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Wandering the Web-An Eclectic Amalgam of Selected Theater and Theater History Websites

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Wandering the Web ... An Eclectic Amalgam of Selected Theater and Theater History Websites

Compiled and Annotated by **Roxanne Myers Spencer**

This column for **Wandering the Web** grew out of a Webpage pathfinder compiled for an introductory information sources class. My interest piqued, I, of course, found the research exciting and frustrating. Most searches for "Theater history" or "history of the Theater" led to pages about the history of individual local theaters. **NorthernLight's** folder organization helped the search, cutting down on information overload. Once I found one or two comprehensive, well-organized sites, my task became easier. Let the show begin!

Educational Resources

Theater History on the Web <<http://artsci.washington.edu/drama/jack.html#Information>>

"A Resource for Theater Historians and Students of the Theater's History," this site, developed by a retired drama professor from the **University of Washington**, features links to area studies in Theater, cultural sites, and resources for the serious student of theater. Research and map centers, museums, and libraries are listed, some with brief annotations.

Worth reading, a discussion on "Theater History and Computing: The Role of Computing in Theater Research: A Retrospective," provides insight into the possibilities and realities of new technology in the development and understanding of theater history. "Indexes and Resource Sites" lead viewers to a short but varied list of important theater-related sites. The frames and tables design of the homepage leave something to be desired for the viewer, but this site is well worth browsing.

A Brief Guide to Internet Resources in Theater and Performance Studies <http://www.stetson.edu/departments/csata/thr_guid.html>

"A Brief Guide to Internet Resources in Theater and Performance Studies" is maintained in the Communication Studies and Theater Arts Department of **Stetson University** (Fla.). A site organized in a way dear to the

librarian's heart, the Contents clearly describe the Webpages' scope and links to other resources. Those interested in researching stagecraft and technical production, actors and acting, plays and playwrights, arts and non-profit management, among other topics, will find online primary sources, e-journals, e-texts, and suggested print materials. Links to listservs, newsgroups, and other guides round out a comprehensive online introduction to Theater and performance studies. Simply designed, with no graphics to adorn—or clutter—this resource, this site is an excellent starting point for research.

History of the Theater <<http://199.179.28.2/academic/theater.htm>>

This resource, posted on the **Davison Community Schools (Michigan) High School English Department Website**, contains links

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of paleontology, now has two locations. The original site, now dubbed **PaleoNet West**, is still at <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/Paleonet/home.html>, and the mirror site is at http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/paleonet/. There is yet a third **PaleoNet** site maintained by an individual at <http://www.paleo.net/>, which is much more limited in scope. It offers data analysis to paleoscientists, as well as fulltext articles on various topics.

Patents

"Bibliographic data for patent publications from 63 countries or regional patent offices, covering approximately the last 30 years; Facsimile images of patent documents from 20 countries from 1920 onwards." The homepage of the **European Patent Office** also offers links to patent sites around the world. One caveat—you need to know what you're looking for! Search capabilities include the author and title, but without the patent registration number, it's difficult to narrow your search to a manageable number of hits. <http://www.european-patent-office.org/index.htm>

HOWEVER, the **U.S. Patent and Trade Office (USPTO)** site is much more user friendly, albeit limited to searching **U.S. Patents**. Search fields include the author's city as well as Boolean and advanced search features. Information on patent applications is also avail-

able here. <http://www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html>

Physics

"The story of physics in the 20th century unfolds like a splendid tapestry teeming with people, ideas, and things." A nifty timeline section on the **American Physical Society's** Website offers a color-coded map to five storylines that weave the history of physics. For example, the "Living World" goldenrod storyline shows how physics is related to medicine and biology. See it at: http://www.timeline.aps.org/APS/home_HighRes.html.

Reference

So you thought theses were dull? An academic consortium is promoting electronic Web archives of these valuable works. The site is part of an "... initiative to improve graduate education, increase sharing of knowledge, help universities build their information infrastructure, and extend the value of digital libraries." The site offers links to various member universities with both citation + abstract and fulltext entries, as well as a few theses submitted by individual students. **UMI** is among the links, however users must have a **ProQuest** subscription to access 1997 and prior years. <http://www.theses.org/>

Statistics

Need to know what the population of Albania will be in 2010? No problem! Check the **International Data Base (IDB)** on the **U.S. Census Bureau's International Programs**

Center (IPC) site. IPC "conducts demographic and socioeconomic studies and strengthens statistical development around the world." Or for a demographic snapshot of the world look at the **World Population Profile** with a special chapter focusing on HIV/AIDS in the developing world. Some documents are available through PDF. You can also download software for analyzing population statistics or doing the work of census and survey data processing. <http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/>

War

One of the best U.S. intelligence Web sites, the **Intelligence Resource Program** page is "... a comprehensive resource on the past and future of the American intelligence community." Maintained by the **Federation of American Scientists**, the site is packed with hundreds of secret weapons' labs and other targets of military significance from satellite reconnaissance images used in past military initiatives. A link in the "New" section in April shows **Operation Desert Fox** photos of Iraqi sites. FAS's **John Pike** notes that although the photos are aging and no longer influence policy decisions, they are going to "... introduce a new standard of facility to the public policy debate." There are also links to e-Prints on various topics ("U.S. Black Aircraft"); intelligence agency homepages; a special section on the Gulf War; links to Congressional floor debates, hearings and reports; and "hot links" to such items as a novel by **Dan Brown** titled **Digital Fortress**. Analyze and enjoy! <http://www.fas.org/irp/>

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to a few select theater resources, including a costume page, links to Ancient Greek and Roman theater, the National Theater Design Archive, and Kabuki and Mask sites. If you are planning a trip to New York City, the link to lists of current Broadway, Off-Broadway, and Off-Off-Broadway shows is useful. Students interested in the history of British Theater can follow the links to information on the new Globe Theater, English Restoration Theater, and the 19th-century London stage. Links to further directories and educational theater resources on the Internet provide information on college and theater departments, theater training programs, and theater libraries and museums. By no means a comprehensive site in itself, this Webpage would benefit from better organization and annotation, but as an easy jumping-off point to a small but interesting amalgam of theater sites, this simple source is recommended.

Study Web: Fine Arts: Theater <<http://www.studyweb.com/arts/theatre.htm>>

A world of research for students, teachers, librarians, and the weekend scholar, **Study Web** organizes information based on age groups or grade levels, making this a particularly good resource for K-12 curriculum development. Graphics are indicated for students needing to download or print images for school projects. The theater page, only one of many valuable educational pages, lists, in alphabetical order links for plays, costuming, puppetry, theater history, bibliographies, national and international theater homepages, and theater online publications. Teachers, middle-schoolers, and theater buffs alike will enjoy scrolling down the varied list of links. Highly recommended.

Theater Internet Sites <http://www.lib.muohio.edu/~wortmawa/theater/TheaterInternet.html>

The Humanities Librarian at **Miami University of Ohio** developed a series of pages for bibliographic instruction. The Table of Contents lists General Theater Sites, Plays: Electronic texts, People: Playwrights, actors, others, Professional: Job listings, schools, Electronic journals, discussion groups, and Additional Sites. Browsing through the parent directory of this site <<http://www.lib.muohio.edu/~wortmawa/theater/>> provides other resources to students of theater. Some links are dead, but as an introduction to Theater resources on the Web, this is a decent starting point.

Children's Theater Resource Webpage <<http://faculty-web.at.nwu.edu/theater/tya/>>

A student project from the theater department at **Northwestern University**, the **Children's Theater Resource Webpage** offers viewers a bit of history, professional organizations for children's theater, and a few international links. Links to related sites on costuming, publishers, and puppetry are useful. What this site lacks in detail, it makes up

for in a nice variety of sites for children's drama and literature. A state-by-state list of children's theater listings also makes this site worth checking out.

Wild Wonderful World of Theater History <<http://www.montevallo.edu/thea/theahis/default.html>>

"**Wild Wonderful World of Theater History**" is a Website designed as part of the undergraduate degree requirements for a student at **University of Montevallo**, in Alabama. This "18-chapter paper" (quotes mine) can be accessed in one large file <http://www.montevallo.edu/thea/theahis/Theahis_ful.html> or by individual chapters. The chapters outline the history of Western theater from its origins of ritual and myth to the 1980s, with links to information significant playwrights. Students using the Web for school projects will appreciate the brief overview and numerous links, although, unfortunately, many of the links are dead or lead to large commercial vendor sites, but the scope of this student's project makes it a worthy, quick, graphics-free browse.

A Few Commercial Sites

Aisle Say <<http://www.escape.com/~theanet/AisleSay.html>> **The Internet Magazine of Stage Reviews and Opinions**

Very nearly a veteran site on the Web, "**Aisle Say**," now in its fourth year, is a comprehensive site that posts well-written reviews of theatrical productions. The scope of this site, though not strictly speaking historical, is impressive. Although **Aisle Say's** raison d'être is theatrical reviews primarily from home or American theater in New York City, critics from across the continent review productions from the Berkshires to Baltimore and from Toronto to Los Angeles. Regional theater, special feature, book, and recording indexes supply the theater buff with a wide variety of reviews to choose from. One could comfortably browse this site for hours and get a panoramic view of who is doing what and why in theater in North America. Highly recommended resource.

Chicago Footlights <<http://chicago.footlights.com>>

Self-proclaimed as "the premiere playbill for professional theater in Milwaukee and Chicago" this commercial site publishes playbills

for more than a dozen Chicagoland theaters. The site contains an archive for **Chicago Footlights** articles from 1996, and is frequently updated. Brief pieces such as "Women in Theater History," "Bad Ideas for Theater," and "The New Paradigm" will be familiar to theatergoers with a passion for keeping old Playbills. **Chicago Footlights** does a good job of archiving articles, although there seems to be a small editorial staff—most features are written by one or two contributors. Links to area theaters offer a brief look at performance schedules and types of productions. A handy site for those who want to know what is happening in the Chicago-Milwaukee performing arts world. The faintly annoying Java scroll offers a contact phone numbers.

History of Theater, Tupelo Community Theater Playbill <<http://www.ebicom.net/~tct/oftheatre.htm>>

A brief, well-written introduction to the history of theater from this commercial site for the **Tupelo (Ms.) Community Theater** is divided into sections: The first section gives a short overview of theater history from Ancient Greece and Rome through the Middle Ages. The influences of **Shakespeare**, the Protestant Reformation, and the Renaissance on theater are touched upon in section two. Theater from the Enlightenment to the present is highlighted in the third section; and the last section describes the development of community theater in America. The site is simply, but elegantly designed, and a few links, which need updating, lead the interested browser to other sites of interest and a bibliography.

UK Theatre Web <<http://www.uktw.co.uk/index.html>>

Taking a trip to the United Kingdom? **UK Theatre Web** lists "What's On Stage," "Last Minute" show tickets, "Arts Info, for the UK and Irish Arts Professional," and a comprehensive, alphabetical index of links to performing arts resources: Theater companies, agents, jobs, theatrical competitions, magazines and newsgroups; as well as museums, schools, radio and other media. For those curious about how it's done across the pond, this performing arts resource offers not only deals on theater tickets, but is also a handy resource for nuts and bolts of living the theatrical life in the UK. 🇬🇧

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lisher client list in North America. A frequent speaker at the **Charleston Conference**, Audrey has a list of awesome accomplishments. More is at <http://www.catchword.com>.

How many of you use the journal barcode on the cover of **ATG** to check it in? There was a recent discussion on **serialst** between **Sharon Cline McKay** <mckays@FAXON.COM> and **Kathleen Thorne** (Serials Cataloger, San Jose State

University) <kathleen@email.sjsu.edu> about barcodes and ISSN's. **Sandy Paul** <skpassoc@CWIXmail.com> knows all about this and she **MAKES** me get barcodes for **ATG**!

And speaking of **Sandy Paul** (above), I am sure that she is happy that now every article published on **IDEAL (Academic Press)** (the **International Digital Electronic Access Library**) will be coded with **Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)**, the globally recognized identification system for intellectual property in the digital environment.

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