

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

"Serving students since 1895"

Theatre • Debate • Speech

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NEWSLETTER
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Happy, Happy
Holidays!
From Mary &
J. Peter

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION
10 East Main Street
Evansville, WI 53536

PRESETED STANDARD
NON PROFIT
PERMIT NO. 14
EVANSVILLE, WI 53536

opened up, once again, for me to head up the Sparta High School Theatre Department, a golden ring of opportunity that I couldn't help but reach for. A significant part of that job would be to produce SHS's first ever entry into the WHSFA Theatre series.

I already had a play in mind (I ALWAYS have a play in mind) that I believed would be the perfect show for this novice entry. Having attended the WACT Festival in Platteville last February, I had the opportunity to see "The Eleventh," a moving series of vignettes portraying lives, hopes and dreams that were cut short by the events of September 11, 2001. I spoke briefly with the playwright who informed me that the literature was in the process of being published. One step led to another, and soon, rehearsals were taking place with a cast and crew of twenty-two excited young thespians.

Having only been on the audience side of the One-Act festival, the date of Districts was approached with no little fear and trepidation. It's one thing to direct a play for the sheer enjoyment of theatre - it's another thing altogether to submit to being judged by one's peers. Sherry Getter and Rick Braun, our District and sectional coordinators, were marvelous in their efforts to help a rookie one-act company learn the ropes. "The Eleventh" passed districts with glowing reviews by the judges.

The Sectional level was a different matter altogether, although we were advanced

from that event as well. It was here that the rubber met the road, and the competitive/subjective aspects of our art collided. Since we had had nothing but positive feedback up until Sectionals, it was difficult, to say the least, to be confronted by a judge who displayed nothing but disfavor with our performance. Now, one might think that this would be a demoralizing blow to a first-time troupe. Not so. It was a perfect opportunity to learn/teach about subjectivity, about taking the good with the bad, about admitting and realizing that there may be a grain of truth in a conflicting opinion, and about not getting bitter, just getting better. So, we completely re-worked the end of the show, presented it to the community and to the student body with positive results, and eagerly anticipated the weekend of State.

"The Eleventh" was scheduled as the 55th out of 57 groups to perform. Needless to say, it was a long weekend, but excellent workshops and one-act plays kept us occupied until Saturday afternoon when we began the preparation for our performance. The UWL staff was gracious and helpful. The WHSFA staff was also patient with a director who kept checking, re-checking, and checking again to make sure that we would load-in properly, etc. Our warm-up time was the best we'd ever had, cut short, surprisingly, because the one-act before us ran short. We charged ahead, set up in record time, and prepared for the house to go to black. The time had come...the anticipation was almost more than we could handle. The music started, and there was no turning back. Instead, it

was our time to shine on the stage of UWL's Toland Theatre. And shine we did.

Sniffing, sobs, and blowing noses all verified that we had achieved our first objective - that of touching our audience. That fact was verified by the standing ovation given at curtain. Only one who has performed for a Theatre Fest audience knows the true value of receiving a standing ovation at this event. It was truly the frosting on the cake, or so we thought.

Then came the critique. Would we be praised or constructively criticized? Was there hope for this rookie troupe? The answer came in the form of Mr. Malone, who entered the dressing room with three plaques in hand and the announcement that we had been unanimously awarded the Critic's Choice, Outstanding Ensemble Acting, and Outstanding Director Awards. Then, Mr. Barlow lavished us with his praise of our ability to reach the audience, our attention to details, our respectful portrayal of a devastating event and its aftereffects. He also expressed his amazement at the quality work demonstrated by a first-year group. Caught up in the emotion of the moment, I'm afraid I've not remembered everything that was said, but it was enough to fill up the motivation tank of a director and 22 young thespians for quite some time.

So there you have it...six years later...a dream fulfilled above and beyond even my boundless imagination. Have we come down yet? I don't really think so because I still find myself wondering if it was all just...a dream.

Celebrate Theatre!



The thirteenth annual Wisconsin High School Theatre Festival, "Celebrate Theatre!", produced by the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association, UW-Madison Department of Liberal Studies and the Arts and the Alliance for Wisconsin Theatre Education was a tremendous success! This outstanding 2003 Theatre Festival was hosted by UW-La Crosse on November 20, 21 and 22, 2003.

The 2003 theatre extravaganza opened on Thursday evening with an outstanding Showcase performance of the musical *Rags*. This moving production was performed by Appleton West High School and directed by Michael Daehn.

Friday's Showcase production was *Bat Boy: The Musical*. This classy production was directed by Holly Stanfield, and performed by talented students from Kenosha Bradford High School. Both of these outstanding productions were performed at the marvelous theatre complex of Viterbo University. Special applause to ALL involved in these outstanding productions.

Friday and Saturday offered a number of interesting and educational workshops which covered a wide variety of theatre topics including: Special Effects Make-up, Juggling, Hip-Hop Funk Dance, Kabuki, Unarmed Stage Combat and the always popular Tech

Olympics. These and many other "hands-on" opportunities for students, teachers and directors to enhance their theatre skills were a popular part of the event.

Fifty-seven (57) selected high schools were invited to showcase their one-act productions at the 2003 State Festival, and performed both Friday and Saturday in the Toland and Valhalla theatres. These plays represented the outstanding theatre work being done across the state by dedicated students and directors.

Many state colleges and universities, as well as a number of commercial companies were available to display their products and talk to interested students and teachers in the exhibit areas.

Special commendations go to Joe Anderson, Beth Cherne, William Clow, Mary Leonard, Krista Shulka and Ron Stoffregen from the UW-La Crosse Department of Theatre Arts - and to a wonderful group of UW-La Crosse students, all of whose many efforts made the 2003 Festival a smashing success! Bravo!!

Total attendance at the 2003 Theatre Festival was over 2,000 participants. Make plans now to attend the fourteenth annual *Wisconsin High School Theatre Festival*, to be hosted by UW-Whitewater on November 18, 19 and 20, 2004.

2003 WHSFA STATE SPEECH FESTIVAL APRIL 2-3, 2004

Postcards have been sent to all schools that returned the time preference lottery card to the State Office. The card will indicate the time slot that all students from your school will be scheduled. If you do not receive an assigned time slot postcard by January 1, 2004, contact the State Office for assignment to an available Saturday time.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2ND SEMESTER

January 3, 2004
Latest date for WHSFA State Qualifying Debate

January 9-10, 2004
WHSFA State Debate (UW-Oshkosh)
(2 - Speaker & 4 - Speaker + LD)

February 7, 2004
Latest date for WHSFA Middle Level Division - Level I

February 21, 2004
Latest date for WHSFA Subdistrict Speech

March 1, 2004
Latest date for WHSFA Middle Level Division - Level II

March 6, 2004
Latest date for WHSFA District Speech

April 2-3, 2004
WHSFA State Speech (UW-Madison)

April 11, 2004
Easter

STATE SPEECH
APRIL 2 & 3, 2004
UW-MADISON

**WHSFA State Theatre Festival
November 21 - 22, 2003 UW-La Crosse**

OUTSTANDING ACTING AWARDS - 2003

Many actors/ensembles met the criteria and received "Outstanding Acting" award plaques at the 2003 WHSFA State Theatre Festival. The award recipients are:

SCHOOL	PLAY TITLE	ACTOR/CHARACTER
Adams-Friendship	<i>Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew</i>	Seth Downey (Petruccio)
Algoma	<i>The Death of the Theatre</i>	Ensemble
Appleton North	<i>Saint Joan</i>	Ensemble Lindsey Higgins (Joan)
Augusta	<i>Help Wanted</i>	Ensemble
Boyceville	<i>Mr. Flannery's Ocean</i>	Matt Blodgett (Mr. Flannery)
Burlington	<i>The Wrestling Season</i>	Ensemble Ben Walker (Matt) David Klink (Luke)
Cedarburg	<i>A Voice Of My Own</i>	Ensemble
West De Pere	<i>May I Have Your Attention, Please?</i>	Michael Knaapen (Chris Borthwick)
Whitnall, Greenfield	<i>The Rising Of The Moon</i>	Tony Hanson (Sergeant) Kyle Ulatowski (Ragged Man) Brandon Roberts (Coach Jensen) Garen McRoberts (George) Lisa Brimmer (Marion)
Hudson	<i>The Winning Season</i>	Alex Martin (Arthur)
Kenosha Bradford	<i>Sunday In The Park With George</i>	Ensemble
Lodi	<i>On Tidy Endings</i>	Andy McCain (Cyrano) Mike Roush (Christian) Melissa Coster (Roxanne)
Homestead, Mequon	<i>Cyrano de Bergerac</i>	Ensemble Max McCarthy (Joe)
Middleton	<i>Afternoon At The Seaside</i>	Ensemble
Mosinee	<i>Waiting for Lefty</i>	Ensemble Josh Dake (Harvey)
Mukwonago	<i>The Laramie Project</i>	Ensemble
Oconto Falls	<i>On Hold At 30,000 Feet</i>	Ensemble
Owen-Withee	<i>Crying Out</i>	Ensemble
Plymouth	<i>Second Class</i>	Ensemble
Port Washington	<i>This Is A Test</i>	Tom Geise (Alan)
Sparta	<i>The Eleventh</i>	Ensemble
Hamilton, Sussex	<i>Candid</i>	Kyle Biss (T. J.)
Youth Initiative, Viroqua	<i>War In Heaven</i>	Ensemble
Catholic Memorial, Waukesha	<i>Dragons</i>	Megan McHugh (Linda Woods) Ensemble Dan Wilkerson (Francis Flute)
Waukesha North	<i>Butterfly</i>	Ensemble
Waukesha West	<i>A Midsummer's Night Dream</i>	Ensemble
Waupaca	<i>The Strength of Our Spirit</i>	Ensemble
Dominican, Whitefish Bay	<i>Arsenic And Old Lace</i>	Andy O'Connell (Mortimer Brewster)

ALL STATE AWARDS - 2003

Adams-Friendship	Luxemburg-Casco	Plymouth
Ashland	Little Wolf, Manawa	Port Washington
Augusta	Manitowoc Lutheran	Pulaski
Boyceville	Northwestern, Maple	Seymour
Brookfield East	Middleton	Shawano
De Forest	Monona Grove	Tomahawk
Drummond	Montello	Verona
Northland Pines, Eagle River	Riverdale, Muscoda	Viroqua
Ellsworth	Necedah	Waterford Union
Greenfield	Oconto Falls	Waukesha North
Greenwood	Oshkosh West	Waunakee
Hudson	Owen-Withee	Waupaca
Jefferson	Peshigo	Dominican, Whitefish Bay
Badger, Lake Geneva	Platteville	

**WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION
SPEECH ADJUDICATION**

As of 12/01/03

Speech Adjudication Workshops will continue during the 2nd semester. A reminder; all judges at all levels must be WHSFA certified! Each school must also provide either one or two WHSFA certified judges for State. If you or your judges are not certified - now is the time!

If you are interested in attending any of the listed workshops and did not receive registration materials or you wish to host an Adjudicator Workshop - call the State Office at 608/882-6004.

Wauwatosa West High School January 8, 2004 (Thursday) 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Bay Port High School (Green Bay) February 2, 2004 (Monday) 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**WHSFA
REMEMBERING...**

■ 20 YEARS AGO - NOVEMBER 1983

Two new evaluators will be a part of the 1983 State Theatre Festival. Newly sharing their expertise will be David Buzza - Ripon College and J. Peter Shaw - District 11 Chair.

■ 15 Years Ago - NOVEMBER 1988

The 1989-90 Theatre Advisory Committee will be composed of:

Section I John Abraham, Menomonie High School; Section II Ted Moskonas, Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln High School; Section III Ken Beatty, Richland Center High School; Section IV Sue Luterbach, Milwaukee St. Joan Antida High School; Section V Pat Barlow, Badger High School - Lake Geneva.

■ 10 Years Ago - DECEMBER 1993

Of the forty-three schools at the 1993 Theatre Festival, eight met the requirements for the "Critic's Choice" award. The schools awarded were: Appleton West, Brookfield Central, Mukwonago, Oshkosh West, Platteville, Viroqua, Waukesha West and Waunakee.

■ 5 Years Ago - December 1998

Of the fifty-four schools at the WHSFA State Theatre Festival, eighteen were recognized for exemplary theatrical skills by receiving the "Critic's Choice" award.

**CRITIC'S CHOICE AWARDS
- 2003 -**

Of the fifty-seven schools at the WHSFA State Theatre Festival, sixteen were recognized for exemplary theatrical skills by receiving the "Critic's Choice" award. The schools awarded were:

Algoma
Appleton North
Burlington
Cedarburg
West De Pere
Whitnall, Greenfield
Kenosha Bradford
Lodi
Homestead, Mequon
Mosinee
Mukwonago
Sparta
Hamilton, Sussex
Youth Initiative, Viroqua
Catholic Memorial, Waukesha
Waukesha West

WHSFA STATE THEATRE FESTIVAL

Fifty-seven productions were chosen to perform at the State Theatre Festival on November 21-22, 2003 at UW-La Crosse. All areas of the state were represented. The schools, play titles and playwrights, as well as the directors are:

SCHOOL	TITLE/PLAYWRIGHT	DIRECTOR
Adams-Friendship	William Shakespeare's <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> /Luella E. Mc Mahon	Tom Wetzel
Algoma	<i>The Death of the Theatre</i> /Ken Bradbury	David Loos
Appleton North	<i>Saint Joan</i> /George Bernard Shaw	Ron Parker
Ashland	<i>Last Lists of My Mad Mother</i> /Julie Jensen	Jan Lee
Augusta	<i>Help Wanted</i> /James Rayfield	Susan Maenner
Boyceville	<i>Mr. Flannery's Ocean</i> /Lewis John Carlino	Steven Renfree
Brookfield East	<i>Egad, What A Cad!</i> /Anita Bell	Linda Aeppler
Burlington	<i>The Wrestling Season</i> /Laurie Brooks	Nat Miller
Cedarburg	<i>A Voice Of My Own</i> /Elinor Jones	Ann Johnson
De Forest	<i>Long Christmas Dinner</i> /Thornton Wilder	Janis Williams
West De Pere	<i>May I Have Your Attention, Please</i> /Catherine Rhoden-Goguen	Jane Johnson
Drummond	<i>Frumpled Fairy Tales</i> /Bill Springer	Key Rowe, Renee Young
Northland Pines, Eagle River	<i>Deadly Illusion</i> /Donald S. Lowry	Dave Strong
Ellsworth	<i>Dreamjobs</i> /Graham Jones	Shelly Moore
Greenfield	<i>To Burn A Witch</i> /James L. Bray	Brooke Bross
Whitnall, Greenfield	<i>The Rising Of The Moon</i> /Lady Augusta Gregory	Jym L. Clark
Greenwood	<i>The Small World of Mille Mclvor</i> /Ronald Burke	Linda Schwarze
Hudson	<i>The Winning Season</i> /Ev Miller	Craig Lewis/S. Mulhally
Jefferson	<i>Tartuffe</i> /Moliere	Ryan Clarksen
Kenosha Bradford	<i>Sunday In The Park With George</i> /Sondheim/Lapine	Holly Stanfield
Badger, Lake Geneva	<i>Sorry, Shakespeare!</i> /Mike Willis	Laura-Nicole Musolf
Lodi	<i>On Tidy Endings</i> /Harvey Feistlien	Karl Reinhardt
Luxemburg-Casco	<i>Rest In Peace</i> /Pat Cook	Marcianne S. Hansen
Little Wolf, Manawa	<i>Happily Never After</i> / Tim Kelly	Karyn Pamparin
Manitowoc Lutheran	<i>The Miracle Worker</i> /William Gibson	Kathryn Juroff
Northwestern, Maple	<i>Twelve Dancing Princesses</i> /L.E. Clark	Pat Luostari
Homestead, Mequon	<i>Cyrano de Bergerac</i> /Edmond Rostand	Amanda Watt
Middleton	<i>Afternoon At The Seaside</i> /Agatha Christie	Clare McCain
Monona Grove	<i>Over The River And Through The Woods</i> /Joe DiPietro	Lynda Sharpe
Montello	<i>Midnight Wax/L. Don Swartz</i>	Mari Mitchell
Mosinee	<i>Waiting for Lefty</i> /Clifford Odets	Mary E. Hart
Mukwonago	<i>The Laramie Project</i> /Moises Kaufman	Michael Sherfinski
Riverdale, Muscoda	<i>Competition Piece</i> /John S. Wells	Nancy Reese
Necedah	<i>The Farndale Ave. Housing Estate...</i> /David Mc Gillivray & Walter Zerlin, Jr.	Chris Simonson
Oconto Falls	<i>On Hold At 30,000 Feet</i> /Kitty Burns	Mikki Maddox
Oshkosh West	<i>The Swimmer</i> /F. Xavier Hogan	Gayle Gander
Owen-Withee	<i>Crying Out</i> /Matthew L. Hunt	Lisa H. Hutchinson
Peshigo	<i>Snow...Sort Of...</i> White/Ken Bradbury	Jeffer Scheuer/Theresa Anderson
Platteville	<i>River Of Tears</i> /Michael W. Lonetree	Sharon Sanderson
Plymouth	<i>Second Class</i> /Brad Straight	Mike Willis
Port Washington	<i>This Is A Test</i> /Stephen Gregg	Herb Stoltenberg
Pulaski	<i>Fables</i> /Jerome McDonough	Ralph Lohse
Seymour	<i>Competition Piece</i> /John S. Wells	Amy Tubbs
Shawano	<i>The Woodman and the Goblins</i> /Don Nigro	Deb Finn
Sparta	<i>The Eleventh</i> /Mike Willis	Drew Wimmer
Hamilton, Sussex	<i>Candid</i> /Michael Scanlan	Laurie Swigart
Tomahawk	<i>Help</i> /David Grote Michele	Steven Younk
Verona	<i>Not On This Night</i> /E. Y. Jones	Baida/Nancy Herbison
Viroqua	<i>Across the Plains</i> /Sandra Fenichel Asher	Karra Liddicoat
Youth Initiative, Viroqua	<i>War in Heaven</i> /Joseph Chaikin & Sam Shepard	Sherry Gelter
Waterford Union	<i>Once Upon A Summertime</i> /Mary W. Schaller	Eddy Nix
Catholic Memorial, Waukesha	<i>Dragons</i> /Lucille McIntyre	Trudianne Thom
Waukesha North	<i>Butterfly</i> /Jerome McDonough	Chris Andacht
Waukesha West	<i>A Midsummer's Night Dream</i> /William Shakespeare	Robb Smith
Waunakee	<i>Seth's Anxiety</i> /Jay Thornton	Cathryn Atkinson
Waupaca	<i>The Strength of Our Spirit</i>	N. Hambrook, J. Shucha, R. Braun
Dominican, Whitefish Bay	<i>The Vision of Anne Frank</i> /Cynthia Mercati	Monica Reeves
	<i>Arsenic And Old Lace</i> /Joseph Kesselring	Michael Travia

OUTSTANDING DIRECTING AWARDS - 2003

Nine directors earned the "Outstanding Directing" award at the 2003 State Theatre Festival. The individuals recognized are:

SCHOOL	PLAY TITLE	DIRECTOR
Algoma	<i>The Death of the Theatre</i>	David Loos
Appleton North	<i>Saint Joan</i>	Ron Parker
Burlington	<i>The Wrestling Season</i>	Nat Miller/Carrie Ehrmann
Homestead, Mequon	<i>Cyrano de Bergerac</i>	Clare McCain
Mosinee	<i>Waiting For Lefty</i>	Mike Sherfinski
Mukwonago	<i>The Laramie Project</i>	Nancy Reese
Sparta	<i>The Eleventh</i>	Laurie Swigart
Catholic Memorial, Waukesha	<i>Dragons</i>	Christopher Andacht

**THE FULFILLMENT OF A
DREAM**

By Laurie Swigart

In 1997, a lone theatre director made her first trek to UW-Stevens Point to experience, for the first time, the inspiration of a Wisconsin State High School Theatre Festival. It was a journey into the unknown, having had no previous experience with one-acts and their respective festivals. It was an experience that was to forever change this director's perspective on high school theatre and my expectations of the students with whom I worked. Unknown to me at the time, it was the first step to the culmination of a dream that was birthed on that weekend in November, 1997.

Due to circumstances beyond my control, it was to be six years before the fulfillment of that dream would be realized, that being selected to take a one-act to the State level. Those six years were well spent in inspiring students to excel on stage, offstage, and in the audience through attendance at subsequent Theatre Festivals, as well as through participation with my own Upstage Review Theatre Company in Sparta, WI. This organization was formed to create and perpetuate a philosophy of excellence in theatre for area teens who may not have had the benefit of quality theatre education in their schools. URTC provided encouragement in establishing a life-long love of theatre in students who previously had little or no experience with dramatic arts. It also provided an outlet for this director to continue my combined passion for theatre and kids, as well as being the motivation for returning to school at age 44 to finally add a theatre degree to my teaching certificate.

URTC thrived, producing 3-4 shows per year - everything from Moliere's "The Miser" to Neil Simon's "Lost in Yonkers"; from "West Side Story" to "Forever Plaid." We rehearsed in the basement of the local American Legion and performed in church halls, dinner clubs, and empty used car garages. It was worth the effort, enabling us to develop adaptability on all fronts: for the actors, in having to adjust to ever-changing performance spaces; for the technicians, in having to create lighting grids and sound systems out of thin air; for the designers, in having to contend with no backstage, uneven cement floors, and freestanding sets that had to be built, start to finish, in 2 1/2 days.

All of this "education" worked in our favor as, finally, this past summer, an opportunity

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