

CUELINES



February 2021

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Newsletter of the Ohio Community Theatre Association
www.ohiocommunitytheatre.org

TO BE OR NOT TO BE...

At the January meeting, the OCTA Board amended the rules for excerpting for 2021. In essence, if a theater would like to perform an excerpt of a show that, obviously, is not a part of their 2020-2021 season, they just need to contact their Regional Rep. At the March 20th OCTA meeting, the Board will make a decision about whether or not there will be an OCTA Conference this year.

If a Region gets the nod from three or more theaters, they will hold a virtual or in-person festival to determine which two theaters will go on to excerpt at Conference.

If a Region gets only one or two theaters to apply to compete, then they will be accepted to go on to the State Festival.

Any Region that cannot fill two slots, will give the spot back to the State Festival to fill with the alternate rotation schedule for a minimum of 14 excerpts.

So everyone talk with your theater and see if you'd be interested in excerpting this year with a show you have done before or one that maybe you can't do in your town but would like to perform for your fellow thespians in your Region or at State.

And, let your Regional Rep know of your decisions.

We extend our sympathy to friends and family of Bob Welly (Board Member from the Northwest Region) who we lost on January 11; and to the friends and family of Christopher Butturf who passed away on February 28. Many of you have probably seen Chris on stage at a Regional festival or at Conference as he performed with Amil Tellers, Van Wert Civic Theatre, and Wapakoneta Theatre Guild. We will miss them both. Our hearts are breaking.



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National AACT 2021...

from Christi Thomas

AACTFest will be held virtually June 14-20. You can register online at aact.org/21. There's still an early bird special and you can choose the full festival or just the performances.

AACT will still be holding the Design Competitions for scenic, lighting, props, costumes, and special design. More details are online at aact.org and need to be submitted by May 1.

They are also looking for Board members and nominations need to be submitted by March 20.

To support the AACT Endowment fund which help provide support and also assist future national festival participants with the expense of transporting a cast, crew, sets, and costumes, you can donate to the silent auction. They are seeking a minimum value of \$100 per item, basket, or grouped items to be auctioned together. The Committee is requesting items with wide appeal as well as significant value that are unique and theatrically themed. Past examples include: backstage passes and show tickets; fine jewelry, gourmet candy or chocolate; fine works of art; destination or experiences or entertainment; gift cards to national chain restaurants, department stores, Amazon, etc.

Once again, you can go online to aact.org to donate. Since AACT is a non-profit 501(c)(3), contributions are tax deductible.

Preliminary workshops include: musical auditions, scenic painting techniques, director's intensive, demystifying dramaturgy, and progress after 2020. More will be announced later.

A few of the keynote speakers include Jeff Calhoun, Frank Galati, Philip Hernandez, Chilina Kennedy, and Rob McClure.

Watch for more info in the April *Cuelines*.

aact
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF COMMUNITY THEATRE

OCTA Board News (from January 16)

With the recent passing of Bob Welly, Niccole Amersdorfer was appointed to the Board to fill the vacancy.

Aara Wise reported that Dues Invoices for 2021 were sent out and were due by the end of January.

Aara and Christy Rahrig are working to scan all of the script library. The Board approved the purchase of an external hard drive for this purpose.

The Fundraising Division is looking for ideas for logo items and talked about having the Silent Auction online. Scholarship applications are due May 1 and available online. They also noted that members are encouraged to write to their congressmen regarding assistance associated with the stimulus bill.

Marketing/Membership/Public Works Division

from Mendell Hibbard

Hello from the Marketing/Membership/Public Relations division! That's a lot to say, so we refer to ourselves as MM/PR. That does not at all diminish the responsibilities we have to OCTA, as we are the caretakers of the organization's members and the recruiters for any new theatres that join OCTA. In addition to making sure the lines of communication are correct and running we take care of several resources that are available to the membership. When the day comes that we can all gather again there is intent for members of the MM/PR division to visit every member theatre equipped with the new OCTA brochure that explains all the benefits the organization offers. You will also get the chance to put a name and a face to members of the OCTA state board.

The current MM/PR division is made up of nine people: Jeffrey Albright (Northwest region), Andrea Anderson (Northeast region), Janis Carnahan (Southeast region), Frances Gibser (Southeast region), Mendell Hibbard (Central region), Christy Rahrig (East region), Carissa Sloan (Southwest region), Michelle Taylor (Northeast region), and Christi Thomas (West region). Each person brings a valuable perspective to the work we collectively do.

The MM/PR division is always interested in knowing how we can better serve our membership. You can contact us via the OCTA Facebook group page or the OCTA website. Your thoughts will eventually get to us and your input will be introduced and considered as we continue our work. You are the reason our division exists, so put us to work for you!

Spirit of Community Theatre and Hall of Fame

from Niccole Amersdorfer

“The past 12 months have been different for all of us. Like most theaters around Ohio, you have probably been dark the majority of the time since March 2020 turned our world upside down. However, also like most of us, there is no doubt your theatre has one or more people who have figured out how to exist in the COVID world—who have started online productions, been there to keep up the theater, to check on your members, to just make sure your group isn't forgotten and will continue to be there when we can light our stages again. If you have individuals in your group that embody the Spirit of Community Theatre, we would like to have the opportunity to recognize them for their dedication!

Is there also someone in your group that has been there since the beginning? A founding member? A Rockstar on and off stage that is always there, leading the charge? Someone you know will always be available for anything you throw their way and whose

contribution has helped create the group you have now? The OCTA Board would like to consider them for the OCTA Hall of Fame!

The Hall of Fame and Spirit of Community Theatre committees are seeking nominations for both awards now. Entry forms are available online at octa1953.org. The nomination deadline for Spirit is May 1 and for Hall of Fame is July 1. Please let us help you recognize those individuals that help make community theater in Ohio great!"

Regional Reports:

Central Region: No report. The Central Region will meet on January 23 via Zoom. —*Sue Rapier, Central Regional Rep*

East Region: Zanesville Community Theatre did a fundraising activity with visits with Santa, where participants were socially distanced. Zane Trace Players performed Arsenic and Old Lace to minimal socially distanced audiences and online. —*Machelle Miller, East Regional Rep*

North: The North region will schedule a meeting soon. —*Deb Wentz, Regional Rep*

Northeast Region: Northeast Region theaters are scheduling a meeting. Some theaters may be interested in performing at an OCTA Jr. —*Michelle Taylor, Northeast Regional Rep*

Northwest Region: The Northwest Region plans to meet virtually after this meeting. —*Brittany Kupresanin, Northwest Region Rep*

Southeast Region: The Southeast Region delegates will meet via Zoom on January 20. —*Frances Gibser, Southeast Rep*

Southwest Region: The Southwest Region delegates will meet via Zoom on January 26. There is nothing new to report. —*Kevin Noll, Lead Southwest Regional Rep*

West Region: No Report. Christi will be contacting the West theaters to see who might be interested in excerpting this year. —*Christi Thomas, West Rep*

Watch for the April edition of *Cuelines* to see what will be happening Labor Day weekend in 2021.

Mark Your Calendars

March 20, 2021 - Board Meeting via Zoom

May 15, 2021 - Board Meeting

July 17, 2021 - Board Meeting

September 3-6, 2021 - Annual Conference

Cuelines is published online five times per year as the official newsletter of the Ohio Community Theatre Association. Material for publication should be submitted by the third Monday of January, March, May, and October, and by December 10, and will be printed as space permits. Send Callboard listings to both the Newsletter Editor and Webmaster. Submissions without names will not be published.