



The Fellows Gazette

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From the Dean



I hope the new year is treating each of you well and that you are approaching the world joyously and positively and are looking forward to our annual gathering in our nation's capital.

Once again, the board will meet earlier in the day prior to our Saturday gathering at the Cosmos Club in order to consider the nominees you will advance to us between now and then. As a reminder, the nomination form and instructions can be found under the "Members Only Area" on our website:

<https://www.thecollegeoffellows.org/>

(Contact me if you need the password.)

The nomination package includes a Nominator's Statement, 2 seconding letters, and the cv/resume and/or extended professional biography of the nominee.

Nominations can be submitted online (which is the preferred method), or materials can be sent to me at:

PO Box 157
Webster, NC 28788

The deadline for nominations is March 1st.

If you have anything else you would like the board to consider, please send those items to me via email: dhc4@psu.edu.

Our efforts to engage in advocacy and mentorship and to raise awareness of our organization continue apace. We continue to be affiliated with Americans for the Arts as well

as KCACTF and will once again offer the Jane Alexander Award for Acting, the John Cauble Emerging Leader/Producer Award, the Arts Impact Award, and this year only, a one-time Uta Hagen Award in conjunction with the centennial celebration of this iconic actor/teacher.

Particulars of the award and instructions for nominations are on pages 4-5.

On Saturday, we will conduct video interviews with the new members. These will join our archives at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

HOTEL UPDATE

A number of Fellows indicated they have experienced difficulty reserving rooms at The River Inn. Consequently, the deadline for reservations has been changed to March 1st. I'm sorry if you have had difficulty. Please try again. Call Dwight Harris 202-403-2616 and mention the College of Fellows in order to receive the discounted rate of \$159 (+ taxes) per night. If you continue to have difficulty, please let me know via email.

Also, please be on the lookout for invitation/reservation cards for the Irene Ryan Evening of Scenes, the Cosmos Club Saturday Reception, and the Sunday Investiture Luncheon. These will come to you from the Kennedy Center via US mail.

I look forward to seeing you in DC.

News of the Fellows

Diane Rodriguez is featured in a new book titled: *Contemporary Women Stage Directors* by Paulette Marty/Bloomsbury Publications. The book opens the door into the minds of 27 prolific female theatre directors, allowing the reader to explore their experience, wisdom and knowledge. It comes out March, 2019.

Laurence Senelick published "Musical Theatre as a Paradigm of Translocation," *Global Theatre History* (2017); "Emigre Cabaret and the Re-Invention of Russia," *New Theatre Quarterly* (Feb. 2018), and a translation of *Two Plays of Weimar Germany: Youth Is a Sickness* and *Criminals* by Ferdinand Bruckner (Northwestern University Press). He won the Historic New England 2018 Award for Collecting Works on Paper.

Jim Volz is the Series Editor for Methuen Drama's newly released *Directing Professionally*, by Kent Thompson, and *Introduction to the Art of Stage Management*, by Michael Vitale, available through London's Methuen Drama, NYC's Bloomsbury, and Amazon.com. The books join Volz's *Introduction to Arts Administration* as the first three in a longer series of practical, professional theatre guides. If you have an idea for a book, contact Jim at jvolz@fullerton.edu

David Leong will retire from VCU this coming May. "After 23 years at VCU and another 21 at the University of Montevallo, University of Maryland, Brandeis University, and the Juilliard School, I feel very fortunate to have taught, worked with and learned from thousands of teachers and students. I am currently getting certified as a conflict resolution and mediation trainer and will begin this next chapter of my life balancing the art of staging fights and finding ways to resolve conflict!" This fall, David's fight choreography will be seen in *Porgy and Bess* at the New York Metropolitan Opera.

[Cultivating Leadership: A Primer for Academic Theatre Programs](#), ATHE's new book co-edited by Mark A. Heckler and Barbara O. Korner is due to

be released this year. It features chapters by Fellows **Dan Carter, Bill Doan, Harry Elam, and Jeffrey H. Huberman**, along with 2019 inductee **Randy Reinholz**. The editors also offer special thanks to Fellows **Donna Aronson, Karen Berman, and Gail Humphries Mardirosian**, who provided encouragement in the development of the Leadership Institute Project

Michael D. Dinwiddie has been an active panelist in various venues and moderated a panel with Tarell Alvin McRaney and Donja Love at the Schomburg Center. He served as an "on-camera expert" for the Sammy Davis, Jr. documentary airing on PBS. His one-act play *Short Road* was produced as part of the 48 Hours in Harlem Festival at Dr. Barbara Ann Teer's National Black Theatre. It was directed by Bianca LaVern Jones.

Kathy A. Perkins, since her retirement, has been busy as a lighting designer and also focused on her research. She was a senior editor on the newly released *Routledge Companion to African American Theatre and Performance*. Her lighting designs for the 2018-2019 season included productions at Writers Theatre, Two River Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, Theatre Works (Colorado Springs), People's Light, Raven Theatre, Children's Theatre of Charlotte, Arden Theatre, and Yale Rep. She conducted a lighting workshop in Santiago, Cuba, during the Festival of Fire and took part in festivals in Kigali, Rwanda, and Kampala, Uganda, this past summer.



James Still had a workshop for his newest play *DINOSAUR(s)* at the inaugural new work in the New Harmony Project's First Look Series in Indianapolis. The play is about a complex sister/brother relationship, radical empathy, and a small dying town in Kansas. James was also a Master Playwright and Mentor with the Curious Theatre Company and their Summer Intensive in Denver.

Jim O'Connor and **Brant Pope** led URTA's 50th anniversary celebration in Chicago on January 25th, which featured all living past-presidents.

Don Wilmeth suffered a stroke last summer. His wife Judy reports that after initial difficulty he is making great progress in his recovery.

2019 inductee **Benny Sato Ambush** began the year in Fort Myers, Florida, directing August Wilson's *Fences* before returning to Massachusetts to direct Nathan Alan Davis's *Nat Turner in Jerusalem* in Boston, Hansol Jung's *Cardboard Piano* in Watertown, and Marcus Gardley's *black odyssey* in Cambridge.

2019 inductee **Carol Fisher Sorgenfrei** has been invited to renew her Fellowship at the International Research Institute "Interweaving Performance Cultures" at Berlin's Free University. She will be in residence from May to August, 2019 pursuing a project entitled "The Opposite of Human: Japanese Theatre and Its Doubles."

In Memoriam

Bill Esper, Fellow and eminent acting coach who headed the William Esper Studio in New York passed away on Saturday January 26. Bill also chaired the Theatre Department at Rutgers and served as Vice President of the University Resident Theater Association. Bill was always very funny and could be very direct. Jim O'Connor, his long-time buddy, remembers an occasion one time over dinner baiting Bill about British acting, something very foreign to the Meisner technique he taught. "Bill ordered coffee and I ordered decaf. Bill erupted and informed me that I had just defined British acting—it looked and sounded similar but there was nothing inside of it. Oh, so much like Bill to sum up something so directly and succinctly." Bill, along with his wife and partner Suzanne, taught workshops in Denmark, Norway, Germany and Russia. His book, *The Actor's Art and Craft: William Esper Teaches the Meisner Technique*, was co-written with former student Damon DiMarco.

You can access Bill's obituary in *The Hollywood Reporter* through the following:

<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/william-esper-dead-eminent-acting-teacher-was-86-1180290>

Special Thanks and deep appreciation are due to the following for creating the Uta Hagen Award:

Fellow Bonnie Nelson Schwartz
for conceiving and initiating this award

Fellow Karen Berman
for endowing the stipend for travel and accommodations for Teaching Lab attendance.

HB Studio
for the tuition waiver for the Hagen Teacher Lab

Gregg Henry and KCACTF
for logistical and organizational support

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The following has been distributed by KCACTF to solicit nominations for a one-time award.

THE UTA HAGEN AWARD

Presented and sponsored by
The College of Fellows of the American Theatre
In Honor of the Uta Hagen Centennial

Eligibility: The Uta Hagen Award recognizes female teachers of Acting at the college or university level at a Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival-affiliated school.

Preferences: Preference will be given to candidates who are distinguished as full- or part-time teachers of acting **and** distinguished as working actors. preference will also be given to mid-career candidates.

Nomination Procedure

Former or current students, or colleagues of the candidate should nominate the candidate with at least three letters or digital/video testimonials from colleagues and/or former or current students of the candidate and a CV, resume, or Playbill-style bio of the candidate. These letters or testimonials should include a description of:

- What distinguishes the candidate's teaching of acting at the college or university level
- What distinguishes the candidate's career as an actor
- A description of any awards or honors received by the candidate for the teaching of acting and from her career as an actor

The nomination package may also include any other material that describes the candidate's career as a teacher of acting and as an actor.

Submission Procedure: The nomination package should be sent to The College of Fellows of the American Theatre selection panel by mail at:

College of Fellows' Uta Hagen Award
c/o KCACTF
The Kennedy Center
PO Box 101510
Arlington, VA 22210

Or by email to: UtaHagenAward@Kennedy-center.org

All nominations postmarked or emailed by March 1, 2019 will be considered.

Selection Panel: The College of Fellows of the American Theatre Selection panel will consist of three members of the College of Fellows of the American Theatre and one member from HB Studio who will evaluate the nominated candidates. The panel will also consult with Gregg Henry, Artistic Director of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. The College of Fellows and HB Studio selection panel will select one teacher of acting at the college or university level as the recipient of the award to be presented at the KCACTF National Festival in Washington, D.C. on April 19, 2019.

Uta Hagen Award: The College of Fellows of the American Theatre Uta Hagen Award, given in celebration of the Uta Hagen centennial and the 2020 centennial of the women's vote (a voice for all women), includes the following:

- A scholarship from HB Studio to attend a one-week Hagen Teacher Lab at HB Studios in New York City beginning on either August 4, 2019, or August 15, 2019. All nominees must be available to attend one of these Uta Hagen Teacher Labs in August, 2019;
- A \$2,500 stipend for travel and accommodations from the College of Fellows of the American Theatre to attend the HB Studio Hagen Teacher Lab in New York City;

and

Airfare and accommodations (provided by the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival) to Washington, D.C. to receive the award on Friday, April 19, 2019 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. All nominees must be available to attend the award ceremony in Washington, D.C. on that date.

Annual Meeting Schedule

Irene Ryan Evening of Scenes and College of Fellows Awards

7:00 pm

Friday Evening, April 19, 2019

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

The Saturday Evening GALA

6:00 pm

Saturday Evening, April 20, 2019

Location: The Cosmos Club

2121 Massachusetts Ave., N.W

The Cosmos Club has a dress code: You must be "properly attired – coats and ties for men, and dresses, suits, or clothing of comparable formality for women."

Parking is \$15 per vehicle.

Many Fellows share cabs or Uber to the event.
Hotel personnel are very helpful in securing cabs.

The Sunday Investiture Event

Sunday April 21, 2019

9:00 am Business Meeting
10:00 am The Roger L. Stevens Address presented by David Leong
11:00 am Luncheon and Investiture
1:15 pm Conversation with New Fellows

Nine New Fellows to be inducted in 2019

Benny Sato Ambush

Lee Breuer

Julia Curtis

James Fisher

Ed Herendeen

Bobbi Owen

Scot M. Reese

Randy Reinholz

Carol Fisher Sorgenfrei