American Association of Community Theatre
Board of Directors' Meeting
March 4-7, 1993
Crystal City, Maryland

Report of:
Region III (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin)

Submitted by:
Bob Kafka, Regional Representative
2418 N. 111th St. #2
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
(414) 774-4768

Action Items:
None

Interest Items:
Comments from a number of people in several states has pointed out a certain "laxness" in the accuracy of claims/offering by AACT. There are two that have been noted:

- For the "Broadway Bound" Conference, both the February/March 1992 issue of Spotlight and the Conference brochure indicates that "The conference will conclude with a Saturday night party at Mama Leone's, a famous hangout right in the theatre district." A party that was conspicuous by its absence when people actually arrived in New York.

- The membership renewal notices sent out indicated that quick renewal would result in "up to two membership months free!". An offer that could not be carried out without numerous gyrations, including amending the AACT By-Laws defining the AACT membership year. A fairly obvious error in carrying text over from a new member solicitation, but none the less an offer that AACT did not and could not follow through on.

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1 AACT CONFERENCE. BROADWAY BOUND brochure
2 AACT renewal letter from Joanne Nissen (undated)
3 Article 17 -- Fiscal Year/Membership Year

In Community Theatre There Are No Strangers, Only Friends You Haven't Met Yet.
AACT must be especially careful in the future to avoid both large and small errors of this type. They have the potential to create both financial and legal difficulties. While mistakes cannot be totally prevented, major errors damage AACT's credibility. We need to do everything we can to not give credence to the expression "only Community Theatre."

Report:

The major activity in the region has been AACTFest. State festivals are being held in four of the five states. Illinois had only two groups register for the state festival, a number they felt would not justify the cost and effort of putting on a festival. They will send adjudicators to see both productions at their home locations to select an entrant for the regional festival. Indiana's festival will have 10 entries, Michigan's three entries, Ohio's twelve and Wisconsin's six (this is the limit that they set). As of the time of the Board meeting, two festivals have been completed (Ohio and Michigan), one is taking place (Wisconsin) and one is in the future (Indiana). More detailed information will be presented at the June Board meeting when complete information is available.

Several State Chairs have complained on how burdensome all the new paperwork is with no discernable benefit. One state Chairman has commented that the "...simple fee that is designed to recoup some of the expense AACT incurs directly related to the state festivals..." appears to be mainly an AACT fundraiser as they have seen nothing from AACT that would have incurred an expense (the actual term used was "ludicrous").

The Regional Festival is scheduled for May 7-9, 1993 at the Frederic March Theatre on the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh campus. There will be six entries at the festival with two entries from Ohio. Adjudicators will be Sara O'Connor, Managing Director of the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Chuck Stillwell, Artistic Director at the Waterloo Community Playhouse and John Munsell, Chairman of the Communicating Arts department at the University of Wisconsin Superior. A regional meeting is scheduled as part of the festival. All Board members are invited and encouraged to attend.

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4 Letter from President John Viars dated April 3, 1992
American Association of Community Theatre
Board of Directors’ Meeting
June 15-20, 1993
Knoxville, Tennessee

Report of:
Region III (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin)

Submitted by:
Bob Kafka, Regional Representative
2418 N. 111th St., #2
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
(414) 774-4768

Action Items:
None

Interest items:
At the regional meeting held May 8th, 1993, a unanimous vote was cast to put Region III on record as being in opposition to:

- the currently waived rule requiring AACT membership to participate at state level AACTFests. There was general agreement that theatres should be members of AACT. However, membership should be obtained through encouragement, not coercion.

- the $10.00 "processing fee" policy for non-AACT members that replaced the waived membership requirement for state level AACTFests. With little, if any direct support from AACT to the state level festivals, the appearance is one of budget padding.

A recommendation on changing these items has been sent to the festival commission along with other more minor concerns.

Report:
The Regional AACTFest was held May 7-9 1993 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The winning group was Actors' Theatre from Grand Rapids, Michigan with their production of Top Girls. The general consensus was that the festival ran very smoothly with no major and few if any minor problems. A detailed summary of the regional and individual state festivals is attached.

In Community Theatre There Are No Strangers, Only Friends You Haven't Met Yet.
In conjunction with the Festival, a regional meeting was held to discuss problems and concerns. A major portion of the time was spent discussing the AACTFest process and rules. In addition to the items in the Interest Items section, concerns were expressed regarding more flexibility in deadlines and the need for more detailing on sending two productions to regionals if the state has more than ten entries. These have been passed on the Festival Commission.

A complaint was received regarding some of the host theatre personnel at the Ohio state festival. Except to take note of it, this is not within AACT's jurisdiction. A copy of the letter is attached.

The site and dates for the 1995 Regional AACTFest have been selected. It will be held April 28-30, 1995 in St. Joseph/Benton Harbor, Michigan.
AACTFest '93
Region III – Registration

WHAT? Why, Region III AACTFest '93 of course

WHEN? May 7, 8, 9 1993

WHERE? The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and the Pioneer Inn

WHO? You (of course) !!!

Yes folks, it's time again for AACTFest. This year the regional festival for Region III is being held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The performances will take place in the Fredric March Theatre on the University of Wisconsin Campus. Our headquarters hotel will be the beautiful Pioneer Inn (rated 3 diamonds by AAA for only $60.00 per night) on the shore of Lake Winnebago. Begin the festival with the Friday night welcome party at the Pioneer Inn. This informal gathering will give everyone a chance to meet each other and relax after traveling. Saturday is a full day with the best Community Theatre from five states in the afternoon and evening followed by another chance to mingle, socialize and compare notes (i.e. another party). Sunday morning will be a brunch with the announcement of the production that will be the representative from Region III to the National festival in Knoxville, Tennessee. This is an opportunity you won't want to miss. So don't delay, fill out the registration form below and send it with you check or money order (payable to the Theatre Association of Wisconsin) to:

AACTFest
1716 N. 2nd Street
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Pioneer Inn using the form provided or by phone at (800) 683-1980 (be sure to mention that you're with the theatre festival). Registration packets will be available Friday night at the Pioneer Inn and Saturday at the theatre. For more information, contact Frank Peot at (608) 837-9179. See you there

| AACTFest '93
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region III – Registration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete Festival Registration @ $33.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>(includes all performances and Friday and Saturday parties)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afternoon Performance session only @ $10.00</td>
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<td>Evening Performance session only @ $10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Awards Brunch @ $9.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Festival T-shirt in size _______ @ $10.00</td>
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<td>(all sizes subject to availability, XXL $2.00 extra</td>
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<td>Shirts are black with the cover logo printed in three colors)</td>
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<td>TOTAL ENCLOSED</td>
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Name:
__________________________________________________________________________

Address:
__________________________________________________________________________

City/State: ____________________________________________________________________ Zip: ______________

Home Phone: ____________________________________________________________________
Region 3
FACTfest '93
Region III AACTFest Summary

Regional

Productions:

*Birdbath*
Worthington Community Players
Worthington, OH

*Fool for Love*
Platteville Community Theatre
Platteville, WI

*Juvie*
Waukegan Community Players
Waukegan, IL

*Nunsense*
Ft. Findlay Players
Ft. Findlay, OH

*Road to Nirvana*
Civic Theatre of Greater Lafayette
Lafayette, IN

*Top Girls*
Actors’ Theatre
Grand Rapids, MI

Dates:
- May 7-9, 1993

Location:
Fredric March Theatre
UW Oshkosh
Oshkosh, WI

Adjudicators:
Sara O’Connor
Milwaukee Repertory Theatre
108 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

John Munsell
Rt 1 -- Box 153
Wentworth, WI 54874

Ted Strickland
Box 433
Waterloo, IA 50704

Selected show:
*Top Girls*

Producing group:
Actors’ Theatre

Author:
Caryl Churchill

Licensing Agent:
Samuel French, Inc.
Region III AACTFest Summary
Illinois

There was no festival in Illinois.

Selected show:
*Juvie*

Producing group:
Waukegan Community Players

Author:
Jerome McDonough

Licensing Agent:
I.E. Clark, Inc.
Region III AACTFest Summary
Indiana

Productions:
- Close Ties
  Community Theatre of Terre Haute
- The Foreigner
  Clarksville Little Theatre
- Going Toward the Light
  Gaslight Playhouse
- Last of the Red Hot Lovers
  Ole Olsen Memorial Theatre
- Little Murders
  Community Theatre Guild
- The Lords Prayer
  Epilogue Players, Inc.
- The Music Man
  Footlite Musicals
- Road to Nirvana
  Civic Theatre of Greater Lafayette
- The Taffetas
  Buck Creek Players

Dates:
- March 26-28, 1993

Location:
- Footlite Musicals
  Indianapolis, IN

Adjudicators:
- Chuck Chestnut
  Box 156
  South Chatham, MA  02659
  Mona Synoground Poehling
  6790 W. Shadow Lake Dr.
  Lino Lakes, MN  55014

Selected show:
  Road to Nirvana

Producing group:
  Civic Theatre of Greater Lafayette

Author:
  Arthur Kopit

Licensing Agent:
  Samuel French, Inc.
Region III AACTFest Summary

Michigan

Productions:
  Terra Nova
  Kalamazoo Civic Players

  Top Girls
  Actors’ Theatre

  Zoo Story
  Central Park Players

Dates:
  February 26-28, 1993

Location:
  West Ottawa Performing Arts Center
  Holland Community Theatre, Inc
  Holland, MI

Adjudicators:
  David Oosting
  Box 10
  Fremont, MI

  Thomas Small
  2502 Waite
  Kalamazoo, MI 49008

  Laura Salazar
  Luce S.W. Route 5

Selected show:
  Top Girls

Producing group:
  Actors’ Theatre

Author:
  Caryl Churchill

Licensing Agent:
  Samuel French, Inc.
Region III AACTFest Summary
Ohio

Productions:

Agnes of God
The Mount Vernon Players

Birdbath
Worthington Community Theatre

Imagining Brad
Westerville Curtain Players

Is There Life After High School
Little Theatre Off-Broadway

Nightlight
Trumbull New Theatre

Nunsense
Ft. Findlay Playhouse

The Prime of Miss Jean Brodi
Village Players of Hicksville Ohio

Rumors
Amil Tellers of Dramatics

Run for Your Wife
Troy Civic Theatre, Inc.

Scooter Thomas Makes it to the Top of the World
The Drama Workshop

The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wild
Van Wert Civic Theatre

Steel Magnolias
Sock & Buskin Community Theatre

Dates:
February 19-21, 1993

Location:
Lima Encore Theatre
Amil Tellers of Dramatics, Inc
Lima, OH

Adjudicators:
Joe Brandesky
1674 Rebecca Dr.
Lima, OH 45805

Kate Ufema
7022 Woodstream Terrace
Seabrook, MD 20706

Helen Davis
715 W. Lima Dr.
Ada, OH 45810

Selected show #1:
Nunsense

Producing group:
Ft. Findlay Playhouse

Author:
Dan Goggin

Licensing Agent:
Samuel French, Inc.

Selected show #2:
Birdbath

Producing group:
Worthington Community Theatre

Author:
Leonard Melfi

Licensing Agent:
Samuel French, Inc.
Region III AACTFest Summary

Wisconsin

Productions:

The Fantasticks
Serendipity Production, Inc

Fool for Love
Platteville Community Theatre

K2
Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild

The Miser
Act I

Tennessee
Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa

Trifles
Island Players

Dates:
March 5-7, 1993

Location:
State-Regional Arts Center
Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild
Eau Claire, WI

Adjudicators:
Tom Nevins
UW-Stevens Point

Phil Bratnober
Minneapolis, MN

Resa Brainen
Minneapolis, MN

Selected show:
Fool for Love

Producing group:
Platteville Community Theatre

Author:
Sam Shepard

Licensing Agent:
Dramatists Play Service, Inc.
VAN WERT CIVIC THEATRE, INC.
118 S. RACE ST., P.O. BOX 823
VAN WERT, OHIO 45891

March 22, 1993

Board of Trustees
Encore Theatre
North Shore Drive
Lima, Ohio 45801

Dear Members:

As a participating theatre in AACT-Fest 93 we want to thank you for hosting the state competition. We think the two excerpts selected to represent Ohio at the regional competition are an excellent representation of the good community theatre we enjoy here in Ohio.

We would like to express a concern we have with some of the happenings over the weekend. During our excerpt and set-up time there was considerable (too much) conversation between the sound, light and stage manager personnel. As the person in charge of the lighting cues for our excerpt, I did not appreciate the vulgar language and name calling being done by these people.

With quite a few light cues to be made, this conversation was very distracting. The light coordinator, Jeff Rummell, asked for the conversation to be stopped because he knew it was distracting. He also apologized at the end of the excerpt for the language that had been used. I appreciated his honesty and accepted his apology. I also thanked him for handling all of our cues so well.

The point is—everyone involved in AACT-Fest is a volunteer—everyone in the excerpts as well. Every excerpt, good or bad, deserved the respect of those working to do as good a job as possible. A missed or incorrect sound or light cue could be disaster in the eyes of the adjudicators. If the local workers were not going to enjoy the weekend and put forth their best efforts, then they should not have volunteered.

Other theatres expressed having similar problems. We felt you should be aware that your theatre was not represented as well as you would like.

Other Encore people were very nice, friendly and good representatives of your theatre. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Ruth Ann Boley
Board Member, V.W.C.T.

CC—AACT-Fest Board
   OCTA State Board

MEMBER: OHIO COMMUNITY THEATRE ASSOCIATION • OHIO THEATRE ALLIANCE
TO: Festival Committee  
American Association of Community Theatre

FROM: James Carver, Past President, AACT.

Festival People!

I would like to have the Festival Committee consider changing one of the rules set forth in the "Handbook of AACT/Fest." Specifically, I refer to a statement in Section IV, B, 2 (Page 20) entitled "REGIONAL JUDGES."

"If his/her theatre's entry wins his/her STATE competition, he/she may no longer adjudicate in any region."

I find three compelling reasons for changing this rule:

1. Regional festivals often start planning their festivals months in advance, often a year in advance. They try to get commitments from adjudicators as far in the future as they can so that they have a better selection of people and do not have to compete with State and other Regional Festivals. The "Rule" causes two things to happen. If a person connected with a theatre is asked to adjudicate they either have to turn down the invitation because their theatre MAY enter their state festival the following year or they have to cancel their agreement to adjudicate at a Regional AT THE LAST MINUTE because their theatre has just won their State Festival. This works real hardship on the REGIONAL festival. They will have to find another person in a hurry and, if they are fortunate, what do they do with the plane ticket they have already purchased for the first person?

2. Most festivals feel they would like to have the productions judged by community theatre people. There are many fine adjudicators among the educators, but often they do not have the perspective of what community theatre is all about. They can even put community theatre down by their attitude of "after all, it's only community theatre." If the Festival Committee continues with this "Rule", they will eliminate the very group from which Regional Festivals would like to select their adjudicators since many of the professional community theatre directors are adjudicating throughout the country. The potential adjudicator has to make a decision: "Do I enter the State Festival, for the good of my theatre, knowing that if we win I will have to call the Regional and tell them I can no longer adjudicate? Or do I hope our production does not win the State so that I don't hang up the Regional at the last minute? Or do I not push our theatre to enter the State because I have been asked to adjudicate? Or do I violate the 'Rule', knowing that I may never adjudicate again?"

3. This "Rule" implies that an adjudicator will somehow choose a winner at a Regional that is less than the best because his own theatre will then have a better chance of winning at a later festival. This "Rule" questions the integrity of those who are adjudicating our festivals! It also implies that there is only one adjudicator at a Regional festival and this one adjudicator can control the outcome.

For these reasons, I would like to have the Festival Committee consider removing the above quoted portion of IV, B,2 from the "official rules" of the AACT/Fest.

Respectfully Submitted,

James C. Carver  
Past President, AACT