

8-2017

New & Noteworthy, volume 2, no. 9

Ken Cerniglia

Vivian Chace

Andrea Kovich

Follow this and additional works at: <https://soundideas.pugetsound.edu/lmdanewsletter>

Recommended Citation

Cerniglia, Ken; Chace, Vivian; and Kovich, Andrea, "New & Noteworthy, volume 2, no. 9" (2017). *LMDA Newsletter*. 16.
<https://soundideas.pugetsound.edu/lmdanewsletter/16>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the LMDA Archive at Sound Ideas. It has been accepted for inclusion in LMDA Newsletter by an authorized administrator of Sound Ideas. For more information, please contact soundideas@pugetsound.edu.

**literary managers & dramaturgs
of the americas**

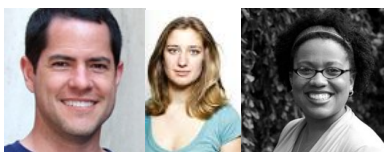
new & noteworthy

AUG 2017 - CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

Issue 2.9

Dear LMDA Members,

Thanks to everyone who planned, staffed, and participated in this year's "Access, Activism & Art" conference in Berkeley. Many, many hands, both seen and unseen, made it the success it was. We also thank Jeremy Stoller and the Communications Committee for documenting the conference on social media, our website, and in this newsletter for those of you who weren't able to attend. We're already at hard work on next year's "Crossing Borders" conference in Toronto, and we're looking forward to seeing even more of you there. Please reach out if you have ideas or would like to lend a hand!



Ken Cerniglia, President

Martine Kei Green-Rogers, President Elect

Corianna Moffatt, VP Conferences

conference archives:

- Read all the Tweets from [Day 1](#), [Day 2](#), and [Day 3](#)
 - check out [photos](#) from the Conference here (and if you've got any to add, e-mail communications@lmda.org)
 - watch HowlRound's [archived livestreams](#) of many of the events
-

updates from the Conference banquet

Elliott Hayes Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dramaturgy



The 2017 Elliott Hayes Award was presented to Nandita Dinesh; Special Commendations were given to Nanako Nakajima and Hanna Slättne.

Read more about these dramaturgs and their projects [here](#).

The Dramaturgy Driven Grant

The 2017 Dramaturgy Driven Grant was presented to Amy Jensen; Special Commendations were given to Megan Johnson and Tyler Crumrine.

Learn about their proposals [here](#).



and, a new dramaturgy award, in honor of [Leon Katz](#)

It was announced that the Leon Katz Memorial Celebration Committee is launching a [campaign](#) to raise an initial \$20,000 for a Leon Katz Prize for Dramaturgy which will be hosted, administered and awarded annually by LMDA.

More information forthcoming.

2 ECD Travel Grant recipients discuss their experiences @ the 2017 LMDA Conference



VIVIAN CHACE

Keeping in line with this year's theme of activism and social engagement, the 2017 LMDA Conference grappled with issues facing many artistic institutions in this tumultuous political climate. At the center of the panels and conference discussions was what can we, as dramaturgs, as individuals with the highest understanding of narrative mediation, can do to center and uplift the voices of the unheard and underserved. From exploring the stories emerging from the Flint Water crisis, to a review of contemporary indigenous Dramaturgy, to investigating sustainable theater models, we sought to explore every angle of critical engagement. No production, literary, or theoretical stone was left unturned.

Special recognition and focus must be afforded the women of color that were instrumental

in leading conversation throughout the weekend. They consistently humbled rooms with their wisdom, kindness, and poignant fire expressed firmly in reminder of what it means to listen and to center their narratives. As a trans artist and advocate myself, I was grateful for the opportunity to participate in such beautiful exchanges. This weekend often resembled the messy but productive push and pull necessary in all social transformation, personal or institutional, and it feels as if progress was made. While I cannot speak to the issues that do not affect me, I was excited by the willing receptiveness I felt when I spoke about the issues facing the transgender community, and look forward to continuing the work where improvement must be made.

Reflecting on the weekend, I'm excited about conversations surrounding the social responsibility of dramaturgs and the dramaturgy of unconventional performance. Traditionally, denied the proscenium, marginalized people have explored theatricality through unique cultural practices. Panels focusing on dancehall, drag, cabaret and indigenous ritual began to touch on how understanding these acts through a dramaturgical lens can be vital to centering the narratives of traditionally unheard communities."

Vivian is moving to Philadelphia where they will be assuming a season apprenticeship at InterAct, a new play theater focused on the intersections of drama and social justice.

ANDREA KOVICH

As an emerging theatre artist who has a disability, the guiding topic "Access, Activism and Art" had a deeply personal meaning since it directly engages with my concerns and interests. My overarching career goal is to be part of the change that I want to see in theatre and in society, both in terms of attitudes about people with disabilities and how they are represented. Attending this conference was more than an opportunity for professional development; I saw it as my own form of activism.



Coming into this conference, I had so many questions about where I belong within this vast profession and where I'm going. Over the course of the four days, I attended many sessions that expanded my thinking and sparked new questions. How do I transform

failure into something positive? How do I think of myself, and reframe my position, into a leader? How can I be more cognizant and sensitive towards indigenous people in my practice? How do I incorporate greenturgy and environmental-consciousness into my work? Needless to say, it was all a little mind-blowing.

This conference represented many firsts for me—first professional theatre conference I attended, first time I really thought about activism in my work, first time I was part of a panel discussion with my colleagues, first time I was in a room full of people who actually knew what a dramaturg does...

Looking back, I definitely experienced firsthand the benefits of attending a professional conference. The profound thoughts, the multiple perspectives in the room, discovering allies and making connections—it was all like a breath of fresh air after the theoretical discussions of graduate school. I left energized and with a better sense of direction for my career, as well as a renewed commitment in my personal mission to further the mainstream visibility of disability theatre.

For the upcoming season, Andrea is working on the development & premiere of a new musical, as well as pursuing other freelance opportunities in her hometown, Seattle, WA.

Stay tuned for information about next year's



conference in Toronto!

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
LMDA · PO Box 586 · New York, NY 10108 · USA

The MailChimp logo is centered within a dark gray rounded rectangle. The text "MailChimp." is written in a white, cursive script font.