



## **Annual Report 2007-8**

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT – Helen Marie Guditis

During 2008 we celebrate the fifth anniversary of The Theatre Museum. This is a proud moment for the Trustees, Advisory Committee, staff and volunteers. We are on course toward our goals of protecting, preserving and perpetuating the legacy of the theatre.

Even as we continue as a museum-at-large we have the great good fortune of creating solid partnerships and friendships with the other cultural institutions throughout the city. During 2007- 8 we partnered with The Waterfront Museum for our SHOWBOAT ROUND THE BEND exhibition. This unique look at the history of the American showboat and its impact on commerce and culture in America has helped us to establish our national presence as we worked with scholars, performers and those who had lived their lives in the showboat world. The exhibition will continue on board the barge in Red Hook Brooklyn into 2009 for the celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Henry Hudson's discovery of the river that bears his name. Not only have we had the exhibition on display, but also in October of 2007 we had our first conference as a museum. The Grand Showboat weekend explored the major theme of the difference between the reality of life on the river and the romantic version idealized in theatre and the movies. It was a wonderful weekend for the packed houses that enjoyed the conference panels that alternated with performances of melodrama - TEN NIGHTS IN A BAR ROOM – an important piece of its day – along with acrobats, jugglers, and Shakespearean actors. This was the bill of fare that might have been on any showboat anywhere in America from the 1830's up until the 1930's. Since its opening, more than 8,000 children and adults have enjoyed learning about this fascinating world of the showboat. We look forward to welcoming many more before it closes.

Exhibitions coming up in 2009 include BROOKLYN SEES STARS - a collaboration with the Brooklyn Public Library that will then move on to Brooklyn Borough Hall and yet to be scheduled stops after that. This installation will celebrate the unique theatre history of Brooklyn and highlight its importance to Broadway.

Our public programs included Meet the Author book signings in person and on line at our website; panel discussions in collaboration with and at the Museum of the City of New York and at the Times Square Information Center in Manhattan; and a walking tour in collaboration with Federal Hall on Wall Street

Again this year, we celebrated Excellence in Theatre History Preservation and Theatre Arts Education with our annual awards ceremony. This year the festive event was held at the National Arts Club. We honored the contributions of Ben Brantley of the New York Times, Arts Horizons, Carmen de Lavallade and Ellen Burstyn to the world of the theatre. Our base of support continues to widen and grow.

The search for permanent gallery space for The Theatre Museum is still in full force. At present there are several possibilities. By this time next year, we intend to have secured our space and will be able to invite everyone to the opening of a Theatre Museum gallery of our own. We will continue our collaborations with other cultural institutions around the city, state and country.

I am particularly pleased to report that we are bringing our education program back to the schools. This year during the spring semester the students at the Harlem Village Academy charter school presented a concert version of Michael Roberts' play for young people MONSTERCANO. We look forward to being back at Village Academy during 2008-9.

The year ahead is a promising one as we see our goals being fulfilled and look forward to continuing growth and success.

Warmest regards,

Helen Marie Guditis  
President

### **The Theatre Museum's 20078 Theatre History Preservation Initiatives**

Implementation of exhibitions:

- ***SHOWBOAT ROUND THE BEND*** in collaboration with the Waterfront Museum in Red Hook Brooklyn, NY, Official opening in July with a reception. Public programs included The Grand Showboat Weekend conference in October 2007
- ***Photo archives from Broadway Archives*** - 35,000 photos from In Theatre Magazine to be catalogued, possible basis for exhibits

### **Theatre Arts Education Initiatives**

- Implementation of Direct from Broadway! Theatre Arts Residency at Harlem Village Academy in NYC during the spring of 2008
- Education outreach for each of the exhibitions to Arts providers and directly to schools.

### **Research into potential charter as well as private and parochial schoolsPublic Programs Initiatives**

- A." Meet the Author Series" – on line (for the revised website) and in person
  - Autumn 2007 at the Times Square Visitors Center – Stewart F. Lane LET'S PUT ON A PLAY – a book about producing for novices.
  - On Line at our Website:
  - - o B. Walking Tour and Lecture

- ***The Social Life of Colonial America*** at Federal Hall in Manhattan Lecture and Walking tour with architectural historian Craig Morrison November 2007

C. Awards for Excellence Ceremony at the National Arts Club honoring Theatre History Preservation – Ben Brantley of The NY Times and Theatre Arts Education - Arts Horizons and Carmen de Lavallade and Career Achievement – Ellen Burstyn – October 2007

**Real Estate Search for Permanent Galleries**

- Times Square
- Five Towns College – Dix Hills.

**Updated Website** – New features consistently being added as well as acting as an information tool to apprise the public about the events and plans of The Theatre Museum.

### **07-08 Lists of Contributors**

Individual Contributors List available upon request

Financial information available upon request

#### **Foundations**

42<sup>nd</sup> Street Development Corp.

David S. Steiner & Sylvia Steiner Charitable Trust

Jewish Communal Fund – Jamie deRoy

Margaret S. Rice and Henry Hart Rice Foundation

Stewart F. Lane & Bonnie Comley Foundation

Five Towns College

York Theatre Company

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**Unions**

Theatrical Protective Union Local One I.A.T.S.E  
Actors Equity Association

**Government**

New York Council for the Arts  
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**Corporate In Kind Good and Services Contribution**

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