



# Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

March 2011

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### Architecture Awards

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theatre will receive the only Honor Award in 2011, with four others receiving Merit Awards.

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### First Elite Training Session in May

USITT's Elite Training opportunity in May will provide 32 student and early career members with access to the latest in technology. [more »](#)



### Contributions Fund YD&T Award

Two YD&T Awards received generous contributions sufficient to qualify these awards as being fully funded. [more »](#)



### USITT Exhibit Prepares to Travel to Prague

Members of the USITT Prague Quadrennial USA 2011 Committee assembled in Missoula, Montana in January to put the finishing touches on the Prague Quadrennial exhibits. [more »](#)



### News From USITT's President

In the past 12 months the Institute has begun the transition to the new governance structure. [more »](#)



### Executive Director

Getting our ducks in order. [more »](#)



### Costume Portfolio Review

Carrie F. Robbins will join this year's Costume Portfolio Review session as a special guest reviewer. [more »](#)



### Scene Design Seeks Involvement

Ideas for 2011 programming, leadership changes, and ways to keep in touch. [more »](#)



### Architects at the Blumenthal

Friday evening, March 11 the Architecture Commission will meet at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. [more »](#)



### Ideas Needed for 2012

Have a great idea for a costume session? Submit it now... [more »](#)



### New Exhibitors in Charlotte

Recent additions to the exhibitor list include Faux Wall Skins, Georgia Stage, Lycian Stage Lighting, Nicopress Products, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Prism Projections. [more »](#)

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## Special Costume Events

Not registered for the Costume Commission's PDW on Leather Baldrics and Sword Belts? Or special shopping? Do it now. [more »](#)



## A Theatre Awaits Rebirth

If you stand on the corner of 6th and Tryon Streets in the very heart of downtown Charlotte, North Carolina you'll see it. It won't look like much. [more »](#)



## Sponsors Enliven Closing Night

If you stand on the corner of 6th and Tryon Streets in the very heart of downtown Charlotte, North Carolina you'll see it. It won't look like much. [more »](#)



## Theatre Charlotte Going Strong

Theatre Charlotte has been a vibrant presence in the community for more than eight decades. [more »](#)



## Creating the King Collection - The Last Word

Preserving the associational theatre aesthetic prevalent in prominent West German state and city theatres in the '80s and 90s. [more »](#)

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- PRG
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- Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc.

### NEWS FROM: AROUND THE INSTITUTE

- App Tracks Sessions, Stage Expo
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- Major Gift for Lighting Archive
- In Memoriam - Theoni V. Aldredge
- H&H Student Winners
- New Office Assistants

### NEWS FROM: SUSTAINING MEMBERS

- Serapid, Inc.
- TMB
- Sapsis Rigging Entertainment Services
- Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas
- Staging Concepts, Inc.
- Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.
- Checkers Industrial Products Inc.

### NEWS FROM: REGIONAL SECTIONS

- **Ohio Valley:** Cleveland Rocks May 21
- **New England:** New Locale for Arts Job Fair
- **Desert State:** Meeting, Miniconference A Success
- **Southwest:** Symposium, New Awards Some of Section Activities
- **Midwest:** Program Includes Theatre Tour, Workshops
- **Upstate New York:** Upstate Meets in Syracuse

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## News & Notices

# 2011 Architecture Winners Named



Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theatre will receive the only Honor Award to be given as part of the 2011 USITT Architecture Awards program. Four outstanding new or renovated performance spaces will receive Merit Awards as part of the recognition program.

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theatre, in Washington, DC opened in October after more than 10 years of planning and more than two years of construction. It has been widely acclaimed.

Adjudicators for the 2011 USITT Architecture Awards met in January to review the 27 nominated spaces from five countries before choosing the winners. On the panel were architect Norman Pfeiffer, FAIA; theatre consultant Joshua Dachs; and acoustician Yasuhisa Toyota.

The awards will be presented at a special session as part of the 2011 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Charlotte, North Carolina. *The Architecture Award Review and Presentation* will be held from 2:30 to 4 p.m., Friday, March 11 followed by a reception from 5 to 10 p.m. Both sessions will be at the Stage Door Theatre at Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, North College Street at 5th Street. The space was designed by Cesar Pelli, the 2011 USITT Distinguished Achievement in Architecture award winner.

The 2011 USITT Architecture Awards will be presented to:



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Honor Award

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, Washington D.C.	
Architect:	Bing Thom Architects, Inc.
Associate Architect:	William Lecky
Theatre Consultant:	Fisher Dachs Associates
Acoustical Consultant:	TALASKE



Merit Awards

Shalin Liu Performance Center for Rockport Music, Rockport, Massachusetts	
Architect:	Epstein Joslin Architects
Theatre Consultant:	Theatre Consultants Collaborative
Acoustical Consultant:	Kirkegaard Associates



**Forbes Center for the Performing Arts, James Madison University**  
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Architect:	Hanbury Evans Wright Vlattas + Company
Associate Architect:	Performance Architecture
Theatre Consultant:	Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.
Acoustical Consultant:	JaffeHolden Acoustics



<b>The 52nd Street Project, New York, New York</b>	
Architect:	BKSK Architects, LLP
Theatre Consultant:	Fisher Dachs Associates
Acoustical Consultant:	JaffeHolden Acoustics
Construction Manager:	Yorke Construction Management
Theater Rigging:	I. Weiss



<b>The Paramount Center, Emerson College, Boston, Massachusetts</b>	
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Architect:	Elkus Manfredi Architects
Theatre Consultant:	Auerbach Pollock Freidlander
Acoustical Consultant:	Acentech Inc.



Architecture Award Review, Presentation & Reception, Friday, March 11, 2011. The Awards Review and Presentation will be at 2:30 – 4 p.m. with the reception from 5 to 10 p.m.

Stage Door Theatre at Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, North College Street at 5th Street.

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## News & Notices

# Elite Training Offers Special Opportunity

USITT's Elite Training opportunity in May will provide 32 student and early career members with access to the latest in technology and the chance to make it do great things.

During three days at the Cirque du Soleil training center in Las Vegas, these members will have access to equipment such as [Meyer Sound's D-Mitri Digital Audio Platform](#). Students will work in the Meyer Sound Lab with Gavin Canaan and Meyer's trainers to learn how to create some of the unique soundscapes D-Mitri can offer.

People interested in automation will get to try their hands at [Stage Technologies' NOMAD system](#). This equipment, in use all over the world in theatres large and small, gives incredible control over all automated scenery, both on deck and flying. Participants will be able to see the programming used in Cirque du Soleil's Resident Shows in Las Vegas and learn how to create programs for the system.

Projection participants will be working with [Coolux Media Manager](#). They will explore both the basic functions of the system as well as look at some of the optical and gestural interaction that is possible with this system. Steve Gilbard of Coolux notes they "will pace the class depending on the time available and the collective abilities of the class."

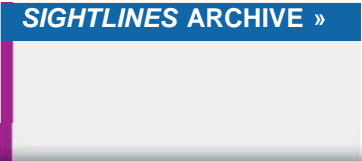
Applications are encouraged from all skill and experience levels. There is still time to be considered for this exciting new opportunity through USITT. Housing at the Fairfield Inn near the training center has been arranged at \$89 per night. This includes breakfast and we are happy to pair participants so you are responsible for half of the charges.

Applications are accepted through **March 15**. If you have questions and are in Charlotte for the Annual Conference & Stage Expo, stop at any of the sponsors



The training facility at Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas will be the site of USITT's first Elite Training workshop in May.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

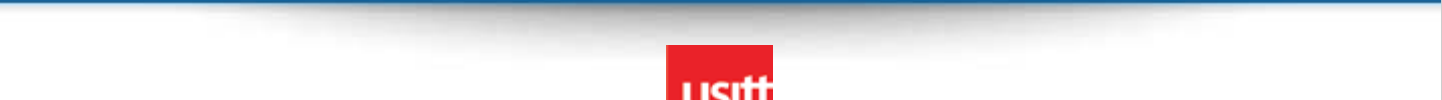


booths and they can provide more information.

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### News & Notices

## Two YD&T Awards now Permanently Funded

**Dennis Dorn** *Chair, USITT Development Committee*

With the arrival of the recent holiday season, the USITT Development Committee received some very welcome news. Two YD&T Awards received generous contributions sufficient to qualify these awards as being fully funded.

The two awards are the Costume Design & Technology Award, sponsored by Zelma H. Weisfeld, and the Frederick A. Buerki Golden Hammer Award, sponsored by Bernhard R. Works. As many people will recognize, both sponsors are USITT Fellows who have been extremely generous supporters of the Institute for many years.

Both are retired educators who have continued their career efforts to encourage and honor students who seek to excel in academic and production work. Ms. Weisfeld is professor emerita from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor where she taught costume design for many years. Dr. Works is professor emeritus from the University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana where he taught design and technical production. The Costume Design & Technology Award has been given annually since 1998. The Golden Hammer Award was first presented in 1999 and traditionally has included the presentation of an actual gold-painted hammer from Dr.



Zelma H. Weisfeld presents the 2010 Award for Young Designers & Technicians which bears her name to Ariana Schwartz.



Chris Swetcky received the Frederick A. Buerki Golden Hammer Scenic Technology Award in 2011 from Bernhard R. Works.



## Works.

These are just two of the nine YD&T awards that are given annually, and they bring to four the number of awards that are now fully funded. The other two are the KM Fabrics, Inc. Technical Production Award and the Robert E. Cohen Sound Achievement Award. The other five awards are currently made on a year-by-year basis. The USITT Development Committee is strongly committed in its efforts to convert these awards to a fully funded status, and as such can continue to recognize and celebrate the work of young students and professionals.

USITT thanks Ms. Weisfeld and Mr. Works for their generosity and salutes them both for their ongoing commitment to the New Century Fund and the future of USITT. All members are encouraged to express their personal appreciation to them in Charlotte.

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## Still Time to Attend USITT's Annual Conference

USITT's 51st Annual Conference & Stage Expo kicks off in just a few days in Charlotte, North Carolina. It is not too late to decide to attend, just register onsite in the lobby of the Charlotte Convention Center.

Boxes, and containers, and pallets of materials have already been shipped from USITT's offices in Syracuse, New York so plan to see What's Next March 9 to 12.

## Extend Deadline for Study Tour

Openings are still available for the 2011 Prague Study Tour June 9 to 22. For complete details and costs of the tour, go to [www.usitt.org/StudyTours.aspx](http://www.usitt.org/StudyTours.aspx).

Features of the tour include an overnight trip to Cesky Krumlov to see Krumlov Castle and the baroque theatre, a stop at the famous Budvar Brewery, and tours of Prague's Jewish district, Prague Castle, and the Museum of Decorative Arts. Participants will meet with Czech designers, enjoy an evening of opera, and experience dinner at a typical Czech brewery restaurant.

As a special, optional event, participants will have the opportunity to see a presentation by the author of a new book about Liberace and his famously extravagant wardrobe.

Land only packages are available for those who want to extend their stay. For more information, contact Marianne Custer at [mcuster@utk.edu](mailto:mcuster@utk.edu)

## To Present Distinguished Achievement Award for Education

Professor Craig Wolf will receive the 2011

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Distinguished Achievement Award in Education Friday, March 11 as part of the Charlotte 2011 Conference & Stage Expo. The session will be held 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.

An overview of his career as an educator, a discussion of his pedagogy, and his advice to a new generation of faculty and designers will follow the presentation. Joining Professor Wolf will be three of his alumni, who will provide the student perspective his teaching.



## Holiday Card Design Deadline Nears

The deadline for entries for Behind the Scenes' second annual holiday card student design contest is March 30. The contest is open to any lighting, set, video, or costume full-time design student interested in creating an original design for a 2011 card.

The winner will be chosen by a panel of previous holiday card designers. The winner's design will be among the cards offered for sale to raise money for Behind the Scenes which provides financial assistance to entertainment technology professionals who are seriously ill or injured.

The winner will also receive a free pass to a Live Design Master Class in lighting, sound, or projection to be held in May in New York City.

[Click here to view design guidelines and cards from previous years.](#) For questions contact [holidaycard@estafoundation.org](mailto:holidaycard@estafoundation.org).

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## News & Notices

# Prepare PQ Exhibits for Travel

**Alexandra Bonds** *VP-International Activities*



The University of Montana student team with David Grindle and Dan Denhart, reflecting on their accomplishment and anticipating their trip to Prague to assemble the USA-USITT exhibits.

Photos/Alexandra Bonds

Exactly five months before the gala opening of the 2011 Prague Quadrennial on June 15, members of the USITT-USA Exhibits Committee assembled in Missoula, Montana for the trial set ups of the three exhibits planned for the PQ. Hosting the event were Mike Monsos and Alessia Carpoca, University of Montana Missoula faculty members from the School of Theatre & Dance, and their team of nine students. The Montana group has been working on the construction of the three exhibits since August and were ready to show their almost-completed work to the rest of the team.

The National Exhibit is an evocation of the garage and found space-style theatre buildings where many of the judged companies perform. Designed by Bill Bloodgood, the walls of the exhibit emulate bricks. The students cut over 15,000 blocks of wood and applied them to the facade and



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interior of the structure to create the brick texture. Led by Ms. Carpoca, they next painted the exterior walls, first to heighten the brick effect, and then to deface it with graffiti. The iconic poster image of President Obama is prominently located on one wall so that it will be one of the first things visitors see when they come to the exhibit.

The finished construction was practically camouflaged in the scene shop, sharing the same paint colors and spattered textures of the surrounding walls and floors. When the exhibit is remounted in the smooth marble modernist environment of the Velerzni Palace, the location of the exhibition in Prague, the contrast will be striking.

Artistic director Susan Tsu, and curators Chris Barreca and Linda Cho, spent much of their time in Missoula determining the location for each of the 37 productions in the exhibit. In addition to being mounted on the walls, pieces are placed on ladders, sawhorses, bulletin boards, and other makeshift frameworks reflective of the workshop environment. Display artifacts include models, digital frames, and large-scale photographic cutouts as well as props and costumes. Assistant Designer Eric Stone was occupied most of the week meticulously mounting the photos and labels on foamboard.

In addition to exhibit arrangement, there was a trial run of the widescreen projections designed by Jason Lindhal, which will present clips from multi-media productions, as well as interviews with many of the artists included in the exhibit. The effect is made possible by a generous donation from TMB and Green Hippo, who are providing the projection equipment for the showings in Prague and at the 2012 USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach, California.

Lighting equipment came from Seachanger and ETC, and the exhibit lighting is designed by Allen Hahn. Sound apparatus was shipped in from d+b audiotechnik and Sennheisser and designed by Don Tindall. Paul Brunner from Indiana University in Bloomington was present since he, his shop, and students have been chosen to construct the USITT PQ USA 2015 exhibits. USITT



David Grindle, Mike Monsos, Dan Denhart, and Paul Brunner discuss the assembly of a door for the storage shed outside the exhibit.



A view of the National exhibit after assembly.

Executive Director David Grindle participated in the process and remarked that is it quite likely this is the only exhibit in the Section of Regions and Countries built entirely by students, one of the hallmarks of the culture of USITT.

The Student Exhibit, Emerge, was also set up for Rachelle Beckermann and Collin Ranney, members of the student committee to refine. The curated portion of their exhibit will be presented in digital frames, and the second focus will be on American students who come to Prague to create designs within the space during the exhibition hours. Teams of two students from different schools will be given a phrase of poetry and 90 minutes to design their response to it, using found objects and art supplies provided. All their new works will be added to the display for an ever-changing exhibit. There are still time slots available for students wanting to participate in this part of the exhibit. Their mentor, Tom Burch, was also in attendance to work out the details of the participatory aspect of the exhibit. [For more information on participating, go to www.pqusastudent.com.](http://www.pqusastudent.com)

The Architecture Exhibit will feature eight projects and have glimpses of dozens of other buildings to demonstrate the vast number of theatres being developed in America. Two plexiglass towers will house mini-projectors showing time-lapse videos of the construction process. The architecture exhibits from each country are built to fit on a table, and charged with contributing to the discussion, "What will you bring to the table?"

All USITT members are welcome and encouraged to travel to Prague to partake in this most expansive and significant recognition of the contribution of design to the profession of theatre. In addition to the exhibit, there will be performances from across the globe, seminars and workshops, and the Scenofest of activities for students. Everyone who has ever attended a PQ event has invariably said that the experience has changed their lives.

For more information about the events connected with PQ 2011, there are two sessions scheduled during the USITT Annual Conference in Charlotte. Sodja Lotker, Artistic Director of the PQ, will present the plans for this year's exposition on Wednesday, March 9 at 4:15. Thursday, March 10 at 5:30, Jessica Bowles and James McKernan will introduce the range of activities for the Scenofest.

See you in Prague!

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The Last Word:

## Creating The Marna King Theater Collection



One of the many images preserved in the Marna King Theater Collection – Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*, Act 1, scene 1: King Leontes, Polixenes and Queen Hermione.

by Marna King

*Marna King reflects on her experiences collecting images and impressions in the late twentieth century which now form the basis of The Marna King Theater Collection.*

Members who attended USITT Annual Conferences between the years 1984 to 1991 may have attended sessions in which I reported on plays I had seen in Germany that used the associational theatre aesthetic then prevalent in prominent West German state and city theatres. These eye witness accounts were accompanied by slides of photographs taken by the theatre photographer of each particular play. The presentation was a walk-through of each production demonstrating the strategies and techniques used to communicate to the audience. Every element of the production – script, actor, staging, and the production's individual designers – had a separate voice in this collaged, montaged format.

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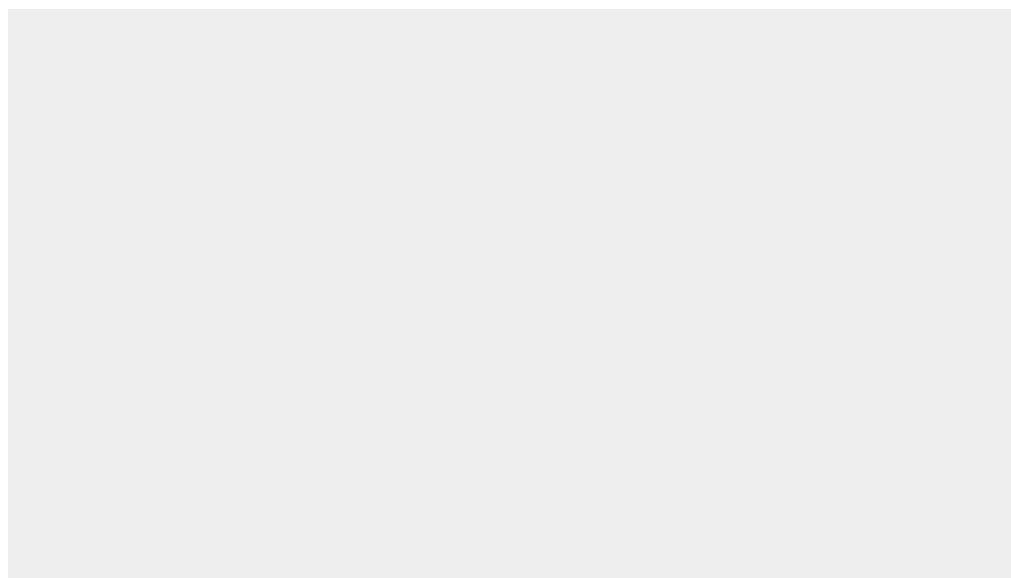
From 1981 through 2000, I witnessed, studied, and collected primary materials of each production I thought valuable to record – 155 such files from the former Federal Republic of Germany and 85 files from the former East Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall from 1990-2000. I used this material to influence my own costume designs and those of my students, and to reach American theatre practitioners through presentations and articles. When I retired in 2002, I converted my working files into the Marna King Theater Collection which I donated in 2006 to the Akademie der Künste in Berlin. The collection resides in its Arkiv Darstellende Kunst [Performing Arts]. It has recently been made available to anyone wishing to view or work with its contents.

What types of plays can be found in the collection? German theatre artists and audiences have a keen interest in plays that span all ages and all countries. For the most part, I selected dramas which American theatre professionals and students might know or could easily reference.

Would the collection be of value to scholars and theatre practitioners who know little or no German? Yes, the collection is easily accessible to those not fluent in German. The I.D cards, which record the type and amount of material included in each file, are in English as well as observations, comments, notations, and informal interviews. The more than 1,000 photos taken by theatre photographers during final rehearsals speak for themselves.

I've identified each photo by play, scene/act, and character. In addition, I've included selected writings of my own which contain copies of the photos used to illustrate them. Be prepared to stay a while. The collection weighed over 400 pounds when shipped to the Akademie. Also included in the collection are 215 files from West Germany for the years 1968-1980 that I researched to better understand the origins of this aesthetic movement.

A more formal announcement will be distributed during the Charlotte 2011 Conference & Stage Expo at the Costume Design & Technology and Scene Design & Technology Commission meetings and at the general information table in the PQ Exhibition Hall. It will contain information about how to contact the Akademie der Künste archive and the website which will contain the annotated Table of Contents for the collection.







Brecht's *Baal*: Baal

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## Apps at the Conference

The 2011 edition of the phone app that allows users to track sessions and exhibitors at USITT's Annual Conference & Stage Expo is almost ready for release. The app for the iPhone which made its debut in 2010 will be joined this year by an app for the Droid. [For information, and to download, click here.](#)

## Following and Facebooking

USITT is also making its presence known on Facebook and on Twitter. Members can follow tweets about the Annual Conference, or about the organization. Another option is to ["like" USITT on the Facebook group site or become a "friend" here.](#)

## Named to New Position

Congratulations to Jonathan H. Darling, a member of USITT's Board of Directors, who has joined Westlake Reed Leskosky as AV system designer. Mr. Darling has a new e-mail address to go with his new position. He can now be reached at [jhdarling@WRLdesign.com](mailto:jhdarling@WRLdesign.com).

## Lighting Archive Receives Major Gift

The Penn State Lighting Archive has received a major gift from David L. Thayer, emeritus professor of design, University of Iowa. Professor Thayer has donated his entire collection of historic lighting fixtures, dimmers, and control boards to Penn State's Theatre Lighting Archive. There are more than 75 distinct pieces,

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consisting primarily of early incandescent fixtures and arc fixtures. Due to space concerns following the severe flood that the University of Iowa suffered in 2008, Professor Thayer decided to seek out a home for all his equipment. Penn State has been building a significant collection of theatre lighting history over the past several decades, which includes several hundred fixtures, dimmers, and control boards, along with thousands of drawings, period gel books, catalogs, and other accessories. William Kenyon, associate professor of design, will catalog the new gift over the next several months. Questions about the Archive, its holdings, or donations of equipment, may be directed to Prof. Kenyon ([lights@psu.edu](mailto:lights@psu.edu)).

## In Memoriam, Theoni V. Aldredge

USITT notes the death of Theoni V. Aldredge, costume designer, who died in January in Stamford, Connecticut. She was 88. Ms. Aldredge designed the costumes for hundreds of Broadway and Off Broadway productions including *Annie*, *A Chorus Line*, and *La Cage aux Folles*, and won an Academy Award for her work on "The Great Gatsby."

She is survived by her husband, actor Tom Aldredge. She won three Tony Awards for costume design, for *Annie*, *Barnum*, and *La Cage aux Folles*. Her many film credits included *Network*, *Semi-Tough*, *Moonstruck*, *Ghostbusters*, and *Addams Family Values*.

[A more complete obituary, from the New York Times, may be found here.](#)

## H&H Award Winners

Students from as close as Asheville, North Carolina and as far away as South Bend, Indiana will be able to attend the 2011 Annual Conference & Stage Expo thanks to the generosity of Reid Neslage and H & H Specialties. Six students who have been members of USITT for more than a year, and who signed up to attend the 2011 Conference before the early deadline in December, were chosen in a random drawing of eligible students to receive the H&H Specialties Student Support Awards.

Greg J. Demetrakis, James W. Deen Jr., Rachel C.C. Gordon, David Moody, Kyle E. Techentin, and Alisha J. Stauss will have their Conference registration fees rebated as the 2011 H&H winners.

## New Office Assistants

In January, just as the staff was wondering how we could possibly accomplish all our tasks before the 2011 Annual Conference, extra help arrived!

Monica Merritt found that registering people and entering data was much more fun when Oliver (with duck) and



Emma Kline helped organize the work.

It was great to see their dad, Adam, as well. The family now lives in Ithaca, close to the National Office in Syracuse, so we expect to be able to call on them for assistance again soon.

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- [Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc. »](#)

## Firm Rigs Saudi Arabia University Theatres

When Princess Nora bint Abdulrahman University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, opens its campus to students early in 2012, its three theatres will be equipped with **J. R. Clancy, Inc.** rigging systems.

Within what will be the world's largest university for women is a theatre complex with a 2,500-seat performance hall, a 700-seat drama theatre, and a black box theatre for lectures and small productions. While each theater has unique requirements, the contractor sought a single, proven supplier that could manufacture the complete package of under- and over-stage rigging for all three venues. Clancy's broad equipment portfolio and international experience in managing projects of the largest scale earned the company this project.

More information about J. R. Clancy is available at [www.jrclancy.com](http://www.jrclancy.com), or at 315-451-3440.

## Launches Media Services Group with Acquisition

**Production Resource Group, L.L.C. (PRG)**, has acquired New York-based Pow! Pix. The acquisition marks PRG's entry into the rental of post-production equipment and services specializing in on-site editing for live event and other broadcasts.

For over 15 years, Emmy award-winning Pow! Pix has provided equipment and engineering services. Principal Bob Barzyk will continue as vice president of post-production. For more information on PRG Media Services, please visit [media.prg.com](http://media.prg.com), e-mail: [media@prg.com](mailto:media@prg.com) or phone: 212- 589-5499

## Releases Control Software Version

**ETC** released v1.9.5 software for the Eos family of control (Eos, Ion, and

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Element). This software release adds several major functions to Eos and Ion, and new features to the whole family.

The software can be downloaded from either the product pages on [ETC's website](#). A series of three videos explaining the new features of v1.9.5 is available on the product pages, or in [ETC's YouTube library](#).

## Dura-Flex is REACH Compliant

**Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc.** recently announced Dura-Flex meets REACH environmental and safety standards.

REACH, the European environmental safety standard, restricts harmful and hazardous materials including polychlorinatedterphenyls, polybromobiphenyls, and polybrominatedbiphenyls.

Dura-Flex is available as multi-cable, Cat5E, DMX, Power Distribution cables, and other cables and assemblies. For more information please visit the Dura-Flex website at [www.dura-flex.com](http://www.dura-flex.com).

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## Company's Lift Featured at New World Center

The recently opened New World Center in Miami Beach, is home to the New World Symphony, America's Orchestral Academy. The building is designed by Frank Gehry and Partners and features a stage lift utilizing **Serapid, Inc.** LinkLift Lifting Columns.

The New World Symphony fellowship program is for graduates of distinguished music programs providing them the opportunity for leadership positions in orchestras and ensembles across the globe.

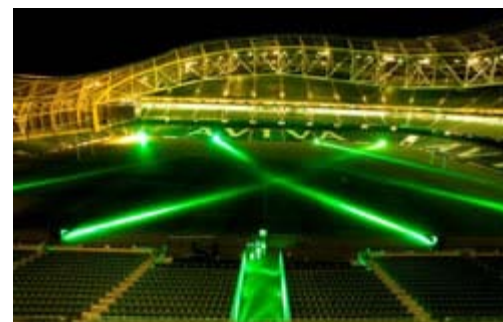
The stage lift features four LinkLift lifting columns. Because of the travel distance, coupled with the dynamic capacity, the Serapid lift is the only one in the space used for both performances and load-in/load-out purposes.

For more information, contact Serapid at 800-663-4154 or on the web:

[www.serapid.us](http://www.serapid.us)

## New Stadium Features Wireless Systems

Technology leader LumenRadio's award winning CRMX RDM wireless system was recently used to provide extra excitement at a sold-out international Magners League rugby game at Dublin's newly rebuilt Aviva Stadium. Home of the Republic of Ireland national Rugby Union and



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Football teams, the state-of-the-art stadium is the only facility in the country with UEFA Elite classification. Also known as the Dublin Arena, it seats more than 50,000, and was refitted with the latest wireless broadcast and security systems before the doors reopened in May.

**TMB** is exclusive distributor for LumenRadio in the United Kingdom and North America (RDM units are not available in or from the USA). [Click here to find out more about LumenRadio](#). Learn more about other innovative and exciting products from TMB at [www.tmb.com](http://www.tmb.com).

## Rigging Supports 'Last Supper' Recreation

**Sapsis Rigging Entertainment Services** designed and installed the truss system for the multimedia exhibit "Leonardo's Last Supper: A Vision by Peter Greenway" recently on view at the Park Avenue Armory in New York City. SRI built the support structure for a full-scale replica of the Refectory of the Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan that would display a "clone" of da Vinci's masterpiece. In addition to supporting the larger-than-life recreation of da Vinci's famous painting *The Last Supper*, the rig held an array of audio-visual and lighting equipment.

To learn more about Sapsis Rigging, Inc., visit [www.sapsis-rigging.com](http://www.sapsis-rigging.com) or call 800-727-7471.

## Publicize SILV 2011 Offerings

**Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas** has been on the road to regional events including TETA and KCACTF Region 1 spreading the word about its 2011 classes. Its goal of training in high level technology that can be accomplished a week and a topic at a time is expanding to include automation, patterning, and projections and video this summer. For the SILV staff, one of the most innovative components of Summer 2011 will be a "Technicians Showcase" which will take place on the final day of class, July 29.



## Launches New Website

**Staging Concepts, Inc.** recently unveiled its new website at [www.stagingconcepts.com](http://www.stagingconcepts.com). Designed by Ackmann & Dickenson, the new site includes a modern, interactive homepage and enhanced navigation tools for fast and easy access to product pages, case studies, and contact information

The homepage welcomes visitors with vibrant photography, an organized and streamlined design, and images of products used in each of the featured market

case studies. The product pages offer visitors a fresh look at the entire Staging Concepts product line.

For more information about Staging Concepts and its equipment, visit [www.stagingconcepts.com](http://www.stagingconcepts.com) or call 763-231-7105.

## Complete Theatre Design Project

**Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.**, in collaboration with Gehry Partners and Frank Gehry, completed its most recent feat in theatre design with the opening of the New World Symphony campus in Miami Beach, Florida. Theatre Projects executed the design for The New World Center as a technologically and visually advanced music laboratory intended for the highest quality of music education and performance. Theatre Projects played a key role in the theatre design and planning as well as in designing the customized performance equipment

## Add to Guard Dog Line

**Checkers Industrial Safety Inc.** has expanded its line of Guard Dog Cable Protectors to include eight new Low Profile designs, four of which can have optional rubber pad added to them for increased traction.

Guard Dog Low Profile is the industry's widest variety of compact, heavy duty, top-loading cable protectors. Available with 1, 2, 3, or 5 channels, these protectors are only 1.25 inches high with a 3/4-inch channel height. They protect valuable cables, reduce trip hazards, and feature either standard ramps or low angle ADA compliant ramps. For more information, visit [www.cableprotector.com](http://www.cableprotector.com).



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News From **Joe Aldridge**, *USITT President*

## Get Packed and Ready for Adventure



Weather in Charlotte, North Carolina is typically warm and inviting in mid-March, so pack spring clothing and be prepared to engage in conversations about changes in our organization and our profession.

Photo/Visit Charlotte

As you read this article, I hope that you are packed and ready to depart for a week of fun activities in Charlotte, North Carolina. With any luck, the really bad weather has passed, and we are moving into an early spring for this Conference.

The past 12 months have passed extremely quickly -- too quickly.

During this time the Institute has begun the transition to the new governance structure, and I am happy to report that the transition is going smoothly. It has been a great learning experience, and I look forward to the next 16 months. The Executive Director is making a difference, and we have an excellent working relationship. David Grindle has been extremely proactive in my desire to improve the benefits to the membership. I applaud his tenacity in pursuing those new benefits with vendors for all of you.

We have begun a new program offering Elite Training possibilities for our



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members with major manufacturers and suppliers in the industry. I want to express our thanks to [Cirque du Soleil and the manufacturers who are making this opportunity possible](#). The goal is to make this opportunity available to any and all of our many Sustaining and Contributing members who might want to offer training to our members. USITT will deal with the logistics and assist in making these training opportunities successful.

One of our Contributing members has come forward with a proposal that I am excited about and look forward to sharing it with you at the Conference. The potential is tremendous!

I am sure that many of you are aware of the increased scrutiny that our industry is receiving from OSHA. Safety should be at the forefront of your work habits. I will be attending a summit with Federal OSHA and the leaders of other organizations to begin a dialogue that will, I hope, allow us to be involved in making compliance a less-than-onerous task.

I have been working with Nevada OSHA officials, helping them to understand how our industry differs from the construction industry. This is an important distinction, as I am sure you will all agree.

We have much to share and much to talk about when we meet in Charlotte. I look forward to seeing all of you in a few short weeks.



**We'd like to hear your comments on this story.**  
Please e-mail Joe at [joe.aldridge@unlv.edu](mailto:joe.aldridge@unlv.edu).

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### Ohio Valley: Cleveland Rocks May 21

The Ohio Valley Regional Section's Spring Event will be at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame! The attendees will get a behind the scenes look at the renovation of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum where all new, state-of-the-art, energy efficient lighting, audiovisual, show control, and exhibits have been incorporated. A talk-back session with the lead AV/lighting designer – Raymond Kent, Director of Westlake Reed Leskosky's Innovative Technology Design Group, and members of the Rock Hall Staff will follow the tour, which will begin at 8 a.m. on May 21.

Only individuals who have preregistered by May 6 will be able to attend. There will be no walk-up registration. There will be a group discount available at the Wyndham Cleveland at Playhouse Square for \$99/night with a complimentary shuttle service to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and free internet and WIFI. The link for making hotel reservations is available on the [OVS website](#).

Elections are right around the corner. Individuals interested in running for the Board (Vice Chair of Operations, Secretary, or Board Member At Large) should contact Eric Rouse ([ejr127@psu.edu](mailto:ejr127@psu.edu)). Voting will begin at the membership meeting at the Charlotte 2011 Conference & Stage Expo. during the conference.

Congratulations to Staci Battista who received the OVS scholarship to attend the Annual Conference & Stage Expo. She is a senior theatre major attending University of Pittsburgh. This is the first time the award has been given to a stage manager or a University of Pittsburgh student.

### New England: New Locale for Arts Job Fair

The Regional Entertainment Production and Administration (REPA) Job Fair

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takes place Saturday, March 26 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Midway Studios, 15 Channel Center St., Fort Point Channel, Boston.

Sponsored by StageSource and the New England Regional Section, the job fair is free to job seekers and does not require prior registration. Candidates should come with a portfolio, business cards, and 50 copies of their resumes. It caters to production and administrative professionals looking for work in the performing arts. Employment opportunities include salaried positions, stipends, seasonal employment, and internships.

For more information, call 617-720-6066 or visit [StageSource](#). Organizations interested in being represented should contact StageSource for registration materials.

## Desert State: Meeting, Miniconference A Success

The Desert State Regional Section had a fantastic Section meeting and miniconference January 17 with its largest turn out ever. Thanks to Barbizon Arizona for providing breakfast and Clearwing Productions for grilling lunch for the group.

This year's keynote speaker was David Grindle. His presentation *A Country Boy can Survive* was entertaining and informative. He also presented *Improving Design Team Communication by Translating English to English*. The other workshops included: *Bloody Shakespeare*, Kathy Stephenson and Kate Ellis; *Real Sound in the Real World*, Joel Harris and Almir Lejlic; *How to Help Your Systems Technician Help You*, James Maurer; *Look What I found! Working with Found Objects*, Mike Holland; *You Have a Degree. Now What? How to Build a Resume and Portfolio to Get a Job*, Mike Eddy and Erica Black; *Projector Mapping: A Way to Use Video in Your Productions* Micah J. Stieglitz; and *Renovating Performing Arts Spaces* Jimmie Byrd & Company. J.R. Clancy and ETC took part for the first time.

Marie Quinn from Northern Arizona University, Samantha Armitage from Arizona State University, and Ruth George from the University of Arizona won the Student Awards.



Photos/Fran Sutherland

A one-day AutoCAD workshop led by Jennifer Setlow will be held 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 5 at ASU. Price is \$25 for students and \$40 for professionals. [Click here to register on the website](#). For more information, contact [desertstateusitt@gmail.com](mailto:desertstateusitt@gmail.com) or visit Desert State USITT on Facebook.

## Southwest: Symposium, New Awards Some of Section Activities

The Southwest Regional Section held its Winter Symposium on January 15 to 16 in San Antonio, Texas. It was the largest yet with over 150 attendees. San Antonio College was the host for a number of master classes and the student design competition.

Featured events included tours of the Tobin Collection of Theatre Arts at the McNay Art Museum, and backstage tours at SeaWorld San Antonio. Sixty-five students participated in an adjudicated exhibit; prizes included USITT National Conference Registration and air travel sponsored by Schuler Shook, and training sessions at Fisher Technical Services, Meyer Sound Lab Factory, Vari-Lite, and the Stagecraft Institute. Chris Velvin, health and safety manager for Cirque du Soleil, was the keynote speaker for the symposium.

Students, faculty, and professionals spent two days in workshops and master classes such as *Wood Graining Scene Painting Techniques* with Jon Young, *Rock and Roll Moving Light Design and Programming* with Jim Hutchison, and *Casting and Molding for Costume and Prop Crafts* with Kasey Allee-Foreman. Steve Gilliam from Trinity University was the featured regional artist, who exhibited a variety of scenic designs from his career. Mr. Gilliam was also a respondent to the student design competition and taught a workshop in Digital Scenic Rendering. Costume Designer Rafael Jaen, author of *Developing and Maintaining a Design-Tech Portfolio*, also adjudicated the student designs and taught a workshop in Costume Rendering.



Photos/Tom Grabowski



The Section created two new awards at the symposium, the Oscar Brockett Teaching Award and the Don J. Childs Student Service Award. These will be given for the first time at the e 2011 Conference & Stage Expo in Charlotte in March. For a complete list of the student design competition winners, and the sponsors of the symposium and awards, visit: [www.usitt-sw.org](http://www.usitt-sw.org). USITT-SW would also like to extend a big thanks to Debra Coates and the students, faculty, and staff at San Antonio College for hosting the symposium.

## Midwest: Program Includes Theatre Tour, Workshops

The Midwest Regional Section held its third program of the year January 22 at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. The program started with a tour of the theatre and design facilities, followed by the first two sessions: a roundtable discussion into the current practices in the world of Stage Management led by Steve Chene, technical director at UW-Whitewater and AEA Stage Manager Laura Wendt; and a hands-on workshop led by Jeffrey Lieder from



UW-Milwaukee on *Wire Frame Hats and Headpieces*. Mr. Lieder has worked on three productions of *The Nutcracker* ballet, creating the tiaras and headpieces for designs by Zach Brown. The tiara of the day for the workshop was the Sugar Plum Fairy headpiece. Nine participants worked for three hours to create the wire frame for the headpiece based on the original pattern.

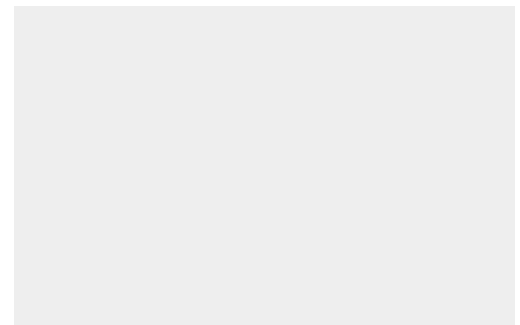
During the afternoon sessions, Eric Appleton, scenic designer at UW-Whitewater led a hands-on make and take session *Down and Dirty White Models*, and provided tips and techniques to get a scenic design into a 3-D model in less time. Tracey Lyons, costume designer at UW-Whitewater led another afternoon session on *Using the Computer to Enhance your Costume Renderings*, using Adobe Photoshop and PowerPoint.

The Section plans two more events this year: Indianapolis on April 2, and a Design Competition at the Krannert Center at University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign. [Check out the Midwest website for up to date information.](#)

## Upstate New York: Upstate Meets in Syracuse

Jason Grasso, his students, and LeMoyne College r hosted the Upstate New York Regional Section's winter program. It consisted of training sessions and a job fair.

Students took a scene painting workshop with Donna Wymore of





Cobalt Studios and learned wardrobe crew essential skills from Judy McCabe of SUNY-Oswego. The day concluded with interviews conducted by Glimmerglass Festival, Hangar Theatre, and Merry-Go-Round Playhouse.

The Upstate Section spring meeting is tentatively set for April 23. Check [www.usittupsny.org](http://www.usittupsny.org) for details.



Judy McCabe educated students on fast fix tricks for zippers, snaps, buttons, and hooks and eyes - things wardrobe crews need to know for runs of shows.



Students learned Easy Texturing for 3-D Scenery with Donna Wymore of Cobalt Studios.

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

## Padding Toward Charlotte

Feeding the ducks was something our sons looked forward to every time we visited Grandpa Tom in Maryland. We started this tradition in the summer by visiting the big city park in the town where he lives. We purchased feed at the dispensers, and the boys would toss it to the ducks. The ducks would swim about gracefully, but the water was clear, so you could see their webbed feet moving like crazy to get them to the next little kid with feed. The smart ducks would even keep an eye on people coming from the seed dispensers and try to guess where they were headed to be first in line.

The ducks looked smooth and graceful to most people's eyes, but I kept looking at everything their feet were doing to make motion happen. It is the perfect descriptor of what is going on this time of year around the National Office and the offices of our volunteer leadership. The Conference is coming, and that generates excitement around the country as our members prepare to attend. It may be their first conference, or somewhere near their 40th, but each year is special. Around the office and within the leadership, which look so graceful on top, the hard core paddling has started.

Shipping about two tons of materials from Syracuse to the Conference site has to be organized. The latest member author books and boutique items must be purchased to arrive in time to be added to inventory. Do we have enough ribbons? Is the all important swag prepped for distribution? Has the schedule been updated for the millionth time today?

These all happen as the staff and leadership move from moment to moment just like those ducks. They know where the next item is that needs to be addressed



This is just a portion of the new merchandise, books, supplies, and equipment that are being packed up for a trip to Charlotte.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas



and move to it quickly, efficiently, and gracefully.

All of this is going on while we add things like Elite Training and new member benefits. These things serve to enhance the member experience year round, and they don't go away just because the conference is happening. No, they just require faster paddling and forward thinking like those ducks that eyed the food dispenser.

For some of the staff, this is conference number 12. They have the hang of it but are constantly working to improve what is offered to the members. They can see the problems coming ahead and work to solve them before there is any clue they were coming. Take the time to say thanks to the Conference Committee, Board Members, and National Office staff. They have taken on the duck attitude so that you can get as much joy from the Conference as our sons did feeding those ducks in the pond.



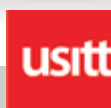
**We'd like to hear your comments on this story.**

Please e-mail David at [david@office.usitt.org](mailto:david@office.usitt.org).

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# Special Guest to Help Review Portfolios

Carrie F. Robbins will join this year's Costume Portfolio Review session as a special guest reviewer.

Ms. Robbins has had a distinguished career both as a costume designer and as an educator at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Her design work includes Broadway productions of *Grease*, *Agnes of God*, *Yentl*, *Octette*, *Bridgeclub*, *Sweet Bird of Youth*, *The First*, *Frankenstein*, *Boys of Winter*, *Cyrano*, and *Shadow Box*. Her recent work for the Broadway version of *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* continues to make its annual New York appearance while touring nationally.



Carrie Robbins

She has designed for Lincoln Center Rep, Chelsea Theatre Center, New York Shakespeare Festival, Arena Stage, Glimmerglass, the Mark Taper Forum, and The Guthrie. Other designs have been for San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Hamburg Staatsoper, and others. Film and television credits include *In the Spirit* and *Saturday Night Live*.

She has received two Tony nominations and five Drama Desk awards. She also designed uniforms for the Rainbow Room and Windows on the World restaurants. Her rendering expertise covers both traditional and digital forms. She recently curated the Lincoln Center Library exhibit *Curtain Call*, which featured the design work of women in theatre.

Along with Ms. Robbins, the Review Committee will schedule sessions for any designer seeking feedback and advice on how to develop, improve, and present a portfolio. The committee is comprised of working artists and educators. The reviews are open to designers, technicians, crafts artisans, hair and make-up artists, and any practitioner combining those fields.

Past committee chairman Rafael Jaén suggests five guidelines to presenting work:

- Pay attention to grooming and use professional manners.
- Have a plan, use clear voice articulation, and listen carefully to feedback. Clear labeling, captions, and keys will help guide the viewer.
- Have a beginning, middle, and end. Plan transitions between projects. Include visuals that explain the scope of the project.





- Have brief concept statements, and use proper garment names and period references. Include important research materials. Be current with the show information and dramaturgy.
- Feature different theatrical styles and historical periods. Include different sketching styles. Make sure the page layout and use of captions are impeccably designed.

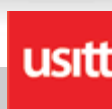
A digital portfolio also should be "designed." To have a digital format portfolio reviewed, bring a laptop with the portfolio ready to be viewed.

Portfolio Reviews at the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo are valuable sessions that can assist designers and technicians. This year, Esther Van Eek and Steven Stines begin as co-chairs for the reviews. The commission highly encourages all participants to share in the excitement of these sessions. Volunteering as a reviewer can be inspiring and helpful to both the interviewee and the mentor. Having the courage to get a critique from professionals in the field can be of great value for the young designer or technician in building self-confidence and charting their next steps.

For more information or to sign up as a reviewer or to be reviewed, please contact Steven Stines at [stevenstines@gmail.com](mailto:stevenstines@gmail.com), and provide your contact information, including area of concentration, school affiliation, and level of study or experience.

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## Scene Commission Outlines Activities

**Karen Maness and Frank Ludwig**

*Scene Design & Technology Co-Commissioners*



The False Faces of W.T. Benda was both an extremely popular exhibit at Stage Expo and a special session at the 2010 Annual Conference. The Scene Design & Technology Commission is currently looking for similar ideas for the 2012 Annual Conference.

Photo/R Finkelstein

### Call for Session and PDW Proposals:

The Charlotte 2011 Conference & Stage Expo is nearly here, and the Commission is busily preparing programming for the Long Beach 2012 Conference & Stage Expo. Send session ideas and contact information to incoming VC of Programming Casey Kearns [ckearns@uwyo.edu](mailto:ckearns@uwyo.edu). Session proposals also may be submitted at the Commission meetings in Charlotte.

### Change of Leadership:

Co-Commissioner Frank Ludwig will be stepping down from his position this summer. He will remain active within the Commission heading up special project and interests. The Commission is working to identify a future Co-Commissioner. Karen Maness will remain as Co-Commissioner. Contact her directly about Commission needs at [kmaness@texasperformingarts.org](mailto:kmaness@texasperformingarts.org)

Michelle Harvey has spent countless hours of service as the Commission's

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Programmer. Charlotte will mark the completion of her third conference in this role. Casey Kearns is incoming Programmer and can be reached at [ckearns@uwyo.edu](mailto:ckearns@uwyo.edu).

International Liaison Jan Chambers will be taking over for Treva Reimer.

### Teaching Load Survey:

Frank Ludwig is gathering information on teaching loads and how they are applied in college and university productions. The surveys will be available at the Commission meetings. He can be contacted directly at [fludwig@viterbo.edu](mailto:fludwig@viterbo.edu)

### Web Presence coming soon!

USITT would like to channel all official Commission communications through the central USITT website. Until then, contact any leader directly via e-mail.

For a complete listing of Scene Design & Technology Commission conference offerings, visit: [www.usitt.org](http://www.usitt.org).

## 2010-2011 USITT Scene Design & Technology Commission Leadership

- **Co-Commissioner:** Karen Maness [kmaness@texasperformingarts.org](mailto:kmaness@texasperformingarts.org)
- **Co-Commissioner:** Frank Ludwig [fludwig@viterbo.edu](mailto:fludwig@viterbo.edu)
- **Vice-Commissioner for Programming:** Michelle Harvey  
[harveymd@exchange.uta.edu](mailto:harveymd@exchange.uta.edu)
- **Incoming Vice-Commissioner for Programming:** Casey Kearns  
[ckearns@uwyo.edu](mailto:ckearns@uwyo.edu)
- **Vice-Commissioner for Computers:** Dennis Hassan  
[dhassan@hass.usu.edu](mailto:dhassan@hass.usu.edu)
- **Vice-Commissioner for Education:** Richard Larsen  
[larsenr1@scranton.edu](mailto:larsenr1@scranton.edu)
- **Vice-Commissioner for Health & Safety:** Robert Berls [rberls@unca.edu](mailto:rberls@unca.edu)
- **Vice-Commissioner for Scenic Art:** Gregg Buck [greggabuck@gmail.com](mailto:greggabuck@gmail.com)
- **Vice-Commissioner for Heritage:** Arden Weaver [aweaver@d.umn.edu](mailto:aweaver@d.umn.edu)
- **Vice-Commissioner for Props:** Liz Pompiel [scenicdesigner@hotmail.com](mailto:scenicdesigner@hotmail.com)
- **Vice Commissioner for International Liaison:** Jan Chambers  
[chambersjan1@gmail.com](mailto:chambersjan1@gmail.com)
- **Vice-Commissioner for Student Affairs:** Anne McMeeking  
[annemcmeeking@gmail.com](mailto:annemcmeeking@gmail.com)
- **Vice-Commissioner for Past Commissioner** Nadine Charlsen  
[nadinelc@nyc.com](mailto:nadinelc@nyc.com)
- **Vice-Commissioner for Projects and Symposia:** Ken Martin  
[kmartin@coastal.edu](mailto:kmartin@coastal.edu)
- **Vice-Commissioner for Scene Design:** Casey Kearns  
[ckearns@uwyo.edu](mailto:ckearns@uwyo.edu)
- **Vice-Commissioner for Publications Liaison:** Heidi F. Hoffer  
[heidi.hoffer@okstate.edu](mailto:heidi.hoffer@okstate.edu)

- **Co Vice Commissioner for Publications Liaison:** Richard Larsen  
larsenr1@scranton.edu
- **Immersive Design Liaison:** Panela Leung kansascityscenic@gmail.com
- **Portfolio Review Co-Coordinator:** Rob Eastman-Mullins  
robmem@alumni.umw.edu
- **Portfolio Review Co-Coordinator:** Ann Cadaret ann\_cadaret@pba.edu

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## Architecture Award Presentations, Contest Planned

**Scott F. Georgeson, FAIA** *Architecture Commissioner*



How do you top the 50th anniversary USITT Conference & Stage Expo? The Architecture Commission has found a way. On Friday, March 11, the Architecture Commission Reception and two Architecture Award Ceremonies will be held at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center.

The evening will start with a presentation of the winners of the USITT Architecture Award. The USITT Architecture Award is recognized by Theatre Architects from around the world as one of the highest honors a theatre design can receive. In January, Norman Pfeiffer, Joshua Dachs, and Yasuhisa Toyota met to review 27 theatre projects submitted by architects from five countries. Four projects were selected for Merit Awards, and one was given a Honor Award. Representatives for each project will attend the event.

The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the Distinguished Achievement Award to internationally renowned architect Cesar Pelli, FAIA. Mr. Pelli led the design of the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center.

The following Saturday at 10 a.m., during the "Expo Only Time," the three

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finalist teams of the "Ideal Theatre" Student Design Competition will compete for the Commissioner's Award. In a nod to current TV talent shows, all Conference attendees are invited to vote for the winning team. The teams are made up of theatre and architecture students working together during the 2010 fall semester to program and design the "Ideal Theatre" for their university's performance arts department. The professional jury—Tim Hartung, Mr. Dachs, and David Kahn—selected teams from Clemson, Woodbury University, and University Nevada Las Vegas as the finalists. Representatives from American Seating, the competition's corporate sponsor, will present each team its award.

The Architecture Commission extends a special thanks to jury members, Vice-Commissioners and session presenters. It is their dedication, time and professionalism that makes the programs of the Architecture Commission possible.

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## Commissions

# Propose a Costume Session for 2012



Sessions focused on hair, makeup, costume design, costume construction, research, and even the legacy of great designers of the past will be considered as sessions for the 2012 Annual Conference, if members propose them to the Costume Design & Technology Commission.

Photo/R Finkelstein

It is time to send in those costume proposals for the 2012 USITT Annual Conference in Long Beach. The proposal form is now available on the USITT website. (link) Anyone with an idea for something which would work well as a session should download the form, fill it out, and send it to Melissa Merz at [melissa.merz@ttu.edu](mailto:melissa.merz@ttu.edu). As a backup, please send it to Donna Meester as well at [dmeester@as.ua.edu](mailto:dmeester@as.ua.edu).

Anyone who wants to propose one of those wonderful Pre-conference events should use the same form.

Wonder what all the crazy stuff is on the form? Fill out best as possible, and we'll help fill in the blanks.

Have an idea, but don't have a panel? Don't worry. Members of the Costume Design & Technology Commission will help with that if the session is chosen.

Don't forget, members of the Costume Design & Technology Commission vote

**SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »**

on the proposals at the commission meeting during the 2011 Conference in Charlotte. That is why proposals are needed as soon as possible, with March 3 as the last date for submissions.

Once the forms are completed, they must still be typed up and prepared for voting at the conference.

Deadline for submitting proposals is February 28. Think the last day of February, conference in March. To date, we have one proposal. That's right: one. Remember, we need to make sure we have a bit of everything covered. This is especially true for makeup and history.

Already on the schedule are the Costume Poster Session, a potential Distinguished Achievement Award winner, and other repeating sessions.

Any questions, please e-mail Ms. Merz.

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Conference & Stage Expo

## Last Call for Stage Expo 2011

Helen Willard - Stage Expo Sales Manager



Stage Expo is full of surprises, and you can never tell what might appear until you arrive. In 2010 it was a mustang at the Steeldeck booth, but for 2011? Find out when State Expo 2011 opens Thursday, March 10 at 11 a.m. at the Charlotte Convention Center.

Photo/R. Finkelstein

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.

With the 51st Annual USITT Conference & Stage Expo just around the corner, this is your final opportunity to book space for Stage Expo 2011. A limited number of booths, commercial tables, and non-commercial tables are available for those who would like to be a part of the show. If you would like to exhibit, but have not reserved a space, please contact Helen Willard immediately at [hpwillard@aol.com](mailto:hpwillard@aol.com).

Recent additions to the exhibitor list include Faux Wall Skins, Georgia Stage, Lycian Stage Lighting, Nicopress Products, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Prism Projections, Savannah College of Art & Design, Special FX 101, Ultratec FX, and YeagerLabs.



For more information about Stage Expo 2011 exhibitors, visit the [Stage Expo Web Page](#) to see the Stage Expo layout and a current list of exhibitors. Click on a highlighted booth to find contact information and a brief description for each exhibitor. Links are provided to exhibitors' websites so you can learn more about their products and services prior to the show.

Then join the crowd that gathers for the grand opening of Stage Expo on Thursday, March 10. The exhibit hall doors open at 11:00 am, but plan to be there early to be part of the action. You never know what will happen at a Stage Expo Opening. Meet us by the Grand Staircase at lobby level to witness the cutting of the ceremonial USITT gaff tape which officially opens the show.

Stage Expo will be open from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday of the Conference week. Plan plenty of time to visit the commercial booths and tables, non-commercial tables, and special exhibits which make USITT Stage Expo a one-of-a-kind show.

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Conference &amp; Stage Expo

## Belts, Baldrics, Cloth Focus of Costume PDW

**Kate Ellis** *Costume Design & Technology Commission*

Not registered for the Costume Design & Technology Commission's PDW Tuesday, March 8 on Leather Baldrics and Sword Belts? Do it now since spaces are limited and going fast!

In high demand by the Costume Commission, this session covers the construction and fit of sword belts and baldrics. Participants will learn about various types of swords and the proper scabbards for each. A variety of techniques for working with leather will be demonstrated including cutting, riveting, lacing, and various methods of decoration including stamp tooling, the creation of unique border designs, and leather dyeing. Many of the techniques are useful in any leather work. Participants will learn techniques in the morning and in the afternoon will create a sword belt and baldric to take home along with a rivet set tool and a tooling stamp.



If the Baldric and Sword Belt session isn't convenient to schedule, don't forget the guided afternoon trip to Mary Jo's Cloth Store in Tuesday, March 8. Mary Jo's is known as one of the best fabric and trim stores on the east coast with bridal, fancy fabric, home decorating, and trim departments that rival the best fabric stores with amazing prices. Mary Jo's also handles online orders ([maryjos.com](http://maryjos.com)) and is a useful resource no matter where in the country someone lives or works.



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Conference & Stage Expo

## A Theatre Waiting for Rebirth

**Ashley Hawkins Howard** *Charlotte Local Planning Committee*



*The Carolina Theatre will be the subject of a special Adaptive Reuse Design Charette session from 9:30 to 11 p.m. Friday, March 11 as part of the 2011 Annual Conference. The session is being organized by the Architecture Commission and will include work with architects, theatre consultants, and acousticians to develop a program, business plan, and a design. The session involves drawing and sharing of ideas, followed by presentations of the strategies.*

If you stand on the corner of 6th and Tryon Streets in the very heart of downtown Charlotte, North Carolina you'll see it. It won't look like much, just a rectangular brick building, clay red with an unlit neon sign and some street level windows displaying toppled, moldy posters. You think that the tall section in the back might be a fly loft, and that door on the Sixth street side, chained and barred, certainly reminds you of some stage doors you've had the privilege to loiter by. The giveaway is on the side of the building facing Tryon Street: a poster with a fancy illustration of a condo development with a marquee. "Carolina Theatre," it says. "The best is yet to come!"

At one time, the building was one of the community's best-loved



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2011: What's Next ...

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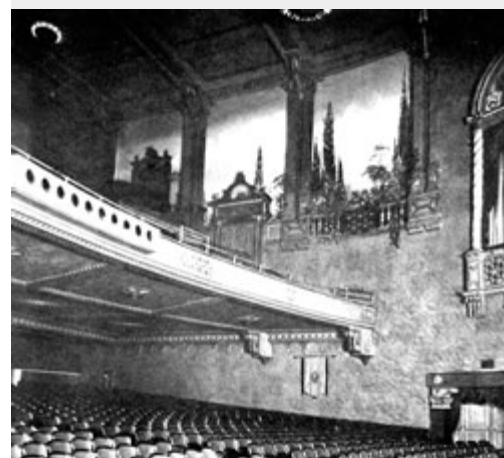
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entertainment options opening in 1927 to record crowds. The design was a joint effort between C. C. Hook, preeminent Charlotte architect, and R. E. Hall, famed New York theatre designer. Mr. Hook styled the exterior of the theatre to mimic three separate storefronts done in the Spanish Renaissance style with a brilliantly lit marquee. The storefronts led into a luxurious lobby, all gilt and palatial Venetian. The theatre itself was ornately columned displaying stunning murals of dark cypress trees and flowering vines that evoked a Mediterranean palazzo under the azure blue sky darkening just before dusk.

It was the first commercial building in town with air conditioning, and folks came from all over to enjoy its luxury. The 1,450-seat theatre offered a respite from the hot Southern air and an escape into fiction six nights a week. All the best Hollywood features played there. *The Sound of Music* played a record 79-week run attracting more audience members than lived in the county. Most weekends, the local vaudeville company would put on a show and road shows kept the audiences coming back to see talents like Elvis Presley, Bob Hope, Orson Welles, and Ethel Barrymore. The Carolina became the first racially integrated theatre in the region.

The Carolina reigned over the Queen City for many decades. Over the years, modifications were made and parts of the original architecture and decor were lost to upgrades in the technological systems of the theatre. Then slowly, things began to change. Middle class families began to flee to the suburbs, spent less time Uptown. In 1972 the theatre almost closed but Kermit High, the manager for many years, stepped in and took ownership. Even he had to let it go in 1978, and it has been vacant ever since.

In 1980, vagrants set a fire in the back of the building, destroying the original



Photos of the Carolina Theatre, as it was several years ago, and as it is now, awaiting restoration.

Photos/Courtesy Carolina Theatre Preservation Society

stage but leaving the structure intact. In 1988 the lobby was torn down leaving only the theatre and the façade standing. The façade, which was briefly on the Local Historical Register and then taken off to accommodate "progress," was carefully taken down and put inside the theatre so it could be put back in place when the theatre is restored. It was about to fall down by itself, so the city paid to take it down. All that remains in its place is asphalt black top surrounded by a chain link.

For 33 years the theatre has sat empty. As it languished, other theatres were born. The North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center has an outstanding facility with three theatres on Tryon Street, built in 1992. The Children's Theatre of Charlotte moved to a brand new, state-of-the art facility on 7th Street in 2005. And just a short time ago, the Blumenthal added another facility to its collection; the Knight Theater, that seats 1,150 just a few short blocks down Tryon Street from the Carolina.

Many attempts to use the Carolina Theatre in some capacity have been made. The Carolina was almost torn down to be a bank; almost restored to be a restaurant or a nightclub, and in 1999 was almost a performing arts center. The Carolina Theatre Preservation Society, founded in 1997 by local businessman Charlie Clayton, has been trying to save the theatre for almost 14 years. They were close a few years ago with the Encore Project, a condo development that would have been attached to the theatre and financed its restoration, except the economy tanked and the project stalled. Funding, developers, and projects have all come and gone.

Charlotte, the nation's second largest banking center, has struggled to define itself often destroying its past. The Carolina sits and waits for action. Take a moment while in Charlotte to stand at the corner of 6th and Tryon and look upon the shell of the Carolina. For more information on the Carolina Theatre and the fight to save it, please [www.carolinatheatre.us](http://www.carolinatheatre.us).

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### Conference & Stage Expo

## Sponsors Flock to Support Charlotte Events

Cooper Controls is the newest sponsor for the Closing Night Celebration Saturday, March 12 at the end of the Charlotte 2011 Conference and Stage Expo. The celebration will replace the traditional awards banquet. This relaxed evening will wrap up the event with an evening of entertainment, finger foods, and cash bar. Disney Parks Creative Entertainment has already agreed to sponsor the event, and three additional spots are available.

A V Pro, Inc.; ETC; SECOA; Wenger Corporation; and Texas Scenic Company will help start the Conference by supporting Opening Night. This will include remarks by Fellow Bob Scales, and conclude with cash bars and complimentary hors d'oeuvres.

Stay connected at one of the many Cyber Lounges located throughout Stage Expo ([click here to view a map](#)). The lounges, kiosks outfitted with computers and internet connections, allow attendees to stay in touch with employers and family while working on their professional development. Seven lounges are already supported courtesy of City Theatrical, Inc., H&H Specialties, IATSE Local 1, InterAmerica Stage Inc., Live Design/LDI, Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc., and RC4 Wireless.

Also receiving sponsorship support this year is Tech Expo, a biennial showcase of creative solutions to common production problems. This event is made possible by: Creative Conners, Inc.; Daktronics; University of Delaware; GAMPRODUCTS; Global Design Solutions; James Thomas Engineering; Ohio State University; Ron Fogel & Associates, Inc.; and Vincent Lighting Systems.



Exhibits at Tech Expo represent the projects included in the in Tech Expo catalog, which is produced every other year. Sponsors provide support for prizes, the exhibit at Stage Expo, and the catalog.

Photo/William Browning

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All sponsorships include a recognition package and will place sponsors' names front and center for the industry professionals who attend the Conference.

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# Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

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Conference &amp; Stage Expo

## Theatre Charlotte Still Going Strong

**Chris Timmons** *Technical Director/Facility Manager*

Still going strong, Theatre Charlotte has been a vibrant presence in the community for more than eight decades. Although it will not be presenting during the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo, Theatre Charlotte is in its 83rd season, making it the oldest arts organization in the city and the longest, continually producing theatre in North Carolina.



In 1927, the Charlotte branch of the American Association of University Women decided to study the Little Theatre movement, the grassroots effort to mount amateur theatricals that swept the country during and after World War I. After performing at various venues and performance halls for nearly two decades, the Little Theatre of Charlotte settled into its current home on Queens Road in Myers Park. In 1941, the building was completed (previously the land had been a cemetery), and the first production, *George Washington Slept Here*, closed on December 6, 1941. Since that time, despite several wars, the Great Depression, 9/11, and even a major hurricane, Theatre Charlotte has always produced a season of theatre.

Theatre Charlotte brings quality productions to the stage and relies heavily on volunteers. It takes hundreds of volunteers, from actors and technicians, to carpenters, ushers and box office personnel, to mount any production. Theatre Charlotte has won numerous MTA and AACT awards and is the only three time winner of Community Theatre of the Year from NCTC. Theatre Charlotte's mission as a volunteer-based community theatre is to create outstanding theatre opportunities relevant to the people of the Charlotte region.

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## For the Record: Leadership

### USITT Leadership

- Joe Aldridge, *President*
- Patricia Dennis, *Secretary*
- Travis DeCastro, *Treasurer*
- Kim Williamson, *Vice-President for Commissions*
- Mark Shanda, *Vice-President for Communications*
- David W. Will, *Vice-President for Conferences*
- Alexandra Bonds, *Vice-President for International Activities*
- Michael Mehler, *Vice-President for Programming*
- Martha Marking, *Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters*
- Daniel Denhart, *Vice-President for Special Operations*
- Carl Lefko, *Immediate Past President*

### Directors

#### 2008-2011

- Dan Culhane
- Mary Heilman
- David Krajec
- Carolyn Satter
- John S. Uthoff
- Monica Weinzapfel

#### 2009-2012

- William Browning
- Jonathan Darling
- Linda Essig
- Mitch Hefter
- Brian Reed
- Kim Scott



## 2010-2013

- Emily Gill
- R. Michael Gros
- Pamela Leung
- Debra Garcia Lockwood
- Jill Maurer
- Stephanie Young

## Sightlines Editorial Staff & USITT Office Staff

- **Barbara E.R. Lucas**, *Sightlines* Editor, Public Relations & Marketing Manager
- **David Grindle**, Executive Director
- **Carol B. Carrigan**, Administrative & Finance Manager
- **Tracy Davis**, Bookkeeper
- **Shannan Hoerger**, Administrative Assistant
- **Jim Lucas**, Membership & Ad Sales Associate
- **Monica L. Merritt**, Conference Registration & Database Manager

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For the Record:

## Members

USITT gratefully recognizes the individuals and businesses in these special categories of membership:

- [Contributing Members »](#)
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## Contributing Members

- American Harlequin Corporation
- Apollo Design Technology, Inc.
- Automatic Devices Company
- Barbizon Lighting Company
- Cirque du Soleil
- City Theatrical, Inc.
- J.R. Clancy, Inc.
- Clear-Com Communication Systems
- Creative Handbook
- Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- d&b audiotechnik
- Daktronics
- Disney Parks Creative Entertainment
- Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC)
- Foy Inventerprises, Inc.
- Future Light
- GAMPRODUCTS, INC.
- H & H Specialties Inc.
- InterAmerica Stage, Inc.
- KM Fabrics, Inc.
- Kryolan Corporation
- Live Design Magazine/LDI Show
- MDG Fog Generators





- Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.
- Norcostco, Inc.
- Philips Group
- PLASA
- POET Technical Services
- PRG
- Production Advantage, Inc.
- Protech Theatrical Services, Inc.
- Robert Juliat America
- Rosco Laboratories, Inc.
- Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics, Fabrications & Supplies
- SeaChanger
- SECOA
- Stage Technologies
- StageRight Corporation
- Steeldeck Inc.
- Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- Texas Scenic Company
- Vincent Lighting Systems
- Wenger Corporation
- ZFX, Inc. - Flying Effects

## Sustaining Members

- A.C. Lighting Inc.
- A.C.T. Lighting
- AC Power Distribution, Inc.
- Allied Theatre Crafts, Inc.
- ALPS/Advanced Lighting & Production Services, Inc.
- Altman Lighting, Inc.
- Atlanta Rigging Systems
- Auerbach Pollock Friedlander
- A V Pro, Inc.
- Ben Nye Makeup
- BMI Supply
- California Institute of the Arts
- Center Theatre Group
- Checkers Industrial Products Inc.

- Children's Theatre of Charlotte
- Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center
- Columbus McKinnon Corp.
- Cooper Controls
- Demand Products
- Dragon & Phoenix Software, Inc.
- Enhance a Colour
- Entertainment Lighting Services
- GALA Systems, Inc.
- Georgia College & State University
- Gerriets International Inc.
- Global Design Solutions
- Grand Stage Company, Inc.
- Hall Associates Flying Effects
- Harkness Screens (USA) Ltd.
- heatshrink.com
- I. Weiss
- IALD-International Association of Lighting Designers
- InCord Ltd.
- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
- Irwin Seating Company
- James Thomas Engineering
- Johnson Systems Inc.
- Kenmark, Inc.
- Kirkegaard Associates
- KUPO Industrial Corp
- LCS Series (Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.)
- LEE Filters
- Lehigh Electric Products Co.
- Leprecon
- Leviton/NSI/Colortran
- Lex Products Corp.
- Lighting & Electronics, Inc.
- Limelight Productions, Inc.
- Lite-Trol Service Company Inc.
- LVH Entertainment Systems
- Lycian Stage Lighting

- Mainstage Theatrical Supply, Inc.
- Mallat Pharmacy and Costume
- Mehron, Inc.
- University of Missouri-Kansas City
- Mutual Hardware
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- University of North Carolina School of the Arts
- Ontario Staging Limited
- Orange Events Sdn Bhd
- OSRAM SYLVANIA
- Pathway Connectivity
- Penn State University
- Period Corsets
- Philips Lighting Controls/Entertainment Technology
- PNTA Pacific NW Theatre Association
- Prolyte Products Group
- Rational Acoustics, LLC
- RC4 Wireless/Soundsculpture Inc.
- REED Entertainment Rigging & Engineering
- The Rigging Partnership
- Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center
- Sapsis Rigging Entertainment Services, Inc.
- Sculptural Arts Coating, Inc.
- Serapid, Inc.
- Show Distribution Group Inc.
- Siong Ann Engineering Pte Ltd
- Smooth-On, Inc.
- South Dakota State University
- SSRC
- Stage Decoration & Supplies, Inc.
- Stage Equipment and Lighting, Inc.
- Stage Rigging Services, Inc.
- Stagecraft Industries, Inc.
- Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas
- StageLight, Inc.
- StageSpot
- Staging Concepts, Inc.

- Strong Entertainment Lighting
- Studio T+L LLC
- SUNY Oswego Theatre Department
- Theatre Consultants Collaborative, LLC
- Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.
- Thern Stage Equipment
- Thinkwell Design & Production
- Tiffin Scenic Studios, Inc.
- TMB
- TOMCAT USA, Inc.
- Trizart Alliance
- Ultratec Special Effects Inc.
- Vectorworks Spotlight by Nemetschek North America
- Wayne State University Dept of Theatre
- XS Lighting, LLC

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## Ask A Fellow

### Network Nexus

What is USITT if not the greatest networking opportunity anyone could ask for? To facilitate conversations, the Fellows of the Institute will host the Network Nexus area within the USITT booth on the Stage Expo floor. Everyone is invited to visit with the Fellows, ask questions, make connections, and use this extraordinary networking opportunity to advantage.

The Fellows will be on hand and anxious to discuss topics ranging from; "What is a Fellow and why?" to "How do I get started in my career?" to "What's the best way to approach a prospective employer?" and anything else you might want to know about our industry. As longtime members of USITT active in R&D, production, manufacturing, education, management, and all other areas of the entertainment business, the Fellows are your resource for information. Look for the red buttons and **Ask A Fellow**.