To all ATHE members: The Electronic Technology Committee of ATHE is committed to helping its members employ existing and emerging technologies in their theatrical teaching and practice whenever possible and applicable. To that end we are publishing a series of general information messages about interesting and relevant computer resources and instructions on how to use them.

Some web pages of use to theatre professors:

http://vl-theatre.com/   Virtual Library
This is an incredible resource with links to sources in dozens of subjects. This is the link to the Theatre pages.

http://dir.yahoo.com/Arts/Performing_Arts/
Yahoo's directory of Performing Arts

http://www.win.net/~kudzu/theatre.html
Jerry Bangham's pages defy description. Complete theatre-links pages. History and organization pages, show pages, you name it, it's here.

http://www.backstage.com
Backstage has links to many theatrical organizations and shows

http://www.playbill.com
Playbill online has interesting stories and links to shows

http://www.actorsequity.org/home.html
Actor's Equity has a thorough web page

http://www.dramaturgy.net/dramaturgy T
The Dramaturgy pages have a wealth of information about the practice and profession

http://www.hawaii.edu/athe
ATHE's web page

Web pages with links related to Theatre History:

http://www.georgetown.edu/murphy/netsearch/index.html
Professor Murphy at Georgetown University has a good page of links.

http://didaskalia.berkeley.edu
Didaskalia is an excellent source for Greek and Roman pages.

http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/medweb
Links to web pages related to the Middle Ages, by the Internet History
Sourcebooks Project.

http://www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/davisr/thtrasia.html
Asian theatre pages, from the University of San Francisco.

List of relevant cd-roms:

*The Annenburg/CPB Projects creates multimedia learning tools for college and high school classes. Their two theatre-related cd-roms are on The Crucible and A Doll House. Here is their description of The Crucible cd: "Take inquiry into this historical allegory and play about the human

condition to new levels. The complete work and hypertext annotations are accompanied by an in-depth interview with playwright Arthur Miller and conversations with Dustin Hoffman and behind-the-scenes experts. A search feature puts resources culled from great libraries--including photos, maps, historical documents, and video clips--at your fingertips. You can investigate this literary masterpiece from many perspectives and can review the Puritan and McCarthy eras that inspired the play." – this cd-rom is currently priced at $64.95. And A Doll House description: "Study the inaugural text of modern drama in synchrony with dramatic interpretations by renowned actors. With more than 70 minutes of video, this CD-ROM allows you to analyze variations in staging, acting styles, lighting, and costuming in conjunction with a close reading of Ibsen's play. The appealing and intuitive interface guides you through a vast archive of critical commentary, reviews, historical context, stage history, and biographical information--material collected nowhere but on this CD-ROM. This visually stunning and critically rich tool deepens your understanding of the play's form, history, and meaning, enriches classroom experiences, and encourages individual research." - this cd-rom is currently priced at $39.95. (Note: I have this cd-rom and consider it an excellent resource. It is very visual, with good emphasis on production. Electronic tools are for me, most valuable for their images, and this cd-rom has excellent images to make the play come alive. – Susan Kattwinkel)

* Published by University Music Editions, a cd-rom titled THE PERFORMING ARTS IN COLONIAL AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS, 1690-1783. Here's their description - "Filling a major gap in access to 18th-century American sources for research in the performing arts, this project assembled and indexed all references to music, dance, theater, and poetry in American newspapers from the earliest extant copy (1690) through the end of the Revolutionary War (1783), including those in the French and German languages. It was conducted under the auspices of the Research Foundation of the State University of New York and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and SUNY-The College at New Paltz. What's Included? Nearly 60,000 newspaper issues, including supplements, extraordinaries, and postscripts, have been carefully read for all references, allusions, metaphors, song lyrics, woodcut illustrations, and all other ways in which the performing arts were brought to the attention of eighteenth-century Americans through the reading of newspapers." Their website http://www.universitymusicedition.com/Performing_Arts/ - has samples of the database and its organization. It seems best suited to research rather than teaching, since it has no visual aspects and is primarily a database.

* The Northern Illinois University/ Lyric Opera of Chicago Historical Scenic Collection This collection of slides is a gold mine for theatre designers. Here's the description from the web site (http://www.vpa.niu.edu/theater/Aweb1.htm) "The Northern Illinois University/ Lyric Opera of Chicago Historical Scenic Collection represents a comprehensive depository of primary scenic materials from the American Operatic theatre at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. The contents include almost the entire repertoire of operas innovatively produced by Oscar Hammerstein's Manhattan Opera Company and traces the inception, rise and development of resident opera in Chicago, culminating with the demise of the Civic Opera Company in 1932. While some settings employ the architectural fantasies of romanticized ruins, and others rely on the aesthetic of historical accuracy, still others point the way toward innovation and revolution." Two drawbacks: they don't seem to have done much selective editing, so each collection contains between 120 and 3,000 slides, leading to the second drawback, which is the price. The cheapest set of slides is $500.

* University of Pennsylvania Museum publishes several cd-roms for academic use. The most useful of these for theatre is The Ancient Greek Theatre. It's difficult to tell from their website (http://www.upenn.edu/museum_pubs/CD-ROMs.html), but here's the description: "Ancient Greek Theater is a CD-ROM with text, sound, and pictures, creating a visually exciting introduction to the age of Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes. It includes information on ancient Greek theater architecture as well as theatrical production, music, and history. The presentation is illustrated with ancient Greek art and architecture, with over a hundred images, and includes an opportunity to hear a piece of ancient music. The level is particularly suitable for an audience of

high school or college age students, but it can be appreciated by anyone wanting an introduction to the ancient Greek theater. The text is by Philip P. Betancourt, professor of Art History and Archaeology at Temple University, Philadelphia." Perhaps the best thing about this cd-rom is its price: $29.95. Unfortunately, it appears to be IBM compatible only, although some of their other cds do serve Macs.

* Insight Media, that source of videos that floods our mailboxes with brochures, has six Shakespeare cd-roms, five of which are produced for both Windows and Macs. The titles are: William Shakespeare: The Complete Works, which provides "cross-referencing and search capabilities"; The Comprehensive Shakespeare Dictionary, including "Shakespeare's life, work, characters, and quotations"; Shakespeare's London; Discovering Shakespeare, which includes summaries and relevant events, as well as interviews with actors from the Royal Shakespeare Company; Shakespeare's Theater, looking at the Globe and other contemporary theatres and examining audiences; and Reporting on Shakespeare, on how to write about Shakespeare. Other cd-roms published by Insight Media include The Ancient Greek Theater; Masks: Voices of the Pacific; Bhavai (about the Indian theatrical form); and Kutiyattam: Sanskrit Theater of India. They have a website - www.insight-media.com, but it doesn't mention these cd-roms, just has a phone number and email address to request brochures. The prices of these cd-roms range from $89 to $169.

Using the Computer in Your Classroom:
Some sample web sites and instructions for online classroom communication.
The thing about class web sites is that portions or all of them are password-protected to protect copywright. Some professors protect their entire sites and some only protect sections that they didn't write, like image sections. Each of the courses listed here has some degree of browsability. Some of these courses are very extensive and others are less so. People generally start out small and expand over time. I have not included web sites that simply contain syllabi, since there are hundreds of them and they don't really constitute "computer-enhanced courses".

Terry Converse - Washington State University
http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~converse/Dra145.html
http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~converse/Dra362.html
http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~converse/Dra361.html
http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~converse/Dra461.html

Michael O'Hara - Ball State University
http://www.bsu.edu/classes/o'hara/theat100/
http://www.bsu.edu/classes/o'hara/theat319/

Jerry Bangham - Alcorn State University
http://www.win.net/~kudzu/oralcomm.html

Susan Kattwinkel - College of Charleston
http://www.cofc.edu/~kattwins/SKhome.htm

John Frick - University of Virginia
http://www.people.Virginia.EDU/~jwf8f/

Patrick Finelli is probably one of the most advanced in this area, at least as far as theatre classes go. He has created his own program - connected courseware, and markets his cybercourses to schools. The Theatre History course used to be surfable, and I'd go in and look at his links for various topics. The whole place is password protected now, so you can't get information on much more than connectedcourseware itself, but it's worth a look, if just to gape.
http://www.connectedcourseware.com/

Online Classroom Communication (Introduction by Steve Schrum)

Email is a very useful way of keeping in touch with your students, and also of continuing a discussion on a topic even outside of the class. An instructor can easily create a mailing list in an email program and send notices to all the students in a course. However, this is mostly for one-way communication, such as announcements. For two-way communication, an instructor can use a listserv.

A listserv is an email list that allows everyone subscribed to it to both send and receive mail from all other subscribers. Setting up a listserv for a course can be very simple. At many colleges and universities with a computer center, there are trained personnel who can easily create a listserv for you. You need only contact them, request a listserv, give the listserv a name, and answer a few simple questions about how you want to maintain the list. (For example, you could have it set up so that students would have to resubscribe after 6 months, in order to keep you from having to delete students at the end of the semester.) Once it is created, you will need to add or delete students, and provide routine maintenance, such as answering general questions to new students or dealing with error messages.

For instructors without computer centers and the facilities to create a campus-based listserv, there are other options. Listserv applications, such as Mailshare for the Macintosh, provide a substitute for the campus server-based listserv. Other educational software, such as First Class http://www.softarc.com/homepage.shtml), Web Course In A Box, and Internet Classroom Assistant (http://www.nicenet.org/) can be used to create a discussion list. (An article in a recent T.H.E. Journal discussed the relative merits of these applications.)

All of these solutions still require a campus server or desktop machine to operate. An alternative is to create a web-based listserv at http://www.onelist.com/. The site is open to anyone and currently hosts a diverse set of lists, from a discussion of Bertolt Brecht to the promotion of as-yet-unknown singer/songwriters. The process of creating a list is simple, and the webpage takes you through it, with help available for even the least computer-experienced instructors. (For reviews of several of these sites, see below.)

Shameless plug: Terry Converse's essay, "Not So Distant Learning: Using Interactive Technology to Enhance the Traditional, Discussion-Based Course," provides a good how-to explanation of setting up a discussion list in several courses, including directing. The essay can be found in the soon-to-be-released *Theatre in Cyberspace: Issues of Teaching, Acting and Directing*, edited by Stephen A. Schrum. (See http://www.peterlang.com or http://amazon.com. For ordering info. For more info on the book, see http://www.mindspeak.com/schrum/TICS/TICS.html.)

blackboard.com - if I understand the website correctly, blackboard.com has a free site where you can set up a class online, and they also have a program called CourseInfo, which universities can purchase. University of South Florida seems to use this system. For the free system, it takes about ten minutes to set up your online course initially, and you don't have to know anything about computers. You can have an online bulletin board, live chats, and with a little more work, put all of your class documents online, web links, video, audio, almost anything. Probably the easiest way to get your courses interactive.

Internet Classroom Assistant (nicenet.org) - very similar to the free system of blackboard.com, but a bit simpler, without quite so many bells and whistles. You can still have an online bulletin board, and put course documents and web links online, but there's not quite so much advanced capability. (Note: I use nicenet almost exclusively for the bulletin board capability. It's more attractive and actually easier than setting up one yourself, and students can post relevant links when they find them. For me it's simply backup to my own websites, and there's no so much stuff that I'm not using, like there would be at blackboard.com. - Susan Kattwinkel)

Onelist - www.onelist.com - this is also free, but it's a mailing list, rather than bulletin board, although it does have archives that will let you read all previous messages. This site is not set up

as an academic site, but it's easy and there's no reason why you can't use it that way. It's a step below nicenet in terms of sophistication, but if you mostly need a way for class members to exchange announcements, etc. it's simple to use.

There are also applications that can be bought or subscribed to that do more than the free sites mentioned above.
First Class (http://www.softarc.com/homepage.shtml),
Mail Share (http://www.mailshare.com/index.htm), and
Web Course in a Box (http://www.madduck.com/wcbinfo/wcb.html) are three of these. These applications are often bought by a whole campus or department for all professors who want web support to use. Check with your school's computer center; you may already have one. WebCT (http://www.webct.com) is another one, with which I am slightly more familiar because my school just bought it. It takes some playing around with, but I know that many professors who previously had not been able to use computer tools in their classroom are finding this easy enough to implement.

Computer Aided Design Programs

Adobe Photoshop
Adobe Illustrator
Virtual Light Lab
Minicad (Mac) by Graphsoft
Autocad (DOS) by Autodesk
MacLux (Mac) (lighting design)
Lightwright (paperwork only)
Soft Plot (lighting design)
Mac Pro (lighting design)
Studio Pro
3D Studio
Patternmaker (costume construction)
Sound Design II by Digidesign
Adobe Premiere (for audio/video editing)