

The NEW THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP GUILD

December 2024

Richard Carrothers – History of the New Theatre & Restaurant

Despite the excitement of the Chiefs playing in town and the Royals chasing a World Series opportunity, an enthusiastic crowd gathered to hear Richard Carrothers, co-owner of the New Theatre & Restaurant, recount his inspiring journey in the Kansas City theater scene alongside his longtime collaborator and co-owner, Dennis Hennessy.

Their partnership began at the Old Jewish Community Theatre, where they flourished under the mentorship of the late Dr. Patricia McIlrath, founder of the Missouri Repertory Theatre. In 1972 the duo opened Tiffany's Attic with Neil Simon's *Last of the RedHot Lovers*, featuring Patsy Climes (later known as Morgan Fairchild). Buoyed by its success, they launched the Waldo Astoria in 1973, further cementing their legacy.

Carrothers also shared tales of their adventurous foray into Hollywood, including their production of *Groucho*, which found success on stages in New York and London. After closing Tiffany's Attic and Waldo Astoria in 1992, Carrothers and Hennessy launched the New Theatre & Restaurant. Today, it stands as the largest and most successful dinner theatre in the United States, welcoming over 250,000 guests annually, including 25,000 loyal season ticket holders.

The event offered a heartfelt glimpse into the duo's contributions to the arts and their enduring impact on Kansas City's cultural landscape.



Dr. Collin Vorbeck Guest at Board Meeting

The New Theatre Scholarship Guild was honored to welcome Dr. Collin Vorbeck, Interim Chair of the Theatre Division at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory, as a guest at a recent Guild board meeting.

Dr. Vorbeck, a prominent figure in Kansas City's theatre community and a key contributor to the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, shared his inspiring vision for the future of theatre at UMKC. He emphasized his commitment to fostering emerging talent and strengthening ties with community partners like the Guild.

Under Dr. Vorbeck's leadership, the Theatre Division aims to elevate its programs further while enriching the local arts landscape. His enthusiasm for collaboration reflects a shared dedication to supporting the next generation of theatre professionals.

The New Theatre Scholarship Guild is proud to support the Theatre Division by awarding five of its 17 scholarships to its talented students, solidifying a vital partnership that fuels artistic growth and opportunity.



Vicki Lewis, Special Guest of the Board of Directors Luncheon

The Special Guest at The New Theatre Scholarship Guild Board's annual luncheon at the Milburn Country Club was Vicki Lewis, currently starring in the Off-Broadway musical *Nunsense* at the New Theatre & Restaurant. Vicki is best known for her role as Beth in the NBC sitcom *NewsRadio* and as the voice of Deb in *Finding Nemo*. The event also featured a delightful musical performance by Susan Mitchell on the keyboard.



Joe Fox -VP Theatre production



Left to right: Lora Smith, NTSG, Dennis Hennessy, Co-owner New Theatre & Restaurant, Seth McClintock, President, NTSG, Richard Carruthers, Co-owner New Theatre and Restaurant, Ed See, NTSG



Left to right: Marilyn Thompson, Doug Woolery, Executive Director, New Theatre & Restaurant, Nancy Greenlee



Left to right: Mark Rohman, VP of Culinary Services, Vicki Lewis, starring in *Nunsense*, Joe Fox, VP of Theatre Productions



Left to right: Linda Seiner, Richard "Buzz" Herman, Linda Hartman



Left to right: Kath Klostermann, NTSG, Todd Lanker, Associate Producer, Vicki Lewis, Don Watkins, NTSG

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2025-2026

The Nominating Committee, composed of past Nominating Chair Lora Smith, past President Nancy Greenlee, and members Jackie Stokes, Marilyn Thompson, and Penny Gamm, convened to propose a slate of officers for the upcoming year.

The proposed slate was presented during the Board of Directors Luncheon on December 10. Guild members will receive details regarding the slate of officers, who will be officially elected on a designated date by the New Theatre Scholarship Guild Board of Directors.

Additional nominations may be submitted to the Nominating Committee Chair in writing. Such submissions must have the prior approval of the candidate and be supported by at least ten members. All requests must be received no later than seven days before the March meeting.

The proposed slate of officers is as follows:

President: Seth McClintock

First Vice President: Jackie Stokes

Second Vice President: Marilyn Thompson

Treasurer: Kathy Klostermann

Recording Secretary: Kelly Wilcox

Corresponding Secretary: Linda Seiner

Member-at-Large: Don Watkins

Immediate Past President: Nancy Greenlee

Meet and Greet Behind the Scenes

This season as a special benefit to The New Theatre Scholarship Guild Membership only, you get invited to a wine & cheese cocktail party at the New Theatre & Restaurant lobby to meet some of the heroes behind the scenes of the New Theatre & Restaurant productions.

Come and meet Todd Lanker who has served as the Associate Producer for New Theatre since 2021. He previously served as Artistic Director for Shakespeare in the Shed and Forge Repertory Theatre, Executive Producer and head writer for Just Deserts Films, and Associate Artistic Director for Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre. He is no stranger to the NTR stage, having appeared alongside Jamie Farr in LEND ME A TENOR, Charles Shaughnessy in GAME SHOW, and John Davidson in BECKY'S NEW CAR. He also directed the smash hit, THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG starring Armin Shimerman and SQUABBLES, starring Donny Most.



February 10, 2025

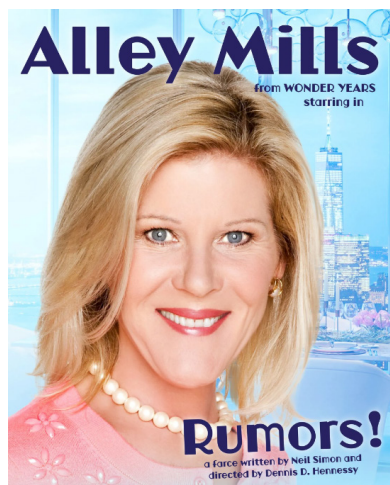
May 5, 2025

See you at 6:00 p.m. for wine and cheese. We meet Todd Lanker at 6:30 p.m.

Exclusive to members only. Watch for additional information coming soon!

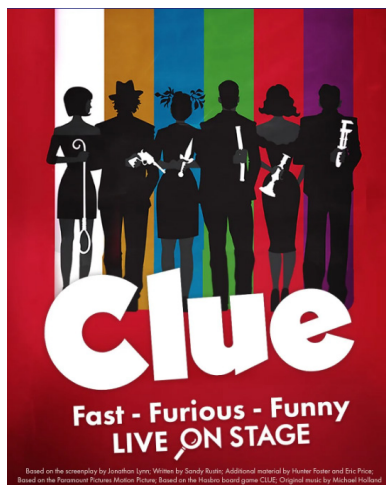
Dress Rehearsals & Events Scheduled for 2025

All dress rehearsals begin at 1:30 P.M.



RUMORS

Directed by Dennis Hennessy
Wednesday, February 5, 2025



CLUE

Directed by Jerry Jay Cranford
Thursday June 26, 2025



A Night to Remember

Gala at the Milburn Country Club
Sunday April 6, 2025

In Memory of Dick Horn

Richard "Dick" Horn's dedication to The New Theatre Scholarship Guild was truly remarkable. His active involvement, whether serving in key positions on the Guild Board or participating in Meet and Greets, demonstrated his deep commitment to fostering the Guild's mission. He was always enthusiastic and enjoyed connecting with members. His tenure as President from 2013 to 2014 highlighted his leadership abilities and passion for advancing the organization's goals, leaving a lasting impact on the Guild and its members.



2024-25

Board Members

OFFICERS

President

Seth Mc Clintock

Vice President

Caryn Hastings

Second Vice President

Jackie Stokes

Recording Secretary

Marilyn Thompson

Treasurer

Linda Hartman

Corresponding Secretary

Linda Seiner

Member-at-Large

Don Watkins

Past President

Nancy Greenlee

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advisory

John Wittenborn

Bylaws and Parliamentarian

Ed See

Culinary/Hospitality

Jim Holzmark

Dress Rehearsal

Nancy Greenlee

Historian/Public Relations

Kathy Klostermann

Meet and Greet

Jackie Stokes

Membership Interim Co- Chairs

Linda Hartman, Lora Smith

Publications/Social Media/ Communications

Lora Smith

Scholarship

Richard (Buzz) Herman

Scholarship Liaisons

KSU - Jerry Ogden

KU - Bill & Penny Gamm

UCM - Ashley Miller-Scully

UMKC - Sharon Pearce