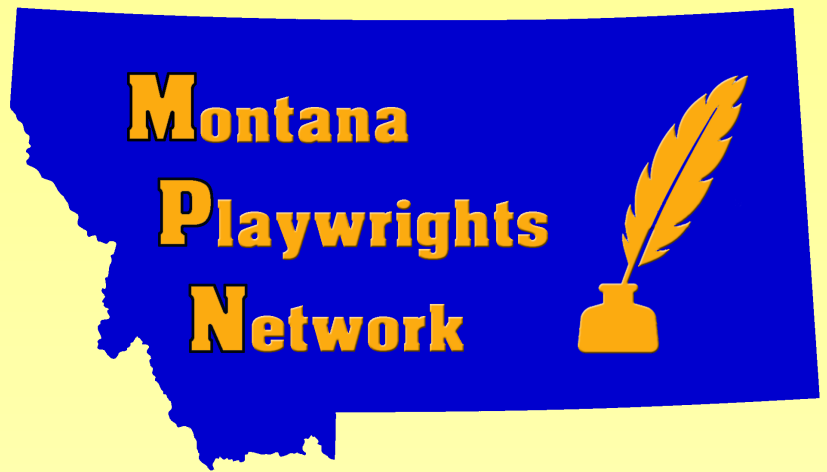


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www.MontanaPlaywrights.org



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MPN News

The official newsletter of the Montana Playwrights Network

Inside this Issue:

Network Announcements

Plans for 2018

Recap of the Montana Playwrights Conference

And more...

Happy Anniversary
MPN!



Keynote Speaker, James Still delivering an inspiring address at the first ever Montana Playwrights Conference.



Pamela Mencher

Greetings from the President

Hello, MPN members and friends! 2017 proved to be a busy year for the Montana Playwrights Network!

To begin, MPN was incorporated in Montana just a year ago as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation recognized by the IRS.

The Charter Board of Directors started last December by establishing the organization, and then got busy with preparations for our inaugural event, the **Montana Playwrights Conference**, held at **Helena College, November 2 & 3, 2017**. This ambitious undertaking was supported by educational institutions, Humanities Montana, the Montana Arts Council and many local Helena businesses, as well as many private philanthropists. We offer our sincere gratitude for their generous support of the Conference and related MPN activities in 2017.

The Montana Playwrights Conference featured two days of inspiring and informative workshops offered by outstanding presenters such as professional playwright and Keynote, **James Still**, Associate Keynote, **Dr. Xan Johnson**, **Tony Mannen**, **Jud Harmon**, **Greg Owens**, **Mike Jetty**, **Janice Jamruszka-Wilson**, **Robert L. Holter**, and **Pamela Mencher**. Day time events were followed by evenings of entertaining theatre performances presented by **Heartscope Ensemble** and **Mike Jetty** in **Montana Tales**; and then closing the Conference, the theatre company, **Random Acts of Theatre** featuring **Jud Harmon** in **Barrymore's Ghost**, from Twin Falls, Idaho. We also extend **sincere gratitude** to the **volunteers** who worked behind the scenes day and night in taking care of all other tasks necessary in creating the Conference, especially **Jane Ogle**, **Kelli Krieschel**, **Pearl Allen**, **Janice Jamruszka-Wilson** and **Robert Holter**. And, last, we thank those who braved the first major snowstorm and cold weather of the season to participate in this exciting and inspirational event.

Based upon feedback from our members at the **first MPN Annual Membership Meeting on November 3**, the Board of Directors has identified some **activities** planned for the **new year**. We look forward to seeing you in **2018!**

Heartscope Ensemble actors featured in the 2017 performance of *Montana Tales* with Pamela Mencher (center).



Jud Harmon as John Barrymore in *Barrymore's Ghost*.



2017 Montana Playwrights Conference



MPN in 2018!

After successfully launching the **Montana Playwrights Network** in 2017 with **free workshops** around the State and the **Montana Playwrights Conference** in Helena; in 2018, MPN is working on the following:

Staff with the Verge Theater in Bozeman and the **Montana Playwrights Network** are working out details of a **partnership event scheduled for 2018**. After the parameters are finalized, we'll share the specifics. Meanwhile, the Verge has sent out a **call to Montana playwrights** to submit original works to be considered for workshopping, staged readings and full productions. Plays selected for workshops and staged readings will automatically be considered for full productions in a future season. **Deadline for consideration for summer, 2018, is March 1**. For questions, etc., **contact Jessie at Jessie@vergetheater.com, or call her at 406-451-4277**.

In Helena, MPN will offer a two-part event, "The 2018 Playwrights Challenge". The first part is a **get-together social event in May**, followed by an **informative discussion about work-shopping processes used in new play development**, and then closes with a presentation **outlining the terms of the 2018 Playwrights Challenge**. Next, we'll follow up in **September by presenting staged readings of original scripts generated in the Playwrights Challenge** process. Watch our website for more details about this great opportunity for playwrights!

MPN members will once again offer free workshops about Story and playwriting around Montana in 2018. Details will be published on our website and in your local newspaper. These workshops are **for beginners and experienced writers alike**. Join us!

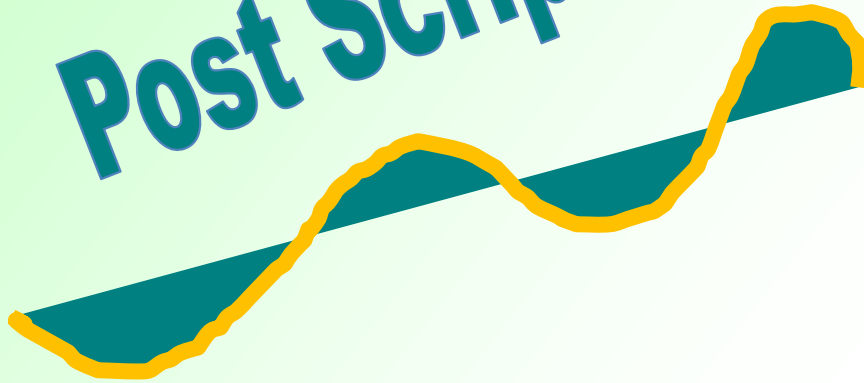
2017 RMTA Reunion Party



Former RMTA Members and Presenters:

From left: Robert Holter, Kelli Krieschel, Tom Cordingly, Pamela Mencher, Xan Johnson, James Still, Tony Mannen
Below, from left: Marianne Adams, Jordan Mencher, Colleen Watson

Post Scripts



- On this **back page of MPN News**, we'll print any announcements you might like to share with our membership and the general public that highlight writers' news and associated events around Montana. Send us information that's not longer than 80 words (or so) and we'll include it in the next MPN News issue to come out in April, 2018.
- Keep your eye on our website for more information about **MPN Meet & Greet** get-togethers and other events around our great State in 2018.
- If you want a **copy of MPN's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws**, just send a note to: montanaplaywrights@gmail.com.
- **Share this newsletter** with your friends and anyone else who you think might be interested in our events or joining the Network. Go to our **website** to get more information: www.MontanaPlaywrights.org.

"This is our story to tell. You'd think for all the reading I do, I would have thought about this before, but I haven't. I've never once thought about the interpretative, the story telling aspect of life, of my life. I always felt like I was in a story, yes, but not like I was the author of it, or like I had any say in its telling whatsoever."

– Jandy Nelson, *The Sky Is Everywhere*