

2006

Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas Conference Program, July 20-23, 2006

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THINK DRAMATURGICALLY, ACT LOCALLY

LMDA Conference 2006, July 20-23, Minneapolis-St. Paul MN

There is more activity taking place in the Twin Cities July 20-23 than anywhere else in the country. Come add to the buzz! See staged readings by some of the country's most talented playwrights, featured in The Playwrights' Center's annual new play festival, and be at the first conference to be held in the new Guthrie Theater – and on its opening weekend. Don't miss puppetry by Michael Sommers, an inspired (and funny!) keynote by Minnesota's own Kevin Kling, a bus tour through the cities' vibrant theatre communities, hear from playwrights who have traveled the world – and much much more.

Conference Schedule (subject to change):

Thursday July 20:

12-5pm	Registration (at the new Guthrie Theater)
12-2:30	½ hour Guided Tours of the new Guthrie Theater
3:30-4:30	<u>Open Eye Figure Theatre's selection from "The Driveway Tour"</u> . An experience in puppetry arts.
5-6	<u>Keynote Address/Performance</u> by Kevin Kling
6	Dinner
7:30/8	Theatergoing
10pm	Conference bar (TBA)

Friday, July 21:

9-1pm	Registration (Guthrie Theater)
9-10	Regional breakfast
10-12:30	<u>Twin Cities Theater Tour</u> <i>Hop on a bus to get a firsthand look at the theater scene in Minneapolis and St Paul. Veteran theater artists and critics are your guides as we discover the bounty and variety of companies and spaces – from the well-known to the brand new – nestled among the parks, lakes, rivers and bluffs of the Twin Cities.</i>
12:30-2pm	Catered Lunch with playwrights at The Playwrights' Center
2-3	<u>PlayLabs Panel</u> , at The Playwrights' Center – Actors Talking Turgy <i>If there is anyone who can get more inside the skin of a character than the writer, it is the actor. Writers write for them, learn from them, rewrite with them. How do rehearsal methodologies allow actors to actively</i>

participate in the new play process? Join The Playwrights' Center's Artistic Director Polly Carl and an A-team of Twin Cities' actors to discuss the past experiences and potential contributions of the actor in the rehearsal room.

3:30-4:45

Dramaturg Driven Sessions

Travel and the Dramatic Imagination

In 2003, the Guthrie Theater received support from the Bush Foundation to send eleven playwrights anywhere they chose to go in the world and then write plays for the Guthrie, and destinations included Liberia, Cambodia, Turkey, and the Palestinian Occupied Territories. After playwrights discuss the dramaturgical challenges of using cultural explorations as inspiration for new plays, the entire group will break into brainstorm sessions for other ways to connect theater to global events, opportunities and stories.

Participants: Kia Corthron, Julie Marie Myatt and writer TBA

Dramaturgy Across the Pond (session pending funding)

Guest Dramaturgs from England discuss the trends, practices, and evolution of dramaturgy in their theatres, their communities, their country. Part of LMDA's ongoing international initiative to connect with dramaturgical worlds beyond North America.

5:00-6:00

Twin Cities Ingredients: Sharing the Pie

It's often remarked by outside observers and denizens alike that the Minneapolis/St. Paul theater scene is a dynamic community with diverse opportunities and abundant talent. But what exactly makes this such a vibrant theater ecology, a place frequently credited as second only to New York in the number of theater seats per capita? This panel examines the Twin Cities community by looking at how its varied theaters must share and contend for resources -- artists, funds, space, and audiences.

6:00

Dinner

7:30/8pm

Theatregoing

Saturday, July 22:

9-11pm

Registration

9-10

Hot Topics Breakfast: *See how far we've come. Groups follow up on the connections, contacts, and plans made at last year's Austin Round Tables session. (Early Career, UCaucus, Institutions, Freelancers)*

10:15-11:45

Affinity Group Breakout sessions:

UCAucus: Dramaturging Rehearsal: *Both young and old can investigate their own points of view on the process known as rehearsal, whether that point of view is ethics, silence, hierarchy, outsourcing, popping in and out... or something other.*

Early Career/Institutional/Freelance: Negotiating Skills: *Review the keys to successful negotiation in this fun, hands on session. Bernadette Christiansen, the Guthrie Administrative Director will guide us through examples of negotiation and provide an opportunity to stretch and strengthen your negotiation muscles.*

11:45-12pm Break

12- 1pm Dramaturgs in Relationships: Breakout Sessions

Board Games: Dramaturgs and boards of directors

Local and national teams of dramaturgs and board members gather to share and question how board members relate to the art, artistic staff, and artistic programming of their theatres. How can a dramaturg participate in, or instigate, this relationship, and what can board members bring to the table that we don't know about?

Show Us the Money: Dramaturgs and Funders

A panel of arts funding savants from the United States and Canada will discuss grant-making from the perspectives of foundations and government agencies – as well as the realpolitik of peer panel discussions. Then they'll get down to the brass tacks of successful proposals. Guaranteed to improve your grant-writing skills!

Analyze This: Methods of Play Analysis

Play Analysis: it's the air we breathe, whether we're talking with a playwright, evaluating scripts for a theater, preparing for production, or teaching students how to read dramatic literature. But what are some philosophies and methodologies, assumptions and innovations that can guide this activity? This session is comprised of challenging minds who wear the hats of dramaturg, playwright, director or professor (and often combinations of the above), discussing how they approach this protean thought process in their work.

1-1:15 Break

1:15-2:15pm Dramaturgs in Relationships Part 2:

Prospero's Books: Dramaturgs and Archives

Is an archive an archive an archive? What are the different ways in which we record ephemera, and will it have value a century from now? This session explores contemporary issues in archiving while providing useful perspectives -- personal, innovative, and practical -- on archival research and processes.

Beyond Adjectives: Dramaturgs and Marketing

If a 30-word blurb or a clever tagline is the primary starting point for an audience's perception of a play, how can dramaturgs engage with the marketing process to help broaden the discussion? Be it through special publications, study guides or a single page in an ad-heavy program, how do dramaturgs work with marketing and communications staff (at a professional or university theater) and what strategies have individuals or organizations adopted to maximize the potential of a dramaturgy-marketing collaboration?

Who Let the Turgs Out?: Dramaturgs and the Community

In recent years, many theater companies have explored and employed nontraditional and innovative ways to engage their target audiences. We'll hear from five Minneapolis-based artists, including producers, directors, actors and a visual artist, and their efforts to bring their work to their community, and their community to their work.

2:15-3:15 Lunch

3:15-4:45 Breakout Sessions:

Lost (and Found) in Translation and Adaptation

An in-depth conversation with some of the country's most successful dramatic translators, adapters and translation thinkers. Beginning with a practical approach to the creative act, the panel will describe their individual methods of rendering texts, before considering the geopolitical ramifications of the acts.

Hooked on Classics: Old as New

This discussion investigates what makes a classic, and why do we keep producing these "old" plays? Panelists will explore different approaches to classic material -- in season planning, in the rehearsal room, and in engaging an audience. Together, we'll get to the bottom of why everything old is new again.

Come Together Right Now: The Multigenerational Audience Revolution Playwrights like Nilo Cruz, Naomi Iizuka, Jeffrey Hatcher and Charlayne Woodard are writing plays for them. Smart theatres across the United States and Canada are programming for them. The future of the theatre may depend on them. An introduction to the growing canon of work written specifically for multigenerational audiences and stories from theatres who are producing them.

4:45-5 Break

5-6:30 Annual General Meeting

8pm Banquet – Solera Restaurant

Sunday, July 23: Looking Forward

9-10:30 Board Meeting/ Breakfast

10:30-11:30 From Empty Space to Cyberspace: Brooking the Final Frontier with Porter Anderson

What may be the last chance for theatre to position itself among the new media -- and re-enter the cultural consciousness of wider society -- is a hyper-jump from the most contained to the most liberated performance space. To paraphrase Peter Brook, this could mean going from a Dying Theatre to the most Immediate Theatre imaginable in which your 300-seat house becomes a 3-million seat arena, your local audience becomes a global confab and your work at last becomes that "oasis" Brook wrote about, in the lives of people you'll never even meet.

"In the immediate event, there is an unmistakable result," wrote Brook. "This is how I understand a necessary theatre; one in which there is only a practical difference between actor and audience, not a fundamental one."

The practical technology, suddenly, is here. In this session, we'll explore what's at our fingertips every day of our lives.

- *How big do we now dare make our Empty Space?*
- *Can we groom a cyber-dramaturge to embrace a planetary audience?*
- *Can we find the generosity to allow that teeming audience out there to interact with us, as "Netizens" will surely demand to do?*
- *Can we give up our brick-and-mortar constructs and step out onto a stage of such breadth that we can't even see the left wing from the right?*

The artist, Brook tells us, "challenges the audience truly when he is the spike in the side of an audience that is determined to challenge itself. He celebrates with an audience most truly when he is the mouthpiece of an audience that has a ground of joy."

Anderson proposes that we get onto the information highway like the troubadours we once were, go find those audience members -- and play them where they lie.

11:45 -12:15 Conference Wrap Up

12:30-2 New Executive Team meeting

2006 Conference Logistical Information

Conference and Member Fees:

LMDA Membership:

Remember, all memberships expire May 31, 2006. (Those of you who have already renewed in 2006 are valid through May 31, 2007)

Note that the LMDA Member fees are for current due paying members only. If you are unsure of your current membership status, email ldanyc@hotmail.com.

Membership Fees:

Voting	\$60
Non-voting	\$25
Institutional	\$130

Send Canadian Membership fees (in Canadian funds) to:

LMDA
36 St. Paul St.
Toronto, ON
M5A 3H3 CANADA

Conference Fees:

All conference attendees please send conference fees in U.S. dollars to the LMDA New York office (see address below).

Full Conference Fees: (including Banquet)

Early Bird Special: received by 6/01/06		Standard Rate: received after 6/01/06	
LMDA Member	\$160		\$200
Non member	\$200		\$240
Student	\$80		\$100

OR:

Conference Fees a la Carte:

1 Day Fee-Thursday	\$60
1 Day Fee-Friday	\$80
1 Day Fee- Saturday	\$80 (banquet not included)
Banquet	\$40

Registration and checks should be mailed to:

LMDA
PO BOX 728

Village Station
New York, NY 10014

To receive the discounted price, your registration must be **received by June 1, 2006**.
Questions? Contact imdanyc@hotmail.com
Or call 212-561-0315

CONFERENCE HOTELS:

TownePlace Suites Downtown Minneapolis

525 2nd St. N.

Minneapolis, MN 55401

\$64/night

Reservations can be made by calling 612-340-1000.

Reservation deadline: May 20, 2006. Reserve early for this special deal.

Holiday Inn Minneapolis Metrodome

1500 Washington Ave. S

Minneapolis, MN 55454

\$119/night

Free Shuttle Service anywhere within 3 mile radius. Sign up upon check-in.

Reservations can be made by calling 800-448-3663 or 612-333-4646. Please specify that you are with the LMDA conference in order to be guaranteed the group rate. **Reservation deadline: June 29, 2006.**

Conference Extras:

Play and Book Swap:

It worked so well last year, we're doing it again. Bring a play and a book you would like to share with a fellow LMDA member, and get ready to take home some for yourself. An interactive way of sharing the wealth, and beginning conversations which could lead to future connections.

The Write Stuff:

Share your organizational materials with your colleagues. Come bearing study guides, actor packets, brochures, newsletters and anything else in print that you would like your fellow members to see and/or take.

Conference Hosts and Partners

The Guthrie Theater

The Guthrie Theater was founded in 1963 by Sir Tyrone Guthrie as a prototype for a new kind of theater in the United States that would perform plays with the highest professional standards. In contrast to the commercial environment of Broadway, the Guthrie is dedicated to producing the great works of literature, to cultivating artists' talents and nourishing the audience. Joe Dowling, the Theater's Artistic Director since 1995, has led the Guthrie to unprecedented growth; subscriptions have reached an all-time high, and he has led the campaign for the new Guthrie – a national center for theater arts and theater education. The new home of the Guthrie Theater is a 285,000-square foot theater center located in the historic Mills District on the banks of the Mississippi River in downtown Minneapolis. The project includes three theaters, expansive lobbies, rehearsal rooms, classrooms, administrative offices, production and support facilities, restaurants, bars, and parking. The new building replaces the former facility at Vineland Place in Minneapolis.

The Playwrights' Center

The Playwrights' Center, one of America's most respected resources for new play development, welcomes LMDA to its 23rd Annual PlayLabs Festival, one of the nation's most prestigious developmental events. After two weeks of rehearsal room dramaturgy with the Twin Cities' finest actors, and guest directors from across the country, 8 featured playwrights present their scripts-in-progress readings to packed houses at The Playwrights' Center's intimate Waring Jones Theater. Come taste the fruits of one of the most supportive creative environments in the theater today. LMDA members will have the opportunity to sign up for selected evenings at registration.