

The logo for aact fest 2023. The word 'aact' is in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font, with each letter in a different color: 'a' is green, 'a' is yellow, 'c' is blue, and 't' is orange. To the right of 'aact' is the word 'fest' in a smaller, bold, lowercase, sans-serif font, colored dark blue. Above 'fest' is the year '2023' in a bold, sans-serif font, colored dark blue.

aact fest 2023

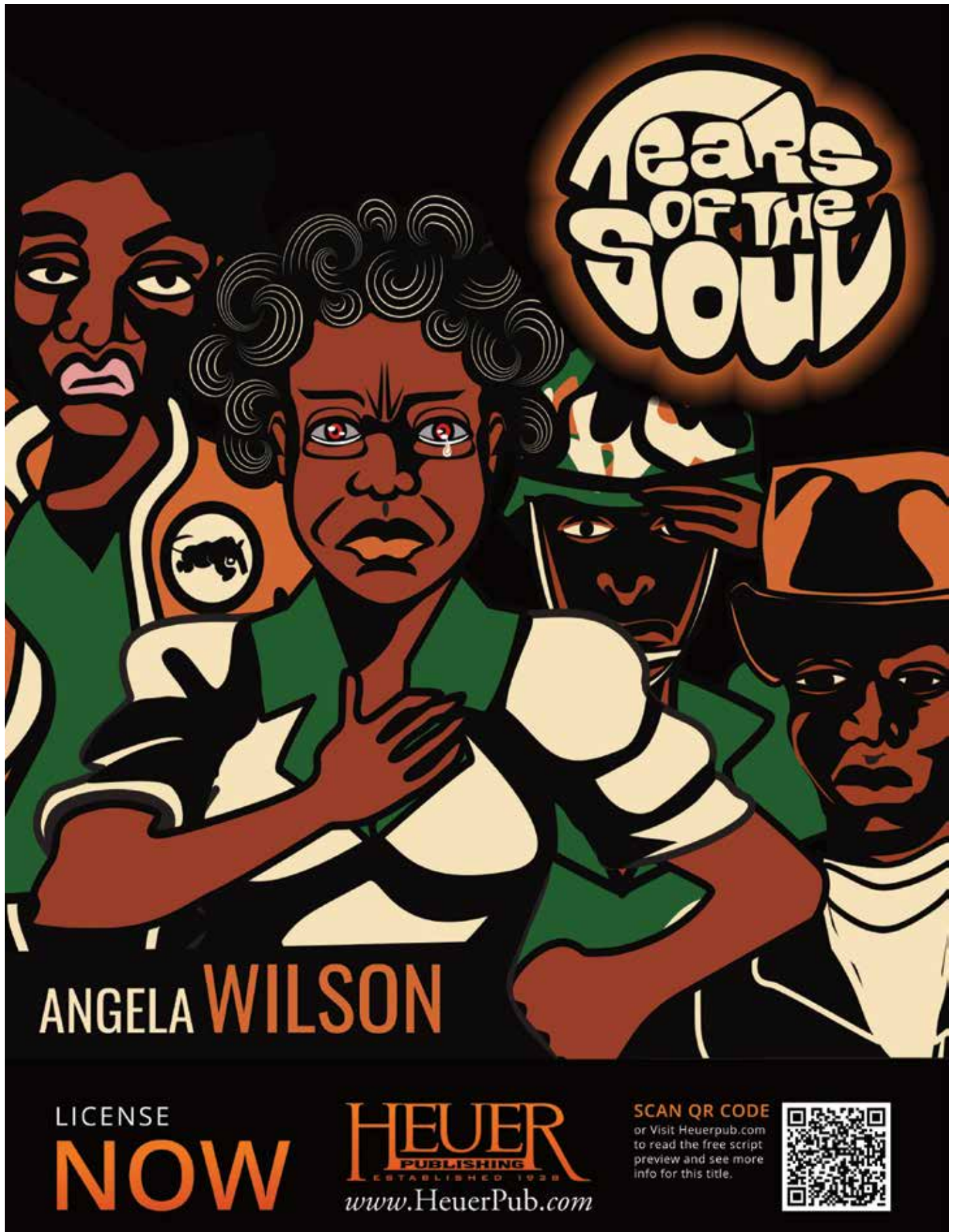
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Louisville, Kentucky
June 12 - 17, 2023

America's National Community Theatre Festival

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President's Letter

Kristi Quinn

Theatre lovers, welcome! Festival attendees, welcome! This issue of *Spotlight* is also the program for the 2023 AACTFest, and it's my pleasure

to offer my insights about the festival in this President's Letter.

If you are attending AACTFest, what a time you will have. It has been too long since we experienced what a live AACT festival is—a theatre lover's dream.

Theatres from around the country participated in state and regional festivals. Their dedication and talent are a testament to the love our country (and the world) has for community theatre. They are volunteers from small towns and large cities who have worked tirelessly to be part of community theatre's grandest event—AACTFest. The national festival features outstanding productions by 12 of those theatres, and I, for one, can't wait to see them.

I have been going to AACTFest for many years now and have found that there is so much to do that I sometimes run out of time—what with workshops, productions, conferences, vendors, fellowship, and general fun. AACTFest 2023 is no exception, with both adult and youth productions, the AACT

Endowment's online Silent Auction, a riverboat cruise, vendors and sponsors offering information and merchandise (hope you brought an extra suitcase), and, of course, some fabulous parties.

Go to everything, talk to everyone, visit some of Louisville—you can sleep when you go back to the real world. These are your people and you have been away from them for too long.

At the end of each national festival, I always return to my home theatre with ideas, knowledge, and inspiration. I have made friendships at festivals that have lasted decades—friends from Germany, Florida, Massachusetts, California, South Dakota, Texas...the world!

Believe me, you will be asking where the next state and regional festivals will take place and looking forward to AACTFest 2025 in Des Moines, Iowa.

It's the stuff that dreams are made of.



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Welcome

Quiana Clark-Roland
AACT Executive Director

Welcome back!

After a few difficult years, it is with great joy and excitement that I welcome you to the largest national community theatre festival in the United States. We are “Live in Louisville!” For over two years, our team of staff, contractors, board members, and volunteers have been planning and working diligently to provide you with the experience that so many have come to know and love.

And for those that are attending for the first time, a double welcome. Be our guest as our community gathers to celebrate theatre.

This year marks AACT’s 26th national festival. AACTFest 2021 was scheduled to take place in Louisville in June 2021, but due to Covid 19 we had to pivot and go virtual. It was important to AACT that we keep the festival going during such challenging times, because that is when we needed both community and theatre most.

Although it was a groundbreaking and memorable festival, nothing could compare to the synergy created when we gather in person—in a theatre, boardroom, workshop, or at the bar, exchanging stories and reminiscing.

As our President, Kristi Quinn, noted in her welcome letter. “AACTFest is a theatre lovers’ dream. These are your people and you have been away from them too long.”

Here are a few notes and tips that may help you navigate your week.

First, if you haven’t done so already, download the Whova event app. This will help you build your schedule and add reminders for the day. The app can also help you find and build online communities based on shared interests and/or location.

There still is space available for the *Belle of Louisville* Sunset Cruise and the Monologue Competition. If you would like to add one of our special events, visit the registration desk located in the Hyatt 2nd floor lobby to purchase a ticket before the event deadline.

Finally, I encourage you to visit the Exhibit Hall, either in-person (Ballroom) or virtual (Whova app) to discover innovative solutions that can enhance your productions and transform your theatre. It is where you connect with industry experts to learn what is new and find those outstanding goodies. This is also where you’ll find the Design Competition entries and Silent Auction items.

Thank you to staff, interns, volunteers, state and regional organizers, board, and corporate partners who have lent their time and resources to support AACTFest.

This is going to be an amazing week of theatre and connection. I am glad that you are here!

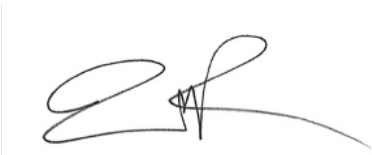


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Upcoming Events

National Directors Conference

November 16-19

Drury Plaza Hotel Riverwalk

San Antonio, Texas

aact.org/ndc

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Spotlight

Spotlight is published bimonthly by the American Association of Community Theatre for its members, and is annually distributed to an expanded list of known community theatre organizations and interested individuals.

Spotlight Editors: David Cockerell and Stephen Peithman

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AACTFest 2023



Schedule

Sunday, June 11

1:00 – 10:00 pm

CTMC - Community Theatre Management Conference

Hyatt Park Suite

CTMC registration required

Sponsored by Arts People

Monday, June 12

8:30 am – 8:00 pm

CTMC - Community Theatre Management Conference

CTMC registration required

Hyatt Park Suite

Sponsored by Arts People

1:00 – 6:00 pm

Registration Desk Open

Hyatt 2nd-floor Lobby

3:00 – 4:00 pm

Finance Committee

Hyatt Boardroom

5:00 – 6:00 pm

Executive Committee

Hyatt Boardroom

8:30 pm

Early-Bird Mixer

Hyatt Top Floor

Join us as we kick off AACTFest 2023!

Cash Bar

Sponsored by Disney Theatrical Group

Tuesday, June 13

8:30 am – 12:00 pm

CTMC - Community Theatre Management Conference

CTMC registration required

Hyatt Park Suite

Sponsored by Arts People

8:00 – 9:00 am

Member Engagement Committee

Hyatt Keeneland

8:00 – 9:00 am

Festival Committee

Hyatt Boardroom

9:00 – 5:00 pm

Registration Desk Open

Hyatt 2nd-floor Lobby

9:00 am

AACT Board of Directors

Hyatt Keeneland

10:00 – 10:30 am

Region Representatives

Hyatt Keeneland

10:30 – 11:30 am

Spotlight Editorial Team

Hyatt Boardroom

1:00 – 5:00 pm

Penguin Project Summit

Hyatt Park Suite

1:30 – 2:30 pm

Education Committee

Hyatt Keeneland

1:30 – 2:30 pm

International Committee

Hyatt Boardroom

3:00 – 4:00 pm

Endowment Committee

Hyatt Keeneland

3:00 – 4:00 pm

Youth Activities Committee

Hyatt Boardroom

6:30 pm

Opening Ceremonies

Bomhard Theatre

Welcome to AACTFest 2023!

7:00 pm

Performance Block 1

Bomhard Theatre

Constellations, by Nick Payne

Region 6 - **The Studio Theatre**

A Storm Came Up, by Kristy Meanor and

Doug Segrest

Region 4b - **Wetumpka Depot Players**

Wednesday, June 14

8:30 – 9:45 am

Adjudication Seminar

Adjudication Seminar registration required

Hyatt Churchill

Festival Commission Committee

Hyatt Park Suite

Workshops

Performances

Special Events

8:30 – 11:30 am

Monologue Competition

Hyatt Conference Theatre

Sponsored by Broadway Licensing

8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Silent Auction Open

Hyatt Ballroom

aact.org/auction23

8:30 - 9:45 am

Faux Desserts

Hyatt Oaks

Arts for All: Creating Accessible Theatre

Hyatt Gulfstream

Social Distancing: Stage Pictures Tell the Story

Hyatt Keeneland

Insurance 101: Coverage and Risk Management

Hyatt Derby

9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Registration Desk Open

Hyatt 2nd-floor Lobby

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Exhibit Hall Open

Hyatt Ballroom

10:00 - 11:15 am

Aging Made Easy

Hyatt Oaks

All Things Projections

Hyatt Gulfstream

Introduction to Intimacy Choreography

Hyatt Keeneland

Demystifying AACT Adjudication

Hyatt Churchill

11:15 – 11:45 am

Youth Theatre Conference Kickoff

Youth Theatre Conference registration required

Hyatt Aqueduct, First Floor

Schedule continued on next page >

1:00 pm

Performance Block 2

Bomhard Theatre

The Outgoing Tide, by Bruce Graham
Region 7 - **Cheyenne Little Theatre Players**

Winter Flowers, by Lily Rusek
Region 1 - **The Lexington Players of New England**

4:30 - 6:00 pm

Registration Desk Open

Hyatt 2nd-floor Lobby

7:00 pm

Performance Block 3

Bomhard Theatre

The Wall, by Richard Lauchman
Region 5 - **Theatre Atchison**

Pride@Prejudice, by Daniel Elihu Kramer
Region 2 - **Rockville Little Theatre**

Thursday, June 15

8:00 - 10:30 am

Networking Lounge / Coffee in the Exhibit Hall

Hyatt Ballroom

Sponsored by Tickets to the City

8:00 am - 12:30 pm

Exhibit Hall Open

Design Competition

Silent Auction aact.org/auction23

Hyatt Ballroom

8:30 - 9:45 am

Adjudication Seminar

Adjudication Seminar registration required

Hyatt Churchill

8:30 - 11:30 am

Monologue Competition

Hyatt Conference Theatre

Sponsored by Broadway Licensing

8:30 - 9:45 am

Grant Writing Survival Guide

Hyatt Derby

Special Effects Makeup for the Stage

Hyatt Oaks

Acting Through Song

Hyatt Seneca/Iroquois

Ben Cameron, Broadway veteran and AACTFest Keynote speaker

The Penguin Project: Inclusive Theatre for Children with Special Needs

Hyatt Shawnee/Cherokee

8:30 - 9:45 am

Dance for All - Including Various Skillsets in Musical Theatre

Hyatt Keeneland

9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Registration Desk Open

Hyatt 2nd-floor Lobby

10:00 - 11:15 am

Solving Problems with Digital Scenery

Hyatt Derby

Activating the Three P's of Theatre

Hyatt Shawnee/Cherokee

One Short Workshop in Oz

Hyatt Keeneland

Ben Cameron, Broadway veteran and

AACTFest Keynote speaker

11:30 am - 12:15 pm

MTI/Lively McCabe Country Picnic

Open to All Attendees

Hyatt Ballroom

Sponsored by Music Theatre

International and Lively McCabe

1:00 pm

Performance Block 4

Bomhard Theatre

Underneath the Lintel, by Glen Berger
Region 4a - **Starkville Community Theatre**

YouthFest Performance 1

Silent Sky, by Lauren Gunderson

Verona Area Community Theater

3:55 pm

Performance Block 5

Bomhard Theatre

Medea, by Christopher Durang
Region 10 - **The Amelia Earhart Playhouse**

YouthFest Performance 2

Mockingbird (Touring Version), adapted by Julie Jensen from the novel by Kathryn Erskine

Blue Springs City Theatre

7:00 - 7:30 pm

Belle Of Louisville Boarding

Belle of Louisville River Boat

7:30 - 9:30 pm

Belle of Louisville Cruise and

Endowment Event

Belle of Louisville River Boat

Sponsored by Concord Theatricals

Friday, June 16

8:00 - 10:30 am

Networking Lounge / Coffee in the Exhibit Hall

Hyatt Ballroom

Sponsored by Theatrical Rights

Worldwide

8:00 am - 12:30 pm

Exhibit Hall Open

Design Competition

Silent Auction aact.org/auction23

Hyatt Ballroom

8:30 - 9:45 am

Adjudication Seminar

Adjudication Seminar registration required

Hyatt Churchill

8:30 - 11:30 am

Monologue Competition

Hyatt Conference Theatre

Sponsored by Broadway Licensing

8:30 - 9:45 am

Everything You Want to Know About Licensing (And Were Too Afraid To Ask)

Hyatt Seneca/Iroquois

Making Immersive Theatre

Hyatt Shawnee/Cherokee

8:30 - 11:15 am

Put a Stamp On It!

Hyatt Oaks

Musical Theatre Script and Song Analysis

Hyatt Gulfstream

Creating, Communicating, and Enacting the Director's Vision

Hyatt Keeneland

9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Registration Desk Open

Hyatt 2nd-floor Lobby

10:00 - 11:15 am

Inspiring and Engaging the "Community" in Community Theatre

Hyatt Churchill

The End is Near! Writing Short Plays

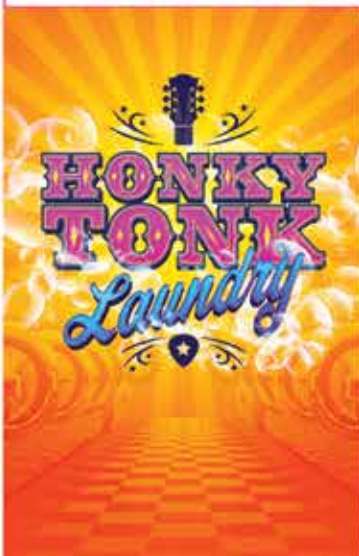
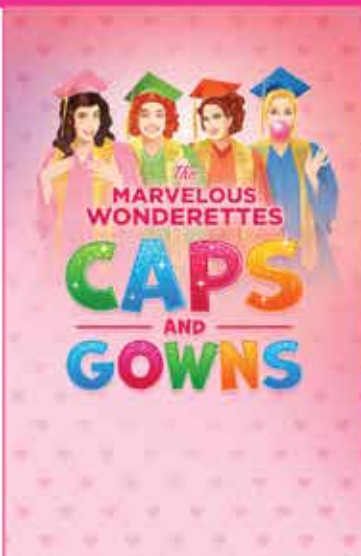
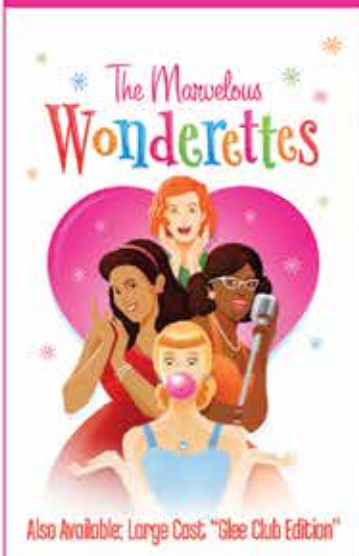
Hyatt Seneca/Iroquois

Acting In Your Shoes

Hyatt Shawnee/Cherokee

"It's the perfect time for a big dose of Roger Bean!"

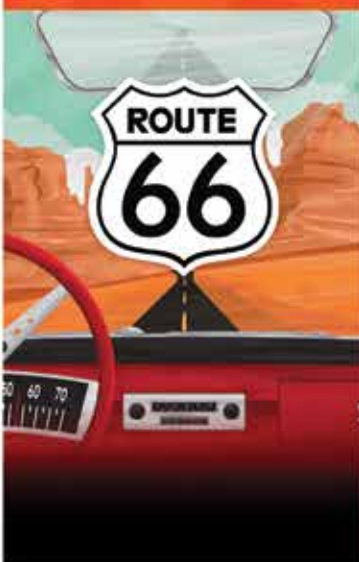
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11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Keynote - Ben Cameron
Different Is Good
 Hyatt Ballroom
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1:00 pm
Performance Block 6
 Bomhard Theatre

Three Viewings, by Jeffrey Hatcher
 Region 3 - **Kettle Moraine Players**

YouthFest Performance 3
Once on This Island, JR., book and lyrics
 by Lynn Ahrens; music by Stephen Flaherty. Based on the novel *My Love, My Love*, by Rosa Guy
Star Center Theatre

YouthFest Performance 4
A Game, by Dennis E. Noble
Theatre33

5:30 – 7:00 pm
Design Competition Adjudicators
Talk-Back
 Hyatt Ballroom

6:00 – 6:50 pm
AACT Annual Meeting and National Awards
 Bomhard Theatre
 Sponsored by On the Stage

7:00 pm
Performance Block 7
 Bomhard Theatre

Pass Over, by Antoinette Chinonye Nwandu
 Region 9 - **Stage Left Theater**

YouthFest Performance 5
Death Takes the Train, by D.M. Larson
The Terrace Playhouse Youth Theatre Troupe

Midnight
Silent Auction Closes
aact.org/auction23

Saturday, June 17

8:00 am – 10:30 am
Networking Lounge / Coffee in the Exhibit Hall
 Hyatt Ballroom
 Sponsored by Heuer Publishing

8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Exhibit Hall Open
 Hyatt Ballroom

8:30 am – 9:45 am

Pilot Productions: All You Need to Know...from Applying to Performing
 Hyatt Seneca/Iroquois

General Safety Practices and Protocols in Theatrical Violence
 Hyatt Shawnee/Cherokee

Psychological Dramaturgy
 Hyatt Gulfstream

Low Budget—Professional Show
 Hyatt Derby

8:30 – 9:45 am
AACT Board Meeting
 Hyatt Keeneland

8:30 am – 12:00 pm
Design Competition - Award Viewing
 Hyatt Ballroom

9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Registration Desk Open
 Hyatt 2nd-floor Lobby

10:00 am – 11:15 am

A Directing Intensive: Cultivating the Most from Script, Cast, and Collaborators
 Hyatt Derby

Season Planning Challenge: An Interactive Workshop
 Hyatt Seneca/Iroquois

10:00 am – 11:15 am

New? Now? Next? A Roundtable for Young Companies
 Hyatt Shawnee/Cherokee

New Trends in Senior Theatre
 Hyatt Gulfstream

Lighting and Atmospheric Effects
 Hyatt Churchill

11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Monologue Competition Finals
 Hyatt Conference Theatre
 Sponsored by Broadway Licensing

1:00 pm
Performance Block 8
 Bomhard Theatre

Silent Sky, by Lauren Gunderson
 Region 3 - **Kokomo Civic Theatre**

Launch Day (Love Stories from the Year 2108), by Michael Higgins
 Region 4b - **Theatre Tuscaloosa**

4:30 – 6:00pm
Adjudication Seminar
Adjudication Seminar registration required
 Hyatt Oaks

7:00 – 8:00 pm
Pre-Awards Cocktail Party
Hors D'oeuvres and Cash Bar
 Bomhard Theatre lobby
 Sponsored by Music Theatre International

8:00 – 9:30 pm
AACTFest 2023 Awards Ceremony
 Bomhard Theatre
 Sponsored by Music Theatre International



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AACTFest 2023 National Companies

Region 1



The Lexington Players of New England

Lexington, Massachusetts

Winter Flowers, by Lily Rusek

The Lexington Players (TLP) was founded in 1995 as the only theatre group in Lexington, Massachusetts. The company has since expanded from an adult theater group to producing youth summer theatre and adding a women's dance ensemble. TLP's production of *Who Will Sing for Lena* was awarded multiple AACTFest 2019 awards, including Overall Outstanding Production, which led to an invitation to perform at the international theatre festival in Monaco. Two years later, TLP's production of *The Mountaintop*, by Katori Hall, received an Outstanding Festival Production award at the 2021 Virtual AACTFest, leading to an invitation to perform at actWORLDfest 2022 in Venice, Florida.

Winter Flowers

For most of her life, Delphie has been taking care of her adult younger sister Rosie, who has the mental ability of a five-year-old. Delphie, now dying of stomach cancer, must provide for her sister's future, and has decided to place them both in a nursing home. However, Rosie refuses to leave their family home, forcing Delphie to make a new plan.

Winter Flowers is produced by special arrangement with Lily Rusek.

Rating: LA, AA, VA

Region 2



Rockville Little Theatre

Rockville, Maryland

Pride@Prejudice, by Daniel Elihu Kramer

Founded in 1948, **Rockville Little Theatre** (RLT) is the oldest continuously operating live theatre in the Rockville, Maryland, area.

RLT provides high quality performances at reasonable prices. The company strives to "entertain, enlighten, and educate all who attend our theatrical events. RLT offers an opportunity for community members to step out of their everyday lives and to assume new roles as playwrights, actors, directors, designers, and audience members." rlt-online.org

Pride@Prejudice

Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy fall in love all over again in this romantic deconstruction of Jane Austen's beloved novel. Playfully reinvented with modern-day characters literally stepping off the page to blog, Google, and tweet, this homage to one of the world's most popular love stories is delivered with humor, wit, and just a little sass.

Pride@Prejudice is produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.

Rating: LA, AA, VA

Region 3



Kettle Moraine Players

Slinger, Wisconsin

Three Viewings, by Jeffrey Hatcher

Kettle Moraine Players was incorporated in 2008. The Kettle Moraine Playhouse is a recently converted 125-year-old church with an intimate 64-seat theatre space. The Players

present seven non-musicals from Labor Day to Memorial Day each year. The company has also taken traveling productions to nearby communities. kmplayhouse.com

Three Viewings

The two selections from *Three Viewings* include *The Thief of Tears*, set in a funeral home in Pennsylvania in 1995. The story centers around Mac, the attractive daughter of an upper-class WASP family who frequents the Viper Room and steals jewelry from corpses. And in *Thirteen Things About Ed Carpolotti*, a newly-widowed suburban matron finds her world crashing about her—only to be rescued by love from beyond the grave.

Three Viewings is presented by arrangement with Dramatist Play Service, Inc., New York, NY. *Three Viewings* was first developed by Illusion Theater, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Michael Robins & Bonnie Morris, Producing Directors. Originally produced by the Manhattan Theatre Club on March 14, 1995.

Rating: L10+, A10+, V10+

❖ Show Ratings: Each theatre has self-selected their show ratings. To view rating key and legend see page 19

Region 3



Kokomo Civic Theatre

Kokomo, Indiana

Silent Sky, by Lauren Gunderson

Kokomo Civic Theatre (KCT)

was established in 1949 in the central Indiana community of Kokomo, approximately 50 miles north of Indianapolis. KCT produces a five-show season of musicals, comedies, and dramas, primarily at Havens Auditorium on the campus of Indiana University Kokomo. KCT has hosted the Indiana Community Theatre Association State Festival three times in recent years and hosted the 2019 Region 3 AACTFest. Kokomo Civic Theatre's production of *Freud's Last Session* received the First Place Award at AACTFest 2015 in Grand Rapids. kokomocivictheatre.org

Silent Sky

Silent Sky is the true story of 19th century astronomer Henrietta Leavitt, whose work at the Harvard Observatory in the early 1900s forever changed the way we measure the distance between stars and understand our universe.

Silent Sky is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York. Original Music by Jenny Giering

Rating: LA,AA,VA

Region 4a



Starkville Community Theatre

Starkville, Mississippi

Underneath the Lintel, by Glen Berger

For 45 years, Starkville Community Theatre's mission has been to enrich the cultural life of Starkville, Mississippi, and its surrounding area through quality year-round entertainment, advocacy, and volunteering opportunities at all levels, and to continue to expand its local footprint and its breadth of programming to better include a diverse cross-section of its home community as actively engaged patrons, partners, and artists. sct-online.org

Underneath the Lintel

In *Underneath the Lintel*, an eccentric librarian discovers a weather-beaten book in a return bin—113 years overdue. Sparked by a message left in its margins, he embarks on a magical quest that takes him around the world and 2,000 years into the past.

Originally produced professionally Off-Broadway at the Soho Playhouse. *Underneath the Lintel* is produced by special arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing Inc, NYC, broadwayplaypub.com

Rating: L13+,A13+,VA

National Companies continue on the next page >

THE TIN WOMAN

WRITTEN BY SEAN GRENNAN



"Tears accompany the laughter... a play that reminded me of *Ordinary People*."

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Published by Playscripts, Inc.

thetinwoman.com

Region 4b



Theatre Tuscaloosa

Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Launch Day (Love Stories from the Year 2108), by Michael Higgins

Theatre Tuscaloosa was founded in 1971 as the Tuscaloosa Community Players. Since then, it has grown into one of the largest community theatres in the state. It has toured to schools throughout Alabama and taken productions to Narashino, Japan, and Shorndorf, Germany. The company also has played host to prominent theatre artists, including *Wit* playwright Margaret Edson and *Hairspray* composer and lyricist Marc Shaiman. Over the years, Theatre Tuscaloosa has produced more than 300 plays and musicals featuring more than 2,000 performers, supported by more than 800 directors, designers, and technicians. theatretusc.com

Launch Day (Love Stories from the Year 2108)

Launch Day, an AACT NewPlayFest 2022 winner about life in the 22nd Century, is a humorous look at a future where love strives to overcome the complexities of post-modern life.

Launch Day is produced by special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, Illinois.

Rating: L13+,A13+,V10+

Region 4b



Wetumpka Depot Players

Wetumpka, Alabama

A Storm Came Up, by Kristy Meanor and Doug Segrest

Wetumpka Depot Players began life in the spring of 1980, turning a historic town train depot into a community theatre. In 1999, the Depot purchased and renovated an abandoned grocery store, creating its current black-box theatre. In addition to its offerings of original, cutting-edge premieres and classic dramas, comedies and musicals, the theatre's outreach programs include the Penguin Project (special needs) Encore Players (seniors), Theater for Youth (school-aged audiences), a summer camp, and a twice-monthly podcast, "Waiting in the Wings." Now making its third appearance at AACTFest since 2011, the Depot remains the centerpiece of Wetumpka's renaissance, documented most recently on HGTV's "Hometown Makeover" series. wetumpkadepot.com

A Storm Came Up

An original piece based on an Alabama novel, the play focuses on three innocents caught in a sea of change in the turbulent 1960s. A finalist in the AACT NewPlayFest 2022 competition, *A Storm Came Up* mixes humor and history to create an uncompromising takedown of the personal costs of racism.

A Storm Came Up is produced by special permission from Kristy Meanor and Doug Segrest.

Rating: L16+,A16+,V16+

Region 5



Theatre Atchison

Atchison, Kansas

The Wall, by Richard Lauchman

Theatre Atchison was established in 1984 and has produced over 380 full length productions, played host to over 150,000 patrons, and given over 7,000 volunteers and artists a place to explore their artistic nature through the theatre arts. The company started as a volunteer organization and has now grown into a five full-time and 10 part-time member staff. It produces four main-stage productions, four youth productions, and one summer stock production each year. In addition, Theatre Atchison owns and operates Atchison's newly renovated three-screen, Fox Movie Theatre and manages the Atchison Event Center for the City of Atchison. theatreatchison.org

The Wall

What do people talk about before being crucified? This comic tragedy takes place in a prison cell at the foot of Golgotha. Experience the indecision and fear from two men who are faced with the burden of waiting to serve their sentence. What is behind the wall could change everything.

The Wall is produced with special arrangement from Pioneer Drama Service.

Rating: L13+,A13+,V10+

Region 6



The Studio Theatre

Little Rock, Arkansas

Constellations, by Nick Payne

The Studio Theatre (TST) works to enrich its central Arkansas community by providing quality theatre experiences that utilize local talent, working to challenge and grow every person that sits in its audience. Over the last decade, the theatre has grown to produce 10 fully realized productions each season, and has played host to a number of Arkansas theatrical premieres. TST was honored by placing in the top three shows at virtual AACTFest 2021 with its production of Lucas Hnath's *Hillary & Clinton*.

studiotheatrelr.com

Constellations

This spellbinding, romantic journey begins with a simple encounter between two people. But what happens next defies the boundaries of the world we think we know—delving into the infinite possibilities of the two's relationship and raising questions about the difference between choice and destiny.

Constellations is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

Rating: L18+,A13+,V13+

National Companies continue on the next page ➤

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A woman in a red historical dress with a black corset and a black hat, holding a black fan, standing next to the text.

Region 7



Cheyenne Little Theatre Players

Cheyenne, Wyoming

The Outgoing Tide, by Bruce Graham

Cheyenne Little Theatre Players (CLTP) was founded in 1930 and has produced shows continuously ever since—even during Covid. Operated by a governing board of directors, CLTP's day-to-day operations are handled by its Managing Director, Technical Director, and Office Manager. The company owns two facilities: a main proscenium stage with a 32-foot revolving stage floor, and a historic 1908 vaudeville theatre in the heart of downtown Cheyenne. CLTP owes its longevity to hundreds of volunteers who give thousands of hours each year. cheyennelittletheatre.org

The Outgoing Tide

In a summer cottage on Chesapeake Bay, Gunner has hatched an unorthodox plan to secure his family's future, but meets with resistance from his wife and son, who have plans of their own. As winter approaches, the three must quickly find common ground and come to an understanding—before the tide goes out. This drama hums with dark humor and powerful emotion.

The Outgoing Tide is presented by arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Rating: L13+,A13+,V13+

Region 9



Stage Left Theater

Spokane, Washington

Pass Over, by Antoinette
Chinonye Nwandu

Stage Left Theater seeks to tell stories, build community, and pursue equity through the production of new and existing theatrical works. The company was founded on the belief that live theater provides a mechanism for interpersonal interaction not provided by television and movies, and that it should be a force for political, intellectual, and social stimulation, and be relevant to the daily lives of both audience and players. Stage Left seeks to broaden the involvement of the general population by engaging in issues of topical value and stimulating the analysis and discussion of the structure and goals of society. StageLeftTheater.org

Pass Over

Pass Over reimagines Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* through the eyes of two inner-city black men, Moses and Kitch, stuck in an existential cycle of trying to "get up off this block" and pass over into the Promised Land.

The world premiere of *Pass Over* was produced and presented at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Chicago, IL; Anna D. Shapiro, Artistic Director and David Schmitz, Managing Director. Produced by Lincoln Center Theater New York City, 2018. Developed by Cherry Lane Mentor Project, Angelina Fiordellisi, Founding Artistic Director.

Pass Over is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. concordtheatricals.com

Rating: L16+,A13+,V16+

Region 10



The Amelia Earhart Playhouse

Wiesbaden, Germany

Medea, by Christopher Durang

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse (AEP) is an U.S. Army Entertainment theatre program—one of the many Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation programs offered on U.S. Army bases worldwide. The company is located in Wiesbaden, Germany, one of the oldest spa towns in Europe. The AEP produces six to eight productions per season and functions as a cultural bridge between the military and the local community. The AEP is comprised of volunteers who are Soldiers, Airmen, family members, DoD civilians, Veterans, retirees, and local nationals. wiesbaden.armymwr.com/programs/amelia-earhart-playhouse

Medea

Medea and her chorus try to figure out if it's appropriate to kill your children to punish your husband. Jason shows up; so does a messenger with news of Lady Teazle; and a Deus ex Machina comes down from the sky to cheer everybody up.

Medea is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. dramatists.com

Rating: LA, A13+,VA

Ratings

LANGUAGE:

LA All ages: There is no offensive language in the production at any time. There are no references that would be inappropriate for young children.

L10+ 10+: Infrequent adult language (mild). There are no references that are not appropriate for younger children.

L13+ 13+: Some adult language (moderate), may contain mild references to adult topics.

L16+ 16+: Contains adult language (severe). Language may be frequent. Production may also contain some adult references not appropriate for children.

L18+ 18+: Contains adult language (severe). Language may be frequent. May contain graphic descriptions of adult content.

Note: Mild cursing includes curse words, but does not include religious cursing or the f-word. Moderate cursing includes curse words and religious slurs, but does not include the f-word. Severe cursing includes all curse words and religious slurs, including the f-word.

ADULT CONTENT:

AA All ages: All content is appropriate for all ages.

A10+ 10+: May address adult topics, including death and divorce. May contain mild adult situations, such as smoking or drinking. May contain indirect references to sexuality.

A13+ 13+: May address adult content, including drug use, violence

and suicide. May contain adult situations such as substance abuse. May contain direct references to sexuality and mild sexual situations.

A16+ 16+: May contain partial nudity, and suggestive sexual content. May directly depict adult content such as suicide, illegal activities, and drug use.

A18+ 18+: May contain full frontal nudity and explicit, graphic situations. Minors may not be admitted depending on content, contact the box office for more information.

VIOLENCE:

VA All ages: May contain mild slapstick, or typical fairy-tale situations, and characters may face brief moments of mild peril, but nothing that would be considered disturbing to the vast majority of young children.

V10+ 10+: May contain highly comedic violence. May contain situations that could be frightening to young children.

V13+ 13+: May contain infrequent violence, such as slaps or basic swordplay. May contain situations that could be frightening for children.

V16+ 16+: May contain frequent and moderate violence, including gun violence and death. May contain situations that are intense and frightening for children.

V18+ 18+: May contain graphic violence, and may be disturbing for some adults. Inappropriate for children.



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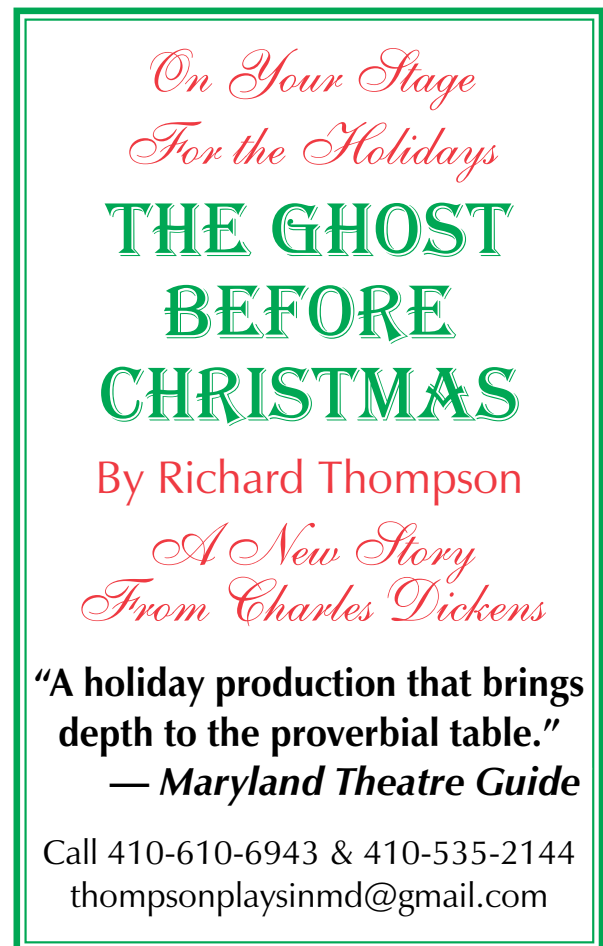
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AACTFest YouthFest 2023 Companies



Blue Springs City Theatre Youth Company

Blue Springs, Missouri

Mockingbird - Touring Version adapted by Julie Jensen from the National Book Award-winning novel by Kathryn Erskine

Blue Springs City Theatre is an independent theatre organization celebrating its 36th year of bringing the gift of live theatre to Blue Springs and eastern Jackson County. Its mission is to support and further the performing arts in a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive environment, providing an outlet for artistic expression and enjoyment for all. bluespringscitytheatre.com

Mockingbird - Touring Version

Caitlin has Asperger's. To her, the world is black and white; anything else is confusing. Caitlin's brother Devon helped her when things got confusing, but he was killed in a school shooting, and Caitlin's dad is too distraught to help. Caitlin wants everything to go back to normal, but doesn't know how.

Mockingbird - Touring Version is produced by special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, Illinois.

Rating: LA, A10+, VA



Star Center Theatre

Gainesville, Florida

Once on This Island, JR., book and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, music by Stephen Flaherty, based on the novel *My Love, My Love*, by Rosa Guy

Star Center Youth Theatre was founded in the summer of 2000 to provide arts education and performance opportunities for a diverse group of youth in the community. The small program was started without any resources or funding, but with a strong desire to expose and provide cultural opportunities to marginalized communities. Over the years the program has expanded to a full year of classes, workshops and performances. The Star Center Theatre and its founder have received national, regional and statewide awards and recognitions for their work in its communities. starcentertheatre.org

Once on This Island, JR.

Once on This Island, JR., is an adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid*. Through almost non-stop song and dance, this full-hearted musical tells the story of Ti Moune, a peasant girl who rescues and falls in love with Daniel, a wealthy boy from the other side of her island. When Daniel is returned to his people, the fantastical gods who rule the island, guide Ti Moune on a quest that will test the strength of her love against the powerful forces of prejudice, hatred and even death.

Once on This Island, JR. is produced by special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI)

Rating: LA, A10+, VA



Terrace Playhouse Theatre Troupe

United States Army Garrison,
Ansbach, Germany

Death Takes the Train, by D.M. Larson

Ansbach Terrace Playhouse was founded in the 1950s and is part of the U.S. Army Europe Entertainment Program. The theatre serves U.S. soldiers, civilians, retirees, and family members stationed in Ansbach, Germany. The Ansbach Youth Theatre Troupe was founded in 2018 and performed *This Side of Heaven* at the 2019 AACT YouthFest in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. ArmyEuropeEntertainment.com

Death Takes the Train

An empty train car. A group of young people shuffle in and settle into their seats. Then after a pause, the Grim Reaper walks onto the train and sits alone in the train car. The teens now try to figure out what to do next. What would *you* do?

Death Takes the Train is produced by special arrangement with doug@freedrama.net

Rating: L10+, A10+, V10+

❖ *Show Ratings: Each theatre has self-selected their show ratings. To view rating key and legend see page 19*



Theatre33

Bellevue, Washington

A Game, by Dennis E. Noble

Theatre33 is a bilingual nonprofit community teaching theater in Bellevue, Washington. Theatre33 provides a unique platform for transplanted immigrants and next-generation Americans to retain a connection to history, literature, language, and their rich cultural heritage with the community, uniting diverse cultures and ages through the love of dramatic arts. theatre33wa.org

A Game

Three accept an invitation to take part in an experimental game. As the game progresses, we see the drive that makes each human want to possess more than his neighbors—a drive that causes hatred ... and starts wars.

A Game is produced by special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company, Inc., of Woodstock, Illinois

Rating: LA, A10+, V10+



Verona Area Community Theater

Verona, Wisconsin

Silent Sky, by Lauren Gunderson

Verona Area Community Theater (VACT) was founded in 1992 with the goal of providing affordable opportunities for children and adults to engage in and enhance their passions for all facets of theater. Since that time the organization has grown from three productions to 10-12 productions each season. At least five productions are for youth only and in 2022 VACT began a senior theater program, completely cast with actors aged 55 and over. VACT is still run almost entirely by volunteers, from production to administration to cast, but its number-one priority is still to have fun. vact.org

Silent Sky

When Henrietta Leavitt joins the Harvard Observatory in the early 1900s, she joins a group of women charting the stars for a renowned male astronomer who has no time for the women's theories. This true story explores a woman's place in society during a time of great scientific discovery.

Silent Sky is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York. Commissioned and first produced by South Coast Repertory with support from the Elizabeth George Foundation. Original Music by Jenny Giering.

Rating: LA, AA, VA

AACT YouthFest 2023 is sponsored in part by the Jack K Ayre and Frank Ayre Lee Theatre Foundation.




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Musicals by Eric B. Sirota

Frankenstein
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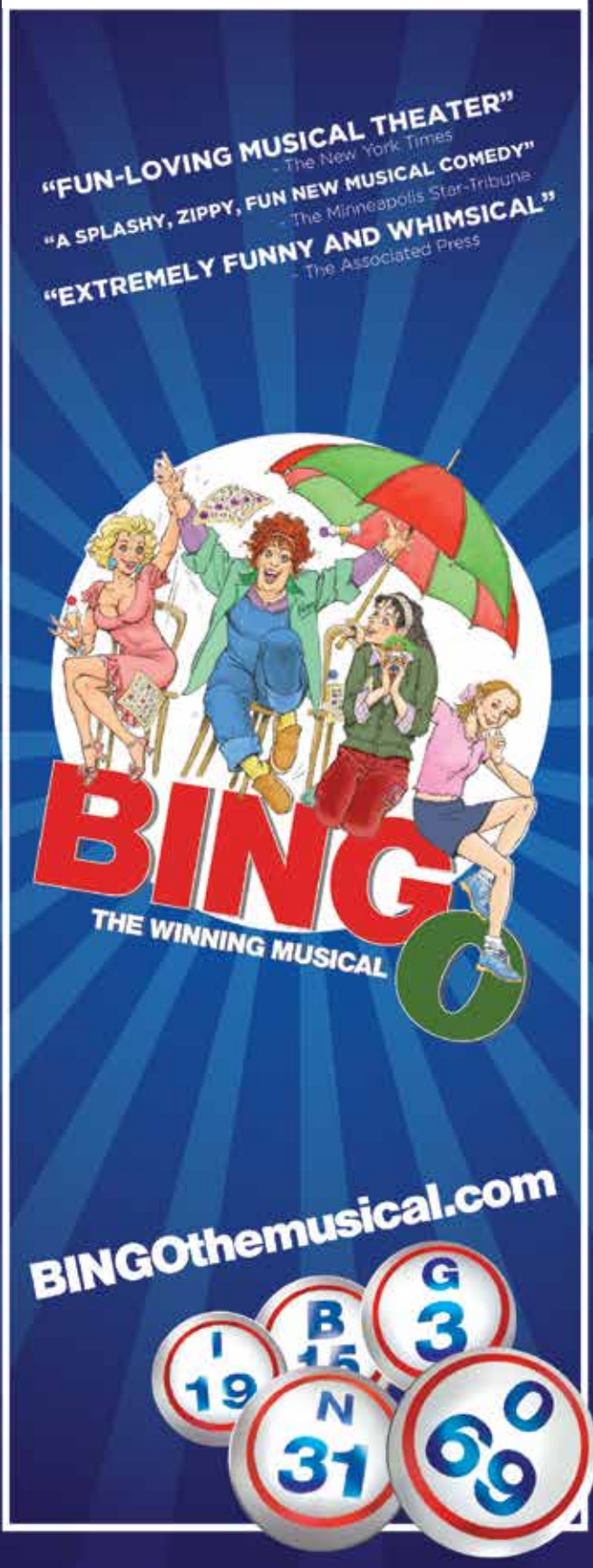
A Good Day
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Go, My Child
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EricSirota.com

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Ben Cameron Keynote

Different Is Good



Broadway veteran Ben Cameron's signature enthusiasm and razor wit will be front and center for his AACTFest 2023 keynote address Friday, June 16, at the Hyatt Regency Louisville. The keynote is open to AACTFest 2023 registrants only.

Ben has always been a little bit different. He is here to share his hilarious stories and insights from growing up a theatre-obsessed pre-teen in Utah. Yes, Utah, where different didn't quite so good, to the bright lights of Broadway where he

learned just how good different can be! Ben's here to celebrate the theatre kid in all of us!

Cameron appeared in the original casts of *Wicked* and *Footloose*, as well in *Aida*, plus tours of *Sweet Charity* (opposite Molly Ringwald), *State Fair*, *Fame*, *The Who's Tommy*, and *Footloose*. Since hanging up his dance belt he has become one of Broadway's most beloved personalities as creator and host of the long-running variety show *Broadway Sessions* (2018 MAC Award), the *Broadway Buskers* concert series with the Times Square Alliance, the web series *Dance Captain Dance Attack* on BroadwayWorld.com, and the hit podcast, *The Broadway Cast* with iHeartRadio Broadway.

Cameron is also the MainStage host for Broadway Con and was live audience host for tapings of both *A Very Wicked Halloween* on NBC and *The Spongebob Musical* on Nickelodeon. He is a frequent face on PBS WNET, having hosted *Hamilton's America*, *Broadway on Thirteen Marathon*, and the *Downton Abbey New Year's Marathon*.

He recently made his return to the stage as the "Man in Chair" in *The Drowsy Chaperone* and starred as "Mr. Finch" in Broadway Green Alliance's online presentation of *You're a Green One, Mr. Finch* alongside Idina Menzel. He has enjoyed sold-out engagements of his one-man show, *Different Is Good* in New York City and beyond.

Cameron is also a sought-after writer, director, performer, and choreographer, who travels the world, teaching high-energy theatre and dance masterclasses, and emceeing Onstage NY talent competitions.

His keynote will draw on his remarkable career, observations and insight, making for an entertaining and eye-opening experience.

Follow Ben Cameron via @BenDoesBroadway or visit bencameron.nyc

AACTFest 2023 Keynote is sponsored
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AACTFest 2023 Adjudicators



Gary Anderson is Producing Artistic Director of the Plowshares Theatre Company and a member of the National Advisory Committee of the Black Seed, a first-ever national strategic plan to create impact for Black theater institutions. A 2016 Kresge Artist Fellow, he is a noted expert in Black Theatre. As a director, he has worked in Cleveland, Pittsburgh,

Atlanta, and Houston. Among his awards are the Alain Locke Cultural Arts Award from The Friends of African and African American Art, Detroit Institute of Arts; Publisher's Award for Excellence - Between the Lines' Oscar Wilde Awards; the 2002 Michiganiaan of the Year Award from *The Detroit News*; and The Lawrence DeVine Award for Outstanding Contribution from *The Detroit Free Press*. Gary has served on the board of several local and national theatre organizations, including Black Theatre Network (BTN), CultureSource (Michigan), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), and the National Conference on African American Theatre (NCAAT).



Jeff Calhoun is a Tony nominee for Disney's *Newsies* and Deaf West Theater's *Big River*. He directed both the world premiere and international productions of Disney's *High School Musical: On Stage* and Disney's *High School Musical 2: On Stage*. His work on Broadway's *Grease* earned him a Tony Award Nomination for Best Choreography. Jeff is an associate artist at Ford's Theatre in Washington

D.C., and serves on the Board of Directors for Covenant House International, a not-for-profit organization that shelters and cares for homeless and trafficked youth in 31 cities, across six countries. He recently directed *A Night of Covenant House Stars* (2020 and 2021) on Amazon Prime. He was a Keynote Speaker for AACTFest 2021.



Faye M. Price is the former Co-Artistic Producing Director of Pillsbury House Theatre and former Co-Director of the Pillsbury House Theatre Cultural Community Hub in Minneapolis, and was a dramaturg at the Guthrie Theater. As an actress, she has appeared at Mixed Blood, the Guthrie, and Illusion theaters and is a company member of Penumbra

Theater. Faye has served as an adjudicator for both AACT and the Minnesota Association of Community Theatres Festival, and was a dramaturgy respondent and judge for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Audition for the Region V Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. She is the recipient of the 2021 McKnight Foundation Distinguished Artist Award. Faye received her graduate degree from the University of Minnesota.

Alternate Adjudicator



Rick St. Peter has been a director and educator in professional, academic and community theatre for 25 years in the U.S. and abroad. He was a participant in the LaMaMa/Umbria International Directors Symposium in Spoleto, Italy, and is a recipient of a Princess Grace Foundation Theater Award. He served as the Associate Artistic Director of TheatreVirginia and Barksdale Theatre (now Virginia Repertory Theatre), and Artistic Director of the Actors Guild of Lexington, Kentucky. He received his M.F.A. in Stage

continued on the next page ➤

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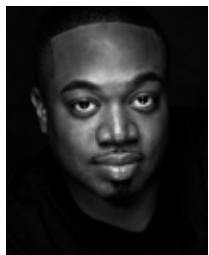
Directing from Virginia Commonwealth University, and his Ph.D. in Fine Arts from Texas Tech University. He currently teaches in the I.B. Theatre program at Warwick High School and is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Theatre at Virginia's Christopher Newport University.

AACT YouthFest Adjudicators



Emily Anderson, Center Stage Theatre, Midland, Michigan (Region III), has performed, directed, and worked backstage for over 50 productions at Midland Center for the Arts and Chicago's Six Eleven Theatre Company. No stranger to the world of AACTFest, she's performed in national award-winning productions of *Urinetown the Musical* (as Little Sally) in 2011, and *Venus in Fur* (as Vanda

Jordan) in 2017. She loves adjudicating for young artists, having done so for high school one-act productions and forensics at district, regional, and state levels. Emily works in marketing and recruitment for the Department of Theatre and Dance at Central Michigan University. When not at the theatre, she loves spending time with her family, traveling, and rooting for the Green Bay Packers.



Jereme Raickett works both professionally and with his community as an actor, director, and producer. A graduate of the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts in Jacksonville, Florida, he has worked and toured with various theatre companies as a production manager and assistant director. He has also starred in over 20 productions at Jacksonville's Alhambra Theatre and Dining over the past 14 years. Jereme is

currently Artistic Director at the Players by the Sea theatre and

also serves as acting and music theatre teacher for local schools and art-focused companies for children and young adults. He is dedicated to enriching his community and inspiring young artists to discover and develop their gifts and talents through training. Jereme is excited and honored to be joining the AACT family as an adjudicator for YouthFest. He looks forward to experiencing all the magic each group will bring to the AACTFest stages.



Jennifer York has worked as a director in the Puget Sound area of Washington state for over 20 years, including youth and main stage productions. During that time, she has worked in several capacities for many local theatre companies, including scenic artist, props master, youth educator, and stage manager. Her most recent directing credits are *Clue*, *Inspecting Carol*, *Matilda*, *Seussical*, and *Holmes for the Holidays*. As

always, she thanks her husband, Blake, and her theatre-loving friends for their continued support of her madcap theatre endeavors. She is excited to be adjudicating for YouthFest this year.

AACT YouthFest 2023 is sponsored in part by the Jack K Ayre and Frank Ayre Lee Theatre Foundation.



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AACT 2023 Design Competition Adjudicators



Christian Bowyer is the Technical Director and resident designer at Hanover College in Hanover, Indiana. He specializes in adapting found and unusual spaces for theatrical use and has worked on several conversion projects locally and throughout the country. Christian is currently finishing his Master's of Interdisciplinary Studies at

Indiana University and plans to continue his research on the relationships between art, design, public opinion, and civic engagement. His most recent artistic achievement was the production design for *Blindness*, a non-traditional play adapted from José Saramago's novel, in its first college and regional performance.



Rebekkah J. Meixner-Hanks is a faculty member of the Indiana University Southeast Theatre Department. She serves as the Department Coordinator/Chair, as well as a Professor of Theatre-Design. In addition to teaching, she is the resident scenic and lighting designer. Her design work has been seen at regional theatres and universities throughout the country. In 2010, she

designed the scenery and lighting for the world premiere of Lee Meriwether's one-woman show *The Women of Spoon River*, which two years later was part of the New York Fringe Festival. Design credits cover a wide range of productions, including *The Orphan of Chao*, produced by the University of Louisville's African American Theatre Program for performances in Louisville and the Republic of Singapore.

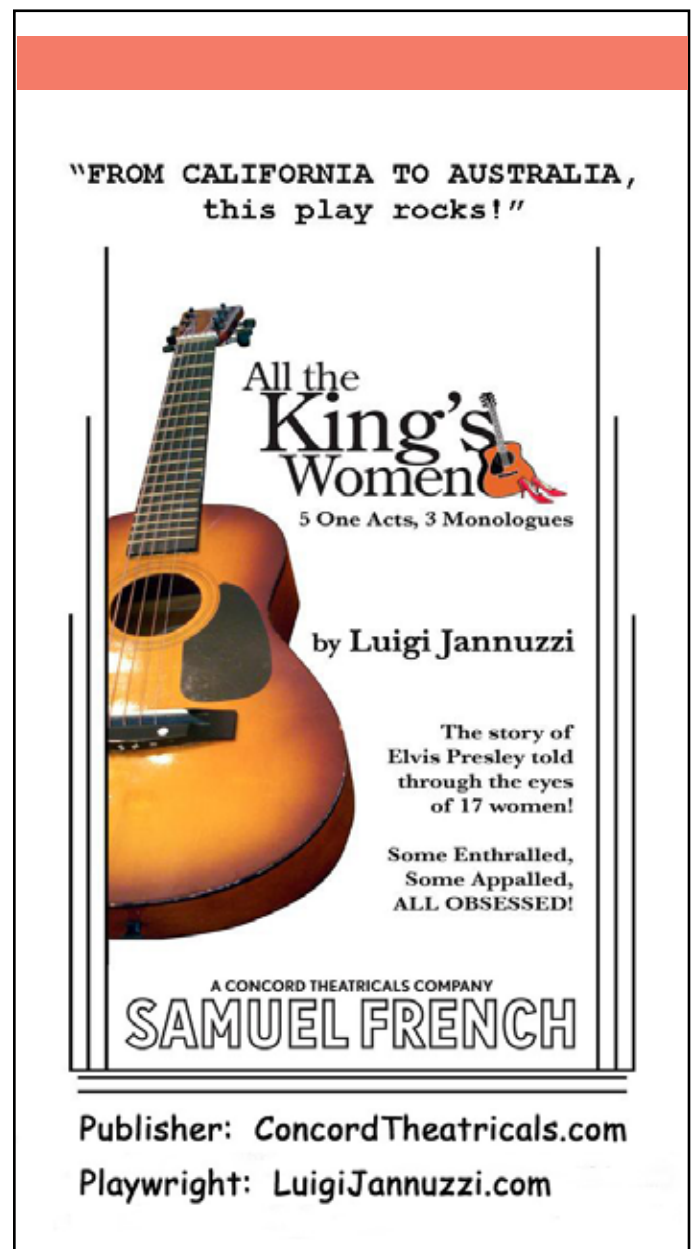


AACT 2023 Monologue Competition Adjudicator

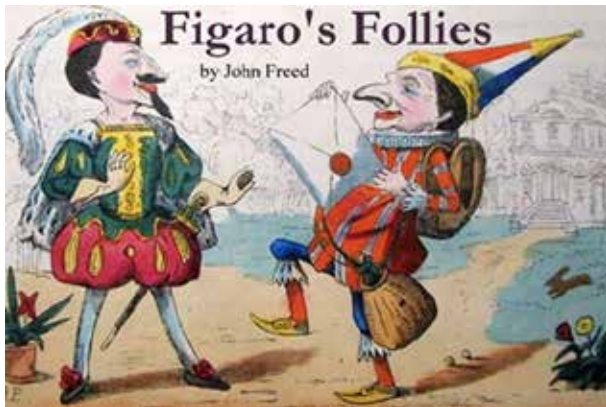


Katy Merriman is the Artistic Director at the Des Moines Playhouse. A childhood of performing in community theatre in Wabash, Indiana, led her to a performance degree at Butler University and a brief stint in the opera world. Since moving to Des Moines in 2013, Katy has worked with various area theatres and institutions as a director, actor, music director, instructor, administrator, and

coach. Performance highlights include *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Cecily), *The Glass Menagerie* (Laura), and *Our Town* (Emily). At the Playhouse, her directing credits include *The Sound of Music* and the AACT NewPlayFest world premiere of *Escaping the Labyrinth*, as well as the world premiere of *Buffalo Women*, a co-production with Pyramid Theatre Company she directed with Tiffany Johnson.



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503-915-4830

j.e.freed.playwright@gmail.com

Youth Theatre Conference Facilitator



Jennifer Van Bruggen-Hamilton has served as the facilitator for the AACT Youth Theatre Conferences at AACTFest 2017 in Rochester, Minnesota, and at AACTFest 2019 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

As Education Director for Topeka Civic Theatre and Academy in Topeka, Kansas, she administered year-round classes for ages four through adult, helped to create a teen improvisation performance troupe, developed outreach programming for area schools and underserved communities, and directed over 50 youth productions. She currently works in partnership with the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts, providing after-school youth classes for area youth. Jennifer has served on both the AACT Education and Workshop committees. She earned a B.A. in Theatre from Sterling College, and an M.A. in Theatre and Film from the University of Kansas

These Hands

If We Must Die

My Daughter and Me
A One Act Play
by
Floyd Stephen Alexander

www.heartlandplays.com

AACTFest 2023 Workshops

Wednesday, June 14

8:30-9:45 am

ADMINISTRATIVE

Insurance 101: Coverage and Risk Management Explained Hyatt Derby

Are you confident your community theatre is properly protected? Are you aware of the risks facing your organization? Join Church Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. for a workshop to walk through the benefits of AACT's value-added insurance program and learn about exposures you may not have on your radar. We will provide insight on how you can best protect your people, property, and organization, as well as highlight recommendations for areas of potential improvement. This interactive workshop will include a Q&A session, so please bring your questions!

Tyler Krombholz, Division Manager, Church Mutual Insurance

ACCESSIBILITY

Arts for All: Creating Accessible Theatre Hyatt Gulfstream

Creating accessible programming is easier than you think! In this workshop you will have the opportunity to work hands-on, and create programming plans you can take and share with your theatre communities. You'll learn how to create theatrical programming for the neurodiverse, those with developmental delays, physical limitations, visual, hearing disabilities. You'll also learn how to cultivate meaningful, lasting partnerships with community members, performers, and patrons.

Libby Pedersen, Executive Director, Ignite Theatre Company

DESIGN/TECH

Faux Desserts: Ice Cream, Cake, and Bars Hyatt Oaks

This will be a hands-on workshop where the participants will have the opportunity to make three different Faux Desserts to take home. Due to materials, participation is limited on a first come, first served basis.

Michael Wilson, Prop Master, Grand Rapids Civic Theatre

DIRECTING/ACTING

Social Distancing: Stage Pictures Tell the Story Hyatt Keeneland

Characters have wants in the play. How can that objective be reflected by their position on the stage? What is their relationship with the other characters? Do they love or hate? What happens when it changes? Using improv, short scenes and physical activities, we will explore how to show as well as tell what your character feels about the other.

**David R. Kilpatrick, Executive Director,
Des Moines Community Playhouse**

10:00-11:15 am

ARTISTIC

Introduction to Intimacy Choreography Hyatt Keeneland

What does an intimacy choreographer do? What does it mean to actively practice consent? How do we develop clear storytelling through specific, repeatable choreography? Here is your chance to get your intimacy choreography questions answered.

Elaine DiFalco Daugherty, Central Michigan University

Demystifying AACT Adjudication

Hyatt Churchill

At the end of the day, it's just an opinion—an informed opinion. An AACT adjudication should be equal parts celebration and challenge. Join Kathy Pingel to explore highlights of the handbook, AACT's educational philosophy, and how to prepare a cast to listen.

Kathy Pingel, Editor, AACT Adjudication Handbook

DESIGN/TECH

Aging Made Easy

Hyatt Oaks

This demonstration will cover the different stages of aging and show how to accomplish the look using new techniques, on an actor of any age, on any stage. The workshop is minutes long, but you could walk out fifty years older!

Gene Flaharty, Mehron Makeup

All Things Projections

Hyatt Gulfstream

Join Founder and President, Quentin Sanford in this cutting-edge workshop on digital scenery.

Quentin Sanford, President, BroadwayMedia

Thursday, June 15

8:30-9:45 am

ACCESSIBILITY

The Penguin Project: Inclusive Theatre for Children with Special Needs

Hyatt Shawnee/Cherokee

Come join founder of The Penguin Project, Dr. Andy Morgan, to learn how you can bring a program for children with special needs to your community theatre. In this program, children with special needs partner with peer mentors to create an inclusive theatre environment that enhances social skills, communication and self-esteem. Put the "community" back into community theatre, while developing a new revenue stream, and create a life-changing experience for everyone involved.

Dr. Andy Morgan, Founder and CEO, The Penguin Project

ARTISTIC

Dance for All – Including Various Skillsets in Musical Theatre Hyatt Keeneland

Participants will explore techniques that will enable them to use dancers of all levels in their musical theatre choreography. Using inclusive approaches can enhance choreography and challenge dancers and performers in unique ways.

Maggie Walls, Executive Director, Momentum Arts

DESIGN/TECH

Special Effects Makeup for the Stage

Hyatt Oaks

Come discover the newest makeup products to give you the best special effects on stage. Look at and discuss make-up options for your upcoming productions and characters. Discussion will include blood products, latex, flesh gel, collodion, and more.

Gene Flaharty, Mehron Makeup

Workshops continue on next page >

DIRECTING/ACTING

Acting Through Song

Hyatt Seneca/Iroquois

Broadway veteran Ben Cameron (original Broadway casts of *Footloose*, *Aida*, and a little show called *Wicked*) will be providing individualized feedback on select students' prepared audition cuts (16-32 bars) before opening it up for a Q&A session with the entire group. Those interested in performing for the group can sign up at aact.org/auditions. Due to time constraints, participation is limited, but all are welcome to observe.

Ben Cameron, Broadway Performer/Host,

AACTFest Keynote Speaker

MARKETING/DEVELOPMENT

Grant Writing Survival Guide

Hyatt Derby

Grant writing, a necessity for all of us in the arts! It begins with the search, then structure, building budgets, descriptive and technical language. Bring your ideas! Let's write!

Cyndi Len, Arts Educator

10:00 – 11:15 am

DESIGN/TECH

Solving Problems with Digital Scenery

Hyatt Derby

Digital scenery may seem intimidating, but it doesn't have to be! By attending this workshop, Theatre-Makers will learn how adopting this cutting-edge technology can solve common production challenges.

Melissa Kratish, Director of Community, BroadwayMedia

DIRECTING/ACTING

One Short Workshop in Oz

Hyatt Keeneland

Original cast member Ben Cameron will take you to the Emerald City as you learn original movement, music and scene work from the worldwide phenomenon *Wicked*.

Ben Cameron, Broadway Performer, AACTFest Keynote Speaker

MARKETING/DEVELOPMENT

Activating the Three P's of Theatre Marketing

Hyatt Shawnee/Cherokee

Learn how to approach theatre's "Three Ps" -- programming, production, and promotion -- from a marketing point of view.

Julie Nemitz, Founder, Theatre Marketing Lab

Friday, June 16

8:30-9:45 am

ADMINISTRATIVE

Everything You Want to Know About Licensing (And Were Too Afraid To Ask)

Hyatt Seneca/Iroquois

How are fees calculated? Why are some titles restricted? Are fees negotiable? Can I change a character's gender or edit problematic words? How can I pilot a new show? How do I get original work published? Can I create my own revue? There is much confusion and misinformation regarding theatrical licensing, publishing, and the use of copyrighted intellectual property. Learn the answers to these and more questions from two veterans in theatrical licensing.

Jim Hoare, Executive Vice President, Theatrical Rights Worldwide

ARTISTIC

Making Immersive Theatre

Hyatt Shawnee/Cherokee

This workshop will focus on making immersive theater at the community theater level. It will be framed with a short film about the process at TheaterWorks and their immersive theatre project.

Chris Hamby, Executive Director, Theater Works

8:30-11:15

DESIGN/TECH

Put a Stamp On It!

Hyatt Oaks

A creative and effective way to create patterns on set. This workshop is a hands-on workshop to create a reusable foam stamp and how to use it. Due to materials, participation is limited on a first-come, first-served basis.

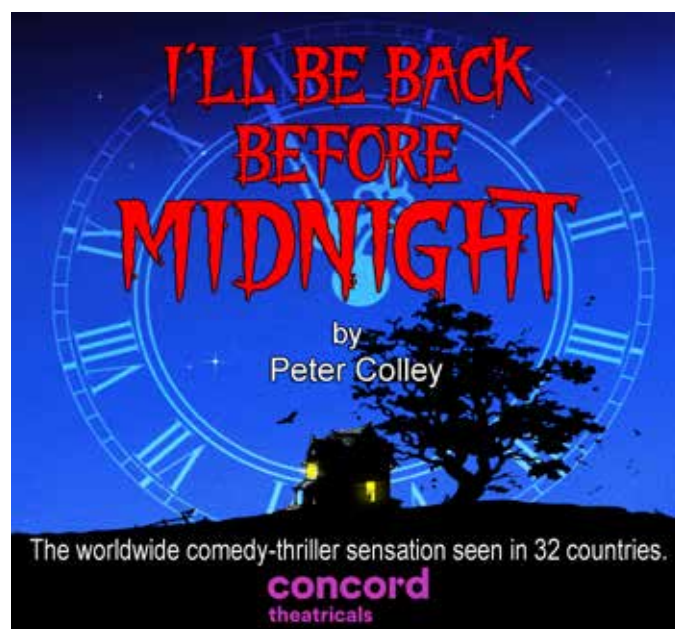
David Len, Scenic Designer

DIRECTING/ACTING

Musical Theatre Script and Song Analysis

Hyatt Gulfstream

For directors, actors, tech, and choreographers. In the first block, we go through the theory basics of MT analysis while applying each through musical show examples. In the second block, we will break into teams



and analyze a musical together. This will help your vision, portrayal communication, and production values with your shows on a grand scale.

James Olm, Composer and Playwright, Emerald Green Productions

Creating, Communicating, and Enacting the Director's Vision Hyatt Keeneland

Tips for the process of creating a directorial concept for a script and how to communicate that vision to a team and an audience.

Pamela Steers, Director and Advisor

10:00-11:15 am

ACCESSIBILITY

Acting in Your Shoes

Hyatt Shawnee/Cherokee

Explore what happens when scenes are cast non-traditionally, and why it's important to think differently about how diversity is represented on our stages.

Keith McGill, Teaching Artist, Director, Actor

DRAMATURGY/PLAYWRITING

The End is Near! Writing Short Plays

Hyatt Seneca/Iroquois

A workshop on writing effective short plays—and how they can help you be a better playwright.

Craig Pospisil, Vice-President of TRW Plays, Theatrical Rights Worldwide

MARKETING/DEVELOPMENT

Inspiring and Engaging the "Community" in Community Theatre Hyatt Churchill

Lackluster attendance or fundraising can easily be improved through understanding audience perception. This fun session will cover how to elevate stakeholder support and audience development through branding, culture, messaging, and organizational assessment. Participants will leave with a tactical plan they can use to increase fundraising and audience support.

Jason Goldstein, Co-Owner, BookTix

Saturday, June 17

8:30-9:45 am

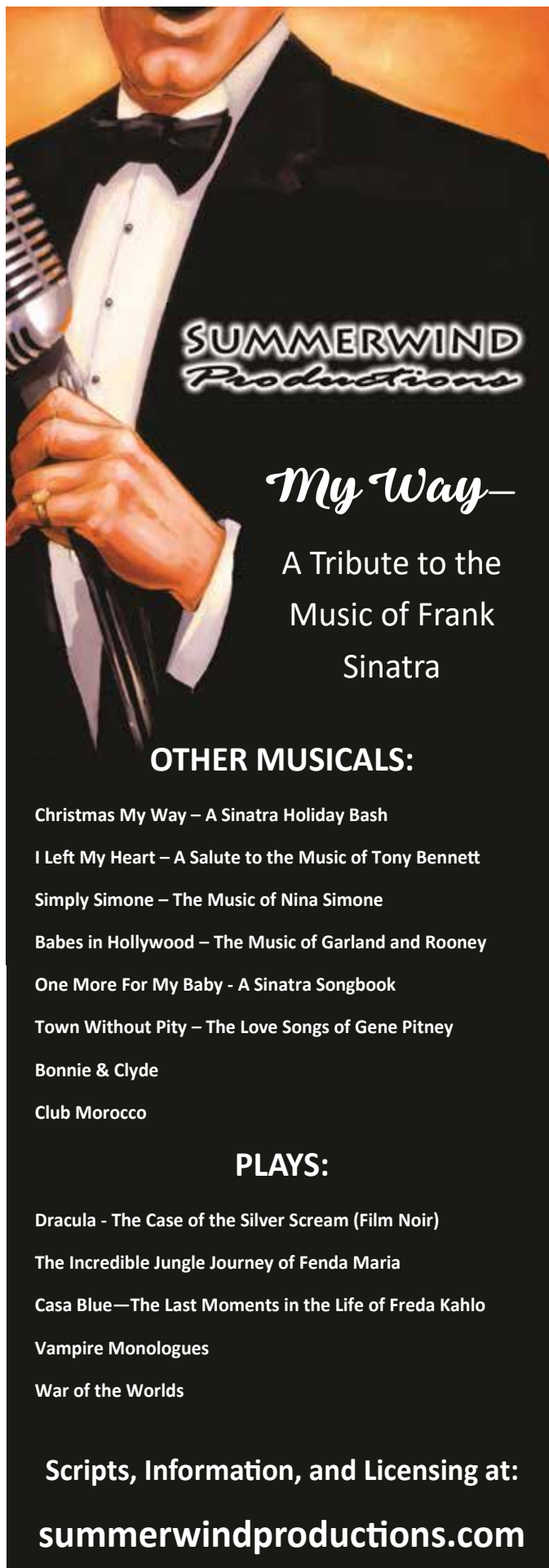
ADMINISTRATIVE

Pilot Productions: All You Need to Know...from Applying to Performing Hyatt Seneca Iroquois

Pilot productions are an integral part of the development process of edited shows, such as MTT's Broadway Junior musicals, School Editions, One Act Editions, or any title where changes have been made from the original. This workshop takes you through MTT's entire process—from choosing a show through development and how your organization can be considered to produce and perform a pilot, to what materials and assets are provided. We will also discuss the expectations and rules of this special license, including performance guidelines as well as the details of advertising and marketing.

John Prignano, Chief Operating Officer and Director of Education and Development, Music Theatre International

Workshops continue on next page >



SUMMERWIND Productions

My Way—
A Tribute to the
Music of Frank
Sinatra

OTHER MUSICALS:

- Christmas My Way – A Sinatra Holiday Bash
- I Left My Heart – A Salute to the Music of Tony Bennett
- Simply Simone – The Music of Nina Simone
- Babes in Hollywood – The Music of Garland and Rooney
- One More For My Baby - A Sinatra Songbook
- Town Without Pity – The Love Songs of Gene Pitney
- Bonnie & Clyde
- Club Morocco

PLAYS:

- Dracula - The Case of the Silver Scream (Film Noir)
- The Incredible Jungle Journey of Fenda Maria
- Casa Blue—The Last Moments in the Life of Freda Kahlo
- Vampire Monologues
- War of the Worlds

Scripts, Information, and Licensing at:
summerwindproductions.com

ADMINISTRATIVE

General Safety Practices and Protocols in Theatrical Violence

Hyatt Shawnee/Cherokee

This workshop is for stage managers and directors, to recognize potential safety hazards when the fight director is not present.

Steven Schwall, Founder, Academy of Combat and Movement Education

DESIGN/TECH

Low Budget - Professional Show

Hyatt Derby

The workshop will cover a minimum of 10 different ways and tips to make your low-budget production look professional. This covers the entire experience from pre-show, the production itself, to the exit.

Robert Read, Executive Producer/Technical Director, Showtime Theatre Company

DRAMATURGY/PLAYWRITING

Psychological Dramaturgy

Hyatt Gulfstream

Creating the internal world of a character is solely the actor's responsibility. But, where to start? Psychological dramaturgy provides an insight into how all people behave under prescribed circumstances.

Dr. Caitlin Powell, Professor of Social Psychology at Thomas More University; Kathy Pingel, AACT NewPlayFest Dramaturg

10:00-11:15 am

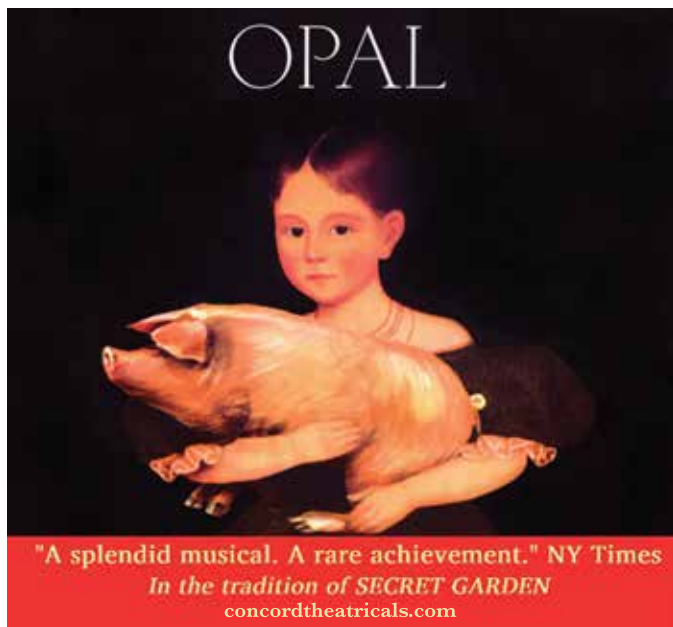
ADMINISTRATIVE

New? Now? Next? A Roundtable for Young Companies

Hyatt Shawnee/Cherokee

If you have a company that is anywhere from 1-10 years old and are wondering how to grow your company from a mom-and-pop shop where all hands are on deck, your bank account is rarely over \$20K, and most of the funding comes from individuals and yourself, then this session is for you. We will dialogue, and share both lessons learned and tips.

Kelli McLoud-Schingen, Founding Artistic Director, World Stage Theatre Company; Steven Butler, Artistic Director, Players Centre for Performing Arts



Season Planning Challenge: An Interactive Workshop

Hyatt Seneca/Iroquois

As a theatrical publishing and licensing company, we are well aware of the journey that community theatres take when putting together a season. The theatres we work with are not only in need of title recommendations, but creative stimulation. We hope that this workshop will bring you ideas for your season planning, as well as freshen your decision-making skills and creative strategy. What's more, we want to create a conversation. Let's get these creatives in a room together and start talking — because out of that, inspiration and creativity will follow.

Billie Davis, Vice President of Amateur Licensing, Concord Theatricals

ARTISTIC

New Trends in Senior Theatre

Hyatt Gulfstream

As boomers take the stage in Senior Theatres across the globe, exciting new changes are happening in the field. Join us as we discuss emerging trends and resources in senior theatre.

Bonnie L. Vorenberg, President, ArtAge Senior Theatre Resource Center

DESIGN/TECH

Lighting and Atmospheric Effects

Hyatt Churchill

Atmospherics, such as smoke, fog, wind, and rain, and lighting play a critical role in creating the perfect look in theater. A combination of the two can change the mood and tone of a scene by altering the brightness, color, direction, and intensity of light. When skillfully combined, these elements can transform a simple stage into a mystical forest, a stormy sea, or a dark alley, creating a magical and immersive experience for the audience. Let's discuss what you need to create the perfect scene.

Erica Richie, CEO, StageSpot

DIRECTING/ACTING

A Directing Intensive: Cultivating the Most from Script, Cast, and Collaborators

Hyatt Derby

In this in-depth workshop, we'll cover script analysis, project management, casting, blocking, boundaries and expectations, personal style, co-creation, exercises to induce growth, and more. You'll also have the opportunity to ask questions, and learn from other directors in the room.

Dorinda Toner, Producing Artistic Director, Twilight Theater Company

AACTFest 2023 Workshops are
sponsored in part by Ludus



Exhibitors

AACTFest 2023 Exhibitors are located in the Hyatt Regency Ballroom.
The Exhibit Hall is open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 8:00 am – 12:30pm

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Arts People | Instant Encore | Show Up |
| Book Tix | virtual - festival app | StageSpot |
| Broadway Licensing | Ludus | Starfire Charity Solutions |
| Broadway Media | Mehron | Tim Mooney Repertory Theatre |
| Broadway Plus | Music Theatre International (MTI) | Ticketor |
| Church Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. | On Stage / Audience Access | Ticket Peak |
| Concord Theatricals | virtual - festival app | virtual - festival app |
| Dramatic Publishing | On the Stage | Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW) |
| Heuer Publishing | Penguin Project Foundation | Uproar Theatrics, LLC |
| Hometown Ticketing | Playhouse Printers | Wann-VanStockum |
| | Select Travel | Willow Bend Theatrics |
| | SETC | XS Lighting and Sound |
| | Schaeffer-Cochran Plays | |

Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts

Welcome to the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts, the largest venue operated by Kentucky Performing Arts (KPA).

KPA believes art belongs to everyone, creating experiences that both entertain and educate in positive, inclusive, and welcoming spaces that support social understanding.

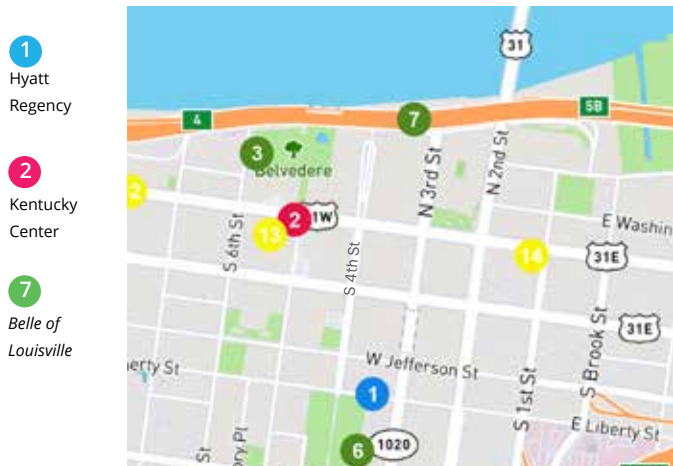
The Kentucky Center's Moritz von Bomhard Theater, named for the man who helped organize and nurture opera in Louisville a half-century ago, is home to all AACTFest 2023 and AACT YouthFest 2023 performances. Its steeply raked aisles provide a clear view of the stage from any seat.

Since 1983, The Kentucky Center has served as the home for Louisville's nationally-renowned arts scene, and the primary performance space for its resident companies—Louisville Ballet, Louisville Orchestra, StageOne Family Theatre, and PNC Bank Broadway in Louisville, as well as Kentucky Performing Arts Presents events, and productions by local community theatres.



Louisville Tourism

The Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts, home of AACTFest 2023



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Grumpy Old Men

THE MUSICAL

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@trwshows

Choose Your Favorite and Help the AACT Endowment



Purchase your ballot for the People's Choice Awards.

People's Choice Awards allow fans and festival attendees to vote for their favorite show, performance, and special moment from a show.



Proceeds from the People's Choice Awards will benefit the AACT Endowment Festival Travel Fund to support AACTFest National Companies.

Visit the [Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts Lobby](#) to cast your vote!

Voting opens on Tuesday, June 12, at 6:00 pm and closes Saturday, June 17, at 5:00 pm, following the last show.

The People's Choice table opens daily 30 minutes prior to the first show and closes 30 minutes after the last show of the day.

Choose one vote for \$2.00 or 3 votes for \$5.00 or 8 votes for \$10.00!

People's Choice winners will be acknowledged at the Saturday Night Awards Ceremony.

AACTFest 2023 Awards Ceremony

Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts - Bomhard Theatre

Saturday, June 17 Pre-Awards Cocktail Party, 7:00 pm AACTFest 2023 Awards Ceremony, 8:00 pm

Awards Ceremony hosted by Chris Serface and Kristofer Geddie

AACT YouthFest 2023 Awards presented by Chad-Alan Carr and Jennifer Van Bruggen-Hamilton

AACT Design Competition Awards presented by Bob Frame

AACT Monologue Competition Awards presented by Katy Merriman

Introductions/welcomes by

Quiana Clark-Roland, AACT Executive Director

Jim Walker, AACT Vice President of Festivals

Kristi Quinn, AACT President

Backstage Awards presented by Eugene Irby and Bob Frame

People's Choice Awards presented by Scot MacDonald

Awards Ceremony Organized by Chris Serface and Kristofer Geddie

Stage Managers: Mary Jo DeNolf and Karen Matheny

Award Handlers: Karen Matheny and Winston Daniels

Photographer: Jolea Brown, Creative Photography LLC.

AACTFest Guides and Criteria

AACTFest is a program of the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT). The festival process or cycle culminates in a national theatre festival held in odd numbered years. The festival cycle presents a forum for community theatres from the ten regions of AACT to enter productions for adjudication and possible advancement to higher festival levels.

Goals

- To provide learning experiences in artistic, technical, and management areas through performances, adjudication, workshops, and festival participation; thereby affirming, supporting, and nurturing community theatre companies.
- To stimulate and inspire community theatre companies to strive toward excellence in theatrical production and to recognize them for their achievement through an appropriate adjudication process.
- To develop enlightened and discerning audiences for community theatre.

General Rules

- All theatre companies must meet the same eligibility standards and requirements.
- It is the responsibility of each entering company to read the entire AACTFest2023 Handbook and ensure compliance with all of the rules.
- Each festival must be held in a functioning theatre facility, unless granted exception by the AACT Vice President for Festivals.
- A production must be performed in the same form at all festival levels, with changes permitted only if based upon adjudicator comments. Changes for facility limitations require a waiver from the Vice President for Festivals.
- Maximum time limits are 10 minutes for set-up, 60 minutes for performance, and 10 minutes for strike. A closed 80 minute tech rehearsal, supervised by the Festival Commissioner, will be scheduled in the theatre facility for each competing company. YouthFest: Maximum festival performance time is 45 minutes from bare stage to bare stage (to include set up, performance, and strike). A closed 30-minute tech rehearsal will be scheduled in the theatre facility for each company.
- The house must be closed during each performance. It must remain open for set-up and strike.

AACT Adjudication Guidelines

Plays are to be adjudicated based on the overall production, with acting and directing as the major elements. All types of productions (comedy, drama, original works, musicals, revues, avant-garde, "controversial," etc.) are acceptable entries to the festival and must be considered on a similar basis, as each company has a free choice of material (a one-act, a cutting, a selected act, etc.). The best production will be the one most fully realizing the intent of the material and the concept for the show, keeping in mind the criteria listed below. Design and technical competence is to be given consideration as to its effectiveness as an integral part of the total production experience. Adjudicators may not question the choice, except as to its appropriateness for the company, and comment only on how it was realized.

Among the criteria to be considered are:

- Is the acting believable and technically skillful with effective timing?

- Are the characters well interpreted?
- Does the company display ensemble work?
- Is the material appropriate for the company?
- Is the concept appropriate for the material and realized by the company?
- Has the structure of the production been controlled?
- Are the movements and stage pictures effective?
- Is the production well paced?
- Do the technical elements support the overall production?
- How effective was the total impact?

Censorship

AACT policy permits the widest possible range of dramatic material to be performed in a festival of the American Association of Community Theatre, and does not permit censorship of any company's production.

MURDER'S
in the HEIR

A DIFFERENT ENDING EVERY NIGHT!

BY BILLY ST. JOHN

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AACTFest 2023 Special Thanks

A special thanks to the 2023 AACT Festival Committee:

Jim Walker – Chair and Vice President for Festivals

Kay Armstrong, Festival Commission Chair

Chad-Alan Carr, AACT YouthFest

Lori Chase

Bob Frame

Rich Gannon

Kristofer Geddie, AACT Worldfest

Eugene Irby

Kristi Quinn, AACT NewPlayFest

Chris Serface

Ron Ziegler

Mary Jo DeNolf, staff

Thanks to the Festival Commissioners who provide guidance and support to the state and regional festivals:

Bill Anderson, Kay Armstrong, Susan Austin, Sharon Burum, Mary Jo DeNolf, John Eppert, Donna Fisher, Bob Frame, Kristofer Geddie, Eugene Irby, Stephen Krempasky, Brad Moore, Katrina Ploof, Wanda Schenk, Chris Serface, Jamie Ulmer, Jim Walker, Ron Ziegler

And thanks to all those who have served as Adjudicators for state and regional festivals in the AACTFest 2023 cycle:

Samantha Ainsworth, Bill Anderson, Kay Armstrong, Bob Bartlett, Michael Bruno, Martha Cherbini, Michael Cochran, Quinton Cockrell, James Crow, Mary Jo DeNolf, Emma Denson, Thandiwe DeShazor, Bernard Dicasimirro, Brad Downall, Allen Ebert, Morrie Enders, Nancy Eppert, Tom

Fagen, Keri Fitch, Shameca Freeman, Diana George, Seith Ghitelman, Rowen Haigh, Jennifer Hamilton, Tim Jebson, David Kilpatrick, Allan Kimball, Sharyn Lucas-Parker, Joan Luther, Aaron Mason, Amina McIntyre, Michael McIntyre, Kristy Meanor, Ann Meyer-Steppe, Nathan Miles, Adam Miller, Brad Moore, Lynn Nelson, Paul Nelson, Larry Nielsen, Jamie Peterson, Kathy Pingel, Katrina Ploof, Annette Procnier, Jon Rake, Lyndia Lea Reral, Mike Ricci, Josh Rippley, Libby Anne Russler, Jumbo Schimpf, Susan Slusser, Shirley Spencer, Nicolette Stearns, John Sullivan, Sharon Thalmann, Tracy Tiffany, John Viars, Darrell Wagner, Jim Walker, Daryl Ward, Janet Warner-Ashley, Elizabeth Watkins, Kimberly L. Frick Welkel, Robin Williams, Betsy Willis, Amy Wratchford, Patricia Wylie, Jennifer York, Dennis Yslas, Ron Ziegler

Special Thanks

Scot MacDonald

Bob Frame

Amy Scheidegger Ducos

Broadway Media

gotolouisville.com

The Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts

AACTFest 2023 Interns:

Zoie L. Albrecht

Linden Carbaugh

Riley Kruer

Stanton Yarboro

Arrowhead Conferences and Events

Belle of Louisville

Hyatt Regency Louisville

Cambria Hotel Louisville
Downtown – Whiskey Row

Holiday Inn Louisville Downtown

AACT Endowment Committee



JUNE 12 - 17, 2023 35

AACTFest 2023 National Festival Staff

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Vice President of Festivals Operations and Logistics | Jim Walker Jill Patchin, Quiana Clark-Roland | Volunteer/Intern Coordinator Interns | Mary Jo DeNolf Zoie L. Albrecht, Linden Carbaugh, Riley Krueer, Stanton Yarbboro |
| Festival Commissioner | Eugene Irby | Marketing and Promotions | David Cockerell |
| Festival Technical Director | Bob Frame | Webmaster | Stephen Peithman |
| Assistant Festival Technical Director | JR Bornemann | Digital Marketing Administrator | Amy Scheidegger Ducos |
| National Festival Registrar | Karen Matheny | Photographer | Jolea Brown, Creative Photography LLC |
| National Company Coordinator | Mary Jo DeNolf | Program Editors | David Cockerell, Stephan Peithman |
| Operations/Events Assistant | Winston Daniels | Program Design | Jim Covault |
| Corporate Partners/ Sponsorships Coordinator | Jill Patchin | Festival Poster Design | Amy Scheidegger Ducos |
| Exhibitor Coordinator | David A. VanCleave | Community Theatre Management | Chad-Alan Carr |
| Workshops | Kristofer Geddie | Conference Facilitator | |
| Monologue Competition | Mary Jo Denolf | AACT YouthFest | Chad-Alan Carr, David A. VanCleave |
| AACT Silent Auction | Kristi Quinn | Youth Theatre Conference Facilitator | Jennifer Hamilton |
| Adjudication Seminar Instructor | Bob Frame, Rich Gannon | AACT Board and Committee Meetings | Quiana Clark-Roland |
| AACT Design Competition | Martha Cherbini | | |
| People's Choice | | | |

AACT Silent Auction



Join the fun of the AACTFest 2023 Silent Auction! There are a variety of items to choose from. Receive a great deal by making the highest bid *and* support the AACT Endowment Fund.

Items can be viewed and purchased online at aact.org/auction23.
Online bidding is available anytime.

The AACTFest Silent Auction is entirely online, but selected items are displayed in the Hyatt Regency Ballroom. Visit and make your bids:

8:30 – 12:30pm
Wednesday, June 14, Thursday, June 15, and Friday, June 16

The Silent Auction closes all online bids at midnight on Friday, June 16.

For more info on how to bid visit aact.org/auction.

The AACT Endowment funds sustain the mission and longevity of AACT, and also provide travel assistance to companies representing their regions at the national festival. Proceeds from the Silent Auction go to the AACT Endowment Fund.

The 12 companies participating in the national AACTFest 2023 will each receive a grant from the Endowment to help cover expenses of traveling to the festival.

Want to see more? Items can be viewed and purchased at aact.org/auction23.

Online bidding continues through June 16. Login will be required in order to purchase items.



Ready to bid?

AACT 2023 National Awards

Honoring those who have contributed significantly to community theatre nationwide

Art Cole Lifetime of Leadership Award

Honors a lifetime of leadership in community theatre by members of AACT who have provided leadership at the national level, in addition to local and/or regional levels

Ron Ziegler, North Port, Florida

Mary Doveton, Lawrence, Kansas

Diamond Crown Organizational Award

Recognizes longevity and vitality of AACT-member theatres that have expanded programming and/or facilities in the past 10 years and have the administrative leadership to remain vital to their communities for the next 10 years. Recipients must have been in continuous operation for 75 years and organizational members of AACT for the past 10 years

Grosse Pointe Theatre, Grosse Pointe, Michigan

Twink Lynch Organizational Achievement Award

Recognizes AACT member theatres for successfully completing major steps in new directions, expanding services to their communities, or moving to the next level of organizational development

Beaumont Community Players, Beaumont, Texas

Kettle Moraine Players, Slinger, Wisconsin

Market House Theatre, Paducah, Kentucky

Distinguished Merit Award

Presented to individuals and organizations in recognition of contributions made to promote and develop the highest standards for community theatre

Michael Cochran, Paducah, Kentucky

Amoretta Shultz, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

US Army IMCOM Europe Entertainment Staff, Europe

Alan Buxkemper, Stuttgart Entertainment Director

Nate Records, Wiesbaden Entertainment Director

Jerry Brees, Vicenza Entertainment Director

Naythan Rinehart, KMC Onstage Operations Manager

Brett Harwood, SHAPE Entertainment Director

Bob Chung, Ansbach Technical Director

Victoria Hanrahan, Ansbach Entertainment Director

Dane Winters, IMCOM Europe Entertainment Director

Ryan Ragazzi, SHAPE Theatre Specialist

Special Recognition Award

Presented to persons and organizations whose contributions are far-reaching and of a special nature

Tom Booth, Wren, Mississippi (posthumously)

Murray Chase, Venice, Florida

Kathy Conlon and Sal DeMercurio,
Grosse Pointe, Michigan

John Davis, Evergreen, Colorado (posthumously)

Robert E. Gard Superior Volunteer Award

Presented to volunteers over 65 who have faithfully served community theatre for over 25 years

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Martha Cherbini, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Celia Couture, Tewksbury, Massachusetts

Susan "Suzie" Dorgeloh, Manchester Center, Vermont

Joseph Ennenbach, La Salle, Illinois

Preston Fry, Shawnee, Oklahoma

Dennis Wickline, Grosse Pointe, Michigan

Denise Wisneski, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

Shining Star Award

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Kristofer Geddie, Venice, Florida

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National Festival!

Des Moines, Iowa

Just two years away, the AACTFest 2025 national festival is set for June 22-29, 2025, in Des Moines, Iowa, at the historic Hoyt Sherman Place Theater.

Des Moines's vibrant downtown and arts and culture scene provides plenty of opportunities for sightseeing and exploration. And with four miles of climate-controlled skywalks, the forecast calls for fun, no matter the weather.

Downtown is only minutes away from the Des Moines International Airport, serving the fastest growing metro in the Midwest. And the city is in easy driving distance from most areas of the Midwest.

In addition to a week of theatre, workshops, and networking, you'll have full access to a walkable downtown, the historic East Village neighborhood, Farmer's Market, bubbling breweries, and great nightlife. Once you're there, the question shifts from "What is there to do in Des Moines" to "How do I fit it all in?"

AACT is excited to host the national festival in such a culturally vibrant and charming city. We look forward to seeing you in Des Moines!

More details will be available on aact.org following AACTFest 2023.



Hoyt Sherman Place Theater



AACT Legacy Society

The AACT Legacy Society was established to help build the AACT Endowment Fund. The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to provide for long-term sustainability of AACT's mission, and to support theatre travel to national festivals.

AACT thanks these Members of the AACT Legacy Society:

Stephen J. Bird*
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Founding Members

Help the AACT Endowment continue to make a difference to community theatres across the nation. Become a member of the AACT Legacy Society at aact.org/legacy

AACT 2023 Years of Service

AACT is truly grateful for the contributions and commitment of our **Board, Volunteers, Committee Members and Staff**. We are grateful for the energy, enthusiasm, and dedication they bring to their roles and work towards support Community Theatre in America. In celebration of our volunteers, service pins are presented to recognize five-year milestones of volunteer and staff service.

5 Years

Phillip Horne, Pinebluff, NC
Seth Sponhouse, Williamsport, PA
Steven Butler, Gainesville, FL
Kristy Meanor, Wetumpka, AL
Deborah Hertzog, Eagle, ID
Steven Landry, Lafayette, LA
Larry Pint, New Prague, MN
John Parker, Rome, NY

10 Years

Jennifer Van Bruggen-Hamilton, Toledo, OR
Mary Jo DeNolf, Grand Rapids, MI
Bob Frame, Skaneateles, NY
Sharon Houk, Goshen, CT

Chad-Alan Carr, Gettysburg, PA
David Cockerell, Arlington, TX
Joe Pelonzi, Hampton, NH
Tom Eacker, Broken Bow, NE
Emily Anderson, Midland, MI

15 Years

Susan Austin, Weatherford, TX
Michael Cochran, Paducah, KY
Eugene Irby, Artesia, NM
Chris Serface, Tacoma, WA
Lynn Ruhl, Milwaukee, WI
Wanda Schenk, Nacogoches, TX
Gary R. Walker, Grand Rapids, MI
John Eppert, Independence, MO

20 Years

Kristi Quinn, Dakota City, NE

25 Years

Penelope Notter, Grand Rapids, MI
Kay Armstrong, Dallas, TX
Mary Doveton, Lawrence, KS

35 Years

Ron Ziegler, North Port, FL
Jill Patchin, Grand Rapids, MI

AACT NewPlayFest 2024

Congratulations to AACT NewPlayFest 2024 Winning Playwrights and Producing Theatres.



Criminal Mischief, by William Cameron
The Sauk, Jonesville, Michigan
thesauk.org
World Premiere: February 1-11, 2024

The Red Flags, by Catherine Castellani
Verona Area Community Theatre, Verona, Wisconsin
vact.org
World Premiere: February 8-17, 2024

I Thought I Knew You, by Philip Kaplan
Stage Left Theater, Spokane, Washington
stagelefttheater.org
World Premiere: March 22-April 7, 2024

Eating Blackberries, by Pam Harbaugh
Hickory Community Theatre, Hickory, North Carolina
hickorytheatre.org
World Premiere: April 5-20, 2024

Tennessee Wet Rub, by Kim E. Ruyle
Cottage Theatre, Cottage Grove, Oregon
cottagetheatre.org
World Premiere: August 9-25, 2024

The China Shop, by Richard Manley
Lincoln Community Playhouse, Lincoln, Nebraska
lincolnplayhouse.com
World Premiere: Fall 2024

The AACT NewPlayFest Producing Theatres will produce the world premiere of the winning plays between June 2023 and December 2024. Visit, aact.org/npf for more information.

The AACT NewPlayFest 2024 is sponsored in part by the Jack K. Ayre and Frank Ayre Lee Theatre Foundation, and Dramatic Publishing Company.



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Much of the work of the American Association of Community Theatre would not be possible without the generous support of our Corporate Partners, who are listed below. We thank each of them for their commitment to AACT—and to the work of community theatres everywhere.

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Music Theatre International (MTI) is one of the world's leading theatrical licensing agencies, granting theatres from around the world the rights to perform musicals from Broadway and beyond. Founded in 1952, MTI is a driving force in advancing musical theatre as a vibrant and engaging art form. The company works directly with the composers, lyricists and book writers of musicals to provide official scripts, musical materials and dynamic theatrical resources. "At MTI," says Drew Cohen, President and CEO, "it's about enabling as many theatres to perform as many shows as possible—to have the shared experience that is musical theatre." mtishows.com

Platinum Partners



Arts People (a NeonOne company) is a ticketing and fundraising software solution designed to meet the needs and budgets of smaller and mid-sized arts organizations. It emphasizes

flexibility, ease of use, and affordability for tickets, donations, classes, subscriptions, database and more— with no term contract, no monthly fees, and free support from a team of performing arts experts. With Arts People, you'll get everything you need to put on a sensational show, from a company that has been a leading affordable ticketing solution for arts organizations since 2006.

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The work community theatres do is truly inspiring, and **Church Mutual** "believes you deserve an insurance partner with a long history of expertise in protecting all the things that make community theatres unique." Church Mutual Insurance Company, S.I., has been serving organizations like yours and Protecting the Greater Good® for more than 125 years. It understands the challenges you face, which is why it's teamed up with AACT to provide a 5% discount on your insurance policy (where allowed by state law). Church Mutual is committed to "protecting not only your people and property, but the role you serve in your community. No other insurer will be a better partner or protect your purpose like we do." Visit churchmutual.com/aact to discover why it is AACT's preferred property and casualty insurance carrier.



Each year, **DTG** brings live entertainment events to an audience of more than 20 million people in more than 50 countries. Under the Disney Theatrical Productions (DTP) banner, it produces and licenses Broadway musicals such as *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Lion King*, Elton John & Tim Rice's *Aida*, *TARZAN*®,

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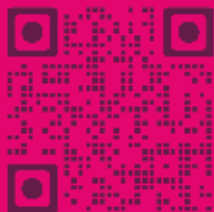
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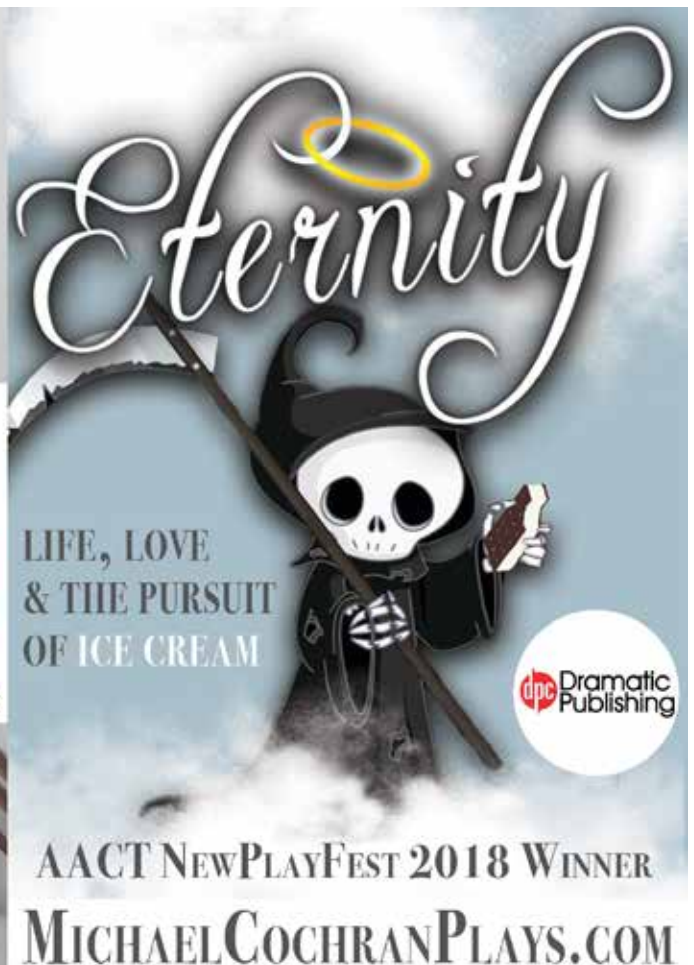
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Karen Schaeffer Plays @gmail.com





AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY THEATRE
AACT NEWPLAYFEST WINNING PLAYS
VOLUME 5 (2022)



The AACT NewPlayFest was created to develop new original work and spark communication and excitement among community theatres.

Over a two-year period, playwrights submit their play to AACT for consideration, and winning scripts receive a world premiere. At the end of the festival, all of the winning plays from the 2021-2022 cycle were published in this anthology.

Included Titles:

Escaping the Labyrinth

By Thomas Hischak

Unpacking Mother

By Karen Schaeffer

MLM Is for Murder **Launch Day**
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By John Bavoso

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aact.org/ndc for information and registration