



STAGE CALL

IATSE 205 PO BOX 142 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767

Volume I, Number 4 STAGECALL@IATSE205.ORG

May 2006

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 205

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Stage Call Newsletter
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"I asked a man in prison once how he happened to be there and he said he had stolen a pair of shoes. I told him if he had stolen a railroad he would be United States Senator."

- Mother Jones.

Message from the President

Brothers and Sisters,

Many thanks to the members who donated their time, talent, or equipment to make the first annual Music in the Park for the Arts fund raiser a success this past April:

Martin Blacker, Don Driscoll, Mike Gessaman, Maverick Goodson, Charlie King, Michelle Lehman (with her assistant Emma), Ron Mann, Matt Mason, Tinez, Brad Wilson, and Trinka Withers.

Not only did the event raise around \$10,000 for Barton Hills Elementary School's arts and PE departments, it was a chance for Local 205 members to be seen volunteering for a good cause. Perhaps some people's assumptions about unions got broadened a little by seeing us pitching in. I can only hope that this community mindedness continues to grow within our local because it not only helps our city, it helps our local.

In solidarity,

Brad Wilson
President

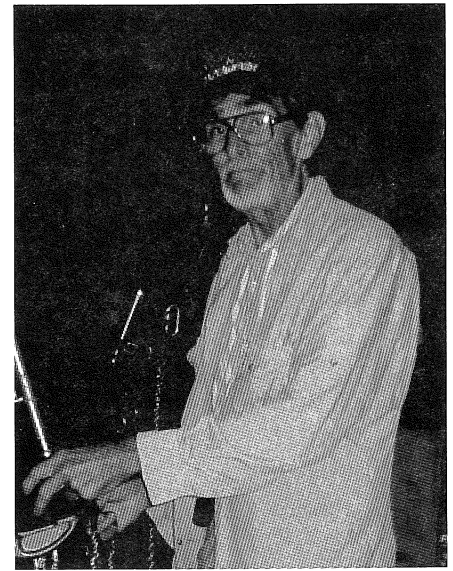


Local 205 members make it happen at Barton Hills Elementary fundraiser: front row, from left: Michelle Lehman, Trinka Withers, Matt Mason, back row from left: Charlie King, VP Don Driscoll, Martin Blacker, Sgt at Arms Ron Mann, Pres. Brad Wilson, Mike Gessaman

The sharp-looking IATSE Local 205 T-shirt that you see above is available from Brother Eric Miller. To get your T-shirt, contact him at 512-773-1068, or by e-mail at eamiller66@hotmail.com.

Sponsor Spotlight – Jon Vickers and Austin Theatrical Supply

Jon Vickers is the most senior active member of Local 205, currently in his 45th year with our Local. He is also the owner of Austin's longest running theatrical supply company, Austin Theatrical Supply. Originally Leet's Rental, the company was founded by former Local 205 member Bill Leet in 1953. A UT employee, Bill used to run the Gregory Gymnasium, which was the only roadhouse theatre in Austin until 1959. Jon was a UT drama student then who enjoyed working for Bill at the Gregory Gym as a stagehand. Because of Jon's interest in theatre work, Bill introduced Jon to Local 205 and after becoming a member Jon began taking road work. Jon traveled extensively, employed by prominent theatre companies and working on legendary tours such as "Show Boat", "I Do, I Do" and "Hello Dolly" with Carol Channing, Ginger Rogers and Pearl Bailey. However, Jon had a keen interest in Leet's and ultimately his road work earnings enabled him to eventually buy the company from Bill in 1971, just before Bill passed away.



As the new owner of Leet's, Jon decided he wanted to concentrate more on the theatrical side of the business, which is what had hooked him in the first place. As rock 'n' roll began to grow in Austin, Leet's started renting stages and specialty lighting. In 1985, Jon changed the name of the company to Austin Theatrical Supply to better reflect the company's new direction. Having maintained a relationship with Rosco spanning 53 years, Leets/ATS continues to be the only Rosco dealership in Austin. Recent major ATS events have included two private parties for resident artist, Sandra Bullock. Whenever ATS needs a crew for an event, Jon always turns to the Local for labor. He prefers that all ATS workers be union members or in the process of being organized into the union.

Many thanks to brother Jon Vickers 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.



For Immediate Release

News

Brad Wilson Receives Union Plus Scholarship to Attend National Labor College

Washington, D.C. – Bradley Wilson, Local 205 president, has been selected to receive a Union Plus National Labor College Scholarship to attend the National Labor College (NLC).

Wilson, of Austin, TX, was one of eight union activists selected.

Current Committees Be Part of the Process!

Volunteer Organizing: Chair, Brad Wilson
Communications: Chair, Bon Davis
Ballet Austin Organizing: Chair,
Valerie Sadorra-Banks
Newsletter: Chair, Rachel Magee

The Organizing Fund Needs You!

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

Class Information call 371-1217 Mailbox 3

Local News

- Nick Brophy is the new house sound person for the Paramount Theatre. Congratulations!
- New contracts with the Paramount Theatre and Austin Lyric Opera have been ratified and are now in effect.
- Ballet Austin and Local 205 have agreed on the makeup of a bargaining unit and negotiations will begin soon. This will be treated as part of the Local's organizing drive in Central Texas and International Representative Joel Youngblood will again assist the Local in negotiations.
- January's election results: Jon Maloy, Business Agent. Jon Vickers, General Fund Trustee. Trinka Withers, Death Fund Trustee. Glenn Dunn, PTS Trustee.
- It has been recommended to the PTS Trustees that the Health Benefits contribution be increased from 5% to 8% and that the hourly base rate for stagehands be increased to \$15.50 effective April 1st 2006, with a subsequent increase to \$16 on September 1st. Members also voted to add Head Rigger to the rate sheet at a rate of \$37.50 per hour. Members can obtain an updated list of rates and conditions from Business Agent Maloy.
- The IA has ratified Local 205's updated constitution. Membership changes include apprentices having full vote and new members being brought in as Journeymen unless Body specifies that a test be administered and they are brought in as apprentices.
- Membership continues to increase. Business Agent Maloy has been given permission to extend invitations to several regular Hiring Hall workers. Increasing our numbers not only makes the Local a stronger bargaining unit, but also enables us cover large calls.
- In our efforts to form ties with our community and to increase awareness of Local 205, plans are being formed to create a short documentary film detailing Local 205's projectionist history. The working title is, "Brotherhood of Light". Members should contact Secretary Davis if they would like to be involved.

Local 205 and the Community

Barton Hills Elementary School Fund Raiser, Music In the Park For the Arts

By Rachel Magee

Even in the "live music capital of the world" schools are being faced with funding cuts in their music programs. One Austin school's answer? Stage a musical event to replace the missing funds.

Douglas Gessaman and Jena Weatherly, parents of two Barton Hills Elementary students, surmised one day that the schools sloping grounds would make a great outdoor music venue. Although this thought was just in passing, when the school announced funding cuts to the art, music and PE programs, Doug and Jen decided to present the idea of a fundraising concert to their Parent Teachers Association. The PTA approved, and in six short months the fundraiser evolved into a full-blown music extravaganza with three stages (main stage, acoustic stage and children's stage), merchandise tents, and local food, art and craft vendors. The musical talent included Natural Causes, Sara Hickman, Carrie Rodriguez, Trish Murphy and Darden Smith. Even the school's alumni were getting involved. Doug Kemptner acting as Sound Engineer for the day, was a student in the first graduating class at Barton Hills.

Having worked many music festivals before, Doug Gessaman became the chief organizer. Not only did he know what to expect and what would be needed, he came with contacts! In particular, Doug's younger brother, Michael is a Local 205 member so when the time came to find crews to set up the stages, Doug approached 205 for help. Local 205 stepped up to the plate, providing a voluntary crew to erect the stages and rig sound and lights. In donating their time members not only helped benefit the school, but also forged a bond between Local 205 and the community. (Members were highly visible in their IATSE t-shirts.) Other labor donations included the security personnel from the Kerrville Folk Festival, the musicians themselves, and children's entertainers and of course, all the parents and teachers that helped out in every capacity possible. To help with equipment costs, sponsorships and generous discounts were given by several rental companies such as Gear Rental, J-Squared and Alexander Tents.

Overall, Doug and his team managed to pull off a rather stunning event at very little cost, "We've spent \$5,000 and are hoping to make \$50,000" said Doug. The money raised will be used to buy back the music, art and PE teachers salaries so they can remain full-time at Barton Hills rather than being divided between two schools. In the long term, it is Doug's hope to make Music in the Park for the Arts an annual event benefiting larger causes. Either helping to fund AISD as a whole or establishing a foundation benefiting all music, art and PE programs.



Austin Stagehands and Projectionists Since 1911



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STAGE CALL
P.O. Box

This issue of Stage Call sponsored by Jon Vickers and Austin Theatrical Society

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.

*Health and Welfare
Fund Questions?*

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