



STAGE CALL

IATSE 205 PO BOX 142 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767

Volume II, Number 2

STAGECALL@IATSE205.ORG

January 2007

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 205

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Stage Call Newsletter
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Without labor nothing
prosper.

~Sophocles

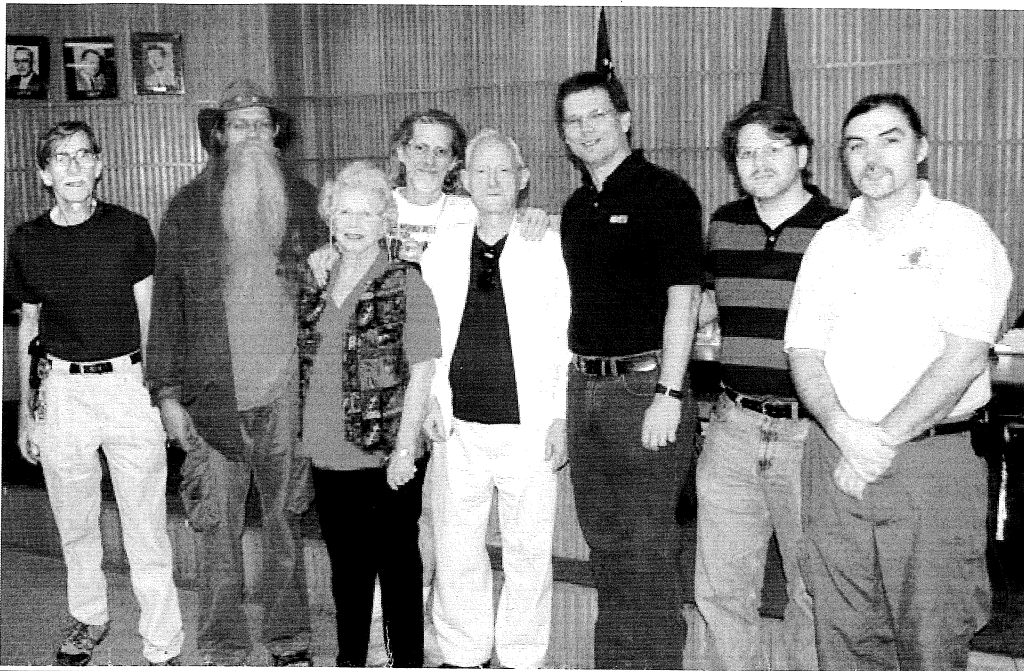
Look at a day when you
are supremely satisfied at
the end. It's not a day when
you lounge around doing
nothing; it's when you've had
everything to do, and you've
done it.

~Lord Acton

Work isn't to make money;
you work to justify life.

~Marc Chagall

Brother Jim Maloy Celebrates 60 Years in Local 205!



Celebrating Brother Jim Maloy's 60 years in IA Local 205 are, from left, Brother Jon Vickers, Sgt at Arms Ron Mann, Jim's wife Edna Maloy, Jim and Edna's son Business Agent Jon Maloy, President Keith Harris, VP Don Driscoll, and Secretary Bon Davis.

Message From The President

Happy New Year, sisters and brothers. The year may be new, but the problem faced by Local 205 is old. How do our members get more work?

All too often, I hear the complaint from members that Local 205 never gets them any work. This is because, as the years have changed, so has the market for stagehands in the Austin area. Local 205's hiring hall is no longer the only source for labor in our industry. Producers have other labor providers to turn to. We have long counted on our skills and expertise to put us in front of the competition even if hiring a union crew costs a little more.

The reality is that attitude trumps skill and expertise. I recently spoke with the production manager and lighting designer for a corporate event at the new Hyatt Lost Pines Resort. I asked why they had chosen to go with a labor provider other than Local 205. Their answer was both surprising and expected. The surprising part was that to them cost was not a factor. Cost is simply passed on to the client. The unfortunately expected part was that they had used Local 205 in the past and were not pleased with the attitude exhibited by the labor provided. In their words: The union guys are grumpy.

If you are not happy to be somewhere working and willing to get the job done safely and quickly without having to be told everything to do, it does not matter how skilled or experienced you are. Telling the employer "we don't do that" or grumbling about when break or lunch will be does not convey that you are happy to be working. You cannot just have the right tools; you have to have the right attitude. Employers like solutions, not problems.

So now what are we going to do? The answer is simple: organize.

This of course is easier said than done. But it can be done. Witness the success this last year achieved with the opera and ballet.

Here is what you can do: Instead of sitting around waiting for Local 205 to get you work, go out and get work with our competition. Then, spread the word about the benefits of trade unionism. By bringing your new coworkers into the fold and convincing them to organize, we can return to a time when members of Local 205 provided the labor for all of the work in the theatrical or entertainment industry.

Do this and 2007 and beyond will be happy and prosperous.

-Keith Harris

One Person Can Make A Difference

by Jim Willis

I live in Jonestown, a small community on the north shore of Lake Travis. Traditionally an area of small affordable housing, we have in the last few years had an influx of small gated communities of high dollar homes. This has polarized our town between the wants of these affluent newcomers and those of the older blue collar and retiree residents. The council members representing these gated community dwellers have adopted reduction of city expenditures as their main goal.

After cutting the maintenance staff and requiring the remainder to log their work day in 15 minute increments they turned their eye towards reducing remaining city employees. Jonestown Community Library employs a Librarian and an Assistant Librarian. Their pay is abysmal—under \$25,000 for Librarian and under \$20,000 for the Assistant.

The Library is in a strip center owned by the City and occupies one of the more desirable units on the West end of the building. An unoccupied former beauty shop space adjacent to Library had been promised for library expansion by a previous City Council.

So in their fervor to cut expenses the Library was targeted as an unnecessary expense. Rental income from the two spaces they thought could be \$20,000/year and by cutting the two salaries they could save another \$45,000.

A petition was started by Library patrons and over 325 people signed it supporting the Library and its expansion into the adjacent space. When less than 200 people were voting in City Council elections at that time the majority of the Council voted to allow the Library to use it. At that time the Council was led by a weak Mayor and dominated by the Mayor Pro Tem by force of her personality.

As an avid reader and lifelong user of public libraries the Librarian asked if I would serve on the Library Advisory Board. It had become defunct. I agreed and we got some interested people on the Board. I was elected Chairman.

The Library Board submitted our plans for the expansion space to committee chaired by Mayor Pro Tem Linda Llangston. They agreed to our proposal but when space was renovated it was one big room with no offices or storage. It had become a City Meeting Room.

Linda Llangston announced her intention to run for Mayor on the platform of reducing city expenditures.

At the next Library Board meeting I informed the members that it was time for some union style political activism if we wanted to keep the library. These mostly retired little old ladies were somewhat shocked but when I explained that it was time to campaign for her opponent they got with the program. We supported James Brown, the director of the Northwest Travis County Rural Activity Center for mayor.

Everyone is in favor of reducing taxes and that was Llangston's campaign mantra. But I explained that the City Council of Jonestown only had the power to reduce the City's portion of property tax--\$65 per \$100,000 evaluation. At the most without shutting down the city, taxes could be reduced only maybe \$13.00 per year per household valued at \$100,00 and most in Jonestown are not valued that high, BUT if you owned a \$5 million marina as Mayor Pro Tem Linda Llangston did your tax saving would be significantly more.

So this became our campaign issue, conflict of interest and quality of life with the Library being the one of the few remaining city services we enjoyed.

It was an ugly election for a small town. Drunken daily calls from the Lone Star Bar by Llangston's boyfriend to my answering machine were interesting. They have since sold the marina and left town.

We persevered and elected a very grateful and Library supportive Mayor and elected one of our Library Board members to fill Linda Llangston's vacant seat. We have completed our expansion and now have offices, a storage room and a kitchenette. The council just voted to buy us new computers for our 5 public access high speed internet terminals.

Health and Welfare Fund Questions?

800-456-3863

212-897-3232

The Organizing Fund Needs You!

Membership contributions are needed.
Please donate what you can. If you
cannot donate money, please donate
some time.

CURRENT COMMITTEES BE PART OF THE PROCESS!

Volunteer Organizing: Jon Maloy, Chairman pro tem
Purpose: To facilitate the organization of Local 205's jurisdiction.

Communications: Bon Davis, Chairman
Purpose: To improve communication within Local 205.

Newsletter: Rachel Magee, Chairman
Purpose: To produce a quarterly newsletter for the membership and the general public.

Steward's: Martin Blacker, Chairman
Purpose: To assist the BA and improve solidarity in Local 205 through the use of qualified stewards.

Qualifications: Sandy Gilzow, Chairman
Purpose: To develop a non-discriminatory process for evaluating the skill-sets of hiring hall registrants for the purpose of filling labor requests with those most qualified for the position.

Members who have opinions or suggestions about any of the issues our current committees are tackling are encouraged to contact the relevant committee's chair.

TRUSTEES

Death Fund

Rita Kelso to serve until 2/24/08
Trinka Withers to serve until 2/24/09
Ric Vela to serve until 2/24/10

Payroll Fund

Larry Lehw to serve until 12/31/07
Glenn Dunn to serve until 12/31/08
Mary Nelson to serve until 12/31/09

General Fund

Keith Harris to serve until 12/31/07
John Vickers to serve until 12/31/08
Sanford Gilzow to serve until 12/31/09

AFL/CIO CLC

Glenn Dunn (appointed)
Brad Wilson (elected)
Martin Blacker (elected)

COPE Delegate

Keith Harris

IATSE Local 205 at the Austin Convention Center

World Conference on Information Technology April-May 2006

Set built by Local 205; from left, brother Jim Willis, sister Maverick Goodson,
sister Christina Hewetson, Wendy Bonn, brother Pete Burns



Safety Tip: Avoid Overloading Electrical Equipment

by Jeff Ellinger

We routinely work with electrical equipment and wiring that is "temporary wiring" according to the electrical and fire safety codes. This means that no building inspector comes behind us to make sure that we have not overloaded an electrical circuit on stage or on set. We each have to take individual responsibility for knowing how to avoid an electrical overload.

Here is your first line of defense:

$$W=VA$$

The "West Virginia" Law or "Watts=Volts times Amps"

A typical example: two PAR cans with 1000-watt lamps are plugged into a single 120-volt circuit that is protected by a circuitbreaker. Can a 15-amp circuit breaker handle this load? We calculate using 2000 for the wattage and 120 for our voltage: 2000 watts=120 volts X (how many?) amps, or 2000 watts divided by 120 volts=?. The answer is 2000/120 or 16.66. So a 15-amp breaker cannot carry a load of 2000 watts. A 20-amp circuitbreaker is the correct protection for 2000 watts at 120 volts.

The biggest fire hazard from electrical overloading comes from using wire or connectors that are not rated for the load or have a problem that "derates" them, which means "lowers the amount of electricity they can safely carry". Poor connections, nicks in wire, and especially high ambient temperatures (otherwise known as HEAT!) all can "derate" cable to less than normal capacity. Under normal conditions, 12-gauge wire can carry a 2000-watt load with no problem, BUT if the plug connected to it is only rated for 15 amps, the plug may melt and could cause a fire.

One of our oldest senses is the sense of smell, and it is a vital tool in detecting electrical problems. If you EVER think you smell something on stage or on set that could be an electrical problem, IMMEDIATELY inform the call steward or the gaffer or the stage manager or the master electrician. NEVER ignore a burning smell; reporting it could save lives and prevent a major disaster.

What's Your Gripe?

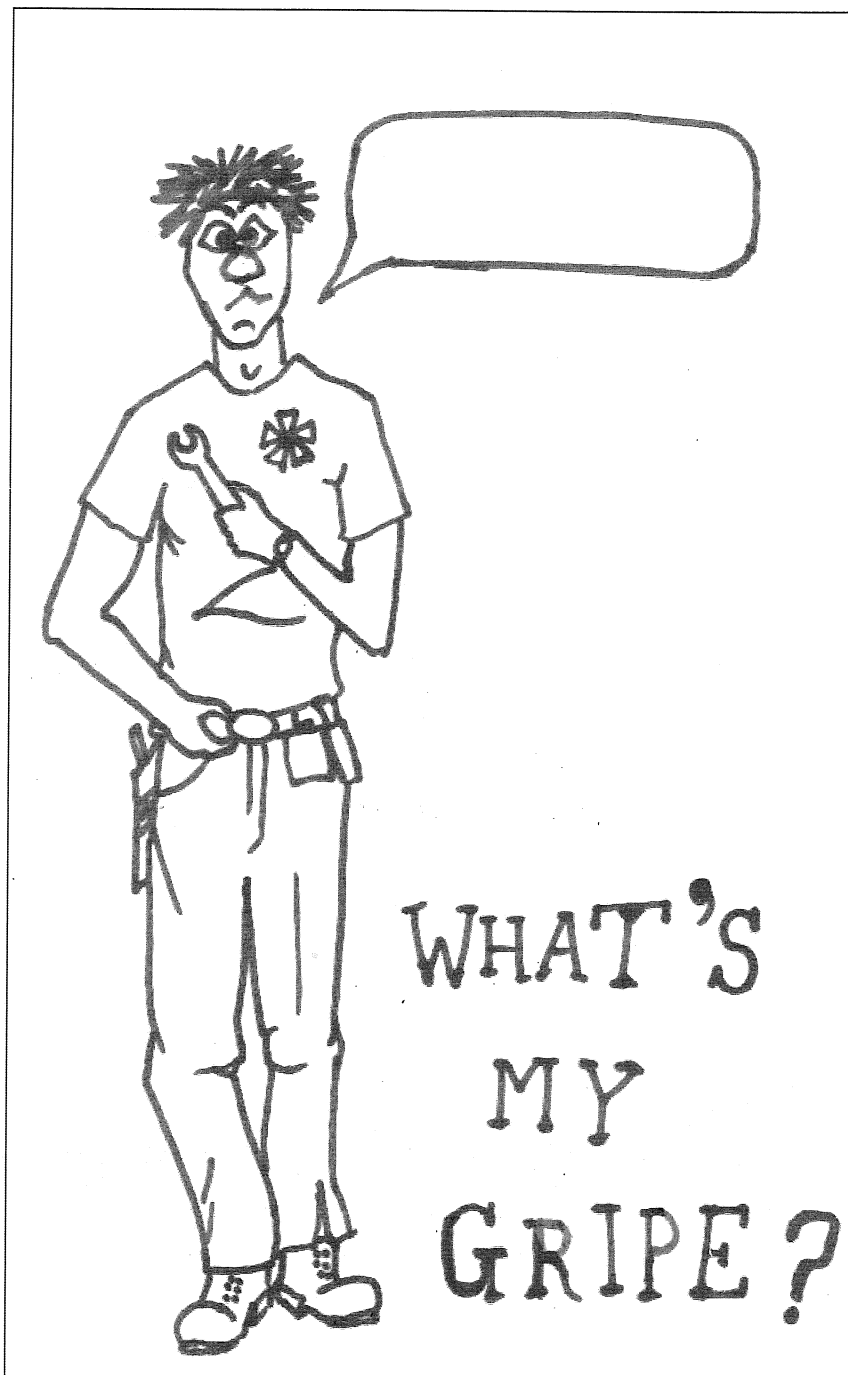
Our stagehand "S.C." needs you to lend your voice while anonymously airing your grievances!

Send your suggestions to

Stage Call

PO Box 142

Austin, TX 78767



Artwork by Gemma Halligan

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.

Lance who?

Local 205 set up and crewed the Lance Armstrong Livestrong Summit Conference on October 25-29, 2006. It consisted of five days of work for electricians, carpenters and AV techs. John Kerry and Elizabeth Edwards were guest speakers on final day. After electricians installed 35 color changers on Source 4 LEKOS the first day, brother Jim Willis and brother Bon Davis worked until 11:30 PM the second night striking them and refocusing lights. The Lighting Designer did not know the set was going to be YELLOW!

Submitted by Jim Willis

Local News

- The first ever collective bargaining agreement was reached between Local 205 and Ballet Austin. The first call under this new contract was this season's production of "The Nutcracker" at the PAC. Many thanks go out to Sister Valerie Sadorra-Banks, Sister Joan Miller and International Representative Joel Youngermann who were instrumental in the negotiations.
- Local 205 welcomes the following new trustees: General Fund Trustee, Brother Gilzow. Payroll Fund Trustee, Sister Nelson. Death Fund Trustee, Brother Vela. These trustees will serve a three year term.
- Effective January 1st 2007, per capita dues increase to \$62 per quarter.
- Local 205 will be contributing to Ballet Austin's "Steps to the Future" fundraiser by purchasing a 6" x 9" brick, which will be installed in their new facility. The funds for the purchase will come from the Organizing Committee. Plans are for the brick to depict the IA logo and the start date of our contract with Ballet Austin.
- Mark your calendars! The next solidarity event will take place at Ruta Maya on May Day 2007. Amongst various other entertainments, Brother Wilson will be reading excerpts from the play he is writing for his thesis.
- Congratulations to Brother Koursaris on recently becoming a grandfather!

Editor's Note

Stage Call wishes to thank Local 205 Business Agent and Newsletter Committee member, Brother Jon Maloy for kindly sponsoring this month's issue. Normally we like to credit our sponsors via our Sponsor Spotlight articles. However, Brother Jon Maloy has been deluged with work since the New Year began and thus we have been unable to put together an article. He did however contact me to say, "*I never intended to be highlighted. I just wanted a year-end issue celebrating the accomplishments of 05-06. Just put in a bullet that the BA underwrote the issue for just that reason.*" I assume he is referring to our new contracts with the Paramount, the Opera and the Ballet, as well as our increase in membership led by our organizing drive. For all of these things we should all be proud. I think we should also celebrate the incredibly busy start to 2007. Let's hope it is a sign of a prosperous New Year for all. So, to Jon, thank you again for your generosity, and to all our members, Happy New Year!

- Rachel Magee.

**Class
Information
call
371-1217
Mailbox 3**

DEATH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

for the IATSE LOCAL 205

January 3, 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This article has been written to petition each and every one of you to:

- #1) attended the monthly meeting on Monday Feb.19th at 10:00 AM and,
- #2) to join me in a vote to stop all previously designated dollars from being paid into the Death Fund for a period of one year.

The Fund was created on February 24th, 1970. The sole purpose of the Fund was to provide 205 members with death benefits in lieu of the Local having a group life insurance plan. Upon legal notice of the death of a 'member in good standing' a check for \$750.00 is made out to the member's beneficiary.

At this time, the Local has approximately 100 members. And, the total balance in the Trust Fund far exceeds the funds necessary to cover all disbursements, if needed.

The Death Benefits Trust Fund has acquired its current balance from:

- a) a portion of each new members' initiation fee (although this is not the case at present because we substantially lowered our initiation to promote our organizing drive) and
- b) a \$200 monthly 'top up' payment made from Local 205's General Fund almost continuously over the last 30+ years.
- c) the reinvestment of the trust funds subsequent growth through interest and dividends.

The Death Fund is now in the position where upon it can sustain itself and still provide all our current members with the benefit it was intended to offer. It even has the potential to safely increase that benefit. Ironically though, our General Fund and other Sub-Committees suffer monthly because of a shortage of operating funds.

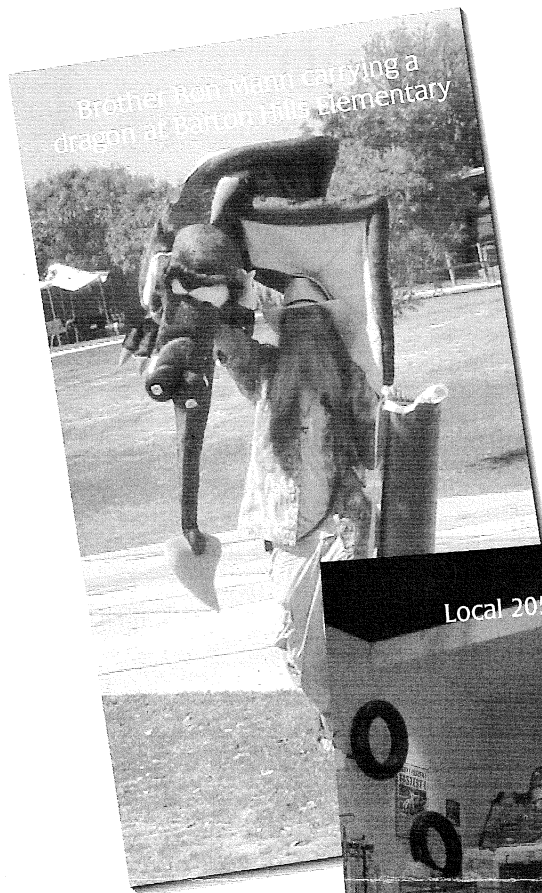
As a Trustee, I recommend that a motion be passed to stop all payments from the General Fund into the Death Fund for a period of one year. The intent of this motion is to allow the Trustees of the Fund to review and analyze the inner workings of the Fund and to inject some much needed operating cash flow into the General Fund. For this motion to pass, TWO THIRDS of the membership has to vote in favor. In other words, WE need approximately 70 members in good standing to vote "AYE" either in person or by proxy on or before February 24th 2007.

Brothers and Sisters, with all this said, PLEASE GO OUT OF YOUR WAY to MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT on this issue at the next IA Local 205 monthly meeting on February 19th 2007.

In Solidarity,
Brother Ric Vela

P.S. to personally review the Death Fund Instrument (in other words 'contract') please log onto the Local 205's Yahoo Groups website. Once there, click onto 'Files', scroll down to 'DFInstrument', and click there. You'll be able to read the 'Instrument' in its entirety.

Local 205 had a great year!



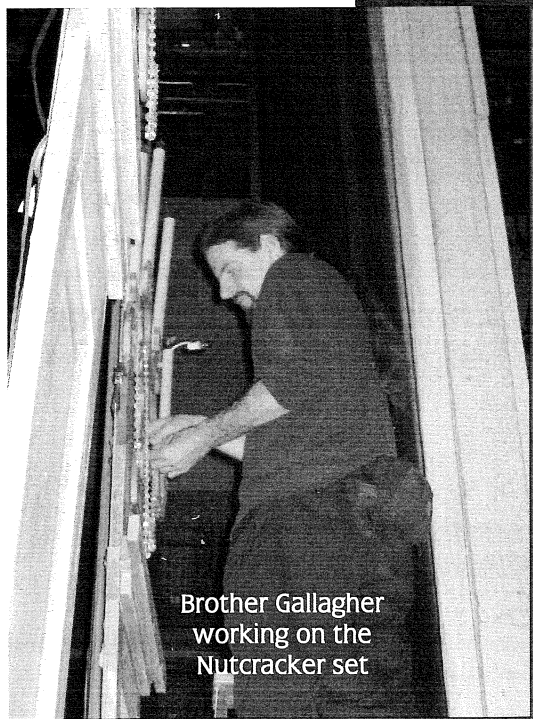
Brother Ron Mann carrying a dragon at Patton Hills Elementary



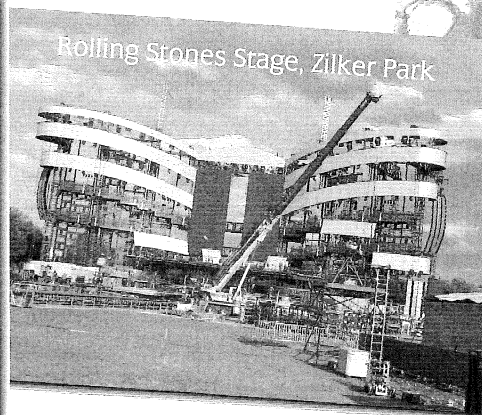
Ballet Austin signs their union contract!



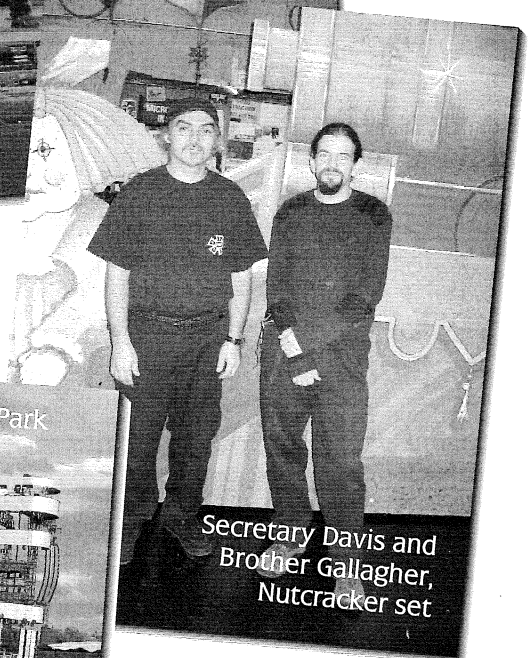
Local 205 crew on the Bill Engvall set, Paramount stage



Brother Gallagher working on the Nutcracker set



Rolling Stones Stage, Zilker Park



Secretary Davis and Brother Gallagher, Nutcracker set

Here's to an even better 2007!



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P.O. Box 142

STAGE CALL Newsletter

This issue of Stage Call sponsored by Jon Maloy, Business Agent for Local 205!



IATSE Local 205

For ninety-five 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



Work call: Rolling Stones concert, October 2006. Keeping the Stones Rolling, brothers Pete Burns, Jim Willis and Jim Ford stand nearby the enormous stage erected in Zilker Park.