

CUELINES



November 2022

Wayne's Wisdom

The 2022-2023 OCTA season is off and running. It's so wonderful to have live community theatre on the boards again.

I would like to thank Joe Barton and Jesse Bernal for leading OCTA through the tough Covid years. Together with the OCTA Board, they were able to keep the organization together. Now, we must all continue to push toward the normalcy we knew before the pandemic. To do this successfully, we all must work together, share ideas, support other theatres (and Regions), and be willing to make some sacrifices where needed.

Last summer we were able to hold 5 Regional OCTA Fests and the State Conference. It wasn't quite what we have known in the past, but it was a great beginning. I want to congratulate the North Region for holding their first-ever Regional OCTA Fest. Way to go, gang!!

As the new President of OCTA, I want to work on communications with our member theatres, as well as putting OCTA in direct contact with our membership. To do this, I am instituting personal visits to all our Regions and a great many of our member theatres. We are trying to organize town-hall discussion meetings in each of the Regions, throughout the year. In addition, we are going to see a lot of good shows statewide.

In October, I have been visiting the East, West, and Northwest Regions. November will see us traveling to the Central, Northeast, and Southeast Regions. At any of these visits, I would like to meet with reps, delegates, Board members, and other individuals interested in community theatre. I need to hear from you regarding what OCTA can do to help your theatre, as well as what concerns are out there. We probably can't solve all the issues, but we'll listen and do what is possible to address them.

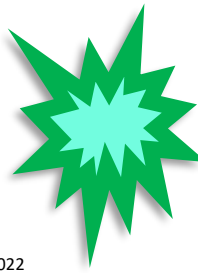
I urge you to keep in contact with your Regional Reps throughout the year. They have information you will find extremely useful for your theatre. Plus, they are your mouthpieces to communicate with the State Board. After all, communication is a two-way street. And make sure all your theatre's contact information is updated and correct. Many times, items get lost because of wrong contact info. Help us to help you.

I hope to see many of you during this theatre season. If I'm in your area, stop by and say "Hello." Until then, have a great year, and stay healthy and safe.

Theatrically yours,
Wayne Kirsch, OCTA President

DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 3, 2022 - Board Meeting (Zoom)
- January 21, 2023 - Board Meeting (Zoom)
- March 18, 2023 - Board Meeting (Zoom)
- May 20, 2023 - Board Meeting (TBD)
- July 15, 2023 - Board Meeting (TBD)
- August 5, 2023 - OCTA, Jr.
- September 1-4, 2023 - Annual Conference



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CUELINES EDITOR

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wayne Kirsch	President
Joe Barton	1 st Vice President
Carissa Sloan	2 nd Vice President
Jane Mancini	3 rd Vice President
Nicole Amersdorfer	Secretary
Jesse Bernal	Past President

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Aara Wise	Robert Weidle
Ray Lebowski	Peggy Kenney
Kate Charlesworth-Miller	Millie Butts
Bruce Jacklin	Sonja Hyer
Susan Barzda	Denise Schnieders
Judy Berrens	Janis Carnahan

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

CENTRAL

Jill Henwood	Thom Oglvie
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EAST

Machelle Miller	Christy Rahrig
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NORTH

Donna Jean Evans	Deb Wentz
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NORTHEAST

NORTHWEST

Andy Roberts	Rose Roberts
Evan James Copeland	Liz Latta

SOUTHEAST

Celia McCoy	Laura Miller
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SOUTHWEST

John Masterson	Kevin Noll
Linda Roll	

WEST

Michelle Roush	
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COME AND JOIN THE FUN!!! ANNUAL CONFERENCE 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.

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, pkennedy27@zoomtown.com. We would love to see you at the conference next Labor Day weekend!



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REGIONAL FESTIVALS

CENTRAL

Kenyon College – Dates TBD

EAST

Coshocton – June 11, 2023

NORTH

???

NORTHEAST

???

NORTHWEST

Owens Community College – June 24, 2023

SOUTHEAST

Pomeroy – Dates TBD

SOUTHWEST

Miami University-Parrish Auditorium
June 16-17, 2023

WEST

Beavercreek Community Theater
July 9, 2023

OCTA, Jr.

Mt. Vernon – August 5, 2023

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

We are currently trying to reignite the Young Gems program. 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

Thank you!!





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CALENDAR

OCTA East Region Callboard

Nov. 4 -13 - *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*
Nov. 25 - Dec 10 - *The Hallelujah Girls*
Dec. 2-11 - *Honk! Jr.*
Dec. 2 - 11 - *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*
Dec. 8-11- *Angel Tree 2022*

Renner
Jan. 5- 15 - *Tuesdays with Morrie*
Jan. 21-30 - *The Tempest*

OCTA North Region Callboard

Dec. 1-3 & 9-10 - *The Addams Family*
Dec. 2-4 & 9-11 - *It's a Wonderful Life- A Live Radio Play*
Dec. 2-4 & 9-10 - *A Charlie Brown Christmas*
Dec. 2-4 & 9-11 - *The Play That Goes Wrong*
Dec. 2-4 & 9-11 - *Elf*

Dec. 9-11 & 16-17 - *Rented Christmas: The Musical*

OCTA Northeast Region Callboard

Nov. 4 - 20 - *In laws, Outlaws, and Other People*
Nov. 11 - 20 - *Dorothy in Wonderland*
Dec. 2 - 11- *Miracle on 34th Street*
Dec. 2 - 17 - *Great American Trailer Park Musical*
Dec. 2 - 17 - *A Christmas Story*
Dec. 9 - 10 - *The Life & Adventures of Santa Claus*
Jan. 13 - 29 - *The Laramie Project*
Jan. 20 - 22 - *Cinderella, or the Story of Bigfoot*
Jan. 27 - Feb. 18 - *The Play that Goes Wrong*

OCTA Northwest Region Callboard

Dec. 1-4, 8-11 & 15-18 - *Elf the Musical*
Dec. 2-3 & 8-11 - *The Game's Afoot*
Theatre
Dec 1-4 - *Lie, Cheat and Genuflect*
Dec 2-18 - *A Christmas Carol*
Dec. 2-4 and 9-11 - *Marjorie Prime*
Jan. 13-15 - *Heroes*
Jan. 20-22 - *Myths and Hymns*

OCTA West Region Callboard

Dec. 2-4 & 9-11 - *The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge*
Feb. 24-26 & Mar. 3-5 - *Neil Simon's Barfoot in the Park*

OCTA Southwest Region Callboard

Nov. 3 - 20 - *The Gods of Comedy*
Nov. 4 - 12 - *Wonderful Town*
Nov. 4 - 20 - *Puffs*
Nov. 10 - 13 - *tick...tick...boom! and The Last 5 Years*
Nov. 10 - 20 - *The Last 5 Years*
Nov. 11 - 20 - *The Diary of Anne Frank*
Nov. 18 - 20 - *Good People*
Dec. 1 - 18 - *Next to Normal*
Dec. 2 - 11 - *The Dining Room*
Dec. 2 - 18 - *Sanders Family Christmas*
Dec. 15 - 18 - *Miracle on 34th Street the Musical*
Jan. 12 - 29 - *Dearly Departed*
Jan. 19 - 22 - *Of Men and Cars*

Zanesville Community Theatre
Footlight Players
Carnation City Players
Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County
ZCT & Zane Trace Players at the

Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County
Zane Trace Players

Old Towne Hall Theatre
Harlequin Players
Bellevue Society for the Arts
Fremont Community Theatre
Bucyrus Little Theatre
Playmaker's Civic Theatre

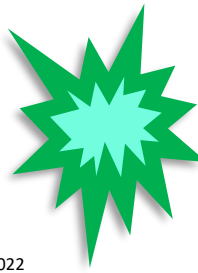
Trumbull New Theatre
Stow Players
Medina Co. Show Biz
Stow Players
Theatre 8:15
Dynamics Comm. Theatre
Trumbull New Theatre
Stow Players
Aurora Comm. Theatre

Fort Findlay Playhouse
Williams County Community

Archbold Community Theatre
The Toledo Rep
Black Swamp Players
The Toledo Rep
The Toledo Rep

Troy Civic Theatre
Troy Civic Theatre

Mariemont Players
Cincinnati Music Theatre
Loveland Stage Company
INNOVATheatre
Mason Community Players
CenterStage Players
Fairfield Footlighters
Footlighters, Inc
Tri-County Players
The Drama Workshop
INNOVATheatre
Mariemont Players
INNOVATheatre



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October Admin Division Report: Jesse Bernal presented the admin report. Had 7 of 8 members in attendance. Job roles assigned: Secretary - Niccole Amersdorfer, Regional Rep Coordinator, Hall of Fame, Spirit of Community Theatre - Michelle Peterson, (Evan James Copeland will co-chair Hall of Fame and Spirit), Delegate - Sonja Hyer, Nominations - Kevin Noll, Policy and Code of Conduct - Kate Charlesworth-Miller, Long Range Planning - Donna Jean Evans

Goals for the year: Administrative Assistant job role to be redefined, increase delegate involvement (a second, virtual meeting being considered), new long range plan template. One action item.

October Fundraising Division Report: Jane Mancini presented the fundraising report. Discussed Grants, ways to make money/thinking outside of the box fundraising. Assigned job descriptions: Thom Ogilvie - Grants, Corp sponsorship, Ray Lebowski - Forms, accounting forms updated, Mabelle Miller - Silent Auction - improve forms and intakes, Millie Butts - Patrons, Susan Barzda - Scholarship, John Masterson (and all) - Logo Items (requesting ideas, looking for best value/cost)

Reported \$1959.50 raised by silent auction at 2022 Conference - Deb Wentz mentioned minimum bids were not adhered to (suggestion: Minimum Bid line be the first bid line)

Robert Weidle donating Santa Video, emails or texts - get scripts from parents (text or email Robert Weidle 513-405-1882) - \$20 for 30-90 second video. No action items.

October MPR Division Report: Carissa Sloan presented the MPR report. 6 members present. Job assignments as follows: Cuelines - Denise Schnieders (denise.a.schnieders@gmail.com), Anniversary- Peggy Kenney, Website - Rose Roberts (rosemroberts23@gmail.com), Young Gems - Andy Roberts (asroberts2003@gmail.com), Resource Directory - Christy Rahrig

Discussed: recognizing 70th year anniversaries, Young Gems (every other month Zoom meeting, people under 30 to see what they want at OCTA - Reps, please help see who might be interested in your region - send names, emails, ages to Andy) Considering Instagram account, perhaps Tic Toc in future. All Ages round tables via Zoom throughout year. Updating job descriptions throughout year.

Idea: Deb Wentz idea to have a youth membership into OCTA, cost, benefits. One action item.

October Programming Division Report: Joe Barton presented the programming report. Met this morning with seven members present: Robert Weidle (Conference Chair 2023), Deb Wentz (Guide/Respondent Chair), Linda Roll (Costumes Chair), Judy Berrens (Set Competition Chair), Bruce Jacklin via Zoom (OCTA Jr Chair/OCTAFest Chair in Training), Aara Wise (Script Library) and myself. I will be OCTAFest Chair for 2023 with help from a few others. Bruce will also be training and hopefully ready to do one on his own this summer. We discussed Conference Evaluations: the good, the bad, the ugly and, hopefully, made Robert aware of some issues that occurred this year that hopefully he and Peggy can alleviate for next year. As well, Aara was able to discuss some of the issues that happened at Cherry Valley. An emphasis was made by Linda to possibly send out an explanation of sorts as to the Why so many of these things happened. We will work on this as a committee and forward something to Board and Regional Reps to help disseminate the information. We also discussed Board Job Descriptions and discussed edits and additions to those. Some overly broad and some need more clarification. We will work on these and possibly present in December but more likely the January meeting. I will organize a group chat via Facebook for our Programming Group so that we can work "off" Board meeting dates to work ahead. Did not get to Long Range Planning, but hopefully will do so at December meeting to present, again hopefully at January meeting. No action items at this time.



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Regional Reports: to be sent to Niccole Amersdorfer and Denise Schnieders in advance of the board meeting.

Central Region: Thom Ogilvie reported they are working on setting meeting next month, Potential new theatre, Thom asked to clarify requirements for paid staff - concern is technically paid actors.

East Region: Christy Rahrig submitted the report. OCTA president Wayne Kirsch visited the East region and we held a delegate dinner on October 9 in New Philadelphia. Susan Barzda, Bart Herman, and Christy Rahrig attended as delegates for their theatres. We shared our concerns about our region and how OCTA can be a benefit for our member theatres.

North Region: Deb Wentz presented the report. The North Region has nothing to report. Will be setting up a meeting after retreat. Deb recognized Jason Chandler for working hard to help get the regional done.

Northeast Region: No Northeast Report. No regional reps present.

Northwest Region: Rose Roberts presented the report. Regional Reps has a meeting October 1st to discuss future plans for the region. We have our next meeting scheduled for November 12th. Our regional has been scheduled for June 24th, 2023 at Owens Community College.

Southeast Region: No regional reps present. Jane Mancini reported that she will reach out to Janis Carnahan to help organize a meeting and help the region. Wayne will be in SE on November 20th.

Southwest Region: Kevin Noll presented the report. ACT board met 9/27, Linda advised that conference was discussed. Next meeting is October 25th.

West Region: Michelle Peterson presented the report. Wayne was in the region on October 15th for town hall with 5 theatres represented - next meeting November 12th at the Holland in Bellefontaine.

Wayne reminded the board that previous OCTA members who have been gone more than 5 years can take advantage of free trial membership.

AACT Report: Wayne Kirsch reported that our representative is no longer on the board - Joe Barton may be taking over the position. Region 3 in April on WI- Alabaster from Actor's Collaborative representing Ohio. National Festival is set for June in Kentucky.



SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE

The Tradition of the Ghost Light

By: Denise A Schnieders

As theatre people there are some things that we just accept without knowing the why. The tradition of the ghost light is no exception. We know that the last thing we do as we leave the theater is turn on the ghost light. But why do we do this? And for those readers who are new to the theatre, what is a ghost light?

Let's start with the easy question, what is a ghost light? A ghost light is a single bulbed light that shines on the dark stage throughout the night when the theater is closed and unoccupied. But why do we leave this singular orb lit on an empty stage? Of course, the practical use of the ghost light is for safety as it enables someone to navigate the theater and avoid accidents such as tripping over set pieces or possibly falling into the orchestra pit. Most people believe the tradition began in the days of gas-lit theaters when dim gas lights were left burning to relieve pressure on the gas valves. But why and how the tradition evolved into the ghost light we know now will forever remain a mystery.

Practicality is not the only reason the use of the ghost light has become a tradition. There are also superstitions associated with the purpose of ghost lights. It is said that every theater has a ghost and that is why we use ghost lights. One superstition is that the ghost light provides light at night for any spirits to be able to see and even "perform" onstage, appeasing them and preventing them from cursing the theater or sabotaging the set or production. In contradiction, another superstition is that the ghost lights are supposed to keep the spirits away so that they don't get mischievous. Whether you believe in the superstitions or not, the mystery and curiosity behind them provide extra fascination and appeal to performers and theatregoers alike.

The tradition itself is a beautiful and magical custom, especially because it has become a standard that everyone follows. It is as if everyone unites at the end of the day to follow one single stage direction.

The tradition of the ghost light took on a new meaning over the last couple of years when the world stopped, and every theater went dark; but we kept the ghost light lit. Knowing that one day we would open the doors of the theater and come together as a "family" to perform again for welcoming audiences.

Call for 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