

ASTR American Society for Theatre Research

Minutes of the Fall 2015 ASTR Annual Business Meeting Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront 7 November 2015

1. **Call to Order 1:19**
2. **Approval of the Minutes of the Fall 2014 meeting – Heather Nathans**
 - a. **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the Fall 2014 Annual Business Meeting: EJ Westlake moved, Jill Stevenson seconded. All ayes.
3. **Approval of the Agenda for the Fall 2015 meeting – Heather Nathans**
 - a. **MOTION** to approve the agenda for the Fall 2015 Annual Business Meeting Rhonda Blair moved, Leo Cabranes-Grant seconded. All ayes.
4. **Thanks to 2015 Chairs of the Program Committee** Jean Graham-Jones, James Harding, and Janelle Reinelt and their committee.
It's been a packed conference and it couldn't have happened without their hard work. Stand and get huzzah. Committee members also stand to receive huzzah.
5. **In memoriam:** John Russell Brown, Jim Brandon, Betty Bernhard, Ron Willis
Pause to remember those we've lost.
EJ Westlake spoke on JRB, noted Shakespeare scholar and editor. Served in 2nd World war. Fellow at Stratford. First chair of Birmingham. Dramaturg for Peter Hall.
Katherine Mezur to honor Jim Brandon. Trail-brazing scholar and director. Great mentor. Drafted into the army to serve in Korean War where h saw kabuki theatre. Taught at Michigan State. Directed kabuki in English. Was at Hawaii University. Unique Asian Program. Always interested in theatre and practice. *Kabuki's Forgotten War*. Translated into Japanese. Encouraging young scholars.
Heather Nathan shared remembrances about Betty Bernhard. Joined USO in Greenland. Lived in England and Switzerland. First University co-op day care in the US. Taught at Reed. Directed documentaries. Radical theatre artist.
Ron Willis. Taught at KU. Director of Theatre and dept. chair. Public intellectual in the best sense.
6. **Vice President for Conferences Report – Patrick Anderson**
Final report. Thank you to the staff at the Marriott hotel. Thank you to the fabulous Jean, James, Janelle. Also to David Mayer for the silent film showing tonight. Also to Career Session organizers. and to the fabulous people of Ewald.
Some changes: we now have a much more open and demystified plan for picking conference themes and planners. Any one can propose. Happy to announce: Jen Scott

Mobley, Analola Santana, and Jimmy Noriega will be the conference planners for next year.

We are developing programs to support work by for and about people of color. We made serious headway in this regard at the EC. Thank you to all of you. It's been a privilege.

7. Vice President for Publications – Catherine Cole

Leo Cabranes Grant, playing role of Catherine. TS is doing exceptionally well. It's most highly used Drama titles. Keeps growing. Royalty payment about \$27,000. About \$25,000 is given out in awards each year. Thanks to Harvey Young, Gina Bloom, And Nic Ridout for their fine work. Thanks to all the members of committee. Next year we will be searching for new editors. Please apply for these positions. Special thanks to April Sizemore-Barber. Also Rye Gentleman who is starting. Join us tonight from 7-8 for Theatre Survey reception.

8. VP for awards --Brandi Wilkins-Catanese

Many thanks to all of you. Thanks to the committee members. Thanks to Robin for huge effort in increasing the number of awards. New developments: Streamlining the deadlines! Cluster all publications awards: April 1. Notification deadline: August 1. Research and travel: July 15th. Give people a bit more time from end of semester to apply. Only one exception: Collaboration: April 1st. Streamlined application materials: remove the letter of rec. requirement for all travel and research applications. Eliminate the barrier to applications. Development: tentative increase funding for travel and research awards. Depending on treasury budget. Pre-thanks to Cindy Bates to making that happen. Huge thanks to Ewald for making the application process online. We have a need for new committee members. Integrity of that process depends on the people who serve. You need to have a terminal degree and you need to commit to remaining a good citizen.

9. Treasurer's Report – Cindy Bates

Playing the role of Cindy is EJ Westlake. Finance committee is trolling for new members. We continue to have strong finances. Our investments have suffered under stock market. Cindy anticipates we will gain some of that loss back by the end of year. Wishes to thank Eric Ewald and all the great staff at Ewald. Also: Heather, Patrick, and all the members of Ec. Full report is on the ASTR website. treasurer@astr.org

10. GSC Report – Kellen Hoxworth

10th president of GSC and representative to EC. Handed over role to Stephanie Vella.

Recognized Stephanie. Cabinet: Thanks to all the GSC reps and volunteers.

Remind GSC coffee and tea break in Presidential Suite today.

Brief digression. Remark on history of GSC at conference.

We exist because ASTR is an incredible incubator of grad student research. Grad student work that's started at ASTR: discussed grad student plenaries that led to later research and faculty leadership. Look forward to the years to come.

11. TLA Report – Nancy Friedland

It's important for librarians to be involved in the conference. Our work goes together.

Great attendance for the theatre tour yesterday. Thanks to Angela Weaver. Plenary this

morning was terrific. Thanks to co-chairs. On Oct 16th annual event. Arnold Aaronson got Freely award with Ming Cho Lee in audience. Mark Harris got award. Mark your calendars October 2016 symposium: fringe festivals. Held in NYC. Digital age continues to present challenges. Digital delivery and availability. I hope you all engage with your libraries and your librarians

12. ATAP –Colleen Reilly

Doug. We help small theatres set up their archives. Call for money.

13. ASTR President’s Report – Nathans

It’s been a busy year for ASTR. We have focused our efforts on mentorship, extending the work of the Working Conditions committee (based on information gathered at the first Tell Me booth last year. Expanded career sessions and mentorship.

Begun collaborative initiatives with ATHE and at NEH.

Many conversations on diversity, inclusivity. How to address them in a thoughtful and deliberate way. Answer the calls of the EC as we reach out for feedback.

14. Welcoming of new Executive Committee members and acknowledgement of outgoing EC members and Officers:

Rotating off: Kellen Hoxworth, Patrick Anderson, Robin Bernstein, EJ Westlake, Jill Stevenson, Shane Vogel.

Welcoming the incoming: Daphne Lei, Jill Stevenson, Debra Caplan, Noe Montez, Chrystina Dail. Intro to Daphne Lei.

15. Incoming president welcome: Daphne Lei

Reveal secret: Heather and I acted in Beijing Opera together. Thank you heather. For vision and leadership. And mentorship and guidance. How I got involved in ASTR and how I kept coming back. Went to conference in 1992. I was overwhelmed and mesmerized by intense scholarship but I was hooked for life. There was something wrong. Beard envy. There were very few young women and maybe one other Asian. I went again in 1995 in St. Louis. Participated in first groundbreaking first Classical Chinese Theatre plenary. There was no visitors. Gave plenary in NY in 2000. I didn’t manage to grow a beard. But I didn’t need to. Over the years it’s become of much more diverse. But I want more. My goals for the next years: increase diversity both in scholarship and in membership, build international collaborations, Our name needs to reflect what the “American” might mean today. Graduate students increase. Next year is our 60th Anniversary. Looking forward to seeing all of you in Minneapolis.

16. Questions and new business

Rhonda Blair: Thank you, Heather, for all your work.

Motion to adjourn: Rhonda Blair moved then Jill Stevenson seconded.

2015 ASTR Prize List Publication Prizes

Oscar Brockett Essay Prize:

Winner: Ellen Mackay, "Acting Historical with Shakespeare, or William-Henry Ireland's Oaken Chest" (\$1,500) published in *Shakespeare Survey* Honorable Mention: Marah Gubar, "Entertaining Children of All Ages: Nineteenth Century Popular Theater as Children's Theater" published in *American Quarterly*

Committee: Elaine Aston (chair), Rhona Justice-Malloy, Anne Fletcher

Barnard Hewitt Award:

Winner: Elizabeth Dillon, *New World Drama: The Performative Commons in the Atlantic World, 1649- 1849*, Duke UP (\$2,000) Honorable Mention: Paige McGinley, *Staging the Blues: From Tent Shows to Tourism*, Duke UP Honorable Mention: Gay Gibson Cima, *Performing Anti-Slavery: Activist Women on Antebellum Stages*, Cambridge UP

Committee: Robin Bernstein (chair), Bill Condee, Valleri Robinson, Shannon Steen

Errol Hill Award:

Winner: Paige McGinley, *Staging the Blues: From Tent Shows to Tourism*, Duke UP (\$500) Honorable Mention: Faedra Chatard Carpenter, *Coloring Whiteness: Acts of Critique in Black Performance*, University of Michigan Press Committee: Patricia Herrera (chair), Katie Gough, Ramon Rivera-Servera

Gerald Kahan Prize:

Winner: Naomi Bragin, "Shot and Captured: Turf Dance, YAK Films, and the Oakland, California R.I.P. Project," published in *TDR/The Drama Review* (\$500) Committee: Diana Looser (chair), Michael Chemers, Jocelyn Buckner

Cambridge University Press Prize:

Winner: Naomi Bragin, "Funky Robots on the Soul Train Line: Black Power Technology and Anti-Human Movements" (\$250 of Cambridge UP books) Honorable Mention: Pannill Camp, "Arts of Brotherhood: French Masonic Ritual and Sentimental Dramaturgy in Eighteenth Century France"

Committee: Christian DuComb (chair), Dassia Posner, Harvey Young

Distinguished Scholar Award:

Committee: David Mayer (chair), Jill Dolan, David Savran _____

Research Grants and Travel Awards

Helen Krich Chinoy Dissertation Fellowship:

Recipient #1: Kreie Haddy (\$1,000) Recipient #2: Susan Finque (\$1,000) Recipient #3: Gwyneth Shanks (\$1,000) Committee: Chase Bringardner (chair), Elizabeth Son, Faedra Carpenter

ASTR Collaborative Research Award:

Team #1: Shane Boyle and Brandon Woolf (\$800) Team #2: Jimmy Noriega and Carlos Chavarria (\$800) Committee: Eng-Beng Lim (chair), Karen Jean Martinson, Kate Bredeson

Grants for Researchers with Heavy Teaching Loads:

Recipient: Karen Jean Martinson (\$1,000 plus conference registration and annual membership fee) Committee: Christopher Swift (chair), Lisa Jackson-Schebetta, Virginia Anderson

Brooks McNamara Publishing Subvention:

Recipient: Jessica Berson (\$600), for *The Naked Result: How Exotic Dance Became Big Business* (Oxford UP) Committee: Carol Martin (chair), Leigh Woods, David Roman

Research Fellowships:

Recipient #1: Julia Walker (\$1500) Recipient #2: EJ Westlake (\$1500) Committee: Carol Martin (chair), Leigh Woods, David Roman

Targeted Research Area Grants:

Recipient #1: Jennifer Goodlander (\$1500) Recipient #2: Eric Mayer Garcia (\$1500) Committee: Carol Martin (chair), Leigh Woods, David Roman

Selma Jean Cohen Conference Presentation Award:

Recipient: Shamell Bell (up to \$1000, plus conference registration fees and annual membership fee) Committee: Clare Croft (chair), Lezlie Cross, Marla Carlson

David Keller Travel Award:

Recipient #1: Arnab Banerji (\$800 plus conference registration fees)

Recipient #2: Lisa Woynarski (\$800 plus conference registration fees) Recipient #3: Josy Miller (\$800 plus conference registration fees) Committee: Gibson Cima (chair), Megan Lewis, Jane Duncan

Thomas Marshall Graduate Student Awards:

Recipient #1: Yasmine Jahanmir (\$800 plus conference registration fees) Recipient #2: Ioana Jucan (\$800 plus conference registration fees) Recipient #3: Tiffany Trent (\$800 plus conference registration fees) Committee: Gibson Cima (chair), Megan Lewis, Jane Duncan