

Carolina CALL BOARD

2009 Post-Convention Issue

Newsletter of the South Carolina Theatre Association

DECEMBER 2009

President's Message

Serving the Needs ...

What's in the Future for SCTA?



Anne Lavelly
SCTA President

While wonderful moments were had at this year's convention at Coastal Carolina University, many of you were missed. As the 2009 program chair, I wanted so many more to participate. I know with the economy and budget constraints many were not able to attend. As the new president, I question if the convention is serving the needs of our organization. Throughout the years, the state convention has been the flagship of our organization.

Dues are paid, shows are produced, and workshops are developed with the convention in mind. But is the convention serving the needs of our membership? Our organization was founded on promoting all aspects of theatre throughout the state. Is that being accomplished with the structure we have in place? I know that the Secondary School Division had record attendance at its festival, with both high schools and colleges creating a fabulous network between the divisions. What else does SCTA offer for other members - both individuals and organizations? How can we reach out to the entire theatre community and have individuals and organizations become stakeholders in our association? As individuals, several of us are committed to different divisions within the organization. How do we

"Our board recognizes that changes need to be made to reach the needs of our membership ..."

make those connections throughout the entire organization? As the new board convenes for a planning retreat in January, we have several items to discuss and move forward. Already there is a committee developing a plan to incorporate playwrights in our organization. Another committee is looking to extend our website services

to include a listserv. We need to hear from you and what YOU need or wish to gain

by being a member of SCTA. Our board recognizes that changes need to be made to reach the needs of our membership - but your input is needed to spur that desire into action. Either through your division chairperson, or by contacting me directly, let the board know what you want from your SCTA!

Before I sign off, I would like to thank several people who helped with this year's convention. Our sincere thanks go to Ken Martin and Kay Hungerford at Coastal Carolina University as well as the faculty, staff, and students who were instrumental in the running of this convention. Thanks to the wonderful workshop presenters for their time and com-

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Features ...

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SCTA

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mitment, as well as the division chairs and festival managers who helped with festivals and showcase performances! There was always something going on to connect people! A special thanks to David Lee Nelson for his insight and entertainment, and to Terry Roueche for his inspiration to promote new work in South Carolina. I would like to give a word of thanks to Thurmond Whaley for his work with the Community Theatre Festival, and to Dewey Scott-Wiley for her help with the KCACTF showcase. To Carol Sutton for being a real trouper with the Secondary School showcase, and to Jean Dancy Jones for her leadership in the Professional division's first improv showcase - we couldn't have done it without you ladies! To Annette Grevious and Ursula Robinson for continuing the playwriting festival - thanks is not enough for what you offered to the convention. I would like to give my personal thanks to Tim Brown for his guidance and assurance as President and carpool buddy, and a special word of appreciation to Kathy Fudge for keeping all of us straight with the delicate details in planning such a monumental event.

As we move toward 2010, I look forward to serving as your President!

Anne

Anne Lavelly
SCTA President 2010

Prize awaits unpublished author

One talented S.C. writer will win the **2010 First Novel Contest** and join the ranks of the published. The First Novel contest is open to S.C. writers who have not previously published a novel. Bret Lott will serve as the contest judge. The winner's novel will be published by Hub City Writers Project, with 1,500 hardback copies being produced, including a copy for every public library branch in the state. Joining the S.C. Arts Commission and Hub City as partners are the S.C. State Library and Humanities Council^{SC}. Visit the Web site at www.southcarolinaarts.com/firstnovel/index.shtml for guidelines. **Deadline is Jan. 5, 2010.**



SOUTHEASTERN
THEATRE CONFERENCE

The SETC screening auditions for South Carolina were held on Saturday, November 14th, from noon to 6:00 pm. We had 93 actors and singers auditioning, and 37 were screened by our three adjudicators to attend SETC auditions in Kentucky. Out of those 37, seven were chosen for acting only and 30 were chosen for both acting and singing.

This year Paige Posey (Flat Rock Playhouse), Eric Nielsen (Valdosta State University) and Hunter Boyle (Equity Actor) adjudicated the auditions. Thank you adjudicators!!

Congratulations to all of our talented performers and best wishes for their success at the SETC auditions in Lexington, Kentucky.

Dale Savidge
SETC Auditions Coordinator

SCTA EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

Meet Your New Board Members



MARYBETH HOLLOWAY

Professor Marybeth Holloway, of USC Lancaster, was born in New Jersey and raised in Rhode Island. She minored in theatre at Longwood College in Farmville where she performed in various mainstage productions. A high school drama teacher for two years in Orlando where she produced and directed over 10 productions, she left to pursue her graduate degree at Actors Studio in New York City where she worked Off-Broadway on Sam Shepard's newest play, *God of Hell* and Off-off Broadway on Stuart Vaughan's *As You Like It*. She recently completed her MFA in Theatre at Rhode Island College. She has performed with various regional, summer stock, and community groups and has some film/tv credits. Recently, she finished working on a short film adaptation based on Samuel Beckett's "Come and Go" which can be viewed on *Youtube* and was a finalist in the avante garde category at the 2008 Cape Fear Film Festival. She recently performed her MFA Final Project, Jean Cocteau's *The Human Voice* and the auto-performance, *A Mother's Journey*, as a showcase in January at the Producer's Club in New York City.

As of summer 2009, Professor Holloway was filming and creating a documentary on Beatrice Herford, a female solo performer who began her career in London in the late 1800s and then performed her character monologues from parlor parties to Broadway in the 1920s and 1930s. Professor Holloway is also working on completing two films: a short film entitled "Juxtaposition" in-

tended for festival entry and the feature, "Gooseberry Island" which should be released in spring 2010. The series, "Ghost Girls", which Professor Holloway created, produced, and starred in, will be ready for online viewing this fall, with a new episode shot in fall 2009.

URSULA ROBINSON

Ursula Oriana Robinson is a lover of the arts and believes that drama has the ability to heal. She has founded an entertainment group, Oriana Rhema Productions, and writes and directs productions for various venues. She is the head of the Creative Spiritual Arts Department at Spiritual Foundation Ministries in Orangeburg, SC and she is a tenured professor of theatre at South Carolina State University. Ms. Robinson also teaches Humanities/Writing for Claflin University's Upward Bound program. It is her love for the healing power of the arts and her love for God that has inspired her work. She has written *Skinny: One Woman's Journey to FATTT!*, *The Life and Times of an African Queen...*, and *Church Fight*. She has appeared in *Guys and Dolls*, *Black Nativity*, and several other theatrical venues. Ms. Robinson enjoys reading, dancing, and talking! "My art is an expression of my He-art!"



Welcome!

SCTA 2009 AWARDS GO TO:



- ❖ **GEORGE YOUNTS** - Charleston County School of the Arts - **OUTSTANDING THEATRE EDUCATOR AWARD**
- ❖ **DONNA MCKENNA-CROOK** - Creighton Middle School - **DEBORAH SMITH HOFFMAN OUTSTANDING MENTOR OF THEATRE EDUCATORS AWARD**

CONGRATULATIONS!!



Secondary Stages

By Carol Sutton

Secondary Teachers! I hope this finds you well and busy planning for second semester's productions. We missed you at the SCTA Convention this year. Our division was severely under-represented. James F. Byrnes presented the first place show, *Medea Redux*, and our students attended plays and workshops. We had a great time and wish you could have been there.

In fact, I really need to hear from you all about what you would like to see offered at the Convention. What would entice you to bring your students? What do you want our state convention to offer? In order to best represent your wishes, ideas, and needs, I need to hear from you! Our board meeting in January will address the future of the convention. Do you feel it best to simply not include the Secondary Division in the Convention? Would you like to see the Festivals and Conventions happen at the same time? What would you personally like to see at the convention next year? Please, drop me a line at suttoncj@spart5.k12.sc.us and let me know what you think!

Below is the list of students winning awards at the **2009 Secondary School Festival** held at USC Upstate in October. Congratulations to:

ALL STAR CAST MEMBERS

Academy for the Arts, Science & Technology

Lindley Key
Valerie McDougal
Taylor Hix

Charleston County School of the Arts

Addison Dent
Katherine Long

Dorman High School

Maggie Calton
Daniel Padgett
Rebecca Arrowsmith

Marion High School

Christie Davis
Jerry German

N. Myrtle Beach High School

Miranda Richardson
Courtney Seditz
Rebecca McVeigh
Ashlyn Fowler

Northwestern High School

Keanu Thompson,
Gaston Simpson

Oakbrook High School

Nicole Halla

Rock Hill High School

Zach Gladstone
Keeland Williams
Zac Latham

Richland Northeast High School

Caryn Wells
Harmon Whaley
Akhira Ansari
Tevin Williams

Socastee High School

Dylan Hoyt
Jonquil Bryant

St. James High School

Stephen Craig
Klarissa Durham
Billy Panos

St. Joseph's Catholic School

Theresa Koupka
Seth Kiser
Blythe Snead
Shelly Mamo

Stratford High School

Christian Knight
Ashley Wyndham

Sumter High School

J.T. Rider
McKenna Dubose

Travelers Rest High School

Gabby Norris
Caleb Dill

Union High School

Alyssa Edwards
Bethany Byrd

Wade Hampton High School

Jordan Lockaby
Jonathan Cantrell

Wando High School

John Bamond
Madison Beane
Sebastian Sanchez

White Knoll High School

Erica Ditton
Nate Gladden
Alycia Guevara

Woodmont High School

John King

BEST ENSEMBLE CAST

Oregon - Sumter High School

BEST TECHNICAL DESIGN

Teen Angel - Marion High School

BEST DIRECTING

Tim Brown
Asleep on the Wind
Travelers Rest High School

BEST ACTOR

ChiChi Hubbard
Oregon
Sumter High School

BEST ACTRESS

Katrina Leonhardt
Bash: Latterday Plays
James F. Byrnes High School

2ND PLACE PRODUCTION

Wiley and the Hairy Man
Woodmont High School

1ST PLACE PRODUCTION

Bash: Latterday Plays
James F. Byrnes High School



SCTA wishes to take this opportunity to recognize the hard work, time and creative spirit that went into all of the productions presented at the Secondary School Theatre Festival. The Festival, chaired by Carol Sutton and hosted by Rich Robinson and the University of South Carolina Upstate on October 17 & 18, was a great success. Thanks to the theatre educators and students from the following schools that participated:

James F. Byrnes High School (First Place, Best Actress)
 Woodmont High School (Second Place)
 Travelers Rest (Best Director)
 Marion High School (Best Tech)
 Sumter (Best Ensemble, Best Actor)

Gilbert High School
 North Myrtle Beach High School
 Wando High School
 Stratford High School
 Charleston County School of the Arts
 St. James High School

Northwestern High School
 Union High School
 Oakbrook Preparatory High School
 Academy of Arts and Sciences
 Richland N.E. High School
 St. Joseph High School

Stratford High School
 Wade Hampton High School
 Rock Hill High School
 White Knoll High School
 Socastee High School

Professional Division

By Jean Dancy Jones



Thanks to an enthusiastic audience for laughs and guffaws during our Convention's Saturday night entertainment. Former South Carolinian and current New Yorker David Lee Nelson led our evening off in fine fashion with a clever and funny stand-up routine noting the travails and joys of his life and chosen line of work. Many thanks to David for his generous spirit in sharing insights and stories of his life's journey.

The premiere of the Professional Division's Improv All-Stars followed David's routine with hilarity, fun and games. Topics included pointers on "pointing" and one of the strangest games of Chain Murder Endowments ever seen. We even tried our hand at joke-telling in "101 blanks." Many thanks to Jennifer Goff from Distracted Globe Theatre, Braden Bunch of Quantum Theatre of SC, Chris White, and Anne Lavelly for their enthusiasm and humor.

I have had some great conversations with playwrights in or from South Carolina. There is great opportunity for SCTA to nurture this area of theatre. I can share

that there is strong consensus within the entire SCTA Board to broaden our support and nurturing of local playwrights. As we speak, there is an ad hoc group within the Board working together on some broad initiatives. We will present and vote on these at our Board meeting in January. I am very excited about this area of growth. Stay tuned for further news in the new year.

As your Division Chair for the coming year, I want to build on this past year's momentum in reaching out to professional theatres in SC. Toward that end, I want to have a round-table discussion sometime in June or July to identify more ways in which SCTA can advocate for and support professional theatre in South Carolina. Please be in touch with some available dates. We are what you make us, so let's make something great.

CONGRATULATIONS

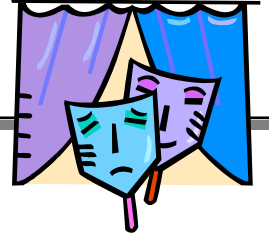
to Leslie and Eric Dellinger on the birth of their son, Luke!

Leslie, past president of SCTA and current SETC State Representative, gave birth to Luke on Monday, September 28, 2009. The "big boy" weighed 8lbs., 9oz and was 20½" long!

WELCOME TO THE OUR WORLD, LUKE!



Theatre for Youth Division



Join us at the 2010 Youth Theatre Festival

Proudly sponsored by:
The South Carolina Speech & Theatre Association
The South Carolina Theatre Association

Hosted by:
Shannon Horn
Head of Performing Arts/Theatre Teacher
Pinewood Preparatory School
Summerville, South Carolina

Date: March 20, 2010

School Registration Fee (non-refundable) : \$75.00

On Site Individual Performer Fee:
\$5.00 per student

Categories of Competition: Solo Acting, Duet Acting, Oral Interpretation for Poetry, Makeup Design, Costume Design, Ensemble Theatre, Group Theatre, Readers Theatre, Original Persuasive Speaking, Impromptu Speaking, Storytelling, Original Monologue (dramatic and comedic).

This festival is open to any 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th grade student in South Carolina. Both public and private schools are welcome.

Submitted by Shannon Horn
Pinewood Preparatory School

**The school registration deadline is
February 26, 2010.**

**For information, please email
Shannon Horn at shorn@pinewoodprep.com.**

2009 SECONDARY SCHOOL AUDITIONS & AWARDS

Congratulations to **Erin Petrusis of Dreher High School** and **Abbie Geddings of Sumter High School** for winning the SCTA Secondary Award for Individual Excellence in Theatre. A total of 29 high school juniors and seniors auditioned before several colleges and universities for this award. Upon suitable proof of entering a post-secondary school/program, Erin and Abbie will receive \$250 each from SCTA for their educational pursuits. All the students participating in the auditions as well as other students involved with the SCTA Secondary School Festival benefited from the wonderful college fair that was held after the auditions on the beautiful USC Upstate campus in Spartanburg, SC.



Thanks to all the college and university representatives for participation in the auditions and college fair. A special thanks to Jimmy Chrismon of South Pointe High School and Dewey Scott-Wiley of USC Aiken for their insightful responses to those auditioning. A big thank you to Keith Best of Francis Marion University, Andrew Vorder Bruegge of Winthrop University, and Joe Timmons of Andrew Jackson High School for adjudicating this year's auditions.

Submitted by Stephanie Daniels
2009 Secondary School Auditions Chair



61st Annual Convention

SETC • Lexington, KY • March 3-7, 2010

The 61st Annual SETC Convention will be held March 3-7, 2010 in Lexington, KY. Over 4,000 theatre artists and enthusiasts will gather for the southeast's largest theatre conference. For more information and to obtain a registration form, please go to www.setc.org/conventions/index.php.

A SPECIAL THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE 24-HOUR PLAY PROJECT COORDINATORS AND PARTICIPANTS

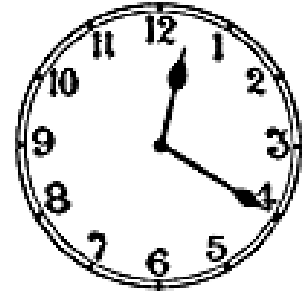
The 2009 24-Hour Play Project concluded on Sunday, November 15th with staged productions of the following ten-minute plays:

Sam's Green Eyes by Braeden Brady
Directed by Malik from Newberry

I Love You by Jakob Carter
Directed by Chris White

The Second Thing by Chris White
Directed by Jakob Carter

Sister's Opinion by Kevin Ferguson (not performed)



All of the plays were written, cast, rehearsed and performed within a 24-hour period, November 14-15, 2009. Again, thanks to all who participated.

***Special thanks to Terry Roueche, guest playwright and consultant to the playwrights, Cedric Rembert and Ursula Robinson, 24-Hour Play Project coordinators in my absence.*



arts in the basic curriculum ABC PROJECT

The Arts in Basic Curriculum Project Advisory Committee met on 16 October 2009 at the South Carolina Educators Association office in Columbia, SC. The conversation focused on arts education in the twenty-first century, tying arts to economic development in a global economy. Researchers are documenting that ARTS CREATE

ACHIEVEMENT both in school and in life. Consider the following:

- ❖ K-12 arts education improves knowledge retention. Those who had arts education in their K-12 experience attained higher levels of employment than those who did not.
- ❖ Arts education (at any and all levels) helps individuals develop strategic planning and self-management skills.
- ❖ Creativity is needed in the areas nanotechnology, renewable energy, agribusiness, finance, alternative fuels, and information management. These are all global economic areas that need people with problem-solving skills, people skills, and innovative approaches, and all these work skills arise out of creative thinking and imagination.

Specific reports yielded the following information. Arts Advocacy Day at the Capitol Building is tentatively set for 8 February 2010 (the legislative calendar keeps changing, so that is why the date is tentative). The SC Education Oversight Committee in the legislature projects that funding for education in the next fiscal year will be about \$600 million short. To give you an idea about the serious nature of this fiscal problem, consider this. If the legislature were to enact a one cent sales tax tomorrow, that would not balance the shortfall.

At the end of the meeting, members broke up into small groups and developed specific questions to ask political candidates in the 2010 election about their position on arts education. This election will include local school board positions, county commissioner positions, state assembly representation, congressional representation, and the offices of governor and lieutenant governor.

The next ABC Advisory Committee meeting will occur on 23 January.

Submitted by Andrew Vorder Bruegge
Winthrop University



**THE
SOUTH CAROLINA
THEATRE
ASSOCIATION**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Carolina Call Board is the official newsletter of the South Carolina Theatre Association and is published four times per year in the months of March, July, October and December. Submission of articles and information from SCTA members is encouraged. Deadline for submission is March 1, July 1, September 1 and December 1. Please forward information to the SCTA office by mail or by e-mail at the address below:

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*100 Old Cherokee Rd., Ste. F
Lexington, SC 29072*

SCTA@CollabEfforts.com

MEMBERSHIP

Organizational dues are \$50 and Individual dues are \$20. For high school and college students, dues are \$10. Renewal notices for the 2009-10 year have been mailed.

Rock Hill Community Theatre 2009 Community Theatre Festival Winner performs: *Parallel Lives*

