

**Theatre for Social Change (TASC) Meeting Minutes**  
**Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference**  
**Montreal, Quebec, Canada**  
**July 31, 2015, 12:00 PM**

Present: Christopher Krejci (TASC Focus Group Rep.), Theresa R. Dudeck (Secretary), Michael Stauffer, Lisa Brenner, Robin Stone, Timothy Wilson, Karen Berman, Christine Iaderosa, Karen M. Dabney, Ann Elizabeth Armstrong, Jessie Glover, Dani Snyder-Young, Kate Duffly, Elliot Leffler, Cheryl Kaplan Zacharia, Peter Friedrich, Michael Wilson, Sabrina Peck, Kathy Arfken, Gabby Randle, Michelle Hayford, Mary Maxine Brown, Tim Good, Amy Sarno, Courtney McEniry, Laurie Mufson, Nadja Masura, Daniel Banks, Kimani Fowlin, Bobby Biedrzycki, Gabriella Orcha, Karen Jean Martinson, Leah Lowe, Brook Oehme, Michael Mufson.

Peter Harrigan & Goya Bus present for first 5 minutes.

1. Christopher Krejci opened the meeting and sets up what the meeting would entail. Peter Harrigan introduced himself and talked about TASC debut panel then had to leave. Goya Bus, from planning committee, introduced herself. Focus of next year's topic "Labor Bodies at Work"
2. Introductions of people in attendance
3. Chris talks about by-laws. No current by-laws on our website. Are there any in existence? Gathering institutional history. Were they on website with newsletter that Michael controlled?
  - a. Action item: Chris will send out group email that asks folks to sign up for e-mails on ATHE's site
4. Pre-conference next year in Chicago:
  - a. Past 2 pre-conferences TASC collaborated with the Interactive Theatre (IT) sub-committee. Do we want to collaborate again? Cheryl K. Zachariah (co-chair) says, there's overlap, more money, it is a win-win, whoever comes to the table will create the conference agenda.
    - i. Mission of IT sub-committee: Started as a task force intended to be a group that talks about the technique of interactive theatre and how it engages social theatre. Ended up as a task force under the advocacy committee because intended to have a direct output of some kind that comes from the conference and the people involved in it. It is a "subcommittee" because it goes across all focus groups. It is a task force, about direct advocacy, specifically interactive theatre of some kind
    - ii. IT has small budget. Pairing up we can pool funding and make registration on a sliding scale
    - iii. IT does not take up issues within ATHE, outreach is outside of ATHE. Michael added that it went so well last year, fiscally and otherwise
    - iv. Motion to collaborate. All in favor, one denied

- v. Peter added, the model supports our vision. Talked about Tunnel of Oppression technique, moving through spaces with guides and teams. Preliminary idea for pre-conference. Volunteers asked for to help organize Tunnel with Peter Friedrich
- b. Michael talks about what goes into planning the pre-conference. Committee puts out question then CFP around question/organizing idea; keynote speaker; reach out to folks in location of conference, etc.
  - i. Amy Sarno: in the past, connected with artists that are in the community. For Chicago, Amy encourages us to connect locally.
  - ii. Cheryl: What is the commitment to volunteer? Whatever you can do (e.g., reach out to connections in Chicago, read emails, etc.)
  - iii. Conference will begin the Tuesday evening before main conference, continue until performance on Thursday
- 5. “Games That We Play” panel: organizers will be Jessie Glover and Theresa R. Dudeck
  - a. Action items: put out Call for Participation and CFPs
- 6. Elections:
  - a. Conference Planner for 2018 (planner for 2017; will shadow in 2016): Theresa R. Dudeck
  - b. Secretary: Christine Iaderosa
  - c. Members at Large: Michelle Hayford, Nadja Masura, Greg Grobis, Gabrielle Orcha, Michael Wilson, Karen Dabney
  - d. Grad Student Representative: Brooke Oehme, Gabrielle Randle, Mary Maxine Browne
  - e. Pre-conference co-chairs: Sabrina Peck and Karen Jean Martinson (as helper)
- 7. Task committees:
  - a. Gathering Institutional History of TASC and creating bylaws volunteers: Michael Mufson, as historian (to create 1-page history of TASC)
    - i. Chris needs to contact Doug Patterson & Karen Berman for this committee
  - b. Pre-conference (partnering with Interactive Theatre Subcommittee\*) co-chairs: Sabrina Peck with Karen Jean Martinson (as assistant to Sabrina)
    - i. \*Interactive Theatre Subcommittee co-chairs: Cheryl Kaplan Zachariah and Pete Friedrich
- 8. How do we want to shape our CFPs for next year?
  - a. Ideas for panels:
    - i. Connection between body & physicality
    - ii. Collaboration with theatre movement focus group

- iii. Session about how university partners with communities; university as a resource, collaborator, funder, etc.
  - iv. Circus for social change, Cirque du Monde
  - v. Physical solutions to problems we get in our head. How do we, as movement educators, unlock solutions
  - vi. Bodies at work, how do you represent bodies, minority groups, women, when spaces have not been created for them
  - vii. 1. Construct of whiteness, white body; 2. Disability in general, noticing who is not in the room with us (Coya Paz)
  - viii. Contact groups in Chicago who are advocating for people with disabilities
  - ix. Applied theatre can re-envision, revitalize labor movement
  - x. Trigger warnings, notion that theatre has to be safe vs. taking risks; Lisa Brenner says “Games That We Play” came out of a desire/technique to share our work. Play with title of panel for next year. Maybe propose more workshop and practice-based panels (perhaps 3)
  - xi. Using our techniques to envision work with labor movements
  - xii. Invisibility, idea of, flipping it on its head. Making yourself present and/or invisible as an active choice
  - xiii. Occupy Wall Street Movement, political activism
  - xiv. High cost of college, student debt
  - xv. Applied theatre/improvisation in organizational development and corporate training
9. Chris’ concluding notes: Governing Council says they are putting together white study about contingent faculty, work force. Annalise forwarded information to Chris about special issues for journals, etc.
10. Meeting adjourned

*Submitted by Theresa R. Dudeck on 8/13/2015*