

SPECIAL REPORT

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*A Statistical Guide to the
Finances and Productivity
of the Nonprofit Professional
Theatre in America*

BY ROBERT HOLLEY

The phenomenal evolution of the American nonprofit professional theatre over the past quarter-century has produced an entirely new generation of artists, craftspeople and administrators dedicated to establishing a new American tradition—the decentralized theatre.

Fueled by the progress made during the 1960s and 1970s, the nonprofit professional theatre has grown from a handful of theatres barely two decades ago to a nationwide network of more than 250 theatres today. It is the chief originator and producer of theatre in America; such a theatre exists only with a delicate combination of public and private subsidy. Yet, the increasingly erratic pattern of contributed support has failed to close the growing gap between income and expenses, jeopardizing the further development—and perhaps even the survival—of this new American theatre. —>