

## **Department of Theatre Arts**

### **Action Update**

**2009**

Staffing support continues to be an issue. There is a critical need for two part-time positions or one full-time position as described below:

1. Theatre Manager Position: This position should coordinate and track budgets and budget reporting, manage the public interface with the department including publicity (mailings, the press, posters, PR and special events), programs, ticket sales, front of house management and post production archiving. At present these responsibilities are inadequately handled by staff and students who already have too many other responsibilities. We are the only theatre department of our size in this region without staff support for these requirements.

2. Theatre Safety Position: The request for this position goes back to the early 1990's. The position has a full PDQ on file, and was filled for 8 months admirably by Malina Rodriguez, who then took an East Coast position. However, the position was never funded by the university! It was paid out of already minimal departmental production supplies and maintenance budgets. Because the position requires not only thorough training in power tools as well as safety rigging on the catwalks, the person has to have a background in theatre safety issues. At present, the technical director continues the program we have instituted, but his responsibilities are too broad to give safety issues the full attention they demand.

Without this support, we are unable to grow our program adequately beyond its present scope, through adding more public events and performances safely produced and adequately publicized. We expect to be able to make significant improvement in front-of-house amenities with the bond money earmarked for the Dailey Theatre this coming year. We would like to be able to make this facility and program more attractive both to prospective students and to the public that supports our productions and program.