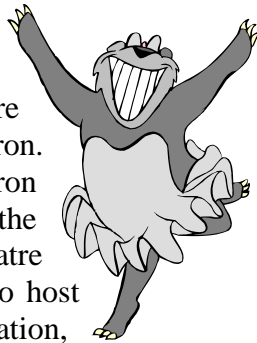


NORTHERN EXPOSURE AUDITION TO APPLAUSE

Mark your calendars for February 22 – 24, 2008. Those are the days when everyone who's anyone will be attending the 2008 WACT Community Theatre Conference in Barron. Two groups, the Barron Spotlighters and the Northern Star Theatre are joining together to host this weekend of education, fun and socializing. Festivities will begin on Friday night with a showcase performance and welcome party which will be a perfect time to renew old acquaintances and/or start making new ones.



Saturday will be a full and fulfilling day. A continental breakfast will be provided in the morning to get everyone off to a good start (remember – breakfast is the most important meal of the day). The morning and afternoon will be filled with workshops in multiple areas of interest, performing, technical, administrative, and ... The actual workshops are still being finalized but some of the tentative topics include:

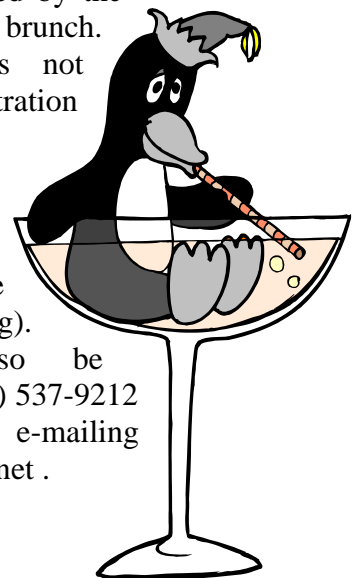
- Voice for the Actor
- Preparing a "Mono" Production
- Lighting Techniques/Design
- Forming an Area Arts Council
- Movement for Actors
- Dance for Non-Dancers
- Sound Techniques/Design

- Set Design on a Budget
- Costuming (Round Table)
- Children/Teenage Theatre
- Directing for Community Theatre & All the Details
- Publicity – Selling Your Show
- Friend Making & Fund Raising

After a day filled with education, everyone will gather together Saturday evening for a banquet and another fine showcase performance. After the performance will be the final gala complete with hors d'oeuvres and frivolity. Take a shot at the open mike and/or take advantage of a chance to play a theatre version of "Who's Line is it Anyway?". After all, who can entertain theatre people more than other theatre people? And all of this for the low, low price of \$40.00, the lowest price ever for a WACT conference.

But the excitement isn't over yet. Sunday will be the ever popular and always exciting WACT Annual Meeting followed by the traditional farewell brunch. (Note that brunch is not included in the registration fee).

As more information becomes available, it will be posted on the WACT website (wact.org). Information can also be obtained by calling (715) 537-9212 or e-mailing spotlighters@chibarden.net.





Wisconsin AACTFest 2009

Wisconsin's 2009 AACTFest may seem like it's in the distant future. However, to put on a successful festival requires time and effort on the part of the hosting group. WACT would encourage any and all groups to consider hosting Wisconsin's AACTFest in 2009. Hosting a festival is a great opportunity to support the work of community theatre in the state, show what your group can do, and be a good fundraiser at the same time. WACT would like to have a host in place prior to the 2008 festival in Barron. That way an announcement of the time and place can be made a full year prior to the festival. Announcing early provides companies thinking of entering the



opportunity to budget and plan to be a participant at AACTFest 2009. Anyone interested in hosting Wisconsin AACTFest 2009 **or any** future conference should contact Frank Peot, 1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, Sun Prairie, WI, 53590, fpeot@wact.org or any other member of the WACT Board of Directors. There are hosting guidelines available to help with organizing and planning. Members of the WACT Board are also available to come to your board meetings to answer questions and offer assistance. It isn't as daunting as it sounds and it can be fun for your whole group **and** good for your community.

WACT News is published quarterly by the Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre for its members and is annually distributed to an expanded list of known community theatre organizations and interested individuals. Publication dates are March, June, September (expanded list) and December.

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National AACTFest Wrap-up

The 2007 AACTFest cycle was completed with the national festival in Charlotte, North Carolina. The twelve shows presented were:

- ❁ **Region I**
The Wellesley (MA) Players
Graceland
- ❁ **Region II**
The Port Tobacco Players (La Plata, MD)
Never Swim Alone
- ❁ **Region III**
La Crosse (WI) Community Theatre
The Women of Lockerbie
- ❁ **Region IVa**
Manatee Players (Bradenton, FL)
Sweeney Todd
- ❁ **Region IVb**
Cookeville (TN) Drama Center's Backstage Players
Escanaba in da Moonlight
- ❁ **Region V**
Aberdeen (SD) Community Theatre
Honk!
- ❁ **Region VIa**
Denton (TX) Community Theatre
Crowns
- ❁ **Region VIb**
Theatre North (Tulsa, OK)
Who Will Sing for Lena?
- ❁ **Region VII**
Cheyenne (WY) Little Theatre Players
A Walk in the Woods
- ❁ **Region VIII**
Army Community Theatre Hawaii
If We Are Women

🌐 **Region IX**
Spokane (WA) Civic Theatre
Assassins

🌐 **Region X**
SHAPE Entertainment Centre
Wings

The first place production was *Crowns*, presented by the Denton Community Theatre followed by *Assassins* by the Spokane Civic Theatre with the Aberdeen Community Theatre's production of *Honk!* coming in third.



WACT Board of Directors

Due to a resignation, there is an open position on the WACT Board of Directors. This position runs until February of 2009. If you would be interested in serving on the WACT Board, contact Frank Peot at FPeot@wact.org. There will also be several positions up for election this coming February. Don't forget, WACT can only be as successful as you help make it.



Morrie Enders, the former Artistic Director of the La Crosse Community Theatre was presented with AACT's Distinguished Merit award and he was also inducted into the AACT Fellows.

Kathie Maldonado, who has been our AACT Festival Commission Representative several times, was also inducted into the AACT Fellows.

The Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa's Mark Wyss will have his short play, *Aviation Blonde*, presented in New York at TheatreRats' Third Annual Chester Horn Short Play Festival.

"Bravo" is where we recognize special achievements or actions by and for community theatre. If you have an item for us, e-mail it to info@wact.org and we'll publish them as space permits.



WACT's VP Goes International

Masan and Changwon, South Korea, hosted the 28th International Amateur Theatre Association's (IATA/IATA) World Congress and International Theatre Festival from July 29th through August 11th. This is the first time in its existence the World Congress and Festival has been held in Asia. Representing the United States was WACT's Vice President Frank Peot who also serves as a world council member representing the United States and Canada. Also representing the United States were Kathie Maldonado from Alto, New Mexico, Dr. Roger Ellis from Grand Rapids, Michigan, Jim Sohre of Heidelberg, Germany, and L. Ross Rowland of Muncie, Indiana. Mr. Rowland also served as independent chair of the congress meetings.

Under the leadership and organization of Dr. Sang Young Lee, Ph. D., and President of the Korea Center AITA/IATA, South Korea produced an exciting 2007 World Festival and Congress. Highlighting the festival were theatrical productions from all parts of the world. Congress delegates and members, observers, and participants were treated to exciting, unusual, and wonderful theatrical performances from many regions of the world. Japan presented *The Marriage Proposal*, Macedonia presented Ienescó's *The Bald Headed Singer*, and the Sejong Theatre Company presented, *Wuthering Heights*. Other productions included contemporary theatre, folk, drama, music, and dance from the many different companies participating. In addition to several Korean performances, Russia, Sweden, Japan, Germany, Macedonia, Italy, China, Denmark, Lithuania, Ghana, Pakistan, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Norway, Bangladesh, Iceland, Finland, Spain, the United Kingdom, Mongolia, Tunisia, Singapore, Myanmar, and Vietnam presented shows from their countries. The Korean performances included both traditional and modern music and dance.

Rounding out the events of the week was the meeting of the 28th Congress of AITA/IATA. The Croatian Cultural Center was welcomed as the newest member of AITA/IATA, bringing the total membership of IATA to ninety-one countries. Break out sessions on Artistic Development, Children and Youth, and Associate Status were held to discuss and share views and concerns of the members present. On the final day of the Congress President Leo Trump gave his Valedictory Statement. Candidates for Vice President, Merja Laaksovirta from Finland, and English Speaking Secretary Anne Gilmore of the UK, presented campaign speeches. Thirty-two



North Atlantic Regional Alliance meeting
Robert Corbiel, Frank Peot, Roger Ellis, Kathie Maldonado

countries cast 165 votes for each of the candidates. Joeseph Hallas of Austria, and Steinar Arnesen of Norway were announced as new regional representatives from their regions. New President Paddy O'Dwyre presented his Vision Statement declaring, "The theatre can stage anything. There are no boundaries."

Monte Carlo, Monaco, was named the host for the 29th World Theatre Congress and Festival in 2009. A bid to host the 30th World Theatre Congress and Festival in 2011 was received from Tromsø, Norway. According to Steinar Arnesen spokesperson for Norway the festival dates (July/August) are an interesting time for guests to visit because there is daylight twenty-four hours per day since the city is within the Arctic Circle.

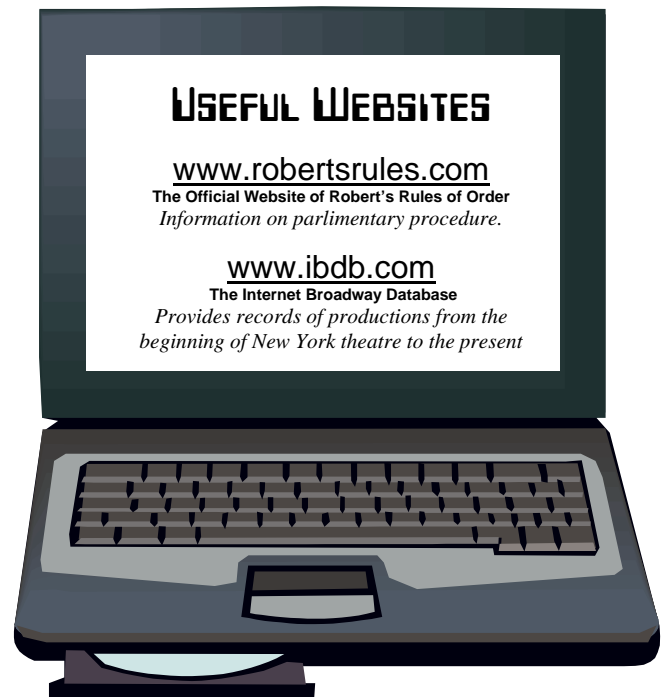
For any theatre lover the 28th World Theatre Congress and Festival was a full plate of drama, comedy, dance, and music. Each evening there were three performances to choose from and each was as exciting and entertaining as the next, as Korea opened its doors and welcomed the world.



Wisconsin Community Theatre's First Lady

At each Wisconsin AACTFest, the Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre presents the top performing community theatre company with the *Mary Dwyre Traveling Trophy*. Mary may not be familiar to many who are involved with Wisconsin Community Theatre today, but during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, Mary was one of Wisconsin Community Theatre's most ardent and faithful supporters. Though Mary is no longer with us her legacy remains in evidence throughout the state's theatre community.

Mary was a charter and life member of the Sheboygan Community Theatre (now the Sheboygan Theatre Company), which was organized in 1934. This means that Mary began her community theatre involvement while still in high school and continued with theatre throughout her lifetime. She was a Drama major at Ripon College and served as Drama Coach at the UW Sheboygan Center for several years. For more



than fifty years she was a dedicated volunteer and actress while serving upon many different crews for the Sheboygan Community Theatre. She also served as a Board Member and Secretary for the Sheboygan Community Theatre for twenty-five years. As an actor Mary always said her favorite role was in "The Subject Was Roses."

Mary served as President, Vice President and Convention Co-chair of the Wisconsin Idea Theatre, Wisconsin's (and one of the nation's) first statewide community theatre organization. She was also an active board member of the Wisconsin Community Theatre Association (WACT's predecessor) serving as a Theatre Consultant, Secretary, Vice President, and President. She was a founding member of the Wisconsin Theatre Association (WTA) and served in numerous capacities on its Board of Directors, including President, Vice President, Secretary, Membership Chairperson, and Member At Large. WTA's Life Service Award was bestowed on Mary in 1982. She served as the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Theatre Association until its dissolution in 1990 and then served as Executive Director of the Theatre Association of Wisconsin, until her health would no longer permit her active participation.

As Region III Governor of the American Theatre Association (ATA), she was an instrumental part of the establishment of the David C. Bryant Outstanding Volunteer Award, which is still given annually by the American Association of Community Theatre. Mary was also actively involved at the national community theatre level as Awards Chairperson and member of the nominating committee of the American Community Theatre Association (ACTA), when it made its transition to the present day American Association of Community Theatre (AACT). Mary was an ever present and committed supporter of community theatres everywhere.

In Community Theatre there are no strangers, only friends you haven't met yet.

Mary passed away in October 1994 of complications related to throat cancer. She could always be called upon for help, assistance, or advice when it came to community theatre. Her list of contacts was endless. Community theatre in Wisconsin would not be what it is today without Mary's endless and tireless efforts to promote it. Everyone ever involved in theatre owes Mary, truly the mother of Wisconsin community theatre, a debt of gratitude.



WACT Silent Auction

Those of you who attended previous state festivals know about our silent auctions. These auctions are WACT's major fundraiser for the year and an excellent way to clean out your closets, bookshelves, and attics and donate unused items to a worthy cause. WACT is a 501(c)(3) organization, so the value of any item you donate is tax deductible. Everyone has something to get rid of that someone else would love. How about those VHS tapes you've replaced with DVDs? How many of us have books and knick-knacks that we don't want anymore but are "too good to throw out"? Or how about something that showcases your hometown? Is your area famous for a type of pastry? (Have you ever seen theatre people who don't eat?) Does your town have a microbrewery or a winery? (Have you ever seen theatre people who don't drink?) Whether or not you donate, you can bid high and bid often when you attend a festival or conference. Remember anything you pay above the value of the item is also tax deductible. So you can take a tax deduction for donating something, and then take a tax deduction for buying something else. The savings could be endless and at the same time you're supporting your state theatre organization so we can provide more services, more programs and better communications. Now is the time to begin setting items aside for the 2008 silent auction.

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Association of
Community Theatre**

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2007-2008**

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Who's the Brightest Bulb?



How many producers does it take to change a light bulb?

Do we really have to have another light bulb? It's not in the budget you know.

How many playwrights does it take to change a light bulb?

Change? Change? Why does it have to change? It's perfect just the way it is.

How many Directors does it take to change a light bulb?

Three. No, five. No, you go away - four. YES! Four! Perfect! I think.

How many stage managers does it take to change a ...

Never mind it's done.

How many set designers does it take to change a light bulb?

Does it really have to be a light bulb?

How many lighting designers does it take to change a light bulb?

Why bother, the actors can't find the light anyway.

How many props masters does it take to change a light bulb?

Light bulb?! No one told me they put a lamp on the set!

How many theater students does it take to change a light bulb?

Uh, what's the deadline, 'cause I may need an extension.

How many lighting techs does it take to change a light bulb?

It's not a bulb, it's a lamp stupid.

How many conductors does it take to change a light bulb?

Seven. Of course, I wouldn't expect you to understand.

How many actors does it take to change a light bulb?

All of them. One to change the bulb, and the rest to talk about how much better they could have done it.

How many actresses does it take to change a light bulb?

One, but you should have seen the line outside the producer's hotel room.

How many performance artists does it take to change a light bulb?

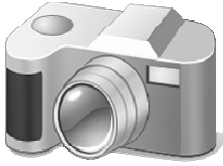
I don't know - I left before the first act was over.

How many theater critics does it take to change a light bulb?

One to be highly critical of the design elements, one to express contempt for the glow of the lamp, one to lambaste the wattage used, one to discuss at length his interpretation of wattage used, one to observe how trite the use of a light bulb was, one to critique the performance of the bulb itself, one to recall superb light bulbs of past seasons and lament how this one fails to measure up, and all to join in the refrain, reflecting on how they could build a better light bulb in their sleep.

How many audience members does it take to change a light bulb?

Four. One to do it, one child to cry all through Act I, one to loudly say, "LOOK ROSE, HE'S CHANGING THE LIGHT BULB", and one to frantically try to silence their cell phone as it plays the Hallelujah Chorus



Help!

WACT is attempting to obtain photos from this year's AACTFest cycle for our archives. If you have photos from the festivals in Verona, Schaumburg and/or Charlotte that you would be willing to let us have or let us duplicate, please send a note to info@wact.org. We would also like to have photos of past festivals.



Upcoming WACT Member Productions



September 6-16, 2007	<i>Barefoot in the Park</i>	Green Bay Community Theatre
September 7-15	<i>And Then There Were None</i>	Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa
September 7-29, 2007	<i>Almost, Maine</i>	Over Our Head Players
September 7-30, 2007	<i>Laughing Stock</i>	Racine Theatre Guild
October 19 - November 11, 2007	<i>King o' the Moon</i>	Racine Theatre Guild
October 26 - November 17, 2007	<i>The Dead Guy</i>	Over Our Head Players
November 8-18, 2007	<i>Dear Santa</i>	Green Bay Community Theatre
December 7-16, 2007	<i>Scrooge</i>	Racine Theatre Guild
January 11 - February 3, 2008	<i>You Can't Take It With You</i>	Racine Theatre Guild
February 1-24, 2008	<i>Snowdance 10 Minute Comedy Festival</i>	Over Our Head Players
February 14-24, 2008	<i>Dial "M" for Murder</i>	Green Bay Community Theatre
February 22 - March 16, 2008	<i>The Gamester</i>	Racine Theatre Guild
April 4-26, 2008	<i>Deflowering Waldo</i>	Over Our Head Players
April 18-27, 2008	<i>The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds</i>	Racine Theatre Guild
April 24 - May 4, 2008	<i>Almighty Bob</i>	Green Bay Community Theatre
May 16-31, 2008	<i>Theatre Schmeater</i>	Over Our Head Players
May 16-June 8, 2008	<i>Guys & Dolls</i>	Racine Theatre Guild

Is your show not listed here??? All organizations who are WACT members can have their show listed on the WACT website and in **WACT News**. Just send your schedule to webmaster@wact.org