

Feb.
2017

*Inside this
issue...*

**President's
Workbasket**
NACT discusses and
plans for the future
Page 2

**Audience
surveys**
Tips on crafting an ef-
fective survey of your
audience
Page 4

**Tips and
Tricks**
Learn a few new
things that could im-
prove your theatre
Page 5

**What's
Playing**
See what's taking
the stage throughout
Nebraska
Page 6

GREENROOM Gazette

Published by the Nebraska Association of Community Theatres

One more chance to give festival feedback

There is still time for your organization to give its input on what time of year works best to have our biennial theatre festival.

Based on discussion during our annual meeting last July we decided to survey our theatres to see what time of year they would prefer to see festival held.

The NACT board received some responses but want to hear from more of our members, so we are reopening the survey. Use this link: <http://bit.ly/2aOIoUi> to complete the survey.

If your theatre has already filled out the survey, you do not need to do it again.

Fortunately we have a good amount of time before our next festival cycle, but it's never too early to start thinking and planning.

Encore performances of Festival winning shows

Did you miss last summer's Festival in Minden? Or maybe you want to revisit some of the laughs that criticizing Shakespeare or working at Macy's over the holidays brought you. Maybe you just need something to do.

The Lofte Community Theatre and Beatrice Community Players are teaming up to present special encore performances of their shows that were named Outstanding Productions at this summer's NACT/Fest.

Performances are Friday, March 10 at 7 p.m. at the Lofte and Saturday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m. at Community Players.

In the Lofte's production "Shakespeare's a Dick" when a young red-neck curses the name of Shakespeare and opts to attend a Monster Truck Show instead of "As You Like It," he feels the wrath of the Bard. Waking up after a heavy night of boozing, he finds he can only speak in Shakespearian verse.

...continued on page 3



*Community Players production of
"The Santaland Diaries"*

“If you want to help the American Theatre don’t be an actress, be an audience” – a quote from Tallulah Bankhead.

At our January Board of Directors meeting we discussed encouraging our members to attend a show at a neighboring community theatre, or hit the road to attend a show at one of the many theatres across the state. It seems like we get into a rut with involvement in our own theatre productions and don’t take the time or make the effort to go out and support the others.

Please help us in this effort – we need to support one another. We all talk about the crucial need to “get butts in the seats”. Let’s be one of the “butts” for another theatre! In order to make this a little more enticing for our members, we floated the idea of the “passport” concept. The plan would be that upon paying your NACT membership dues, you would receive a passport which would allow you to attend a show at any of the participating NACT member theatres for a discounted price. Of course, this all depends upon our member theatres willingness to participate and accept the discounted price. The plan is in the early stage, so watch for more information to come. And in the meantime, go check out a show at another theatre! The Gazette has a list of what’s playing at our member theatres. We do our best to ensure that the list is accurate and up to date, but if you see no shows listed under a theatre, you can always call or go to their website to inquire. We also keep a list of what’s playing on our website – nebact.org.

Our organization was formed in 1966 (we are over 50 years old!) with a set of By-laws and Articles of Incorporation. Those By-laws have been revised only once since our inception (in 1991), with a couple of Amendments added in more recent years. Thus, the NACT Board decided it was high time to review and update (although not too enthusiastically, as we all know where By-law/policy review lands on the fun and exciting list of board duties).

Q2Q Comics: Makin’ Copies



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PRESIDENT'S Workbasket

At any rate, we had a very productive, albeit dull, meeting to review and update our complete set of By-laws. The proposed revisions will need to be approved at an annual membership meeting of the entire membership, so we will be getting the proposed revisions out to everyone prior to that annual meeting.

We still have not determined when our next Nact Fest will be held for the 2019 Festival cycle. (either in the Summer of 2018 or Spring of 2019). They both seem like the distant future, but we do need to start planning about a year in advance, so the Board wants to make a decision at our July meeting. We sent out a Survey last fall to all member THEATRES (not to individual/family members) requesting those members to select which time of year works best for them. Unfortunately, only eight of our twenty-one member theatres responded. If someone at your theatre has not completed the Survey or did not receive one, please look for the information found elsewhere in this newsletter regarding the Survey. It’s not too late to weigh in on the matter.

NACT needs all of you in order to fulfill our stated Purpose of fostering development and growth of community theatre throughout the state of Nebraska; to develop and maintain cooperation among community theatres through exchanging and sharing of ideas, equipment, stage properties and talent; and to support one another in our endeavors to promote public interest and appreciation in the art of theatre.

See you at the Theatre!
Suzan DeCamp
Board President

IMPORTANT Dates

REGION V FESTIVAL
Brainerd MN, at Central Lakes
College
April 27-30, 2017

AACT/Fest
Rochester, MN
June 26-July 1, 2017

Encore performances...

continued from page 1

“Santaland Diaries” is a one-man-show centered on a slacker who takes a seasonal job as an elf at Macy’s department store. Through the show he grins and bears all the children, parents and co-workers right up through Christmas Eve.

The performances will help both theatres raise funds to send their productions onto the American Association of Community Theatre regional Festival in Minnesota.

Contact either theatre company for specifics about tickets.

Kudos to both theatres for working together and supporting each other moving forward to Regionals.



Loft Community Theatres production of “Shakespeare’s a Dick”

The wonderful world of labor laws and taxes

Beginning Dec. 1, 2016 the Department of Labor began enforcing updated rules for employees regarding how they are classified. As non-profit community theatres we often believe that due to our small size and scope, these rules don’t apply to our organizations, which is not the case.

In case your organization is unaware of these impending rule changes this is a quick heads up. This article is not meant to answer all your questions, NACT recommends individual theatres talk to their accountants to see just how these rule will apply to their organizations.

Independent contractor vs employee.

For theatres that pay directors, designers, choreographers, on a per-show basis, how are you classifying them for tax purposes? Are you calling them independent contractors, thus avoiding having to pay payroll taxes, and issuing them a 1099? Or are you considering them a short-term employee? The IRS has rules about this, and will be stepping up enforcement and penalties for organizations that classify workers incorrectly.

It can be confusing. Check out this article for an explanation of how the standards work: <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/>



independent-contractor-self-employed-or-employee

And for a real-world theatre example read this article: <http://howround.com/independent-contractors-and-the-american-theatre>

The question for many becomes, is that music director, or set designer really working independently or are they actually an employee of your

organization?

Overtime pay?

Another labor-related rule concerned overtime pay for salaried employees. While there are only a few theatres in Nebraska that employ full-time staff, it is still good for all organizations to remain aware of the rules.

This rule would have required organizations employing full-time exempt salaried employees to make a minimum of \$47,476 per year or they would be eligible for overtime pay for hours worked over 40 hour per week.

The rule was challenged by several states in court and put on hold a week before it was to go into effect. Given the new administration in Washington, it is likely this rule will not go into effect anytime soon.

Tips for doing an audience survey

Who remembers NBC's "the more you know" slogan for their PSAs? It applies to our theatres as well. The more we know about our audiences the better we can serve our communities, make use of our limited financial resources, and be better advocates of the impact our organizations make on our communities.

One way to gain that information is to simply ask them in the form of an audience survey. A well-constructed survey inserted in the program of your show can give you insight into a wide variety of information including

marketing, programming choices, spending patterns of your audience, where they come from, and how you are doing as an organization.

Advantage of doing an audience survey includes getting direct feedback from people at your show, and you have a captive audience of people who are interested in what you are doing. The disadvantage of this kind of survey is you are not hearing from people who are not in your audience so you can't find out why they are not coming.

Survey building tips

- Limit surveys to no more than 10-20 questions.
- The order of questions does matter. Group similar things together and ask a relatively important question first.
- Consider asking questions in multiple formats. For example a rating scale, and a multiple choice, or fill in the blank.
- Short background statements are alright to explain a topic, but do not make it leading or biased.
- Put your demographic questions last.

Additional tips

- Remember they are filling out the survey in the audience of your event. Keep it short, they are there to see your show, not fill out your survey.
- Have pencils available, otherwise they may not fill out the survey.
- Make sure the questions apply to everyone who is attending (don't ask about a past event you held as there will be people at your current event who don't know anything about it).
- Include an open-ended question for other comments BUT clearly instruct them to limit their responses to the overall organization with a statement such as, "Please keep comments to the general organization, not praise or criticism of this specific production or the volunteer performers in the show." Otherwise people will take it on themselves to become amateur theatre critics.
- Give brief instructions about the survey in the show's curtain speech.
- Offer an incentive for filling out the survey, even if it's just a free pen or piece of candy, it will greatly improve your response rate.

Types of Questions

Closed ended questions.

True/False, Multiple choice, Rating Scale, etc.

- Quick and easy for people to answer
- Allows you to easily compare "apples to apples"
- Limits the responses to only what you thought of
- People do not always read instructions carefully. For example, if you say pick your top two, and they select more, or they are confused on a rating scale if 1 equals good or bad.

Open ended questions.

Fill in the blank, general comments, etc.

- Can get very specific and detailed information
- You may get feedback you hadn't thought of
- People are less likely to answer these questions
- Is more difficult to compare "apples to apples"
- Generally only have a few of these types of questions on a program insert survey

This article was based on a program presented for Arts Advocacy Day, hosted by Nebraskans for the Arts and the Nebraska Arts Council by NACT Board Member, Jamie Ulmer. For more information on gathering audience data and survey samples contact Jamie (contact information on back page).

Some tips and tricks

Up in Lights

Oklahoma's Gaslight Theatre developed an unusual fund raising idea a few years back. Using its marquee, the company offered to create personalized messages or fake theater billings and photograph them. For \$19.95 theater patrons saw their name up in lights as the star of a play or musical of their dreams. Patrons were encouraged to be creative in their messages.

Lighting Selfies

The effect of actors illuminating their faces with a hand-held candle or flashlight on an otherwise darkened stage can be dramatic. However, have actors work in front of a mirror to determine the exact height to hold the light so that their features are visible. This is particularly important if more than one person is illuminated in this fashion; the audience should be able to see each actor's face equally well.

What's That You Say?

When a caller asked about ticket availability, the answer was, "I can give you four nice seats in the orchestra section." There was a pause. "Well," the caller said, hesitating, "we'd really rather sit with the audience." This true story (reported in the Reader's Digest) illustrates that not everyone understands theater jargon. And even if the ticket person explained the term "orchestra," the caller very likely felt a little foolish when it was all done. And the last thing any theater wants is to alienate people. A good rule is that before you recommend seating, ask, "Are you familiar with our theater?" If the caller says yes, you can probably recommend "orchestra" seats. If the caller says no, switch something more generic, such as "downstairs center, about six rows back."

Sounds Good

Sound effects need to fade away. We should not hear it click off. If the effect is something continuous, like traffic, crowd noise or a train passing, create a very long fade so that the audience is barely aware that the sound level is dropping. Bring dialogue in when the sound has dropped a bit; this lets the dialogue be heard and also helps cover the fade.

A Certain Ring To It

When rehearsing farce or other high-energy play, some directors have a small handbell on hand. When energy drops below what is appropriate or needed, they ring the bell to signal the actors to pick things up. This is certainly better than yelling, and is processed faster than words.

A Nice Touch

In its newsletter to patrons and members, the Mendocino [CA] Theatre Company included a page called "Applause To..." A nice, bulleted listing of thanks to individuals and organizations who have donated time, money or services isn't unusual. But this one includes complete paragraphs about the donations, with a nice informal style that humanizes those often faceless folk who are thanked in more routine ways.

SOURCE: American Association of Community Theatres website, "Tips of the Month Section."

Administration proposes elimination of federal arts agencies

A recently release budget proposal from the Trump Administration calls for the elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and The Corporation for Public Broadcasting among other agencies.

What could that mean to Nebraska and community theatres across the state?

The Nebraska Arts Council receives 1/3 of its budget from the NEA. That money is then distributed as grants to organizations across the state, like many of our member theatres. With the State of Nebraska doing across the board cuts to agencies that means the national funding has an even greater impact on the local level.

Did you know that the NEA is 0.004% of the Federal budget. While the arts actually generate \$22.31 billion in revenue for federal, state, county, and city governments (source National Assembly of State Arts Agencies).

WHAT'S Playing

Editor's note: NACT does our best to ensure that information provided here is accurate and up to date. However, we encourage those wishing to attend an event listed here to contact the theatre directly regarding ticket availability, and any change in schedules.

*BELLEVUE LITTLE THEATRE

P.O. Box 162

Bellevue, NE 68005

www.bellevuelittletheatre.com

-MUCH ADO ABOUT NOHTING

Feb. 3-5, 10-12, 17-19, 2017

-CLUE THE MUSICAL

March 24-26, 31-April 2, 7-9, 2017

-ALL THE KING'S WOMEN

May 15-21, 2017

*COMMUNITY PLAYERS, INC.

P.O. Box 116

412 Ella St.

Beatrice, NE 68310

(402) 228-1801

www.beatricecommunityplayers.com

-STILL LIFE WITH IRIS

Feb. 10-12, 17-19, 2017

-39 STEPS

March 31-April 2, 7-9, 2017

-FROG QUXIOTE

May 5-7, 2017

-DROSWY CHAPERONE

June 9-11, 16-18, 2017

*FRIEND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Warren Opera House)

PO Box 174

Friend, NE 68359

www.friendoperahouse.com

*GRAND ISLAND LITTLE THEATRE

Inside College Park

3180 W. Hwy 34

Grand Island, NE 68802-0182

(308) 382-2586

www.githeatre.org

-A NICE FAMILY GATHERING

Feb. 10-12, 17-19, 2017

-STEEL MAGNOLIAS

April 21-23, 28-30, 2017

-PUMP BOYS AND DINETTES

June 14-18, 2017

*HARLAN COUNTY DAM PLAYHOUSE

P.O. Box 85

Republican City, NE 68971

(308) 799-3093

harlancountyplayers.webs.com

*HASTINGS COMMUNITY THEATRE

P.O. Box 922

Hastings, NE 68902-0922

(402) 463-1500

hctheatre.org

-TINTYPES

Jan. 13-15, 20-22, 2017

-THE HAUNTING OF HILL

HOUSE

March 3-5, 10-12, 2017

-FIRST DATE

May 12-14, 19-21, 2017

*KEARNEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

83 Plaza Boulevard

Kearney, NE 68847

(308) 234-1529

www.kctonline.org

-I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT,
NOW CHANGE

Feb. 16-18, 23-25, March 2-5, 2017

-THE HAT MAKER'S WIFE

April 20-22, 27-29, 2017

-GUYS AND DOLLS

July 13-15, 20-22, 2017

*LINCOLN COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE

2500 S 56th St.

Lincoln, NE 68506

Phone: (402) 489-7529

www.lincolnplayhouse.com

-MOTHERS AND SONS

Jan. 20-22, 26-29, 2017

-EXIT LAUGHING

Feb. 10-12, 16-19, 2017

-MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS

March 31-April 2, 7-9, 2017

-RAGTIME

May 5-7, 11-14, 2017

*THE LITTLE RED HEN THEATRE

316 Main Street

P.O. Box 256

Wakefield, NE 68784

(402) 287-2818

www.littleredhentheatre.com

-HOME CHAT

March 24-26, 2017

-NUNSET BOULEVARD

July 28, 29, 30

-O PIONEERS

Sept.

-NUNSENSE A-MEN

Dec. 1-3

*THE LOFTE COMMUNITY THEATRE

PO Box 62

Manley, NE 68403

Reservations call (402) 234-2553

www.lofte.com

-STEEL MAGNOLIAS

April 21-23, 27-30, 2017

-THE MAN WHO CAME TO DIN-
NER

June 2-4, 8-11, 2017

-SPAMALOT

July 21-23, 27-30, Aug. 4-6, 2017

-WAIT UNTIL DARK

Sept. 8-10, 14-17, 2017

-BOEING, BOEING

Oct. 14-15, 19-22, 27-29, 2017

-FORGOTTEN CAROLS

Dec. 2-3, 7-10, 15-17, 2017

*LOUP CITY THEATRICAL ASSOCIATION

PO Box 203

Loup City, Ne. 68853

(308)745-07064

*MINDEN COMMUNITY PLAYERS

P.O. Box 221

Minden, NE 68959

www.mindencommunityplayers.com

*NORFOLK COMMUNITY THEATRE

P.O. Box 164

Norfolk, NE 68702

(402) 371-9093

www.nctheatre.org

-FARCE OF NATURE

March 3-5, 9-11, 2017

*NORTH PLATTE COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE

P.O. Box 1045

North Platte, NE 69103-1045

www.northplattecommunityplayhouse.com

com

-THE LITTLE MERMAID

Feb. 10-12, 17-19, 2017

-I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT,
NOW CHANGE

April 21-23, 28-30, 2017

*OMAHA COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE

691 Cass St.

Omaha, NE 68132-2696

(402) 553-4890 FAX: (402) 553-6288

www.omahaplayhouse.com

-AROUND THE WORLD IN 80
DAYS

Jan. 20-Feb. 12, 2017

-THE MAN WHO SHOT LIBERTY
VALANCE

Feb. 10-March 12, 2017

-ROCK OF AGES

March 3-April 2, 2017

-LEADING LADIES

April 14-May 7, 2017

-SUPERIOR DONUTS

May 5-June 4, 2017

-DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE
BEAST

May 26-June 25, 2017

*PAPILLION-LA VISTA COMMUNITY THEATRE

PO Box 460892

Papillion, NE 68046

www.plvct.org
plvcommtheatre@gmail.com
-GUYS AND DOLLS

***PLATTE VALLEY PLAYHOUSE**
P.O. Box 1161
Columbus, NE 68602-1161
(402) 564-STAR
www.columbuspvph.org
-CLOTHES ENCOUNTERS
March 23-26, 2017

***SHERIDAN COUNTY PLAYERS**
C/O Ryan Lovell
Box 636
Rushville, NE 69360
-ALMOST, MAINE
Jan. 20-22, 27-29, 2017

*** ST. PAUL AREA COMMUNITY THEATRE**
% Judy Johnson
333 Nelson St.
St. Paul, NE 68873
(308) 750-6558

***S.W. NEBRASKA COMMUNITY THEATRE ASS'N**
PO Box 114
McCook, NE 69001
-BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
March 11-12, 14, 17-19, 2017

***WAY OUT WEST COMMUNITY THEATRE**
1905 Maple Street
Sidney, NE 69162

***WEST POINT COMMUNITY THEATRE**
237 North Main Street
West Point, NE 69788
(402) 372-2250
www.westpointcommunitytheatre.org
-CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES
March 31-April 2, 7, 8, 2017

***YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE**
P.O. Box 413
York, NE 68467

(402) 362-7060
www.yorkshireplayhouse.com
-THE MADWOMAN OF CHAIL-
LOT
Feb. 16-9, 23-25, 2017
-CIRCLE, MIRROR, TRANSFOR-
MATION
April 27-30, May 4-7, 2017
-THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING
EARNEST
July 27-30, Aug. 3-6, 2017
-BUSYBODY
Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 5-8, 2017
-LAURA INGALLS WILDER
CHRISTMAS
Dec. 5-10, 2017

* NACT Member Theatre
+ Associate Member of NACT

If your theatre's season is not up to date here please let us know. Submit show information at www.nebact.org/member-theatres-shows/update-my-season.

Looking for your next show? NACT's script library can help

NACT has an extensive script lending library that is free for members to borrow from (all you have to do is pay postage).

The script list of shows in the script library can be found on our website (nebact.org). There you will also find a contact form for requesting scripts.

Also, if you have extra copies of scripts after our productions consider donating them to the NACT lending library. For information about the library contact Jamion Beisterfeld (contact information on the back page of the newsletter).

NACT Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

If a Theatre, please give contact person information here:

Contact: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

- INDIVIDUAL** \$25 (open to any individual interested in community theatre)
- FAMILY** \$40 (includes up to 4 immediate family members in the same household)
- THEATRE** \$50 (open to any community theatre organization in Nebraska)
- ASSOCIATE** \$35 (open to any individual or organization that does not qualify for other memberships)

Make checks payable to NACT and mail to:
NACT Membership
c/o Christine Cottam, Membership Chair
2500 S. 56. St.
Lincoln, NE 68506

All memberships good for 2 years.

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Omaha, NE 68130



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