

Mississippi Theatre Association
Executive Committee Conference Call
September 8, 2010

Members Present: Stacy Howell, Suz Allmon, Tom Hardy, Tom Booth & Stephen Cunetto.

- **Scholarship Endowment:** The Officers discussed the pros/cons of having an endowed scholarship for MTA. After much discussion and weighing the options, the committee voted to move forward with raising \$20,000 for an endowed MTA scholarship. The Committee also discussed the pros/cons of working with the CREATE Foundation and decided that it was in our best interest to pursue this possibility. Booth will follow up with the CREATE Foundation Board to see if they have the funding to sponsor us. This will mean that if we raise \$20,000 they will match it with \$10,000. They will handle the collecting/receiving/administering the funds for us. Once we have a commitment from the Foundation we will distribute press releases, letters, to get the word out about our initiative.
 - Everyone seemed to like the other fund raising ideas including the silent auction. Hardy suggested getting Sela Ward to sign something or make a donation herself. Hardy has a connection with Sela and will follow up on Ronnie Miller's request for Sela to attend MTA or donate items to the silent auction. (Ronnie has already asked her to attend but she is now a regular on CSI/NY and hasn't heard back from her. He is supposed to follow up within the next week or so. If Hardy can also apply some pressure that might increase the chances.)
- The group discussed forming an Endowment Committee to assist in overseeing the operation of the campaign. Possible committee members include Denise Halbach, Kathryn Lewis, Bob Canon.
- **MWG Partnership update:** Cunetto announced that during a recent conference call with Beth Kander and Ralph Gordon, current MWG President, that he would like to make the case to his board that they provide us some funding that would increase the amount of money we give to our playwriting members. We accepted his offer and asked for their Board to discuss how they would like to be recognized for such a contribution. They continue to be very excited about our partnership and the possibilities of working together in the future.
- **Cowboy Maloney:** The Committee discussed potential recipients of the Cowboy Maloney Award. After discussion, Tonya Hays was mentioned. The group discussed and voted to present Tonya with the award. (This is confidential information.)
- **Monthly meetings:** The group agreed to have monthly meeting from now until the festival. This will help with communicating and keeping on track for festival planning. We agreed to meet on the 1st Wednesday of the Month at 7:30 p.m.
- **Theatre Workshop Update:** Howell updated the group on the Theatre Workshop. Mandy Kinney and Thomas La Foe are doing a great job of organizing the workshop. It will be held Oct 1-2, 2010 at the Company of Angels Theatre in Meridian. Please encourage people to attend the workshop. More information can be found online.
- **Grants:** Cunetto announced that he is working on grants to the MS Humanities Council, MS Arts Commission and the Phil Hardin Foundation. These will primarily be geared toward assisting with Festival funding. Hardy noted that he has a connection with the Hardin Foundation and will make contact with them to see if he can find out any additional information. Booth announced that he still hopes to get at least \$1,000 from BancorpSouth.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Cunetto
Executive Director