our broader membership. We need to hear from those of you out in the field who, like those of us on the board, are working in the theater in New England and making every effort to create quality the-

ater, keep it vital, and to see more of it in our schools and communities. All of us share an understanding of the importance of these efforts to our future and the well-being of our society. I would like you to contact the board members in your division, or any of us on the board, and let us know how NETC, this service organization we all belong to, can serve you better.

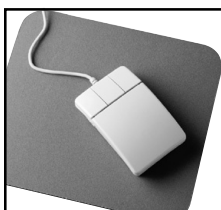
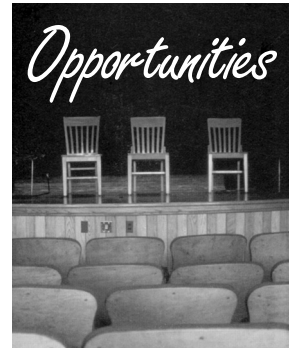
---

**We need to hear from those of you out in the field who, like those of us on the board, are working in the theater in New England and making every effort to create quality theater, keep it vital, and to see more of it in our schools and communities. All of us share an understanding of the importance of these efforts to our future and the well-being of our society.**

---

Please keep in mind, each division has three voting members, but any member is invited to take part in the work of the board. Our next meeting will be on January 21, 2006, at Bridgewater State College. This “mini-retreat” will be dedicated to taking stock of where we have come from, where we are, and where we want to be.

In my 10 years of board membership, I have enjoyed every experience along the way, and feel privileged to have served this community of theater artists. As President, I hope to travel more, meeting members who are working for NETC in and around New England, but who don't get a chance to come visit the “board base camp” very often. I want future board meetings to begin with divisional contact time, and I applaud those members who organize additional meetings to address specific issues, as the secondary division recently did. NETC has a long and productive history to be proud of, and by getting involved and making the commitment to assist each other, we can ensure that our work will continue on in the same tradition.



**Please visit NETC on the web at  
[www.NETConline.org](http://www.NETConline.org)  
 to find out how you can get more involved in your community!**



## NHCTA'S New Board & Festival 2006

by *Chuck Emmons*

At the annual meeting of the New Hampshire Community Theatre Association on Oct. 15, the organization elected its new board of directors for the 2005–2006 season.

Sitting president Sally Nutt was re-elected for a second term. In addition to performing throughout southern NH, Sally is a member of the board of directors of the Milford Area Players.

First Vice President is Robert Dionne. Rob is a founder and artistic director for the Majestic Theatre Trust in Manchester. He also directs, produces and performs for groups throughout the Manchester-Concord area.

Elizabeth Champagne, a board member with the New Thalian Players in Manchester, was elected as 2nd Vice President. Beth is an experienced performer in addition to working backstage in various capacities on many productions.

David Murdo was re-elected for a third term as Treasurer. He is the current president of the Friends of the Concord City Auditorium in addition to being an active member of the Community Players of Concord.

Robin LaCroix was elected Secretary. An experienced performer and director, Robin is the theatre

manager and events director at the new Amato Family Performing Arts Center at the Boys and Girls Club of Souhegan Valley in Milford.

Looking forward, the NHCTA will hold its 35th Annual Theatre Festival from Sept 29 to Oct. 1, 2006, at the Amato Center in Milford, well known as the former home of the American Stage Festival. After a recently completed multi-million dollar renovation, the Amato Center is a state of the art theatre facility and will provide an excellent venue for the community theatre groups from around the state who will compete in the adjudicated event.

BAE Systems has stepped forward as the lead sponsor for this year's competition. The best production from the festival will continue onto the New England Regional competition, then possibly onto the National Festival in June 2007.

If you or your organization would like more information about NHCTA or the festival (including entry information), please contact Chuck at [willwonder2001@yahoo.com](mailto:willwonder2001@yahoo.com).

---

## Stratton Players Offers Short Play Festival

For the past two summers, Fitchburg's Stratton Players have produced a short-play festival that has included a variety of works by playwrights not usually seen on the small, Fitchburg theater stage. This past summer, **Brief Summer Encounters** included work by Samuel Beckett, Joyce Carol Oates, and Terence McNally. Three original plays were also presented including *Your Kiss Is On My List* by Christopher Lockheart, *Prelude no 15 in D Major for Black and White Gloves*, and *Atticus Redux: A Metamorphosis by Festival* co-producer Sally Cragin.

More than 40 theater members and area performers were involved in this project which ran for one week-end. Selections were also presented at Fitchburg's new Riverfront Park, a public space near the Nashua River, which runs alongside the city. "By presenting short (2- to 12-minute plays) we had a very manageable rehears-

al schedule," says co-producer Victor Dupuis. "With 12 short plays, we ended up having a variety of roles to cast, which was great for the membership. It was also a thrill to introduce our audiences to new playwrights."

Fitchburg's Riverfront Park has also proved a boon to the area arts and culture scene. Various other musical and film performances are staged there throughout the summer. Three of the short plays were presented free. "Fitchburg is a city in transition," says co-producer Sally Cragin. "Stratton Players has been in town for 81 years, but the make-up of the city has changed, so that we are not drawing from the immediate neighborhood as much as, say 40 or 60 years ago. Having Riverfront Park as an alternate venue is a great way to reach audiences who might not visit the theater, but who are avid for the arts." For more information about Stratton Players, visit [strattonplayers.com](http://strattonplayers.com).

## Little Theatre of Manchester 2006 Season

by Jackie Alvarez-McKiernan

Main Stage events for Little Theatre of Manchester (NH) for the 2006 season will include *Misery* by Stephen King, *Social Security* by Andrew Bergman, and *Into the Woods* (Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine).

*Misery*, a bone-chilling bestseller by Stephen King, is a mainstream masterpiece of escalating suspense, translating King's own experience with obsessive fans into a frightening tale of entrapment and psychotic behavior. Running dates are February 24, 25, 26, March 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12. Tickets cost \$18 (Students and Seniors \$16); VIP \$23 (Students and Seniors \$18).

Andrew Bergman's *Social Security* is a laugh-out-loud comedy about how the domestic tranquility of a married couple—who are New York art dealers—is shattered upon the arrival of the wife's goody-goody nerd of a sister, her uptight CPA husband and her archetypal Jewish mother. The comic sparks really begin to fly when the mother hits it off with the elderly minimalist artist who is one of the couple's best clients. Performances are scheduled for May 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21. Tickets are available for \$18 (Students and Seniors \$16); VIP \$23 (Students and Seniors \$18).

Stephen Sondheim's words and music bring to life James Lapine's book *Into the Woods*. Familiar fairy tales blend with an original story of a childless Baker and his Wife, who catalyze the action of the story by attempting to reverse a curse on their family in order to have a child. Performances are November 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19. Tickets range from \$23 General (Students and Seniors \$19) VIP\$28 (Students and Seniors \$23).

In addition the AFTER DARK SERIES features *The Rocky Horror Show*, by Richard O'Brien. Brad and Janet are a simple engaged couple whose lives get turned upside down by Frank 'n' Furter and his household of strange Transylvanians on a stormy night. Performances are scheduled for August 11, 12, 12 (Midnight), 17, 18, 19, 19 (Midnight). Tickets are offered at \$23 (Students and Seniors \$19) VIP\$28 (Students and Seniors \$23).

Moises Kaufman's *The Laramie Project* will open the fall season on September 22, with additional performances 23, 24, 29, 30, and October 1. The play is based on the true-story of a 21 year-old American student who was beaten to death because he was gay. The breathtaking theatrical collage explores the depths to which humanity can sink, and the heights of compassion we are also capable of. Tickets will run \$18 (Students and Seniors \$16); VIP \$23 (Students and Seniors \$18).

Audiences are invited to free, exciting evenings of theatre, held in the informal atmosphere of the Silk Room for the series, EVENINGS @ SEVEN. You can enjoy coffee, tea and light refreshments as you watch the staged reading. On Tuesday, April 4th, 7p.m. will feature Pulitzer Prize winner 'night, *Mother* by Marsha Norman, starring Debi Freund and Marge Patefield. Sara Logan directs this desperate struggle between a mother and daughter and the daughter's contemplated suicide. Check the web site for future shows.

The FAMILY SERIES on Saturday, January 14, 1 p.m. & 4 p.m., presents the American Family Theater with Dance Asia Ring in the Year of the Monkey with international star Qi Shu Fang ("Chee-Shoo-Fong") and her remarkable troupe of Asian dancers. Featuring brilliantly flowing ribbons, a dancing lion, and amazing acrobatics and martial arts, Miss Qi and the dancers perform dazzling feats of athleticism and agility that continue to thrill audiences of all ages! Tickets are \$10.

On Saturday, April 1, 1p.m. & 4p.m., the featured attraction will be Steve Johnson Variety Magic Show, magic, comedy, & juggling, for all ages! Tickets are \$10.

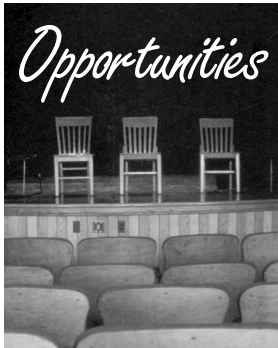
The Manchester Recreation Department and LTM. will present *Oz!*, an adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum, with Dorothy, Toto, the Tin Woodsman, Cowardly Lion, the Scarecrow, and more. *Oz!* will be performed by the Newington Children's Theatre on Sunday, April 23, 1p.m. & 4p.m. Amanda Dumas directs. Tickets are \$5 for children, \$7 for adults.

The Christmas season will be marked with *A Victorian Christmas Celebration*, featuring the nation's only American Magic Lantern Theater, a hilarious and moving magic-lantern show from the 1890s. The production is characterized by colorful slides, songs, silly stories and touching tales of Christmas. Recommended for ages 6 and above, the performances are scheduled for Saturday, December 2, 1p.m. & 4p.m., with admission price of \$10.

The schedule is rounded off with a variety of concerts throughout the year.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 860-647-9824, or visiting or our web site at [www.CheneyHall.org](http://www.CheneyHall.org), or at the Cheney Hall box office, 177 Hartford Rd., Manchester, CT 06040 M-F 10A.M.-5P.M. For more information, call 860-647-9824.





## Kids' Coop Seeks Production Team For *Seussical The Musical*

by Peter Coffin, Kids' Coop Theatre

Kids' Coop Theatre of Londonderry/Derry, NH, is now accepting inquiries from directors, music directors, choreographers, and accompanists for its Spring, 2006 production of *Seussical the Musical*. Interested candidates will also be considered for openings in the 2006–2007 season, as well as a Summer Theatre Camp program currently under consideration.

Kids' Coop, founded in 1997, produces two to three shows per year (mostly musicals) with substantial member/family involvement in the hard work needed to put on a show. A “director-friendly” organization, KCT has an active and supportive board as well as a production formula which has been well-tested and well-oiled over the course of 23 shows.

KCT is also family-friendly. Auditions are open only to a paid membership list of kids and teens ages 8 to 18, with all auditionees offered a part in the show. Competition is de-emphasized in favor of group harmony, learning, fun, and the overall quality of the production. Although the broad range of experience (from newcomer to seasoned actor) is sometimes a challenge, the program attracts some of the area's brightest young stars and production quality is consistently excellent.

*Seussical, the Musical* will be performed May 12–14 at the Adams Memorial Opera House in Derry. Rehearsals typically follow a 10–12 week schedule with rehearsal slots on Sunday afternoons and Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Until tech week, the production personnel required for each rehearsal are carefully scheduled in order to minimize commitment dates; for example, a typical schedule might have the choreographer present for one of the weekly rehearsals, the music director present for two, and the director present for two or three.

Compensation for *Seussical* will depend upon the schedule and job responsibilities worked-out for each production team member. As typical examples, compensation is anticipated to be up to \$1,000 for the director and up to \$500 for the choreographer.

Kids' Coop Theatre seeks production personnel who are professional, energetic, courteous, and able to communicate effectively with both young people and adults. Production quality is very important to KCT, but desire and talent for working with kids and families is paramount. Interested candidates should e-mail Donna Tongue at [donnawt@adelphia.net](mailto:donnawt@adelphia.net) to express interest or to make further inquiry.

## Your Theatre Starts Playwrighting Service

by Roger H. Allen

Encouraging authors to create dramatic or comedic stage works for possible production, New Bedford's Your Theatre Inc. has established a Playwrights' Original Works Service.

Headed by Your Theatre's Assistant Artistic Director Dennis J. Amaral of New Bedford, the service is open to anyone interested in developing and testing their ability to write one-, two-, or three-act plays. Works submitted for consideration get evaluated on a range of stage play factors, including character, plot, language, and dialogue development.

Not eligible are musicals, musical revues, and scripts having received professional or nonprofessional production.

The service's primary focus, Mr. Amaral says, “is nurturing new and upcoming playwrights working, at

least initially, with South Coast authors because development progresses best when the writer is an active participant in the process.”

While noting the service seeks well crafted plays capable of capturing and holding an audience's attention, Your Theatre's Artistic Director Edward J. Maguire of Fairhaven adds that the company's limited technical facilities may put “extravaganzas with hundreds of characters and multiple, intricate settings beyond the service's reach.”

Plays submitted to the Playwrights' Original Works Service may be evaluated for one or more presentations: table reading, stage reading, or full stage production.



## Harwich Junior Theatre and Harwich Winter Theatre 2005–2006 Season

Family theatre is alive and well at Harwich. The Division Street Theatre in West Harwich announces a full season of offerings, starting with *Hans Brinker or the Silver Skates*, a musical version (book by Gayle Hudson, music and lyrics by Bobbe Bramson), based on the novel by Mary Mapes Dodge. Directed by Mary Arnault, with musical direction by Bob Wilder and choreography by Suzette Hutchinson, the production will run through December 30, with a 7:30 p.m. curtain on Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. Additional matinees are scheduled for vacation week on December 27, 28 and 29 at 3 p.m. Currently running through Dec. 30 Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 PM. Matinees on Saturdays and Sundays at 2PM. Vacation matinees on Dec. 27, 28, 29 and 30 at 2 PM

The 55th season in 2006. includes *Wuthering Heights*, adapted by Charles Vance from the novel by Emily Bronte, under the direction of Julie Allen Hamilton, running February 3–26, 2006. From March 10–April 2 Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* holds the stage, directed by directed by well known British Director and Actor Dafydd Rees.

April brings a fantasy adventure drama by Steven Dietz, *Still Life with Iris*, directed by Wendy Lement, of Regis College. This is the first play for young audiences to receive the Kennedy Center's Fund for New American Plays Award. Set in Nocturno, *Still Life*



Evan Hall in the title role, and Kedian Keohan as Gretl Brinker in HJT's production of *Hans Brinker or the Silver Skates*.

*with Iris* chronicles a young girl's quest to regain her memory and with it her home.

*A Year with Frog and Toad* (the Broadway musical with music by Robert Reale, and book and lyrics by Willie Reale, based on the books by Arnold Lobel) will run April 28–May 28. Terry Norgeot directs and choreographs; Robert Wilder is musical director. For further information on future scheduling, tickets and dates contact the HJT box office at 508-432-2002 ext. 4.



## Your Theatre Starts Playwrighting Service

continued from previous page

For consideration, scripts must be typed in standard manuscript format and securely bound. They must include a brief synopsis of the play with a character breakdown and the playwright's one-page résumé. To be returned, scripts must also include self-addressed, stamped envelopes.

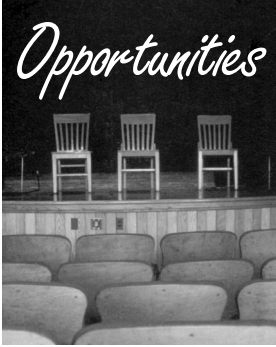
Submissions or requests for additional information should be addressed to: Playwrights' Original Works Service, Your Theatre Inc., 136 Rivet St., New Bedford MA 02744.

Additional information is available on the theatre's web site ([www.yourtheatre.org](http://www.yourtheatre.org)) or by calling the theatre at 508-993-0772.

## Plymouth State University (NH) Hosts Conference and Performance

11th Annual Integrated Arts Conference will be hosted by Plymouth State University in Silver Center Saturday, January 28th 8 a.m.-4p.m . In addition to workshops on Drama, Visual Arts, Music, Creative Writing and Movement , participants will have the opportunity to attend a performance of *Seussical, the Musical* presented by the Educational Theatre Collaborative (ETC). The conference will also offer a lunch, refreshments, and a keynote address by Megan Lambert of the Eric Carle Picture Book Museum in Amherst, MA. Staff Development and Graduate Credit are available to conference attendees.

For more information contact Dr. Trish Lindberg at [plindber@plymouth.edu](mailto:plindber@plymouth.edu).



## Stay Right There – Don't Move! Fundraising Expertise is Coming to YOU!

You don't have to take time off work, pay for airfare or gas, or stay in a hotel. In the comfort of your own office, you can join people from across the nation as you participate (actively!) in the inspirational 90 minute presentation on **Fundraising: Building Community Partnerships**. And you don't have to do it alone. Your board, your staff, other organizations—anyone interested in fundraising can join you (assuming you invite them), all for one price.

This is **TheatreU**—the first virtual seminar institute designed for community theatre. **Fundraising: Building Community Partnerships** is the first offering of TheatreU and features noted consultants Jean Block and Twink Lynch, moderated by Harv Thompson.

**Learn** how to develop your base of financial support by cultivating partnerships.

**Explore** and define the various roles of your organization's leadership in this very important function.

**Submit** written questions via the Internet site.

**Ask** live questions of the presenters using your telephone much like a talk radio program.

**Exit** the seminar with tools to map an effective strategy to realize your fundraising goals.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, January 17th, 2006 from 5:00–6:30 pm CST—adjust for your own time zone.

**WHERE:** Your office—or a community room, computer center, etc.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** A speaker phone; a computer with internet access (optional but recommended)

**COST:** \$225 (AACT member); \$250 (nonmember) per phone linkup. Registration includes unlimited attendance at your location, event materials to hand out, a toll-free (800) access number for the audio portion of the seminar and a link to a private website for the visual presentation, a pre-seminar questionnaire to communicate your most pressing needs to the faculty, strategy planning materials for post-event follow-up, and a post-event message forum on the internet.

**REGISTER or MORE INFORMATION:** Go to [www.aact.org/events](http://www.aact.org/events) or call 800/775-7654 M-F 7:00–5:00 CDT to speak to a KRM representative (our seminar facilitators). Can't attend the seminar? Visit the registration page to order a CD of the seminar.

*Reprinted from American Association of Community Theatre's Spotlight October 2005.*

## Temple University Theatre Recruiting Professional Actors for MFA in Acting

Temple University in Philadelphia, PA, is seeking seasoned professional artists who want to take their craft to the next level. Candidates will achieve an MFA in Acting with an emphasis in voice, speech or movement and with a specialization in an acting topic. The School of Communications and Theater provide the interdisciplinary resources and framework that will allow for an in-depth study of performance topics. Candidates will be trained in specific acting pedagogies and gain practical experience teaching in our Undergraduate Acting Emphasis Program. The curriculum includes performances in two Temple Theaters productions each year.

Teaching assistantships and tuition remission are available for qualified candidates. The newly designed 60-credit MFA program will provide the flexibility

for actors to customize their course of study based on their own interests as well as maintain their professional careers while pursuing their degree. It can be completed over the span of two years and two summers or over three years.

Auditions and interviews for Fall semester, 2006, will be conducted in New York City Jan. 28 and 29, 2006, at the Crowne Plaza, Times Square, as well as on campus in Philadelphia on Feb. 25 and 26.

For more information, visit the website [www.temple.edu/theater/mfaacting.htm](http://www.temple.edu/theater/mfaacting.htm), or contact Professor Donna Snow, Head of Acting Program, School of Communications and Theater, Temple University, 1301 W. Norris St., Philadelphia, PA 19122-6075.

## 2005 Convention Memories

continued from page 1

assistants, Celia Couture and Maryann Swift, I again was coaxed... OK, truth is I truly loved the honor and the spotlight... into hosting this year's ceremony which was in itself an event to remember. From the sentimental moments such as Ramona Zappala accepting this year's Marie Phillips Award for Service to NETC to the engaging and entertaining acceptance speech from our Major Award Winner, the delightful Miss Betsy Palmer; it was success with a capital "S."

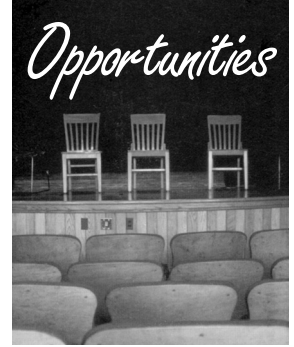
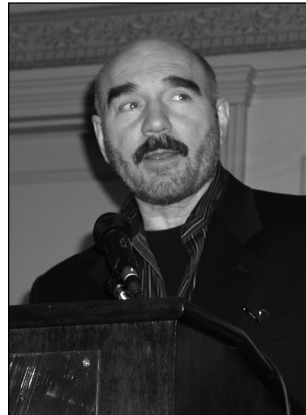
I personally want to thank Linda Sutherland (the moving force behind my hosting the event), who received the RING DING award (you had to be there). Thanks also to everyone who helped out at the convention this year, from Joe Juliano and his staff at the registration desk to our two techies, Eric and Mike, who were there from the get-go, to Jeff and his Theatre Olympiad staff and judges, and everyone else at NETC, who helped us culminate 2005 with this highly-anticipated event. Most importantly though, special kudos to Maryann Swift and Celia Couture, who put so many hours into this year's convention planning and organization. Frozen margaritas all around!

And last but not least, here's hoping that our past-president Tom Mikotowicz finally got his voice back!! Because I had so much fun this year, I will be back co-planning the 2006 convention in New Haven, CT, at the magnificent Yale Omni Hotel... check it out on-line! With any luck, I'll again be appearing up on the podium at the awards banquet as the Billy Crystal of the NETC Awards Banquet as well. See you in New Haven in November 2006. And tell all your friends to join us!



Two of our distinguished honorees, actress Betsy Palmer (Major Award recipient) and Ramona Zappala (Marie Philips Service to NETC Award winner) greet each other in the lobby of the Sheraton Colonial Center before the awards' ceremony. Ramona is accompanied by her son, Hank, NETC's former manager.

Jon Kimball, artistic Director and Executive Producer of North Shore Music Theatre, enralls a multigenerational audience in his Keynote Address, a saga of phoenix-like rebirth from the ashes of last summer's fire at the North Shore institution.





**Visit NETC on the web at**  
**[www.NETCOnline.org](http://www.NETCOnline.org) to...**

- apply online for the Annual NETC Auditions
- read about upcoming awards and competitions
- read the most recent NETC News online!

# Who's Who at NETC

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jim Quinn, President and Clerk of the Corporation,  
*Bridgewater State College*  
Jeffrey Watts, Executive Vice President, *Lawrence High School*  
Charles Emmons, Vice President for Administration and Finance, *New Hampshire Community Theatre Association*  
David Frieze, Vice President for Communication and Development, *freelance writer, director, critic*  
Ann Marie Shea, Executive Secretary,  
*Worcester State College, Emerita*  
Joseph Juliano Jr., Manager of Operations,  
*Hamden Public Schools, retired*  
Tom Mikotowicz, Immediate Past President,  
*University of Maine, Orono*

## DIVISION DIRECTORS

### College/University Theatre Division

Pamela McDaniel, *Western Connecticut State University*  
David Fox, *Wheaton College*  
Luke Sutherland, *Community College of Rhode Island*

### Secondary School Theatre Division

Maureen Doucette, *Hopkinton Middle High School, NH*  
Linda Potter, *Acton-Boxborough Regional Jr. & Sr. High Schools*  
Debra Susi, *Warsaw Middle School*

## Youth Theatre Division

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

## Professional Theatre Division Directors

Burgess Clark  
Alexis Dascoulias  
Kevin Russell, *Arts Boston, Boston Theatre Works*

## Community Theatre Division Directors

Tim Fitzgerald, *Newton Country Players*  
Jennifer Howard, Chair, *Burlington Players, MA*  
Donna O'Bryant, *Actorsingers of Nashua, NH*

## Director-At-Large

Joe Doniger, *Hull High School*

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Annual Theatre Auditions

Joseph Juliano, Jr., *Hamden Public Schools, retired*

### 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

Luke Sutherland, *Community College of Rhode Island*

## Constitution and By-Laws

Sigurd Jensen, *Southern CT State University, retired*

## NETC Newsletter

Ann Marie Shea, *Worcester State College, Emerita*

## AACT Liaison

Patricia White

## KCACTF Region 1 Liaison

Wil Kilroy, *University of Southern Maine*

Return service requested

NETC  
215 Knob Hill Drive,  
Hamden, CT 06518-2431

new england  
NETC  
theatre conference