

1999

Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas Conference Program, June 17-20, 1999

Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas

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annual conference, 1999

setting the table: a working retreat



literary
managers
& dramaturgs
of the americas

thursday, june 17 to sunday, june 20
university of puget sound, tacoma, washington

Prologue Geoff Proehl

“a wild patience has taken me this far” a. rich

We come to this conference, **this working retreat**, first of all to bring each other up-to-date on the work we are doing and **to set the table** for the work we need to do in the coming year. We’ll consider a range of topics, from how we practice our profession to the conditions in which we practice it, from collaboration and production to credit and compensation.

There’s a clear goal for this conference: to give ourselves a chance to meet face-to-face (not online, not on the phone, not by fax or mail) and talk with passion and seriousness about the work that we do and the worlds in which we find ourselves living, from the larger worlds of arts and culture in North America, to the micro-environments of our daily lives at a wide range of theaters (not buildings, theaters) in a variety of communities. Out of this, **we want to ask why LMDA exists as an organization and what it must do to make itself useful to theater and its practitioners in the years ahead.** We need, however, to remember that LMDA is not some distant abstract structural entity, but a fluid community of individuals who gather in person and in print, a community that shares a belief in the necessity of theater.

When we ask what will LMDA do, we are asking nothing more than what you or I might imagine together as a better future, and how we then might help one another achieve it. Realizing always that the future is “seldom pure and never easy.”

* * *

**Conference Schedule: Moment-By-Moment
Thursday, June 17 to Sunday, June 20
University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16: EARLY ARRIVALS

5-9pm Registration and Lodging for Early Arrivals

If you are staying on campus and arrive after 9pm call Campus Security at 756-3311; security will arrange for someone from conference services to take you to your room.

Jones Hall 101, Univ. of Puget Sound

**To End the Day: Conference Bar, Engine House No. 9 @ 611 North Pine
(a ten minute walk from campus; 12 blocks; .8 mile)**

THURSDAY, JUNE 17: "CELEBRATING COLLABORATION"

9am-5pm Registration

Jones Hall 101, Univ. of Puget Sound

7:30-8:30am Breakfast (first meal of the room and board package)

Wheelock Student Center

8:15am-8:45pm Shuttle Pickups for Off Campus Guests; please sign up in advance at the registration desk

9-11:30am Gathering

Please join us in the coffee shop ("Diversions") in Wheelock Student Union for lattes, cappuccinos, and an informal, last minute check-in with conference planners before the conference goes into full-swing. This is an opportunity for us all to have warm-up conversations before the events themselves.

12-5pm University Caucus Afternoon

The University Caucus celebrates and examines one of the central aspects of our work: collaboration. What do we know about it? What still puzzles us? What are we trying to work out or learn? How do we teach it to our students?

12-1:30pm UCaucus Lunch at Katie Downs Restaurant on the Waterfront (3211 Ruston Way)

(Northwest micro-brews on tap; we buy the pizza; shuttle service from Jones Hall to Katie Downs at 11:30 and 11:45am)

2-2:45pm Keynote: "On Collaboration—What I Wish I'd Known and Still Wish I Knew"

--Morgan Jenness, former Associate Producer, Public Theatre; Dramaturg-At-Large and currently Creative Director at Helen Merrill Ltd.--

Wheelock Student Center Rooms 106 and 108

2:45-3:45pm "How Do We Teach Collaboration?"

--DD Kugler and Adrienne Wong, Simon Fraser U., Harriet Power, Villanova U., Lynn Thomson, Brooklyn College; Moderator: Lee Devin, Swarthmore College--

3:45pm

Short break with refreshments.

4-5pm

"The Collaboration Project"

We all talk about "Collaboration" but what does it really mean? Liz Engelman and Gretchen Haley will begin discussion on the specifics of collaboration, for it is in these finer details that true collaboration exists. Come prepared to bring stories, anecdotes, case studies and specifics on how we work with one another: when and how it works, when it doesn't, and what it really means.

--Liz Engelman, *A Contemporary Theatre*; Gretchen Haley, *Working Stages, Colorado Shakespeare Festival*--

5:30-6:30pm

Dinner

Wheelock Student Center, Univ. of Puget Sound

7-9pm

Mark Bly and the Collaborators: Celebrating Collaboration

Two part session: Mark Bly will speak to the importance of collaboration in the work we do; collaborative teams from the **West** and **Northwest** will participate in a conversation about their work together: **KC Davis**, playwright and dramaturg and **Leslie Swackhammer**, freelance director from Seattle; **Vanessa Porteous**, dramaturg and **Bob White** director (Alberta Theatre Project, Calgary). The session will conclude with questions and comments from the audience.

Reception to follow

Marshall Hall, Wheelock Student Center

To End the Day: Conference Bar, Engine House No. 9 @ 611 North Pine

FRIDAY, JUNE 18: "THE STATE OF THE PROFESSION"

7:30-8:30am

Breakfast

Wheelock Student Center

9-9:30am

Conference Overview: Where Are We Going in the Next Three Days?

--Geoff Proehl, Jane Ann Crum, Liz Engelman, and DD Kugler--

Wheelock Student Center Rotunda

9:30-11 am

Hot Topics One: Challenged/Perplexed/Excited

In breakout sessions, conference participants will address this question: **In the past year, what theater or theater-related project has most challenged, perplexed, pleased, or excited you?** We would like all conference attendees to be prepared to talk about some aspect of their work in detail for five minutes. Bring, if appropriate, handouts (six to ten copies), samples (e.g.--programs, study guides), photos, and so forth.

Wheelock Student Center: Information Center Lounge, Rotunda, 106/108, 201, 202, 219

11:15am-12:30 pm

Keynote: "On Table Setting and Other Matters"

George Thorn, an internationally recognized theater and arts consultant, has been working with LMDA in recent months thanks to generous funding from the New York State Council of the Arts. His talk, contextually and conceptually, will explore relationships between *how* we make theatre, and *how*, as literary managers and dramaturgs, we can improve the conditions (broadly defined) in which we work. Thorn's talk will be followed by Q&A leading into a discussion of the issues he raises.

--George Thorn, *Arts Action Research*--

Wheelock Student Center Rotunda

12:30-1:30pm

Lunch/Regional Tables

Building upon the previous session, conference members are asked to eat with colleagues from their region and to continue the morning's discussions. (See regions key in your folder.)

Wheelock Student Center

2-3pm

Hot Topics Two: Values and Beliefs

Conference participants will return to their morning groups to address this question: **As dramaturgs and literary managers what are our shared values and beliefs?** (see “a note to ourselves,” blue document in folder)

Wheelock Student Center: Information Center Lounge, Rotunda, 106/108, 201, 202, 219

3pm

Introduction of *Leonid Anisimov, Artistic Director of the Vladivostok Chamber Drama Theatre*. Refreshments provided.

3:15-4:15pm **Forum**

Feedback on both breakout sessions.

Wheelock Center Rotunda

4:30-5:30pm **Business Meeting #1: What are we doing now?**

Approval of minutes. Reports from the Executive Officers and Project Directors. Old Business. New Business. To place an item on the agenda, please contact Geoff Proehl.

Wheelock Center Rotunda

5:30-6:30pm **Dinner**

Wheelock Student Center

7:00pm *Uncle Vanya*

Seattle’s newest professional theater, the **Art Theater of Puget Sound** (a collaboration among Freehold Theatre in Seattle, Tacoma Little Theatre and the Chamber Drama Theatre of Vladivostock, Russia), presents Anton Chekov’s *Uncle Vanya*, with a new translation by Leonid Anisimov, honored artist of Russia. Anisimov also directs this production performed by some of Seattle’s leading professional actors. The Art Theatre of Puget Sound fosters cultural exchange in the practice of theatre arts between Russia and the Puget Sound region.

**--Directed by Leonid Anisimov, Honored Artist of Russia, Artistic Director of the Vladivostok Chamber Drama Theatre—
Theater, Jones Hall**

Refreshments provided.

To End the Day: Conference Bar, Engine House No. 9 @ 611 North Pine

SATURDAY, JUNE 19: “THE WORK WE DO AND THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH WE DO IT”

7:30-8:30am **Breakfast**

Wheelock Student Center

9:00-9:15am **Conference Overview: Where Are We Going Today?**

--Liz Engelman—

Theater, Jones Hall

9:15-10:45am **Workshops: Round One**

Participants are asked to sign up for one session in Round One and one in Round Two. These are intended as in-depth, spirited conversations by and for practicing literary managers and dramaturgs, more like a salon (or saloon) than a panel. We’ve tried to make your choices as difficult as possible.

Jones Hall, 202, 203, Theatre

1. N(y)PD Blues (?): Just How are We Doing with New Play Development?

A discussion of the ethics and implications of NPD, with an emphasis on models that work as well as on questions and challenges.

--*KC Davis, freelance, Gretchen Haley, Working Stages (moderator); Michael Lupu, The Guthrie Theater; Janice Paran, McCarter Theatre; Vanessa Porteous, Alberta Theater Projects; Chris Sumption, Seattle Rep; Bob White, Alberta Theater Project and Banff playRites Colony*--

2. Putting the LM Back in LMDA: The Nuts and Bolts of Running of a Literary Office

We all think we know how to do it, but here's a chance to compare notes, ask the dumb questions and explore recent developments in the field.

--*Merv Antonio, The Public; Elizabeth Bennett, La Jolla Playhouse; Lue Douthit, Oregon Shakespeare Festival; Maxine Kern, George Street Playhouse; John Rea, Philidephia Theatre Co.; Michele Volansky, Steppenwolf Theater Co. (moderator), et al.*--

3. Dramaturgy and Education

This conversation will begin with the ways in which we teach dramaturgy. From there, we hope it will broaden out into a larger conversation about the relationship between dramaturgy and learning. What are the implications of dramaturgy for education in our discipline and others? Is there a dramaturgical teaching style? Does dramaturgy help create unique kinds of learning experiences?

--*Klaus van den Berg, University of Tennessee; Lee Devin, Swarthmore College; Anne-Charlotte Harvey, San Diego Univ.; Allen Kennedy, The Dalton School; DD Kugler, Simon Fraser Univ.; C. Ellen Mease, Grinnell; Geoff Proehl, Univ. of Puget Sound (moderator); Richard Parker, Catholic University (most recently); Harriet Power, Villanova Univ.; Tom Shafer, Indiana Univ.; John Wilson, Cornish School of the Arts*--

11:00am-12:30pm

Workshops: Round Two

1. Adapt This

Where do we look for adaptations? How do we begin? How are they structured and shaped? Participants will examine particular challenges of the adaptation process and describe their own unique ways of working.

--*Deborah Lynn Frockt, Seattle Children's Theatre; Tony Pasquilini, Book-It; Douglas Langworthy, Oregon Shakespeare Festival; Brian Quirt, Nightswimming, and Factory Theater, Toronto (moderator); Adrienne Wong, Rumble Productions*--

2. Thinking Outside The Box: A Dramaturg By Any Other Name . . .

What is the dramaturg's relationship to his/her audience, community, and institution? How is education in a broader sense part of our mission? For example, what if a theater wants to do the work of Ann Bogart and its community wants to see *The Glass Menagerie*?

--*Steve Alter, Artistic Associate, Intiman Theatre; Mallory Catlett, Simon Fraser; Morgan Jenness, former Associate Producer, Public Theatre; Dramaturg-At-Large and currently Creative Director at Helen Merrill Ltd.; Maxine Kern, George Street Playhouse; Mark Lord, Bryn Mawr College and Director, Big House; Richard Pettengill, The Goodman Theater; Harriet Power, Villanova Univ.(moderator)*--

3. Dramaturgy Facts and FAQs: Insights and Advice for Early Career Dramaturgs

Established dramaturgs will discuss all facets of their jobs with early career dramaturgs. This year's panel will focus on production dramaturgy for already produced plays.

--*Mark Bly, Assoc. Artistic Rep, Yale Rep; Bronwyn Eisenberg, Early Career Dramaturgy Program (moderator); David Copelin, playwright and dramaturg; Michael Lupu, The Guthrie Theater; Shirley Fishman, The Public; Paul Walsh, American Conservatory Theater, et al.*--

12:30-1:30pm

Lunch

Wheelock Student Center

1:45-6pm

Advocacy Caucus Afternoon

GETTING DOWN TO BRASS TACKS: ATTENTION MUST BE PAID!

What Do We Want -- Collective Begging or Collective Bargaining?

- 1:45-2 **Opening Remarks**
- 2-2:30 **Surveying the Profession**
- 2:30-4 **Working Conditions: Having Your Say -- Oral Histories**
- 4-4:15 **Break: refreshments provided**
- 4:15-5:15 **Organizational Structures**
- 5:15-6 **Proposals**

--Advocacy Caucus members Shirley Fishman, Lynn Thomson, Maxine Kern and Laura Castro will lead the afternoon--

6-7pm

Business Meeting #2

This meeting provides an opportunity to take action on ideas proposed over the course of the conference. To place an item on the agenda, please contact Geoff Proehl.

8pm

Banquet

Rotunda, Wheelock Student Center

Presentation of the Elliott Hayes Award in Dramaturgy in recognition of exemplary work by a dramaturg on a specific project which resulted in a significant contribution to the field.

To End the Day: Conference Bar, Engine House No. 9 @ 611 North Pine

SUNDAY, JUNE 20: "THE NEXT YEAR'S WORK BEGINS"

7:30-8:30am

Breakfast (final meal of room and board package)

Wheelock Student Center

Checkout of University Housing, 8-10am: Drop off your key just outside the Wheelock Rotunda

9am-noon

Dramaturg as Moderator

This morning's session has two goals: 1. To model a plan for post-show critiques; 2. To begin thinking toward the next conference. Jane Ann Crum will lead this session using Liz Lerman's model for critical process (please see the Lerman reading in advance).

Plans for accommodations Sunday night, if you depart Monday, will have to be made individually at local hotels and motels. Shuttle service available. (See list of local accommodations in this brochure.)

--Jane Ann Crum, Executive Director, The Drama League; freelance dramaturg--

Rotunda, Wheelock Student Center

If you have thoughts or questions please contact one of the Conference Chairs:

Jane Ann Crum
The Drama League
165 West 46th St., Ste. 601
New York, NY 10036
<CRUMJAC@aol.com>
Work: 212-302-2100

Lee Devin
Swarthmore College and The People's Light and Theater Co.
603 Hillborn Ave
Swarthmore, PA 19081
<ldevin1@swarthmore.edu>

Work: 610-328-8379

Liz Engelman
A Contemporary Theater
A Contemporary Theater
700 Union St.
Seattle, WA 98101
Work: 206-292-7660

Conference Coordinator:
M. Louise Lytle
812 N. "K" St. Apt #207
Tacoma, Wa 98403
(253) 274-1026
mlytle@ups.edu

The Journey to Tacoma. . .

by plane...

You will need to fly into Seattle-Tacoma International airport and make arrangements by rental car or shuttle to head twenty-five minutes south to Tacoma. Inexpensive shuttle service can be booked with **Capital Aeroporter (253-927-6179)** or **Shuttle Express (206-622-1424)**. Call ahead for price quotes and reservations. Groups of travelers enjoy better rates. Ask to be taken to **Jones Hall** on the University of Puget Sound Campus. If your driver does not know where **Jones Hall** is, then ask to be dropped off at **Wheelock Student Center**. Jones Hall is about one block west from the student center. To register, come to **Jones Hall 101**.

by train...

If you want to take **Amtrak** to the conference, the nearest station is at **1001 Puyallup Avenue**. You may take a taxi for about \$11, or board bus numbers **41, 400, or 500**. Leave the bus at the corner of **10th and Commerce**. Then use a transfer to take bus number **16** to the corner of **North 15th and Alder**, which is one block west of the **Wheelock Student Center** and two blocks west of **Jones Hall**, the center of conference activities. To register, come to **Jones Hall 101**.

by bus...

The **Greyhound** station is located at **1319 Pacific Avenue**. You may take a taxi for about \$8, or board bus number **16** departing from **10th and Commerce**, one block uphill from the terminal. Leave the bus at the corner of **North 15th and Alder**, which is one block west of the **Wheelock Student Center**, two blocks west of **Jones Hall**, the center of conference activities. To register, come to **Jones Hall 101**.

by automobile...

If you are driving yourself to the conference, take **Interstate 5** to Tacoma, then take **Exit 133—Interstate 705 North, City Center Exit**. Follow the signs to **Schuster Parkway**. Continue for approximately one mile and stay to the left. Exit to the left, **Schuster Parkway** and continue along the water for about a mile and a half, staying to the right. Exit to the right onto **North 30th** and continue through the traffic signal and up the big hill. At the top of the hill, turn left at **North Alder**. Continue for about a mile until you reach **North 15th**, then turn right and proceed into campus. Go through the stop sign and park in the large circle. **Jones Hall** is to your immediate west, the **Wheelock Center** to your east. To register, come to **Jones Hall 101**.

Whatever arrangements you end up making to get to Tacoma, you can be sure that you will be able to get around while you are here. Our campus is relatively small and groceries, restaurants, and entertainment are all within walking distance. For any other help, feel free to contact the LMDA interns at <jcamp@ups.edu> or call Geoff Proehl <gproehl@ups.edu> at (253) 756-3101. Enjoy the trip!

The Weather (?):

Tacoma enjoys a marine climate. This means that from October to April it rains almost everyday. On the other hand, from about July 4th to the end of September, it's almost totally dry and all the lawns turn brown. The question above has to do with the weather in May and June. It can be glorious or drizzly. You don't need to bring your hurricane outfits, but a light sweater's not a bad idea. Hopefully, you'll need your sunglasses, but in the Northwest, sometimes June is the cruelest month. (It's all part of the "working retreat" plan.)

* * * * *

University of Puget Sound Conference Services General Information Sheet

Alcohol: Only those guests 21 years of age and older are permitted to consume alcoholic beverages in *private* rooms of the residence halls only. Alcoholic beverages may not be consumed in lounge areas of residence halls or anywhere else outside the residence halls, except in arranged program events.

Emergencies: In the event of an emergency, persons may call (253) 756-3483 and reach a live University representative 24 hours a day.

Keys: There will be a \$20.00 charge for each lost residence hall room key and a \$10.00 charge for each outside door key not returned by the end of the day of check out.

Linen: Towels may be exchanged by leaving used towels outside your door **before 12:00 noon.** Other linen items are only exchanged on a weekly basis. If linen is being provided for your program, it includes: 1 pillow, 1 pillowcase, 1 blanket, 2 flat sheets, 1 bath towel, 1 hand towel, 1 washcloth. If you need any extra items, we encourage you to provide your own.

Mail: If you wish to receive mail, it should be addressed as follows:

Your Name
Group Name
c/o Conference Services
University of Puget Sound
1500 N. Warner St.
Tacoma, Washington 98416

Meals: Meal hours will be posted in your residence hall; meals are served in Wheelock Student Center. Entrance is through room 101 on the southeast corner of the building facing the parking lot. Entrées are served buffet style; there are also self-serve fresh fruit and salad bars, beverages and desserts. Meals are all-you-can-eat; however, we ask that you take one entrée only for each trip through the buffet lines. You are welcome to go through the buffet lines as many times as you wish. Food may not be taken from the dining area for health code reasons.

Other: The following items are not provided by Conference Services, so you may want to bring your own: Alarm clocks, fans, hangers, reading lamps, mirrors (these are provided in the restrooms and most hallways, but not in all individual rooms)

As many bathrooms are shared facilities, you may wish to bring a bathrobe with you.

Parking: *No one may park in any residential areas near the campus.* There is no charge for parking on campus. You must park only in designated locations (those with white or unpainted curbs, NOT those with red, yellow, or blue curbs). Vehicles parking in places designated for faculty, staff, carpool or handicap spaces will be cited.

Pets: Pets are not allowed in any buildings on campus, including residence halls. Animals who assist our disabled guests are the only exception to this policy.

Shipping: Conference Services cannot receive shipments for a conference earlier than **two weeks** prior to the conference's arrival on campus. Due to limited storage space, shipments received more than two weeks in advance may have to be returned to the sender.

Signs: Materials used to post or display any signs must be approved in advance by Conference Services.

Smoking: Smoking is **not** allowed in any campus buildings, including residence hall rooms, bathrooms & lounges.

Telephones: Each residence hall room has a telephone with free local access. Long distance may only be accessed via calling card or calling collect.

Registration Form

Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas
Annual Conference, 1999
Setting the Table: A Working Retreat
Thursday, June 17 to Sunday, June 20
University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington

Detach, complete and send this registration form and your check payable to "Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas" (US funds) to
Conference, c/o Geoff Proehl, Theatre, Univ. of Puget Sound, 1500 N. Warner, Tacoma, WA 98416
phone 253-756-3101; fax 253-756-3500.

Questions: Call the LMDA Office or Contact One of the Conference Chairs (contact info above):

PART ONE: CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

City _____; State Or Province _____; Zip/Postal Code _____; Country _____

Phone _____; Fax _____; E-Mail _____

Title _____; Affiliations _____

We want to publish bios for **everyone attending** the conference, so please send your bio (200 wd. max.) with your registration or (preferably) e-mail it to <gproehl@ups.edu> when you send in your registration. Use your bio to introduce yourself and your work to your colleagues.

____ If you need special assistance to fully participate in the conference, please check here and a LMDA representative will contact you.

Do you need childcare? Please explain:

Do you have special dietary needs (vegetarian, vegan, allergies, etc.)? Please explain:

PART TWO: MEMBERSHIP FEES

Check one:

____ Membership Up-to-Date (dues paid since July 1 of 1998)

____ Renewal

____ New Membership

Type of Membership:

Grand Total (Add Parts Two, Three, and Four; add \$10. if paid or postmarked after June 1): \$ _____

Make check payable to LMDA (US funds) for the total amount or send a non-refundable deposit of \$100.

PART FIVE: PROGRAMMING QUESTIONS

Friday, June 18

___ Please reserve a ticket for me for *Uncle Vanya* on Thursday evening (Cost, \$15.00 or less; includes refreshments; limited seating available; send **no** money now)

Saturday, June 19

As described on the tentative schedule above, this morning features three rounds of workshops/seminars; please check one selection from the first session, one from the second. You can change your mind later, but this will help us in our planning.

Round One (check one)

- ___ N(y)PD Blues (?): Just How Are We Doing With New Play Development?
- ___ Putting the LM back in LMDA: The Nuts and Bolts of Running a Literary Office
- ___ Copyright, Not Copywrong

Round Two (check one)

- ___ Adapt This
- ___ Thinking Outside The Box: A Dramaturg By Any Other Name . . .
- ___ Dramaturgy Facts and FAQs: Insights and Advice for Early Career Dramaturgs

Conference Display

___ I will bring items for display: study guides, program notes, actor packs, etc.

Send completed registration and your check payable to
“Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas” (US funds)
to
Conference, c/o Geoff Proehl, Theatre, Univ. of Puget Sound, 1500 N. Warner, Tacoma, WA 98416
phone 253-756-3101; fax 253-756-3500. Questions:
Contact the LMDA Office, Contact One of the Conference Chairs, or G. Proehl
Brochure Editor: Geoff Proehl, Univ. of Puget Sound; Associate Editor: Pannill Camp
Univ. of Puget Sound (LMDA Intern)
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Louise Lytle and Lisa Fabian
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