

Welcome Yvonne Bell

Director of Development



Since joining the Development team in October 1999, Yvonne has been working closely with board leadership and staff to lead CTG's fundraising effort. After graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, Yvonne helped open the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in 1986 and served as the Assistant Director of Development. As the former Vice President of Development at the California Science Center, she led the campaign that raised more than \$33 million to build the new California Science Center.

The Fourth Annual Richard E. Sherwood Award



The recipient of the fourth annual Richard E. Sherwood Award at the Mark Taper Forum will be announced at the June 6th opening night performance of *The Poison Tree*. Given each spring to a young artist of special promise and originality, the Sherwood Prize identifies individuals

pushing the boundaries of theatrical form. The award singles out bold emerging talent across America and seeks to forge new relationships for the Center Theatre Group.

A former president of the theatre, Dick Sherwood was a lover of the arts, a nurturer of the young, and a supporter of the new, adventuresome, and unusual. Past winners of the \$5,000 prize include playwright/director Robert O'Hara, director Ian Belton, and playwright John Belluso whose new work *The Body of Bourne* will make its world premiere on the Mark Taper Forum main stage in May 2000.

The award committee is chaired by Gordon Davidson and Dee Sherwood. Nominations and applications are received every January.

Stage Whispers

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Bernard Boudreaux
Target, Senior Manager,
Community Relations

How did you become involved with Center Theatre Group?

Center Theatre Group has a great reputation for producing quality productions in Los Angeles. The organization also shared the same belief that we had about reaching out to the community. We decided to work together to make the arts affordable and accessible for children and their families in Los Angeles. Target Family Performances makes theatre accessible by offering discounts to designated productions so that families can attend the theatre together.

In what ways does your partnership with Center Theatre Group fulfill your company's philanthropic goals and mission?

Target is committed to making our communities better places to live, work and play. So, we support the arts by sponsoring free attendance days, and/or reduced admission seats so families can enjoy the arts together. We also encourage our team members to volunteer and have created initiatives that make a profound impact in communities throughout the United States. From the beginning, Target has given 5% of pretax profits to good causes; today we're giving back over \$3 million a week to education, the arts and social services.

How does this partnership benefit you?

Center Theatre Group is one of the nation's premiere non-profit theatre organizations. They are a good fit with the Target brand because of what they represent. CTG provides innovative programs that they combine with their productions and that aligns with what Target tries to provide for our guests and the community in making the arts accessible.

What makes your corporate partnership with Center Theatre Group unique?

We don't know any other large theatre company in L.A. that can provide the type of high quality theatrical experience while also making it affordable for families.

Briefly describe your favorite live theatre experience.

My first WOW moment was when I was a child and went to see *Peter Pan*. They had it rigged it so that Peter Pan would fly over the audience. I remember being mesmerized by that performance.

What type of theatre do you enjoy the most (e.g. musical, drama, comedy) and why?

I like theatre that makes me think. After the show, you have to be able to talk about it. I enjoy productions that allow people to be able to relate and talk about what they just saw on many different levels. Culture Clash's *Water & Power* was a great example of this.



CTG Expands Sherwood Award for Local Theatre Artists



Dorothy Sherwood

CTG RECENTLY ANNOUNCED the expansion of its annual Richard E. Sherwood Award. Originally created in 1996 as an annual \$5,000 fund to support innovative, adventurous theatre artists from across the country, the Sherwood Award is now increased to \$10,000 and is exclusively for the nurturing of Los Angeles artists. The goal of the award is to cultivate emerging artists of promise associated with performance in Los Angeles, and invite them to engage in a professional relationship with Center Theatre Group.

"The Sherwood Award is integral to Michael Ritchie's vision of supporting the Los Angeles theatre community and new work that is being done outside of traditional venues," said CTG Associate Manager Emilie Beck. The Sherwood Award was established in memory of Richard E. Sherwood. A patron of the arts, Sherwood was president of LACMA and president and chairman of the Center Theatre Group Board of Directors from 1980 until his death in 1993. The award is an endowed fund to CTG by the Sherwood family and honors Sherwood's passionate commitment to theatre. "If we are to have a dynamic theatre expressing the world of the 21st century, we must recognize and nourish the explorative artist, particularly in the struggle of the early years of a career," states Dorothy Sherwood, wife of the late Sherwood.

In addition to the Sherwood Award, CTG has also created a professional internship position that will help CTG staff administer the application and selection process. Caitie Hannon, a senior at USC's School of Theater, was awarded this year's Sherwood Internship. Hannon co-founded Musical Theatre Repertory (MTR), a USC student-run organization, and is also on the Board of the Ensemble Theatre Company. "The internship has proven to be an invaluable learning experience for me, exposing me to the variety and depth of local artists and the Los Angeles theatre scene. I am grateful to CTG and the Sherwood family for giving me this opportunity," said Hannon. Two Sherwood Awards will be given this year since there was no Sherwood Award in 2006. CTG will host a dinner in September to honor the recipients in conjunction with the Ovation Awards produced by the LA Stage Alliance. Both awards will be presented at the Ovation ceremony. ●

CTG Board Member Ava Fries Honored by National Organization for Women



Kimber Salter, Ph.D, President of California NOW (National Organization for Women), (L) officiated at the annual Excellency In Media Awards, where Michael Ritchie presented an award to CTG Board Member Ava Fries. Fries was cited for her arts and community support, including many years of highly active fundraising and support of CTG and its youth outreach and education programs.