



IMTAL at 20: Charting the Future
 The IMTAL Americas 2010 Conference
 August 20-22
 St. Louis, MO
 Schedule

All sessions and events are at the Missouri History Museum, with the exception of the conference dinner, which will be at Eclipse Restaurant.

August 20, 2010

9am -1pm	Registration	Lee Auditorium
9:30-11:30am	IMTAL Americas Board Meeting	Schnucks Classroom
1-3:30 pm	Keeping It Fresh: A Toolkit for Excellence	Lee Auditorium
4-6pm	Open Showcase	TBD
6:00pm	Opening Reception and Dance party	Lee Auditorium

August 21, 2010

8:45am	Remarks and Announcements	Lee Auditorium
9-10:30am	Sessions	Lee/Millstone
Workshop	Using Museum Theatre to Tackle Tough Topics	Millstone
Performance +	Community Inspired Scripts	Lee
10:30-11am	Break	Foyer
11am-12:30pm	Sessions	Lee/Millstone
Workshop	Lots of Cooks, Good Broth	Millstone
Performance +	Am I Blowing Hot Air or Billowing Their Sails	Lee
12:30pm	Lunch on your own	
2:00pm	Missouri History Museum performance	Gallery
2:30-4pm	Sessions	Lee/Millstone
2:30 Individual paper	Build it up! The Four Pillars of Museum Theatre	Millstone
3:15 Performance	Where Fires Dwell, Teens Make History	Lee
6:00pm	Dinner	Eclipse

August 22, 2010

9:45am	Remarks and Announcements	Lee Auditorium
10 – 11:30am	Sessions	Lee/Schnucks
Workshop	Help! My Actors Have No Training & the Audience is Waiting	Schnucks
Performance +	Writing Through Improv/Poop Happens	Lee
12-1:30	Closing lunch, final thoughts, thanks	Schnucks



IMTAL at 20: Charting the Future

The IMTAL Americas 2010 Conference

August 20-22

St. Louis, MO

Schedule

Workshop Descriptions

Opening Day Workshop: Keeping It Fresh: A Toolkit for Excellence

This workshop will focus on the skills and techniques that allow for consistently effective, high-quality museum theatre performances. Participants will work to establish the fundamentals of excellent museum theatre performance. We will discuss common challenges and strategies for addressing them, including: keeping long-running performances fresh, holding the audience, performance in untraditional spaces and more. This workshop is a must-do for seasoned museum theater actors and directors as well as museum theatre professionals who do not have formal theatre backgrounds.

Led by Adam Luckey, Kentucky Historical Society

Workshops:

1. Using Museum Theatre to Tackle Tough Topics

This session will examine a couple of case studies of programs offered at the Monterey Bay Aquarium that have been “calls to action” with visitors related to ocean conservation topics. Participants will review the development process for these programs and the evaluation tools. Then we will break into groups to brainstorm “tough topics” provided by participants and develop program goals and tools to evaluate them that would guide program development back at home.

Presenter: Simone Mortan, Manager of Guide Programs, Monterey Bay Aquarium

2. Help, My Actors Have No Training and the Audience is Waiting!

Sometimes we do not have the luxury to hire or have on staff trained actors but we still have the desire to perform theatrical works. In this hands-on session we will explore techniques to better prepare existing museum staff to become more comfortable with assuming more theatrical styles in their presentations. Much of this session will be based on a case study at the Franklin Institute to use Interpreters in a Galileo themed show. We will also discuss the key concept of “heightened self” and how this can be used to create character based performances.

Presenter: Paul Taylor, Traveling Science Show and Community Outreach Manager, Franklin Institute



IMTAL at 20: Charting the Future

The IMTAL Americas 2010 Conference

August 20-22

St. Louis, MO

Schedule

3. Lots of Cooks; Good Broth! Techniques for Writing Scripts with a Group.

Have you ever been tasked with developing a script with a group of people, be they colleagues, students, or volunteers? While it seems impossible, there are ways to guide the group process and end up with a quality script that accomplishes the necessary objectives. Learn about how two organizations teamed up to do just this and discuss techniques and strategies to implement group scriptwriting in different institutions. Then embark on the process yourself as we develop a brand new script as a group.

Presenters: Jillian Finkle, Program Manager/Exhibit Developer, National Children's Museum; Lisa Hayes, Director of Education and Public Programs, The Accokeek Foundation

Performance + Discussion:

1. Community Inspired Scripts

By examining programs that have utilized community stories, this session will indicate when, why, and how museums can include the public in script development. Presenters and participants will consider a range of challenges, including addressing sensitive issues, managing staff, working with communities, and building institutional support. In this session, participants will experience community inspired performances, "Voices" and "Suitcase Science" from the Science Museum of Minnesota.

Presenter: Stephanie Long, Director of Public Programs, Science Museum of Minnesota

2. Am I Blowing Hot Air or Billowing Their Sails: Steering Audience Discussions

Attendees will experience the newest production by the Kentucky Historical Society Museum Theatre program, participate in a 10-15 minute modeled post-performance audience discussion. Afterwards the presenters will discuss how and why the program was created and will present findings that examine the methods used to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. The 15-minute play "Theater of War: Unresolved Conflict of Vietnam" was developed to interpret the collections exhibited in the new *Kentucky Military Treasures* exhibition.



IMTAL at 20: Charting the Future

The IMTAL Americas 2010 Conference

August 20-22

St. Louis, MO

Schedule

Presenters: Greg Hardison, Director of Museum Theatre, Kentucky Historical Society;
Adam Luckey, Museum Theatre Specialist, Kentucky Historical Society

3. Writing through Improv: Using Improv in the show creation process

The creation of a new museum theater piece can be a long process. Improvisation offers a path to a fun, efficient, and cooperative process for show creation and character development. *Poop Happens* is a fun, high-energy, hands-on Science Theater show, created using an improvisational development process. It also incorporates elements of improvisation in the performance to build audience involvement and personalize the guest experience. This session focuses on improvisation as a way to affect creativity in the development process and personalize performances. The post-performance discussion will focus on using improvisation in the show creation process as well as during performances.

Presenters: Heather Barnes, Director Guest Experiences, Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, and Matt Higbee, Floor Development Coordinator, Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago

Individual Paper: Build it up! The Four Pillars of Museum Theatre

Roberta Gasbarre, the Artistic Director of Discovery Theater, director of the Smithsonian Institution's educational theater for young people, will present the four core concepts that are used at the nation's museum to present and create engaging, enlightening and entertaining programming for young audiences. She will use the metaphor of "the pillars": creating a strong foundation for a well-built presentation, whether it be a solo performer, portrayal, or science interactive or a fully produced museum theatre play.

Presenter: Roberta Gasbarre, Artistic Director, Discovery Theater, Smithsonian Institution.