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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

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Election Results

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Distinguished Achievers

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Will Bellman

"... I was somewhat overwhelmed by his depth of experience and inspired by his wisdom." [more »](#)



Buy Online with USITT

New, updated, and easy to navigate! That's the new online marketplace for members at shop.usitt.org. [more »](#)



Excellence in Young Designers & Technicians Recognized

Ten outstanding young designers and technicians were selected from over 72 students nominated. [more »](#)



USITT Kicks off Elite Training in Las Vegas

Learn how to use the latest high-end equipment with the best instructors. [more »](#)



Preview in Charlotte for PQ '11, Scenofest

Once every four years, the theatre design community from around the world joins together to celebrate. [more »](#)



Catch the 2011 Rising Star

Projection designer Daniel Brodie received the seventh annual USITT Rising Star Award, sponsored by LDI2011 and Live Design magazine. [more »](#)



News From USITT's President

In less than nine weeks (as of this writing) we will gather in Charlotte for the Annual Conference & Stage Expo. [more »](#)



Executive Director

Let it snow! [more »](#)



Lighting Portfolio Review

Consider joining the Lighting Design & Technology Commission's portfolio review as either a presenter or reviewer. [more »](#)

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2011: What's Next ...

Annual Conference & Stage Expo with a special focus on sustainability

March 9-12

Charlotte, North Carolina

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JobsUSITT

Find a position
Find an employee



Training for the Design Era

The professional world of design is changing, and with it training needs to be re-examined. [more »](#)



Architects Looking Forward

Members of the Architecture Commission are working with OI STAT, and preparing for awards and the 2011 Conferences. [more »](#)



Jiggin' It

In the longstanding traditions of SurvivorJigtopia, Jigging with the Stars, and Top Jig, we bring you—The Jig Show! [more »](#)



Special Exhibits in Charlotte

Exciting displays at Stage Expo will help highlight the move into USITT's second fifty years. [more »](#)



Fellows Featured at Stage Expo

At the upcoming Charlotte 2011 Conference & Stage Expo, the Fellows of USITT will host a "lost and found ideas booth" called Network Nexus. [more »](#)



Performances in Charlotte

Major performance groups are important fixtures in the performing arts landscape of the Charlotte metropolitan area. [more »](#)



The Last Word

See images from the Awards from Young Designers & Technicians winners. [more »](#)

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Officers Elected, Seek 2012 Nominations

USITT's 2011 elections saw record participation, with almost 30 percent of members voting either electronically or using paper ballots.

Lea Asbell-Swanger was elected to a one-year term as President-Elect, and will then automatically move into the position of President. Her President-Elect term starts July 1, and she will assume the presidency on July 1, 2012.

Sherry Wagner-Henry was elected Secretary, David R. Krajec Vice-President for Commissions, Marketa Fantova Vice-President for International Activities, and David W. Will Vice-President for Conferences.

Also serving three-year terms are Directors Dan Culhane, Jennifer L. Knott, Andi Lyons, Kevin Rigdon, Loren Schreiber, and Joe Tilford. All officers and directors start their terms on July 1.

Patricia Dennis, USITT Secretary, certified the election results.

With the 2011 voting concluded, nominations are being sought for candidates in the 2012 election cycle. The Nominations Committee, chaired by the Institute's Secretary. Nominations are open for the following 2012 Board of Director positions: Treasurer; Vice-President for Communication; Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters; Vice-President for Programming; Vice-President Special Operations; and six Directors. [Complete the 2012 Election Nomination Form here](#). All completed forms must be submitted by March 1. Once completed nomination forms are collected, the committee will develop the 2012 USITT Board of Directors Election slate. The slate will be presented and voted by the membership next fall.

Questions or concerns about the nominations process should be directed to Patricia Dennis, Nominations Committee Chair.



Lea Asbell-Swanger



Sherry Wagner-Henry



David Krajec



Marketa

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Fantova



Dave Will

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Offer ETCP Exams in Charlotte

All three ETCP examinations will be given at USITT's Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The entertainment electrician exam is scheduled for Friday, March 11; the arena rigging exam is to be given the morning of Saturday, March 12 and the theatre rigging exam is scheduled for that afternoon. USITT members receive a discount to take any exam, and candidates who wish to take multiple exams will receive a discount for the second exam.

Interested applicants must submit their application, along with supporting materials and fee, to the ETCP office no later than February 10, 2011. Space is limited.

Candidate information, including eligibility requirements and applications, is available on the [ETCP website](#), or if you would like the information mailed to you, please contact Meredith Moseley-Bennett, ETCP Certification Manager, at 212-244-1505 or certification@esta.org.

Conference Employment Service

USITT has restructured its Conference Employment Service for 2011, including a new fee structure and reduced costs for some employees.

Those seeking new employment, and those looking for qualified employees or interns at all levels are urged to consider using the 2011 Conference Employment Service. [Information and forms can be found here](#). Fees increase on March 1, so act quickly.

Draft Chain Hoist Standard, Extensions to RDM Available

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)**2011: What's Next ...**Annual Conference
& Stage Expo
with a special focus
on sustainability**March 9-12**
Charlotte, North Carolina**usitt****REGISTER TODAY ►**

Two draft standards have been posted for public review on the [PLASA website](#) through February 7.

BSR E1.6-2-201x, *Entertainment Technology -- Design, Inspection, and Maintenance of Electric Chain Hoists for the Entertainment Industry*, deals with chain hoists used in the entertainment industry as part of a performance or in preparation for a performance.

BSR E1.37-1-201x, *Additional Message Sets for ANSI E1.20 (RDM) - Part 1, Dimmer Message Sets*, is part of the BSR E1.37 project to add additional features to RDM. This part provides additional get/set parameter messages (PIDs) that are intended for, but are not limited to, use with entertainment lighting dimming systems. These additional messages allow access to configuration parameters commonly found in many theatrical dimming systems.

Members of the public who are interested these issues are invited to comment on the draft standards.

[New Project to Draft Stage Lift Safety Standard](#)

PLASA has started work on a new project to write an American National Standard: BSR E1.42 – 201x, *Entertainment Technology – Installed Stage Lift Safety Standard*. Stage lifts, such as orchestra pits or theatre forestage lifts, are not the subject of any current national standard. As result, safety requirements and inspections are inconsistent. This project is to develop a standard for stage lifts that can be referenced by the International Code Council and the National Fire Protection Association. The scope is limited to safety and to lifts that are installed as a part of the building and that are not for a single theatrical production. Any person involved in the design, manufacture, use, or inspection of stage lifts and who is willing to actively work on the project is invited to join the new working group. [A working group application form is available on the PLASA website.](#)

USITT President Joe Aldridge has named Loren Schrieber as the principle and Dan Brinker as the alternate USITT person on this project.

For more information, contact either Martin Moore, the secretary for the working group, at martinmoore2010@gmail.com, or Karl G. Ruling, PLASA's technical standards manager, at standards.na@plasa.org.

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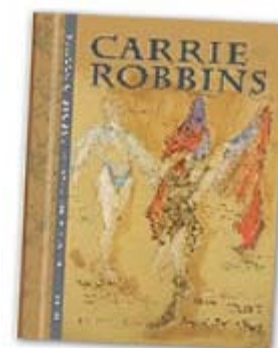
To Present Distinguished Achievement Awards

Six individuals with outstanding records of achievement in a specific segment of the industry will be honored at the 2011 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Each will be a featured part of the Conference in a special session presented by one of the Commissions.

The individuals and their areas of expertise are: Carrie Robbins, Costume Design & Technology; William J. Byrnes, Management; R. Craig Wolf, Education; Dennis Dorn, Technical Production; Cesar Pelli, Architecture; and John C. Scheffler, Scene Design.

Distinguished Achievement in Costume Design & Technology

Ms. Robbins' work has been featured in more than 30 Broadway shows, including *Class Act*, *Grease* (original), *Agnes of God*, *Yentl*, *Octette Bridge Club*, *Sweet Bird of Youth* (with Lauren Bacall), *Frankenstein*, *Happy End* (with Meryl Streep), *Boys of Winter*, *Cyrano* (with Frank Langella), and *Shadow Box* (with Mercedes Ruehl).



She is the subject of the latest in USITT's Monograph series which will make its debut at the 2011 Annual Conference. Her awards and nominations include two Tony nominations, five Drama Desk, Maharam, USITT/Prague International, L.A. Dramalogue, Henry Hughes, F.I.T Surface Design, and Audelco.

Her costumes for *White Christmas* have been seen in major cities in the United States and Great Britain. Her regional work includes *M. Butterfly* and *On the Verge* for Arena Stage and *American in Paris* for the Alley Theatre, Houston as well as many productions for the Guthrie and Williamstown theatres.

Opera design includes *Death in Venice* for The Glimmerglass Opera ('08 PQ Design Exhibit), *Samson et Dalila* (San Francisco Opera and Houston Grand), and many productions for Sarah Caldwell's Opera Company of Boston. Her work has also been seen at the Hamburg Stats Opera.

Known for her drawing ability, Ms. Robbins' work is featured in the Time-Life Series –Collectibles. She has been profiled in *Costume Design: Techniques of*

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Modern Masters, Contemporary Designers, and CUNY-TV's *Women in Theatre* series.

She is an MFA graduate from the Yale School of Drama and was master teacher of costume design at the NYU Tisch School of the Arts for many years.

Distinguished Achievement in Management

Mr. Byrnes is the associate provost and dean of graduate studies at Southern Utah University where he served as dean of the College of Performing and Visual Arts from 2004 to 2009. He teaches graduate seminars in the arts administration program in board relations, strategic planning, fundraising, economics, financial management, and leadership. His textbook, *Management and the Arts* is widely used in arts and culture management courses throughout the world.

Mr. Byrnes was a professor of theatre and associate dean of Florida State University's School of Theatre from 1994 to 2004. He also directed the MFA Theatre Management program at FSU. Before that, he worked for 22 years as a faculty member and administrator at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. He began his career as a lighting designer, technical director, and production manager. He has designed the lighting for over 150 productions.

He is on the advisory board of ISW Business School in Freiburg, Germany where he has been a guest lecturer since 2003. He has lectured on arts management in China, Japan, Singapore, Turin, Cologne, and Belgrade. He is a member of the Editorial Advisory Committee of the Asia Pacific Journal of Arts and Cultural Management. He was President of USITT in 2000-02 and is a Fellow and a recipient of the Joel E. Rubin Founder's Award. He is editor of "Inside USITT" in *TD&T*. In 2001, he was inducted into the National Theatre Conference (NTC).

Distinguished Achievement in Education

Mr. Wolf has been a college professor for almost four decades starting in 1972 at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He joined United Scenic Artists in 1977.

In 1982, he moved to Charlottesville, Virginia where he taught at the University of Virginia for two years before crossing the country to teach at California State University from 1984 to 1986. During that time, he joined renowned scenographer Oren Parker in authoring the fifth edition of *Scene Design and Stage Lighting*. Since 1987, Mr. Wolf has been teaching both undergraduate and graduate students at San Diego State University.

He is a full professor of design and head of the design program at San Diego State University. In addition, he is a professional lighting designer whose designs have been seen nationwide, including productions for San Diego's Old Globe Theatre, Dance Theatre Workshop in New York, Virginia Shakespeare and the Richmond Ballet Company, Theatre Artaud in San Francisco, and the Japan America Center and Odyssey Theatre Ensemble of Los Angeles.

He has continued as author of the lighting and sound sections of *Scene Design*

and *Stage Lighting*, now in its ninth edition. He has been consistently active with USITT where he has been Lighting Commissioner, Vice-Chair of the Publications Committee, and member of the Board of Directors. Currently, Mr. Wolf is a member of USITT's Awards Committee.

Distinguished Achievement in Technical Production

Mr. Dorn is professor emeritus and former director of theatre at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was resident technical director of the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1976 to 2009 where he served as technical director and designer for over 180 productions. He is an active member and Fellow of USITT, and has been an active contributor to *TD&T*. He is the co-author of one of the best selling technology books in history and helped to found the highly successful USITT Tech Expo exhibit and catalog. Mr. Dorn was Vice-President for Commissions, and serves as USITT's representative to the ETCP council.

Distinguished Achievement in Architecture

Cesar Pelli, senior principal of Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, was born in Argentina, where he earned a diploma in architecture from the University of Tucumán. He first worked in the offices of Eero Saarinen, serving as project designer for the TWA Terminal at JFK Airport and Morse and Stiles Colleges at Yale University. He was then director of design at DMJM and, later, partner for design at Gruen Associates, both in Los Angeles. His award-winning projects during these years include the City Hall in San Bernardino, California; the Pacific Design Center in Los Angeles; and the United States Embassy in Tokyo. From 1977 to 1984, Mr. Pelli was dean of the Yale School of Architecture. In 1977, he founded Cesar Pelli & Associates, now Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects.

He has written extensively on architectural issues, including *Observations for Young Architects* (1999). His work has been widely exhibited and is the subject of nine books. He has received 12 honorary degrees and more than 200 awards for design excellence. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the National Academy of Design, the International Academy of Architecture, and of l'Academie d'Architecture de France. In 1995, the American Institute of Architects awarded Mr. Pelli the Gold Medal, in recognition of a lifetime of distinguished achievement in architecture. In 2004, he was awarded the Aga Khan Award for Architecture for the design of the Petronas Towers.

Distinguished Achievement in Scene Design

Mr. Scheffler has been an all-category union designer since 1968. He has a degree in architecture from Tulane University and was a junior partner in the Phillip Henry Roach, Jr. architectural firm. He has designed over 300 costumes for various crews of the Mardi Gras in New Orleans. He was the resident designer for the Algiers Community Theatre and two ballet companies in New Orleans.

In 1965, he moved to Brooklyn, New York and has been designing in New York, regional theatre, and opera and summer stock theatre for more than 40 years.

He won an OBIE Award for the set design of AC-DC, a Carbonell Award for *Violano Virtuoso* and an ADELCO nomination. He was head of the theatre design program at Brooklyn College for 24 years. He is still designing sets and costumes for theatres in Brooklyn and in Manhattan and recently opened a production of *Endgame* in New York City designing both sets and costumes.

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News & Notices

Remembering Will Bellman

Randy Earle *Chair, USITT Fellows and USITT Past President*

I first met Willard F. Bellman in 1972 at the San Francisco Conference. A number of educators met to discuss USITT's role in establishing standards for higher education, and we formed the Performing Arts Training and Education Committee with strong participation by Will. I remember him advising us to examine BFA-type training programs in the Soviet Union and to avoid some of the unintentional consequences created by such job-specific training. I was somewhat overwhelmed by his depth of experience and inspired by his wisdom.

Will, passed away quietly from natural causes in his Winnetka, California home on December 12 at the age of 90. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Kay, and is survived by daughter Debbie, son Chris, daughter-in-law Shirley, and two grandchildren.

After receiving a doctorate from Northwestern University, Will began a lifelong career as an educator in theatre design and technology with an emphasis in stage lighting. Beginning in 1950, he taught at University of Wyoming, Washington University, and University of California at Los Angeles. In 1958, he was appointed professor of theatre at California State University Northridge where he served as technical director and lighting designer until retiring in 1988.

Dr. Bellman wrote *Lighting the Stage, Art and Practice*. In its third edition, Dick Devin



In Memoriam - Dr. Willard F. Bellman

Photos/Courtesy Debbie Bellman



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described the book to be one of the few sources to contribute to the training of graduate students in lighting and commented "He was always so approachable, understanding, kind, and wise."

Dr. Bellman also wrote *Scene Design, Stage Lighting, Sound, Costume And Make-up: A Scenographic Approach* and *Scenography And Stage Technology: An Introduction* which broke new ground toward understanding scenography as an all-inclusive concept. Speaking of Will, Richard Durst recalled, "I remain humble in recalling that friendship, knowing that I was often in the presence of someone who had a profound effect on the practice of lighting and stage technology."

David Rodger noted eight articles by Dr. Bellman in *Theatre Design & Technology* including a major publication, "Workloads for Theatre in Higher Education," that has provided critical ammunition for many designers and technicians attempting to mitigate workloads. Joel Rubin remembered, while discussing a draft of Will's prime achievement "Guidelines for Tenure and Promotion," "We need to do this for our profession," and Will responded "Regardless of consequences." That was the relentless Will Bellman that I so fondly remember.

For so many USITT members, their initial encounter with Will was at a Conference. Rick Thomas wrote, "He treated me so generously ... was gracious, and kind, enthused, and charming and acted like he had known me for many years."

Dick Arnold commented, "Will was indeed a great gentleman and a great contributor to our field and to the Institute." He was honored with a Lifetime Membership Award, the Joel E. Rubin Founder's Award, and a Special Citation for Achievement in Lighting Design Education, and was designated a Fellow of USITT.

He was a founding member of the Southern California Regional Section and Randy Davidson noted "wondrous leadership from Will. He always opened doors for me to other professionals."

Dr. Bellman's work on the USITT International Liaison Committee was one of his most significant contributions. He served as the U.S. delegate to a variety of world meetings of the Organisation Internationale des Scenograpes, Techniciens et Architects de Theatre (OISTAT). Len Auerbach remembers a trip to Dresden, East Germany in the late 1970s with Will when they traveled through East Berlin to meet colleagues who failed to show. Len tells of a long trip by foot, through dark streets searching for a hotel that, when found, had only one room reserved. Quite a night but Will always enjoyed a challenge. Jay Glerum noted Will's major contribution to the rigging standards project in translating the German DIN standards.

A memorial service is being planned and the family requests any memorial gifts be directed to the USITT Young Designers & Technicians Award in Lighting Design c/o USITT 315 South Crouse Ave., Syracuse, NY 13210.

Tim Kelly said it best, "USITT has been privileged to count in its ranks many legendary figures that shaped the way theatre business is conducted and passed down to the next generations. It's difficult to single out just a few but a seminal trio would certainly include Arnold Gillette, Harold Burris-Meyer, and Will Bellman. What a pleasure it is to have been able to call Will Bellman a friend. We miss our dear friend and know his legacy will continue to inspire new generations of theatre artists and technicians."

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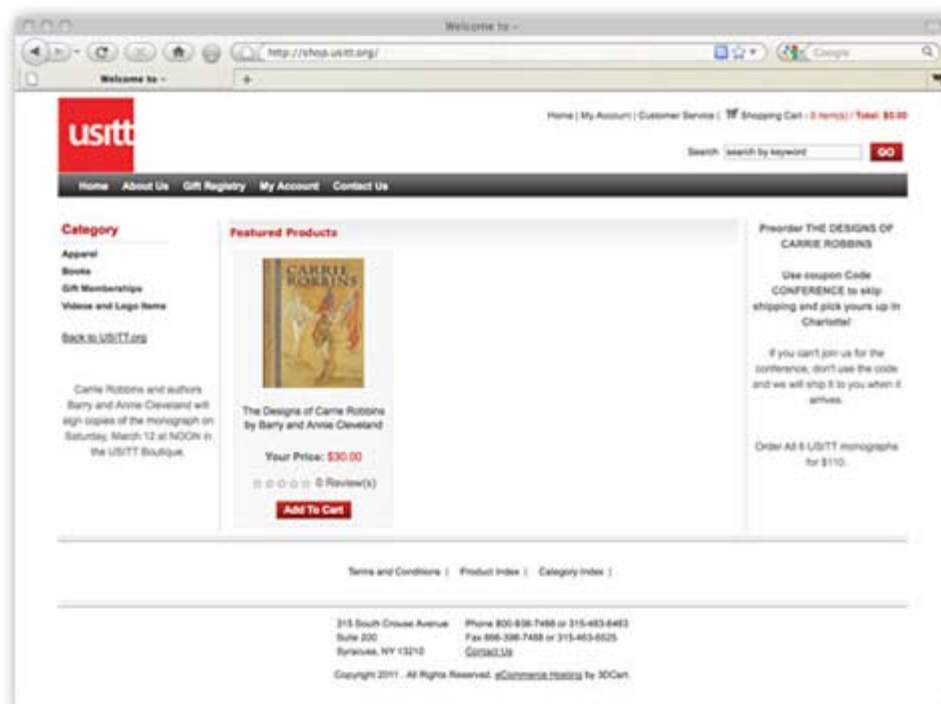
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Online Marketplace Now Open



New, updated, and e-Easy to navigate! That's the new online marketplace for members at shop.usitt.org. Members can now get to USITT bookstore items via this new shopping site, which has enhanced features.

The e-mail address at which a member receives USITT e-mail is the username and the member number is the password. This allows access to a secure shopping cart for purchases. Credit cards are processed through Authorize.net to add another layer of SSL security.

Rather than flat rate shipping, there are shipping choices -- overnight, ground and everything in between. The site also prepares all shipping documents so there is less chance of an address being misspelled or numbers inverted.

Follow an order as it is processed with an e-mailed receipt and updates as soon as things ship.

Requests for logo clothing and other items which were only carried at the conference are now available at the site year-round.

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In addition to new shopping, USITT has entered into affiliate agreements with places members shop. From home improvement and hardware items to books and music, clicking through the USITT marketplace to get to favorite online shopping sites helps a bit back to the Institute through everyday purchases. Use the portal and see how members can help the Institute while doing their daily business.

Member benefits are one of the big reasons people join USITT. Help the organization increase offerings by using the ones already out there.

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2011 YD&T Award Winners Announced



"The LEDs were mapped to a computer running Coolux Media's Pandoras Box Media Player. Virtually any type of video file imaginable could be displayed on the exterior of the bus."

Erich Bolton, *USITT Frederick A. Buerki Golden Hammer Scenic Technology Award winner*

After a very lengthy and difficult adjudication process, 10 outstanding young designers and technicians were selected from over 72 students nominated for the Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts. The winners will be honored during the Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Charlotte, North Carolina in March.

- **Bona Lee** of Yale School of Drama is the winner of the *KM Fabrics, Inc. Technical Production Award*. Bronislaw Sammler nominated Ms. Lee, who is scheduled to graduate in May. Fritz Fritz Schwentker, commented "There is clearly an incredible amount of hard work and study that has gone into becoming such a talented technician."
- **Valerie Lawrence** will receive the *Robert E. Cohen Sound Achievement Award*. Charles Hatcher nominated Ms. Lawrence, who is scheduled to graduate in June from the College Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati. One adjudicator describes Ms. Lawrence as a "...very exciting

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new designer, whom I am sure will continue to grow and see much success as she pursues a professional career."

- **Mary Ellen Stebbins**, winner of the *USITT Lighting Design Award* sponsored by Barbizon, will be graduating from Boston University in May. Ms. Stebbins was nominated by Roger Meeker. Steve Holliday made this comment, "A very innovative designer, able to make use of resources to create striking looks. Clever and inventive."
- **So Hyun Chung** will be honored with the *USITT Scene Design Award* sponsored by Rose Brand. Anne Mundell nominated the Carnegie Mellon University student who is scheduled to graduate in May. Peter Beudert praised Ms. Chung as "A designer of great imaginative talent. Her eye for composition is outstanding."
- **Kimberly Lorentz O'Callaghan**, a student at the Carnegie Mellon University, was selected for the *USITT Costume Design and Technology Award* sponsored by Zelma H. Weisfeld. Ms. Lorentz O'Callaghan, who will receive her degree in May, was nominated by Brian Russman. Val Winkelman commented that her "work on *He Who Gets Slapped* looks absolutely marvelous. Beautiful work. Consistent and cohesive."
- **Erich Bolton** will receive the *USITT Frederick A. Buerki Scenic Technology Award* sponsored by Bernhard R. Works. Mr. Bolton is a candidate for graduation in May from the Yale School of Drama and was nominated by Bronislaw Sammler, who received the 2009 USITT Distinguished Achievement in Technical Production Award. Mr. Schwenker noted "I hope and expect that he will continue to bring a wealth of new knowledge to our industry."
- **Kim Kyungjin**, winner of the *USITT Make-up Design Award* sponsored by Kryolan, will graduate in May from the University of Evansville. She was nominated by Patti McCrory. Ms. Kyungjin was noted by Donna Meester as being as having "Very strong designs." and "Fabulous presentation of process!!"
- **Brooke Robbins** is the winner of the *USITT W. Oren Parker Scene Design Award* sponsored by Stage Decoration & Supplies, Inc. The University of North Carolina School of the Arts student will graduate in May. Ms. Robbins was nominated by Joe Tilford. One adjudicator commented "Her designs are masterful, sophisticated, and richly detailed."
- **Siobhan Ruane** is the recipient of the *USITT Stage Management Award* sponsored by Clear-Com. Eileen Smitheimer nominated Ms. Ruane, who will graduate in May from the University of Delaware. One adjudicator was impressed with her "very strong paperwork....one of the best I've seen."

The USITT Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts will be presented at Opening Night 7 p.m. March 9 in the Charlotte Convention Center-Ballroom C.

In addition to a cash prize, award winners receive complimentary Conference registration and have an opportunity to meet and discuss their work with the

award sponsors and adjudicators. Additional images from the winners can be found in [The Last Word](#) of this issue. [A complete list of YD&T winners from past years is available here](#). Applications for the 2012 award will be available later in the year.

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News & Notices

USITT Kicks off Elite Training in Las Vegas

Learn how to use the latest high end equipment with the best instructors. That's the result of USITT's newest program *Elite Training*. Spurred by a suggestion from Cirque du Soleil, Meyer Sound, and Stage Technologies, this program allows member companies to offer tuition-free training to USITT members.

Each company will set the parameters, location, and group size that best allows it to offer high quality training to members. All experience levels will be addressed in the training, so members shouldn't be shy about applying. While the number of seats is limited in each session, the goal is to provide training to people at all skill levels.

Take time to check out the first *Elite Training* experience taking place May 12 to 14 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Hosted by Cirque du Soleil at its Resident Shows Division Training Center, 32 student technicians will receive training.

Eight technicians in sound, eight in rigging, eight in projection, and eight in automation will learn from professional trainers provided by Meyer Sound, Columbus McKinnon, Coolux, Stage Technologies, Silver State Wire Rope, and Cirque du Soleil.

Participants are responsible for travel, housing, and meals, but the intensive training courses are tuition free. Discount housing is available near the training center, and shared housing may be possible.

Help kick off this new initiative and apply now. [Applications and additional information is available here](#). E-mail info@office.usitt.org with questions.

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News & Notices

Preview in Charlotte: PQ '11, Scenofest Offer International Perspectives

Sandy Bonds *VP-International Activities*



Once every four years, the theatre design community from around the world joins together to celebrate recent accomplishments in the field with the world's largest exposition for theatre design at the Prague Quadrennial.

PQ '11 will take place June 16 to 26 in the Veletrzni Palace, the National Museum of Modern Art, and other locations in the city of Prague. The Veletrzni Palace is a short walk from the familiar grounds of Vystaviste where the exhibit has been hosted in the past. Recently damaged by a fire, the Industrial Palace will not be restored in time for this year's PQ. The Countries and Regions Exhibit and the Student Exhibit will both be located in the Veletrzni Palace, while the Architecture Exhibit is to be housed in Prague Crossroads, a deconsecrated church.

12
P Q
011

Sixty-four countries will participate in the PQ this year. The Section of Regions and Countries will feature contemporary productions in a variety of performance design disciplines and genres including multi-media, projection, and digital applications to design for theatre, mapping the latest trends in theatre from around the world. The Extreme Costume Exhibit, new to this year's PQ, will focus on using unconventional materials and silhouettes for costumes.

PQ and Scenofest activities are scheduled to occur around the city in theatres and on the streets. On the piazzetta of the National Theatre, the Intersection: Intimacy and Spectacle project will present 30 installations/performances housed in black boxes and white cubes. This series will feature scenographers, fashion designers, photographers, and choreographers from around the globe.

The Disk Theatre at the Academy of Performing Arts (DAMU) will host "Disk Stories," performances from international students and schools, featuring sound and light as the central force for the narrative or concept.

Site specific performances, called Six Acts, will be performed around the streets

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in the heart of Prague. Teams of students from different countries will work with leading artists to create unique performances or installations drawing from their cross-cultural backgrounds and intensive collaboration.

Street Stories, consists of teams of student collaborators bringing 30-minute design as performance events, will be presented in squares in the center of the city. In the tradition of street theatre, these performances must be completely portable and self-contained.

Scenofest will present many workshop opportunities for students. Held in the DAMU building, they will include lighting, sound, and costume design; scenography; digital media; puppetry; directing; architecture; and virtual theatre. Each student may sign up for one workshop, and registration for these events ends February 15. The Scenofest web page is scenofest.pq.cz.



Students interested in participating in the live-action portion of the USA Student Exhibit may sign up at www.pqusastudent.com.

OISTAT Commissions meet in Prague, designated as an OISTAT Congress site. All members of USITT are automatically members of OISTAT and are invited to attend Commission meetings and other OISTAT-sponsored events. OISTAT will formally initiate Digital Theatre Words, an online dictionary of theatre terminology covering over 40 languages, and unveil the first volume of *World Scenography* covering the period of 1975-1990. For more information about OISTAT, go to www.oistat.org.

Members seeking details about the PQ and connected activities are invited to attend two sessions in Charlotte. On Wednesday, March 9, Sodja Lodker, artistic director of the 2011 PQ, will talk about the vision for this dramatically distinct version of the event. Jessica Bowles and James McKernan, organizers of the Scenofest, will present their scheme for events on Thursday, March 10 at 5:30 p.m.

[Click here for more information about the plans for PQ '11.](#)

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Brodie Receives Rising Star

Projection designer Daniel Brodie received the seventh annual USITT Rising Star Award, sponsored by LD12011 and *Live Design* magazine. It will be presented at the opening night reception Wednesday, March 9 at the 51st Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Charlotte, North Carolina.



Mr. Brodie is a freelance New York-based projection designer and multimedia artist. He was the projection designer for puppeteer Basil Twist in productions of *Behind the Lid Arias With a Twist*. In 2008 Arias won critical acclaim with a seventh-month run in New York, an international tour, and a rave in *The New York Times*. The production became the subject of *Arias With a Twist: The Docufantasy*, which premiered in February 2010 at the Berlin International Film Festival. Mr. Brodie received recognition for his work with the 19th Annual Ticketholder Award for Best Video Design 2009. On Broadway, he has served as associate or assistant projection designer on *The Pee Wee Herman Show* and *Lombardi* and *Elf: The Musical*. He earned a BA in theater from Arizona State University.

The Rising Star Award recognizes excellence and artistic achievement in the areas of scenic, lighting, sound, and projection design, or the convergence of these design disciplines. The award is given at the beginning of a career to a young designer in the first four years of professional, non-academic work, following the completion of the candidate's highest degree.

In a letter of recommendation, Basil Twist said, "One of the strongest impressions I got from him early on is that he has a rare quality of being both deeply artistic and firmly tech-savvy. He has been and will continue to be a valuable member of my team, and it brings me great pleasure to watch his career grow and expand."

"It is exciting to see the broad range of young talent that this prestigious award is attracting. Since we see the work of past Rising Star winners on Broadway, we look forward to Daniel's designs having a similar impact as his career progresses," said David Grindle, USITT Executive Director.

David Johnson, publisher of *Live Design*, added, "It is very exciting that this year's Rising Star Award is going to a projection designer for the first time, especially one as talented as Daniel Brodie. He represents the next wave in theatrical design, embracing digital technology as the basis for his work."

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LDI and *Live Design* have endowed USITT's Rising Star Award in perpetuity, with the winner receiving a \$1,000 prize plus Conference registration. For additional information about the Rising Star Award, visit www.usitt.org or *Live Design* at www.livedesignonline.com.

Rising Star Winners 2005 -2010

- 2010 Ben Pilat, lighting designer
- 2009 Sean Savoie, lighting designer
- 2008 Elisheba Ittoop, sound designer
- 2007 John Horan, lighting designer
- 2006 Justin Townsend, scenic and lighting designer
- 2005 Kelly Hanson, scenic designer

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The Last Word:

2011 Award Winners

Images from winners of the the 2011 Awards for Young Designers and Technicians in the Performing Arts.

[See complete information about the 2011 award winners here.](#)



Henry IV, battle make-up by Kim Kyungjin, winner of the USITT Makeup Design Award sponsored by Kryolan



He Who Gets Slapped, costume design by Kim Korentz, winner of the Zelma H. Weisfeld Costume Design & Technology Award.



Benefit at the Watermill Center, Bona Lee, KM Fabrics Inc. Technical Production Award



Dead Man's Cell Phone, So Hyun Chung; USITT Scene Design Award sponsored by Rose Brand



Happily Ever After, from *American Fairy Tales*, set design by Brooke A. Robbins, winner of the USITT W. Oren Parker Scene Design Award sponsored by Stage Decoration & Supplies, Inc.



Susannah, lighting design by Mary Ellen Stebbins, winner of the USITT Lighting Design Award sponsored by Barbizon.

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- [Seek MFA Candidates »](#)
- [In Memoriam: David I. Taylor »](#)

An International 'Happy New Year'

We appreciate the many holiday greetings the USITT National Office received in the past several weeks. One, though, was really not just for the office, it was for the membership as a whole. Jose Antonio Prades Hung, who was a special guest at the 2002 Annual Conference in New Orleans and was part of the World Congress held in conjunction with the 2005 Annual Conference in Toronto,

Ontario, wishes us all a happy 2011. Because of the difficulties of travel to and from Cuba, he missed our 50th celebration but plans to join us in Charlotte.



Let it Snow

Elsewhere in this issue, Executive Director David Grindle describes how he and his family are [adapting to life in Central New York](#). The staff is very hesitant to tell him that although the area has more than 100 inches of snow so far, at this time last year we had more than 140 inches. But after that first 100 inches, it's all just shovel, shovel, shovel, so perhaps he will not notice.

Riders Plan Wild Cruise

The Long Reach Long Riders announce the dates and route for its eighth annual charity motorcycle ride. It will begin on July 1 in Billings, Montana and wind through some of the wildest landscapes in the United States before

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finishing back in Billings on July 9.

Along the way, the group will visit a number of National Parks including Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, Craters of the Moon, and Glacier. Old Faithful and Mammoth Hot Springs are two of the many sites to be visited, and the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway and The Highway to the Sun are a couple of the many magnificent roads that will be ridden during the 2011 ride.

The ride supports Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and The ESTA Foundation's Behind the Scenes Program. To date the LRLR have raised over \$250,000.

Greg Williams will share 2011 Ride Marshal duties with his wife Alice Neff .For more information about the Long Reach Long Riders, to join the ride, or to make a donation, visit www.LRLR.org.

[Accepting Applications for *Think It, Do It*](#)

TCG is accepting applications for MetLife/TCG A-ha! Program: *Think It, Do It*. Online registration and application postmark deadline is May 2.

The program, for TCG member theatres, supports creative thinking and action in two ways. Think It grants (\$25,000) give theatre professionals the time and space for research and development. Do It grants (\$50,000) support the implementation and testing of new ideas.

Visit the [TCG website](#) to complete the online registration and download guidelines and application forms. Visit the A-ha! blog for stories from current and past A-ha! recipients. The grants are funded by the MetLife Foundation

[Seek MFA Candidates](#)

The University of Virginia Department of Drama is opening its search for qualified theatre artists interested in pursuing graduate studies toward an MFA degree in costume design and technology, lighting design, scenic design, or technical direction. Students receive full tuition remission, a competitive stipend, and a University of Virginia health insurance voucher. [For specific program descriptions and application information click here](#), call 434-924-3326 or e-mail drama@virginia.edu.

[In Memoriam: David I. Taylor](#)

USITT notes with sadness the death of David I. Taylor who died in Taipei, Taiwan in January. Mr. Taylor was a long-time member of USITT, a former vice president of ESTA, and well-known in lighting design and theatre consulting circles.

Jim Niesel, senior consultant at Arup, announced Mr. Taylor's death. Mr. Taylor was Arup's global leader of Theatre Consulting, based in New York. His death occurred during a business visit to Taipei where he was starting a project that he had brought into Arup.

He was a major and much-loved international name in the theatre business, as an exceptional forward thinker and designer for the performing arts, theatre planner, technical systems consultant and active stage lighting designer.

Mr. Taylor, of Bridgewater, Connecticut, is survived by a wife and two sons. [A memorial blog can be found here.](#)

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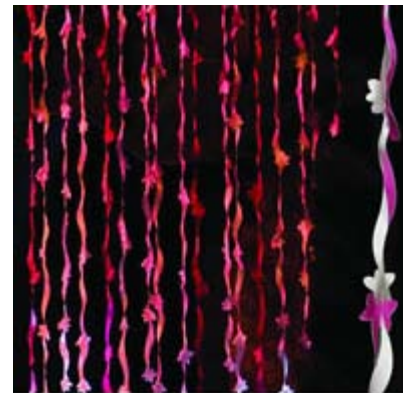
- [Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics, Fabrications & Supplies »](#)
- [Stage Technologies »](#)
- [Production Resource Group »](#)
- [J.R. Clancy Inc. »](#)

Rose Brand Offers 3D Fabric Cutting, Appoints Program Manager, Ships Freeze-Free

Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics, Fabrications & Supplies now offers stock patterns of popular Precision Cut Fabric designs to eliminate the creative quandary many customers experience when submitting orders. They also enable speedier production and lower pricing.

Precision cutting uses laser beam technology to cut intricate patterns into fabric, resulting in scenic elements with great texture, pattern and dimensionality. Precision Cut Fabrics capture light and cast shadows in interesting ways and can conform to any dimension

Rose Brand can provide all of the custom sewing necessary for the piece, or customers can choose to do it. Broadway productions such as *The Addams Family* and *West Side Story* have already used Precision Cut Fabric to enhance their stages. To see the images and obtain more information, go to www.bit.ly/precision-cut-fabric.



RIBBON DROP

Ernesto Gomez joins Rose Brand as project manager of digital printing in Secaucus, New Jersey. He will work with the Rose Brand sales team to serve existing customers and develop new business. He brings more than 16 years of experience in the signage/graphics/scenery industries. He served as graphics foreman at Showman Fabricators for nine years before starting his own company, ego Graphics. His past work includes producing graphic elements for major network TV stations, Time Warner, Nike, Target, Tommy Hilfiger, and Broadway shows including *Little Mermaid*, *Billy Elliot*, *Grease*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Lion King*, *9 to 5*, *Dirty Dancing*, *Shrek*, and *The Addams Family*.

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Rose Brand now cost-effectively ships paints and other liquids in the winter months without the risk of product damage. Rose Brand achieves this through its partner network, using insulated covers and sheltered areas to house liquids that freeze at or below 35°. A complete list of the paint products Rose Brand offers can be viewed at bit.ly/paint-rb.

Group Structure Changes

Mark Ager has been appointed as CEO of the new holding company **Stage Technologies Group Ltd.** after the corporation's recent restructuring. The company's subsidiaries include Stage Technologies Inc. in the United States and Stage Technologies Ltd & Delstar Engineering Ltd in the United Kingdom.

Nikki Scott has been appointed managing director of Stage Technologies Ltd.

The Stage Technologies group continues to provide automation and engineering solutions for entertainment venues, live productions, TV and film around the world.

PRG Announces New VP, Acquisition

Ian Clarke was recently promoted to vice president and chief technology officer at **Production Resource Group (PRG)**. He currently serves as head of technical services in Birmingham, United Kingdom.

Mr. Clarke began his entertainment industry career as a stagehand in Plymouth, UK. In 1984 he joined Light & Sound Design Ltd. (LSD) as a touring lighting technician working throughout Europe. After a break, during which he graduated with a bachelor of engineering degree in electronic engineering, he helped pioneer the development of the company's Icon series of moving lights and hoist control system. He also managed the team of engineers responsible for the Icon M lighting fixture, which was the first luminaire to be based on digital projection technology.

Since PRG merged with VLPS in 2004, Mr. Clarke has been involved in the design of the Mbox Extreme range of media servers, the Bad Boy luminaire and more recently the LED-based OHM fixture. In 2009, he was made head of technical services, based in Longbridge in the UK. In his new role, he will be based in Dallas, Texas.

PRG also acquired First Events BVBA. A major Europe-based entertainment technology company, First Event's holdings include EML Productions NV in Belgium, EML Productions Holland BV in The Netherlands, and Sound and Light Productions S.L. in Spain.

For more information on PRG, visit www.prg.com.

Appoints Engineering Director, Helps Install Acoustics Equipment

Larry Eschelbacher, **J. R. Clancy, Inc.** manager of controls engineering, has been promoted to director of engineering.

In his new role, he will supervise both the controls engineering and mechanical engineering departments. His responsibilities include both off-the-shelf products and custom jobs for performance spaces of every size. Mr. Eschelbacher started with J. R. Clancy in 1994 to manage the company's controls department. He has designed controls for more than 1,000 motorized rigging projects, from simple up/down operations to complex systems with more than 300 motors. Some of the most celebrated projects in his list include the just-completed Carmel Performing Arts Center in Indiana, the Winspear Opera House in Dallas, Alice Tully Hall and Carnegie Hall in New York City, and Segerstrom Hall in the Orange County Performing Arts Center in California. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and philosophy from SUNY Albany. A stagehand in IATSE Local 592 since 1979, he earned a second bachelor's degree in electrical computer and systems engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1990. He then joined the staff of Hoffend & Sons, Inc., a theatrical rigging manufacturer, where he led the engineering department.



When the resident orchestra at the Carmel Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, Indiana, arrived for its first rehearsals in the Palladium, the players experienced extraordinary sound quality made possible by acoustical specialists Artec Consultants, Inc., and the rigging experts at J. R. Clancy, Inc.



More information on J. R. Clancy is available at www.jrclancy.com, or at 800-836-1885.

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- [Serapid, Inc.](#) »
- [TMB](#) »
- [Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas](#) »

Welcome Stage Rigging Services, Inc.

Stage Rigging Services, Inc., of Greensboro, North Carolina has joined USITT at the Sustaining member level. The company, whose website is www.srsrigging.com, is currently working on projects for both Carnival and Celebrity cruise lines as well as many land-based projects.

Checkers Adds Velcro to Guard Dog

Checkers Industrial Products Inc. has added traction to its low profile cable protectors. For increased traction, Guard Dog low profile cable protectors are now available with optional Velcro strips for use on carpet or anti-slip rubber pads for use on smooth surfaces. With 1, 2, 3, or 5 channels, these interlocking protectors are only 1.25" high with a .75" channel height and feature either standard ramps or low angle ADA-compliant ramps. For more information, visit www.cableprotector.com.

Welcomes New Staff Members

Serapid, Inc. welcomes three new employees to the company: Keith Redmond, Diana Pickens, and Chi Chung.

Mr. Redmond is working in estimating and spare parts sales, Ms. Pickens joins the purchasing department, and Mr. Chung is working in electrical engineering.

For more information, visit at www.serapid.us, send an e-mail to: info-us@serapid.com, or call us 800-663-4514.

Joins Customer Development Group, Company Aids Telethon Success

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Kevin Woods has been hired to **TMB's** global customer development group. Based out of TMB UK in London, Mr. Woods will maintain existing and establish new customer relationships, plus develop the markets for TMB's proprietary and exclusive products.

Mr. Woods received his BA with honors in theatre practice at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London. Before and after graduation, he did freelance work at several different theatres in and around London, including lighting design for *Eugene Onegin* at the Richmond Theatre and *My Fair Lady* at the New Wimbledon Theatre. He also teaches technical theatre classes at Richmond upon Thames College.

TMB also supplied Hippotizer HD media servers to control this year's production of Teletón Mexico, the annual 24-hour telethon, which benefited the Children's Rehabilitation Centers. TMB is exclusive distributor for Hippotizer in North America and Asia. Find out more about Hippotizer at www.tmb.com/products/hippotizer and other products available from TMB at www.tmb.com.



Announces Summer Schedule.

Season five at **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas** is looking to be the best yet to include computer drafting, computer modeling, rigging, automation, specialty props and SFX, sound, make-up/masks, lighting technology, patterning, projections and video, and moving lights.

SILV is also introducing a series of weekend classes that offer training in slightly more traditional skill sets.

SILV has expanded both the scholarships and the internship programs for summer. Students seeking a scholarship or an internship should file applications ASAP. SILV will interview potential scholarship students and potential interns at the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Charlotte, North Carolina. For additional information, visit www.stagecraftinstitute.com or call 702-388-7458 or 702-966-9805.



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News From **Joe Aldridge**, *USITT President* **Can't Help But to be Involved!**



The 2010 closing party was such a success that the organization is doing it again!

The 2011 Annual Conference will close with a great party, live music, and a (very) few words to announce the winner of the 2011 Joel E. Rubin Founder's Award, instead of a formal awards banquet.

Photo/Casey Kearns

It has been almost 10 months since we were all together in Kansas City, celebrating the 50th anniversary of USITT. In less than nine weeks (as of this writing) we will gather in Charlotte for the Annual Conference & Stage Expo. The 50th afforded us the opportunity to alter, significantly, the programming schedule for the conference in order to gather as friends and colleagues to celebrate.

As a result of those changes, we are adopting a new programming model that only slightly modifies the "traditional" schedule allowing for more Stage Expo-only time without affecting programming time.

Evening schedules are being modified to maximize the networking opportunities while still attending to the business of the Institute.

Opening Night festivities will be combined with the USITT Address, the installation of new Fellows of the Institute, and the presentation of Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts. New Products

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Showcase will occur on Thursday evening. Friday evening is reserved for the traditional receptions and Tech Olympics. The traditional Awards Banquet on Saturday night is being replaced with an event that entails finger food, drinks, a few awards, and a celebration.

As always, the Annual Conference & Stage Expo provides the opportunity to renew friendships, network, and share information with each other. Pre-conference PDWs and the regular conference programming has been in the planning stages for months and, in some cases, years and promises to be some of the most relevant to date.

As soon as you have the opportunity, visit the USITT website, download the meeting matrix, and begin to plan your activities at the conference. Be certain to include the all-important all-conference events mentioned earlier.

For the first time in as long as I can remember, we had record numbers participate in the balloting process to select the new leaders of the Institute. Please continue this participation by attending the all-conference events such as the Keynote address and the annual USITT business meeting, the Opening Night festivities, New Products Showcase, and the Closing Night celebration.

Plan to attend Regional Section meetings and favorite Commission meeting as well. Don't forget to allow ample time to attend the Stage Expo floor, visiting with all exhibitors. You never know what new gadget or new technology they will be unveiling at the conference. Whether this is your first conference or your 51st, if you have questions, concerns, or comments, seek out any of the Board members, officers, staff, or Fellows and let us know what's on your mind.

Get involved, be involved, and stay involved. You, alone, are responsible for making the most of the opportunities afforded to you at this annual gathering.

See you in Charlotte!

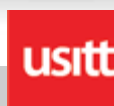
27 weeks and having a great time!



We'd like to hear your comments on this story.
Please e-mail Joe at joe.aldridge@unlv.edu.

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Desert State: Desert State Workshop

Jill Maurer, a member of the Desert State Regional Section, documented the activity during a recent Desert State student workshop. Participants were making a campfire, complete with sound effects, out of found scrap materials.

Photos/Jill Maurer



Ohio Valley: Seek Nominations; Plan Tour, Fall Conference

Nominations are open for Ohio Valley Regional Section Board positions. To nominate someone, contact Eric Rouse at ejr127@psu.edu. Nominations will be

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2011: What's Next ...

Annual Conference
& Stage Expo
with a special focus
on sustainability

March 9-12
Charlotte, North Carolina

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taken through the next membership meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina in March. The voting process will begin at that meeting and will finish electronically for those unable to attend the Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

Mark your calendar now for Saturday, May 21 for a Behind the Scenes Tour of the new sustainable designed Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio. There will be a panel discussion with staff from the project. Watch the website for more details about time and event hotel discount at the Wyndham downtown.

The Fall OVS 2011 Conference will be held at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania on September 24. Suggestions for sessions at the next Fall Conference or for future events can be sent to Tammy Honesty (thonesty@cinci.rr.com) or via Facebook USITT/Ohio Valley Section Group Page.

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News From **David Grindle**, *USITT Executive Director*

Weather Cold and Snowy, But Warmth Surrounds

BRRRRRR!!!!

There; that's the basic answer to how my family and I are holding up in our first winter in Central New York. Just so everyone is clear, December 2010 was the snowiest December on record with 72.9 inches of snow at the airport. We bought a house in a quaint little town Northwest of Syracuse. That quaint little town doesn't advertise itself as being in the snow belt, but guess what? It is. We had far more snow than 72.9 inches.

My first snow storm was a special memory as even the indigenous folks working in the office finally agreed it wasn't normal to have it snow for over 96 hours non-stop! That's right, four days and a few hours of non-stop snow. I now know that my neighbors have to be at work at 7 a.m. because, if I wake at 6 to the chorus of two-stroke engines tackling the other driveways, I know it's another morning for me and the snow blower. The boys get out with the shovels to tackle the walkway, and we are done in no time.

I've learned that the amount of snow that would have crippled my hometown in Georgia (that would be any amount of snow) is scoffed at here. Our boys have gone to school late, but not missed a day yet due to weather. This has my nephews in the south completely befuddled. The office doesn't close, no, not until the government issues a "snow emergency." What it takes to get to one of those, I don't really want to know.



Will Grindle demonstrates what can be done with a bit of imagination and more than 106 inches of snow for building materials. Total accumulation in Syracuse, New York was 106.7 inches as of January 21, but some areas surpassed that mark.

Photo/David Grindle

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Haven't missed a single flight out of the airport. But I am now quite familiar with the proper de-icing procedures for a variety of regional aircraft.

I think the best part of life so far this winter was the day I came home and our yard, on either side of the driveway, looked like the Maginot Line. Our boys and their friends had dug trenches and built forts on either side of the drive and were in an intense battle. They would crawl through the trenches and pop up to whiz snowballs across at the opposing side. And yes, I was fair game getting out of the car.

I have been in colder places, and I was in deeper snow when I went to Iceland. But neither of those had what this winter has, family and new friends in a place that is home. Central New York is a great place. Quiet, not really much traffic, and some amazing scenery in any season. Spring is supposed to be unbelievable; I'm told it arrives in late May/ early June.

See you in Charlotte!



We'd like to hear your comments on this story.

Please e-mail David at david@office.usitt.org.

Follow me on Twitter -- #USITTExec

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Offer Lighting Portfolio Reviews

Jennifer Read *Lighting Design & Technology Commission*

In preparation for the Charlotte 2011 Conference & Stage Expo -- registering for the conference, booking hotel and flight reservations, planning what sessions to attend and which booths to visit first -- consider joining the Lighting Design & Technology Commission's portfolio review as either a presenter or reviewer.

One aspect of the Lighting Commission's mission is to promote excellence in lighting design and lighting design education. Portfolio reviews allow presenters a wider audience for their progress and work by getting opinions from someone other than a primary mentor. Reviewers have an opportunity to see upcoming talent happening across the country along with sharing their knowledge and skills by giving comments or suggesting improvements to the presenter's work or presentation style in a manner helpful yet non-threatening.

The overall review process takes approximately 30 minutes for each review and is a constructive way to participate in Commission-sponsored activities. Anyone with a degree in lighting, who is currently working in the professional field and interested in having a hand sculpting upcoming lighting designers should consider becoming a reviewer. Beginning reviewers will be teamed with those who have reviewed during prior conferences.

Presenters are made up of students at all levels, professionals just starting out or looking for the next step up, and educators needing a peer review for the promotion and tenure process.

To volunteer as a reviewer or for more information, e-mail Jennifer Read at jread@whitworth.edu.

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Training for the New Design Era

Jesse Dreikosen *Scene Design & Technology Commission*

The professional world of design is changing, and with it training needs to be re-examined. With the recent decline in the economy, more and more theatres are cutting back or even closing their doors. This means there are fewer jobs in the market and, as Richard Isackes' recent article in *American Theatre* points out, "the diverse professional destinations" in theatre or opera to which students are heading will not support them.

Join in the conversation at the 2011 Conference & Stage Expo in Charlotte, North Carolina. *Training for the New Design Era: Sustainable Careers in Design* session panelists will discuss how to train for the job that does not exist. Participate in the discussion of the importance of integrating "alternative avenues" into training the next generation of designers. This session should spark the significance of exposing theatrical designers to all the options. From designing theme parks to mural painting and from museum installations to interior design, the panelist will explore them all.

This session is presented in conjunction with the "*Alternative Avenues*" *Design Beyond the Theatre* Special Exhibit which is part of Stage Expo.



Sunny Paulk painting a cel of John Wayne, one of the movie reels in the Regions Bank Award Ceremony. Design by Mike Winkelman.

Photo/Courtesy Jesse Dreikosen

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Architects Join OISTAT, Prepare for Awards, Conferences

Scott Georgeson *Architecture Commissioner*

For the first time in many years, the USITT Architecture Commission had a representative at the Architecture Commission OISTAT meeting. Scott Georgeson, USITT Architecture Commissioner, joined architects from around the world last October in Berlin, Germany to share thoughts on theatre design, the world economy's effect on architects, to plan for the PQ2011, and to tour several local theatres.

OISTAT's new theatre database was introduced. The database lists theatres from around the world. For more information and forms, go to www.oistat.org, go to Theatre

Architecture to find the database of theatre links. All USITT member architects are encouraged to enter their buildings.



The OISTAT Architecture Commission is reaching out to strengthen ties between national theatre organizations and extended an invitation to attend the USITT Architecture Commission sessions in Charlotte. Many of the architects were not aware of USITT's Architecture Awards.

American Seating Company stepped forward to be the corporate sponsor for the 2010 Ideal Theatre Student Competition. Entries from



architecture and theatre schools from around the United States were judged in New York City on January 5. The winners will be presented at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 12 in the USITT Booth at Stage Expo. Special thanks to the jury: Josh Dachs, Fisher Dachs; Tim Hartung, and David Kahn. The competition continues to grow. There are still many schools that are missing out. This is a great opportunity for cross-discipline learning between architecture and theatre students. To learn more about the competition or be part of the jury for next year, contact Mr. Georgeson.

The commission is looking for ideas, suggestions, and presenters for sessions at the 2012 Conference & Stage Expo. Contact Anthony Shou or Mr. Georgeson with suggestions. There are many ways to get involved in the commission. There are opportunities to help set program direction, work on special or ongoing projects, or be a jury member for the Architecture Awards.

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Jiggin' It**Beth Martell** *Technical Production Commission*

In the longstanding traditions of SurvivorJigtopia, Jigging with the Stars, and Top Jig, we bring you—The Jig Show! Do you have a homemade device or widget to cut circles, drill legs, find centers, join stuff together, or otherwise help you around the shop? Yes? Well, if it is in your luggage when you come to Charlotte. We want to see it.

We want all of your jiggling devices, big and small, at Stage Expo in Charlotte. No need to sign up. No need to prep any paperwork. Simply bring a jig to the Stage Expo on Thursday, and we'll find a space for it in The Jig Show! Jig too big? Bring a model; we'll get the idea.

On Friday, swing by The Jig Show! with your friends and vote for favorites. Ballots are only a \$1, and there is no limit to how many you can buy. All proceeds go to The ESTA Foundation's Behind the Scenes charity, which provides support for entertainment industry professionals in crisis due to serious illness or injury. Bring dollars and vote early, vote often!

Winners will be announced at Saturday at 12:30 p.m., where fabulous prizes (or at least some fine ribbons) will be awarded. Will your jig be the Best in Show? After the awards, join us as we dance the proceeds over to the Long Reach Long Riders to take home.



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Conference & Stage Expo

Exciting Displays Kick Off Second Half Century

Daniel Denhart *VP Special Operations*

In March, the city of Charlotte, North Carolina will welcome USITT for the 51st Annual Conference & Stage Expo. As the Institute's second 50 years begin, members look forward to many exciting times yet to come.

Old Favorites

In Charlotte, many Special Exhibits will be presented at Stage Expo recalling past eras of design and offering a glimpse to the future. Among the exhibits are the bi-annual *Tech Expo* and *Cover the Walls* exhibits. Recent technical design solutions devised to solve theater design challenges will be on view at *Tech Expo*. Some solutions are very elegant and sophisticated, while others utilize simpler technology, yet all demonstrate creative and resourceful problem-solving skill. *Cover the Walls* always delivers on its promise to exhibit a stimulating range of design work among the membership.

The Commissions are working overtime to provide quality exhibits again this year. The Architecture Commission will present this year's Architecture Award winners as well as a display of the recently created USITT Architecture Student Design Competition. Through increased sponsorship, the Student Design Competition continues to grow.

The Technical Productions Commission will present *The Jig Show*, and invites participants to share the "widget you built to help cut tapers on the table saw," or the "doo-hickey that helps you lay-out coffin locks"; essentially any gizmo that helps make magic and do the job more easily is welcome. On Friday of the conference, exhibit attendees have the opportunity to vote for their favorite entry with an award ceremony following on Saturday at noon at the exhibit location.

[Learn more »](#)

Scheffler Designs

An exhibition of scenery and costume designs by John C. Scheffler is being



Ingrid Bergman's evening gown, publicity touring dress promoting *Casablanca*. 1942

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created by the Scene Design Commission. Mr. Scheffler has been an all-category union designer since 1968. He has a degree in architecture from Tulane University and was a junior partner in the Phillip Henry Roach Jr. Architectural Firm. He has designed over 300 costumes for various crews of the Mardi Gras in New Orleans. He was the resident designer for the Algiers Community Theatre and two ballet companies in New Orleans. In 1965 he moved to Brooklyn, New York and has been designing in New York, regional theatre, opera, and summer stock theatre for more than 40 years. In 1970-71 he won an OBIE Award for his set design for AC-DC, and in 1977-78 the Carbonell Award for best set for his production of *Violano Virtuoso* and an ADELCO nomination. He was head of the theatre design program at Brooklyn College for 24 years. Now retired, he is still designing sets and costumes for theatres in Brooklyn and in Manhattan. The exhibition will include both set and costume designs.

The costumes are from 40 years of association with the Mardi Gras. Several of the actual Mardi Gras costumes will be on exhibition in Charlotte. His set design work is from regional and New York work. Even a quick glance at his impressive resume indicates an accomplished and gifted theater artist with design credits from the Santa Fe Opera; Aspen Music Festival; The Gray Wig – Hofstra Alumni, Hofstra University; Compass Theater, New York City; La Mama, New York City; Houston Grand Opera; American Opera Theatre; Julliard School of Music; San Francisco Opera; Opera Theatre of St. Louis; The Academy of Vocal Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Oberlin Opera Theatre, Oberlin, Ohio; University of Texas, Austin, Texas; Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York; Florida State University,



This costume is from the Mardi Gras krewe of Cleopatra from 1992.



Rendering of the stage setting for the 1980 production of *Dialogues Of The Carmelites* from Florida State University Opera.



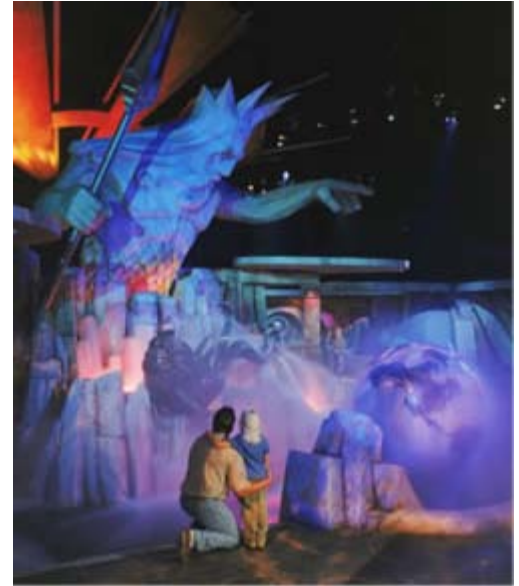
Rendering of stage setting for Studio

Opera Department; and National Opera of Chile, Santiago, Chile. Many of the companies that John has designed for have had him return to design production after production, confirming his creative accomplishments. Following are three images of Mardi Gras krewe costume designs by John C. Scheffler.

Arena of Buffalo 1984 production of
TERRA NOVA.

Scene Design Alternatives

Jesse Dreikosen will organize "*Alternative Avenues*" *Design Beyond the Theater* presented by the Scene Design Commission. This exhibit will showcase professional design work by scene designers outside traditional theatre in hopes to expand the horizons for the next generation of designers and possibly inspire current professionals to broaden their perspective. Ten designers' work will be on display showcasing examples that range from theme park design to mural painting and from museum installations to interior design. On Friday 2:45 to 4 p.m. *Training for the New Design Era: Sustainable Careers in Design*, will be an exploration, through discussion and audience participation, of how to train for the job that does not exist and finding ways to integrate "Alternative Avenues" into training the next generation of designers.'



Museum Exhibit Design is one Alternative Avenue of design. This design is by John David Paul for The Center of Science and Industry (COSI), Oceans Exhibit, Columbus, Ohio

To Feature Costume Collections

The Costume Design & Technology Commission also is creating two exhibitions for the Charlotte conference: the *Magic of Hollywood: the Gene London Costume Collection* and *Too Much is Not Enough: Exploring Harriett Lake's Closet*.

The *Magic of Hollywood* collection was assembled by Philadelphia-area TV personality and fashion designer Gene London. He hosted a popular daily children's show seen on WCAU-TV from 1958-1977. On his award-winning *Cartoon Corner General Store*, he was producer, director, writer, and star drawing upon his many talents and charismatic personality to create a magical environment where he told stories, myths, and folklore illustrating them on his drawing board. Famous stars such as Kirk Douglas, Lucille Ball, Myrna Loy, and

Mary Tyler Moore would often appear on the show.

It was Joan Crawford who started Mr. London's amazing collection by sending him articles from her stage and personal wardrobes. After Cartoon Corners went off the air, Mr. London moved to New York City. Until 2001, he operated a retro clothes shop, and in later years, served as a Hollywood and Broadway fashion consultant and spokesman for the Mikimoto brand of jewelry.

He collected costumes worn by movie celebrities (some 60,000 gowns, dresses and fashion accessories). In July 2002, at age 71, he exhibited more than 50 pieces of his Hollywood gown collection at *Gene London Presents: Hollywood Glamour* at the Showboat Casino Hotel in Atlantic City. On May 17, 2003, he once again displayed his gowns at the 80th anniversary celebration of the Old Academy Players in Philadelphia. The exhibit included a deep red dress with plunging neckline and fur-trimmed sleeves worn by Philadelphia-bred actress Grace Kelly in the Oscar-winning film *The Country Girl* (1954). On October 3, 2009 the Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pennsylvania, opened *The Magic of Hollywood: The Gene London Costume Collection*, featuring more than 100 gowns and costumes. Sean Connery's warrior outfit from *Robin and Marian*, Tyrone Power's matador costume from *Blood and Sand*, and Fredric March's jeweled tunic costume from the *Affairs of Cellini* are among the many extraordinary men's costumes that are a unique feature of the full collection. Michael Jackson's prince outfit, worn for a 1985 photo shoot, is also in the full collection.

The complete exhibition features over 130 costumes created by film industry's greatest designers.

Too Much is Not Enough: Exploring Harriett's Closet offers a unique perspective of how a clothing collection reflects the personality and viewpoint of its owner. Harriet's clothing style is extravagant, and her collection is in many ways extreme. She unapologetically purchases any piece of clothing she desires. This exhibit allows the viewer to experience the unique style of this woman through the beauty and historical significance of her wardrobe's contents. The garments chosen for the exhibit are a cross-section of her wardrobe from post WWII to present day. The garments vary from well known designers such as Coco Chanel and Andrienne Landau, to clothing recently purchased from Target. The exhibit also integrates photographs of additional pieces, personal photographs of Ms. Lake and life size images of her closet.



Mae West's dress
from *Everyday's a
Holiday* 1937



The day she was discharged from the Marines, Harriet Lake swore to buy something that was pictured in Vogue—and she did. The navy and plaid jacket with the coordinating skirt became her Victory Suit, both in celebration of the end of the war and of her fashion independence. It marks the beginning of her closet and has been joined by thousands of other personally and historically significant garments.

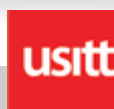


In her younger days, Ms. Lake would buy clothes from consignment shops often knowing the original wearer. The “wheat dress” was such a buy as it originally belonged to the daughter of the local grocery store mogul. To this day, despite having the wealth to buy anything she wants, she prides herself on outlet shopping.

Be sure to plan plenty of time to stroll all the Special Exhibits being presented at Stage Expo during the 2011 Conference & Stage Expo in Charlotte.

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Conference & Stage Expo

Lost? Find Direction at Network Nexus

Timothy Kelly *USITT Fellow*

At the upcoming Charlotte 2011 Conference & Stage Expo, the Fellows of USITT will host a "lost and found ideas booth" called Network Nexus.

At this salon* will be a number of colleagues and friends or perhaps an Institute member others are eager meet. A few of the Fellows will be around to encourage discussion and participate in conversations on topics limited only by creative curiosity.

Drop in and out, pose questions, provide answers, exchange ideas, and meet other members – new and old.

The Fellows are active participants and leaders within the Institute who are intent on continuing their service by providing information, making connections, mentoring, fielding inquires, and enjoying the company of other members. Look in the USITT Membership Directory at the listing of the Fellows of the Institute. If a Fellow is not available at the Network Nexus booth, an introduction can be arranged for a discussion at another time. The casual setting for these conversations will be located adjacent to the USITT booth on the Expo floor where all are welcome to stop by for a chat.

*A **salon** is a gathering of people under the roof of an inspiring host, held partly to amuse one another and partly to refine the taste and increase their knowledge of the participants through conversation. (*Wikipedia*)

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Conference & Stage Expo

Experience the Arts in Charlotte

Matthew Fergen - Charlotte Planning Committee



Both the North Carolina Dance Theater and the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra will be performing at the NC Blumenthal Performing Arts Center during USITT's 2011 Annual Conference and Stage Expo in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Photo/Courtesy Visit Charlotte

The Charlotte area hosts several major local professional performance groups. Three notable ones are Opera Carolina, North Carolina Dance Theatre, and The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra. Each is an important fixture in the performing arts landscape of the Charlotte metropolitan area.

Opera Carolina performs three productions a year in the Belk Theater at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. This year, the season began with Mozart's *Così Fan Tutte* in October and continues with *La Traviata* in February, finishing with *HMS Pinafore* in May. Opera Carolina was created in 1948 as Charlotte Music Club with volunteers and an operating budget of \$125. It has since grown to an operating budget of \$3 million, and is the largest professional opera in the Carolinas. [Opera Carolina's website](#) features far more information about the organization and ticket purchasing information. James Meena is the general

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director and principal conductor.

North Carolina Dance Theatre was founded in 1970 and has grown to be North Carolina's largest professional ballet company. It has a new facility at 701 North Tryon Street and performs regularly at the Knight and Belk Theaters in the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. It has an operating budget of over \$4 million and employs 22 professional dancers. North Carolina Dance Theatre is producing seven major productions this season. It includes its 40th Anniversary Performance at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 10 through Saturday, March 12 at the Knight Theater while the Annual Conference & Stage Expo is in session. *The Little Mermaid* will also be performed at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 12 and Sunday, March 13 at the Knight Theater. [Tickets can be purchased from the site](#) or through the [Blumenthal Performing Arts Center](#). Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux and Patricia McBride serve as artistic directors.

The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1932 and currently produces 100 performances a year, mostly in the Belk Theater. Charlotte Symphony Orchestra employs 100 professional musicians with 62 on full-time contracts. The operating budget is \$7.8 million a year. Charlotte Symphony Orchestra also serves as the resident orchestra for North Carolina Dance Theatre and Opera Carolina. During Friday, March 11 and Saturday, March 12 the symphony will perform selections of Wagner and Bruckner conducted by Christof Perick at the Belk Theater. Tickets can be purchased through they [symphony's website](#) or through the [Blumenthal Performing Arts Center](#). Christopher Warren-Green serves as the musical director.

Each of these organizations features high artistic and production quality and value. They are worth checking out if one is interested in the Charlotte area performing arts, each being the area's premier organization of each respective craft. Tickets to any of the events listed during USITT's conference can be purchased through the [Blumenthal Performing Arts Center](#) or by calling them at 704-372-1000 Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A good source of information about a wide variety of activities in Charlotte in March is <http://artsalamode.com>.

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