

## MINUTES

**The ATHE Governing Council unanimously approved the following actions on January 13, 2007:**

MOTION: from Judith, to approve to GC minutes of Aug. 2 and Aug. 6, 2006.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Julie. Abstention: Kaye. Passed by majority.

MOTION: from Bill, to accept the 2007-08 Budget. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lionel. Passed unanimously.

MOTION: from Bill, to accept audit. 2<sup>nd</sup> Deborah. Discussion: None. Passed Unanimously.

CONSENT MOTION: from Nina, to approve the consent agenda items (see below).  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lionel. Passed Unanimously.

- A. Approval of \$40 Membership in CELJ (Council of Editors of Learned Journals) for *Theatre Journal* and *Theatre Topics* – Ric Knowles
- B. Approval of \$300 National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day Sponsored by Americans for the Arts – Deborah Martin
- C. Approval of \$600 for Reception for ATHE Summit of Theatre-Related Organizations for an Arts Advocacy Day Meeting at the Kennedy Center – Deborah Martin
- D. Thank You to Shaun Sewell for His Exemplary Work on the Development of ATHE's Revised Website and Drafting Guidelines for the Use of ATHE's Online Resources – Judith Sebesta
- E. Approval to Dissolve the Six Member Editorial Committee for In Medias Res and Place the Project Under the Management of Tobin Nelhaus, with the Assistance of ETC Member Kathryn Farley – Judith Sebesta
- F. Approval of 2008 Conference Planning Committee – David Kaye, Chair and Robert Barton, Michael Mufson, Pamela Chabora, Harvey Young, Patricia Ybarra, Lance Gharavi, Cheryl Black, Kathy Maes, Fred Rubeck, Kurt Daw (and Suzanne Burgoyne as President-Elect)

**The ATHE Operations Committee unanimously approved the following motions between January 12 and June 8, 2007:**

**The ATHE Operations Committee unanimously approved the following actions on January 12, 2007.**

MOTION: from Bill Doan, to close out one bank account in Chicago, transfer part into a business savings account in Colorado and wire the rest to Charles Schwab for investment portfolio. 2<sup>nd</sup> Nina.  
Unanimous Approval.

MOTION: from Judith Sebesta, approve OC minutes of Nov. 2 conference call and Nov. 13 electronic vote. 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill.

Unanimous Approval.

**The ATHE Operations Committee unanimously approved the following actions on February 16, 2007, via conference call.**

MOTION: Approve Consent Items. Suzanne 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed Unanimously.

Consent Items:

Wilson Conference attendance travel/hotel Julie Rae Pratt - \$633

ATHE Summit Conference attendance travel/hotel Jay Edelnant- \$500 (change to \$700)

ATHE Summit Conference attendance travel/hotel Suzanne Burgoyne - \$500

Shaun Sewell Work to Recreate InfoBank and Advocacy Watch online - \$250

Membership and Marketing Hosting of a Debut Panel Party for BTA/LFG - \$500

MOTION: from Julie, to approve \$500 for the hosting of a debut panel party for BTA/LFG and one other FG TBA. Michael 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed Unanimously.

Motion on Topics Co-Editor from Ric Knowles (see below)

C. Motion on Topics Reviews Editor from Ric Knowles (see below)

MOTION: from Ric Knowles, to approve *Theatre Topics* Co-Editor and Reviews Editor (see below). Julie 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed Unanimously.

Co-Editor:

The Search Committee recommends that Kanta Kochhar-Lindgren (U of Washington Bothell) be offered the position of co-editor for a two-year term, to be followed by a two-year term as editor. The committee consisted of Jonathan Chambers, Dorothy Chansky, Ric Knowles (Chair), Jim Peck, and Sandra Shannon.

Reviews Editor:

The search committee recommends that Terry Brino-Dean (Seton Hill U) be offered the position of reviews editor for a two-year term. The committee consisted of Jonathan Chambers, Ric Knowles (Chair), Sandra Shannon, and Deana Totem Beard.

MOTION: from Judith, to approve the following bylaws changes. 2<sup>nd</sup> Julie. Passed Unanimously.

**\*\*CHANGE**

SECTION 8.1 OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL. The elected officers of the Association shall be:

1. a President, elected in odd-numbered years for a two-year term.
2. a President-Elect, elected in even-numbered years for a two-year term.

**TO**

SECTION 8.1 OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL. The elected officers of the Association shall be:

1. a President, to serve a two-year term.
2. a President-elect, elected in odd-numbered years for a two-year term

**\*\*CHANGE**

SECTION 8.3 QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE. Each officer shall be an individual member in good standing of the Association. A Focus Group Representative may not become an officer during his/her tenure.

**eliminate:** A Focus Group Representative may not become an officer during his/her tenure.

**TO**

SECTION 8.3 QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE. Each officer shall be an individual member in good standing of the Association.

**\*\*CHANGE**

SECTION 8.6 DUTIES OF OFFICERS. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

The Immediate Past President shall:

1. serve on the Nominating Committee and the Operations Committee.

**TO**

The Immediate Past President shall:

1. serve on the Nominating Committee.

**CHANGE:**

SECTION 9.2 NOMINATING COMMITTEE. The Nominating Committee is charged with preparing a slate of nominees for election of officers and the elected member of the Nominating Committee. The Committee shall consist of two (2) members appointed by the President and approved by the Governing Council; one (1) member elected by the Focus Group Representatives; and one (1) member elected by the membership. Current officers shall be ineligible to serve on the Nominating Committee, with the exception of the Immediate Past President. The Nominating Committee will prepare for submission to the members a slate of two (2) candidates for each position being elected, except the office of President. For President, only the name of the President-Elect will be presented. The slate of candidates must be mailed to the members not less than thirty (30) days prior to the return date of the ballot.

**TO**

SECTION 9.2 NOMINATING COMMITTEE. The Nominating Committee is charged with preparing a slate of nominees for election of officers and the elected member of the Nominating Committee. The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the President and the Committee shall consist of two (2) members appointed by the President and approved by the Governing Council; one (1) member elected by the Focus Group Representatives; and one (1) member elected by the membership. Current officers shall be ineligible to serve on the Nominating Committee, with the exception of the Immediate Past President. The Nominating Committee will prepare for submission to the members a slate of two (2) candidates for each position being elected, except the office of President. For President, only the name of the President-Elect will be presented. The slate of candidates must be mailed to the members not less than thirty (30) days prior to the return date of the ballot.

NB: SECTION 6.5, the first “member” should have an “s” at the end.

**The ATHE Operations Committee unanimously approved the following action on March 16, 2007, via electronic vote.**

MOTION: from Bill Doan, to approve the Focus Group Grants for 07/08 below.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Michael. Passed Unanimously.

#### Rationale

The Finance Sub-Committee for Focus Group grants has reviewed the proposals below and is unanimous about the following recommendations:

**TASC:** \$1225 (full funding minus food costs) Research Community based artists in New Orleans nominated for TASC's inaugural Theatre and Social Change Award.

**Directing/Acting:** \$1150 (funding minus food costs, except for SITI artist), Viewpoints workshop to be held at the University of Windsor

**ATME:** \$1250, full funding, ATME Movement Institute at Blackfriar's Playhouse in Staunton, VA.

**MTD:** \$1600 (partial funding), Outreach and building alliance with MTEA (Music Theatre Educators Alliance) by sending members to MTEA conference and building partnerships.

**STRP:** \$1500, full funding, Web, communication and Network building through production of a database, e newsletters and STN website.

**DRG:** no funding, Dramaturgical research project in New Orleans --- committee felt the goals and outcomes were vague and that the overall benefit to both the FG and ATHE was not compelling.

**The ATHE Operations Committee unanimously approved the following action on March 23, 2007, via electronic vote.**

MOTION: from Bill Doan, to approve ATHE signing the rental agreement with NOCCA (New Orleans Creative Center for the Arts ) on behalf of WTP' s preconference so that we can cover the one million dollar liability insurance policy NOCCA requires, a fee to be reimbursed to ATHE by WTP. See rationale below.

2<sup>nd</sup> Judith. Passed Unanimously.

### Rationale

WTP has asked ATHE if we could sign the rental agreement for their preconference space with NOCCA and pay the fee. We do understand that this would be an exception and not the rule to pre-conference planning. Then WTP would reimburse ATHE for the rental fee. This would enable WTP to be covered under ATHE's insurance. ATHE has looked over the contract and it appears to be fine.

**The ATHE Operations Committee unanimously approved the following action on April 7, 2007, via electronic vote.**

MOTION: from Suzanne Burgoyne, to approve ATHE co-sponsorship with the University of Missouri-Columbia (UMC) a performance of the UMC Interactive Theatre Troupe at the SIETAR USA annual conference in Kansas City in November, 2007 at the cost of \$350. 2nd Judith. Passed Unanimously.

### Description

The UMC troupe proposes to perform one of the sketches the troupe developed for the Ford "Difficult Dialogues" grant project at the conference. The UMC Chancellor's Diversity Initiative office has pledged to fund 60% of the cost of the performance (including round-trip travel from Columbia to Kansas City and actor salaries) if ATHE will fund 40%. ATHE contribution: \$350.

### Rationale

This project is consistent with the goals articulated in ATHE's Strategic plan, including the goal of connecting with other disciplines interested in promoting the use of theatre for lifelong learning and the goal of promoting multiculturalism. The project also aligns with Advocacy plans discussed at the January 2007 retreat: to advocate for the power of theatre as an educational method and for ATHE by sponsoring interactive theatre performances at relevant conferences outside our own field.

**The ATHE Operations Committee unanimously approved the following action on April 15, 2007, via electronic vote.**

**MOTION: from Suzanne Burgoyne, to establish an Interactive Theatre Task Force to be made up of the following:**

Co-chairs: Suzanne Burgoyne, Jay Edelnant

David Kaye

Jorge Huerta

Michael Ellison

Jeffrey Steiger

Mary Barile

Cece McFarland

Ben Saypol

Deborah Martin

Doug Paterson

Kaarin Johnston

EX OFFICIO: Bill Doan

...and housed under Advocacy. That the task force be charged to explore possibilities for ATHE to create an initiative to support the work of interactive theatre companies housed in institutions of higher education and to network with professional interactive theatre troupes.

Possible specific aspects of the proposed initiative might include 1) a symposium to be held sometime in 2007-08 (date to be determined); 2) a script exchange service; 3) grants from ATHE to provide partial funding support for companies associated with ATHE to perform at conferences in other relevant disciplines; 4) sharing of information regarding the creation of campus troupes, facilitation, training, and other issues; 5) potential publication of interactive theatre scripts and handbooks by ATHE; 6) relevant programming to be suggested to the 2008 Conference Committee. The task force is also charged with investigating the potential for major grant funding for these projects.

2<sup>nd</sup> Judith. Passed Unanimously.

**Rationale:** A number of factors herald new attention being paid to interactive theatre from disciplines outside the field of theatre. These factors include UNC-Chapel Hill's recent establishment of an interactive theatre company in their Counseling Center and a call for applications for Artistic Director of that company; advocacy by the University of Michigan's Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT) for interactive theatre for faculty development on multicultural and gender issues, and CRLT's publication of a major article on the topic in CHANGE magazine in 2006; and serious interactive theatre initiatives developing on three Missouri campuses (University of Missouri-Kansas City, University of Missouri-St. Louis, and St. Louis University) following only one performance of the University of Missouri-Columbia's interactive theatre troupe at each of those institutions. These events suggest that although interactive theatre work has been done for a long time in various venues, its use in higher education (for faculty development and student education on social justice issues, alcohol abuse, etc.) may be about to flower nationwide as a "legitimate" (i.e., funded) endeavor. This movement could enhance employment opportunities for theatre graduates and increase respect for theatre in academia. ATHE has an exciting opportunity to take the lead in promoting these developments and providing support services that could facilitate the growth of the current interactive theatre movement. The task force would build upon and expand ideas discussed at the January 2007 GC/FGR meeting.

**The ATHE Operations Committee unanimously approved the following action on May 14, 2007, via electronic vote.**

**MOTION:** from Julie Rae Pratt, to form a partnership between ATHE and the Black Theatre Network (BTN) beginning with the Katrina Project in honor of former President Marvin Sims. This project is an effort to heal children through theatre, starting in New Orleans with a drama program in the schools during the conference. This Alliance would solidify our ties and interest in fostering interconnectivity.

2<sup>nd</sup> Judith. Passed Unanimously.

**Rationale:**

Based on the suggestion by the GC at the mid-year meeting to enhance ties between ATHE and BTN, a meeting was held at the Wilson Conference between ATHE and the BTN Board, attended by Karen Berman, Julie Rae Pratt, and Jonathan Shandell of BTA, with endorsement from BTA President Harvey Young. The Alliance would represent a joint partnership between ATHE and BTN. While The Alliance would continue to uphold and support the distinct nature of both of these organizations, its mission is to foster interconnectivity, to share common ground, and to build upon heretofore unknown commonalities. These commonalities include, but are not limited to, a heightened interest in promoting performance, scholarship, and pedagogy of Black Theatre. Out of those commonalities the Alliance seeks to find opportunities to collaborate on issues of mutual interest on the multi-faceted topic of Black Theatre. The Alliance pledges to pool its collective talents to advocate for theatre in national and international educational arenas.

**The ATHE Operations Committee unanimously approved the following action on May 21, 2007, via electronic vote.**

**MOTION:** from Ric Knowles, to recommend that Catherine A. Schuler (University of Maryland) be offered the position of Co-Editor and subsequently editor of Theatre Journal.

2<sup>nd</sup> Suzanne. Passed Unanimously.

**Rationale**

Please see Catherine Schuler's CV and the Search Committee Process letter attached. In order to accommodate a smooth transition, the Research and Publications Committee urges this appointment be made prior to the New Orleans conference.

**The ATHE Operations Committee unanimously approved the following action on May 25, 2007, via electronic vote.**

**MOTION:** from Suzanne Burgoyne, that ATHE co-sponsor a symposium on interactive theatre, with participation by the ATHE Task Force on Interactive Theatre, the symposium to be held at the University of Missouri-Columbia during the week of September 10, 2007 (specific date to be determined). That ATHE pledge \$3000 towards defraying the costs of the symposium, under the auspices of the Advocacy and Strategic Planning Committees, from funds allocated in the ATHE budget for Committees.

2<sup>nd</sup> Michael. Passed Unanimously.

**Rationale:**

The charge of the task force is to explore possibilities for ATHE to create an initiative to support the work of interactive theatre companies housed in institutions of higher education and to network with professional interactive theatre troupes. The task force has convened on-line and is enthusiastic about implementing the first step in the initiative: "1) a symposium to be held sometime in 2007-08 (date to be determined)." The week of September 10th is the best time for

task force members (to avoid production schedules, other conferences, etc.). I have been working with the task force and with diversity officers on my campus to organize the symposium and raise funding; a recent severe budget cut at MU has made funding more problematic than we initially envisioned, but we have several pledges of support and small campus-grant requests submitted and think we can raise more than half the needed amount from MU sources. However, we need the financial support requested from ATHE as co-sponsor to make this event happen. The symposium would be attended by the task force members and by representatives from other disciplines, as well as other campuses interested in developing interactive theatre programs, and would help develop interdisciplinary initiatives that could lead to major grant funding. Symposium information and invitations would be sent out to a variety of listservs in theatre and other potentially interested disciplines including faculty developers, organizations that promote diversity in higher education, etc. The symposium in September would also serve the ATHE strategic goal of becoming a year-round organization, with events scheduled at times other than the national conference.

**The ATHE Operations Committee unanimously approved the following action on June 5, 2007, via electronic vote.**

**MOTION:** From Lionel Walsh, to approve the following 2007 Award Winners:

**Career Achievement in Academic Theatre** - Jorge Huerta

**Career Achievement in Professional Theatre** - Robert Woodruff

**Outstanding Teacher of Theatre in Higher Education** - Sandra Richards

**Outstanding Book Award** - Esther Kim Lee

**Excellence in Editing Award** - Tom Postlewait

**David Mark Cohen Award** - Ben Clawson

**Article Award** - Stacy Wolf, *University of Texas at Austin*, “‘We’ll Always Be Bosom Buddies’: Female Duets and the Queering of Broadway Musical Theatre”; The essay appeared in *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, Volume 12, Number 3, 2006.

**Article Honorable Mention** - Darren Gobert, *York University*, “Cognitive Catharsis in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*,” which appeared in *Modern Drama*, Volume 49, Number 1, 2006.

**Jane Chambers Award** - Christine Evans for *TROJAN BARBIE: A Car-Crash Encounter with Euripides' Trojan Women*

2<sup>nd</sup> Judith. Passed Unanimously.

**The ATHE Operations Committee unanimously approved the following action on June 8, 2007, via electronic vote.**

**MOTION:** From Ric Knowles, to recommend the following appointments:

Melissa Gibson (California State U) as incoming Book Review Editor for *Theatre Journal*.

Judith Sebesta (U of Missouri) as incoming Performance Review Editor for *Theatre Journal*.

2<sup>nd</sup> Michael. Passed Unanimously.

**Rationale**

Please see Melissa Gibson's and Judith Sebesta's CVs and the Search Committee Process Letter attached. In order to accommodate a smooth transition, the Research and Publications Committee urges this appointment be made prior to the New Orleans conference.

These were recommended by a committee consisting of the current Editor and Co-Editor, Jean Graham-Jones and David Saltz, and myself, in consultation with the current Book Review Editor, James Peck, and the current Performance Review Editor, Sonja Kuflinec.