

41th ANNUAL ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE FESTIVAL
“Dare to Dream”

Planning Committee Agenda

Library - Reavis High School, 6034 W. 77th Street, Burbank, Illinois
Sunday, September 13, 2015

Planning Committee (Voting Members) Present

Carmel DeStefano, 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
Victor Pilolla, 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
Theresa Shepherd, Co-Producer All-State 2016
Christine Haines, Co-Producer All-State 2016

Planning Committee (Voting Members) Not Present

Brian Alexander, Executive Director Emeritus
James Crow, Assoc. Director of Exhibits
Marty Lunch, Assoc. Director of Auditions
Dennis Anastasopoulos, All-State Director 2016
Judy Swiger, Assoc. Director of Hospitality/Mentors

Non-Voting Members Present

Megan McCann, ISU Program Coordinator
Aimee-Lynn Newlan, ITA Executive Director
Karen Hall, Assoc. Director of Box Office, ITA Liason
JW Morrisette, UIUC: Department of Theatre Representative
John Litanzi, UIUC: Student Representative

Non-Voting Members Not Present

Cyndee Brown, ISU: Department of Theatre and Dance Representative
Marty Jean Goughnour, Assoc. Director of Development /Public Relations
Johnathan Meier, ITA Liason
Molly Triveline, ISU: Student Committee
Dan Esquivel, ISU: Student Committee
Dinah Barthelmess, ITA President
Shannon Doering, ISU Student Committee
Natalie Kozelka, ISU Student Committee

Daniel Browder, ISU Department of Theatre

- I. Meeting called to order – Introductions Called to order at 10:20 by Carmel DeStafano.
- II. Approval of June Minutes—LaDonna Wilson moved to accept the minutes, Victor Pilolla seconded and the minutes were accepted.
- III. Sub-Committee Reports
 - A. Executive Director – Carmel DeStefano reporting
 1. Festival Up-date—Carm reported that she was able to keep up with all the groups, including All-State callbacks, productions meetings, etc.
 2. Opening Ceremonies Report --Since so many who auditioned did not get cast in All-State, Carm has decided to do a medley of “Dare to Dream” Broadway songs using the top four boys and girls that were not cast in *RENT*. After they perform, Adam Pescal will come in to do two numbers. Then he will introduce the All State cast and crew and the audience and will sing “Seasons of Love.” He will then do a masters workshop the next day.
 3. Award Nominations
 - a. Administrative Support. There was one submission for the award for the principal of Edwardsville High School—Aimee Lynn read the letter out to the committee. Vic moved to award him as the winner, Liesl seconded, the award passed.
 - b. Extraordinary Contributions –This award was tabled until November; Aimee Lynn will look at those who have contributed several years in a row.
 4. Illinois Thespian involvement - Carm talked to Jim Smith, and they are looking to establish an Honor Thespian Troupe Award that will be announced during Festival. They are looking for ways to increase the participation of Thespians in the Festival, including having a representative from the International Thespians to do a workshop.
 - a. Although Thespians are going to establish Individual Events this year, they will not be during College Auditions.
 - b. Carm suggested a version of “Minute to Win” to collect money for Broadway Cares at the Opening Ceremonies or All-State intermission.
 5. Development of an Executive Directors handbook – Carm plans to still set up a meeting with Karen Hall, Brian Alexander,

Demetrios Pappageorge to make this happen.

6. Critical Response Process—Carm reported the group that met to discuss the Liz Lerman method. There is now a checklist to help the adjudicators organize their ideas which includes a card to help facilitate the students' ability to ask questions. She apologized that not everyone was involved in the process. Vic suggested that the directors who are submitting their plays for Festival attend a workshop on CRP. Aimee Lynn asks that the entire Committee watch the video and make suggestions on improving it.
7. Corporate Sponsor Meeting—Carm discussed a meeting she had with Corporate Sponsors where they asked for more time to set up and a place to store their materials. They also expressed concerns about audition timing and feel tech auditions are too rushed. Intelligent Design is going to try to supply a video wall for Exhibits. An "Exhibit Only Hour" was also proposed by the Corporate Sponsors to highlight their involvement in the Festival.

ACTION ITEM: Carm will look into the feasibility of the an "Exhibit Only Hour" and will present a proposal at the November meeting.

- B. All-State –Theresa Shepherd reported that 99 students make up the company from 44 schools.
 1. Audition Update –There were 299 students that auditioned; 88 students invited to callbacks.
 2. Rehearsal Update—Theresa said rehearsals are going super well and expressed her thanks to ISU, especially Megan, for all its help.
 3. The All-State producers requested to increase the number of Company tickets to performances since ISU's theatre is so large. Karen Hall explained that that wouldn't be fair since U of I can't accommodate a larger audience.

ACTION ITEM: Aimee-Lynn will contact Home Depot and Menards about donations.

- C. Play Selection – Tim Broeker and Ann Witting reporting
 1. Registered schools – As of the meeting, 29 schools had applied for play selection, but there was concern about a low number of showcase applications. There will be a deadline extension until Sept 25 for showcases only.
 2. Aimee-Lynn will send out an email blast about the deadline

extension.

- D. Promotions – Allan Kimball and Ryan Lambert reporting
 - 1. The promotions committee showed examples of each item.

ACTION—Aimee Lynn says ITA will sponsor the stress-stars with ITA logos on one side.

- 2. Monitor shirts sponsorship

ACTION—Aimee Lynn will check with Marty Jean about this item.

- E. Auditions –Victor Pilolla reported that they plan to double the tech students' presentation time by having the college reps move during the auditions instead of students.
- F. Exhibits –Gary Thorsky reported that he and Jim are continuing to work on getting exhibitors registered.

ACTION: He asked that Committee members to contact former students or famous people for quotes about their theatre dreams.

- G. Workshops – Nathaniel Haywood and Liesel Krieger reported that they are looking into dinner on Friday night for Monitors as a check in time and a way to show the Committee's appreciation for their work.
 - 1. The Thursday meeting should set a mood of positivity and empowerment for the Monitors.

ACTION: They ask that Festival Committee members recruit and solicit colleagues and former students for workshop leaders.

- H. Technology – Thom Ringrose reported about the progress he is making on the App. He suggested a unique identifier for each workshop to create ease in reporting and collecting data.
- I. Development – Vic reported on an opportunity from USITT (United States Institute of Theatre Technology) to fund the expenses for individual students who would not be able to attend Festival.
- J. Local Arrangements – Megan McCann reported that all is going well and on schedule.
- K. Mentors/Hospitality – no report.
- L. Student Representatives – no report

- M. ITA Liaison – Karen Hall discussed the ITA Convention on Sept 19.
 - 1. Aimee-Lynn announced the Executive Director for Festival – 2018 is Nathaniel Haywood.
- N. Graduate Credit – no report
- O. Historian/Documentarian/Continuity – Kurt said there was nothing new at this time.
- P. Box Office – Karen said there was nothing new at this time.
- IV. Budget Update – Megan McCann reported that everything is on track with the budget.
- VI. Future Meetings -

Saturday Nov. 21 & 22	ISU (November)
Wednesday Jan. 6	ISU (Pre-fest Meeting)
Thursday-Saturday Jan. 7-9	The Festival at ISU
Sunday January 24	ISU Changeover to 2017
- VII. Adjournment - Vic moved to adjourn, and Gary seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:57.