



The Fellows Gazette

Volume 46

Spring 2008

Join Us in Washington!



Springtime in Washington DC!

Gala Reception and Dinner
Saturday Evening, April 19th

Capital Hilton Hotel, 16th & K Streets, NW

7:00 pm—RECEPTION TO MEET NEW FELLOWS

Open Bar & Delicious Hors d'oeuvres

Hosted by Washington's National Theatre and its
President and Executive Director,
Fellow Donn B. Murphy

8:00 pm—THE FELLOWS ANNUAL DINNER

Saluting the New Fellows of 2008
An Elegant Seated Dinner, Cash Bar Available



For Saturday Dinner, Hotel Reservations, and
Sunday Schedule see page 2

The Roger Stevens Speaker Gerald Freedman

Gerald Freedman is an Obie Award-winner and the first American director invited to direct at the Globe Theatre, London, England. He is regarded nationally for productions of classic drama, musicals, operas, new plays and television.



Gerald Freedman

Gerald served as leading director of Joseph Papp's New York Shakespeare Festival (1960-71), the last four years as artistic director. He was co-artistic director of John Houseman's *The Acting Company* (1974-77) artistic director of the American Shakespeare Theatre (1978-79), and artistic director of Great Lakes Theater Festival (1985-1997). He has staged 26 of Shakespeare's plays, along with dozens of other world classics. He has directed celebrated actors such as Olympia Dukakis, James Earl Jones, Stacy Keach, Julie Harris, Charles Durning, Sam Waterston, Patti Lupone, Mandy Patinkin, Jean Stapleton, William Hurt, Carroll O'Connor and Kevin Kline.

He made theatre history with his off-Broadway premiere of the landmark rock musical *Hair*, which opened the Public Theatre in 1967. On Broadway, Gerald directed *The Robber Bridegroom*;

Freedman continued on page 2

SATURDAY DINNER

Reservations for the Saturday Evening Dinner can be made with a check for \$85 per person made payable to College of Fellows and sent to:

Tice L. Miller
4630 Bingham Court
Lincoln, NE 68516

Please note "Fellows Gala" on memo line of check.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 20th

SOUTH OPERA TIER LOUNGE/OPERA TIER BOX
KENNEDY CENTER



9:00 am—Business Meeting, Dean Lazier presiding

10:00 am—Ninth Annual Roger L. Stevens Address
presented by Fellow Gerald Freedman

My Life in Art:
A Twentieth Century Riff on Stanislavski

11:00 am Investiture Luncheon (Invitations are sent to Fellows by the Kennedy Center & should be returned to them.)

Fellows being Invested:
Karen Berman
Dan Carter
Jeff Koep

1:00 pm Living History Archive Interviews
Judith Kase Cooper (Interviewee)
Orlin Corey (Interviewer)

Orlin Corey (Interviewee)
Winona Fletcher (Interviewer)

3:00 pm Adjournment

Host Hotel—The River Inn

924 25th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 21037
800-424-2741

For special rate of \$209/night plus tax, mention you are with the College of Fellows.
Deadline to reserve: March 17, 2008.

Freedman continued from page 1

The Grand Tour with Joel Grey; the revival of *West Side Story*, co-directed with Jerome Robbins; the premiere of Arthur Miller's *The Creation of the World and Other Business*; and Shaw's *Mrs. Warren's Profession* with Lynn Redgrave and Edward Herrmann. His productions for Great Lakes Theater Festival include Shakespeare's *King Lear* and *Death of a Salesman*, with Hal Holbrook, *Cyrano de Bergerac* with Robert Foxworth, *The Glass Menagerie*, with Elizabeth Franz, *Blood Wedding*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Dividing the Estate* and many others including the successful and widely praised production of *The Dybbuk* which he adapted and directed. More recently he has directed John Collum in *The Dresser*, Mandy Patinkin in *Enemy of the People* at the prestigious Williamstown theatre Festival, and the opera *Regina* at the Kennedy Center with Patti Lupone.

He currently is Dean, School of Drama at North Carolina School of Drama at North Carolina School of the Arts. A native of Lorain, Ohio, he received both his B.A. and his M.A. (summa cum laude) from Northwestern University.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

We ask all Fellows who have not returned their "green cards" with a check to do so now. This will help us plan the Fellows Weekend in April.

We recognize four gifts which qualify for our new Endowment Fellows (gifts of \$500 or larger):

Gil Lazier
Richard Fallon
Jack O'Brien
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (thanks to Ben Cameron)

Also we want to recognize four new Lifetime Benefactors:

Scott Parker
Jorge Huerta
Ben Cameron
Larry Clark

The goal is to increase our Endowment to \$50,000. We encourage all members of the College of Fellows to contribute to this endeavor.

Tice Miller, Treasurer



NEWS OF THE FELLOWS

DOUG COOK: Since returning to Arizona, he and his wife Joan “have given our focus to theatres in the Southwest. We look back, with fond memories, to Stratford, the Shaw Festival, New York and Washington, D.C., 2007 has included impressive plays and productions from the Arizona Theatre Company, The Actors' Theatre Company (Phoenix), the Southwest Theatre company and its Shakespeare focus, the Utah Shakespearean Festival (both summer and fall seasons) with exceptional productions directed by Kathleen Conlin. Our latest theatre experience has been The Borderlands Theatre in Tucson. Their leading production this season was *Dust Eaters*, a beautiful and telling play by Julie Jensen, a terrific production. In between theatre excursions, we managed a trip to Alaska with specific attention to the historic Yukon and the Gold Rush areas, with a final week at Danali National Park. I won't even mention frequent trips to San Diego to check on our 5 year old grandson, or our devotion to our acre of citrus trees and adventures here in Phoenix.”

JERRY L. CRAWFORD: Jerry and wife Pat spent the Thanksgiving to New Year Holiday vacationing in Marquette, Michigan, high in a well appointed apartment in a Victorian home overlooking the Lake Superior Harbor. They were happily snowed - in most of the time. While revising a new play, Jerry is trying to create a magic spell to assist the Cleveland Indians in finding a way to beat the Red Sox, Tigers, Yankees, White Sox, Twins, and Angels next year. Even the ROYALS? In other words, ALL the improved American League teams. Hopeless? Hopeless.

GRESDNA DOTY: Gresdna and her husband Jim traveled to Lord Howe Island of New South Wales last February. She writes, “Lord Howe Island has a permanent population of about 250, enough beds for about 400 visitors at a time, no rental cars, no TV or phones in motel rooms, and a recent referendum said ‘no’ to cell phones. We stayed in a small tourist accommodation that has been operated by the same family for over 100 years, and the pictures were taken at the water's edge there where the excitement of the day is watching the sunset while having a glass of wine. A wonderful place for a real vacation.” (See photo on page 8)

JOHN EZELL: John designed *King Lear* for the Kansas City Repertory Theatre (and incidentally, was on the search committee for the new Artistic Director of the KC Rep i.e. Eric Rosen; Wonderful!) and *Kiss Me, Kate*. He is designing a VERY

expensive new production of *The Nutcracker*, for national tours (eight years+) scheduled to open in 2009. The sets are being built and painted in St. Petersburg, Russia and will feature the Cincinnati Ballet corps de ballet and international stars. In the meantime, he finds himself “at the epicenter of developments intended to ‘tilt’ our Hallmark Corporation funded professional training program here at UMKC away from a traditional preoccupation with the New York theatre toward an emphasis on Hollywood and the West Coast entertainment industry. In this process we are working closely with the Hollywood Art Directors and Designers Guild and the Hollywood Costume Designers Guild. We do, however, intend to continue to maintain our rigorous theatre-based curriculum as the best possible foundation for young designers who want to pursue careers in either theatre or film...or both.” Last spring, he was honored by the USITT at their convention in Phoenix with a comprehensive retrospective exhibition of his stage designs titled *Bold Strokes and Finesse: The Stage Designs of John Ezell*. He writes, “At the opening reception I rather felt like I was in attendance at my own memorial service! The seven crates containing the exhibition are now touring nationally to galleries in five cities.

MARJORIE DYCKE: Her School of the Performing Arts is now combined with the High School of Music and Art at Lincoln Center is celebrating its 60th Birthday in 2008. They actually coined the term “Performing Arts.” A Gala Celebration is planned for next May. Marjorie was the founding Chair of the Drama Department, and one of her favorite students was Herb Gardner, known for his plays *A Thousand Clowns* and *My Name's Not Rappaport*.

GERALD FREEDMAN: Gerald directed *The Antipodes* by Richard Broome at the Globe in London in the year 2000. He is still only American to have directed at the Globe. He had several articles published in *American Theatre Magazine*, the last one surveying a group of six books on acting by various prominent American acting teachers. He directed a fiftieth anniversary production of *West Side Story* at NCSA. He was on the original creative team that created it on Broadway. He was Jerome Robbins's assistant and coached all the Dancer/Actors and directed the book scenes.

JULIE JENSEN: Julie saw her new play, *Billion Dollar Baby*, premiere at Salt Lake Acting Company, Salt Lake City, UT, November and December, 2007. A production of *Dust Eaters* was mounted at Borderlands Theatre, Tucson, AZ, October and November, 2007. A feature article on

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Jensen's play *Two-Headed* appeared in the December 2007 issue of *American Theatre*.

FELICIA LONDRÉ: Felicia gave the Charles N. Kimball Lecture in Kansas City on 18 October. For her annual presentation at the Festival Hill Theatre Institute in Round Top, Texas, she created her first PowerPoint (on Oscar Wilde). Her 2007 book *The Enchanted Years of the Stage: Kansas City at the Crossroads of American Theater, 1870-1930* was signaled as one of 100 Noteworthy Books of 2007 by the *Kansas City Star*. (See photo on page 8) Her next book, *The Historical Dictionary of American Theater: Modernism* (co-authored with James Fisher), has just been published by Scarecrow Press.

DONN MURPHY: Donn completed a year's service as Program Director for the Georgetown University Retired Faculty Association. "Last summer [i.e. 2007], a broken air-conditioning pipe in the National Theatre just above my presidential desk sent thousands of gallons of water cascading down through the four floors at the front of the building. Ceilings fell in lobbies and offices; furniture, carpets, computer equipment, drapes, and the stage curtains in our little Helen Hayes Gallery stage were destroyed. Renovation was a month along when a second pipe broke, requiring six more weeks of restoration. Ultimately, ceilings had to be reopened a third time, and all the pipes replaced. Not a fun summer. In Fall I spent 15 days in Japan, where I had served a year in the Army in 1952. Returning to the much-changed Tokyo, the giddy Takarazuka Revue, and the mesmerizing performances at the Kabuki-za (with excellent English translation on headphones) was invigorating. I continue to book 22 free outreach shows for children, and 22 more for adults each year at the National. I have also made some emendations and additions to theatre-related entries on Wikipedia, and added a biography of Margaret "Skippy" Lynn. Other fellows might exercise their expertise by adding bios of noted Fellows who may not yet be represented in this convenient online resource, and adding to, or correcting, other theatre entries."

BONNIE NELSON SCHWARTZ: She recently produced two concerts at the John F. Kennedy Center—*In Concert Against Hate* with the National Symphony Orchestra and *I Still Believe: a Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr.* with Ben Vereen and Julian Bond. She is currently producing a documentary on Studs Terkel for HBO and a feature film, based on the book, *Invitation to Valhalla*

SCOTT PARKER: This past August, "after thirty-six years of joyous and rewarding labor in the theatrical vineyards of Dionysus, I retired to tend the less stressful fields of the theatre consultant; which are no less joyful I'm delighted to report. In celebration of this new life, my partner Judy and I traveled to Vienna where we attended a magnificent concert of the Wiener Symphoniker (oh, the acoustics). (See photo on page 8) At the Staatsoper, we saw a world-class performance of *Tosca* conducted by Domingo. We were in the presidential box (oh, my ego). My first Social Security check arrived two months ago; one half of which immediately went toward a Lifetime Benefactor status in the College of Fellows. The other half of which paid for those seats in the presidential box!"

DOROTHY WEBB: Dorothy continues to serve as Artistic Director for the biennial Bonderman Playwriting for Youth Competition and Symposium which she founded in 1985. Fellows Suzan Zeder, Orlin Corey, Tom Evans, Marilee Hebert Miller, Robyn Flatt, Patricia Whitton Forest, and Jeff Church participated. John Newman completed his Ph.D. dissertation of the Bonderman at NYU. The late Lowell Swortzell served as Newman's original chair. After his death, Nancy Swortzell completed the supervision of the dissertation. In late July she journeyed to Vancouver, BC for the American Alliance for Theatre and Education's annual conference and participated in the board meetings of the Children's Theatre Foundation and the gala Medallion Luncheon orchestrated by Fellows Orlin Corey and Ruth Heinig. A special treat this summer was a reunion of five of the founding faculty of the Communication Studies and Theatre Department at Indiana University, Purdue University at Indianapolis. Her research into Indiana Theatre History "inches forward slowly." She continues to do public presentations on selected topics of the Federal Theatre in Indiana, various historical theatres in the state, and theatre artists from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

JON WHITMORE: Jon delivered a paper on the influences of the San Joaquin Valley on the theatrical style and cross-cultural content of William Saroyan's plays at the kick-off event for the year-long Saroyan Centennial Symposium in Fresno, California, in January 2008. Relating to a very different kind of theatre (or performance art, perhaps), Jon, in his role as President of Texas Tech University, has been elected vice chair/chair-elect of the Big Twelve Athletic Conference Board of Directors, where, upon occasion, a single "audience" may top 90,000 attendees.

MARGARET WILKERSON: After nine years of service, she has retired from the Ford Foundation, where she has served as Director of Media, Arts and Culture after a short term as Program Officer for Higher Education. As Director, she oversaw the Foundation's work in arts and culture, and in media in the United States, Africa and the Middle East, Russia, Asia, and Latin America. Under her leadership, the program has grown and developed with work in these fields now active in all of the Foundation's offices overseas; and has launched several major initiatives such as a \$50 million initiative on public service media, over \$25 million in support for individual artists, and most recently a special initiative to increase arts funding for Native American artists. Her last official act was to participate in her global staff's learning meeting in Moscow during the first week of October where she saw fascinating new work by performing artists and turned the reins over to the new Director, Orlando Bagwell, who served previously as her Deputy Director and is a well-known filmmaker (e.g. *Eyes on the Prize*, *Citizen King*, etc.). Margaret, who is Professor Emerita at the University of California at Berkeley, has returned to the Bay Area in northern California where she will continue to write, consult and teach. Margaret returned in time to be Keynote Speaker for the Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the Ph.D. Program in African Diaspora Studies which, as Chair of African American Studies Department, she led the faculty in establishing at the University of California at Berkeley. The celebration, which featured the program's 11 doctoral recipients all of whom are in higher education faculty positions or postdoctorals (in other words, 100% employment in academe), took place on November 1, 2007, at UC Berkeley. Her biography of Lorraine Hansberry is expected to be published late next year by the University of Michigan Press.

ALAN WOODS: Alan writes, "Late life career as a playwright (of ten minutes plays) is burgeoning: short plays produced recently in Costa Mesa, California (in November); at the Grahamstown Festival and Cape Town, Republic of South Africa, in July; as benefit for Stonewall, Columbus, in May." He just finished coordinating the Eileen Heckart Drama for Seniors Competition, with over 500 plays submitted; more at <http://heckartdrama.blogspot.com> –and will be doing staged readings of the winners over the next several months and for the readings: <http://osureadings.blogspot.com>. He was featured in the *Columbus Dispatch* newspaper in late summer as one of "20 Over 60" people who make a difference to the arts in Central Ohio. That appeared "while we were in Japan, welcoming our

first grandchild –Summer Grace Woods Prentice – into the world, and just after I hosted the fourth annual retreat for members of the International Centre for Women Playwrights at Ohio State."

DAVID YOUNG: David and his wife Elizabeth traveled to Jerusalem and Egypt where they explored the wall and the pyramids with passion. While in Jerusalem, there were two theatre companies and two dance companies that they hoped to see.

IN MEMORIAM

MARY JANE EVANS

1923-2007



Mary Jane Evans died on November 20, 2007, at her residence in the Episcopal Home of Minnesota, St. Paul. She had been in this care facility since suffering a health crisis in 2005. A son, Dr. David Rees Evans, and his wife, Ursula McCarty, of Oklahoma City, survive.

Several years after her 1985 retirement from the Theatre faculty of California State University, Northridge, she and her husband, Robley, a retired California administrative law judge, moved to Minneapolis where they enjoyed the artistic life of the city. Rob died in 1997, after which Mary Jane continued in their apartment until her health dictated a change of residence.

Mary Jane was born to Hazel and Lionel H. Larson in Superior, Wisconsin. The family included one brother. She attended public schools in Marquette, Michigan, Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and Ely (Minnesota) Junior College, prior to enrolling at Northwestern University. The tutelage of Winifred Ward and attendance at the first Children's Theatre Conference in 1944, provided reason enough to

Evans continued on page 6

consider her one of the “mothers” of children’s theatre in this country. With her 1944 B.A. in hand, she sought employment at Cain Park in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, under pioneer Dina Rees Evans. A 1946 marriage to Harrison Wills-Watkins ended in divorce. In 1953 she became director of the Junior Civic Theatre of Kalamazoo, Michigan, one year later accepting a teaching assistantship at Michigan State University. This background served as a solid foundation for her professional career as theatre artist, educator, author, playwright, arts advocate and mentor to generations of students.

At Michigan State she completed a master’s degree culminating in her adaptation of Thackeray’s “The Rose and the Ring.” She was subsequently appointed to the children’s drama faculty, becoming a colleague of Jed Davis with whom she was to collaborate on later publications. She taught courses in speech and theatre, directed productions with both college students and children, and led classes in creative drama.

The opportunity to originate an exemplary program in children’s theatre arrived in 1959 when she was offered an appointment at San Fernando Valley State College, later California State University, Northridge. Her long service at CSUN included terms as department chair, director of graduate studies, and head of the nationally recognized curriculum that was her specialty. Her productions toured under the auspices of Junior Programs of California and were regularly reviewed by the Los Angeles area press.

Mary Jane became re-acquainted with Cain Park associate and Dina Rees Evans’ nephew, Robley, and they were married in 1961. She pursued further doctoral work at the Universities of Minnesota and Wisconsin/Eau Claire, while building a position of leadership with the California Educational Theatre Association (several offices), the Children’s Theatre Association of America (Regional Governor, Secretary, Governing Board), the American (Educational) Theatre Association, (Board of Directors, ExCom), and ASSITEJ/USA (ExCom).

In 1970, Evans was promoted to full professor, and in 1977 she became an ATA Fellow.

Evans’s publications include three books coauthored with Jed Davis: *Children’s Theatre: Play Production for the Child Audience* (Harper’s 1960); *Theatre, Children and Youth* (Anchorage Press 1982), with a second edition (1987). In collaboration with Deborah Anderson, Evans published the musical children’s play, *Tales from*

Hans Christian Andersen (Anchorage Press 1983). She spearheaded CETA’s 1974 publication of the *Drama/Theatre Framework for California Public Schools*; and she contributed the chapter, “Theatre for Children – Art Form or Anarchy?” in Nellie McCaslin’s *Theatre for Young Audiences* (1978).

Evans’s mentoring of promising students, particularly minorities, brought acclaim by her beneficiaries in later life, a fact recognized as she was awarded a Medallion by the Children’s Theatre Foundation of America in 2002.

The family suggests that memorials be directed to that Foundation, in care of Fellow Orlin Corey.

Jed H. Davis, ATF

DON’T FORGET!

Fellows who attend the spring meeting in Washington, DC need to mail two checks: one to Tice Miller for the Dinner on Saturday and one to the Kennedy Center for the Luncheon on Sunday.

Wait to send your check to the Kennedy Center until you receive your invitation in late March or early April.

Please reserve (and pay) as early as possible to help us with the planning.



Enjoy a Spring Stroll in Washington, DC

THE FELLOWS GAZETTE

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of the American Theatre

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Website: www.thecollegeoffellows.org

NOMINATION FORM

It is the responsibility of each Fellow to place in nomination those persons she or he believes are qualified to become members of the College of Fellows of the American Theatre.

Persons who have distinguished themselves on a national or international level through service, artistic accomplishment, scholarship, innovation or all of these may be nominated by a current Fellow for consideration by the Board of the College of Fellows of the American Theater for membership. Nominations MUST be seconded by two Fellows who are acquainted with the work of the Nominee. The nomination letter/statement should have the depth of the presentation citation, and the seconding letters should not be simple reiterations of those facts but rather add perspective to the nomination. Due confidentiality requires that nominees not be aware that they are being considered.

Nominations on this form and two seconding letters of support (the responsibility of the nominator) must be submitted to the current Dean of the College no later than March 1. Only nominees whose files are complete will be considered during the Annual Meeting.

Since nominators will most frequently read the citation for their nominees, or be called upon to prepare the citation, it is recommended that a copy of the nomination form and letters be retained.

Please Print

Date Mailed to Dean: _____

NOMINEE _____

Title _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephones Business () _____ FAX _____

Home () _____ E-Mail _____

NOMINATION BY

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephones Business () _____ FAX () _____

Home () _____ E-Mail _____

SECONDDERS

#1 Name _____ # 2 Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone () _____ () _____

E-Mail _____

Attach a Nominator's Letter/Statement and any supporting materials. In the Nominator's Statement use 250-300 words to indicate the most salient reasons for this nomination. This statement should serve as a draft of the Fellow's Investiture Citation, and should be typed or word processed. In addition, attach a curriculum vitae, Who's Who entry, or resume. If the cv/resume seems to provide the necessary details, no additional material is needed. If it is incomplete, the following information would be useful (as part of the statement or on a separate sheet): education (schools, degrees, dates); membership in theatre organizations (and significant contributions); teaching experience or involvement (if relevant); professional experience; awards and honors; publications; artistic creations (design, direction, etc.).

DEADLINE

RETURN THIS TO THE DEAN BEFORE MARCH 1

Dean Gil Lazier

College of Fellows

4815 Eastchester Drive

Sarasota, FL 34234

FELLOWS AT WORK AND AT PLAY



Gresdna Doty and husband Jim
on Lord Howe Island



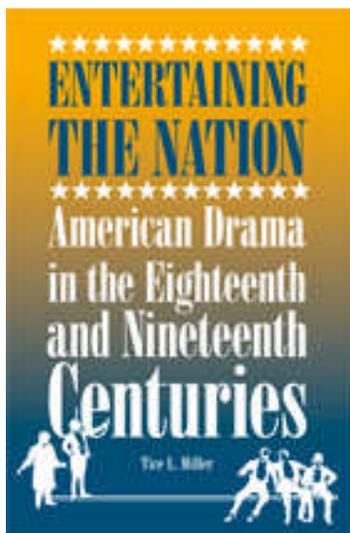
Felicia Londre's new book



Gil Lazier and wife Kathryn
at Machu Picchu



Scott Parker at the Staatsoper in Vienna



Tice Miller's new book



Bob Schanke and partner Jack
at Angkor Wat with the locals