

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF THEATRE**

**PROGRAM**

**Forty-Third Annual Meeting**

**and**

**Retreat for Administrators of Theatre Programs  
in Higher Education**

**March 27 – 29, 2008**

**Omni William Penn Hotel  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF THEATRE**  
**2008 Annual Meeting and Retreat for**  
**Administrators of Theatre Programs in Higher Education**

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**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING KEY TO THE MEETING FLOORS:**

*(M) Mezzanine Level*  
*(C) Conference Center Level*  
*(17) Grand Ballroom Level – 17<sup>th</sup> Floor*

**Wednesday, March 26**

3:30 p.m. - **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AND DINNER** **Oliver (C)**  
8:00 p.m.

**Thursday, March 27**

8:00 a.m. - **REGISTRATION** **17th Floor Alcove**  
6:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m. - **COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION** **Conference Center B**  
12:00 noon *(Commission members only)*

12:00 noon - **BOARD OF DIRECTORS LUNCHEON MEETING** **Oliver (C)**  
2:30 p.m.

12:30 p.m. - **ORIENTATION FOR NEWCOMERS TO NAST** **Conference Center A**  
1:25 p.m.

This session will provide an orientation to the resources and operations of NAST, with special attention to the benefits and responsibilities of accredited institutional Membership. An emphasis will be on ways the Association and its work assist administrators in many aspects of fulfilling their local responsibilities. The last 10 minutes of the session will be devoted to meetings of first-time attendees with their NAST mentors.

Edmond Williams, University of Alabama  
Karen P. Moynahan, NAST National Office

1:30 p.m. - **HOW TO WORK WITH HEADS DATA** **Conference Center A**  
2:15 p.m.

The institutional research data gathered and compiled by Higher Education Arts Data Services constitutes a unique and valuable resource for theatre executives at degree-granting institutions. This session will provide an overview of procedures for the submission of the Data Survey as well as statistics contained in annual Data Summaries, which are reports compiled from the Data Surveys of NAST member and non-member participating institutions. Potential uses of the data in local policy discussions will be explained, as well as opportunities for institutions to obtain customized Special Reports.

Mark Marion, NAST National Office

**Thursday (continued)**

1:30 p.m. - **NAST RESOURCES FOR LOCAL ADVOCACY** **Grand Ballroom (17)**  
2:15 p.m.

NAST has a number of resources used by institutions to assist in the formulation of local proposals and policies. This session will enumerate and explain the purpose of several sets of information. Areas of discussion include faculty work, promotion, tenure; the duties of administrators; planning and futures analysis; assessment; and explaining the principles, aspirations, and methods associated with quality developments in theatre.

Matthew Sullenbrand, NAST National Office

2:30 p.m. - **OPENING GENERAL SESSION** **Grand Ballroom (17)**  
2:50 p.m.

Welcome  
Announcements  
Report of the President

3:00 p.m. - **WORKING ON THEATRE IN THE CITY** **Frick (C)**  
5:00 p.m.

Artistic voices from the Pittsburgh theatre community will speak with attendees about what they have learned that would be useful to those who guide theatre units in higher education. Our guests will be prepared to discuss along a large range of issues, including how students can get started and sustain careers in cities like Pittsburgh. The session will allow ample time for questions and dialogue on issues including the nature, sequence, and content of artistic training and development; new directions and opportunities in theatre; and issues regarding what are fundamental in contrast to what is desirable.

*Presenters:* Karla Boos, Quantum Theatre  
Tony Ferrieri, City Theatre  
Ronald Allan-Lindblom, Pittsburgh Playhouse  
Holly Thuma, University of Pittsburgh

*Moderator:* Buck Favorini, University of Pittsburgh

5:00 p.m. - **PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION IN HONOR** **Lawrence Welk Room (ML)**  
6:15 p.m. **OF FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES**  
(Cash bar)

5:45 p.m. - **HEARING ON MUSICAL THEATRE:** **Frick (C)**  
7:00 p.m. **STANDARDS AND ISSUES**

An opportunity will be provided to review and comment on current and proposed revised texts to NAST standards on musical theatre.

*Moderator:* Cameron Jackson, Florida State University  
*Recorder:* Laura Strickling, NAST National Office

6:00 p.m. - **WORKSHOP FOR VISITING EVALUATORS** **Conference Center B**  
8:00 p.m. *(By invitation only.)*

**Friday, March 28**

8:00 a.m. - **REGISTRATION** **17th Floor Alcove**  
6:00 p.m.

8:30 a.m. - **NAST ANNUAL MEETING:** **Grand Ballroom (17)**  
9:15 a.m. **PLENARY SESSION**

Call to Order  
Quorum  
Minutes  
Agenda  
Reports: Committee on Ethics  
Commission on Accreditation  
Treasurer  
Executive Director  
Report on Handbook Changes  
Election  
Appreciation  
New Business  
Adjournment

9:30 a.m. - **CONNECTIONS** **Grand Ballroom (17)**  
11:45 p.m.

9:30 a.m. - **PART I: COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN** **Grand Ballroom (17)**  
10:30 a.m. **EXTREME SITUATIONS**

Over the past several years, theatre units have been under particular stress as “wild card” events overwhelm campuses and communities alike. Individuals with recent experience in these situations will provide information and reflections on ways the theatre community has responded to support individual institutions and theatre units in such situations. Lessons learned and advice for being as prepared as possible will be provided.

*Presenters:* Patty Raun, Virginia Tech  
Danielle Taylor, Dillard University

*Moderator:* Barbara Blackledge, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

**Friday (continued)**

10:45 a.m. -  
11:45 a.m.

**PART II: ADVANCED CONNECTIONS FOR  
ARTISTIC APPLICATIONS**

**Grand Ballroom (17)**

As time, technology, and human creativity expand horizons and possibilities, new artistic connections for theatre are developing. The knowledge and skills required for practice of our discipline are also applicable in such areas as digital media, game design, and new forms of media and other technology.

This session will provide an overview of these issues, and in part relate their meaning for courses and curricula devoted to the training of theatre professionals.

*Panelists:* Dick Block, Carnegie Mellon University  
Peter Raad, Southern Methodist University

*Moderator:* Russ Jones, Purdue University

12:00 noon -  
1:45 p.m.

**LUNCHEON FOR THE ASSOCIATION**

**Urban (17)**

*Title:* "Wisdom from the Aged"

*Presenters:* Donald Drapeau, NAST President, 2002-2005  
R. Keith Michael, NAST President, 1993-1996  
Paul Anthony Distler, NAST President, 1987-1990  
August Staub, NAST President, 1980-1984

*Moderator:* Carole Brandt, NAST President, 2005-2008

2:00 p.m. -  
3:45 p.m.

**WORKING WITH LEGAL COUNSEL**

**Grand Ballroom (17)**

Theatre executives are increasingly relying on the advice and services of legal counsel with regard to employment issues such as hiring, discipline, and harassment. This session will explore a number of issues related to employment such as search committees, roles of chairs in evaluation and discipline of faculty members, and how to handle/respond to a sexual harassment complaint that is filed by or against a faculty member. Theatre executives will gain a better understanding of working with legal counsel and how to respond to litigious complaints.

*Presenters:* Martha Hartle Munsch, Reed Smith LLP  
Paige Reed, Associate General Counsel  
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville  
John B. Wolf, Deputy General Counsel  
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

*Moderator/Presenter:* Kent Neely, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

**Friday (continued)**

2:00 p.m. -  
3:45 p.m.

**GLOBALIZATION**

**Frick (C)**

Globalization has been a prominent buzzword and topic for a number of years. What does it really mean for theatre programs in American higher education? This session will work on a number of issues associated with this question. Among them are exchange programs, using international material in curricula and productions, choosing and producing international plays, working with international theatre professionals, considering issues of globalization and their impact on issues of artistry and scholarship. These issues will be discussed in the context of helping individual institutions and programs make specific decisions about what they want or should accomplish, how to make good decisions about what to do or what needs to be done, and how to calculate the real cost of activities associated with globalization, including the vital currencies of time and money.

*Presenters:* Martha Coigney, International Theatre Institute Worldwide  
Jay Herzog, Towson University

*Moderator/Presenter:* Gil Lazier, Florida State University

2:00 p.m. -  
5:00 p.m.

**WORKSHOP: PREPARING FOR  
NAST ACCREDITATION**

**Conference Center A**

This workshop is especially designed for those institutions that will host evaluation visits in the next two years. All interested persons, however, are welcome.

Karen P. Moynahan, NAST National Office

4:00 p.m. -  
5:15 p.m.

**CONNECTING TO THE PROFESSION**

**Frick (C)**

NAST continuously asks for advice from theatre professionals regarding how best to prepare students to enter various aspects of the profession. In this session, we look at this question from the point of view of theatre professionals in higher education who are serving as artistic and academic directors of programs. The session provides an opportunity to explore ways of improving connections to the profession through specific actions, resources, classes, or events for students.

*Presenters:* Cary Libkin, Pennsylvania State University  
Anne Mundell, Carnegie Mellon University  
Scott Steele, University/Resident Theatre Association

*Moderator:* Dan Carter, Pennsylvania State University

5:00 p.m. -  
6:15 p.m.

**COCKTAIL RECEPTION  
(Cash bar)**

**Lawrence Welk (M)**

**Friday (continued)**

5:30 p.m. - U/RTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Phipps (C)  
7:15 p.m.

5:45 p.m. - ROUNDTABLE FOR NON-DEGREE-GRANTING Oliver (C)  
7:15 p.m. INSTITUTIONS

This session will provide attendees with an opportunity to pose specific issues and questions for consideration by the entire group. Topics for consideration will be determined in advance, based on written suggestions solicited from the membership and attendees. It will also be possible to raise questions from the floor. The fundamental purpose of this session is to share issues and expertise across a broad range of topics germane to theatre in higher education.

*Moderator:* Betty Lawson, American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York

**Saturday, March 29**

8:30 a.m. - CONNECTIONS: EXPLAINING THE NATURE OF ARTISTIC QUALITY TO OTHERS Grand Ballroom (17)  
10:45 a.m.

Theatre programs in higher education are working in a context at present that overemphasizes assessment. In this climate, we in the theatre community must improve our ability to discuss the nature of quality in theatre lest we become subject to mandates for making assessments that are inconsistent with the nature of our field. This session will be divided into two parts. In the first part, actors from two distinguished programs will present scenes. These actors will be chosen because they are outstanding performers. In other words, they are being presented as examples of quality work. Their performances will provide the basis for Part II of this session which will involve breakout groups. These groups will be asked to develop ideas or specific wordings that would articulate to individuals with little education or training in theatre, the kinds of issues that we are considering when we make decisions or judgments about quality in performance. In the breakout groups, it is absolutely critical to work as though we are preparing a presentation or a set of answers to an institutional provost, a foundation executive, a legislator, and not a group of theatre professionals.

8:30 a.m. - PRESENTATION OF SCENES Grand Ballroom (17)  
9:30 a.m.

*Performers:* Daisy Hobbs, Carnegie Mellon University  
Tess Soltau, Carnegie Mellon University

Katrina Cooper, Temple University  
Da'Vine Joy Randolph, Temple University  
Sarah Scalzo, Temple University

*Faculty Advisors:* Roberta Sloan, Temple University  
Ingrid Sonnichsen, Carnegie Mellon University

*Moderator:* Carole Brandt, Southern Methodist University



**Saturday (continued)**

9:45 a.m. -  
10:45 a.m.

**DISCUSSION GROUPS: CONNECTIONS**

Group 1: (First Names Beginning w/ A-F) **Grand Ballroom (17)**

*Chair:* Kathleen A. McLennan, University of North Dakota

*Recorder:* Mark Shanda, Ohio State University

Group 2: (First Names Beginning w/G-L) **Conference Center A**

*Chair:* David Saltz, University of Georgia

*Recorder:* Patrice Bailey, New World School of the Arts

Group 3: (First Names Beginning w/ M-R) **Conference Center B**

*Chair:* Harold Baldrige, Neighborhood Playhouse  
School of the Theatre

*Recorder:* Rochelle Elman, University of West Georgia

Group 4: (First Names Beginning w /S-Z) **Phipps (C)**

*Chair:* Michael Tick, Louisiana State University

*Recorder:* Michael J. Slavin, California University of Pennsylvania

11:00 a.m. -  
12:00 noon

**PRINCIPAL ADDRESS**

**Frick (C)**

*"A Conversation with Libby Appel"*

This will be an informal question-and-answer session with Libby Appel, who recently retired as Artistic Director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Dr. Appel also served as Artistic Director of the Indiana Rep and was Dean of Theatre at California Institute of the Arts. She knows the theatre profession and higher education very well, and will discuss issues related to both areas. Questions will be either sent in advance or asked from the floor.

*Presenter:* Libby Appel, Artistic Director Emeritus,  
Oregon Shakespeare Festival

*Moderator:* Alan MacVey, University of Iowa

12:15 p.m.-  
3:00 p.m.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS LUNCHEON MEETING**

**Oliver (C)**

3:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**The NAST 44th Annual Meeting will be held March 26–28, 2009, at the Wyndham Hotel in Chicago, Illinois.**