

**ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE FESTIVAL**

**NOVEMBER 21-22, 2015 MEETING**

**ISU Alumni Center**

**1101 North Main Street, Normal, IL 61761**

**SATURDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 21, 2015**

Tim Broeker, Ann Witting, Carm DeStefano, Karen Hall, LaDonna Wilson, and Kurt Steinhauser met to discuss and create the slate of plays for Festival. Dan Browder joined the group. Most of the plays chosen were highly recommended, and represent all the different regions.

In another room, Nathaniel Haywood and Liesl Krieger, met to finalize workshop plans. They were joined by Vic Pilolla.

Both of the above groups met to discuss conflicts before the rest of the Committee arrived. At 12:30, the remainder of the Committee members arrived for the planning meeting. Lunch was served and Committee members met in their respective groups before the afternoon meeting.

**Planning Committee (Voting Members) Present**

Carmel Destafano, Executive Director 2016

LaDonna Wilson, Secretary/Executive Director 2017

Gary Thorsky, Assoc. Director of Exhibits

Nathaniel Haywood, Assoc. Director of Workshops

Liesl Krieger, Assoc. Director of Workshops

Marty Lynch, Assoc. Director of Auditions

Victor Pililla, Assoc. Director of Auditions

Allan Kimball, Assoc. Director of Promotions

Ryan Lambert, Assoc. Director of Promotions

Tim Broeker, Assoc. Director of Play Selection

Ann Witting, Assoc. Director of Play Selection

Thom Ringrose, Assoc. Director of Technology

Kurt Steinhauser, Historian/Documentarian

Dennis Anastasopoulos All-State Director 2016

### **Non-Voting Members Present**

Megan McCann, ISU Program Coordinator  
Karen Hall, Assoc. Director of Box Office, ITA Liason  
JW Morrisette, UIUC, Department of Theatre Representative  
Matthew Brooks, UIUC: Technical Student Representative  
John Litanzi, UIUC: Student Representative  
Athanasia Giannetos, UIUC: Student Representative  
Cyndee Brown, ISU: Department of Theatre and Dance Representative  
Daniel Esquivel, ISU: Student Representative  
Molly Triveline, ISU: Student Committee  
Shannon Doering, ISU: Student Committee  
Natalie Kozelka, ISU: Student Committee  
Daniel Browder, ISU: Department of Theatre Representative

### **Planning Committee Representatives Absent**

Brian Alexander, Executive Director Emeritus  
James Crow, Assoc. Director of Exhibits (resigned)  
Theresa Shepherd, Co-Producer All-State 2016  
Christine Haines, Co-Producer All-State 2016  
Judy Swiger, Assoc. Director of Hospitality/Mentors

### **Non-Voting Members Absent**

Aimee-Lynn Newlan, ITA Executive Director  
Marty Jean Goughnour, Assoc. Director of Development/PR (resigned)  
Johnathan Meier, ITA Liason  
Dinah Bartheness, ITA President  
Pete Guither, ISU Department of Theatre

- I. Carm DeStefano called the November meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Vic Pilolla moved to accept the minutes, Gary Thorsky seconded, and the minutes were approved.
- II. Play Selection discussed the plays that were selected (17 were selected from 29 submissions).
  - A. It was noted that most showcases now require significant technical support.

- B. Gary suggested that respondents tour the set as part of their process. Vic suggested that respondents take a few pictures of the set, as well.
- C. Allan Kimball moved to accept the slate of shows that were selected, and Nathaniel Haywood seconded. The motion passed.

III. The Committee took a recess to contact the shows that were selected and to proofread pages for the program. Carm and Kurt Steinhauser met with the student Committee, and other committee members continued working on their respective needs.

IV. Carm reconvened the meeting at 3:00 pm.

V. Megan McCann said the budget is doing well, but we could use more ads. They need to be in by Dec 4<sup>th</sup>. Also, this year we are low on exhibits which are needed by Dec 21<sup>st</sup>. Vic moved and Marty Lynch seconded that we accept all the wait-listed schools. Motion passed.

VI. Committee Updates

A. Executive Director

1. Carm reported that the Thespians will do a workshop on TALENT leadership, as well as a pre-registered Individual Events evaluation workshop. Highest scores will perform on Saturday. Thespians will also take donations for Broadway Cares for the last five minutes of intermission at the All State performances.
2. The Opening Ceremony will be the medley of Broadway songs followed by performances from Wilson Herredia and Tyce Green.
3. The Committee will meet from 8-9 pm on Weds, Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, and Thurs, Jan 7<sup>th</sup> at 9am.
4. Extraordinary Contributors were discussed and Allan moved and Thom Ringrose seconded that we honor Pete Guither and Dan Browder for their extraordinary contributions. They are each retiring after this year.

B. All-State

1. Performances will be a 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday.
2. Broadway Costumes is costuming the entire show.
3. Dennis reported on the tickets needed by the All-State Company, 567 total.
4. Producers have cooked many meals to cut down costs.

5. There will be a 6 p.m. Dress Rehearsal on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The show is running 2 ½ hours with intermission.

C. Auditions

1. 168 students have signed up so far (27 are juniors).
2. **ACTION: Auditions ask that the piano be unlocked by 7:15 a.m.**

D. Exhibits

1. 51 exhibitors so far, most of them college
2. Registration for Exhibits will be extended until December 21st.

E. Technology

1. Thom is looking to see if the maps of ISU can be made public on the app.

F. Promotions

1. Presales will end on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Vic moved to adjourn the meeting and Marty seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Carm reconvened the meeting at 9:50 a.m. on Sunday.

G. Hospitality

1. Judy Swiger will get with Megan to compile the food orders for the Hospitality Room to improve the selection.

H. Play Selection

1. Dec 6<sup>th</sup> will now be divided into three meetings so people don't have to wait around.
2. This Committee will email schools that have not turned in pictures, etc.
3. **ACTION: Tim will send Karen Hall the shows that may need warning labels/signs.**

I. Promotions

1. Fest Gear was previewed.
2. **ACTION: Allan will contact Aimee-Lynn about getting the Square reader for credit card usage because ISU will not be providing that service, will also ask Aimee Lynn about corporate sponsors for the monitor t-shirts.**

J. Workshops

1. 126 workshops are currently registered.
2. **ACTION: Liesl and Student Monitors will work on signage for workshops and Vic will print then. Thom will do promotional signage.**

K. Friday Night Activities and Student Monitors

1. Friday night activities will include Zumba, the Dance, Billiards and Bowling,
  - a. Singalong, Improv Mafia, and Lifesize Game Night.
  - b. Monitors are also creating a 'character hunt' game for Festival participants.

L. Local Arrangments

1. Megan reported that all is going well.
2. **ACTION: Megan will add wordage about special needs students to the sponsors' email, specifically wanting to know if interpreters are needed by December 18<sup>th</sup>.**

The Committee reviewed the contents of the packets that each workshop leader, exhibitor, and school leader will receive, in addition to deadlines for December and January.

LaDonna Wilson moved and Judy Swiger seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.