

Carolina CALL BOARD

Summer Issue

Newsletter of the South Carolina Theatre Association

July 2010



**SCTA CONVENTION
2010**

November 12 - 14

**Converse College
Spartanburg, South Carolina**

This project is funded in part by the South Carolina Arts Commission which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

President's Message ...

Summertime is such a wonderful time to kick back and rejuvenate the batteries. At the beginning of June, I had the chance to "chaperone" a whirlwind trip to New York with our Past President, Tim Brown. "Chaperone" meant that I got the benefit of a fabulous trip without having to plan anything. It was an absolute blast! We saw shows, we met people, and we took in the sights. I once again got to play the awestruck theatre geek. The first time I ever went to New York City, seventeen years ago, I was going to play it "cool and under control." I wasn't going to act like one of those silly tourists that giggled and gawked at everything and everyone. That is until Chita Rivera stepped out of the stage door of *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. At that moment, I turned to my mother and said, "What the hell, we are tourists!"

From then on, I have always enjoyed letting myself get swept away in the moment. Isn't that what theatre is about ... being moved by the moment? I don't care if it happens in a small intimate black box at a local theatre or by being backstage of Broadway's *Phantom of the Opera* and getting a personal tour from a Travelers Rest High School alumnus (thanks Kimilee Bryant). Life is too precious not to take the opportunity to get "swept away." Granted, I was drooling over the scenery, the fly system, the costumes, and the not grandiose idea of



Anne Lavelly

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Features ...

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SCTA

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“walking the boards.” But it is the little moments that make a lifetime of wonder. As we were leaving the backstage of *Phantom*, I requested a picture of Wally, the grumpy doorman that couldn't go home until the silly tourists left the building. I wanted a picture of someone who added to the glorious moment of theatre for me, even if he was just collecting the locker keys as all the others left the building. Anyone who adds to the experience of theatre is important. There are no small roles, just small actors. That's true of the technicians as well. Wally was beaming in the picture, and it is one of my favorite shots from my trip.

As we approach August and you get those dues notices, please remember that joining SCTA and being involved has its impact on you, your organization, and our association. Please make plans to join us in November at Converse College. Allow yourself to get “swept away” and maybe you can have a moment or create a moment and have a “beaming Wally” in one of your pictures!

Keep the Faith -

Anne

SCTA Awards

Call for Nominations



Each year, SCTA recognizes the contributions of theatre professionals in South Carolina through the **Lifetime Service Award**, **Outstanding Theatre Educator Award** and the **Deborah Smith Hoffman Outstanding Mentor Teacher Award** selected from nominations by our members and others.

The **Lifetime Service Award** is given to a person who has made significant contributions to theatre in South Carolina during the course of his/her career. “Long-standing service to the field and an active role in SCTA over time will be considered important criteria in the selection process” (SCTA Standing Rule #21).

The **Outstanding Theatre Educator Award** is given to the K-12 and/or college/university theatre educator(s) in South Carolina who have done exemplary work for students of theatre in their respective teaching level during the academic year most recently concluded.

The **Deborah Smith Hoffman Outstanding Mentor Teacher Award**

shall be awarded to that K-12 theatre educator judged to have contributed the most to rising, new, and even experienced theatre educators in South Carolina during the year most recently concluded.

For the purposes of the awards a “year” shall be considered to be from July 1 through June 30.

These awards will be presented at the all-convention meeting during the 2010 SCTA Convention, November 12 - 14th Converse College in Spartanburg, SC.

Nomination forms may be found on the SCTA website awards link at www.southcarolinatheatre.com.

In order to be considered, nominations **must be received prior to September 1, 2010!**

Nominations may be sent to: SCTA Awards Committee, PMB 350, 100 Old Cherokee Rd., Lexington, SC 29072; or e-mailed to scta@collabefforts.com; or faxed to 803-359-1921.

Nomination Forms may be found at www.southcarolinatheatre.com

Conventional Notes

By Rich Robinson

SCTA 2010 CONVENTION

Mastering the Art of Theatre

November 12 - 14, 2010
Converse University
Spartanburg, South Carolina

Theatre is an exciting event in South Carolina!

When I arrived in South Carolina eight years ago, I never knew there was going to be so much great theatre in this state. Growing up and going to college in California trained me for my eventual position at USC Upstate and my involvement on the South Carolina Theatre Association (SCTA) board just three years ago.

It is my pleasure and thrill to plan this year's convention at Converse College with the support and help from John Bald and Brent Glenn. Converse has great facilities and is a wonderful location for this year's convention.

This year's theme is *Mastering the Art of Theatre* and we are privileged to have Jill Lawrence, from New York City and a cast member on NBC's *Law and Or-*

der, working with college and high school students in audition techniques. I saw Jill work with college students last year and she was personal and inspiring. You won't want to miss Jill's classes and, as Saturday evening's keynote speaker, her discussion on her experiences in the professional world.

Along with Jill, college professors from all over the state will be leading classes in movement, design, playwriting, and theatre history. Faculty from the following colleges will be participating: Converse College, USC Upstate, Winthrop University, Limestone College, Anderson University, North Greenville College, Bob Jones University, Furman University, Lander University and Coastal Carolina University.

SETC prescreening auditions will be held October 30th at Trustus Theatre in Columbia. By virtue of participating in the auditions, the participants may attend the convention in Spartanburg at no additional cost.

The Secondary School Festival is part of the state convention this year and you will witness some of the best theatre in the state as the high schools compete for one of the top two spots at the Southeastern Theatre Conference con-

vention in Atlanta, Georgia March 3 - 5, 2011.

During my involvement on the SCTA Board I have met and worked with some of the finest theatre professionals and have witnessed some of the best college, high school, and community theatre productions in recent years. Why not get involved and take the time to attend this year's convention? Come and meet some of the people involved in theatre in the state and see what SCTA is all about.

Please join us in Spartanburg at the 2010 Convention at Converse College November 12-14. You won't want to miss Jill Lawrence; college, high school, community and professional theatre productions; and a chance to network with the best theatre folk in the Southeast. Plan to be a part of ***Mastering the Art of Theatre*** in South Carolina.

If you have any questions, please contact me at rrobinson@uscupstate.edu or call 864-503-5621.



SECONDARY SCHOOL AUDITIONS

The Secondary School College Auditions will occur on **Sunday November 14th at the convention.** They will be held at 8:00 am in the Studio Theatre on the Converse College Campus.

More information and details will be forthcoming in the Secondary School Festival Packet. Please make sure to read the packet carefully for the application process. Audition material must be prepared and received by October 1st for participation in the auditions in November at Converse College in Spartanburg, SC.



VETO VICTORY!

**THANK YOU FOR SAVING
THE ARTS AND ARTS EDUCATION
IN SOUTH CAROLINA!**

On June 29th, Senators voted 34 to 9 to override Veto #105 -- Governor Sanford's veto that would have stripped \$250,000 in ARRA/stimulus monies from the South Carolina Arts Commission's grants program. Thanks to advocates like YOU, who contacted their legislators in overwhelming

numbers, we were able to accomplish what many said couldn't be done! Earlier votes on Veto #32 restored over half of the Arts Commission's state funding by substantial majorities in both the House and Senate. The same was true of the House's override of Veto # 105.

Please take the time to contact your House and Senate members with your thanks – with a handwritten note, card, phone call, to their home or email. The information can be found on the Arts Alliance's web site, www.southcarolinaarts.com/economic/statefy11.shtml. Continue to educate those who voted against the override with you own compelling stories – the reasons you support the arts in our classrooms and in our communities!


**Community Theatre
Division**
By Susan L.D. Smith

The **COMMUNITY THEATRE FESTIVAL** is done in conjunction with the American Association of Community Theatre. Please consider entering this year's festival at Converse College during the SCTA Convention. If your community theatre is interested in entering, or you have further questions, please contact Susan Smith at ldsmith@comporium.net, or 803-366-8425.





Lou Kaplan, actor and patron of the arts, passed away on July 6, 2010 at the age of 95. Mr. Kaplan was the senior member of the Trustus Theatre company in Columbia and, as such, had done everything there was to do in theatre. His stage work included *Death of a Salesman*, *Long Day's Journey into Night*, *I'm Not Rappaport*, *Angels in America*, *Mer-*

chant of Venice and *Glengarry Glen Ross*, among others. His daughter, Kay Thigpen (co-owner and managing director of Trustus Theatre) told the Columbia State Newspaper, "My dad's been involved with every single theatre in town since 1958," noting her dad helped create Workshop Theatre in Columbia. SCTA Past President, Dewey Scott-Wiley, who directed Mr. Kaplan in *Gin Game* in 2000, said "He was the patriarch of Columbia theatre."


2010

The costumes pictured here were donated by Francis Marion University to the SETC silent auction and luncheon last March. A special thanks goes to FMU and Abby Kiker for all her hard work to make this possible!

Secondary Stages

By Carol Sutton



SECONDARY SCHOOL FESTIVAL WILL REJOIN THE SCTA CONVENTION

I am thrilled that we will be able to gather together once again this fall for the SCTA Secondary School Festival in November. Your board has been working to bring you a wonderful weekend of high school theatre, community theatre, college theatre, and a myriad of master classes — all of which will be held at Converse College on November 12 - 14, 2010.

If you are a theatre arts teacher who hasn't participated in a while, we especially want to hear from you. Even if you chose not to participate in the secondary festival, there will be many great classes and performances for your students to attend.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. You may email me at Carol.Sutton@spart5.net. See you in November ... have a wonderful summer!

Professional Division

By Jean Dancy Jones



The **PROFESSIONAL THEATER DIVISION** is awaiting final confirmation of a VERY exciting event for professional actors to take place at the 2010 SCTA Convention at Converse College in Spartanburg. "Stay tuned," look for electronic updates in your inbox and check our website often (www.southcarolinatheatre.com).

College and University Division

By Steve Earnest



Summer 2010 brings only a brief report from the College and University division of SCTA. As conference 2010 approaches it is important to reiterate the fact that College/University screening auditions for SETC will be held at a centralized location this year – Columbia, SC at the Trustus Theatre on October 30, 2010. The audition format will be the same – a 60 second acting only audition or a 90 second acting/singing audition. As always, the audition paperwork and payment must be made in advance and can be accessed on the SETC website (<http://www.setc.org/auditions/SC/>).

Hopefully, the college/university presence will not be diminished at SCTA 2010 with the absence of the screening auditions. Given the secondary

school theatre festival and junior screening auditions, it is hoped that college and university programs will attend in strong numbers and bring representatives to the conference. Secondary auditions, reunited with the conference this year, afford ample opportunities for recruitment via screening auditions, networking and exhibits. Workshops are being planned that will cater to college and secondary students.

As we gear up for the 2010 Conference please send any ideas for College/University division programming, workshops, notes and other materials to searnest@coastal.edu. I look forward to seeing everyone in Spartanburg!

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Milly Hough, (803) 734-8698
mhough@arts.sc.gov

Misty Moore, (803) 734-8620
mmoore@arts.sc.gov



S.C. ARTS COMMISSION
ANNOUNCES
FY2011 ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The South Carolina Arts Commission Board has approved the panel's selections for the FY2011 Individual Artist Fellowship Awards. The Arts Commission is presenting awards of \$5,000 to four South Carolina artists—in the categories of poetry, prose, playwriting and acting.

This year's fellows are:

Poetry: Barbara G.S. Hagerty, Charleston County
Prose: Ed Madden, Richland County
Playwriting: Rodney Lee Rogers, Charleston County
Acting: Sharon Graci, Charleston County

"It is rewarding to honor the work of artists who are central to the creative community in our state," said S.C. Arts Commission Executive Director Ken May. "We're fortunate to have funds to award this

year thanks to the generous contribution from the South Carolina Arts Foundation, and we're pleased to offer those resources to our artist fellows who can use them to advance their careers."

The board of the S.C. Arts Commission approves fellowships based on recommendations made by out-of-state review panelists, who select fellows and alternates based solely on their review of anonymous work samples. This year's poetry panelist was Alan Shapiro, an English and creative writing professor at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The prose panelist was Martha Southgate, an adjunct professor in the M.F.A. Writing Program at Brooklyn College. The playwriting panelist was Tracy Nichols, an assistant professor in the Department of Communication, Theatre and Dance at Austin Peay State University. Acting panelists were Tennessee State Arts Commission staffers, Hal Partlow, director of performing arts, and Kim Leavitt, director of arts education.

The South Carolina Arts Foundation, a nonprofit organization supporting the education and arts development programs of the S.C. Arts Commission, funded three of the four fellowships awarded this year. Individual artists working in visual arts, craft, music performance and music composition can apply for the 2011-2012 fellowship awards. The deadline to apply is Oct. 1.



**SETC State Screening
Auditions Scheduled
for
October 30th**

Trustus Theatre ■ Columbia, SC

The 10 states of the Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) region will once again host screening/qualifying auditions for pre-professional actors (students and adults) in their various states throughout October, November and December. In order to participate, each auditionee must complete the SETC Audition Application **AND** register with their state for the auditions.

Again this year, the application process must be completed online on the SETC website. In order to audition, this must be submitted by the South Carolina deadline of **October 13, 2010**

For complete guidelines and information about the screening auditions, and to download the online application instructions, please go to <http://www.setc.org/auditions/SC/>

****PLEASE NOTE:** SETC Screening Audition applications, **including their corresponding South Carolina conference registrations & fees**, will be processed online at <http://www.setc.org/auditions/SC/>. This procedure applies to **SETC auditionees ONLY**.



SCTA on Facebook

Join us online ... become a fan of SCTA on Facebook and get the latest updates.

SCTA Convention 2010

Converse College

Spartanburg, South Carolina



Converse College opened on October 1, 1890 with a student body of 168 and 16 faculty members. The College operated as a "stock company" with the board of directors composed entirely of citizens of Spartanburg. Dexter Edgar Converse, a native of Vermont who had settled in Spartanburg, S.C. before the Civil War and had become a successful pioneer in the cotton mill industry, served as the head of the first board of directors. On January 2, 1892 fire destroyed the College's main building. The building was enlarged during its reconstruction. In 1896, the College was incorporated in South Carolina and a self-perpetuating board of trustees was named. In 1964, the College introduced graduate programs.



Theatre productions have been a proud tradition at Converse for 112 years and dance performance enjoys a pedigree that extends back well over forty years. Through training programs within the context of a liberal arts environment, students in the Department of Theatre and

Dance are engaged by rigorous intellectual and artistic challenges that will find application in other general studies areas, and that will prepare students for careers in the arts or allied fields or for continuing into advanced study. Within each season, students regularly assume responsibilities as playwrights, choreographers, directors, designers, dancers, actors, technicians and managers.

Courses in the department cover a range of concentrations from history and theory to performance techniques to design and technical production, with emphasis placed on the application of classroom material to the production experience. Students have opportunities to participate in Mainstage Series productions, a student-generated Studio Series of shows, and two Dance Ensemble Concerts each year. Opportunities also exist for study/travel and touring productions, and professional internships may be arranged with specific organizations depending on the student's area of interest or discipline. Applications for senior assistantships are available for theatre and arts organizations across the country.



IMPORTANT DATES

- **August 14** SCTA Board Meeting - Columbia, SC
- **August 16** All FESTIVALS Information & Registration Forms sent this week!
- **September 3** **DUE DATE** - "Intent to Participate" form for: **Secondary School Theatre Play Festival, Community Theatre Play Festival & KCACTF**
- **September 6** CONVENTION Information & Registration forms sent this week!
- **October 1** **DUE DATE** - Secondary School Play Festival Registration & Auditions forms and fees
- **October 1** **DUE DATE** - Community Theatre Festival & KCACTF Registration forms and fees
- **October 13** **DUE DATE** - SETC State Screening Auditions on-line application and fees
- **October 21** **DUE DATE** - SCTA Convention Registration forms and fees
- **October 21** **DEADLINE - CONVENTION HOTEL REGISTRATION**
Marriott Spartanburg at Renaissance Park - \$95.00 per night
864-596-1211 or 800-228-9290 (*You must ask for SC Theatre Association rate.*)
- **October 30** **SETC Pre-screening Auditions held in Columbia, SC** (*location Trustus Theatre, Columbia*)
- **November 12-14** **SCTA 2010 CONVENTION & FESTIVALS - Converse College ■ Spartanburg, S.C.**

For updates and more information, visit our website at www.southcarolinatheatre.com or contact



**THE
SOUTH CAROLINA
THEATRE
ASSOCIATION**

PMB 350
100 Old Cherokee Rd., Ste. F
Lexington, SC 29072

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:

SC Theatre Association
PMB 350
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 2010-2011 year will be sent 7/30/2010.

www.southcarolinatheatre.com



**SCTA CONVENTION
2010**

November 12 - 14

**Converse College
Spartanburg, South Carolina**

Convention Events Include:

- ◆ Master Class Workshops for All Divisions & Groups
- ◆ Secondary School Theatre Festival
- ◆ Secondary School College Auditions
- ◆ Community Theatre Festival (in conjunction with AACT)
- ◆ Professional Theatre *Happening*
- ◆ SCTA Division Meetings
- ◆ Special Guest - Jill Lawrence of TV's *Law & Order* cast

More information & Details will be coming in September.



HOTEL INFORMATION

SCTA Convention 2010

*November 12 - 14, 2010
Converse College
Spartanburg, SC*

Rooms have been blocked at the Marriott Spartanburg Conference Hotel. Reservations should be made directly with the hotel on or before **Thursday, October 21, 2010**. Hotel information and rates are listed below:

Marriott Spartanburg at Renaissance Park- \$95.00 plus tax per night
299 North Church Street, Spartanburg, SC, 29306
(864) 596-1211 ■ (800) 228-9290**

***To receive the special convention rate, you will need to indicate that you are registering for the
South Carolina Theatre Association (SCTA) Convention.*