



STAGE CALL

IATSE 205 PO BOX 142 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767

Volume I, Number 3

STAGECALL@IATSE205.ORG

January 2006

Message from the President

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 205

Business Representative
Jon Maloy
JonMaloy@IATSE205.org

tel: 512.371.1217

fax: 512.458.1507

President
Brad Wilson

BradWilson@IATSE205.org

Treasurer
Rita Kelso

RitaKelso@IATSE205.org

Secretary
Bon Davis

BonDavis@IATSE205.org

Vice-President
Don Driscoll

DonDriscoll@IATSE205.org

Sergeant at Arms
Ron Mann

RonMann@IATSE205.org

Stage Call Newsletter
stagecall@IATSE205.org
Editors Rachel Magee & Jeff Ellinger

Those who profess to favor freedom and yet depreciate agitation, are people who want crops without ploughing the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning; they want the ocean without the roar of its many waters. The struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, or it may be both. But it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand; it never has and it never will.

-Frederick Douglass

It's been a year since I became President of this local and there have been some accomplishments that many of us can take great pride in. For instance, this newsletter, and a new local constitution and by laws currently awaits endorsement by the International. Also, there is, for the first time ever, a collective bargaining agreement between the Austin Lyric Opera and this Local that, at the time of this writing, awaits ratification from the membership and the Opera's Board of Trustees. And we hosted a highly successful community event at Ruta Maya Coffee House, the screening of the film *Walmart: The High Cost of Low Price*. These are all signs of positive change. But they are offset by some continuing difficulties.

Our negotiations with the Paramount Theater, some sixteen months old now, are only marginally closer to a resolution. The Local 205 Organizing Fund no longer has any contributors and the committee it was established to support has stagnated instead of continuing to push for a better life for all stage employees in Central Texas. This leads me to the last problem I want to mention here: the general disconnection and apathy of most of the membership continues unchecked.

In my opinion, it is this last situation that, if allowed to continue unchanged, will prove to be the undoing of this local. We are at a point in our history both locally and nationally where each individual member of the labor movement must ask themselves why they are in a union and what they hope to get from their membership. If most of you answer is that you are a union member to get more work and receive services in exchange for your dues, then we are doomed. It is only a matter of time before Local 205 quietly fades from existence. But if most of you are members because you believe that unions are the only real hope for those of us that do the actual work of the world, then we have a chance. But my question to you is what are you doing about it? Chances are it is not enough. Join this struggle. It is after all, your fight too. Don't continue to passively watch it or we will all lose.

In solidarity,

Brad Wilson
President

Health and Welfare
Fund Questions?
800-456-3863
212-897-3232

Report from Vice President Don Driscoll

With the New Year come new challenges for Local 205. While on the verge of our first contract with Austin Lyric Opera it is important for the local to maintain the quality of technical service though out our jurisdiction. How do we accomplish this as a union? By investing time and energy into training and quality preservation for our entire membership we can protect jobs as well as gain future employment. In 2005, my first uninterrupted year as Vice President, we established the local's first Camera Operating Course. This course is an active way to learn camera operation or refresh the skills you may already possess. Other classes offered last year included a light board seminar on the Strand 500-300 console series, an introduction to working the fly rail at the Paramount, and forklift certification training offered by the City of Austin. These are important beginnings toward creating a consistent training program. It is just a beginning, however, and in 2006 we need to participate more in all union related activities including getting involved with the training of stagehands.

For all interested participants ready to take the intro class for camera operating please contact me through the office number 371-1217 mailbox 3, or via e-mail dondriscoll@iatse205.org. I encourage anyone with ideas on the type of training the local should offer or anyone who would be willing to volunteer to instruct training session to please let me know.



Sponsor Spotlight – Jim Maloy and Feature Film Service

Brother Jim Maloy joined Local 205 in 1946. At that time Local 205 consisted of only twenty-five members, almost all of them were projectionists. Today there are only three of those original members left, and Jim is one of them. Jim was a movie operator in the army, making \$77 per month as a corporal. He worked with two other army operators who encouraged him to join IATSE. His first opportunity to work in Austin came in 1944 when he returned from overseas for thirty days leave. Austin had roughly eight or nine movie theatres then and all were very busy. Jim approached the Paramount operators for work and they were more than happy to have someone else to share the load. His next stint came on another thirty days leave, and this time he approached 205's business agent about joining the union. Once he was finally discharged from the army he contacted the BA for work and began filling in for other operators in theatres around Texas. This eventually led to his initiation into the union. Being a union member meant that he was a qualified and skilled worker. Projectionists were required to have a city permit for safety reasons because the nitrate film burned easily. Members also had to know how to maintain the equipment especially the unreliable carbon-arc lights. "It was our endeavor to show a picture people would enjoy, and that included using curtains, adding color and operating good sound." Jim retired in 1988, but not before his two sons and one grandson joined 205. Now in his mid eighties, Jim is not content to "sit in the house and watch TV all day". He likes to keep busy. In 1978 Jim and son, brother Jon Maloy, began showing movies in Austin parks in the summertime, commonly known as 'Movies in the Park'. Jim and his company Feature Film Service is still involved with this program today.



Many thanks to brother Jim Maloy for sponsoring this issue of Stage Call. If you would like to sponsor future issues, please contact Rachel Magee at stagecall@IATSE205.org

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. Internet access is free at any Austin Public Library.



T - S h i r t s Available



The Volunteer Organizing Committee has new IA 205 T-shirts. Get yours by making a \$15 donation to the Volunteer Organizing Committee.

To get your T-shirt, contact brother Eric Miller at 512-773-1068, or by e-mail at eamiller66@hotmail.com.

Local 205 thanks Susan Moffat and Austin Full Circle for their support and participation in the screening of
"Wal-Mart the High Cost of Low Price".



LOCAL 205 HOSTS WAL-MART MOVIE SCREENING AT RUTA MAYA

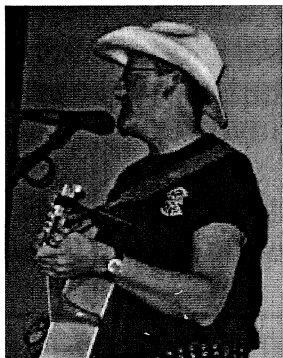
by Rachel Magee

If you have ever questioned the need for unions or become complacent about their role in the work place, you need to see this movie. And of course, before you shop at Wal-Mart or Sam's again, do see this movie.

Local 205's screening of Robert Greenwald's movie, "Wal-Mart the High Cost of Low Price" was a resounding success. Approximately 200 people packed into Ruta Maya to watch Greenwald's documentary, which examines the impact Wal-Mart is having on its employees, competitors, and the community at large. The movie contains a massive catalogue of abuses, including wage fraud, discrimination, environmental, and humanitarian offences, both here and abroad. It explains how Wal-Mart purposely keeps its associates poor enough that most of them have to rely on government assistance programs to make ends meet (and Wal-Mart encourages them to do this) thereby increasing the taxpayers' burden. While the Waltons and Wal-Mart's CEO Lee Scott enjoy their lavish lifestyles, employees are routinely required to work through their breaks and after they have clocked out. If that's not bad enough, Wal-Mart has also been found guilty of purposely deleting hours from workers' time cards. Add to this the discrimination experienced by female and non-white employees, and the unacceptable conditions and inhumane treatment of factory workers abroad, and it is obvious that Wal-Mart workers desperately need some union representation.



If you are wondering why this has not happened yet, consider this: Wal-Mart has an anti-union budget of \$7,000 anti-union camera package per store, \$30,000 undercover spy van per store, \$100,000 24 hour anti-union hotline, and a \$7,000,000 rapid response team with corporate jet. If you doubt the power a union can wield, I suggest you read those figures again. Wal-Mart obviously takes unionism seriously. In fact I would even go as far as to say, that they fear it, (and so they should). Having watched the film, I sincerely hope that somehow Wal-Mart employees find the courage to band together and change things for the better. In the meantime, the rest of us need to take action because if we do not, Wal-Mart will continue to set abysmal industry standards that will be copied throughout the nation and beyond. Just one month after this screening and a couple of weeks before Christmas, I stood in line at my local post office for an hour. Everyone was bitterly complaining about the fact that despite the demand and the time of year, there were only two clerks working. When my turn came, I quietly asked the clerk serving me whether they were short staffed. He confirmed they were and once he was sure no managers were in earshot he explained, "managers get bonuses for saving money by cutting staff. I wouldn't mind, but clearly we need the staff." I walked away thinking about how familiar this sounded.



Brother Martin Blacker
entertains the packed house
with labor songs



Wal-Mart Movie Facts:

WAL-MART REDUCES THE TAKE-HOME PAY OF RETAIL WORKERS BY \$4.7 BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY

FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL FAMILY OF FOUR = \$17,650, AVERAGE WAL-MART HOURLY SALES EMPLOYEE WAGES = \$13,861

WAL-MART COSTS TAXPAYERS, \$1,557,000,000,000 TO SUPPORT ITS EMPLOYEES.

WAL-MART CURRENTLY FACES LAWSUITS IN 31 DIFFERENT STATES FOR WAGE AND HOUR ABUSES. IN TEXAS IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THEY CHEATED WORKERS OUT OF UP TO \$150,000,000 IN UNPAID WAGES.

LEE SCOTT (CEO) EARNINGS FOR 2005: \$27,207,799
HELEN WALTON: \$18.0 BILLION
ALICE WALTON: 18.0 BILLION
JOHN WALTON: 18.2 BILLION
ROB WALTON: \$18.3 BILLION
JIM WALTON: \$18.3 BILLION

CURRENTLY IN THE U.S. THERE ARE 26,699,678 SQ. FT. OF EMPTY WAL-MARTS.
MEANWHILE, WAL-MART SUBSIDY NATIONWIDE: \$1.008 BILLION TO BUILD NEW STORES

WAL-MART IMPORTED \$18 BILLION FROM CHINA IN 2004. COST FOR WAL-MART FACTORY WORKER TO ASSEMBLE: \$0.18
RETAIL COST AT WAL-MART: \$14.96

IN 2004, THE WALTON FAMILY GAVE \$6,000 TO CHARITY, LESS THAN 1% OF THEIR WEALTH. BILL GATES GAVE 58%

IN 2004, WAL-MART EMPLOYEES DONATED OVER \$5 MILLION FROM THEIR PAYCHECKS TO HELP FELLOW WORKERS THROUGH THE COMPANYS CRITICAL NEED FUND.

THE WALTON FAMILY MADE \$3.2 MILLION IN POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2004 AND RECEIVED A FEDERAL TAX CUT OF \$91,500.00 PER HOUR IN THE 2004 TAX YEAR.

WAL-MART HAS PLANS TO BUILD 11 SUPERCENTERS IN AUSTIN, 2 HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED.

7 Ways You Can Help Bring About Change

1. STOP shopping at Wal-Mart.
2. SEE the movie. You can order a copy from the movie website, www.walmartmovie.com
3. SHARE the movie with family, friends, neighbors and colleagues that just might change their shopping habits.
4. FIGHT Wal-Mart in your town: Dozens of local community groups are fighting Wal-Mart. There is a comprehensive list on the movie website. Austin organizations currently involved: [Austin Full Circle](#), [Austin Citizens for Responsible Corporations and Local Economies](#), and [Austin Action](#).
5. WRITE to your member of Congress to co-sponsor the Healthcare Accountability Act, which would require profitable companies like Wal-Mart to take responsibility for their employees' healthcare, and stop passing the buck to American taxpayers. Sponsored by [Campaign for America's Future](#), [MoveOn.org](#)
6. JOIN a national campaign group. There are two major national groups fighting Wal-Mart: [Wal-Mart Watch](#) and [Wake-Up Wal-Mart](#). Sign-up with them, and get involved.
7. CHECK out the movie website for more information and ideas.

Many thanks to Ruta Maya coffee house for hosting the Wal-Mart movie screening.

Local News

- Local 205 votes to fully fund Stage Call for 2006. Many thanks to the membership from the newsletter team!
- Negotiators with ALO ironed out the last point of contention and came to a tentative agreement on a three and a half year contract. The ALO agreement is pending ratification of the membership and the ALO Board of Trustees.
- Business Representative John Przyborski has resigned. Brother Jon Maloy has stepped in as interim BA. Nominations for a new BA occurred at the December general meeting and elections will be conducted at the January meeting.
- Per capita to the International will increase in 2006. The total for the year will be \$244 or \$61 per quarter. This reflects the \$1 per quarter increase by New York.
- The Executive Board is working on creating a new member packet that will include a page created by Treasurer Kelso explaining financial obligations.
- Copies of the organizing manual are available from Sister Sadorra-Banks or Brother Miller. 205 T-shirts are also still available for a donation to the organizing fund.
- Welcome new members, Charlie King, Arlene Waghalter, Seb Boone, Ethan Balmer, Holly Broadbent, Mern Davis, Ryan Gallagher, Emily Cavasar, Rick Vela, and Paula Gilbert.
- Congratulations to Brother Dunn. His daughter entered the International Rowing Regatta in Scotland and won second place!
- Congratulations to our own newsletter team member, Brother Jesse Wolter, who recently married and became an expectant father. The pitter-patter of tiny feet should occur next summer!
- Good luck to new member, Laura Vilches, in her upcoming move to New York.
- Welcome back to Austin, and to the Newsletter team, member Michelle Lehman.

A “Rant” From Business Agent Jon Maloy

To paraphrase Mileva Einstein, if it exists it possesses matter; if it possesses matter it occupies space; if it occupies space it is visible. If it is visible, why can't Albert find his keys? Before I forget, the issue here is going to be time.

“If your organization is small, do what Gideon did: conceal the members in the dark but raise a clamor that will make the listener believe that your organization numbers many more than it does. If your organization is too tiny even for noise, stink up the place.”

Saul Alinsky wrote the book on community organizing. His teachings were the subject of the undergraduate thesis of Hilary Clinton. One of his groups, Community Services Organization, trained Cesar Chavez who became its director in 1958. Chavez left in 1962 to form the NFWA which became the UFW. The union began the famous (if you are as old as I am) California table grape strike and the iceberg lettuce boycott. I can remember the taste of those grapes when the workers won their first contracts in 1970 and Wheatsville Food co-op put them back on the shelves. Public awareness was the key to the victories and the defeats of the UFW. Cesar Chavez often resorted to the hunger strike as a means of gaining media attention. He died in 1993. The union was protesting the use of pesticides on table grapes. Although some state and federal legislation has occurred, getting the laws enforced effectively against large corporate farms isn't always possible. Polish electricians were able to change the national government in 14 days, but getting basic rights to farmworkers, like porta-potties on site, in a free democratic society can take a lifetime. Long before I was here and long after I am gone, the struggle will continue because greed doesn't stop of its own volition. See, I told you time was the subject. Every act we take, or fail to take, will be part of something bigger because of time. Like Saul, or Cesar, or Hillary.

“It becomes a contest of power: those who have money and those who have people. We have nothing but people.”

-Saul Alinsky

Austin Stagehands and
Projectionists Since 1911



StageCall@IATSE205.org

Austin, TX 78767

P.O. Box 142

STAGE CALL Newsletter

This issue of Stage Call sponsored by Jim Maloy and Feature Film Service!

Local 205 – Who are we?

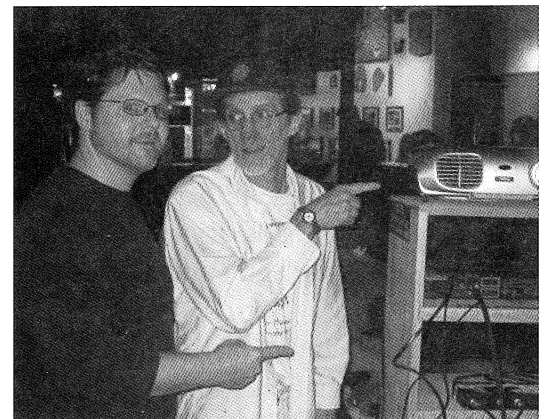
For over ninety years, The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 205, has been serving the Austin area as the labor union representing technicians, artisans and crafts persons in the entertainment industry, including live theatre, concert and convention events. We are the source for professional experienced personnel, including Stagehands, Scenic Carpenters, Properties Personnel, Projectionists, Riggers, Wardrobe Personnel, Lighting Technicians, Sound Technicians, Audio/Visual Technicians, Camera Operators, and Decorators. We can cover your stagecraft needs from corporate meeting to musical theatre. Contact the Business Representative of Local 205 for information on staffing your production.

JonMaloy@IATSE205.org

512-371-1217 voice 512-458-1507 fax

Help Wanted!

Stage Call Newsletter distributors, writers, photographers, and sponsors needed. Contact Rachel Magee at stagecall@IATSE205.org to volunteer.



VP Driscoll and Business Rep Maloy
at Ruta Maya for the Walmart movie

Current Committees

Be Part of the Process!

Volunteer Organizing: contact Brad Wilson
PTPA Contract: contact Don Driscoll
Communications: contact Bon Davis
Newsletter: contact Rachel Magee