

Playback Theatre, Inc.®

# The International Playback Theatre Network

An Association of Playback Performers and Teachers



(Bulletin on the inaugural meeting of The International Playback Theatre Network--IPTN--held April 29-May 1, 1990, in New Paltz, NY.)

*The meeting began on Sunday afternoon with a party, a ceremony, and of course, acting out some stories. It ended at Tuesday lunch, with a mad dash to airports and a tremendous sense of accomplishment. It was chaired by Elise Gold, president of the original Playback's board of directors. Under her guidance, we had lists on walls, study groups, and organized discussions. Our individual connection to Playback, our sense of allegiance to our own constituencies, and a feeling of history made the time an emotional one. Yet despite the pull of feelings, and the pressure of a very large number of questions to be dealt with, the group worked efficiently. From the start we knew that our process, and the process of the IPTN, had to be a healthy one if the organization was going to work. Our first big test came just before dinner of the first day, when we did not reach an easy consensus on a matter and found our spirits sinking. When we reconvened, we chucked the business and told stories, mostly about our own experiences, happy and painful, in Playback. And the next morning, we felt like the little engine that could, chugging confidently down our Everest of decisions. This is what we decided...*

- The name of the organization shall be International Playback Theatre Network, subtitled, An Association of Playback Performers and Teachers.

- The date and place of the next meeting will take place in either Australia or New Zealand in January 1992. A decision about exactly where and when will be made as soon as possible after discussion with area Playbackers. Directors will pay their own fares and expenses to this meeting.

- Elected to serve as Officers were Mary Good, Australia, president; Christina Hagelthorn, Sweden, vice president; Jo Salas, USA, secretary; and Elise Gold, USA, treasurer. Committee chairs are Elise Gold, Finance; Tim Van Ness, Membership; Marc Weiss, Communications; and Education, Judy Swallow. Jonathan Fox declined to be an officer and instead agreed to edit the newsletter.

- Three additional Directors will be elected from Australia and New Zealand.

- There will be three categories of membership: Company Membership, Individual Practitioner (Performer or Teacher), and Friend of Playback. The obligations of membership for Indiv. and Co. members include payment of the annual fee, agreement with the vision and mission, and that each year a brief report of activities be submitted in order to acquire a base of information for member use.

- In order to become a member, one will need to make a brief statement of one's professional relationship to Playback and be recommended by an existing member (there will be membership granted without recommendation to groups and individuals already known to be practicing Playback--a sort of grandfather clause).

- The costs of membership are to be as follows: Company Membership, \$US50; Individual Practitioner, \$US30; Friend, \$US15. It was decided that when members are being recruited, two additional statements on fees be included: a. That we have asked for a minimal fee for each category of membership and welcome donations in addition to the fee (a tax-deduction);, and b. That if the cost prohibits someone from becoming a member, consideration will be made.

- Budget for the first year was agreed at a level of US\$2000.

## The Vision:

We in Playback Theatre embrace the unfolding of life and the inherent spontaneity in individuals and communities. We recognize the universal longing for affirmation and for connection with oneself and others. The spontaneous enactment of personal experience in Playback Theatre builds connection between people by honoring the dignity, drama, and universality of their stories.

## The Mission

The purpose of this association is to further the development of Playback Theatre among practitioners worldwide by affirming and bringing forth our individuality and our shared vision. We seek to enrich, strengthen, and inspire one another, and to maintain the aliveness of the Playback Theatre process.

- The Communications committee will supervise the newsletter, the cost of which will come from member fees, and the collection of a data bank which will become available to members.

- The Education Committee has taken on the job of exploring what might be useful and appropriate for the Executive to do with regard to training and work in education and private industry (this kind of work has already evolved in various ways in different areas, and local committee members will need to be appointed to this committee). It was decided to postpone any process of monitoring, supervision, or review at this time.

- An Ad Hoc Committee was established to research

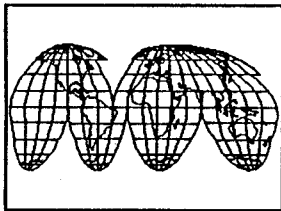
**Next meeting of the IPTN: January  
1992 in Australia-New Zealand area.**

the question of the use by Playback companies within the USA to receive grants under the umbrella of the not-for-profit status of IPTN (Playback Theatre, Inc.®). Chairperson is Diane Blumenthal. After researching questions of liability, insurance costs, and other legal and practical questions, this Committee will report to the Executive Committee, which will then make a decision. It was agreed that if we go ahead with the umbrella concept, then those companies that do apply for grants under IPTN will pay a percentage to cover the extra work involved. It was also agreed that the original Playback company, which had worked to attain the non-profit status, should automatically be able to continue to use this privilege.

\*\*\*\*\*

Statements were received and distributed to all directors from Ann Hale and James Lucal of Seattle Playback, Martin Sutcliffe and Auckland Playback, Deborah Pearson of Perth Playback, Bev Hosking of Wellington Playback, Peter Hall of Sydney Playback, and Jacque Robinson of Melbourne Playback. Mitsuko Mori of Japan, Heather Robb of France, Francis Batten of Brisbane, Tim Dyce of Melbourne, and Jan Brooker of Christchurch also sent goodwill messages.

\*\*\*\*\*



At the start of our meeting, we posted a world map and marked Playback groups and areas of active interest. We were amazed! By the end, there was a total of 44 cites in 15 different countries.

\*\*\*\*\*

Marc Weiss, head of the Communications Committee, is already working on designing a questionnaire for

**If you want to be a member: Please wait! Let us know of your interest either at the IPTN Box No. or by contacting the closest Director. You will receive an application as soon as they are ready. Thanks.**

**Playback Theater--IPTN, Box 1173, New Paltz, NY, 12561, USA. FAX (914) 883-9044**

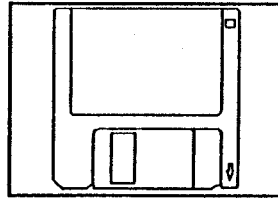
Directors

DIANE BLUMENTHAL, 3131 EASTSIDE, SUITE 340, HOUSTON, TX 77908 (713) 528-4260  
JULIA CRAVEN, 14 MIDLAND DR., MORRISTOWN, NJ 07960 (201) 538-3129  
ELISE GOLD, 31 BUTTERVILLE RD., NEW PALTZ, NY 12561 (914) 255-0503  
MARY GOOD, 6 ST. GOTHARDS RD., ALPHINGTON, MELBOURNE, VIC., AUSTRALIA  
CHRISTINA HAGELTHORN, FORENINGSGATAN 4, 41127 GÖTEBORG, SWEDEN (031) 11 87 32  
ANNETTE HENNE, 60A FRIEDBERGSTR., CH-8200 SCHAFFHAUSEN, SWITZERLAND (053) 247 518  
JO SALAS & JONATHAN FOX, 33 BUTTERVILLE RD., NEW PALTZ, NY 12561 (914) 255-8163  
JUDY SWALLOW, 9 GARFIELD PLACE, POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12601 (914) 471-7585  
TIMOTHY VAN NESS, 41 DAVIS CT., CONCORD, MA 01742 (508) 369-6349  
MARC WEISS, 632 UNIVERSITY AVE., BOULDER, CO 80302 (303) 447-9845

Playback Theater--IPTN  
PO Box 1173  
New Paltz, NY 12561

the information bank. He began with the question: "What kind of information about how it is done elsewhere would be helpful to Playback practitioners? He has come up with three categories: 1. Recruiting new members; 2. Performances/Workshops (Activities, Publicity, Money, Hiring Institutions, Grants, Etc.); and 3. Company Life (Leadership, Training, Cohesion). Please let Marc know of your reactions and suggestions. What would you like to know?

\*\*\*\*\*



There is a rumor that Playback people shun computers, but they must know people who love them. In order to help make our international networking possible, Marc is urging us to

make use of the electronic age--ie, telephone, fax, and digital information. If you send information on disc, in ASCII format, it can be processed with speed and efficiency. You can speed printed documents by using Playback's (Elise Gold's) fax number.

\*\*\*\*\*

How the IPTN came about: The original Playback Theatre set up a not-for-profit corporation and earned tax-exempt status to carry out their business. When they slowed their activity three years ago they kept their legal structure. In order to promote the development of Playback around the world, they agreed to elect a new slate of Directors with broad representation of Playback experience. The new Directors were the individuals who came to the meeting on April 30 and whose decisions established the IPTN. The actual meeting costs--about \$500-- were covered by original Playback.

\*\*\*\*\*

First issue of the Newsletter: October 1990 (deadline, September 1). Please send information, articles, and suggestions. We are still looking for a name for the newsletter, too.