



CUELINES



February 2023

Wayne's Wisdom

Greetings, my friends. I hope everything has been going well for you and yours. Please try to remember our members who are shut in or lonely during these times.

Since the first of October, I have been traveling across the state, and have visited all our 8 Regions at least once. I've been happily entertained by around 30 shows at this point and have plans to see 35-40 more before the end of the season. If I haven't made it to your area yet, keep an eye out for me soon.

In my travels, I have met with as many members and delegates as possible. Our discussions have included problems and concerns, potential solutions, new concepts, leadership at the local, regional, and state levels, and how to improve communications among us all. We have received several interesting ideas, and helped to explain how things work within the system, both to members and some potential new members. This will continue throughout the rest of the year's travels.

OCTA is working to improve its financial situation. If your theatre hasn't sent in your membership fees yet, please send them in as soon as possible. In addition, consider having your theatre make a patron donation to OCTA. Check the website for more information on donating and its benefits.

It would be a great help if you make sure your theatre's website is updated regularly. Post your season's shows (with full dates, if possible), and clear those items that were left over from the pandemic years.

Finally, don't forget to start NOW to check on availability of rights for all your shows as possible entries to this summer's OCTA Fest. Payment of rights is not required to obtain approval unless that show is chosen to compete in the festival. The remaining requests for shows not taken can be cancelled, without financial penalty. We would like to avoid the time problems in getting approval from the rights-holders, as many had last year.

I wish you all the brightest and happiest of the new year. May the rest of your season be filled with a vibrant and glowing spirit for all.

Theatrically yours,
Wayne Kirsch, OCTA President

In celebration of the 70th Anniversary of OCTA in 2023 and in preparation for the Annual Conference, we would like to highlight the Charter theater groups, the original executive board, and the history of all member theaters. Please provide any information, memories, and especially photos to denise.a.schnieders@gmail.com and rosemroberts23@gmail.com

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 18, 2023 – Board Meeting (Zoom)
May 20, 2023 – Board Meeting (TBD)
July 15, 2023 – Board Meeting (TBD)
July 29, 2023 – OCTA, Jr.
September 1-4, 2023 – Annual Conference



Spotlight Articles
Anyone is welcome to submit an article of interest to be featured in the Spotlight Article section. Please send submissions to denise.a.schnieders@gmail.com



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CUELINES EDITOR

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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EAST

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NORTHWEST

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Evan James Copeland	Liz Latta

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Celia McCoy Laura Miller

SOUTHWEST

John Masterson Kevin Noll
Linda Roll

WEST

Michelle Roush

**COME AND JOIN THE FUN!!!
ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023
AT THE HOLIDAY INN
EASTGATE IN CINCINNATI
SEPTEMBER 1-4, 2023**

In each issue of Cuelines we will be sharing new information about the conference, which will be held at the Holiday Inn Eastgate, Cincinnati on Sept 1-4, 2023. So, mark your calendars now so you won't miss any of the excitement.

Since it is OCTA's 70th year, each day we will be highlighting different decades: Friday - 50 & 60's, Saturday - 70 & 80's, and Sunday - 90's plus. Getting your best "Platinum Attire" ready for the gala celebration on Sunday.

Are you crafty?

We want to try some new things at this year's OCTA State conference. So, we are looking for crafters/vendors who have theater themed items to sell such as jewelry, pictures, greeting cards, t-shirts etc.

We will have a few tables available on Saturday for a small donation of \$25. If you or a friend are interested, please contact, Peggy Kenney, pkenny27@zoomtown.com for more details. Tables are limited so check it out soon.

For each event, workshop etc. which you attend, you will be accumulating stars for your team with a big prize awarded on Monday. So, keep checking the website and reading Cuelines to get more details throughout the year.

If you do have any questions please contact one of the co-chairs, Robert Weidle, robtweidle@gmail.com or Peggy Kenney, pkenny27@zoomtown.com. We would love to see you at the conference Labor Day weekend!



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We listened to your suggestions for an easier way to pay for the annual conference.

Beginning February 1st, you will have the opportunity to take advantage of a six (6) month payment plan.

During the months of February, March, April, May, and June you will pay \$20.00 each month. Then in July, you will fill out the registration form and pay the remaining balance, where you can add items like a t-shirt, patron donation, or extended workshop. To take advantage of the payment plan go to www.octa1953.org and click on the tab PURCHASE HERE. You will need to put in your name, phone number and email address each time in the secure site to process a credit card.

In addition to the 6-month payment plan there is an opportunity to do a half and half payment where you can put ½ down by June 30th. Then in July, you will fill out the registration form and pay the remaining balance, where you can add items like a t-shirt, patron donation, or extended workshop. To take advantage of the payment plan go to www.octa1953.org and click on the tab PURCHASE HERE. You will need to put in your name, phone number and email address each time in the secure site to process a credit card.

The offered payment plans are for the Early Bird full registration packages only. After 2023 conference the board will access the plan to see if we will continue or expand the offering.

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REGIONAL FESTIVALS

CENTRAL

Kenyon College – June 3, 2023

EAST

??? – June 11, 2023

NORTH

???

NORTHEAST

???

NORTHWEST

Owens Community College – June 24, 2023

SOUTHEAST

Marietta College – June 10, 2023

SOUTHWEST

Miami University-Parrish Auditorium
June 16-17, 2023

WEST

Beavercreek Community Theater
July 9, 2023

OCTA, Jr.

Mt. Vernon – July 29, 2023

BECOME A YOUNG GEM

OCTA needs strong willed, theatre minded people to help us.

Looking for people 30 years of age or under

HELP THE COMPETITION
Join us at competitions. Build activities and games with OCTA. Express your thoughts on community theatre

FIND FRIENDS
Meet other people who love theatre and want to contribute to community arts

HELP US HELP YOU
Build a community with events you like. Help shape the future of community theatre

REACH OUT! asroberts2003@gmail.com



Young Gems was a group of younger people in OCTA (specifically 30 years old and under). I want to bring this group back to get a younger input on OCTA. This group will also be invited to Zoom meetings every other month that could include games, team building, and round tables for theatre minded people.

So where do the regional reps come in?
I need your help to get in contact with this younger audience. If you have a theatre or person in mind that would enjoy this group, contact me with their name, age, and email. The more people that join, the more input we gather.

Feel free to email or dm me with your questions.
Andy Roberts
Email: asroberts2003@gmail.com



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CALLBOARD

OCTA Central Region Callboard

Mar 5-12 - *Seussical, Jr*

OCTA East Region Callboard

Feb. 10-19 - *A Twisted Carol*

Feb. 17- Mar. 5 - *Promises, Promises*

Feb. 24 - Mar. 5 - *The Music Man*

Mar. 17-26 - *Cinderella*

Mar. 17 - Apr.1 - *The Play That Goes Wrong*

Mar. 17-19 - *A General Cause of Death*

OCTA North Region Callboard

Feb. 24-25 & Mar. 4-5 - *Shout! The Mod Musical*

Feb. 24-25 & Mar. 3-5 - *Silent Sky*

Feb. 17-26 & Mar. 3-11 - *Newsies*

Jan. 27-29 & Feb.3-4 - *Death of a Salesman*

Jan. 27-29 & Feb. 2-4 - *Artichoke*

OCTA Northeast Region Callboard

Jan. 27 - Feb. 18 - *The Play that Goes Wrong*

Feb. 3 - 18 - *The Children's Hour*

Feb. 3 - 18 - *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Feb. 3 - 25 - *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*

Mar. 3 - 4 - *Get Smart*

Mar. 10 - 25 - *Matt's First Real Wedding*

Mar. 10 - 26 - *Disaster!*

Mar. 30 - Apr. 1 - *The Last Dance of Dr. Disco*

OCTA Northwest Region Callboard

Feb. 3-5 & 10-12 - *The Spitfire Grill*

Feb. 9-12 & 16-19 - *The Lion in Winter*

Feb. 16-19 & 24-26 - *Murder on the Orient Express*

Feb. 17-26 - *Significant Other*

Feb. 17-19 & 24-25 - *Noises Off*

Mar. 24-26 - *Peter/Wendy* (a Young Rep production)

OCTA West Region Callboard

Feb. 24-26 & Mar. 3-5 - *Neil Simon's Barfoot in the Park*

OCTA Southwest Region Callboard

Feb. 3-11 - *Music at the Movies*

Feb. 9-12 - *Clue*

Feb. 9-26 - *Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine*

Feb. 10-18 - *Our Town*

Feb. 16-19 - *Next to Normal*

Feb. 17-19 - *Legally Blonde, Jr.*

Feb. 24-26 - *Love/Sick*

Feb. 24 - Mar. 4 - *Airness*

Feb. 24 - Mar. 11 - *Be My Baby*

Mar. 3-19 - *Ring of Fire*

Mar. 3-19 - *Company*

Mar. 9-26 - *August: Osage County*

Mar. 10-12 - *Puffs*

Mar. 24-26 - *The Pirates of Penzance*

Mar. 24 - Apr. 2 - *Momus and Aphrodite*

MTVArts

Zanesville Community Theatre

Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County

Carnation City Players

Zane Trace Players

Footlight Players

Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County

Ritz Players

Harlequin Players

Olde Towne Hall Theatre

Bellevue Society for the Arts

Fremont Community Theatre

Aurora Comm. Theatre

Stow Players

Twin Masks Per. Arts Center

Hudson Players

Dynamics Comm. Theatre

Stow Players

Trumbull New Theatre

Wolf Creek Players

Black Swamp Players

Van Wert Civic Theatre

Fort Findlay Playhouse

The Toledo Rep

Oregon Community Theatre

The Toledo Rep

Troy Civic Theatre

Cinti. Music Theater

Greater Hamilton Civic Theater

Footlighters, Inc

Beechmont Players

INNOVAtheatre

Acting Up

Fairfield Footlighters

Village Players

Sunset Players

The Drama Workshop

Loveland Stage Company

Mariemont Players

Mason Community Players

Inspiring Arts

CenterStage Players

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SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE

The Show Must Go On

It was a Saturday night at Loveland Stage Company and an evening performance of *Puffs* by Matt Cox was on stage. About 2/3 of the way through Act 1, the power suddenly went out. The actors did not miss a beat and turned their wand lights on to illuminate their faces, while ushers and production staff ran to grab flashlights. With a handful of LED flashlights and wand lights, the rest of Act 1 was performed. At intermission, several theatre friends (Karen and Cody Hendershot, Kayla Haas, and Jeff Centrello) who were in the audience came up to me and asked if there was anything they could do to help. I asked if they would hold flashlights and they were willing to do so. One of our staff found the box of 20 something flashlights we bought the previous year for *Curtains* and handed them out to ushers, staff, and audience (theatre friends) volunteers. We all sat in the front row for Act 2, illuminating the action on stage. The audience stayed and had an uproariously good time. The actors threw in some ad libs regarding the power outage, which just made Act 2 funnier, if that was possible. As Director, I called out some light cues (green light, blackout) and as for sound cues, I yelled out some (like Epic Battle music here) and others that were saved on a cast member's cell phone were played from the phone. After a well-deserved standing ovation, one of the best performances I had ever seen was over. Everyone on stage and off had a wonderful time. So even though we weren't sure if the wand lights would hold out, or even the batteries in the flashlights, they did hold out and everyone was treated to a show unlike any other. That night was the epitome of community theatre, as actors, audience, friends, and production crew all came together to make the best out of a tough situation. As the old adage goes, "the show must go on" and it did, to everyone's delight.

Carissa Sloan, Director

Backstage photo wand lights (from left to right): Megan Archibald, Jodi Zerbe, Keilah Boone, and Niki Rasmussen



After the show "blackout" picture some cast and crew:
Front row: Keilah Boone, Jodi Zerbe, Megan Archibald
Second row: Sophia Heller, Niki Rasmussen, Matt Schiesl, Zach Schnelle
Third row: Jill Gornet, John Sloan, Tom Cavano, Clarke Brinn
Last row: Carissa Sloan, Micheal Kiser

