She Speaks – ND, 2011

Here's my report from my first Skype Theatrical Event in North Dakota (to my knowledge, no other theatre group in the state has ever attempted to connect 3 events going on simultaneously in 3 different countries on 2 different continents):

As I told our audience, we were like Alexander Bell making that first phone call. The transmission was a bit crackly and conversation was somewhat challenging, but we did make the call!

That said, I would definitely say the evening was a success. We . . .

1. Introduced the public to the work of 6 women's words.
2. 3 women had never seen their work read on a stage.
3. 1 woman talked to me after about joining ICWP.
4. Margaret Bail, a sister-lister, had her work done and it was a pleasure to meet her again.
5. Brought several 60+ actors to the stage after either years of hiatus or for first time.
6. Brought other newbies onto the boards.
7. Got to see a long-time theatre buddy's work on stage, as well as her in another piece before she moves to Florida.
8. Raised $150 to be split between ICWP and a local women's organization.
9. Made $25.00 in donations for the theatre (normally the rent is $100, so that was my goal, but not to be.)
10. Got some excellent newspaper coverage for the event, two articles in local paper, plus a university news release and appeared on the home page of UND website.
11. Learned A LOT about video conferencing.  Our executive director learned even more and thinks we should try it again.

I gave faux gerber daisies in bright colors to all the playwrights to wear so that they would stand out in the crowd and invited all on stage for the talk-back, which went very well.   I also slipped them each a special glass of champagne to celebrate their success, as well as a chocolate rabbit wishing that their creativity multiply.  Each of us got at least one constructive suggestion in addition to numerous complimentary comments.

So, there you have it.   A huge thank you to Paddy and Jenni for letting me horn in on their event.  I know adding me complicated things tremendously.  They probably should have told me to go away, but they didn't.  So, thank you dear women.  Thank you all,

Kathy Coudle-King