



moving forward for
a change

annual report 2008

letter

from the board president and executive director



For the past seven years, the EdTA Board of Directors and Home Office staff have presented an annual report to the membership as a statement of progress of the Association. We are pleased to again share with you thoughts on our future and highlights of our work.

The Association has not only grown, but it has evolved in response to the needs of the membership and to the ever-changing educational environment. We have become an association that recognizes that by supporting the efforts of professional educators who seek to make theatre a vital component of the curriculum, we strengthen them as leaders in the classroom and in the theatre. We help them become strong, passionate theatre educators who excel in teaching, and who in turn produce strong, passionate theatre students who excel in life.

In short: **We are an association that provides national leadership in nurturing the professionals who provide a solid foundation for theatre students and the future of the field.**

Our members have told us that they do not like theatre being seen as a “disposable” subject or simply as an after school activity. We agree, but know that changing that perception will not come overnight and will not come without enough members who want, and will act, to make change happen. All members must be engaged in this effort; our voice must be strong and united in order to be heard and to effect change.

We have begun to cultivate these changes by:

- Developing a multi-year strategic plan that informs the direction of the Home Office staff and provides the Board of Directors with an evaluative blueprint for the future.
- Taking an active national leadership role and becoming an organizing force for the voice of the theatre education professional.
- Clarifying the voice and face of the Association to better represent the field and our members.
- Monitoring the need for and providing professional development opportunities for our members.
- Continuing to grow our membership to serve the needs of more educators and students.

We know you make a dramatic difference in the lives of students. Your students, administrators, or peers may not always acknowledge it; however, we know how hard you work. But are you exploiting the resources available to you as a member of the largest organization representing the field of theatre education? By utilizing EdTA's resources you will join with thousands of professional educators who no longer say, “I make a difference,” but proudly proclaim, “We make a difference!”

We teach our students the Thespian motto, “Act well your part, there all the honor lies.” As theatre educators and troupe directors, we must live it as well.

Come join us and be a part of these exciting changes...let's continue to make a difference—together!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry D. Smith, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jerry D. Smith, Jr.
President, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Peitz" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael J. Peitz, CAE
Executive Director



association leadership

JERRY D. SMITH, JR.

EdTA Board President
Salem High School
Conyers, Georgia

DEBBY GIBBS

EdTA Board Vice President
Tupelo High School
Tupelo, Mississippi

TOM BROWN

Vice President of
Program Production
Turner Classic Movies
Atlanta, Georgia

ROBERT L. JOHNSON

Educator (ret.)
Santa Fe, New Mexico

PAUL DAVID LEPOULOS

The THEA Foundation
North Little Rock, Arkansas

JOE NORTON

Associate Director of
Education & Outreach
Broadway Cares/
Equity Fights AIDS
New York, New York

DR. ROBERT STRICKLAND

Executive Director,
Professional Development
Miami-Dade County
Public Schools
Miami, Florida

BRIAN WELCH

Villa Duchesne/Oak Hill
School
St. Louis, Missouri

financial highlights

OPERATING REVENUES

During the 2007-08 fiscal year, the Association achieved total revenues of \$3,484,904, which was a decrease of \$154,311, or -4.2%, from the 2006-07 fiscal year. The Association's operating revenue was 106.1% of its operating budget for the 2007-08 fiscal year.

OPERATING EXPENSES

During the 2007-08 fiscal year, total expenses increased by \$39,996, or 1.1%, to \$3,442,143 compared to the 2006-07 fiscal year. The Association's operating expenses were 100% of its operating budget for the 2007-08 fiscal year.

OPERATING GAIN

EdTA's operating gain, which excludes depreciation expense, was \$42,761 for the 2007-08 fiscal year. During the 2006-07 fiscal year, the Association reported an operating gain of \$237,068. Depreciation is a non-cash expense that identifies proportional replacement cost for structure, equipment, and other assets.

INVESTMENT FUNDS

The market value of the Association's investment portfolio decreased by \$229,351 during the 2007-08, to \$2,392,844.





publications

Every year, EdTA produces nine issues of *Dramatics* and four issues of *Teaching Theatre* with the newest information from the world of theatre and education. The 2007–08 year saw the amount of published editorial content grow by 89% to 780 total published pages. Specific highlights include:

DRAMATICS

- The College Theatre Directory, profiling nearly 300 college programs.
- Nine previously unpublished plays, including two full-length plays, two long one-acts written specifically for young actors, plus four plays from our student playwriting competition, Thespian Playworks.
- A new series on acting in musical theatre by nationally respected professors Rocco Dal Vera and Joe Deer; acting articles by Bruce Miller; and design and production content covering sound, rigging, set construction, and house management.
- Feature-length profiles of videogame developers, scenic artists, and theatre business managers.
- An inside account of what it's like to work and study in a top B.F.A. program.

TEACHING THEATRE

- A three-part series on musical theatre instruction by Tracey Moore.
- Articles by Bruce Miller and Lisa Mulcahy on teaching students how to listen, incorporating new actors into an ensemble, and introducing commedia dell'arte.
- A tech theatre article by Dana Taylor focusing on how to match theatre instruction to Howard Gardner's suggested learning styles.
- A detailed article on special needs theatre students and the challenges of mainstreaming, by Suzi Zimmerman.
- An introduction to puppetry article that included specific kinds of inexpensive approaches that can be used in the classroom.

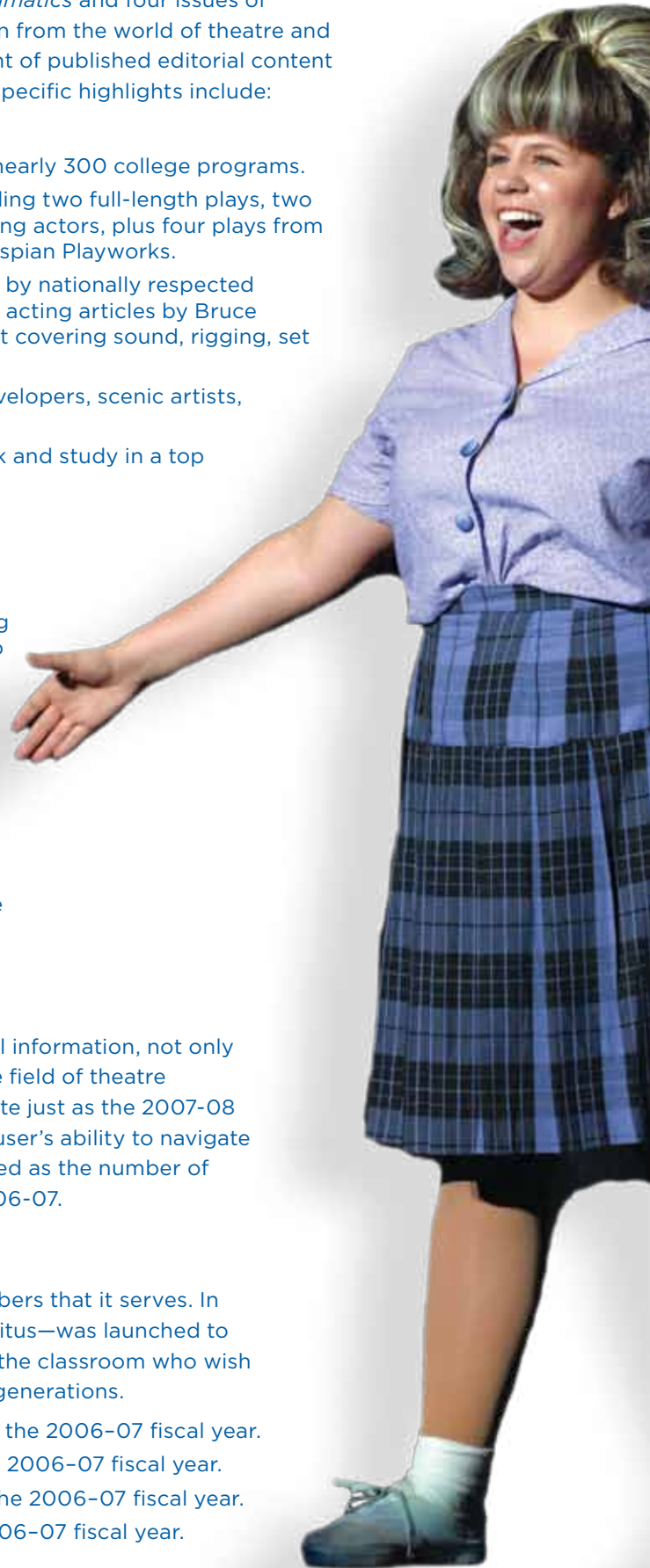
EdTA online

We remain committed to providing easy access to useful information, not only to our members, but to those who work in and study the field of theatre education. To that end, we launched a redesigned website just as the 2007–08 year began. The new look was intended to improve the user's ability to navigate and find information quickly. We believe this was achieved as the number of website downloads increased by 16.5% compared to 2006–07.

membership

EdTA continues to grow the number, and types, of members that it serves. In the 2007–08 fiscal year, a new membership class—Emeritus—was launched to address the increasing number of teachers retired from the classroom who wish to maintain a presence in advancing the field for future generations.

- 80 pre-professional members, an 8.1% increase from the 2006–07 fiscal year.
- 580 professional members, a 3.2% increase from the 2006–07 fiscal year.
- 380 Junior Thespian troupes, a 3.8% increase from the 2006–07 fiscal year.
- 3,550 Thespian troupes, a 1.8% increase from the 2006–07 fiscal year.



leadership

EdTA continues to represent its members through many collaborative partnerships and projects with fellow arts-minded organizations. We do this by:

- Continuing to serve on two Arts Education Partnership (AEP) Steering Committee Task Force Groups—Higher Education and Leadership.
- Agreeing to continue a joint sponsorship agreement with AEP for year two of the first arts-specific pilot program for the Critical Links professional development model, with assistance from the Ohio Arts Council and the University of Cincinnati.
- Becoming a member of the College Board's National Task Force for the Arts in Education.
- Representing the field of theatre education with the State Collaborative on Assessment and Student Standards (SCASS).
- Remaining an active member of the Alliance for Curriculum Reform (ACR).
- Uniting with the American Association for Theatre and Education (AATE) and the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) as the Coalition for Theatre Education (CFTE), to develop and release the first position paper on censorship and freedom of expression in educational theatre. EdTA's Don Corathers served as the paper's principle author.
 - Co-sponsoring the Americans for the Arts' annual Arts Advocacy Day.
 - Maintaining a strong relationship with the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) to provide special placement in the youngARTS award selection process.
 - Sitting as an active member of the Entertainment Services and Technology Association (ESTA), holding a seat on the ESTA Foundation Board, and working to develop technical theatre standards and educational resources, as well as basic level certificates and master certification. EdTA is also represented on the ESTA Foundation as co-chair of the Publications and Assessment Committee and as a member of the Essential Skills Task Group.

scholarships & grants

Providing members with financial resources to defray the costs of educational opportunities is another way of advancing the Association's mission. During 2007–08, EdTA and its affiliated chapters awarded more than \$170,050 in scholarships and grants, including:

- Chapter scholarships totaling \$116,250, with EdTA matching \$19,800 of the chapter funds.
- Thespian scholarships totaling \$14,500, plus the \$4,500 Melba Day Henning Scholarship, presented to Sarah Misch from Liberty High School in Henderson, Nevada, and the \$2,000 Robert L. Johnson/Hector S. Cruz Scholarship, presented to Katherine Thomas from Mary D. Bradford High School in Kenosha, Wisconsin.
- The ITS Leadership Grant, presented to Natasha Jones from Toledo (Ohio) School for the Arts.
- The Doug Finney Festival Grants, presented to Joey Frenette from Maurice J. McDonough High School in Pomfret, Maryland; Forrest Harlan from Florence (Alabama) High School; Andrew Smith from Ingleside (Texas) High School; and Michael Villanueva from Boulder Creek High School in Anthem, Arizona.
- The Ronald L. Longstreth International Thespian Festival Grant, presented to Emmanuelle Mouniapiin, a French exchange student from North Penn High School in Lansdale, Pennsylvania.
- The Austin Yeatman Technical Theatre Scholarship, presented to Lenae Everette from Ponderosa High School in Franktown, Colorado.
- The Alan D. Engelsman and Penny Lu Engelsman Scholarship, presented to Stephanie Leatham from Nipomo (California) High School.



educational events

Providing opportunities for all of our members to develop their skills through practical hands-on and face-to-face instruction remains an important part of fulfilling the mission of the Association. We continue to explore ways to enrich our members' educational experiences—whether they are seasoned educators or new students. Our educational events are an important part of serving our membership.

- New York City provided the backdrop for 348 attendees at the 2007 EdTA Annual Conference, co-hosted by the New York State Theatre Education Association (NYSTEA). The conference featured 50 workshops, three Professional Development Institute (PDI) sessions, keynote speaker Eric Booth, and a special performance of *Legally Blonde the Musical*, with a post-performance talk-back session featuring some of the cast.
- The 2008 International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska was the temporary home of 2,661 delegates and began with the International Thespian production of *Hairspray*. Highlights of Festival 2008 include: 131 total workshop sessions for students and teachers, including special sessions with Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman (*Hairspray*); two PDI sessions; a record 24 teams participating in the Tech Challenge program; the National Individual Events Showcase (NIES) auditions with more than 350 students; and 423 students auditioning for college and Thespian scholarships.
- J.S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School in Augusta, Georgia hosted the 2008 Junior Thespian Festival, where more than 450 delegates participated in individual event performance opportunities, one-acts, the Team Play-Create, and full-length productions.

awards

The Association places a priority on recognizing the work and dedication of those individuals and groups who exemplify some of the best that the field of theatre education has to offer. These awards showcase inspirational work and extraordinary dedication that contribute to improving the environment for the future of theatre arts education.

- The 2008 EdTA Administrator's Award was presented to John Marsh of Floyd Central High School, Floyds Knobs, Indiana and James Montepare of North Adams (Massachusetts) Public Schools.
- The 2008 Founders' Award was posthumously presented to William Strauss, founder of The Cappies student critics program.
- The 2008 President's Award was presented to Craig Ihnen, Executive Director of the Iowa High School Speech Association.
- The 2008 Standing Ovation Award, presented to Interactive Educational Video.
- The 2008 Outstanding School Award, presented to Charlotte (North Carolina) Christian School, Lincoln (Nebraska) High School, and University Liggett School in Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan.
- The 2008 Hall of Fame inductions recognized the work of Jonathan Gillespie of Michigan; Martha "Marty" Hancock of Florida; Patricia "Lee" Hitchler of Kansas; Madelon Horvath of Ohio; Terry McGonigle of Nevada.



community involvement

EdTA's growing leadership role is not limited to representing the field of theatre education. It also includes participating in community service initiatives and supporting organizations that serve a charitable mission.

In October 2007, the fourth annual Trick or Treat So Kids Can Eat (TOTS-EAT) community service initiative brought together more than 225 Thespian troupes in 35 states (involving over 8,300 students and 800 adults) to collect 270,345 pounds of food. Since its launch as a national campaign in 2004, Thespian troupes have collected more than 965,000 pounds (482.5 tons) of food for those less fortunate.

Since 1999, EdTA and the International Thespian Society have been the largest source of student support for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (BC/EFA). As of July 31, 2008, a total of \$593,100.26 has been raised for BC/EFA by individual Thespians, Thespian troupes, and chapter organizations.

leadership coaches

Eric Brannen

The Westminster School
Smyrna, Georgia

Michael Fisher

Springfield Academy
of Arts & Academics
Springfield, Oregon

Marie Glotzbach

Skidmore College
Saratoga Springs, New York

Lana Hagan

Southern Illinois
University Edwardsville
Edwardsville, Illinois

Madelon Horvath

Chardon High School
Chardon, Ohio

Craig Ihnen

Iowa High School
Speech Association
Des Moines, Iowa

Beverly Murray

Educator (ret.)
Fort Worth, Texas

Kerry Onxley

The Children's
Theatre Company
Lake Charles, Louisiana

Patricia Santanello

Dublin Scioto High School
Columbus, Ohio

Pam Ware

Gainesville High School
Gainesville, Georgia

chapter directors from august 1, 2007–july 31, 2008

Alabama

Lisa Newton
Martha Summey

Arizona

Denise Ferguson
Linda Phillips

Arkansas

Audra Bocksnick

California

Krista Elhai

Colorado

Jay Seller

Connecticut

Marydell Merrill

Florida

Michael Higgins

Georgia

Frank Pruet

Illinois

Faye Ryan

Indiana

Ann Hileman

Iowa

Wayne Hess

Kansas

Kate Lindsay

Kentucky

Carolyn Greer

Louisiana

Shelly Appleby

Maryland

Ruby Duehring

Massachusetts

Jim Ferguson

Michigan

Dr. Phillip Moss

Minnesota

Elizabeth Chaigne

Mississippi

Mary G. Anderson

Missouri

Debbie Corbin

Montana

Sarah DeGrandpre

Nebraska

Robyn Baker

Nevada

Sharon Chadwick

New Hampshire

Jennifer LaFrance

New Jersey

Sandra VanDyke

New Mexico

Richard Hogle

Doris Vialpando

North Carolina

C.J. Breland

Ohio

Gloria E. McIntyre

Oklahoma

Todd Murray

Ontario

Jeff Graham

Oregon

Carolyn Reid

Pennsylvania

Bill Hallman

Rhode Island

Kate Arthur

South Carolina

Anita Sleeman

Tennessee

Allison Rogers

Texas

Carlen Gilseth

Vermont

Cathy Archer

Virginia

Nancy P. Curtis

Washington

Leslie Van Leishout

Ruben Van Kempen

West Virginia

Michael Stiles

Western Pacific Islands

Harold Easton

donations

The Educational Theatre Association and the International Thespian Society wish to thank the following individuals and businesses whose generous contributions helped to support the Association during the 2007-08 fiscal year:

** Indicates founding donors*

LEGACY CIRCLE

Eric Brannen
Rodney Burnsworth
Debby Gibbs
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William Myatt
Michael J. and Linda Peitz
Jay Seller
Jerry D. Smith, Jr.
Brian Welch
Shelley Yeatman

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Hector S. Cruz
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Greater Atlanta Christian
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Hector S. Cruz
Frank M. Pruet
Shelley Yeatman

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Tom and Lisa Brown
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Group of Merrill Lynch
Fred and Eve Wittenbaum

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honor of Josh Houghton
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The Pinson family, in honor of
Tia Pinson
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of Jacob Porter
Drs. Darlene and Len Radin
Faye Ryan
Dennis and Helene Sanford, in
honor of Jameson Sanford
Jay Seller and Paul Ferraresi
Sharon Strong
Gordon Hammersmith/
Successful Products
Brian Welch

LEADING PLAYER (\$50-\$99)

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Virginia Chizer, in memory of
Mary Gorrell
Connie Dillow
Michael Feinberg

Gregory and Annette Frenette,
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Peter J. Palermo

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The Broadway League
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