

HEADSET CHATTER August 2019

Welcome to the August edition of "Headset Chatter" - the SMA's monthly newsletter. Hard to believe that Labor Day is a month away. Much has been done and there's more to come - please see the end of this newsletter for upcoming events near you. We hope your summer adventures in stage management have been fulfilling and enjoyable. If you had an experience that you would like to share with your fellow members, write an article or post a quick blog. Our Vice Regional Rep for the Pacific Northwest, Maria Sorce did that very thing. Click here to read her post about the "Rules of Effective Leadership". Those of you who interned this summer, we'd like to hear all about it - If you are willing to write an in depth article about your experience - click here for a list of questions to help guide you. And on that note, here's what has been happening and what the future holds ...

Del Hughes Awards!



Our Director at Large, Cheryl Mintz
has been planning a night to
remember. On Monday, September
23rd from 5 to 8pm at Connolly's
Restaurant in NYC, the Stage
Managers' Association Del Hughes
Awards 2019 will be honoring Rich
Costabile, Barbara Donner and

Mary K Klinger with The Founders
Award recognizing Janet Friedman.
Tickets will be on sale soon. Click
here for more info.

Benefit Highlights of the SMA



Professional & Lifetime Members - The SMA lapel pins are starting to roll out and we are looking to get one to each of you - preferably in person because we would like to shake your hand and thank you personally for being a part of the SMA. Regional Directors, Reps, and Board Members will have these pins at the events the SMA hosts. So, if you are a Professional Member, Lifetime Member, or Del Hughes Recipient of the SMA and haven't received a pin yet, find us!

SMA SMGO Events



Chicago, the Berkshires, and Utah were abuzz with gatherings during July. **Katrina Herrmann** hosted a coffee chat in Chicago with a few SMs - they wrote some postcards while discussing the time it takes to decompress and how shows need to be properly staffed - i.e. not have a non-AEA ASM who is also the company manager and on the run crew.



Chair Emeritus, **Rich Costabile** and Corresponding Secretary, **Adrienne Wells** visited the Berkshires and met up with 2nd Vice Chair, **Hope Rose Kelly** over the course of a couple breakfasts that included many other fellow SMs. Then the 3rd annual Berkshire Gathering was held at the Hangar Pub in Pittsfield, MA. Several SMs representing Shakespeare & Company, Oldcastle Theatre, Barrington Stage, and Chester Theatre attended.



And Vice Regional Rep for Denver, **Erin Joy Swank** organized a gathering at Veyo Pool and Crawdad Canyon in Veyo, Utah.

Many more social events are coming up. Find an event near you by clicking here_or visiting our
Facebook page and come on over to connect, hang and socialize with other stage managers or contact us to host your own.

International Happenings



Director at Large, **Matthew Stern** was in Madrid during July and met up with several board members of the <u>Asociación de Regiduría de Espectáculos</u>, one of whom is a member of the recently formed International Relations Committee that is chaired by **Hope Rose Kelly**. Both organizations are excited about building more bridges around the world.

To date, the International Relations Committee has SM Ambassadors in Spain, Canada, Mexico, South Africa, Australia, and China and we look forward to welcoming a member of the British SMA as an Ambassador. An aim of the committee is to help traveling SMs connect more easily with others in the countries they visit whether it be for work or fun. If you are traveling somewhere abroad and need help connecting with SMs in that country or would like to learn more about how a stage manager functions in another country, contact the committee here.

And <u>click here to read the article</u> **Hope** and our Chair, **Elynmarie Kazle** wrote for the Summer edition of the British SMA Cueline magazine. We will continue to contribute to their quarterly publication.

#SMLife



#SMLife is a west coast perspective limited series podcast hosted by Morgan Zupanski (Vice Regional Rep for LA) and presented by the Stage Managers' Association that highlights a handful of stage managers actively working on the west coast and talks about how we are all making it happen. Our Western Regional Director, Joel Veenstra, was recently interviewed. Click here to listen to the episodes.

Get to know the SMA Leadership

Over the course of the upcoming "Headset Chatter" newsletters, we will be highlighting 2 members of the SMA Board. Three questions were asked - read below for their answers:



Jonathan R. Nook

Vice Regional Rep Central: Chicago



Cynthia Hennon Marino

Director at Large

What aspect(s) of being a Stage Manager are you most passionate about?

J Nook: Inclusive practices in the workplace as a natural extension of how we stage manage - be it replacing gendered language in how we address the room down to advocating for diversity in recruitment/hiring.

I am finding as I grow in the career I am also more and more passionate about mentorship

of upcoming Stage Managers and members of my team learning and being challenged. Maintaining a sense of "flow" by being challenged just enough to grow, but being confident in executing the job. Also, providing a safe, realistic floor for artists to create/do their work in an environment with someone looking out for their needs and advocating for all of them - actors through running crew/production staff. And all the birthday cakes!

C Marino: Stage Managers, for me, are the lynch pin to the whole production. We have the honor and the privilege of being able to see the entire picture. We are the director's right hand person, the performers' best friend and guardian angel, the designers' eyes and ears, the company's voice of reason. We have to use both sides of our brains equally, to be able to read the mood of a room or to call a cue perfectly, but also be practical with scene changes and manage time down to the minute. Being a Stage Manager for me means I get to take all my passion for people, for art, for community, for math, for psychology, for knowledge and I get to turn it into my career.

What excites you about the SMA?

J Nook: I like that the SMA provides a forum to gather to discuss issues in stage management. I think those conversations can lead to direct advocacy for stage managers in the field and raise the bar for how SMs are treated and respected. It also gives everyone a chance to see that they are not alone in their thinking about a particular challenge or a particular difficult conversation they might not have initiated without the support. SMA also provides ready made opportunities/"excuses" to socially gather in the era of social media and diminishing face to face interaction.

C Marino: I LOVE the resources the SMA offers to Stage Managers, both new and experienced. One of my favorite parts about the website is the Document Library. No matter how long I stage manage, I always get to a show or a piece of paperwork that stumps me and I look to others for guidance. Same with Ask a Stage Manager and Operation Observation. These resources can be just as helpful to a new SM who is still in school or just starting out as much as they can be for someone who has been in the field for 20 years. We are always learning and the SMA makes it easy for us to do so.

During your Board term/as a Vice Regional Rep, what do you hope to achieve and/or what activities/committees are you involved with?

J Nook: I served as chair of the Elections and Nominating Committee last year and it was nice to gain an appreciation of the bylaws and talk with leadership in the organization

directly. I am participating in the conversations about an exciting new national educational/mentorship initiative led by board chair Elynmarie Kazle and excited about the possibilities there. With the amazing Mary Hungerford, the SMA tech week cookbook project was fun so I want to cook through all of those recipes and taste test. And I hope to continue the SMA "coffee chats" and host a "SMGO" night or two in the future in the Chicagoland area.

C Marino: I hope to introduce the SMA to more Opera Stage Managers. I am not sure why the 2 fields are so separate with very little overlap. But it seems you either do plays/musicals, or you do opera. I have been in Opera for almost 9 years excursively now, and when I talk to other Opera SMs, they have never even heard of SMA! So my goal during my Board term is to open up that communication to link and tie more stage managers together. I am part of the Membership Committee and am hoping to do SM events and meet ups in the different cities I work in with opera people and SMA members to bridge the gap. Because in the end, we all do the same thing, and we need to be there to support one another as much as possible.

Save the date and attend!

August 4th: Malcolm Ewen Memorial Service

August 5th: NYC SM Gathering

August 5th: Houston SM GO Happy Hour

<u>August 12th: Chicago Coffee Chat - Instant Potluck</u>

August 19th: SMA GO St Louis, MO

August 26th: SMGO Chicago - Lagunitas Tour

September 22nd: BC/EFA Flea Market
September 23rd: Del Hughes Awards









Copyright © 2016 Stage Managers' Association, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

PO Box 526, Times Square Station

New York, NY 10108-0526

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can <u>update your preferences</u> or <u>unsubscribe from this list</u>