

Another Opening, Another WACTFEST!



The classes were classy, the receptions were receptive and the workshops worked. Another WACT conference has closed and been struck. The audience and performers have gone home with new knowledge and fond memories.

The weekend began Friday evening at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Baraboo. After picking up their registration materials, people headed to the hospitality suite to imbibe, munch and mingle with their fellow theatre aficionados. In addition to the networking and socializing, informal workshops were taking place in various corners.

Saturday morning the action moved down the road to the River Arts Center in Prairie du Sac. As 2010 is a non-AACTFest year, the focus of the conference was on workshops and learning. The morning and afternoon were both filled with workshops for all areas of theatre. They included:

- ☞ Stage Combat - *Allen Ebert and Greg Parmeter*

- ☞ Play Selection - *Bob Kafka*
- ☞ Directing – Interacting with the Tech Staff - *Frank Peot*
- ☞ Auditioning - *Darrell Wagner*
- ☞ Tech Toys - *David Krajec from Mainstage Theatrical*
- ☞ Directing – Interacting with the Cast - *Allen Ebert*
- ☞ Lighting 101 - *David Krajec from Mainstage Theatrical*
- ☞ Costume Roundtable - *Mary Haas, Elaine Jellings, Mandy Parmeter, Darrell Wagner*
- ☞ Voice - *Greg Parmeter*
- ☞ The Value of Youth Theatre - *Dawn Byrne*
- ☞ AACTFest Roundtable - *Bob Kafka, Frank Peot*
- ☞ StageCraft - *Dillon McArdle*

During the workshop intermission there was a soup and sandwich lunch and the ever exciting, WACT Annual Meeting. In the evening, Actor/Author/Playwright James DeVita joined us for Inside the WACTors Studio, an homage to the long running Bravo television program. Afterwards was a delectable dessert reception followed by more networking and informal workshops back at the hospitality suite.





2010 Board of Directors

On Saturday January 10, 2010 the Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre held elections for the Board of Directors in conjunction with their annual meeting. Elected to new three year terms on the Board were Dee Baldock, Fred Wahls and Darrell Wagner.

Following the Annual Meeting, the new Board of Directors met and elected officers for the next year. Allen Ebert was elected President, Mark Holten was elected Vice-President, Greg Parmeter was elected Secretary and Dee Baldock was elected Treasurer.



WACT has a new service to help theatre people in Wisconsin (and beyond) communicate with each other. WACTList is the Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre's new listserv. Once you've signed up you can send an e-mail to one e-mail address and it will automatically be distributed to everyone else who's signed up. The uses are only limited by your imagination.

Signing up is easy. Just go the WACTList page on the WACT website (www.WACT.org), type in your name (if you want), your e-mail address, and a password. You'll then be sent an e-mail asking you to confirm your request. (This is to ensure that it's not someone else signing you up without your knowledge and to keep spammers off the list.) Once you've confirmed your request, you'll be signed up and can send and receive WACTList messages.

**In Community theatre There
Are No Strangers, Only Friends
You Haven't Met Yet.**



Upcoming Events

June 22-27, 2010
AACT International
Venice, Florida

February, 2011
Wisconsin AACTFest
DePere, Wisconsin

April 20-May1, 2011
Region III AACTFest
Columbus, Ohio

June 18-27, 2011
National AACTFest
Rochester, New York

September 3 – 6, 2010
Ohio State Conference
Perrysburg, Ohio



AACTFest 2011

We're pleased to announce that we have a location for Wisconsin's 2011 AACTFest. This is the earliest in recent memory that the locations of the state, regional, and national festival have all been set. A fact that should make it much simpler for groups planning to enter.

The Evergreen Players will host the festival at St. Norbert College in De Pere. The exact date will be set in May but will be sometime in February.

Remember, it's not too early to start considering hosting the 2012 WACTFest or the 2013 Wisconsin AACTFest. In addition, in 2013 it will be Wisconsin's turn to host the Region III AACTFest which will also need a host.

WACT News is published quarterly by the Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre for its members and is annually distributed to an expanded list of known community theatre organizations and interested individuals. Publication dates are March, June, September (expanded list) and December.
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Keeping Up With WACT

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AACTFest 2011 Rule Changes

The changes to the AACTFest Handbook for the 2011 festival cycle have been made and approved so it's time for our bi-annual article on the changes made. The new handbook hasn't been published yet but the changes described below were taken from the final language approved in November by AACT's Executive Committee. This article deals primarily with changes that may have an effect on participating companies or hosts. A complete list of changes is available on the WACT website (www.WACT.org). Form changes are not described as any updated forms are not yet available. While not affecting any rules, note that a large number of style changes have been made so the new handbook may read slightly different from the previous editions.

Any comments [in brackets] are the opinion of the author and do not necessarily reflect an official opinion of either the Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre or the American Association of Community Theatre.

2.00 Entrants

Section 2.01 – Theatre Companies

The language dealing with entering only one festival in a cycle has been moved here from Section 2.03 – Productions.

It is now required that each regional festival accept two entrants from every state with four or more participating companies that wishes to send two. The regional festivals no longer have the option to only accept one entry from each state.

2.02 Company Members

In determining an alternate location for an orchestra, the rules now specify that it must be in a "safe" area.

Sign Language Interpreters are to be treated the same as musicians in regard to being paid.

2.03 Productions

Language has been added that "*Costumes and make-up required to begin production may be donned off premise or in dressing room.*"

It now specifies that, along with perishable or valuable objects, weapons "*should be brought to the storage space immediately prior to the rehearsal and performance and removed thereafter.*"

2.04 Requirements

Companies must now provide five, not four, scripts so there is one for the alternate adjudicator. [At this point in time Wisconsin has no plans to employ an alternate adjudicator and we've confirmed with that the regional festival has no plans to use an alternate adjudicator. Any groups wishing to save the money to buy and the time to mark cuts in a fifth script should apply for a waiver to AACT's Vice-President for Festivals]

Language has been added that "*Additional scripts may be required for interpreters, but only with notice to the company.*"

Groups must now provide proof of membership in state/regional associations if necessary.

People should no longer go to the Festival Chair with questions of rule violations. Language has been added that "*During the festival, the rulings of the Festival Commission Representative are final.*"

3.00 Festival Chair

3.02 – Overview

Instead of sending companies an AACTFest Handbook, the office will now “*send the theatre instructions for downloading or otherwise acquiring the AACTFest Handbook to the theatre.*”

3.02 Scheduling

The Technical Meeting is now the Production Meeting.

It isn't required, but is preferred that the rehearsal and production order be the same.

3.03 Company Packets

Company packets should now contain:

- *Light and sound plots and other technical information such as fly ability, soft goods plan, on-deck and storage square details, etc.*
- *Accessibility issues of the facility and provisions to request access assistance should be included. Notice of ASL interpretation of captioning, if provided, is also necessary.*

It is now the Festival Chair's responsibility to “*confirm each theatre entered in the festival and all the company members comply with the rules and policies set forth in the AACTFest Handbook.*” [Be aware that there is no process in place to deal with a situation where a Festival Chair certifies a company as being in compliance with the rules and policies but the Festival Commission Rep, when arriving at the festival decides that the company is not in compliance.]

Entering companies should “*be proactive in requesting*” rules for pyrotechnics, special effects, etc.

4.00 Technical Specifications

4.03 Lights

“*The host must provide all performing companies with drawings, magic sheets, etc. clearly illustrating the instrumentation, gel colors,*

circuiting and wash areas on a timely basis consistent with deadlines shown elsewhere in the Handbook.”

“*Any safety requirements of the host must be followed.*”

Lighting specials that cannot be left hanging after a group's rehearsal will now be setup and struck by the host technical staff prior to the 10 minute setup.

4.04 Sound

“*The host must provide performing companies with complete information including static microphone and speaker locations on a timely basis.*”

4.06 Production Meeting

It is now specified that “*all the company's members, including cast, crew, musicians, etc.*” should attend the Production Meeting.

The Host Stage Manager has been added to the list of people that should attend the Production Meeting.

The location of “*ASL interpreter (if utilized) areas*” is to be announced at the Production Meeting.

6.00 Policies

6.03 Production

It is now specified that “*There is nothing to preclude use of the storage area during production.*”

6.04 Censorship

Companies are now expected to exercise “good taste” and not just “taste”.

The new Vice-President for Festivals is:

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? Did you know?

If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days you would have produced enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee.

(Hardly seems worth it)

If you farted consistently for 6 years and 9 months, enough gas is produced to create the energy of an atomic bomb.

(Now that's more like it!)

A pig's orgasm lasts 30 minutes.

(In my next life, I want to be a pig)

A cockroach can live 9 days without a head before starving to death.

(Creepy -- I'm still not over the pig)

Banging your head against a wall uses 150 calories an hour.

(Don't try this at home, maybe at the theatre)

The male praying mantis cannot copulate while its head is attached to its body. The female initiates sex by ripping the male's head off.

("I'm home Dear. What the....?!" Bet he wished he was a pig)

Butterflies taste with their feet.

(Something I always wanted to know)

The flea can jump 350 times its body length. It's like a human jumping the length of a football field.

(30 minutes ... lucky pig! Can you imagine?)

Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people.

(If you're ambidextrous, do you split the difference?)

Some lions mate over 50 times a day.

(I still want to be a pig in my next life...quality over quantity)

Elephants are the only animals that cannot jump.

(okay, that would be a good thing)

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

(I know some people like that)

Starfish have no brains.

(I know some people like that too)

Polar bears are left-handed

(If they switch, they'll live a lot longer)

Humans and dolphins are the only species that have sex for pleasure.

(What about that pig??)



Upcoming WACT Member Productions



Is your show not listed here??? All organizations who are WACT members can have their show listed on the WACT website and in **WACT News**. Just send your schedule to webmaster@wact.org

March 5 - 13, 2010	<i>Sherlock Holmes</i>	Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa
March 5 - 21, 2010	<i>A Bad Year For Tomatoes</i>	Racine Theatre Guild
March 6, 2010	<i>The King's Rabbits</i>	Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa
March 6 - 7, 2010	<i>Dick Smirk - Secret Agent</i>	Fort Atkinson Community Theatre
March 12 - 14, 2010	<i>Alexander Who's Not, Not, Not, Not, Not Going To Move</i>	Central Wisconsin Children's Theatre
March 19 - 27, 2010	<i>Plaza Suite</i>	Sheboygan Theatre Company
March 20, 2010	<i>The King's Rabbits</i>	Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa
March 20 - 27, 2010	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	Fort Atkinson Community Theatre
March 25 - 28, 2010	<i>Clue</i>	Fond du Lac Community Theatre
March 26 - 27, 2010	<i>The Jungle Book</i>	Eau Claire Children's Theatre
March 26 - 28, 2010	<i>Peter Pan</i>	Racine Theatre Guild Children's Theatre
March 27, 2010	<i>Comedy Tonight -- Comedy Sportz</i>	Racine Theatre Guild
April 3, 2010	<i>Jean's Jazz Series -- Alan Gresik's Swing Shift Orchestra</i>	Racine Theatre Guild
April 9 - 18, 2010	<i>Graceland</i>	Portage Area Community Theatre
April 15 - 25, 2010	<i>Just So, The Musical</i>	Baron Spotlighters
April 16 - 25, 2010	<i>Escanaba in da Moonlight</i>	Baraboo Theatre Guild
April 16 - 25, 2010	<i>Holes</i>	Racine Theatre Guild
April 17, 2010	<i>The Music Man Jr.</i>	Verona Area Community Theater
May 14 - 29, 2010	<i>25th Annual Original One Act Festival Of Wisconsin Playwrights</i>	Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa
May 14 - 30, 2010	<i>The Producers</i>	Racine Theatre Guild
May 28 - June 5, 2010	<i>Brigadoon</i>	Sheboygan Theatre Company
June 18 - 26, 2010	<i>Children Of Eden</i>	Verona Area Community Theater
June 27 - 29, 2010	<i>Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</i>	Central Wisconsin Children's Theatre
July 8 - 11, 2010	<i>Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</i>	Fond du Lac Community Theatre