

American Society for Theatre Research
ASTR

**Minutes of the Fall 2013 ASTR Annual Business Meeting
Fairmont, Dallas, TX
9 November 2013**

The President called the meeting to order at 12:40 pm.

1) Approval of the Minutes of Fall 2012 meeting—Nathans

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Fall 2012 Annual Business Meeting. Moved by Rhonda Blair, seconded by Kimberlee Jannarone. **The motion carried by acclamation.**

2) Approval of Agenda—Nathans

MOTION: To approve the agenda for the Fall 2013 Annual Business Meeting. Moved by Rhonda Blair, seconded by Barbara Grossman. **The motion carried by acclamation.**

3) Thanks and congratulations to conference chairs Jonathan Chambers and Scott Magelssen and their committee for putting together this wonderfully creative conference. Thanks to Iris Smith Fischer and volunteers for doing the work that enabled us to honor work across the discipline.

4) In memoriam: Herbert Blau, 1926-2013

Barry Witham shared memories of Herbert Blau, who passed away on May 3, 2013, at the age of 87. Blau was the Byron W. and Alice L. Lockwood Professor in the Humanities at the University of Washington. The *New York Times* called him “fiercely iconoclastic theater director, scholar and theorist,” and Samuel Beckett described him as “overpoweringly intellectual.” Witham spoke about Blau’s creative work in the theatre.

5) Vice President for Conferences Report—Anderson

—Recognized this year’s Program Committee and thanked them for their work.

—Thanked Jonathan Chambers and Scott Magelssen for planning the conference and Nancy Erickson for all of her work.

—Noted that a call for papers is included in the conference packet for the 2014 conference in Baltimore, to be planned by Margeret Werry. The 2015 conference will happen in Portland, Oregon, and the 2016 conference in Minneapolis.

—Reminded the membership that conference planners are now selected by application, and applications from co-chairs are encouraged.

6) Vice President for Publications Report—Cole

—Thanked Susan Bennett for her work as Chair of the Publications Committee.

—Acknowledged and thanked Kim Solga for her service as Book Review Editor for *Theatre Survey* and also her graduate assistant Sally Colwell. Announced that Gina Bloom is taking over as Book Review Editor, and the Publications Committee will conduct a search for new Associate Editor in Summer 2014. Thanked Sally Hoffmann of Cambridge University Press for her work on behalf of the journal, now publishing three issues a year with increased article submissions. Thanked Editor Esther Kim Lee and Associate Editor Harvey Young. Noted that the number of institutional subscriptions has nearly doubled over the last two years, with a global reach and consistently high quality. The Press recently completed a periodic review of *Theatre Survey* with overall findings that the journal remains exceptionally strong. Noted that royalties are up and high. Asked the membership to consider editorial positions when thinking about ways in which to serve the Society.

7) Secretary's Report—Carlson

—Thanked all of the people who helped gather material to add a historical record of winners to each award page on the website, especially Webmaster Shaun Franklin-Sewell and his team.

8) Treasurer's Report—Bates (read by Carlson)

—Expressed regret that a family situation prevented her from attending the conference this year. The overall fiscal health of the organization is quite strong. Our investments are riding the stock market well and have exceeded our all-time high in returns. Our two checking accounts are both quite healthy and we hope to end the current fiscal year in the black.

—Especially thanked the members of Finance Committee, all ASTR officers, and the incomparable Nancy Erickson for their guidance and help over the past year.

9) GSC Report—Johnson

—Thanked everyone for ongoing support of graduate research. Thanked the GSC cabinet and hopes that conversations and energy between mentors and mentees will continue.

10) TLA Report—Weaver

—Noted Nancy Friedland's regret that she had to miss this luncheon. Delighted that TLA has a strong presence through sponsored plenary and involvement in a Career Session on navigating research with new technologies. Cooperative efforts of the two organizations are vital and ongoing. The call for papers for a conference planned for June 2014 will be released in the coming weeks.

—In 2012 suspended the TLA book awards but, having revised the submission procedure and reformed the committee, will resume these important awards.

11) President's Report—Nathans

—Provided updates on the EC's work on "Charting the Course" with the formation of four task forces and a meta-committee. Recognized all who have volunteered for the organization. The EC discussed the best ways to use the results of these task forces. Some of them may be given new tasks, and others may be reconfigured as ad hoc committees. Some things will be accomplished before the 2014 conference and others will take longer. Volunteers can expect communications

from the President and task force leaders in the coming weeks. Others are urged to volunteer and feedback is always welcome from members who are not able to volunteer at this point.

—Announced that ATAP has become a standing committee of ASTR.

12) Report of Committee on New Paradigms in Graduate Education—Dail

—Presented the results of the 2013 survey. Of 345 respondents, 31% were graduate students. Slightly more than 90% planned to seek an academic position. Qualitative results indicate that students recognize the difficulty of the job market and seek flexibility and more professional development. Overwhelmingly expressed a desire for more networking opportunities with people who hold advanced degrees but are working outside the academy.

13) Announcements—Nathans

—Congratulated and welcomed new EC members Joshua Takano Chambers-Letson, Analola Santana, Adam Versenyi, and our new GSC representative, Michelle Cowin-Mensah.

—Thanked outgoing EC members Gay Gibson Cima, Elinor Fuchs, and Brian Herrera for their three years of service to ASTR, and thanked Kellyn Johnson for her year as GSC representative.

14) Questions and New Business

None.

15) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:18.

2013 Awards

Publication and Presentation Prizes

Sally Banes Publication Prize – no award in 2013

Barnard Hewitt Award - Amy E. Hughes, Brooklyn College, *Spectacles of Reform: Theater and Activism in Nineteenth-Century America*, published by the University of Michigan Press, 2012 (\$2,000 + plaque)

Honorable mention: Sara Warner, Cornell University, *Acts of Gaiety: LGBT Performance and the Politics of Pleasure*, published by the University of Michigan Press, 2012 (plaque)

Errol Hill Award – Diana Rebekkah Paulin, Trinity College (CT), *Imperfect Unions: Staging Miscegenation in US Drama and Fiction* (University of Minnesota Press)– (\$500 + plaque)

Gerald Kahan Scholar's Prize – Ariel Nereson, University of Pittsburgh, "Queens 'Campin' Onstage: Performing Queerness in Mae West's 'Gay Plays'," published in *Theatre Journal* 64.4 (2012): 513-532; edited by Penny Farfan. (\$500 + plaque)

Oscar G. Brockett Essay Prize – Richard Schoch, Queen's University Belfast, "Inventing the Origins of Theatre History: The Modern Uses of Juba II's theatriké historia," published in the *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism* 27.1 (Fall 2012): 5-23; edited by Scott Magelssen. (\$1,500 + plaque)

Honorable mention: Kim Marra, University of Iowa, "Riding, Scarring, Knowing: A Queerly Embodied Performance Historiography," published in *Theatre Journal* 64.4 (2012), 489-512; edited by Penny Farfan. (plaque)

Distinguished Scholar Award – Jill Dolan, Princeton University (plaque + complimentary conference registration)

Cambridge University Press Prize – 2014 award submissions due December 1

2013 award: Christian DuComb, Colgate University, "Blackface Photography and Performance Remains" (\$250 in books – award announced jointly on CUP, *Theatre Survey*, and ASTR Online websites + plaque)

Research Grants

Helen Krich Chinoy Dissertation Research Fellowships – each \$1,000

Colleen Daniher, Northwestern University, "Troubling Acts: Racial Ambiguity and the Performance of North American Intimacies"

Ariel Nereson, University of Pittsburgh, "Collision Not Collage: Embodied Archives and Choreographies of Re-vision in Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company"

Katelyn Wood, University of Texas at Austin, "Modalities of Freedom: Toward a Politic of Joy in Black Feminist Comedic Performance in 20th and 21st Century USA"

ASTR Collaborative Research Award – Lisa Jackson-Schebetta, University of Pittsburgh, and Jeanmarie Higgins, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, "Embodied Research / Researching Embodiment" (\$1,750)

Co-Sponsored Events Awards

Michele Salerno, University of Illinois—Urbana-Champaign, "Landscapes: Performing Space and Culture" (graduate student conference - \$400)

Brooks McNamara Publishing Subvention – Sean Metzger (UCLA), *Chinese Looks: The Sino/American Interface and Skeins of Race* (forthcoming Indiana University Press) (\$600)

Research Fellowships – Claudia Rene Wier (Ph.D. candidate York University), "The Nexus between Commedia dell'Arte and 16th-Century Venetian Opera" (\$1,850)

Targeted Research Areas Grants

Gibson Cima, American University, "Post-Conflict Nostalgia: Post-apartheid South African Theatre, 1990-2012" (\$2,000)

Emily Sahakian, University of Georgia, "Dramatic Disconnects: Slavery's Legacy in French Caribbean Theatre by Women" (\$1,000)

Grants for Researchers with Heavy Teaching Loads – Jill Stevenson (Marymount Manhattan College), "Performing the End Times in the Middle Ages and Today" (\$1,000 + year's membership + conference registration)

Travel Awards

Selma Jeanne Cohen Conference Presentation Award – Diana Looser, University of Queensland, "Cultures of Climate Change: MAU Dance Theatre's *Birds With Skymirrors* and the Eco-poetics of an Island World" for the Working Session on 'Performance Studies in/from the Global South'" (\$1,000 + conference registration + plaque)

David Keller Travel Award – \$800 each + conference registration

Naomi Stubbs, Assistant Professor, La Guardia Community College, presentation for the Working Session "Digital Methodologies in Theatre and Performance Studies"

Joanne Zerdy, Part-time instructor, Illinois State University, "Reading against the Grain of Things in Ian Hamilton Finlay's Plays"

Thomas Marshall Graduate Student Awards – \$800 each + conference registration

Jyana Browne, PhD candidate, University of Washington, "Creating a Public: Love Suicide on the Osaka Stage, 1703-1722"

Deirdre O'Rourke, PhD candidate, University of Pittsburgh, presentation for the "Shakespearean Performance Research Group"

Aileen Robinson, PhD candidate, Northwestern University, presentation for Working Session "Performing Science, Scientific Performance"