

## WASHINGTON AREA THEATRE COMMUNITY HONORS

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2000

In attendance: John Monnett, TAP, Chair  
Sue Pinkman, RCP  
Mary-Anne Sullivan, CRT  
Don Wilson, PWLT, adjudication coordinator  
Bob Bartlett, HBP, treasurer  
Judy Mayer, MP  
Brian Moore, PTP  
O'Malley Pitcher, LTA

Absent Todd Huse, Elden Street  
representative from Tapestry Theatre

The meeting was called to order at 4:10pm and the minutes from May 21, 2000 were approved. It was noted that the minutes from 11/21/99 and 12/9/99 were still missing. Sue Pinkman said she would distribute the December minutes which she authored in Eleanore's absence. The search will continue for the November minutes.

New WATCH representative O'Malley Pitcher, from the Little Theatre of Alexandria, was welcomed. She is Al Edick's replacement. Eleanore Tapscott will not be representing Tapestry Theatre, since she is no longer on their board. Tapestry will be contacted regarding a new representative.

According to the by-laws, the WATCH officers' term expired June 30, so John Monnett and Bob Bartlett were reelected as Chair and Treasurer, respectively. Sue Pinkman was elected secretary. It was suggested we revisit the by-laws, and possibly change the date of the terms of officers to coincide with any new incoming members each October.

### **Report from Don Wilson, Adjudication Coordinator**

No serious complications reported from Ken Kavanaugh. The most recent communications from the judges have been minor, regarding directions, etc. However, all the judges are NOT notifying Don after they have viewed their respective shows. It was requested that the reps remind their judges to do so. Bob mentioned that Don's "heads-up" messages regarding opening and closing nights are very helpful, and a great idea. (Thanks, Don!). There do not seem to be any major gaps in the ballot counting, but Don will monitor. Kavanaugh has been invited to the meetings, but as of this date has not responded to our invitation.

### **Adjudication / Tapestry / Montgomery Playhouse**

Since Tapestry Theatre is not presenting two shows for adjudication, and Montgomery Playhouse added two shows in the fall slots, it was determined that the judges for:

Tapestry SHOW #1 and Tapestry SHOW #3  
*will now become the judges for*  
Montgomery SHOW #5 and Montgomery SHOW #6  
(The Mousetrap, Sept.) and (Time of the Cuckoo, Oct/Nov)

Each representative should notify their respective judges of this change, and if they are not available, be sure that an alternate judge is assigned to these new shows.

### **Status Report: TAPESTRY THEATRE**

It was decided that John Monnett and/or Don Wilson will continue to "romance" Tapestry in the hope that they will continue their membership and adjudication through the end of the year, even though they will not have any shows in the judging process. They will immediately be contacted to ensure that their judges are still viewing their assigned productions.

### **Applications for New Membership**

So far, three applications have been received from: St. Mark's Players, Washington, DC; Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD; and Rhapsodic in Manassas. The first two applicants qualify under the 2-season/3-show criteria. Rhapsodic might not be eligible this year, but that will be clarified. Judy indicated that Rockville Theatre and Rockville Musical Theatre are both considering applications (but Rockville Musical might not qualify with only 2 shows per season), and John Monnett is pursuing several groups as well. The deadline for new membership is September 30, and all of the applicants will be considered at the same time, prior to the October meeting. The new applicants will be voted on via e-mail, and invited to the October meeting.

### **Awards Ceremony / March 2001**

Discussion of the details of the Awards Ceremony followed. It was agreed that marketing needs to be actively pursued, so that more people will be familiar with WATCH by March next year, and want to attend. We will contact the Washington Post, and see about getting some coverage. Brian volunteered to start writing some articles, with help from another Port Tobacco member. All the Reps should send Brian the names and fax numbers of their local press contacts so we can begin marketing in our individual geographical areas. An organizational meeting with Todd, Mary Anne, and Sue will be scheduled in the near future, and O'Malley agreed to join the committee and help with the corporate sponsorship end. First thing, we will lock in the date at the Birchmere, and find out how much deposit they require. The committee will also start structuring the program, and decide on 'presenters' (WATCH board members), as well as possibly an MC who will be responsible for moving the program along.

A "Special Award" concept was discussed at length (local newspaper, politicians, contributors, etc), with general consensus to table the idea until next year.

### **Adjudicator Issues**

Mary Anne summarized some issues that were brought to her attention from the Castaway adjudicators:

- Limit the number of shows each group can enter to four (4);
- The number of shows (per run); several groups have very short runs, making scheduling difficult;
- The distance and travel time to theatres;
- E-mail ballots;
- Request companion comps for ALL groups;
- Shows playing in July conflict with NVT A One-Act competition;
- Request clarification regarding possible "conflict of interest" (i.e., spouses judging spouses, etc.);
- Reduce the number of adjudications per show.

All of these issues were discussed, in addition to how the matrix might be adjusted next year to avoid things like one judge viewing 4 shows in one month, or traveling to the furthest locations more than once or twice per month. John indicated that he felt many of the problems could be alleviated if the number of judges per group (and alternates) was increased, and there were fewer "viewings" per production. This discussion will continue at the next meeting, and John Downing will be approached to see what adjustments can be made, especially with the geographic distances. The issue of companion comps will also be re-visited at the next meeting.

### **Training Dates for New Adjudicators**

All new members will be expected to attend the October 15 meeting at the Reston Community Players' office. The fees and/or dues for new and old members will be discussed at this meeting as well (if not determined beforehand). The number of adjudicators per group will also be determined in October (after we know how many shows each new member group will be entering into the process).

TRAINING DATES SUGGESTED: (only TWO dates will be necessary)

NOVEMBER 18 (Saturday) – 1-4pm at the Ferlozzo Building (Woodbridge); or

NOVEMBER 19 (Sunday) or NOVEMBER 26 (Sunday) – Little Theatre of Alexandria; or

NOVEMBER 28 (Tuesday) or NOVEMBER 29 (Wednesday) in Reston

Mary Anne already has the Ferlozzo reserved for the Castaways, but offered the space. Sue and O'Malley are checking their respective calendars, and will report availability as soon as possible.

The board must determine if returning adjudicators will be required to attend.

Two meeting dates were suggested before the end of the year (due to new members, etc).

Sunday, October 15 @ 4pm in Reston;

Sunday, November 12 @ 4pm in Reston;

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Pinkman

Secretary, Washington Area Theatre Community Honors