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fter 12 seasons, I am vacating the seat in the audience from the average of 92 shows I've attended each year. I choose to focus my work behind the scenes and within the valley's theatre community and leave opening nights as the *culmination* of my process.

While my role as critic will end, I will continue in my position as Southwestern Regional Reporter for Back Stage Newspapers. I'll write all different types of articles to support theatre in Arizona with a national voice. I am also working with theatre companies and arts organizations around our community in a variety of positions that will keep me involved and visible.

There's not one particular reason that prompted me to make the choice to cease being a critic, just an overall feeling that it's time to hand the reins to someone younger and more energetic than I. To that end, I am looking for an interested party. Or three.

For the 2007/2008 season, it is my hope to gather together a number of potential critics who would like to take over stewardship of "A Voice from the Audience." I'd like to mentor one or more people to give them the chance to enjoy the opportunities made available by working as the only critic in town who consistently reviews all levels of theatre, critiques all elements of productions, and maintains a community focus. Anyone interested in this challenging and rewarding offer can contact me at [mspt@goldfishpublishers.com](mailto:mspt@goldfishpublishers.com). For everyone else, be sure to check back in September to see how the new critic(s) will work out.

And now I begin work helming Tempe Little Theatre's *Urinetown*. However, this note won't be the last piece of mine you'll read: in the future you'll see columns from me, notes in programs, and even a steady stream of emails (if you can figure out which ones I've written). I will continue to work on individual productions for theatres of all sizes, and there's a chance I'll be moving into a position to support playwrights and their original scripts. I look forward to collaborating with you, and wish everyone who's visited me at Goldfish Publishers over the last 12 seasons to break a leg.

Cheers,

Mark S.P. Turvin  
Goldfish Publishers, LLC