



## Busy spring with the SMA

Letter from the Chair. NYC lecture series. Legacy podcast series. New regional Vice Representatives across the country. KCACTF news. New committees.

Attending SETC in Knoxville, TN and USITT in Louisville, KY.



*From the Chair: Elynmarie Kazle*

Dear Friends,

It has been, and continues to be, a busy time for the SMA. With the new year we launched our first **New York Lecture Series** (NYLS), the brainchild of First Vice Chair **Mandy Berry**. Attendees at New York City's Sheen Center have engaged in hands on sessions about Sho Flo and Cue Lab, Excel and Stage Write, with our next session on March 3 to focus on Final Draft ([Register Here](#)). NYLS has been a big hit with participants and all three Regional Directors are busy figuring out how to integrate local versions into their regional programming.

**OTHER ONGOING PROGRAMS:**

Our **Legacy Podcast** series continues to grow, and you will find us very active on both Facebook and Instagram, thanks to **Anthony Bullock** and the social media committee. And like the staircases in Harry Potter, change is afoot, with **Amanda Spooner** taking on the leadership for **SMA Education Programming** from **Mandy Berry**, who is stepping back to spend time with her new family. Our recording secretary, **Katrina Herrmann**, who once again brought great energy to the board, will also be retiring. **Nominations** for our April Board of Directors elections are being accepted now for the SMA board. Check out the website for descriptions of the positions.

**Speaking of change**, a big SMA Welcome to our newest Vice Regional Representatives!! Joining **Erin Joy Swank** (Denver) in the western region, **Claudia Lynch** (also Board) (Orlando) eastern and **Jonathan Nook** in Central (Chicago) are:

- **Erik Smith** (Las Vegas)
- **Veronica Zahn** (Milwaukee)
- **Miriam Salzman** (New York)
- **Amy Paige** (St. Louis)

These professional members join our hardworking elected Regional Directors, **Joel Veenstra**, **Joseph Drummond** and **Anthony O. Bullock** in serving stage managers across the country. The appointed non-voting Vice Regional Representatives are invited to attend our monthly online board meetings and to bring area-unique initiatives forward; adding additional hands to help make the country smaller. Please feel free to contact your Regional Director or local Vice Rep if you have any ideas, questions or concerns about or for the Stage Managers' Association. Speaking of which, **Claudia Lynch** and **Joseph Drummond** recently attended Region IV KCACTF\* to adjudicate nearly 50 stage managers' portfolios. The top four in that region were awarded a one year student membership in the SMA; please welcome:

- **Victoria Leatherman**
- **Rita Pearson-Daley**
- **Claire Fogle**
- **Bethany Moody**

\***KCACTF** stands for ***Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival***, a national theater program involving 20,000 students from colleges and universities nationwide annually. KCACTF's purpose is to encourage, recognize, and celebrate the finest and most diverse work produced in university and college theater programs and to provide opportunities for participants to develop their theater skills and insight, and to achieve professionalism. For more info click here <http://web.kennedy-center.org/education/kcactf/home>.

### **NEW COMMITTEES AND INITIATIVES:**

I am pleased to announce some exciting new initiatives for Stage Managers that we are developing here at the SMA.

**Amanda Spooner** is heading up our **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)** efforts. As chair of this committee she is continuing to learn how we can best serve a more inclusive community of stage managers; collaborating with organizations such as Tandem, Stage Directors and Choreographers and a theatre incubator in Kansas City.

**Hope Rose Kelly** is the Chair of our new committee: **International Relations**. Starting with re-connecting us to the British SMA, Hope and her committee are developing some direct connections that will make it easier to shadow overseas and create a nexus with our British stage management colleagues. They recently connected with the newly founded Spanish Stage Managers' Association called *Asociación de Regiduría de Espectáculos (ARE)* and with some direct inquiries from our friends in Australia, we are well on our way to making active connections with stage managers around the world.

These initiatives, which have been installed as working committees of the SMA, will help us reach and include an ever-growing community of stage managers to address specific career concerns.

Central region stage managers, **Jonathan Nook** and **Mary Hungerford**, are working on a Tech Week Cookbook which should be fun and contain some helpful hints on how to economically and healthily cope when you have neither the time nor the energy to do so during that tough week. And also, for some

time we have been discussing a new initiative: a **National Guide/Resource list of Stage Managers** who are interested in helping out educational institutions which do not have stage management training programs of their own. For a production, a workshop or a residency these stage managers will be available as human resources to Associate Members of the SMA. Professional members of the SMA are eligible to serve on this resource list. Look for more on this soon.

### **TRAVEL or COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU**

The SMA is on the road again. Once more the SMA will be represented at **SETC in Knoxville, TN**, next week and a number of us will be on hand for the **USITT Conference in Louisville, Kentucky**. Teaming up with me in Knoxville will be Secretary and Chair of Membership, **Adrienne Wells**. Adrienne and I will then be joined in Louisville, KY, by **Ira Mont, Joseph (Spicy) Drummond, Claudia Lynch, Kristi Ross-Clauson, Erin Joy Swank, and Matt Stern**. Stop by and see us at either conference; to get a free member gift. Symposiums and special events are in the process of being planned in the West and Central regions: look for announcements and calendar listings soon.

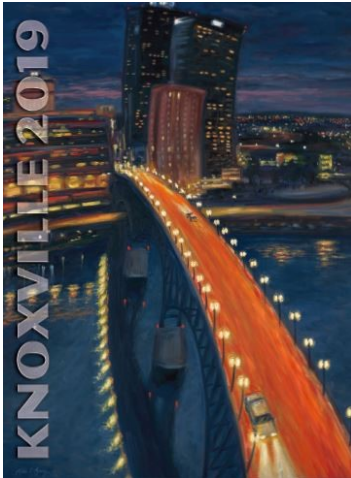
As for the other activities of the organization, **Operation Observation** and **Job Service** continue to serve members. Look out for **SM Go (Out)** nights coming to your area soon. And friends, when you can, tell others about the SMA; it is by working together that we can serve our community that much better. Those of you who have achieved career success, consider giving back by joining a committee or initiative, conducting a Legacy Interview, or joining the Board. All Stage Managers deserve advocates and we are here for you at whatever level your career finds you.

Best to all of you and hope to see you very soon.

**Elynmarie Kazle**, Chair

Stage Managers' Association of the United States

PS Please take a look at the following notes about SETC, our NYLS and USITT. Details about some of the benefits SMA Members can receive by attending the USITT Conference and what discounts are available are included.



## Will we see you at SETC in Knoxville, TN, next week?

Each year, the Southeastern Theatre Conference invites theatre lovers of all kinds — actors, singers, dancers, designers, technicians, stage managers, directors, playwrights, teachers, students, professionals, academicians, etc. — to gather together in celebration of the art of theatre.

Find us on the Exhibit floor from February 28th through March 2nd for good conversation, swag opportunities, and catching up with SM colleagues.

Image credit: Gay Street Bridge-Knoxville, Oil on Canvas by Knoxville, TN artist Mike C. Berry

## NYC Lecture Series

Session #4 - March 3rd, 2019

Final Draft will create an in-depth how-to video for you to learn how to set up and edit scripts in Final Draft. They will also teleconference in for a Q & A session. Following the Q & A, we'll have a panel of stage managers to speak about how they use the software in the Off-Broadway /



Broadway Community.

Use your unique SMA member's code to access members only pricing.

[Register for Final Draft lecture HERE](#)



#### WHY WOULD I, AS A STAGE MANAGER, WANT TO ATTEND USITT?

There are many advantages for members of the Stage Managers' Association attending the USITT Conference and Stage Expo to be held in Louisville, Kentucky, March 20-23.

First of all, with a Stage Expo Pass you can attend the Stage Expo free of charge -- just use the code SMA546 to reserve your spot. With one call to USITT at 1-800-93USITT and you can tell them you are a current SMA Member (have your number handy) and you will receive a full conference registration at the very early registration rate.

Full Conference Registration for current Professional, Associate or Student Member of the SMA can be obtained up to the first day of the conference at the following rates (there is no discount for a one day registration)

VERY EARLY (VE) AND USITT MEMBERSHIP RATES:

<b>REGISTRATION TYPE</b>	<b>VE CONF RATE</b>	<b>USITT FULL MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>USITT EARLY CAREER</b>	<b>NON-SMA MEMBER COST TODAY</b>
MEMBER	\$355	\$112	*\$78	\$510
NON-MEMBER	\$515			\$720
STUDENT	\$270	\$67		\$330
SPOUSE (SIG OTHER)	\$280			\$420
TWO DAY	\$325			\$410

\*early career membership available to anyone within three years of college graduation.

Attending USITT will allow you the opportunity to attend the SMA Gathering on Thursday evening (8 pm-11 pm) where the SMA brings together more than 80 stage managers to network, socialize, and meet other stage managers including our special guests: Broadway SM and Equity Councillor Ira Mont, and Regional SM Joseph “Spicy” Drummond, as well as Chair Elynmarie Kazle, Membership Secretary Adrienne Wells, board members Matt Stern (Broadway Symposium) Kristi Ross Clauson, Claudia Lynch, and Vice Regional Rep Erin Joy Swank. Saturday afternoon includes the SMA membership meeting to learn about upcoming awards and programs, and what’s next, new and hot in the area of stage management and have the opportunity to propose new initiatives for the SMA. Joe and Ira will be attending this meeting.

Sessions for stage managers include: “Hold Please: Stopping and Starting a Show Safely,” “Managing Intimacy,” “Pram in the Hall: Theatre Parenting,” “Resume Doctors” and “Employee or Contractor: the Answer May Save Your Life’s Savings,” and many more ...

And please stop by the SMA Booth at the USITT conference and receive a membership gift. Take advantage of the SMA Facebook group to find other members who will attend to carpool, share housing, etc. Join us in Louisville, Ky, March 20-23, and be a part of USITT’s 59th Annual Conference & Stage Expo where education, networking, and hands-on opportunities thrive.





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