

MTA Board Meeting

Saturday, May 28, 2016

New Stage Theatre, Jackson, MS

Introductions

Members Present: Stacy Howell, Lee Crouse, Tim Matheny, Tom Hardy, Deborah Hardy, Suzanne Oakley, Olivia Dunwoody, Yolanda Williams, Ryan Pierini, Christopher Shager, Cody Stockstill, Joe Frost, MJ Etua, Sherrie Marengo, Kenneth McDade, Bill Rester, Francine Reynolds, Dana Jones

Minutes

Motion to Approve: Deborah Hardy Second: Tim Matheny
Motion passes.

Treasurer's Report

Motion to Approve: Tom Hardy Second: Cody Stockstill
Motion passes.

Break-out Sessions by Division

Lunch

Old Business

1. Scholarship Committee Report: Tom Hardy
- Rachel Ryan (winner), Brandon HS, makeup artist.
2. Awards Committee Report: Tom Hardy
3. SETC Report: Lee Crouse
 - a. Proposed changes to community festival to encourage more participation.
 - b. Graduate school auditions & interviews to be held in Atlanta.
 - c. Professional screening auditions, Nov 19 & 20, Jackson Academy:
 - i. Undergrads are required to attend the screening process to attend the professional auditions at SETC, no matter how many professional acting jobs they've had as an undergraduate.
 - ii. Graduate students who've held at least 2 professional jobs may attend professional auditions at SETC w/out going through screening.
 - iii. Graduate students who have not held at least 2 professional jobs must be screened with undergraduates.
 - iv. Scholarship monies are available for graduate and undergraduate studies through SETC.
 - v. SETC is March 1-5, 2017, in Lexington, KY.
 - vi. Concerns for the SETC Diversity Committee should be directed to it's Director Christopher Getty or Pat Galiano, Vice-President of Service.

New Business

1. Scholarship Committee Report: Tom Hardy
2. North Regional Report: Tim Matheny
 - a. December 2 & 3, 2016
 - b. 17 schools participated in 2015; 3 were turned away.
 - c. Possibility of developing a Central Festival if attendance stays high over the next few festivals.

New Business (continued)

3. South Regional: Tom Hardy

- a. December 2 & 3, 2016
- b. Adjudicators procured

4. 2017 MTA Festival: Tom Hardy, et al

- a. To be hosted by University of Southern Mississippi. Stacy & Tom have already selected several campus locations & hotels, a list of which will hopefully be published in November to help schools book and budget earlier.
- b. JORT will provide adult social.
- c. Adjudicators – Tim Matheny is working on booking & focusing on diversity in genre, race, and sex. Those procured so far: Mike Ollich, Brian Martin, Mandy Buckley
- d. Discussion of Cast List in MTA Program
- e. Possible Theatre Communications Group book sales/MTA sponsorship - Francine Reynolds will discuss with them about setting up at festival.
- f. Proposals for 2017 festival are being gathered now. Members discussed the possibility of adding workshops on Saturday.

5. 2018 MTA Festival: Lee Crouse, et al

- a. Mississippi University for Women, Mississippi State University, & The University of Mississippi are each interested in hosting. Tupelo Community Theatre is interested if another location doesn't work out.

6. July MTA Board Meeting tentatively set for Saturday, June 25, 2016: Stacy Howell

7. Performing Arts Framework Standards: Stacy Howell

- Juniper Wallace (Chair) voted to use national core standards. Committee will meet this summer & open a discussion board to others who would be interested in helping out. Cody Stockstill suggested Melanie Harris for the committee.

8. Possible Middle School Division: Tim Matheny

- a. Suz Allmon hosted the first independent event recently at Oak Grove. Tim Matheny adjudicated and said it went well. He recommended that MTA connect w/the event whether it becomes part of the annual festival or not. Charter participants: Northwest Rankin, Desoto Central, Oak Grove, & Lafayette.
- b. MJ Etua suggested incorporating Theatre for Youth into the Middle School Festival as it grows.
Motion to incorporate TFY into MSF: Tim Matheny Second: Bill Rester
Motion passes.

9. Response to HB 1523: Lee Crouse

- Lee Crouse & Stacy Howell offer to compose letter on behalf of MTA to urge Governor Bryant to take action to repeal HB 1523. The letter will be submitted to the MTA board for approval before being sent to Gov. Bryant's office. Francine Reynolds further suggests submitting a copy of the letter to the SETC magazine.

Motion for Lee & Stacy to compose the letter for board approval: Dana Jones Second: Francine Reynolds
Motion passes.

10. Playwriting: Joe Frost

- a. Submissions low for adult division. Board should encourage participation. Deadline to enter is November 1, 2016.
- b. Amendment to Strategic Plan: Remove any mention of Mississippi Aesthetic magazine publication as it is unreliable. Lee Crouse suggested the SETC magazine as an alternative.

11. College/University: Christopher Schager
 - a. 76 high school theatre students auditioned in 90 minutes!
 - b. Amendments to Strategic Plan: Add slate into the one-minute time limit; Require CD vs iPhone/possibly even a pianist for accompaniment.
 - c. Committee is using how-to videos to encourage more design competitors at MTA. Also, committee would like to carve out more dedicated time to feature the design students' work along with the performance auditions.

12. SETC State Auditions: Cody Stockstill
 - Cody will start reminding students well in advance and often to register for auditions before the deadline.

13. Community: Stacy Howell (for Thomas LaFoe)
 - a. Division would like to expand at festival into additional space at the Tatum Theatre.
 - b. Division is investigating possibility of fringe festival consisting of "pop-up" groups that aren't technically community theatres but are interested in competing at MTA.

14. Professional: Francine Reynolds
 - a. New Stage offers summer & semester non-paid internships and some paid internships. Requirements simple. Encourages colleges/universities to contact New Stage.
 - b. Discussion of how to promote professional membership.
 - c. Discussion of Performing Arts Alliance advocacy group: protection of wireless mics, FCC involvement

15. Secondary IEs: Bill Rester
 - a. Cut down in number of rounds was well received & went well. Gave the students a chance to watch each other and be more likely to have seen all the winners
 - b. Plan to use a more specific time sheet to schedule kids for next year.
 - c. Developing new presentation ballots for next year.
 - d. Would like to add a makeup category.
 - e. Remind teachers that selections must be high school appropriate.
 - f. Require CDs vs iPhone
 - g. Bill will send out a short video to update teachers on issues, etc.

16. Adult IEs: Kenneth McDade
 - a. Participation continuing to grow.
 - b. Working on new judging forms and will send to Stacy for addition to the MTA handbook.

17. Theatre for Youth: Dana Jones
 - a. State testing makes it difficult to get audiences for shows. Dana Jones suggests targeting shows to K-2 students to increase participation from local schools. Will also contact principals earlier in the year plus invite home school groups.
 - b. Time slots limited to 30-minutes per show.

18. Secondary: MJ Etua
 - a. Need interns for secondary, ten-minute, & IEs.
 - b. Workshop at USM.
 - c. Mentorship program must come together through a grass-roots type effort.
 - d. Would like a sponsorship for secondary & IEs. Will get details to Stacy, & she will forward to EC.
 - e. Teachers need clarification on the "go line".

19. 10-Minute: Olivia Dunwoody
 - a. Overall participation up – limit of 8 teams was met.
 - b. Whenever possible, schools should send whole teams.
 - c. Interns proved important to the writing process – helped improve quality of scripts.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Tom Hardy

Second: Sherrie Marengo

Motion passes.