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Find out how at the 2011 USITT Costume Symposium, three full days of hands-on learning and tours, July 28 to 30. [more »](#)

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News & Notices

Symposium to Feature Digital Techniques



Sketches/Raphael Jaen



The Costume Design & Technology Commission will hold three days of information and skill-building July 28 through 30 with the 2011 Costume Symposium, *Digital Costume Rendering: Painting from Your Desk!*

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, just 20 minutes from St. Louis, Missouri, will host the event, which includes workshops and a tour.

The symposium will demonstrate ways to paint effective costume renderings using Photoshop. Raphael Jaen will show comprehensive, step-by-step samples of how to use layers, how to create and manipulate fabric patterns, how to use software tools to create depth and texture, and how to apply color theory for highlighting based on lighting gel colors.

Participants will look at planning and archiving digital costume sketches, creating page templates, and painting character sketches using Photoshop Elements. They will create their own templates for a full show and draw/paint their own sketches using a variety of techniques, while working in small groups with one-on-one coaching.

A visit to St. Louis' Fabulous Fox Theatre and the mosaics at the Cathedral Basilica will complement the development of design metaphors, color theory,



and texture processes.

Most meals, tour transportation, and tour tickets are included with registration. [For a complete schedule, housing options, and registration forms, click here.](#)

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News & Notices

Workshop Offers Help On Tenure Applications



No matter where classes are held, explaining their impact is important when applying for tenure. A special USITT workshop September 23 and 24 in Chicago will help with the process.

It is one of the most daunting tasks for many USITT academic members -- tenure applications.

USITT will help ease the stress of tenure applications with its first national tenure workshop, September 23 and 24 in Chicago, in conjunction with the Educational Theatre Association conference. Participants will be able to attend both large group and small group sessions about the challenges of applying for tenure as a technical theatre professional. Focal Press is lead sponsor of the two-day special event, to make it more accessible.

Topics currently planned include a general session on how to present work to "non-theatre" faculty, separate discussions for faculty from research universities and liberal arts institutions on how tenure is reviewed, and reviews of dossiers by nationally recognized experts.

In a related professional development opportunity, participants will be able to submit session proposals for the EdTA workshops to be held September 22 to 25, allowing time to be both a presenter and a participant in the tenure workshop. Applications from USITT participants will be given preference in the vetting process, another dossier-building opportunity. Workshops will not conflict with the larger tenure discussions.

Cost for the workshop is \$125. [Applications can be found online at usitt.org](http://usitt.org).

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OISTAT Activities Focus on PQ, Scenofest**Michael Ramsaur**

The Chinese National Theatre - known locally as the Bird's Egg -- was toured by the OISTAT Education Commission. It contains three theaters under one roof: a center opera house, a concert hall, and drama theatre. All use a general open space under the roof for a lobby. The main audience entrance is below ground level, with people walking under the reflecting pool.

OISTAT (the International Organization of Scenographers, Theatre Architects, and Technicians) has been busy and much of its activities are focused on events planned for Prague Quadrennial 2011.

The Scenography Committee discussed plans for its contributions to the OISTAT Scenofest at PQ '11, organized by Jessica Bowles of the United Kingdom.

The Technical Commission will award Technical Invention Prizes (TIP) an award ceremony at PQ '11. The Education Commission met in Beijing and discussed its presence at Scenofest as well as the Theatre School Database, a collection of information about theatre schools from different parts of the world



categorized according to the five continents.

World Scenography--Volume One will be launched during the PQ '11. This project, by co-editors Peter McKinnon from Canada and Eric Fielding from USITT, will contribute to the cannon of Stage Design. *World Scenography* is a new book series that will document and contextualize significant contemporary theatrical design worldwide since 1975. This new three-volume series, to be published both in print and online, will cover the periods of 1975-1990, 1990-2005, and 2005-2015 respectively.



Inside the National Theatre in Beijing.

Also addressed was World Stage Design 2013 to be held in Wales September 5 through 15, 2013. Designers will bring exhibits to Cardiff, work together for three days installing exhibits, and host a Scenofest for professionals and young practitioners. Following all of this will be the OISTAT World Congress.

USITT contributors to Digital Theatre Words (DTW), an Internet accessible technical theatre and design lexicon, of over 2,000 (almost 3,000 words considering synonyms and jargon) terms and descriptions in 40 languages, is continuing. As the managing editor on this project, Michael Ramsaur is working with project designer Jerome Maeckelberg from Antwerp. DTW will go on line at the PQ in June '11. An example of how DTW will operate can be seen on [YouTube](#).

OISTAT is planning an international forum to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the relocation of OISTAT's Secretariat to Taipei, Taiwan. The event is tentatively scheduled for mid-November.

The Second International Lighting Design Symposium, hosted jointly by the OISTAT Lighting Design Working Group and the China Center for Theatre Arts was scheduled for April 2 to 6 in Hangzhou, China. Five



During OISTAT's Executive Committee meeting in Serbia, the group toured City Hall.

USITT members were slated to participate in the symposium with representatives from 16 countries.

Photos/Michael Ramsaur

Many activities are listed on the OISTAT website www.oistat.org. For information about any OISTAT activity, contact Michael Ramseur at mram@stanford.edu.

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In Memoriam: Howard Ott**John C. Snook** *President, Thermotex Industries Inc.*

On February 21, Howard Ott succumbed to cancer at his home.

He and Dollye, his wife of 45 years, were the people behind Canvas Specialty Company (DEO Associates, Inc.). Mr. Ott spent many years in the canvas business learning the art of textile/canvas fabrication. When he and Dollye embarked on starting their own business, he jumped in with both feet and shortly became the guru of the manufacture of fire safety curtains. His knowledge of life safety and building codes and standards was well recognized by his customers. His meticulous nature, extensive knowledge of the application of fire curtains, and commitment to customer needs were a winning combination.

Two stories of Mr. Ott's commitment and love of his business demonstrate his persona. When a fire curtain arrived at the job site, it was found to be too narrow. Instead of returning the fire curtain, Howard and Dollye, made an extra panel and loaded the sewing machine into their van and traveled late into the night to the job site and made the necessary correction the next day. When talking to Mr. Ott, it was evident, conversations on fire curtains were going to be prolonged. Hour-long conversations were his norm.

When he decided to retire and sell his business, he would only agree to the purchase if the Otts could personally train the new company's personnel. In retirement, he continued his involvement in ESTA Standard Meetings by sharing his extensive knowledge and experience.

Mrs. Ott can be reached at dollyeeo@hotmail.com.



Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

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[Name Travel Award Winner](#)

Mike Wilga has been named the winner of the 2012 USITT International Student Travel Award. His application was reviewed by the USITT International Committee, and formalized by action of the Board of Directors. Mr. Wilga, from Purdue University, tied his application to *AdInfinitem3*, an original production created by a team of faculty, staff, and students in the Purdue University School of Visual and Performing Arts. It is inspired by Karel and Josef Čapek's, *The Insect Play*, and will be part of the performances in *DISK Stories* at Scenofest, at the Prague Quadrennial.

Mr. Wilga is the director of interactive technologies and will manage the creation and operation of systems that enable audience interaction with *AdInfinitem3*. The audience will become a part of the production through a user interface on their web-enabled devices. Mr. Wilga's faculty sponsor was Richard K. Thomas.

[North American Offices Have New Address](#)

The [PLASA](#) North American and *Lighting & Sound America* offices have moved to 630 Ninth Avenue, Suite 609, New York, NY 10036; phone 212-244-1505; and fax 212-244-1502.

[Joins PLASA Staff](#)

Richard Cadena, a lighting designer and entertainment technology media professional, has joined the PLASA staff as technical editor for *Lighting & Sound America* and *Lighting & Sound International* magazines, and *Protocol* magazine. He also will serve as assistant technical standards manager.

Mr. Cadena has worked in the entertainment technology industry for over 25 years most recently at *PLSN* magazine. Before that, he worked at High End Systems and Martin Professional. He has volunteered on the ESTA-now PLASA -Technical Standards Committee, is an ETCP certified Entertainment Electrician,



teaches throughout the year with his Academy of Production Technology training program, and has written four books on theatre lighting.

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News & Notices

PQ Highlights**Sandy Bonds** *VP-International Activities*

International guests created sessions at the 2011 Annual Conference in Charlotte which made it special. A much larger confluence of international events will occur in Prague this June.

Photo/R. Finkelstein

Registration for Scenofest workshops will reopen around April 1 to fill the remaining slots not claimed in the first round of selections. In addition, professionals will be invited to join the students already enrolled in the workshops. Go to the [Scenofest webpage](#) to learn more about how to sign up.

Scenofest moves from the Industrial Palace in Prague to the heart of the historic city with projects designed as a dynamic engagement with the city.

Using the landscape of the city as the starting point, Six Acts involves six international teams of students who will present a site-specific performance or installation, each the result of a collaborative project with an international lead artist.

Design as Performance were selected from student proposals in two categories. DISK Stories is a showcase of one-hour performances presented in the DAMU's DISK Theatre. Street Stories will present over 50 performances challenged to



provoke and engage the ambient passerby throughout the city with work that "speaks" a universal visual language.

The organizers are creating an online presence with inventive use of social media to assure there are hundreds of ways to engage and react to the work being made and shown across the whole program. [Watch this space.](#)

Visitors coming to Prague will also discover a unique outdoor performing exhibition, *Intersection: Intimacy & Spectacle*, an interactive performing exhibition presenting thirty internationally acclaimed artists creating scenographic environments within an architectural installation in the center of Prague. "The individual projects for the Boxes... show the large span of disciplines that performance and performativity appear in, as well as the extreme variety of themes connected to the idea of performance (war as performance, tango as performance, clothes as performance, etc.)," explains Sodja Zupanc Lotker, the Prague Quadrennial's Artistic Director.

The Philipp Glass opera *Les Enfants Terribles*, directed by Czech film and theatre director Alice Nellis, will be held within the canteen of the psychiatric hospital Bohnice, in Prague. The PQ+ project will present performances, exhibitions, and symposia by Czech theatre companies, galleries, and institutions. Retrospective exhibitions on the work of major figures of Czech and Slovak scenography, such as Miroslav Melena, MilořKaliř, and Josef Ciller, also will be exhibited.

The General Commissioner's Talks will host practitioners Es Devlin, Ishioka and Mark Friedberg, among others. The Intersection Talks will include speakers such as Sir Peter Cook and Richard Sennett, who will take part in the discussions on the question of performance space. The variety of activities promises to offer exciting dialogs, interchanges and experiences for all who attend.

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The Last Word:

Looking back on the 2011 Annual Conference & Stage Expo

Photos/Ericka Courtney, R. Finkelstein, Tom Thatcher





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2011 Stage Expo Opening

We're starting a new contest, for those who were listening at the beginning of Stage Expo 2011, and those who were unable to attend. Just go to YouTube, or click on <http://bit.ly/eY8Ma7> and see how many friends and colleagues you can spot in the crowd, being part of a Random Act of Culture.

Correction – DePaul's Christopher Hofmann

An item in the December issue of *Sightlines* incorrectly noted the affiliation of a deceased member. Christopher Hofmann of DePaul University is still hale and hearty, and was at the 2011 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Charlotte, North Carolina this March. He also reports he's been having "a heck of a season."

Christopher D. Hofmann of *South Carolina* passed away in 2010.

USITT and *Sightlines* deeply regret the error and the confusion it has caused.

Days in the Sun...

What could be more fun than sunshine and good friends? Sunshine, good friends, new friends, and information overload.

That's only part of what USITT members experienced in Charlotte during the 2011 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. A few glimpses of the event are in this issue, and more will



be provided in the coming months.

Obama Presents Arts Medal to Brustein

President Barack Obama presented the National Medal of Arts to Robert Brustein, Distinguished Scholar in Residence at Suffolk University, in New York during a White House ceremony on March 2, citing his contribution to the American theatre and to the development of theatre artists. Mr. Brustein received the 2003 USITT Award.

The citation read at the East Room ceremony as the President presented the award praised Mr. Brustein "for his contributions to the American theater as a critic, producer, playwright, and educator. As founder of the Yale Repertory Theatre and the American Repertory Theatre and Institute and as the theatre critic for *The New Republic* since 1959, Mr. Brustein has been a leading force in the development of theatre and theatre artists in the United States."

Mr. Brustein first came to Suffolk University's College of Arts and Sciences as part of the Distinguished Visiting Scholars program in spring 2006. He became a full-time faculty member in spring 2007 and assumed the role of a Distinguished Scholar in Residence.

He has lectured on Shakespearean tragedies, directing, and theatre criticism.

In Memoriam – Rodney Smith

We note with sadness the death of Rodney J. Smith, Managing Director of the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts in San Antonio. Mr. Smith had a long affiliation with the Denver Center and was one of the people who helped USITT celebrate its 40th Anniversary in Denver in 2000.

Survivors include a son, Nicholas, and his wife, Donna. A service is being planned for early April in Denver. More complete information will appear in the May issue of *Sightlines*.

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[Aids Senegal Festival, Slates Training Event](#)

ETC supplied a range of fixtures, dimming and control equipment to the third Festival Mondial des Arts Nègres (World Festival of Black Arts and Cultures) in Dakar, Senegal.

Following the festival, some of the equipment stayed at the venues (Théâtre National Daniel Sorano, Centre Culturel Blaise Senghor and La Biscuiterie de Médina, a multipurpose venue), while the rest went into flight cases supplied by Avab, ready to be transported across the country wherever it might be needed.

This was the third time the festival has been held, with the last one in 1977. As the continent celebrates 50 years of independence for French-speaking Africa, the festival brings together theater, film, dance, and literature to convey a vision of the continent as free, proud, creative, and optimistic.

For the first time in the company's history, ETC will host an end-user training event at its headquarters. CUE – which stands for 'Create, Understand, Experience' – will be a unique opportunity for lighting professionals of every skill level to enhance their work.

CUE's mission is to create closer connections between ETC and its customers, and to foster knowledge exchange among end-users. Hands-on product training will be led by ETC employees who create and develop the company's award-winning gear and by other industry luminaries who have changed the lighting





world.

CUE will be held in downtown Madison, Wisconsin overlooking Lake Monona, at the Monona Terrace Convention Center, Monday, July 25 through Wednesday, July 27. The fee will cover training sessions, keynotes, swag, meals, and more. Space at CUE will be limited, so early registration is recommended. To sign up to receive registration details, visit www.etconnect.com/cue. For information on ETC and its products, visit www.etconnect.com.

Adds to Sales Team, Named Distributor for Console Company

Creative Stage Lighting has hired Paul "PJ" Turpin as Western business development manager. He will be responsible for CSL dealer accounts in the Western United States.



He has over 20 years of entertainment lighting industry experience holding positions with Vari-Lite, Martin Professional, and more. He holds a BFA in theatre design and technology.

Creative Stage Lighting has been appointed the exclusive wholesale distributor of Avolites products in the United States and within Canada on a non-exclusive basis.

Avolites products, including consoles from the Diamond, TITAN, Pearl and Classic lines, and the upcoming Sapphire Touch, are available through CSL's Dealer Network. Under the arrangement, Creative Stage Lighting will also provide 24/7 technical support for Avolites products.

Ring Cycle First to Use New Equipment

The 120-year-old Karlstad Theatre in Sweden is home to the Värmland Opera, which was founded in 1975. The company produces high-quality operatic, musical and orchestral performances, as well as school productions as part of a thriving educational program.

Working alongside construction firm NCC,



Stage Technologies provided a complete refit of the building's stage system and machinery as part of a renovation project led by the city of Karlstad. The first performance to use the brand new equipment will be an ambitious rendition of all four operas of Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*. The all-new productions are scheduled to start in Easter week and the cycles will then run with one-day intervals until mid-July. Special add-on equipment was ordered for the production and supplied by the Stage Technologies rental team.

Installs Rigging at James Madison University

Texas Scenic Company (TSC) has completed a stage equipment installation at the Forbes Center for Performing Arts at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The new 183,000 square foot center combines the Dorothy Thomasson Estes Center for Theatre and Dance and a Center for Music Performance. A split level lobby allows the audiences to see all of the performance spaces in the multi-level building. The center includes a 600-seat concert hall, 450-seat proscenium theatre, 200-seat dance theatre, 200-seat recital hall, 150-seat studio theatre, and support spaces.

TSC manufactured and installed Inline counterweight rigging and custom acoustic banners and curtains. Stage curtains and tracks, pipe grids, and a custom tension grid, woven onsite, were also installed. TSC also installed a Gala pit lift, Stageright and Steeldeck platform systems, and a custom seat wagon system. TSC is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

Offers Industry Exposure through Contest

Rose Brand's "How Did You Do It?" contest offers set and event designers, scenic artists, and technical directors a chance to flaunt their projects to tens of thousands of users on RoseBrand.com and the Rose Brand blog, "Know-How." Entrants must write a brief article and submit an accompanying picture (or link to a video) on how they or their organization accomplished an interesting set or event design project. Submissions may be sent to blogcontest1@rosebrand.com.

Articles will be judged by Rose Brand on how well suited they would be for a "Know-How" blog post. There can be an unlimited number of winners who receive both online exposure through Rose Brand's web presence and a gift card. The contest ends April 25. See blog.rosebrand.com for more details.



How did YOU do it?

Rose Brand wants to feature your work on our Know-How Blog, display it to tens of thousands of people, and thank you with a prize!

Tell us how you created an interesting scenic or decorative element for an event or production to win:

- ✓ Submit a photo or video of your project to our Facebook fan page or via email.
- ✓ Provide a detailed description of how you created your project.
- ✓ Tell us which Rose Brand products or services, if any, you used for the project.

ROSE BRAND CONTEST ENDS APRIL 25, 2011

Site Shows Rigging 'Horrors'

How bad can rigging mistakes get? That's the question J. R. Clancy answers on a weekly basis with its Scary Rigging Photo of the Week, posted on the company's Facebook page.

The photos of real rigging, sent to Clancy staff members by rigging inspectors and theatre managers, have generated more than 1,000 "friends" for the page. Each week, Clancy posts a new photo of a rigging accident-waiting-to-happen at www.facebook.com/JRClancy. These photos stand as vivid examples of amateur errors, often involving hardware that was never meant to bear weight.



To see the photos, read comments from rigging professionals about each photo, and add comments, visit the [J. R. Clancy page on Facebook](#) and click "Like" at the top of the page. To find a qualified rigging inspector and/or installer, call J. R. Clancy at 800-836-1885, or email info@jrclancy.com.

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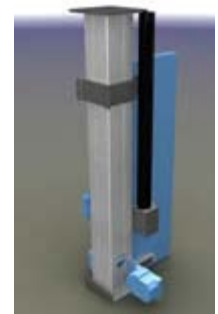
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- [Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas](#) »
- [Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.](#) »

Exhibits Lift Equipment, Updates Website

Serapid, Inc. exhibited new lift equipment at the Charlotte 2011 Conference & Stage Expo and updated its website.

The Telescopic Mast is able support any type of equipment including (but certainly not limited to) cameras, lights and microphones. It is a self-guided lifting column made of aluminum and powered by the Rigid Chain – a telescopic mechanical actuator that is flexible in one direction and forms a steel beam in the other direction.



The company recently updated its website: www.serapid.us. In this update, visitors will find smoother navigation to the products and solutions they seek on the home page. The new site will work in collaboration with the previous site, www.serapid.com.

For more information, visit either www.serapid.us or www.serapid.com; e-mail info-us@serapid.com; or call 800-663-4514.

Adds Media Server Courses to Curriculum

Full Sail University, a leader in entertainment technology education, is adding specialized Hippotizer media server courses to its curriculum. Full Sail acquired seven GrassHopper media servers, five ZooKeeper software packages, and one Hippotizer HD for its hands-on show arena.

TMB is the exclusive distributor for Hippotizer in North America and Asia: www.tmb.com/products/hippotizer. Learn about other products from TMB at www.tmb.com.

Adds Courses on Emerging Technologies



Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas is three months away from kicking off the Summer 2011 intensive training program with some new courses in high-end technologies that have emerged in the live entertainment industry.



An intensive course in automation covers mechanical basics of automation to programming, and operational skills. The course is aimed at students of technical theatre, working professionals, and educators.

During Projections and Video, students will be exposed to facets of the media/lighting convergence currently sweeping the entertainment industry. Students will have hands on instruction in programming and installing various current media display technologies and practices used on television, Broadway, concert and theatrical stages.

[James Madison Celebrates Center Opening](#)

The Forbes Center for the Performing Arts at James Madison University celebrated its gala opening February 18 through 20. The new center combines five distinct performance spaces under one roof to accommodate both the university's School of Music and School of Theatre and Dance. The center houses both the Dorothy Thomasson Etes Center for Theatre and Dance and the Shirley Hanson Roberts Center for Music Performance. **Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.** was an integral part of the design process.

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VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »**SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »**News From **Joe Aldridge**, *USITT President***Another Series of Outstanding Experiences**

There was so much happening on all four days of the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo, some people might have missed USITT Fellow Bill Sapsis, dressed as a pirate, helping raise money for Behind the Scenes.

Photo/Tom Thachter

Charlotte provided the backdrop for an incredible conference experience! At least that is the prevailing comment from conference attendees who have sought me out personally and shared their thoughts. We always hope that the conference will provide a positive experience for everyone, because it is an expensive activity for almost all of us. I hope that everyone had a safe journey home without too many delays at the airport. Most of us had to be back at our desks bright and early on Monday morning and should get caught up on our rest very soon.

The conference had many highlights for me. Being able to announce the new Rigging Safety Initiative was exciting. Attention will finally be paid to a segment of our industry that is often overlooked. Most of us began our theatre training in high school and

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July 28-30
Southern Illinois
University



a lot of those facilities still stand and serve as laboratories for the new theatre practitioners. What better way to prepare them than in a "Safe" theatre? We need to start at the beginning teaching safe practices so that good working habits can be formed.

Secondly, being able to announce that we now have four of the YD&T awards endowed was exciting. Thanks, once again, to Zelma Weisfeld and Bernie Works for making this happen. In case you didn't know, we now have the following awards that are fully funded: KM Fabrics Technical Production Award, Robert E Cohen Sound Achievement Award, Zelma Weisfeld Costume Design and Technology Award, and Frederick A. Buerki Golden Hammer Scenic Technology Award sponsored by Bernhard R. Works.

This leaves only five to be funded, and from what I am told, the list of awards not fully funded may soon drop to three! How exciting! It is great to be able to honor deserving students in this way each year. The competition is stiff, but the rewards are substantial and this adds an impressive line to any student's resume.

In addition to students, USITT honors outstanding contributions in our field to recognized leaders in several categories through the Commissions and their Distinguished Achievement Awards. Congratulations, once again, to John Scheffler, Cesar Pelli, Dennis Dorn, Carrie Robbins, William Byrnes, and R. Craig Wolfe as recipients of these honors this year.

I was especially proud to have been able to introduce this year's Joel E. Rubin Founders Awards recipients Dr. Bernhard Works and Richard (Rick) Stephens. Both are very deserving of the honor and recognition represented by this award. They have both been great contributors to the health and success of USITT over the years. Similarly, I was blessed to have the honor of announcing Tim Kelly as the recipient of the USITT Lifetime Membership Award. Tim has worked tirelessly and selflessly to raise money for the Institute to be able to continue to grow its various funds.

As you may remember, the conference in Kansas City last year was a total departure from the normal format. You were very receptive to the notion of change, and we took advantage of that this year in Charlotte. Programming



Bob Theis, left, of J.R. Clancy; David Grindle of USITT, Mike Murphy of Clancy, and Joe Aldridge discuss details of the new Rigging Safety Initiative at the 2011 Annual conference.

session times were slightly altered as were the Stage Expo Only times without many complaints. We added the plenary session on Friday with a great degree of success. The keynote address, the opening night activity, new products and the closing party were new incarnations of old events that, by and large, seem to work better than the previous format.

All in all, it was a great experience, and we will continue to take feedback, process it, and refine what works well until the time for change comes once again.

A great big *thank you* to our many sponsors, our multitudes of volunteers, our staff, and our contractors, and to *you*, the members of USITT for making Charlotte the successful conference that we knew it could be!



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

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Upstate New York: Slate Spring Event

Upstate New York Regional Section will hold its Spring Event at The Curtis R. Priem Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) in Troy, New York on Saturday, April 23. EMPAC opened its doors in 2008. Founded by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, EMPAC offers artists, scholars, researchers, engineers, designers, and audiences opportunities for creative exploration that are available nowhere else under a single roof. EMPAC operates nationally and internationally, attracting creative individuals from around the world and sending new artworks and innovative ideas onto the global stage. Bill Fritz, the master carpenter and rigger for EMPAC, will host the event. He will present a workshop on Automation in Theatre Rigging. The day will include a tour of the venue and additional workshops. Check www.usittupsny.org for event details. To learn more about EMPAC visit empac.rpi.edu.

Rocky Mountain: Theatre Safety Chat on April 2

The Rocky Mountain Regional Section will hold two events on April 2, one in Denver and the other in cyberspace.

In the morning, the section we hold a First Aid/CPR certification class (through American Heart Association) in Denver, in conjunction with the Denver chapter of the Stage Managers' Association. Participants will be finished in time for the online chat that afternoon. For details, visit www.rmusitt.org or contact Erin Joy Swank at 937-308-0366.

At 2 p.m. the Rocky Mountain Regional Section will host an online chat about theatre safety, referencing specific laws in effect for Colorado and Wyoming. Members can join in by registering at the newly-revamped website at www.rmusitt.org. Those wishing to participate should follow the instructions on the home page.

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The new design of the website allows members to register and then participate more fully in the virtual exchanges which the site offers, including posting upcoming events and performances.

Ohio Valley: Cleveland Rocks May 21

The Ohio Valley Regional Section's Spring Event will be at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland on May 21. 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 into the facility. A talkback session will follow the tour, which will begin at 8 am. 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 hotel also has a restaurant, pool, fitness center, and bar. Parking at the hotel is \$12/night with in and out privileges for Self Park and \$20 for valet with the same privileges. [Make hotel reservations here.](#)

Suggestions for programming for the annual Ohio Valley Section Fall Conference are being accepted now. Contact Tammy Honesty at thonesty@cinci.rr.com

Northern Boundary: Conference Scholarship Winners Announced

The Northern Boundary Regional Section recently announced the winners of scholarships to attend the Charlotte 2011 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. .

Winners of the scholarships to attend the 2011 USITT Conference are:

- **The SECOA Scholarships:** Robert Jensen, University of Minnesota, and Philip Jorgensen, Saint John's University
- **The Stage Technology Scholarship:** Mandy Kay Heath, University of Northern Iowa
- **Northern Boundary Section Scholarship:** Kristin Harsma, Minnesota State University Mankato

■ **The NBS "Doughnut" Scholarship:** Kristin (Kiki) Mead, Gustavus Adolphus College

The scholarship reading committee included Corey Shelsta, Mickey Henry, Mike Messer, Ricky Greenwell, and Terena Wilkens..

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

"Why did you schedule this and that at the same time?"



Making the hard decision of what session to attend at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo can be exhausting.

Photo/R. Finkelstein

Here I sit, one week before the Annual Conference, writing for the April *Sightlines*. Deadlines being what they are, this is a bit of prognostication. Since this is not my first conference, I know I'm going to have the problem I have every year. There are too many things that I want to attend, and they all happen seemingly at the same time.

There, I've said it, and many of you know exactly what I'm talking about. It is something that people get frustrated over each Conference. "Why did you schedule this and that at the same time?" As a former Vice-Commissioner for Programming, I got asked that question often, and occasionally loudly. I learned that, like many things in our organization, people are passionate about attending sessions.

What a fabulous problem to have -- having to choose between sessions because we want to do them all and expect them all to be good! It is an embarrassment of riches and one that is not taken lightly by those in the



leadership of our organization. President Joe Aldridge, Vice-President for Conferences David Will, and Vice-President for Programming Michael Mehler tried to take the best parts of the schedule from Kansas City along with the best of "how we've always done it" to come up with a new schedule for Charlotte. It freed up time for more programming and more Stage Expo, and may actually have allowed those involved in committees and Institute leadership to attend a session. Already these three have spoken of tweaks for 2012, but they are trying to create a schedule that allows all members to get the most out of their conference day.

These gentlemen and their committees are taking suggestions constantly about how to work the schedule so that members can get to as many things as possible. Their only problem is our greatest asset; we have too many good things to get to. They will never succeed in not programming someone's two favorite sessions at the same time. But they have and will continue to succeed in having a conference schedule that leaves attendees with new knowledge, new friends, and energy to focus on what they do best -- producing live entertainment.

If you have ideas on scheduling or want to know why things are done in a certain manner, contact any of the officers listed above or e-mail me in the office in Syracuse. We all love to get member feedback, and it truly does make a difference in decisions. USITT is your organization and your voice does count. Let us know what worked in Charlotte as well as the challenges you experienced. Planning is well underway for 2012, but it's not too late to try to squeeze more out of the 96 hours we call the Annual Conference & Stage Expo.



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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Conference & Stage Expo

Stage Expo 2011 in Charlotte a Success

Helen Willard - *Stage Expo Sales Manager*

The 51st Annual USITT Conference & Stage Expo featured a hybrid Stage Expo schedule which combined parts of the 2010 schedule with traditional Stage Expo hours. The revised schedule proved popular with attendees as they moved from morning sessions to Stage Expo then back to afternoon sessions. Exhibitors enjoyed the later start and the large blocks of Stage Expo Only times, when no program sessions are scheduled, producing excellent traffic.

Thanks to all the exhibitors who made Stage Expo 2011 such a success.



A new schedule, new exhibitors, and a great location meant steady traffic for all three days of Stage Expo.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

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- A.C.T Lighting, Inc.
- Act 85
- Altman Lighting, Inc.
- American Harlequin Corporation
- Apollo Design Technology, Inc.
- Ascension
- Automatic Devices Company
- Barbizon Lighting Company
- Barter Theatre
- Penn State University
- Period Corsets
- Philips Group
- PLASA
- Plastic Coatings Corp.
- PRG
- Prism Projection
- Protech Theatrical Services, Inc.
- Purdue University Theatre
- Rational Acoustics, LLC



- Ben Nye Makeup
- BMI Supply
- Boston University Theatre
- Broadway Green Alliance
- California Institute of the Arts
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Cirque du Soleil
- City Theatrical, Inc.
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- Cobalt Studios
- Columbus McKinnon Corp.
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- Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- d&b audiotechnik
- Daktronics
- Demand Products, Inc.
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- Disney Parks Creative Entertainment
- Dragon & Phoenix Software, Inc.
- Duck's Echo Sound
- Eilon Engineering Weighing Systems
- Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC)
- EmptySpace Technology
- ENTTEC
- Faux Wall Skins
- Florida State University
- Focal Press
- Foy Invention Enterprises, Inc.
- RC4 Wireless/Soundsculpture Inc.
- Robert Juliat America
- Rosco Laboratories, Inc.
- Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics, Fabrications & Supplies
- Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama
- Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
- San Diego State University
- Santa Fe Opera
- Sapsis Rigging Entertainment Services, Inc.
- Savannah College of Art & Design
- Sculptural Arts Coating, Inc.
- SeaChanger
- SECOA
- Serapid, Inc.
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- Show Distribution Group Inc.
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- Society of Properties Artisan Managers
- Southern Illinois University - Carbondale
- Special FX 101
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- Glimmerglass Festival
- GreyBeard Solutions, LLC
- H & H Specialties Inc.
- HOW - Ecoglo
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- IALD-International Association of Lighting Designers
- IATSE Local 1
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- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
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- Lehigh Electric Products Co.
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- Lex Products Corp.
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Conference & Stage Expo

USITT Conference & Stage Expo—2012: Good Vibrations in Long Beach

Brian Alan Reed Long Beach Promotions Coordinator

Warm breezes and long stretches of sand, and opportunities to enjoy them just steps from the 2012 Annual Conference site, are all part of what Long Beach, California will offer to USITT members and guests next March.

Photo/Courtesy Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau

In case you thought USITT conference-goers might never see the blue Pacific again, do not despair! After an eight-year absence from the West Coast, USITT will return to Long Beach, California, on March 28-31, 2012, for the 2012 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Situated in downtown Long Beach, adjacent to the Shoreline Marina and The Pike shopping and entertainment center, the Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center will serve as the site of USITT's 52nd annual conference.

As with the past three Long Beach conferences (in 1998, 2001, and 2004), the proximity of southern California's entertainment industries, including film, television, live music, and themed entertainment, will give conference planners many excellent opportunities to develop a very special conference for USITT members. Currently under consideration are sessions, tours, and professional

development workshops that would take advantage of what the Long Beach location has to offer. These could include presentations and tours on costume design for film, scenic and lighting design for themed entertainment, properties design for film and television, tours of local theatres and scenery studios, and sessions or exhibits tied to local designers for the entertainment industry.

In addition to Long Beach's International City Theatre, there are such southern California area theatres nearby as Tony Award-winning South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa, the Mark Taper Forum and the Ahmanson Theatre in downtown Los Angeles, and the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City (all three of which are part of the Center Theatre Group). There's a theatre company that specializes in producing "classical dramatic literature," A Noise Within, with a new theatre facility currently under construction in Pasadena. There are also such diverse theatre companies as the East West Players, who are celebrating their 45th year at the David Henry Hwang Theatre in Little Tokyo, and the 38-year-old Bilingual Foundation of the Arts near downtown Los Angeles.

Southern California also offers a wide variety of museums, from the Getty Center in Brentwood to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in the mid-Wilshire District, to the Museum of Contemporary Art near the Walt Disney Concert Hall in downtown Los Angeles. Long Beach itself is home to the Long Beach Museum of Art and the Museum of Latin American Art.

As any veteran Long Beach conference attendee knows, 2012 conference goers won't have to worry about going hungry or thirsty for lack of places to eat and drink. Since the 2004, Long Beach has expanded its restaurant and bar scene, including a new Irish pub right across the street from the convention center. There are also the favorite old haunts like the original version of The Yard House, which boasts great food and more than 200 beers on tap, Tequila Jack's for Mexican fare, L'Opera for upscale Italian dining, and King's Fish House on Pine Street.

Get ready to "catch the wave" in Long Beach, 2012!

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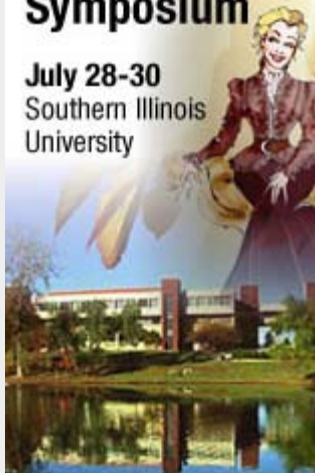
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- MDG Fog Generators



- 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.
- The University of Alabama
- 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.
- coolux International
- Cooper Controls
- Demand Products
- Dragon & Phoenix Software, Inc.
- Enhance a Colour
- Entertainment Lighting Services
- ENTTEC
- 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
- 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
- Nemetschek Vectorworks
- 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.
- Union Connector Co., Inc.
- Vectorworks Spotlight by Nemetschek North America
- Wayne State University Dept of Theatre
- XS Lighting, LLC

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