

33rd Mid-America Theatre Conference

Hyatt Regency,
Chicago, Illinois

March 1-4, 2012
Acting and Directing Symposium
Work

The Acting and Directing Symposium of the Mid-America Theatre Conference (MATC) is seeking proposals from a wide variety of theatre practitioners. The symposium organizers are looking for papers, co-papers, presentations, round-table discussions, organized panels, and visual presentations that can be linked to the notion of “Work,” broadly construed from directors, actors, technicians, designers, and dramaturgs. For the Acting and Directing Symposium of the thirty-third annual MATC conference, we seek to examine current and emerging challenges in all production disciplines, and the analysis of the creation and reception of theatre.

Papers and presentations may be critical reflections or analyses of specific theatrical events or theoretical investigations of the work of significant practitioners. All approved presenters will have the opportunity to submit an article to “Theatre/Practice: The Online Journal of the Acting/Directing Symposium of the MATC,” an open access online journal created to encourage, recognize, and disseminate rigorous and high quality scholarship on the practice and theory of theatrical practice. Submissions to Theatre/Practice are limited to work presented at the Mid-America Theatre Conference.

Possible investigations of Work might include:

- How is the work of the Theatre divided, identified, and valued?
- What work is expected of the performer? By whom?
- Can it be work if it is enjoyable?
- What is the value of hard work within a theatrical context?
- What does it mean to work on a show?
- Are there models of work from other disciplines that apply to the Theatre?
- How is the “work” (the finished production) different from the “work” (the process)? Does one influence the reception/ experience of the other?
- Where does the work of the Theatre take place?

- In new play creation, when is the work finished? Who finishes it?
- How might a play work on its audience?

Applicants are asked to email 150-250 word abstracts that include the following information: applicant's name, applicant's rank, academic affiliation, address, telephone, email, presentation format (single paper, co-paper or co-presentation, panel presentation, round-table discussion, or other), title of presentation, and a two-three paragraph description of the paper, panel or presentation. Please be sure to include any special technology needs in your abstract, including slides, powerpoint, audio or video. (Please note that technology accommodations can be extremely limited during the conference).

Individual presentations should not exceed 8 double-spaced pages (approximately 2000 words) and will be limited to a 15 minute maximum. Round table discussions and organized panels will be limited to a 40 minute presentation period followed by a 25 minute audience discussion and question period.

Deadline for submissions: October 15th, 2011.

Please send submissions electronically as MS Word or PDF files to BOTH:

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and

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