

# gt

# newsletter

Official Publication of the Georgia Theatre Conference - Summer 1973

## The Sweet Sound of SUCCESS!



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*(Nobody told us, but we figure that means Community Theatre Association of Michigan.)*

The final curtain. Thunderous applause. Money in the bank. Super sets. Luscious costumes. Swift set changes. A success? No. For backstage, people carefully ignore each other. Old time friends hardly speak. A sharp command but no "thank you." A sly remark that something should have been done better, not how much was done well. Someone comments that this is the last show he'll ever work on. People hurry away from each other. Where is the "family" feeling usually created by a big production? Too many chiefs tread hard on other tribes' territory. In fact, there are so many chiefs we see no Indians. No one smiles or laughs. Perfect picture of a community theatre in trouble; or was it a description of your last closing night? Perfect picture of a show without a soul.

Community theatre exists in a strange atmosphere. We must strive to create a professional production not only with limited means but within the very limited amateur

hours. But we must also create something the professional theatre does not consider mandatory - a cheery, happy aura within which to work. We have a special obligation to work in an efficient, business-like manner without making it iron-clad drudgery. We must remember that for most members this is avocation, not vocation. We are paid in only two ways - by applause and by hours of fun that we give freely. We need them both before we declare any production a success.

Was your last production fun? Look closely. It is very important. If you are not enjoying yourselves, best take an immediate appraisal for something needs to be done. Something needs to be done right away.

What is the Sweet Sound of Success? It is a full symphony led by the rolling tympani of applause, punctuated by trilling laughter and the staccato of bright smiles over the ever-recurring theme of "When do we start the next show?"

Glorious music!

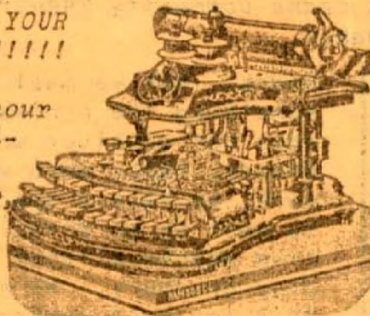


## VALDOSTA LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE MAKES PLANS FOR 1974

The Local Arrangements Committee, meeting in Valdosta April 17, appointed the following committee chairmen: GENERAL CHAIRMAN: Col. Ren Christie, CO-CHAIRMAN: Eileen Mitchell; FACILITIES CHAIRMAN: Leo Sauer, CO-CHAIRMAN: Gary Bracewell; HOSPITALITY CHAIRMAN: Janet Robinson, CO-CHAIRMEN: Del and Gayla Hamilton, Eileen Mitchell (Luncheon), Faye Parr (Cocktails); REGISTRATION CO-CHAIRMEN: VSC Public Services, Faye Parr; PRINTING CHAIRMAN: Nelson Hitchcock, CO-CHAIRMAN: Emily Oxford; PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN: Emily Oxford, CO-CHAIRMAN, Nelson Hitchcock; TRANSPORTATION CO-CHAIRMEN: John Rudy, Gary Bracewell. Much planning and work remain to be done, but Valdosta is determined to host an outstanding Convention in 1974.

## PUBLICITY FOR YOUR THEATRE !!!!!!!!!!!

Send news of your theatre activities to;  
 GTC Newsletter  
 Nelson Hitchcock, Editor,  
 Valdosta State College,  
 Box 199, Valdosta, Ga. 31601



## ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION FORMED TO BOOST ARTS

### GTC PRESIDENT WRAY KESSEL ATTENDS MEETING IN ATLANTA

HEW's Education Division and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts have launched a joint effort to strengthen the arts in education. On May 15th in Atlanta, a meeting was held at the Atlanta Cabana bringing together representatives of the arts from the eight southeastern states in Area IV. Mr. Roger Stevens, Chairman of the Kennedy Center Board of Trustees, presided and explained the goals of the Alliance for Arts Education, which is the name given to the joint effort. Forbes W. Rogers, former education coordinator of the Oregon Shakespearean Festival Association and director of the Federally-funded Oregon School/Theatre Project, will serve as director of the Alliance for Arts Education.

Objectives were listed as follows:

(continued on page 4)



WRITE SENATORS TALMADGE AND NUNN!  
 PROTEST THEIR VOTE FOR THE  
 PROXIMIRE AMENDMENT THAT WILL  
 CUT FUNDS FOR THE NATIONAL  
 ENDOWMENT BY APPROXIMATELY 40%

## Summary of 1973 Savannah Convention

Outgoing president Ed Cabell presided at the General Business Meeting of the GTC March 31, 1973. He stated that four areas deserved the most emphasis during the coming year: 1) The High School Division, with an effort to acquire a consultant in drama. Desirability of drama festivals in the ten regions. 2) Work in Community Theatre with inter-theatre communication. 3) Children's Theatre. 4) Student membership.

The following amendments to the constitution were passed:

### ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

Section 2. The President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast by the membership-at-large at the annual meeting. The Division Chairmen shall be voted on by the membership of each division at the annual meeting and recommended for appointment to the President.

Section 4. The Executive Board shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Chairmen of each Division, the immediate past president and a student representative. The Newsletter Editor shall be a voting member. A representative to the Southeastern Theatre Conference shall be a member of the Board with vote.



### ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES AND DIVISIONS

Section 3. Each division shall have a Chairman, who shall be a voting member of the Executive Board of the Conference. His duties shall be established by Divisional By-Laws which shall be approved by and amended only with the approval of the Executive Board.

President Wray Kessel appointed a Constitutional Committee chaired by Chuck Baker (Town & Gown, Athens) to review the Constitution & By-Laws in view of the new structural changes.

GTC officers for 1973-74 are: Wray Kessel, President; Dennis Ciesil, Vice President; Lane Fredeman, Secretary-Treasurer. Division officers are: Community Theatre - Lailah Feldman, Chairman; Kathy Hedge, Vice Chairman. College and University - Dr. Richard Johnson, Chairman; Robert West, Secretary. High School - Betsy Manley, Chairman; Eileen Braley, Vice Chairman; Jo Demmond, Secretary. Children's Theatre - Delbert Hamilton, Chairman. Student Representative, Joan Scanlin. SETC Representative - Dr. John Burke. ATA Representative - Dr. Leighton Ballew. Newsletter Editor, Nelson Hitchcock.

Following the successful state convention in Savannah, the Executive Board met to evaluate

(continued on next page)

**CONVENTION SUMMARY (continued)**

The convention and to make plans for next year's convention in Valdosta. Discussion included the advisability of a guest director working up a scene in lieu of, or in addition to, critiquing prepared scenes. Dr. John Burke moved that the newly-elected president, Wray Kessel, appoint a Program Committee for the Valdosta Convention which would study the ideas from this meeting. The Committee: Chairman, Dennis Ciesil; Jim Sligh, John Rudy, Angela Brooks, Bill Stanford, Chuck Baker, and Joan Scanlin.

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD DISCUSSES  
HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA FESTIVALS**

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*At the Executive Board meeting of the GTC May 19 in Macon, plans were initiated for high school festivals throughout the state. Five sites were decided on. They are: Columbus College (Dennis Ciesil), Georgia State (Jim Sligh), Armstrong State (John Suchowen), Cedar Shoals High School, Athens (Betsy Manley), And Valdosta State (Dr. Ren Christie) As of this writing, Valdosta State's Festival is scheduled for November 10. We'll try to have complete information on these festivals in the fall.*

(AAE continued from page 2)

I-Each state to have an A.A.E Committee with an elected Chairman. Committee to include representatives from State Education Agency, State Arts Agency, member from President's Advisory Committee on Arts (appointed by President from each art) members of Friends of Kennedy Center, State Humanities Agencies, Professional Arts Educators Association (four of them).

This group would represent a broad interest in Arts throughout the state and would carry out AAE purpose in helping students participate in programs at Kennedy Center. It would make recommendations to National AAE Committee concerning groups, individuals, or materials to participate in programs at the Kennedy Center and provide through its chairman a means of communication with the National AAE Committee and its staff.

II-To suggest types of information, materials, and services that the Kennedy Center could provide for the states.

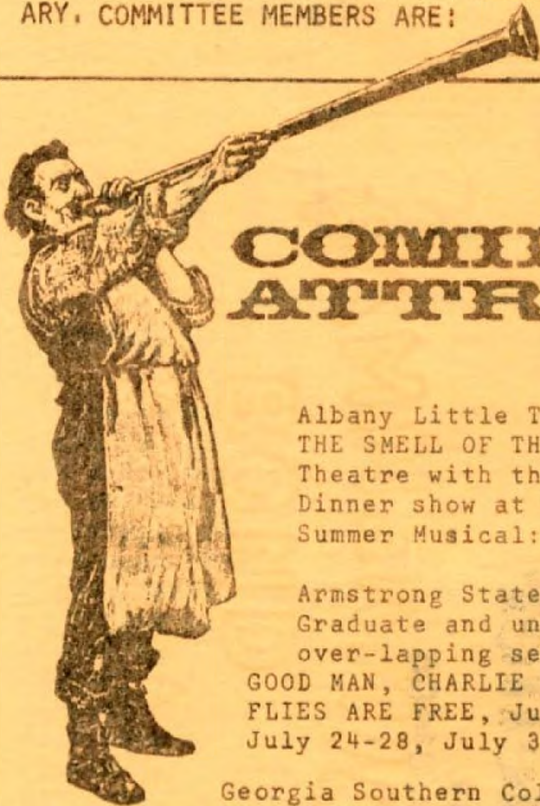
To suggest the types of information, materials, and services that the states could provide the Kennedy Center.

After the general meeting the group broke up into state meetings. There were approximately thirty people from Georgia in attendance with the majority representing dance and music. Wray Kessel represented GTC (the only representative from drama there). The Georgia contingent was headed by Frank Crockett, State Coordinator for Arts and Humanities.

Mrs. Jane Ferriss stated that all major Art Organizations belong to the American Council for Arts in Education and questioned the need for AAE. Mr. Crockett was asked to head the Georgia Committee temporarily and to work with the Georgia Commission on the Arts in setting up a meeting of representatives of the various Art Organizations to be held sometime in July for further discussion and final decisions on the organization in Georgia.

GTC ESTABLISHES PUBLICATIONS BUREAU

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, MEETING IN MACON MAY 19, VOTED TO FORM A PUBLICATIONS BUREAU FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING THE NEWSLETTER MORE CONTINUITY FROM YEAR TO YEAR. WALT KESSEL WAS APPOINTED DESIGNER AND PUBLISHER TO ASSIST EDITOR NELSON HITCHCOCK. THE BUREAU WILL ALSO HANDLE THE PRINTING OF ENVELOPES AND STATIONERY AND OTHER PRINTED MATTER, AS NECESSARY. COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE: JACK BURKE, JIM SLIGH, AND AMY HIRSCH.



## COMING ATTRACTIONS

Albany Little Theatre: THE ROAR OF THE GREASPAINT, THE SMELL OF THE CROWD - June 14. Albany Little Theatre with the Southwest Georgia Art Association. Dinner show at Banks Haley Gallery, Albany. Summer Musical: DAMES AT SEA - in July.

Armstrong State College: Summer Theatre Workshop. Graduate and undergraduate credit. Three separate over-lapping sessions. Production dates: YOUR'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN, June 26-30, July 3-7. BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE, July 10-14, & 17-21. PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM, July 24-28, July 31-August 4. John Suchower, director.

Georgia Southern College: Theatre Workshop, college credit. Dr. Richard Johnson and Robert West.

Georgia State University: A SATURDAY AFTERNOON IN TAKEMETHERE PARK, July 30-August 11.

The Little Theatre of Savannah: KISMET, August 10, 11. Savannah Civic Center. The Little Theatre moves from its arena to the big sixty-foot proscenium of the Civic Center. (The set-designers say they're cutting that down a bit with a false proscenium.) Because of the seating capacity of the Civic Center, the usual 14 to 18 night run is being reduced to two, with an additional free performance on August 12 for local students. Underwriting is hoped for. William Starrs, director.

Valdosta State College: Theatre Workshop, college credit. John Rudy, director.