



STAGE CALL

IATSE 205 PO BOX 142 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767
Volume I, Number 1 WWW.IATSE205.ORG May 2005

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"All labor that uplifts
humanity has dignity
and importance and
should be undertaken
with painstaking
excellence."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Message from the President

Many congratulations and thanks to Jesse Wolter, Jeff Ellinger, and Rachel Magee for their hard work on this, the inaugural issue of Local 205's Member Newsletter. I encourage all of you to follow their example and make this publication your own by submitting photos and announcements and ideas to the Newsletter Committee.

Or better yet give a little of your time and effort. Don't worry if publishing is not your thing, there are an infinite number of ways to help build a strong Local. Remember, we are a volunteer organization; that means it's up to you to find a way to get involved.

As president, I am committed to transforming this Local into an effective labor organization. But that doesn't mean a thing unless you, the rank and file members, are working with me. If you agree that we desperately need to change- and I think that might be why you elected me- do something to bring about that change. This newsletter's very existence, produced entirely by rank and file members like you, is evidence of movement in the right direction. It's great that we've stood up and climbed out of the ditch, but this road that we are now on is long and the greater part of our journey is ahead of us. We'll get tired, but we'll also get stronger. And remember there are rest stops along the way and our destination is nothing short of a better life.

Let's stop waiting for some good hearted stranger to stop and pick us up. Let's walk on our own two feet to where we want to be. Together we can make our lives better.

Welcome to our first issue of Stage Call, the official and first ever printed newsletter for IATSE Local 205!

This newsletter is not only intended to help strengthen communication within our local, but it will also represent our membership to the general public. In other words, this newsletter is about the membership and for the membership and we encourage everyone in Local 205 to contribute to it, whether it is a simple joke, or an item for sale, or something more involved such as a written article. To get you all thinking, here is a list of subject areas we would like to include, space permitting, in each issue to which members can contribute:

- Members bulletin board
- Photos of members at work
- Educational tip
- Joke or cartoon
- Local news – have you heard/read/seen something you think the membership would benefit from knowing?
- Volunteer news – are you volunteering for a worthy cause? Tell us about it!
- Announcements

Submissions and feedback can be mailed to Newsletter, PO Box 142, Austin, TX, 78767, or e-mailed us at **StageCall@IATSE205.org**
We look forward to hearing from you.

NEWS

About Local 205

AUSTIN LYRIC OPERA STAGE EMPLOYEES SAY “YES” TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

On April 27th, 2005, a National Labor Relations Board supervised Certification of Representation election was held, offering the Austin Lyric Opera stage employees the choice of collective bargaining representation by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 205. In an overwhelming endorsement for collective bargaining representation, a majority of the stage employees unanimously voted “Yes”, setting the stage for future contract negotiations with the ALO management.

Having won the right to bargain collectively the ALO stage employees are hopeful of open and honest negotiations, bringing forth an agreement that will honor both parties and usher in a new era of professional respect and equity across the board. Already management has agreed to the payment of overtime after 40 hours in the work week.

An issue of utmost importance is the implementation of wage parity among all stage employees. Currently the wardrobe employees - predominantly female workers whose job it is to dress the performers and build and maintain costumes - make less per hour on average than the mostly male stagehands working in the other areas of scenery, props, lighting and audio. Contributions to the Union health plan is also on the worker's collective bargaining agenda.

In light of this victory for the ALO stage employees, workers everywhere can take comfort in knowing that collective bargaining representation is not only desirable but achievable.

- **Local featured in IATSE's Bulletin**

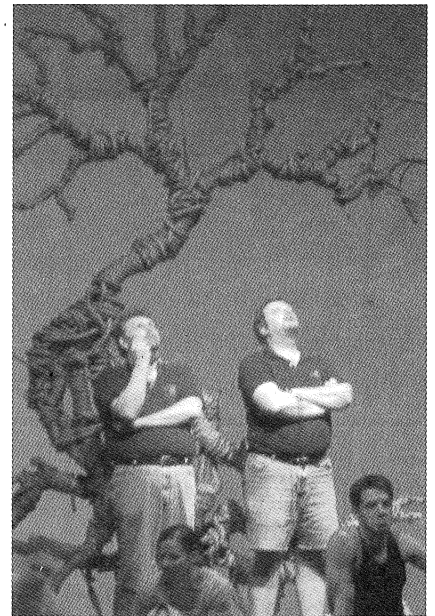
Many of you will have seen a familiar face in the union's recent *Bulletin*! Local 205 received a couple of mentions in this issue. Most noticeably an article congratulating our President, Brad Wilson, on receiving his Union Plus National Labor College Scholarship, and also a summary of Local 205's report to the Mid-Winter meeting of the General Executive Board held in Houston, recognizing our current organizing efforts.

- **IATSE Defense Fund Committee awards Local 205 \$4,000 to cover legal expenses**

This money will act as a welcome reimbursement for the legal costs Local 205 incurred mostly from Austin Musical Theatre's bankruptcy and contract negotiations with the Paramount Theatre. The membership decided to put \$3,000 of this money into the general fund and earmark \$500 towards organizing our jurisdiction and \$500 towards launching this newsletter.

- **Local members obtain road work**

Member Keith Harris has procured advance work on the national tour of Phantom of the Opera and D. Gomez has secured the position of Flyman on the national tour of Dora the Explorer.



Brothers D. Markus and
W. Sheffield working Ballet
Austin at Bass Concert Hall



Late-breaking News and News for Members Only

Aloha! Hawaii Calling!

Nominations for 2 delegates to be sent to the 65th Quadrennial Convention in Hawaii to represent Local 205 will be conducted during May's general meeting. Note, the IA typically pays for flights and approves a per diem that is usually more than the daily rate of a hotel bill for 10 days stay. Expect good attendance and some stiff competition next meeting!

Dan DiTolla and Joel Youngermann meet with members

Members were invited to attend a special meeting with IATSE's Dan DiTolla and Joel Youngermann this month to discuss the Local's organizing efforts. It was a very informative meeting with both DiTolla and Youngermann proving to be charismatic, straightforward and honest in their opinions. When organizing DiTolla and Youngermann said the Local must offer assurances against impediments may deter prospective applicants. They supported the Local's decision to waive initiation fees, pointing out that it is extremely hard to attract prospective members already working in the industry if a union is asking them to pay for the privilege of having a job that is already theirs. Similarly it is unattractive to prospects to be admitted as apprentices and put at the bottom of the call list, thus they need to be admitted as journeymen and given seniority in the position they hold when entering a local. Other subjects that were touched on included Local 205's desire for a better apprenticeship program, the payroll company, the death fund and bargaining procedures. DiTolla and Youngermann also called on local members to get involved with the community as much as possible to help promote Local 205, such as taking part in a highway clean up, and advised members to take as many non-union calls as possible as this helps show "good face" and again promotes the Local.

More Local 205 News

- **LOCAL 205 NEEDS YOU!** Currently there are only 2 members contributing to the Organizing Fund. Show your support for your local by contributing to this important fund.
- **STREAMLINING COMMUNICATION.** To assist Secretary Davis and to facilitate efficient and timely communication within the Local and it's various committees, trustees and mediums, a Communications Committee has been set up. Members Keith Harris, Maverick Goodson and Melanie Steele make up this new committee. And on the subject of communication, Secretary Davis respectfully requests that all committees submit copies of their reports in person or via e-mail so he may add them to meeting minutes.
- **VOLUNTEER ORGANIZING COMMITTEE ISSUES WARNING TO MEMBERS.** During April's general meeting, the Volunteer Organizing Committee reported that some members within the Local have, "chosen to 'speak down' to prospective members, thereby undercutting current organizing efforts. More specifically, referring to non-members as 'scabs' and criticizing them for taking work away from the Local." The committee pointed out that, "the membership needs to understand that this is not an opinion that is endorsed by the Local in any way, and is extremely detrimental to the efforts of the Local to organize the jurisdiction." If complaints continue the committee warned offending members will face, "proper disciplinary action."
- **CONGRATULATIONS** to member Ron Cicchini and Emily who recently announced the birth of their new baby.

Current Boards and Committees

Death Fund Trustees: Judy Drouin, Doug Grady, Rita Kelso

Payroll Fund Trustees: Judy Drouin, Stacey Harris, Larry Lehew

General Fund Trustees: Jon Vickers, John Stewart, Keith Harris

Austin AFL/CIO Council Delegates: Glenn Dunn, Brad Wilson, Martin Blacker

COPE Convention Delegate: Keith Harris

Volunteer Organizing Committee: Eric Miller (Chair), John Przyborski, Rita Kelso, Don Driscoll, Frank Cortez, Valerie Sadorra-Banks, Martin Blacker, Chris Hewetson, Rebecca Skelton

PTPA Contract Committee: Jon Maloy (Chair), John Przyborski, Ron Mann, Keith Harris, Bill Sheffield, Jerry Reed, C.J. Swinburn, Martin Blacker

Newsletter Committee: Jesse Wolter (Chair), Jeff Ellinger, Rachel Magee

Communications Committee: Rita Kelso, Keith Harris, Maverick Goodson

A constitutional amendment committee is being formed with Keith Harris as Chairman.

Insurance Questions?

Nat'l Benefits Funds
Health & Annuity
55 West 39th St Fifth Floor
New York, NY 10018

800-456-3863

212-897-3232

Members' Bulletin Board

FOR SALE Nearly new "Music of the Spheres":
Pentatonic wind chimes. 29" L Soprano chime
retail price \$70, asking \$40. 90" L Bass chime,
retail price \$575, asking \$400.

Both in excellent condition.

Call Rachel, 692-0536.

Get Info From Local 205 On The Web

Missed the general meeting or want to know upcoming events? Go to www.iatse205.org and select 'Links' then the link '<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Local205>'. To join, click the link "Join" and a moderator will send an invitation e-mail to you. Follow the instructions contained in that e-mail. Once a member, revisit the site and "sign in". You can then choose what to browse from a list at the top left. 'Files' is where you will find meeting minutes and 'calendar' is where you will be able to view upcoming events. Need Internet access? It's free at any Austin Public Library.

Report from the Vice President

With the change in executive board positions it has been challenging for me to transition one office to the other. It's important that Local 205 establish a routine training program in response to our organizing efforts. To our credit the new crop of apprentices possess a variety of skills that will be beneficial to every member. I'm working on building a curriculum with the concentration on areas where this local needs improvement: simply put, advancing our audio and video skills. We can be more competitive in the job market when we prove we have a consistent training program. As always I encourage members who may know of some resources we can utilize to assist our cause please contact me and we'll set it up.

This was the idea when brother Walter Olden invited us to a lighting board seminar. The event took place on April 16th & 17th and provided attendees the chance to learn basic and advanced training on the Strand 500-300 series console. The participants were shown the new programming capabilities of this Strand series. It is my goal to have more intensive seminars in the future.

For now though, Local 205 can expect training sessions on stagecraft. Check the union call-in line (371-1217 mailbox 3) for information regarding upcoming classes. This newsletter will also provide our members with an additional source for keeping informed.

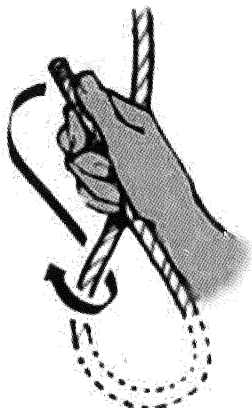
Fraternally yours,

Don E. Driscoll
Vice President

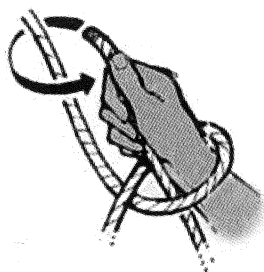
Class Info
call 371-1217
Mailbox 3

Tying a Bowline With One Hand

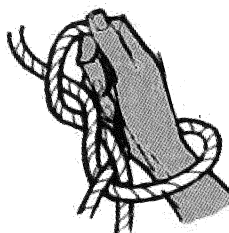
Step #1



Step #2



Step #3



Step #4



Mark Your Calendar Now
for Local 205 Meeting Dates:
May 16, 2005 at 1 p.m.
June 20, 2005 at 10 a.m.
July 18, 2005 at 10 a.m.



IATSE Local 205
P.O. Box 142
Austin, TX 78767



www.iatse205.org

Upcoming Events

- **Contact**
May 7-8 Paramount Theatre
- **Bill Cosby**
May 8 Bass Concert Hall
- **The Producers**
May 24-May 29 Bass Concert Hall
- **Peter Cincotti & Chris Botti**
June 2 Paramount Theatre
- **Margaret Cho**
June 10 Bass Concert Hall
- **Gypsy Kings**
June 11 Bass Concert Hall

Local 205 members can get the latest info at
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Local205>
Details inside!

Leet's

Rental Service Inc. DBA

Austin Theatrical Supply

*4125A Todd Lane
Austin, Texas 78744*

Jon L. Vickers, President

(512)448-2001

Serving Austin's theatre community for over 50 years