



STAGE CALL

IATSE 205 PO BOX 142 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767

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STAGECALL@IATSE205.ORG

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International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 205

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Stage Call Newsletter

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**"Labor wants also
pride and joy in doing
good work, a sense of
making or doing some-
thing beautiful or use-
ful - to be treated with
dignity and respect as
brother and sister."**

**Thorstein Veblen
(American Economist,
1857-1929)**

Message From The President

Recently, in response to my sending out the agenda for our regular meeting, a member emailed back "Might be nice to try to figure out why we can't seem to keep a client happy". This I found to be a thought provoking proposition. My reply to this member was a request to please elaborate. The member emailed back citing several cases where work has gone to non-union labor providers. He also mentioned contract modifications meant to deal with the fact that the employer was not satisfied with the level of service being provided by Local 205. In previous columns, I have written about the need for Local 205 members to raise the bar in terms of professionalism and training. I believe we can all agree on the fact that in a free market capitalist economy you must provide the best service at the best price to survive.

In recognition of Labor Day, consider this: Local 205 operates a hiring hall out of necessity. We are not, however, an employer. I will repeat this statement because so often I hear people say that they work for Local 205. IATSE Local 205 is not an employer.

Local 205 is a labor union representing stagehands and projectionists whose stated purpose is:

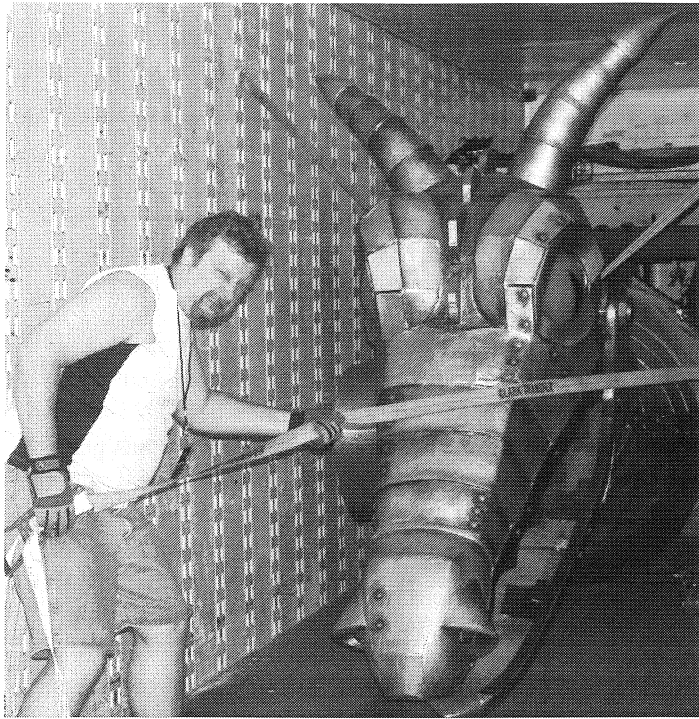
- (1) To improve the wages and hours of work, to increase their job security and to better their working conditions.
- (2) To advance their economic, social and cultural interests.
- (3) To establish peaceful and harmonious relations between its members and their employers, and to increase the stability of the industry.
- (4) To assure full employment.
- (5) To promote and support democracy and free trade unionism.
- (6) To engage in such other activities as may be necessary or proper to strengthen the labor movement and to extend the process of collective bargaining throughout all trades and industries.

Right off the bat you can see that an employer in our economic system is not necessarily going to be onboard with our purpose. Improving wages and conditions can raise operating costs and reduce competitiveness. The same goes for job security and full employment. So you can see that the concept of running the local like a business is at odds with its stated purpose. Local 205 exists to represent workers in dealing with employers. It is here to see that workers are treated fairly. If Local 205 is put into the position of being the employer, then who is there to represent the worker?

Labor Day provides a little perspective on the relationship between the employer and the worker, but as a former moving picture machine operator and current stagehand with a film degree, **let me suggest that you view one or more of the movies listed on page 2.** Grab one of these on DVD, turn down the lights and the thermostat and sit back and be reminded why Local 205 exists. Then ask yourself why we cannot seem to keep a client happy.

Fraternally,

President Harris



Brother Bill Sheffield and Friend at Wicked Load-out, Bass Concert Hall -photo by Seb Boone



The Wiggles bring 3 trucks to the Paramount. After a long summer three shows move in on the same weekend. The Bullock Museum, The Convention Center, and the Paramount Theatre all required stagehands.-photo by Jon Maloy

Films About Labor Unions

as recommended by President Harris

On the Waterfront (1954) Terry Malloy (Marlon Brando) goes from being a bum to not only a hero, but a symbol of intolerance as he and his fellow longshoremen fight corruption to establish an honest union.

Norma Rae (1979) Unlikely union leader Norma Rae (Sally Field) and other factory workers defy a corporation to start a union in the textile industry.

Silkwood (1983) While union activist and chemical technician Karen Silkwood (Meryl Streep) was investigating claims of irregularities at a nuclear facility, she died under mysterious circumstances soon after agreeing to meet a reporter from the New York Times.

Matewan (1987) West Virginia coal miners in 1920 struggle to form a union against a company that hires thugs to do their dirty work, then brings in Black and Italian miners to break a strike. Union activists try to bring the locals and newcomers together.

Current Committees – Be Part of the Process!

Newsletter Committee: Chair, Rachel Magee.
Purpose: To produce a tri-annual newsletter for the membership and the general public.

Contract Committee: Chair, Tym Simpson.
Purpose: To review all union contracts that will expire in 2009.

Centennial Committee: Chair, Kirk Grander.
Purpose: To organize an event to celebrate Local 205's 100th anniversary in July 2011.

Members wishing to serve on the above committees, or members who have opinions and suggestions about any of the issues concerning our current committees should contact the relevant committee chair or the president.

Electronic Newsletter – Go Green!

Would you prefer to receive your copy of Stage Call electronically? The newsletter committee will be offering an electronic version of *Stage Call* that can be sent directly to your inbox, instead of your mailbox. The goal is to cut our costs so that we can consider increasing the number of issues we publish per year, while helping the environment along the way. If you are interested in receiving *Stage Call* electronically, please e-mail us at StageCall@IATSE205.org expressing your interest and the address you would like the issues e-mailed to. Thank you!

Dear Local 205 Members:

The 100th Anniversary of our local is approaching!

We would like to determine the member's opinions and ideas on marking the event. Other locals in the US have held events marking their 100th. They have ranged from holding a dinner and dance aboard a chartered yacht to a cookout, with estimated costs ranging from \$3000 to \$20,000.

Please circle your choice below and return to the Centennial Committee Chair, Kirk Grander, or mail it to the committee via PO Box 142, Austin, TX. 78767.

1. Do you want to see a celebration/event? a)Yes b) No

2. What dollar figure do you see us spending if any?

a) 0 to 1000 b)1000 to 5000 c)5000 to 10,000 d)10,000 upwards

3. Do you see yourself volunteering time? a)Yes b) No

4. What type of event would you like to see? (Ok to think out of the box!) One person mentioned monies towards 205 union hall. There are no bad ideas!

5. What motivation would you like to see out of this?

a)Nothing b)Fun c)Advertising d)Politics e)Camaraderie f) Profit

6. Should we fund this with: a)Existing Funds b)Higher Union Fees

c)Monies we earn through extra fundraising d)Work ourselves to drive down costs

Pleasw return this by Nov. 1st, or you are automatically appointed the evening's entertainment. Think dancing in drag in a chorus line!

Remember getting a keg and drinking is easy but putting together a show with politicians is difficult. However, the reward may be greater. Food for thought.

Thank you,
The Centennial Committee.

LOCAL 205 TRUSTEES:

Death Fund	Ric Vela (2/24/10) Rita Kelso (2/24/11) Glenn Schleicher (2/24/12)	General Fund	Sanford Gilzow (12/31/09) Rachel Magee (12/31/10) Jon Vickers (12/31/11)
COPE Delegate	Keith Harris	AFL/CIO CLC	Glenn Dunn Martin Blacker

Energy Saving Rebates:

Save money while you help solve global warming.



Save hundreds of dollars a year by improving your home's efficiency. Learn how at www.UnionPlus.org/Green.

Union Plus offers Union Members...

Rebates on Home Energy Products and Services:

- Up to **\$250 rebate** if you do a home energy audit and pay for recommended home energy improvements.

Union members must charge their purchases and services to their Union Plus Credit Card.

To apply for a Union Plus Credit Card, please go to www.UnionPlusCard.com/ApplyNow.

Heating Oil Rebates

- **\$100 rebate** on the purchase of a new, energy-efficient home heating system for all members of the Union Plus Heating Oil Discount Program.

For details on the Energy Saver Rebates, go to www.UnionPlus.org/Green.

Fuel-Efficient Auto Rebates:

Reduce fuel consumption and save on gas.

Purchase a UAW-made EPA Green Car through the Union Plus Auto Buying Service and receive a **\$200 rebate** from Union Privilege. Eligible union members will automatically receive a rebate check within six to eight weeks of purchase.

Visit www.UnionPlus.org/Green to find out which cars are eligible and to learn more about these money-saving offers.

More ways to help solve the climate crisis

- **Educate yourself**
Find out about the costs of global warming, our dependency on foreign oil and job opportunities in a green economy.
- **Spread the word**
Talk to your friends, family and co-workers about climate change.
- **Sign eco-friendly petitions**
You'll find petitions for the global treaty on climate change and for incentives for clean energy jobs at www.wecansolveit.org.
- **Reduce your own carbon footprint**
Buy energy efficient appliances, switch to electricity generated by renewable energy, and take public transportation.
- **Advocate for change**
Write a letter to – or meet with – your elected officials and let them know where you stand on climate change.



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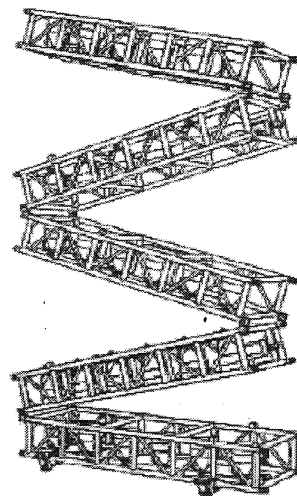
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Product group from well-managed
forests and other controlled sources
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LOCAL NEWS

- Notices will be sent in October for nominations at the November regular meeting for outgoing trustees. Members interested in being nominated should contact President Harris.
- Effective October 1st, 2009, Local 205 will enter an agreement with Production Payroll Services (PPS). PPS will be the *Employer of Record* for all the payrolls they process, however, PPS will not hire or fire employees. PPS will provide worker's compensation insurance (Texas Star Mutual), and liability insurance for members working through the Local's hiring hall. PTS will cease to exist and the payroll trustees will be disbanded. Local 331, Shur-Rig and Austin Theatrical Supply, formerly PTS clients, will also become clients of PPS. Sister Patty Dillon is the sole proprietor of PPS.
- The Stage Alliance (TSA) now has four rate scales, as opposed to the initial single rate scale stated in our collective bargaining agreement. All new rates are above the scale initially established and will soon be published at www.TheStageAlliance.com.
- As of June 1, 2009, the Hiring Hall began accepting email registration at 205hire@sbcglobal.net. Telephone registration will continue as normal.
- Local 205 formed a one-time agreement with Rhino Staging for their recent Convention Center event. The Rhino agreement was modeled after the Upstage Center agreement. Rhino is apparently working on a national level and locals around the country are feeling the movement into their jurisdiction. They range from rock-n-roll gigs to convention center events. Bidding on ACL may even be in their future. Local 205 will be looking into drawing up a contract with Rhino for future work.
- Local 205's current contracts with Austin Lyric Opera (ALO) and Ballet Austin have been extended for one year.
- GES has made it clear that 205 members will need Hi-lift and Forklift cards to operate such equipment.
- Upstage Center (USC) has been notified that the International will be renegotiating their contract. All 6th District area locals will participate in the negotiations. Dallas/Ft. Worth is seeing a lot of work coming through USC and there is a push to give cards to USC employees.
- The 6th District Midwinter Executive Board Meeting will be held on January 25th, 2010 in Austin, with officers staying at the Sheraton Hotel. There will be a breakfast held on January 26th and a PAC reception later in the week. All 6th District Locals will be expected to jointly cover the cost of these events, with a current estimate between \$10k-\$15k, and to provide two Sergeant-at-Arms at each gathering, as well as a chaplain and transportation. Any member wishing to volunteer should contact President Harris.
- The US Patent Office has just published brother Rob Baxter's truss patent for the system he installed for the Lakers. Baxx-Truss is billed as the only known custom flip-folding/self-stacking truss and was featured in the May 2007 edition of *Lighting and Sound America*.

Patent Application Publication Jul. 9, 2009 Sheet 17 of 18 US 2009/0173033 A1



PERSPECTIVE UNFOLDING



FRIENDLY REMINDERS FROM YOUR SECRETARY

Hiring Hall:

Please remember to call in each week for work. If you have any questions regarding your scheduling please communicate with Business Representative Maloy. Be pro-active about working in your craft.

Late Fines:

Late fines are assessed when you are tardy to a call. When you are late you make IATSE Local 205 look unprofessional. When you are late, your Brothers and Sisters pick up your slack... and it really annoys them! Be diligent and responsible. Respect your job and coworkers by arriving 10-15 minutes early. You'll have time to kibbitz and smoke and drink coffee and sort out tools and fill out paperwork. And you won't feel like the LATE GUY for the entire call!

Address Changes:

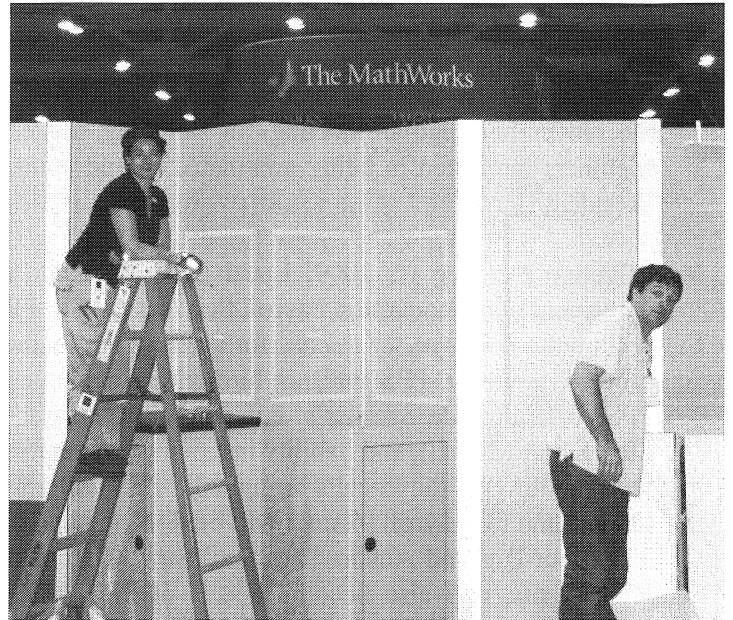
If you have address changes or phone number or email changes please contact Secretary Michelle Lehman. ("I just hate to see people's paychecks returned to the post box because of incorrect address information!")

Traveling Members:

Please forward your travel itinerary/contact information to Secretary Michelle Lehman (Secretary@IATSE205.org).



Brother Jon Vickers, our most senior member, working on *Wicked* at Bass. -photo by Seb Boone



Sister Chris Hewetson and Brother Kirk Grander setting up a booth on a GES call at the Austin Convention Center in June. -photo by Jim Willis

From Your New VP

Education is the primary responsibility of the Vice President. However, every one of us has an opinion about what our education program should be. With that in mind, I would like to form an education committee to assist me in developing an education program that meets our expectations and exceeds the expectations of our employers. I would like us to examine what other locals are doing and what employers are demanding, so that together we can devise a realistic program that the entire membership can regularly participate in and benefit from.

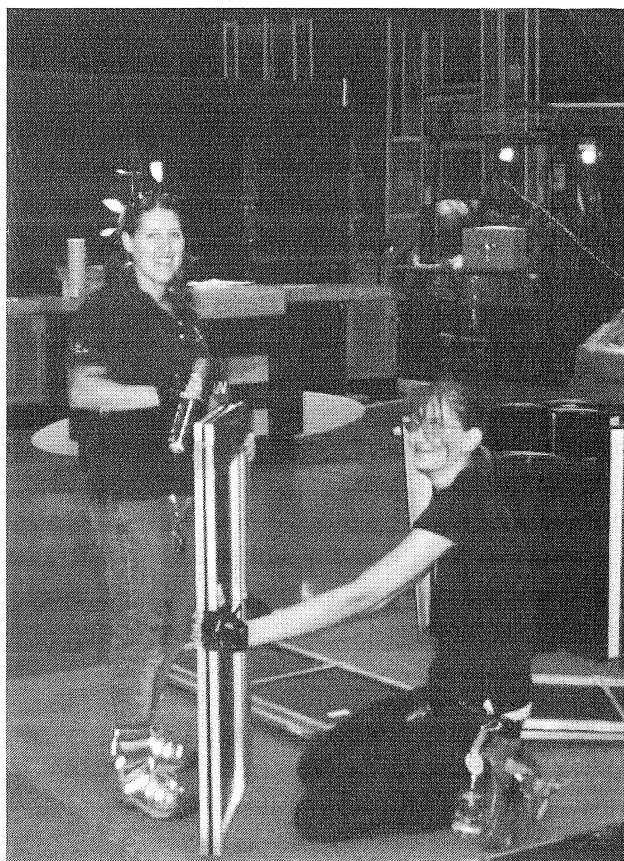
I'd also like us to open that old can of worms marked "apprentice"! What does it mean to be an apprentice in Local 205 today? Perhaps an education committee could help us define and justify our apprentice status once and for all. Many areas in our industry continually evolve, sometimes at an alarmingly rapid pace. I believe that education by committee is the only way for our Local, which is staffed by volunteers, can realistically keep up. Remember the old adage, many hands make light work? So, if you feel passionate about our education, please let me know. I'll be making a formal motion to start an education committee at our next general meeting. Joining this committee could be your opportunity to make a difference.

Oh, and don't forget to bring your can opener!

In solidarity,
Vice President Magee

Local 205 Hiring Hall

Local 205 operates a hiring hall as part of our service to the community. We provide technicians with job opportunities through contracts and agreements with many employers including arts groups and theatres and business organizations. To be eligible for referral a person must register by phone every Monday 7am-5pm at 512-371-1217. You must leave your name, telephone number, and availability for the work week beginning that Wednesday through Tuesday. Subscribers may be required to fill out information forms and skills forms. Subscribers calling in after Monday will be eligible for positions still available. The hiring hall charges a 5% referral fee. Employees must be able to fill out w-4, I-9, dues check-off, time cards or other forms required by the employer or the local. It is the obligation of every employee to report to the steward ready to work with the required tools and to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the local and the employer. The required basic tools are: Crescent Wrench, Hammer, Phillips and Flathead Screwdrivers, Matte Knife, 20' Tape Measure, Pliers, Wire Cutters, and Gloves. Other tools may be required. The operation of the hiring hall is administered by the Business Agent and any questions or concerns may be addressed to the steward or the B. A. or the President of Local 205.



Sisters Amy Carr and Kate Nance working on a GES call in June at the Austin Convention Center.
-photo by Jim Willis

Perfect October Storm

Rejoice fellow stagehands! For the annual summer season drought of work is ending! Of course, this being Texas we all know the other season - Flood! A quick look-see at upcoming events at venues we all work at indicates a perfect storm of work coming this October. GES conventions, Broadway at the Long Center, Broadway at BASS, an Opera and ACL. If you are anywhere in this industry and can't find work this October then full time consideration of another occupation is strongly suggested.

Not all of these things conflict, but several lucrative gigs will, so now is the time to look ahead. Get the dates and decide which gigs you may want to work in advance if given the option. It won't be possible to do all of them so be smart and decide which you want. It's also a good time to remind our fellow non-union workers of the advantages of collective bargaining and their rights as workers.

Also, please take the time to fill in the 100th anniversary questionnaire and either return it to your BA or steward on a call, or mail it to the Centennial Committee P. O. Box 142 Austin, TX 78767. We need to know what y'all want! The Centennial Committee could also use more members if you have an interest in that. This is a huge thing for us and we could use your help.

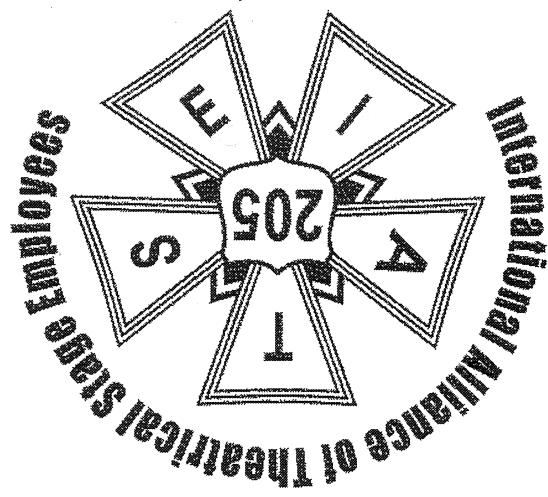
In Solidarity,
Brother Tym Simpson.

Health and Welfare Fund Questions?

800-456-3863
212-897-3232

Get Info On Local 205 On The Web
www.iatse205.org

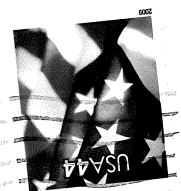
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Austin, TX 78767

P.O. Box 142

STAGE CALL Newsletter



IATSE Local 205

For ninety-nine 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:

BusinessAgent@IATSE205.org 512-371-1217 voice 512-458-1507 fax



Wicked Electricians at Bass Concert Hall: (from l to r) Ryan Gallagher, John Pryzborski, Wicked Moving Light Technician Katie Blanch from Local 33 , Mikela Cowan, Holly Broadbent, Jessica DeGroot, and Andrew Ferrucci

-photo by Seb Boone