

usitt

Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

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FOR THE RECORD:



Three Special Honors

These awards were kept secret until the Closing Night party of the 2011 Conference – Joel E. Rubin Founders Awards for Bernhard Works and Richard Stephens and a Lifetime Membership Award for Tim Kelly. [more »](#)



World Stage Design 2013

USITT hosted the first WSD in 2005. Now it is continuing with the third edition planned for Great Britain. [more »](#)



Tech Expo Winners

Creativity and ingenious solutions to technical issues were rewarded in 2011. [more »](#)



In Memoriam

Nicholas Cristy, P.E. [more »](#)
Rodney Smith [more »](#)



USITT Members Continue Research

Two Fellowships have received USITT funding support [more »](#)



TD Job Satisfaction Survey returns. Take it now!
[more »](#)



Cindy Poulson Named as Fellow Posthumously

Cindy Poulson was a preeminent stage manager who gave much to USITT. [more »](#)



Offer Students Chance to Attend IALD Event

Up to 10 USITT student members will be able learn more about lighting the Enlighten Americas Conference. [more »](#)



New Discount at Lowe's

USITT members have another way to save – at Lowe's – and we don't mean the speedway. [more »](#)



News From USITT's President

Many more activities are ready to fill your calendar! [more »](#)



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Communicating in different ways than ever before [more »](#)

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Costume Design & Technology Update

Special exhibits, sessions wow members

[more »](#)



Education Commission

Awards and information keep members busy at Conference

[more »](#)



Health & Safety Commission

Strengthening ties with OSHA

[more »](#)



2011 Costume Symposium

Digital Costume Rendering: Painting From Your Desk!

[more »](#)



Scene Design Commission

Live Session Crosses International Boundaries from Charlotte to South Africa.

[more »](#)



Stage Expo 2012

More than 80 exhibitors are already signed up for Long Beach.

[more »](#)



A Warm California Welcome

Some may remember what Long Beach was like in previous years, but wait until you see it now! [more »](#)



New Student Initiative - The Last Word

Costume design students brought a unique perspective to this new Commission idea. [more »](#)

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- **SECOA:** Unveils New Light Mount
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- **Rose Brand:** Announce Fourth Blog Contest Winner
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News & Notices

Three Special Honors

President Joe Aldridge presented two Joel E. Rubin Founders Awards to Bernhard R. Works and Richard Stephens, as well as an Honorary Lifetime Member Award to Timothy Kelly, as part of the Closing Night Celebration of the 2011 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. These awards are kept secret from those attending the Conference and those selected to receive them until the moment they are announced.

- **Dr. Bernhard Works** - Joel E. Rubin Founders Award
- **Richard D. Stephens** - Joel E. Rubin Founders Award
- **Timothy Kelly** - Honorary Lifetime Membership

Mr. Aldridge's remarks follow:

The Joel E. Rubin Founders Award is given to a USITT member to recognize outstanding and continued service to the Institute. This award is kept confidential until now.

Dr. Bernhard Works - Joel E. Rubin Founders Award

The first recipient is Dr. Bernhard Works.

I learned early in the day that Bernie was going to duck out of the Closing Night party so that he could have dinner and pack for his departure tomorrow. What he didn't know was that his family had secretly flown to Charlotte to join him in celebrating this honor. Fortunately, I was able to call on a good friend to help him change his mind!



Selections from nomination materials:

- "Dr. Works is a living history of USITT and the scenic technology field."
- "Bernhard R. Works, Ph.D., spent his long career building world class students, facilities, and numerous professional institutions, including USITT. He was there at the beginning of USITT, acting as its first Vice President. He is one of the founders of the Midwest Regional Section. In 1984, he

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2011 Costume Symposium

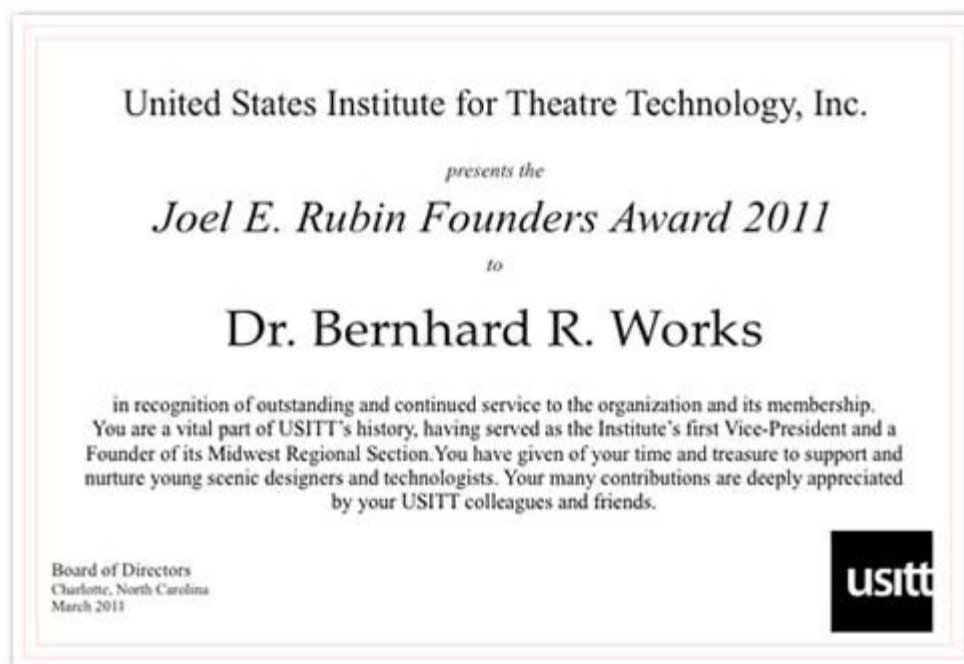
July 28-30
Southern Illinois
University



directed one of the first rigging workshops, a pre-Conference event featuring Jay Glerum, and continued that work in 1987 when he hosted the first stand-alone stage rigging workshop..."

- "For USITT, Bernie and his wife Nancy sponsor the Frederick A. Buerki Golden Hammer Award...[and] regularly support the work of students through travel assistance to USITT. In 2007 they offered travel scholarships for students to join the construction team and attend the Prague Quadrennial..."
- "Bernie has attended every USITT Annual Conference since he joined in the early sixties with the exception of 1980, which, incidentally, is the same Conference where he was named a Fellow."
- "Bernie's career accomplishments are enough to qualify him for this award, but the measure of his import to our field comes from his generosity; his amazing continued financial support that assists students and young professionals to learn the discipline and begin their careers; the way he shared his passion with his own students; and the remarkable energy and spirit that he brings to every conference even at 81. He has brought so much to this institution and the field at large. It is clearly time to give back."

We are honored to present Dr. Bernhard R. Works with the Joel E. Rubin Founders Award at this Conference.



Richard D. Stephens - Joel E. Rubin Founders Award

The second recipient of the Joel E. Rubin founders award is Richard D. Stephens.

Rick was production coordinator and scene shop supervisor for the Performing Arts Center at the

University of Texas at Austin before he retired. He attended the University of Hawaii and Murray State University.

Before going to the University of Texas-Austin in 1981, he worked theme parks, notably at Gun Town as a stunt fighter where he was hung, shot, or stabbed multiple times per day; he was also a magician at Gun Town and regional theatres including Theater Tulsa.



In Rick's own words, "Over the years I have worked as a carpenter, welder, scenic technician, craftsperson, shop supervisor, and technical director. I've, well, designed—yes, yes—sets *and* lights, for numerous productions over the years. What I am, very simply and very proudly, is a stagehand."

Since joining in 1980 Rick Stevens has proven a tireless member of and dedicated contributor to USITT. Rick's outstanding and numerous accomplishments and contributions include:

- USITT Fellow
- the Herb Greggs Award
- Archive Committee Chair (2006 - present)
- USITT Conference Committee member (1996 - present)
- Living History Project Chair (1999-2005)
- Board of Directors (1995-2001)
- VP-Commissions (1992-94)
- VP-Special Projects (1991-92)
- USITT delegate (1990). Technical Production Congress of the OI STAT
- TD&T associate editor for technical reports (1989-1996)
- Technical Production Commissioner (1986-90)
- membership on Gender Issues Committee, International and National Liaison Committees, Nominations Committee, Tech Expo Committee, and Membership Committee.

His nominator commented, "Rick has never learned how to do just one task at a time. Among his many contributions, he has remained a consistent face on the Annual Conference Committee since its inception in the mid-nineties. His role as a troubleshooter is an invaluable contribution to the success of our Conferences. He is the first to volunteer for any task no matter how small or how difficult. You can count on him to carefully think through each project analyzing how best to undertake it—as you would expect from a good TD. Rick takes on monumental tasks that are fraught with challenging problems, tough to resolve, and often require years to complete. But he is bound by his vision and inspired by the importance of the expected end result of a project. The result is

an enormous benefit to USITT.”

We are honored to present Rick Stephens with the Joel E. Rubin Founders Award at this Conference.



Timothy Kelly - Honorary Lifetime Membership

I am pleased to present one last award at this year's conference. **It is the Honorary Lifetime Membership award to Timothy Kelly.** This award is given to a member who is originally from Kansas; he attended Kansas State Teacher's College (now Emporia State University). He joined the Bonfils Theatre as technical director in 1968, serving for 10 years in that position. He then moved to Boettcher Hall in Denver as general manager.

He created the facilities department of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, and held the position of director of facilities management until he retired in 2008.

He is currently on the board of PHAMALY (the Physically Handicapped Actors And Musical Artists League) and heads up the committee creating Fellow's Network Nexus meeting site on the show floor.

Tim has served as director-at-large on the USITT Board of Directors from 1998-2001. He also serves as chairman of USITT's Grants & Fellowship Committee and chairman of the Edward F. Kook Fund, to which he has devoted so much time and energy. He has also organized and chaired the tri-annual Art Auction to benefit that fund. In addition, Tim has been a great supporter of the initiatives of the Health & Safety Commission for over 30 years.



He received the 1999 Founder's Award (not yet renamed for Dr. Rubin), and has been tireless in his charming, quiet, continuous service to the Institute. A Fellow of the Institute since 1995, Tim has been tireless in his support of the theatre, the Institute, and the Fellows.

It is now my distinct pleasure to present this award to Tim Kelly.



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Look Forward to Scenofest, WSD '13

Michael Ramsaur *OISTAT Liaison*



The British Design exhibit "Transformation & Revelation" mounted by the Society of British Theatre Designers showcases the best of British stage, costume, lighting, and sound design. This exhibit, now being displayed at the Royal College of Music and Drama, acts as a prototype display for WSD'13.

Photo/Michael Ramsaur

Now is the time to think about the the Prague Quadrennial stage design exhibition and the OISTAT Scenofest at the PQ in Prague this June. Most USITT members who plan to attend have already made their travel plans.

But for people who like to look well in advance, preliminary information was just released about the OISTAT World Stage Design 2013 which will be held in Cardiff, Wales from September 5 to 15, 2013.

The OISTAT World Stage Design International Exhibition of Theatrical Design, WSD, is held every four years between the PQ exhibitions. World Stage Design differs from the PQ because the PQ designer's work must be included in a National Exhibit, while for WSD any designer can enter designs. Sean Crowley, head of design at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, is in charge of organizing WSD '13.

More specific information about WSD'13 will be available at PQ and in the June issue of Sightlines. Designers, schools, or theatre companies who wish to

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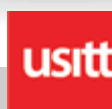
exhibit should express interest beginning in September 2012. The final submission date will be in March 2012. The application fee which will include two museum-like display walls and one plinth or hole in the display wall for a model; two spotlights for the display; a catalog of the exhibits displayed dimensionally; and a CD of all designs submitted and displayed digitally.

In addition to the WSD exhibition, there will be a Scenofest and a small performance festival.

At the recent OISTAT Executive Committee meeting in Cardiff, the current installation of the British Design exhibit "Transformation & Revelation" mounted by the Society of British Theatre Designers (SBTD) was reviewed. It is a large and outstanding exhibit which displays the best of British stage, costume, lighting, and sound design, and acts as a prototype display for WSD'13. The SBTD exhibit is at the Royal College of Music and Drama.

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404 Error URL NOT FOUND

Your browser cannot display the webpage "Mo's Centerfold"

Please check your link and try again.

or

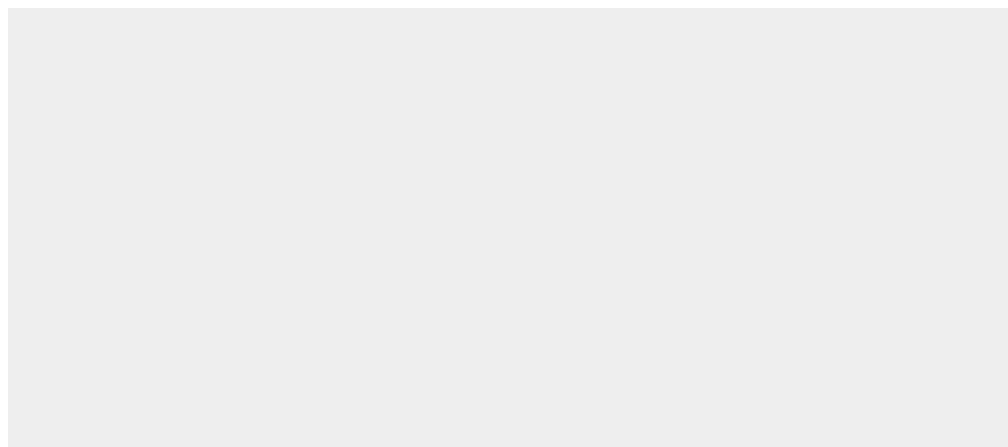
Enter your password and member number when prompted

or

Try back later.

Still not convinced?

Did you really think we'd risk Mo's "exposure" by posting something on the web?
Schedule your visit to the USITT Office now by calling 800-938-7488, ext 103



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Mo Stroemel told the audience at the 2011 New Products Showcase that he was in Syracuse posing for a centerfold for Sightlines. None of our photos of Mo were of centerfold quality. Sorry.

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News & Notices

Tech Expo Results, Catalogs Available



Participants found colorful and interesting ways to display their projects which were selected for inclusion in the 2011 Tech Expo exhibit and catalog.

The 2011 version of Tech Expo drew more than 100 entries on a wide variety of topics. Of those, 24 were chosen for inclusion in the printed catalog and were displayed as part of Stage Expo in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Four outstanding projects were chosen for special recognition and cash prizes. They are: The Parasol Gun for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* by Gregory Bell; Super-Low, Pancake Powered, Tri-Caster Dolly by Luke Hadsall; Moving Scenery In the Event of Fire by Tom Strong, Naomi Eduardo, James Southworth, and Sam Thompson; and Stock Stage Lift Components by Mark Shanda and Chad Mahan.

The [2011 Tech Expo catalog is now available online](#). It features complete descriptions on how to complete the projects, plus helpful hints to help guarantee great results. Print copies of the 2005, 2007, and 2009 Tech Expo catalogs can also be ordered online.

As an additional resource, USITT recently added [PDF downloads of its out-of-print Tech Expo catalogs](#) from previous years.



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In Memoriam: Nicholas G. Cristy, P.E.

Reid Neslage *President, H & H Specialties Inc.*

On March 16, 2011, Nicholas G. Cristy died at age 89 after a long illness.

For many years, Nick and his wife Josephine, were always side by side at the USITT Conferences. Nick was a member of USITT for over 35 years and held a number of patents in the theatrical industry including winch systems, stage floors, and a fire curtain release. He also provided his expertise to the Health & Safety Commission during the first rigging inspection workshop in San Antonio, Texas, in 1985.



A self-employed professional engineer, Nick earned a B.S. in aeronautical engineering from New York University's College of Engineering prior to his service in World War II with the Army Corps of Engineers.

In addition to his many accomplishments and years of work in the theatre industry, his achievements included the first baggage handling turntable assembly at JFK Airport, turntables in revolving restaurants worldwide, and specialized equipment for a nuclear power plant.

For H & H Specialties, Nick was a resource used for over 25 years for varied theatre projects throughout the United States and Canada. When confronted with an unusual problem, he was always there to provide an elegant, often simple solution. His dedication to his clients set him apart. If someone needed help on a project in a hurry, he always figured out a way to finish the task on time.

Nick never retired. When most people are at an age thinking of retirement, he was there to assist his neighbors, clients, and many members of the Institute. He was always there to answer questions, design a piece of equipment, or solve a problem. For those who knew Nick, he will always be remembered for his warm smile, good nature, willingness to help, and trademark pipe.

Mrs. Cristy may be reached at jonick1220 at earthlink.net.

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In Memoriam: Rodney J. Smith

Timothy Kelly *Fellow*

Rodney J. Smith, educator, scenic/lighting designer, arts center manager, facilities planner, construction supervisor, husband, father, grandfather, son, and brother; died March 27, 2011 in San Antonio, Texas. He was 58.



Rodney, graduated with a master's degree from San Jose State University, moved to Denver, Colorado where he worked in many of the area's major theatres, and taught at Loretto Heights College. In the early 1980s, Rodney worked for the Denver Center Theatre Company as a stage manager and production manager.

In 1989 he took a position with the City and County of Denver as the Assistant General Manager of the multi-facility Denver Performing Arts Complex. He later became the GM and the Director of Business Development for Denver's Theatres and Arenas. During his tenure with the DPAC, he was owner's representative and key team leader in the renovation of both the Arena into the Temple Hoyne Buell Theatre and the Auditorium Theatre's complete transformation into the Ellie Caulkins Opera House.

In 2006, Rodney became director of university events and conferencing at the University of Denver. At the time of his death, he was Managing Director for the Bexar County Performing Arts Center Foundation and its Tobin Center for the Performing Arts. He was supervising the construction project to remodel San Antonio's Municipal Auditorium into a new, world-class home for the city's premier performing arts groups.

Mr. Smith, one of the original members of the Rocky Mountain Regional Section of USITT in 1976, served on its Board and numerous committees. His professional associations also included the International Association of Venue Managers as a board member and Body of Knowledge Task Force participant.

He was known for his consummate knowledge of all facets of the performing arts business. His education and background in scenic and lighting design were critical building blocks for a career in planning, design, and construction of performance venues. Not only was he expert in getting them built, he knew how to make them work. He made it his business to get to know his staff members, showing a genuine interest in their lives and a compassion for them and their families.

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As a dedicated arts advocate, Rodney spent countless hours championing the causes of all performing arts companies wherever he lived and worked. Orchestras, dance companies, and theatres knew him as a valuable resource for assistance and problem solving. Along with his wife of 25 years, Donna, and their son Nick, the Smiths were familiar and welcome supporters at fundraisers, show openings, and dance concerts. Mr. Smith is also survived by daughter Chelsea, her husband Jason, and their son Kieran.

The arts community in San Antonio was just getting to know Rodney through his boundless enthusiasm and they are now feeling a great loss. Through a long history working in Denver, Rodney has a legion of friends and colleagues who will miss their dear companion. Whenever you asked Rodney how he was doing, he would reply, *"I'm living the dream."* We will all remember his axiom and try our best to propagate that positive dream in Rodney Smith's memory.

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Authors to Sign Robbins Monograph in NYC

Costume Designer Carrie Robbins will join authors Annie and Barry Cleveland for a special signing of the USITT monograph, *The Designs of Carrie Robbins*, in New York City.

The book signing will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at Drama Book Shop, 250 West 40th Street, in New York City. The monograph, published by USITT in March, is the latest in the series on living American designers. Light refreshments will be provided.

International Artist Exchange Grant Created

The USITT Board of Directors approved an International Artist Exchange Grant at the Charlotte 2011 Conference & Stage Expo. This new grant will encourage academic institutions to collaborate on developing workshops, seminars, and productions involving international theatre artists. The grant will fund projects that include two or more institutions issuing an invitation to an international artist with an area of specialty covered by USITT member interests. Proposals will be assessed on USITT membership at each institution, credentials and recognition of the international guest, and the level of student involvement in the project. USITT will support up to \$5,000 for each application and participating institutions will provide at minimum a combined match. Applications will be reviewed twice a year, in September and in February, and must be submitted no less than six months prior to the beginning of the residency. [For more information and an application form, go here.](#) The initial round of submissions will be evaluated September 30.

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Standards Available for Review

Two more documents have been posted for public review on the [PLASA website](#) through May 30. They are *ANSI E1.2 - 2006, Entertainment Technology - Design, Manufacture and Use of Aluminum Trusses and Towers*, which is being considered for reaffirmation, and *BSR E1.24 - 201x, Entertainment Technology - Dimensional Requirements for Stage Pin Connectors*, which is a draft of a revision to the existing ANSI E1.24 – 2006. People and companies are invited to review these drafts to see if their guidance is reasonable and suitably complete.

ANSI E1.2 - 2006 is a standard describing the design, manufacture, and use of aluminum trusses, towers, and associated aluminum structural components. It can be purchased from The [ESTA Foundation](#).

BSR E1.24 - 201x is a revised version of the existing ANSI E1.24 – 2006. The standard is being revised to clarify its use as a configuration standard giving the mating requirements for male and female pin connectors, contact set-backs from the front face, and marking requirements. The E1.24 draft is posted for free download on the PLASA website.

Behind the Scenes Winners at Conference

The Long Reach Long Riders and The ESTA Foundation announced the results of their joint raffle to benefit the Behind the Scenes program at the USITT conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. Sales of raffle tickets and BTS-branded swag raised just over \$8,600 for the charity.

The winners are: Joe Aldridge – Apollo Design Technology's Smart Move DMX Gobo Rotator; Thomas Hird – BMI's Backstage Technician Package; Keith Newman – Scholarship to the 2012 CM Hoist School hosted by Mountain Productions; Chip Haas – Pneumatic effects kit and costume rental gift certificate from Norcostco; Majae White – Swisson X-MT-120-SET DMX Tester from Production Advantage; Mitch Hefter – Rosco's 6x6 LitePad HO+ and Single Fader Dimmer; Michael Katz – Rosebrand.com gift certificate; Steve Terry – two USITT 2012 Full Conference Registrations; Fred Allen – three pairs of tickets to the Utah Shakespearean Festival; Garrett Young – Vincent Lighting Systems gift certificate; The Grand Prize, Vectorworks Spotlight with Renderworks, went to Chris Riebold from Norman Sound & Productions in Charlotte.



A large crowd gathered for the festivities once again emceed by Bill Sapsis, garbed this year in pirate togs. Pre-raffle activities included the presentation of the annual Rosco contribution from the sales of Roscolux #359, the donation of proceeds from the Jig Show presented by Beth Martell, give-aways for the crowd provided by Daktronics, and the auctioning of two tickets to the Viva ELVIS show in Las Vegas provided by Cirque du Soleil and a DMX/RDM Coffee

Pot provided by Doug Fleenor Design.

For more information about Behind the Scenes, to donate, or to apply for a grant, visit www.estafoundation.org/bts.htm. For more information about the Long Reach Long Riders whose 2011 ride runs July 1 to 9 and starts and ends in Billings, Montana, visit www.lrlr.org.

Roscolux #359 Benefits Behind the Scenes

Rosco Laboratories and The ESTA Foundation presented a check for \$2,889 to Behind the Scenes from sales of the color Roscolux #359 Medium Violet. This brings the total contribution since the introduction of the color to more than \$8,000.



Draft Dust Standard Review Ends May 2

BSR E1.40 - 201x, Recommendations For the Planning of Theatrical Dust Effects is available for public review through May 2.

A great variety of materials might be suitable for dust effects, either as dust lying on props and scenery or as aerosol clouds. The standard will help people to avoid inappropriate materials, to select those that are least likely to cause health or safety problems, and to use them with care.

PLASA to Support ENTECH 2011 Educational Stream

ENTECH 2011 show organizers have confirmed an agreement with PLASA. The event -- Australia's leading biennial trade show for the entertainment, live events and corporate installation sectors -- will be held from July 19 to 21 and will include a new stream in its educational program featuring international speakers from PLASA's extensive global membership base.

Over 4,000 visitors are expected to register for ENTECH 2011, and attendance at the seminars will be offered on a first come, first served basis. Visitors will be able to secure their seats for a seminar via the ENTECH website in the coming weeks.

Detailed seminar programs for the Educational Program at ENTECH 2011 and visitor registrations are available at the website, www.entechintech.com.

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News & Notices

Announce Fellowship Award Recipients

Rich Dunham Co-Chair, Grants & Fellowship Committee

The Grants & Fellowship Committee and Board of Directors announced the winners of the USITT Fellowship Awards at the Closing Night party of the 2011 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Charlotte, North Carolina.

These awards are made possible through the generous contributions made by members to the Edward F. Kook Fund, and supplemental funding from the Institute's annual budget. This year the committee received five Fellowship applications and recommended funding two projects. That recommendation was ratified by USITT's Board of Directors.

Those who will receive funding are:

- **Triffin Morris** for her proposal relating to the study of *A History of the Broadway Costume Industry*. Her research will focus on documenting the history of the major costume construction houses in New York. Many of these shops have closed in recent years, and her work will attempt to create a record of the many shops and individuals who have added to the Broadway Stage. She will conduct interviews (more than 24 hours of interviews have already been collected) with former and current shop owners and industry professionals affiliated with this part of the costume industry. Ms. Morris hopes to turn this research into a book. This Fellowship was funded at \$7,500. Outcomes will be reported to the membership as a presentation at a future USITT Conference or an article to be published in *TD&T*.



Triffin Morris has already presented part of her work on Broadway costume designs in this article in the Winter 2011 issue of *TD&T*, written with Gregory DL Morris.

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- **Richard Donnelly** for his proposal, *Desmond Heeley*. This will allow Mr. Donnelly to document the career and craft of Desmond Heeley. Mr. Donnelly is well-placed to study two of the principle archives of Heeley's work (the Notre Dame and the Stratford Festival in Canada collections) and has a personal connection to him. Mr. Connelly will report the outcome of his research through a presentation at a future Conference or through one of the Institute's publications. The funding for this Fellowship was \$2,500.

The Grants & Fellowship Committee accepts applications for funding research grants and fellowships once a year -- using an alternating cycle of awarding grants on even numbered years and fellowships on odd numbered years.

[Applications and information can be found on the USITT website.](#) The next round will be announced in late fall to early winter and will be for 2012 Grant Awards. Anyone with specific questions about the programs or the application process should contact either Tim Kelly (tkellyoffstage@gmail.com) or Rich Dunham (rdunham@uga.edu).

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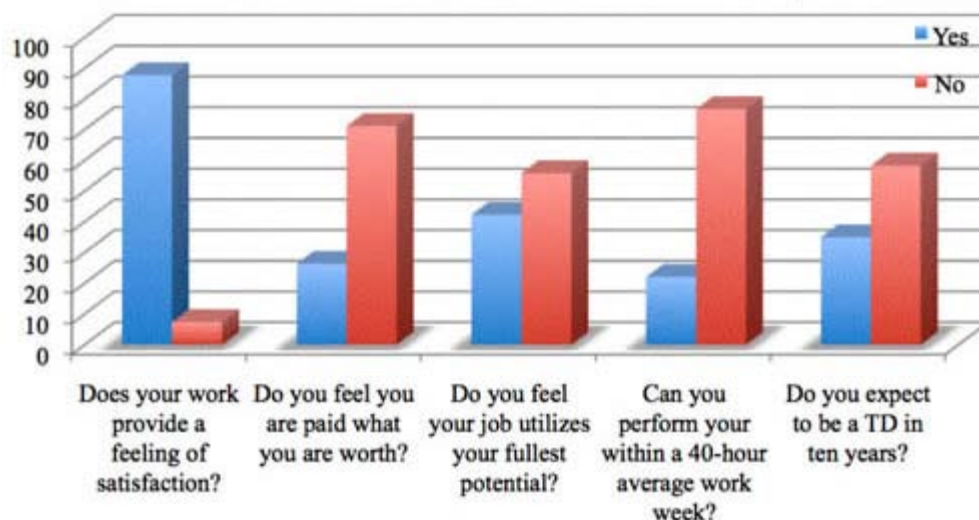
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Seek Info on TD Job Satisfaction

Mark L. Engler *Technical Production Commission*

Results from 1997 - How will 2011 Compare?



Job satisfaction is often discussed among technical directors. Long hours, low pay, inadequate budgets, and stress are subjects familiar to all technical directors. But how common are they? Do all technical directors suffer the same challenges, or are these difficulties not as widespread as many in the profession believe?

In 1987, Lisa Aitken and Dennis Dorn conducted a survey among technical directors to try and answer those questions. Ten years later, the survey was revived (with a few additions and modifications to the format) to see if any changes had occurred.

Both surveys returned mixed results. While degrees of job dissatisfaction still remained among many in the profession, those feelings were far from universal. When comparing the results, some patterns start to emerge. With only two survey samples for comparison, there wasn't enough data to draw definitive conclusions.

The time is right for another go as the 25th anniversary of the initial survey approaches. What has changed in the 14 years since the last survey? What has changed in the 24 years since the first? Both of the previous surveys were sponsored, as is this one, by the USITT Technical Production Commission.

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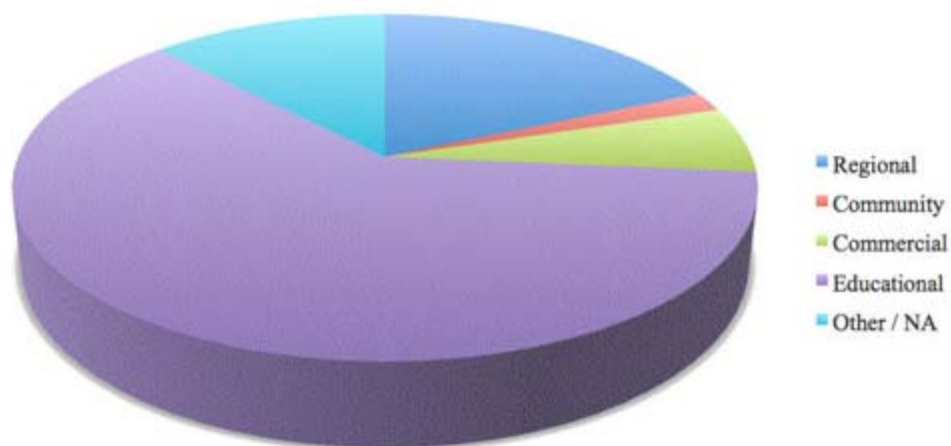
The primary goal of this project is to identify areas of concern common to technical directors who work in all areas of the performing arts. The first two surveys were mailed to TDs in regional theatres, commercial shops, industry manufacturers, and educational institutions. It is my hope that this new survey will reach an audience similarly diverse, and that the results begin a constructive debate on strategies to address those issues of concern.

Once all the data is in, the results will be submitted to *TD&T* for publication. They also will be presented at the Long Beach 2012 Conference & Stage Expo.

The [survey](#) should take approximately 15 minutes and is intended for both current and former technical directors only. If you are not a current or former TD please do not take the survey as you may skew the results, however, please invite friends and colleagues who may not have been reached by this initial invitation. The survey will be open until May 27th.

[Click here to take the survey »](#)

In what type of theatre are you employed?



Result samples from the 1997 survey

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Poulson Named Fellow

Cynthia Poulson was named a Fellow of USITT posthumously at an induction held as part of the Opening Night activities for the 2011 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Her achievements were described by Fellows Elynmarie Kazle and LeRoy Stoner, and her Fellows medallion and plaque were accepted by Travis DeCastro, a long-time colleague.



Mr. Stoner and Ms. Kazle's remarks follow.

Cindy Poulson passed away from heart failure at her home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on June 27, 2006. A professional stage manager, she had been employed by the Pocono Playhouse, Syracuse Stage, and the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre where she served as production stage manager. She spent 15 years at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee as head of stage management first as an assistant and then as an associate professor where she developed the BFA and MFA programs. Cindy was involved with animal welfare, HIV/AIDS service, and women's shelter groups. She is survived by her brother Kurt and sister-in-law Cherie Poulson, who were the lights of her life.

She joined Actors' Equity in 1976. As a freelance stage manager, she worked at some of the great off-Broadway theatres including LaMamaETC and Playwrights' Horizons. Some of her favorite projects were collaborations with artists such as Ping Chong, Ken Albers, Tadashi Suzuki, Maria Irene Fornes, Amlin Gray, Romulus Linney, Jean Stapleton, Sandy Dennis, Eli Wallach, and John Cullum. Set designers Victor Becker, Patricia Doty, Arden Fingerhut, Hugh Landwehr, Laura Maurer, Michael Miller, Steve Rubin, Vicki Smith, John Story, Joe Varga, and Scott Weldin; lighting designers Don Darnutzer, Thomas Hase, Alan Lee Hughes, Bob Jared, Ken Kloth, Dan Kotlowitz, Peter Maradudin, Spencer Mosse, Robert Peterson, Kevin Rigdon, and Ann G. Wrightson; costume designers Charles Berliner, Judy Dearing, Sam Fleming, Michael Olich, Constanza Romero, and John Carver Sullivan; and sound designer Brian Hallas found her a capable theatre artist and collaborator in implementing their creative work.

As a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, she was

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highly respected by her colleagues and appreciated for her understanding of professional theatre practice and how it could be incorporated as a model in the academy. Her teaching included many hours mentoring student stage managers as they negotiated sometimes treacherous waters between faculty directors, designers, and professional guest artists. She encouraged her colleagues to join her in the mentoring and created an enduring culture at UWM.

In her eulogy, Paulette Callen wrote, “No one loved life more or used it so well. She was interested in everything, knew something about almost everything, and cared about the important things. Wherever she worked, in whatever neighborhood she lived, she knew the names of everybody's kids and all their animals. In a mid-town New York restaurant, she engaged in conversation as easily and with as much delight with the waiter as with the celebrity at the next table.”

Cindy's involvement in USITT began at the 1990 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It was there that a large contingency of stage management professionals came together to discuss the future of stage management within the Institute. These discussions were initiated by the first of many highly attended stage management roundtables that brought more than 10 local stage managers to discuss issues with over 50 out-of-town attendees who identified themselves as stage managers.

Her involvement with USITT was strengthened when she was invited to serve as a stage management mentor for the 1993 Wichita Conference. From that point on, Cindy was one of the hardest working members of the Stage Management Mentoring Program. Though she was unable to mentor every conference due to recruiting duties, she served as a strong resource and an insightful guide throughout the building years of the program. She also initiated the practice of asking participants to contribute to the New Century Fund annually, and in this she led by example.

In 1994, when it came time to turn the program over to another leader, Cindy was the one who helped me recruit James Birder, its second coordinator, and she continued to help James as he transitioned into the leadership role. Along the way, she participated on many panels and symposia on stage management for the Institute, served on the Board of Directors at the time of her death, and put her mark on many a young stage manager who made their way through the program and the Conference for the first time. She was also the recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award in Management from USITT in 2008.



Presenting the Fellows plaque and medallion at the 2011 USITT Annual Conference were Leroy Stoner and Elynmarie Kazle. Accepting is Travis DeCastro of Penn State University.

Photo/Erika Courtney

I truly believe that, had Cindy continued her participation on the board and in the Management Commission, she would have eventually been named a Fellow during her lifetime. Her contributions to the area of management and more specifically stage management will live on in all of the members both young and old that she has touched.

"Cindy always knew how to talk to actors. Cindy always made them (us) feel confident and ready for an audience. Cindy knew how to finish a play, as well as begin it. She wasn't just about rules and paperwork. Cindy was about people. Her students who are now professionals, have mirrored that ability - not only in their work, but in their lives. Clearly, helping actors be in a place where they could do the play well, no matter what else was going on, was a keen factor in her teaching." -- Tyne Turner.

"She cherished her friends and had more than anyone of us probably imagined. If a measure of one's life is the friends one leaves behind, then she set a gold standard. She honored her father and mother in life and in memory. She loved her animals, her students, her art, her books, places she'd been, a good dinner, a fine wine." -- Paulette Callen

So, in memory of Cindy Poulson, keep doing what you're doing and know that you're very good at it. Go and be whatever it is you want to be. It is our honor and privilege to induct our friend Cindy as a Fellow of USITT.

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Help for Students to Attend Lighting Conference

The application process is now underway for students wishing to attend the Enlighten Americas Conference.

USITT has provided a grant to the International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD) to support up to ten USITT student members to attend the Enlighten Americas Conference 2011 which will be held September 22 and 23 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

IALD

The financial support is made possible through a grant from USITT's Commissioner's Fund. [Apply online here.](#)

This is the second grant USITT's Commissioner's Fund has supported for students to participate in an IALD Conference. For 2011, there is a \$1,000 award per student to help cover registration, travel, food and hotel.

Lighting design students will have two days to interact with the owners of the top national and international architectural lighting design firms. These professionals will review students' portfolios, judge their LightPlay exercises, and network with them during meals and evening receptions.

Applications must be completed by August 1, and include submission of a portfolio of one to four projects on the official portfolio template. For questions, contact Jill Mulholland at jill@iald.org.

In the last 40 years, the IALD has given hundreds of architectural lighting design awards, many of them to Lighting designers who were trained and/or practice theatrical lighting design.



Participants from USITT at the IALD meeting in 2010.

Photo/Courtesy IALD



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Member Benefits: Save at Lowes

A new member benefit through USITT's participation in The Cooperative Purchasing Network was announced at Charlotte 2011 Conference & Stage Expo. It allows members to register for discounts with Lowes Home Improvement Stores across the United States.

This benefit requires people to submit purchases online, so some planning is required, but the savings can be substantial. With a little prior planning, members can save an average of 15 percent with some items seeing savings of 50 percent or more.



Follow the instructions posted on the USITT website for establishing a user name and password and then place orders through lowesquotes.com. Some features of this new benefit include:

- Orders placed before 3 p.m. local time will be pulled and waiting at the contractor desk in two hours
- See the local store's inventory as of midnight the night before to know if items are in stock
- The website is functional on smart phones, so orders transmitted from phones should be at the contractor desk for special pricing within minutes
- For delivery of large orders, the store will call and arrange the standard delivery
- The system will save the order history, so item numbers will remain easily available

Members must order online and check out at the contractor desk. According to members who have used the system, the savings is definitely worth the effort of submitting orders online.

Look for more benefits to come as the Institute continues its efforts to bring everyday savings to the membership.



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The Last Word:

Fresh New Approaches: Student Leadership Initiatives

Rafael Jaen

The Costume Commission introduced the new Student Leadership Initiatives (SLI) at the Charlotte 2011 Conference & Stage Expo. SLI showcased projects featuring imagination and effective teaching by students in costume, make-up, and digital design-technology.

The presenters included make-up designer KJ Kim, a senior theatre design major from the University of Evansville (USITT Young Designers & Technicians Award in Make-up Design, KCACTF Alcone Make-up Design Award Recipient, Region III 2011); costume and set designer Tyler Kinney, a senior in BFA theatre design and technology, from Emerson College (KCACTF Barbizon Award Recipient Region 1, 2011); and costume designer Jordan Straight, a first year MFA costume design and technology student, from the University of Alabama.

Attendees felt empowered thanks to students' "to-the-point" directions and the relevance of the information.

Esther Van Eek, costume design faculty, School of Dramatic Art, University of Windsor, Ontario and Co-Chair of Costume Portfolio Reviews, said, "The students were remarkable in their ability to seize existing tools and to adapt them to new uses making brilliance look so



Presenters: Tyler Kinney, KJ Kim and Jordan Straight with chair Rafael Jaen in the back.

Using Patterns

A new layer was created for the sleeve and repainted. Using the various filters shown at below the image was changed to show the pattern through.



This created the image at the right.



Straight demonstrated how to create patterns using Adobe Photoshop Elements.



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effortless.”

Martha Ruskai, wig and make-up design faculty, UNC School of the Arts, and Vice-Commissioner for Make-up/Hair/Wigs said, “I love the idea of a session devoted to students to present something very fresh and recent in their work.”

ClareMarie Verheyen, costume and make-up design faculty at the University of Houston, added, “The Student Leadership initiative was a wonderful treat for the ‘old-timers’ who pretty much know each others’ ‘tunes.’ To meet, see, and learn from our younger membership... was truly eye opening and thrilling.”

Debra Krajec, artistic director/artistic associate professor, Theatre Arts Program, Marquette University in Wisconsin, said “I very much appreciated that each student shared one specific thing they had done with the computer, and then told us specifically how they did it, and showed us what their final product was”.

For more information, e-mail contact rafael_jaen@emerson.edu.

Kim demonstrated how to create face canvases for make-up schematics using Adobe Photoshop.

Layout: Layers



Tyler Kinney demonstrated how to create research packets using Adobe InDesign.

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USITT was well represented at the recent tribute to USITT Lifetime Member Willard Bellman held at California State University Northridge. Among those attending were several USITT Fellows, shown here with members of the Bellman family. From left are Debbie Bellman, Sarah Nash Gates, Bob Scales, Randy Earle, Jim Moody, Joe Tawil, Pat MacKay, and Chis Bellman.

Photo/Barry Cleveland

Kearns Wins Award

Congratulations to Casey Kearns of the University of Wyoming on his recent award from Region VII of Kennedy Center ACTF. Mr. Kearns of the University of Wyoming received a Faculty Excellence Certificate of Recognition for scenic design. He was honored at the Regional meeting in February in California.

Novita Techne's New Contact Info

We've received updated address and telephone information for Novita Techne Ltd. The new address is 2171 Avenue Road, Suite 105, Toronto Ontario

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Canada, M5M 4B4 and the updated phone system has added a prefix of "2" to each extension. For example, reception is now 228.

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SECOA: Unveils New Light Mount

SECOA unveiled its new orchestra shell light fixture mount for LED fixtures at the USITT 2011 Conference & Stage Expo in Charlotte, North Carolina. This pioneering mount improves on industry standards, offering a more safe, reliable, and economical solution.

Designed for both the ETC D40 and Selador series of LED fixtures, the new mount is durable, lightweight, and versatile. Able to rotate 360 degrees within its own housing, this mount enables a full range of lighting angles. To improve safety, SECOA's team designed the mount so it does not require a potentially hazardous tip switch.

For more information on SECOA's new orchestra shell light fixture mount or on any of its products and services, contact John Mordal at 800-328-5519 or e-mail him at j.mordal@secoa.com.

ETC: Open Doors in Belgrade, Deadline for LDI Sponsorship

Last month, **ETC's** Serbian distributor, Studio Berar, welcomed over 600 visitors to an open house at Belgrade's BelExpo Center.

The event encompassed Studio Berar's entire product range, so visitors were able to see video and audio products as well as lighting. There were also a number of



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workshops where visitors could discuss the latest industry developments.

Now is the chance to apply for ETC's famed LDI Student Sponsorship! Graduate students and senior undergrads studying lighting design, theatre technology, or a related field are eligible to win one of the open spots to attend the 2011 LDI tradeshow, October 28 to 30, in Orlando, Florida.

ETC made it even easier to apply this year putting the application online at www.etcconnect.com/LDI-2011. Fill out the application electronically, or print it out and mail it to ETC. The deadline to apply is May 6.

The all-expense-paid trip is a great way to gain experience, see the inner-workings of the lighting industry, and do some networking. ETC covers the costs of round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations, meals, LDI conference passes and exclusive swag, and a student reception with lighting designers, educators, consultants, journalists, and others.



2010 LDI Student Sponsorship recipients with ETC CEO Fred Foster. From left: Bill Wong Tsz Kin, Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts; Rebecca L. Beasley, Austin Peay State University; Rachel K. Levy, California Institute of the Arts; Justin W. King, Tisch School of the Arts, NYU; Fred Foster; Melanie A. Berg, Western Michigan University; and Victoria Hendrix, University of Texas-Austin.

Daktronics: Introduce New Hoist, Controller

Daktronics introduced two new rigging products at the Charlotte 2011 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. The event was the first USITT Conference for Daktronics since the recent rebranding of its former Vortek rigging division.

The company introduced the Banner Hoist, a product aimed at malls and retail centers, and the Vortek E-Series Enhanced Controller, which provides powerful functionality in a compact, economical form.

Stage Technologies: There's no Place Like the Palladium

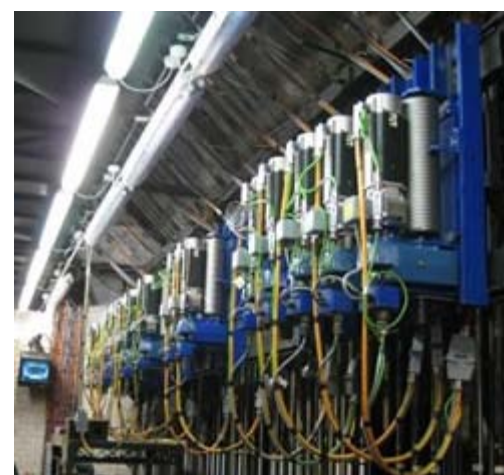
L. Frank Baum's novel has been adapted into a hit MGM film, three silent movies, comics, a Broadway musical, and countless other stage and amateur productions, so it was only a matter of time before *The Wizard of Oz* hit the West End.

The Really Useful Group needed to produce a highly-technical show and



turned to **Stage Technologies** and Delstar Engineering to design, supply, and install the control elements and stage mechanics of the show.

The mechanical equipment from Stage Technologies included 18 counterweight assists, six BigTow winches for lighting ladders, two BigTows and counterweights for the Wizard's Chamber and five BigTows for a curved cyc. The onstage performer flying scenes use two Stage Technologies lift-and-traverse rigs for the monkey flights, Dorothy's kidnap, and the various entrances and exits of the witches. Downstage of the safety curtain, a Stage



Technologies front-of-house bridle is used to fly a monkey nearly 20 meters down from the dome of the Palladium. For more information visit stagetech.com.

The Wizard of Oz at the London Palladium is currently booking until September.

Rose Brand: Announce Fourth Blog Contest Winner

Rose Brand announced InOvation Group as the fourth winner of Rose Brand's How Did YOU Do It? Blog Contest. The contest asks customers to submit a picture of a project or production they have worked on and describe how they created it. InOvation Group submitted photos of a large custom projection header piece and hanging Chinese lanterns for use in the new First Bank Center Arena in Broomfield, Colorado. The pictures and explanation of how they did it can be found on [Rose Brand's blog site](#). The Rose Brand Blog Contest is accepting entries on its latest "How Did You Do It Challenge." Interested applicants can visit bit.ly/RB-Facebook for more information on how to win.

Philips Vari-Lite: Wash Luminares Provide Performance, Cost Savings

When *American Idiot* first loaded-in to the historic St. James Theatre in February 2010, little did head electrician Eric Abbott know that it would be the last time he would see his primary automated wash fixtures for a long time.

While 20 VLX Wash luminaires from Philips Vari-Lite, provided by **Hudson Sound and Light**, work as the backbone for the Tony Award-winning lighting design, it's their virtually maintenance-free operation that is solidifying their value on Broadway by providing both high-performance and cost-savings.





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- [Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas: Institute Adds Weekend Classes »](#)

University of Alabama: New Sustaining Member

The **University of Alabama** upgraded its level of membership to that of a Sustaining member just prior to the 2011 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Those who attended might have noticed a fairly large contingent from Alabama who were taking part in the event. Learn more about their programs at www.as.ua.edu/theatre.

SERAPID: Welcomes New Staff

SERAPID, Inc. is announced the hire of Mike Wilson who will join the engineering department as the electrical engineer.

The company recently installed a stage lift system in the Arthur Miller Theater within in the Charles R. Walgreen, Jr. Drama Center at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

A three-column SERAPID LinkLift system was installed in the theatre, which houses the Theatre and Drama Department of the School of Music. The Theatre is designed as a courtyard and can be configured either as a thrust or end stage for 250 seated audience members.

For more information, visit the [company website](#), send an e-mail to: info-us@serapid.com, or call 800-663-4514

TMB: Finland City Awash in Light

The city of Kangasala in southern Finland, with its natural beauty and mineral water springs, has been a popular travel destination for centuries. When it was time to refurbish the street and public area lighting, it was also an opportunity to

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2011 Costume Symposium

July 28-30
Southern Illinois
University



put an inviting face on the gateways to the city. The task was given to renowned lighting design firm VALOA which turned to **TMB** to provide LumenRadio's CRMX RGB LED fixtures..

Fixtures were integrated into a large number of lighting poles and bollards spread along the streets and intersections located on the perimeter of the city to give visitors a warm welcome and a pleasant goodbye to remember.

LumenRadio offers a wide range of wireless lighting control. TMB is exclusive distributor for LumenRadio in North America and the UK. [Click here to find out more about LumenRadio](#). Learn about other innovative products offered by TMB at www.tmb.com.

Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas: Institute Adds Weekend Classes

Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas is just weeks away from kicking off its fifth season of intensive courses in cutting edge, live entertainment technology.

Beginning on June 6 and concluding on July 29, eight weeks of specialized training in a total of 17 topics will be offered. One new thing this season is the addition of weekend classes.

Designed to address new areas of special interest, these two-day classes pack a lot of training into a weekend. Sessions will include Instrumentation, Presentation and Portfolio, Foam Carving, Management, Gobo & Color Magic, and Design Charette.

Get to know the faculty by visiting www.stagecraftinstitute.com/faculty.htm. Visit www.stagecraftinstitute.com for further information.



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



We raced through the 2011 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Charlotte, but that's only because there are so many exciting programs and services that we're introducing or continuing for our members.

Photo/Richard Finkelstein

Usually, once the Annual Conference & Expo ends, we have a bit of a breather to start thinking about summer productions and projects. This year, instead of taking a break from intense action, we're launching new programs and thinking up new ways to serve members.

Our first Elite Training will be at the Cirque du Soleil training facility in Las Vegas in May. They might even have a Presidential Visit, if the National Office can find the appropriate escort vehicles and secret communication bandwidths for my travel across town. We're already considering the next opportunity we can offer our members, because we all know you've got to keep learning, keep trying new things, and keep busy.

Applications are now online for our Rigging Safety Assessment Initiative, and the form is simple and easy to understand. There are diagrams, too, which help administrative types when they have to answer a few simple questions. Our first inspection and training should be happening in late April or early May, with more

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to follow as we get underway with this program, spurred by the generosity of our founding sponsor J.R. Clancy, Inc. We're looking for both schools and contractors who wish to participate. We received our first application from a school needing an inspection and have received numerous applications from contractors who wish to perform inspections. This initiative is well on its way!

These are just two of the things we're likely to discuss on June 3, when the Board of Directors holds its next web-based meeting. Anyone can be a part of these virtual get-togethers where the board discusses the direction of the Institute. Shannan in the National Office can provide directions on how to sign in to see and hear what is being discussed. The meeting starts at 1:30 p.m. Eastern time, and will usually last about an hour, so that is not too much of a time commitment.

There are lots of new things, but that doesn't mean our old favorites are disappearing. Instead, they are moving forward with energy and enthusiasm. The Ask A Fellow campaign at the 2011 Annual Conference & Stave Expo has expanded to web pages for each of our Fellows on the USITT website. Click through and see what they have been doing, and ask them questions, too. The Fellows' reception area at the Conference was decidedly a hit as well.

The few times that I was able to wander down to Stage Expo, I noticed that members were taking advantage of the opportunity to speak with the Fellows. One of my students from UNLV was able to sit and chat with Richard Pilbrow at the conference and came away with an entirely different view of the reasons that the Fellows (and others) were making themselves available at the Conference. It is an opportunity for them to give back and to share. Take advantage of the opportunity whenever it presents itself; you won't regret it!

You can always contact me if you have something on your mind. We had great feedback from putting a star on the badges of people attending their first Conference. It was great to hear about people taking the time to welcome newcomers, and to hear that those newcomers felt they were part of our organization.

So, new member or veteran, join the conversation. We're staying busy, and we hope you are too.

I was wearing that red pit crew suit at the 2011 Closing Night party because we're sure speeding into the next adventure. Stick around for the ride.



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

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Southwest: Elect Officers, Present Awards

The Southwest Regional Section held elections for new officers at its annual section meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina.

New faces, and some old ones, took positions on the board of directors. Kris Hanssen (Sam Houston State University) became President after serving for a year as President-Elect, Tom Grabowski was re-elected as Vice-President for Membership, and James Cunningham, previous Past President, was elected as Director at Large.

Six members joined the board for the first time: April Keith (Sam Houston State University) as Vice-President for Programming, George Curry (University of Houston) as Treasurer, Jane Childs (Stagecraft Institute) as Vice-President for Development, Daniel Archibald (Oklahoma State University) as Director at Large, Chris Bell (Oklahoma State University) as Student Director at Large, and Leonard Miller (Vari-Lite) as Commercial Director at Large.

Two newly created awards were given at the section meeting. The Oscar G. Brockett Teaching Award was given to Kris Hanssen (Sam Houston State University) and the Don J. Childs Student Service Award was given to Brant Gentry (West Texas A&M University). In addition, Jack Hagler from Schuler Shook was awarded the Forrest A. Newlin Founder's Award, and Kasey Allee-Foreman (University of Oklahoma) received the Mildred and Glenn Martin Jr. Service Award.

Plans to hold the annual winter symposium at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, in January were announced at the meeting.

Ohio Valley: Meeting, Website, Hall of Fame Trip Highlight Activities

Approximately 45 members of the Ohio Valley Regional Section attended the section membership meeting in Charlotte. Programming for the fall 2011

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conference to be held on September 24 at Allegheny College and election of officers for the coming year were the main points of discussion at the meeting.

Region members extended a sincere thanks to Rob Johnson, Otterbein University, for his years of service to the section as webmaster. The section welcomes Aaron Bollinger, head of theatre production at Park Place University in Pittsburgh, as the new webmaster. He is already at work on some new ideas and may have a redesigned website soon.

May 6 is the deadline to register for the spring visit to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland on May 20. Check the website for further information including discount accommodations at the Wyndham Hotel Cleveland at Playhouse Square. [There is still time to register.](#)

Rocky Mountain: Hold First Aid, Online Communication Events

On April 2, the Rocky Mountain Regional Section held two events.

In Denver on the Metro/Auraria campus, several USITT members trained for their two-year certification in First-Aid and CPR. Possibly the highlight of the day was doing compressions to the beat of "Stayin' Alive" by the BeeGees, the perfect rhythm for this situation and appropriately easy to remember.

Following the class, members throughout Colorado and Wyoming were able to participate in the section's first online chat through the RMUSITT website, focusing on health and safety in the theatre. Several documents and ideas for putting together sessions/training for regional high schools (and possible participation in the Thespian conference) were shared. Discussions will continue through the website's online forums, and the chat transcript and further supporting documents will be placed online when possible.

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News From **David Grindle**, *USITT Executive Director* **Of Tweets, Links, Likes, and Posts...**



Facebook allows members to comment on the photos we posted from the recent Annual Conference & Stage Expo, starting new conversations about the event.

In the past year, we've become an Institute with a social media presence. It has opened my eyes as to who we are and where we are. USITT has always been a wonderful group of diverse people. While we look very white and very male on the surface, the fact is, we do have diversity, Facebook told me so.

You see, as an administrator on [our official Facebook page](#) I get to see the stats of who "likes" us. According to Facebook our "likers" are 56 percent male and 42 percent female. That's about right for our actual membership breakdown. But there are other fun stats about who we are in the Facebook world.

We have been liked in 18 foreign countries and in 10 other languages (11 if you count British English). Nine point five percent of our Facebook friends are 55 or over -- not what Zuckerberg intended when he started this thing, but I don't think he minds. Our largest Facebook demographic is 25-34 year olds followed not too distantly by the 35-44 segment (Under 24 still holds strong at just under a quarter of our Facebook demographic).

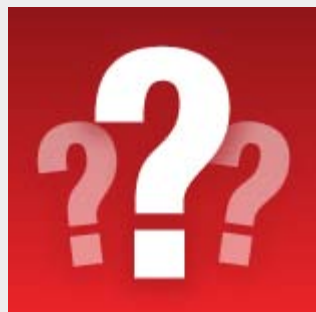
So why am I blathering on about mundane statistics? It's partly because the people who really know me know I love to blather on about statistics, but also

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because I love the fact that the virtual world of USITT so closely mirrors the mortal world.

We are from so many different places geographically, within our lives and careers and from our backgrounds. All of that makes for a vibrant organization that trades ideas freely and willingly.

Our Human Issues Caucus met in Charlotte as it does each year. Members have some incredible initiatives planned to improve the opportunities for our People of Color and LGBT community. That kind of diversity is important and should be promoted within the organization. But, at the same time, let's not forget the diversity that already exists within our Institute. Age, gender, and background are all important diversities as well.

The spirit in Charlotte was one of people introducing themselves and creating new friendships. People were reaching across those various definitions of diversity to expand their network of friends and colleagues. Let's keep that going. You will hear it from President Joe Aldridge, President-Elect Lea Asbell-Swanger, and so many others. Celebrate the Institute and all of our ways of identifying each other. And don't just wait for Long Beach. Reach out and make the most of an amazing group of people.

Thanks for an incredible first year serving you as Executive Director. I am excited for the future.



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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Costume Exhibits, Sessions, Wow Members

Carey Hanson with assistance from M.C. Freidrich and Linda Pisano



30 Lessons to Teach Drawing, Painting, and Rendering, a Professional Development Workshop in Charlotte, drew people eager to learn a new method of step-by-step hand-drawing for scenic and costume rendering.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

In a city named in honor of the British Queen Charlotte Sophia, Costume Design & Technology members found a variety of fabulous sessions at the Charlotte 2011 Conference & Stage Expo.

The events kicked off with a session introducing three amazing costume exhibits at Stage Expo. The exhibits featured garments from two renowned collectors, Gene London and Harriet Lake. The collections featured designs by Adrian, Edith Head, Elsa Schiaparelli, Bob Mackie, Coco Chanel, Christian Dior, and Adrienne Landau. Another costume collection came from the Mint Museum of Art's historical collection dating from the 18th to the 20th centuries. Charles Mo, the costume collection curator, presented selections from the museum at a session.

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Sessions ranged from the art of creating a trued pattern from draped muslin to a hands-on technology session featuring a multitude of millinery techniques. For those interested in costuming for film, the conference featured a session that looked at the process of transitioning from a theatrical costume designer to a film designer. This introduction into the film industry then led to a session highlighting the creation of custom designed fabrics at Walt Disney Entertainment.

The Costume Poster Session was again a huge success. Hundreds of conference attendees took advantage of the opportunity to view the 22 unique poster presentations that shared ideas related to costume design and technology. In addition to seeing the posters and collecting handouts of the information provided, one of the most valuable aspects continues to be the chance to visit with the presenters and ask further questions about their projects. The poster authors included undergraduate and graduate students, as well as young faculty beginning their careers, alongside well-known and experienced costume education and industry professionals. Some were newcomers to the Conference and the poster session while others were long-time veterans of USITT. This year's juried presentations included design approaches, construction innovations, storage solutions, illustration techniques, historical research, and educational methodologies.

There were several sessions devoted to costume design. The session Posing Juliet dealt with how to create character bodies and poses to better display costume designs to directors. Another design session was a great help to those commission members interested in designing costumes for dance.

Each year, the Commission includes a session dealing with the ever changing world of technology and how it affects costume technology and design. This year a session was dedicated to creating portfolios in the 21st century providing insight into the development of digital portfolios in a web-based world.

The Conference featured two very special guests. A special international guest was Hakan Dunder. Mr. Dunder has designed costumes for over 100 productions in Turkey and around the world. This session led the audience through traditional Turkish dress and its influences on contemporary design.

Another featured guest was none other than Carrie Robbins. Ms. Robbins's presentation was a retrospective of her recent work, accompanied by her personal accounts of the collaborative process, problem solving, and varied approaches to traditional theatre, ballet, and opera, and how her influence is demonstrated in modern costume design. Only days after the conference, a costume distribution list was active with questions and comments regarding digital rendering and software all inspired by her work.

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Education Commission Busy at Conference

Shan R. Ayers *Education Commission*



R. Craig Wolf is congratulated on receiving the Distinguished Achievement Award in Education during the 2011 Annual Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Photo/Courtesy William Kenyon

The 2011 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Charlotte was an exciting time for everyone who was able to attend. Members of the Education Commission found themselves drawn across Commission and Regional sessions, onto Stage Expo, and into important committee meetings.

William Kenyon, Vice-Commissioner for Awards and Publications, was recently appointed the USITT Education Liaison to OISTAT and will replace Shan Ayers as the USITT Education Commission liaison to the International Committee. Mr Kenyon will represent all USITT and educational commitments when attending the Prague Quadrennial, as well as when attending OISTAT meetings. Anyone with an idea for an article for *TD&T* that deals with an educational topic can send it to David Rodger and Mr. Kenyon for consideration.

One of the Commission's highlights was presenting R. Craig Wolf a Distinguished Achievement Award in Education. Mr. Wolf spoke about his experiences.

David Navilinsky has become the Commission's poster session guru. Those with an idea for a poster that relates to education should contact him and pitch it to

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him. Mr. Navilinsky will send proposals to the jury, which will review them without names associated, and provide their opinions to Mr. Navilinsky who will then reply to the submitter.

Adam Mendelson and Tony Hardin worked to streamline the session proposal and selection process for the Education Commission, working to move as much as possible to an online system. It went pretty well this year and will likely be improved for upcoming years.

Sessions for the Long Beach 2012 Annual Conference & Stage Expo are already taking shape.

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Seek OSHA Alliance

David Glowacki *Health & Safety Commissioner*

One project the Health & Safety Commission has worked on over the past year is establishing a formal relationship with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration through the OSHA Alliance Program. OSHA established this program to work with professional organizations, educational institutions, and trade and labor unions for mutual education and the development of compliance assistance tools.



USITT is a strong candidate for an Alliance because the Institute represents every facet of the industry - designers, technicians, stagehands, educators and managers.

Throughout the 2011 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Charlotte, North Carolina, Commission members were included in discussions about the recent mishaps at a rather high-profile Broadway show and began to recognize that there is widespread concern about how OSHA might respond to those specific incidents, and what repercussions there might be for the rest of the industry. OSHA will likely begin looking more closely at other operations and venues, wanting to see if the situations and exposures to hazards revealed through the investigation of *Spiderman* are unique to that production or are common throughout the industry.

Entering into an Alliance agreement with OSHA will be extremely beneficial because it opens the door on a national level for members to meet with OSHA representatives and educate them about the industry. For its part, OSHA will assist in the creation of educational materials for the Institute's membership and to share with OSHA's Consultation and Compliance Officers. The Institute can influence how the industry is perceived by OSHA.

During a conference call between leaders within the Institute and top administrators of the OSHA Alliance Program, OSHA representatives were enthusiastic about USITT's interest in pursuing an Alliance, recognizing that it already meets most of the criteria required of participating organizations, and outlining the next steps USITT needs to take in order to finalize this agreement.

One step required input from the general membership to develop two lists: one identifying three or four general goals to pursue in cooperation with OSHA and the other identifying three or four specific specific issues or concerns that would

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benefit from the creation of training tools, documents, or other products. A meeting during the Charlotte Conference produced these lists:

Goals:

- To share with OSHA and educate them about the non-standard nature of much of the work done at heights and develop best-practices that meet compliance requirements while allowing for the freedom of movement required to support artistic expression.
- To develop standardized definitions of industry terms and functions (language) and develop tools for sharing that language.
- With OSHA assistance, to investigate and improve recognition of long-term hazards that USITT members are routinely exposed to.
- To develop industry-specific standardized safety training and have that training recognized by OSHA.

Emphasis Areas:

- Develop standardized hazard recognition and risk analysis documents/checklists.
- Develop standardized evaluative tools to measure skill competence in operating industry-specific equipment and systems.
- Identify and develop industry-specific training modules that could be added to the standard OSHA 10-Hour and 30-Hour Outreach Training Courses.

Another conversation is scheduled with the OSHA Alliance Program leadership in early May to review these lists. If anyone would like to suggest items to be added to either list, they can contact David Glowacki at dglowack@kent.edu.

[Additional information about the OSHA Alliance Program can be found here.](#)

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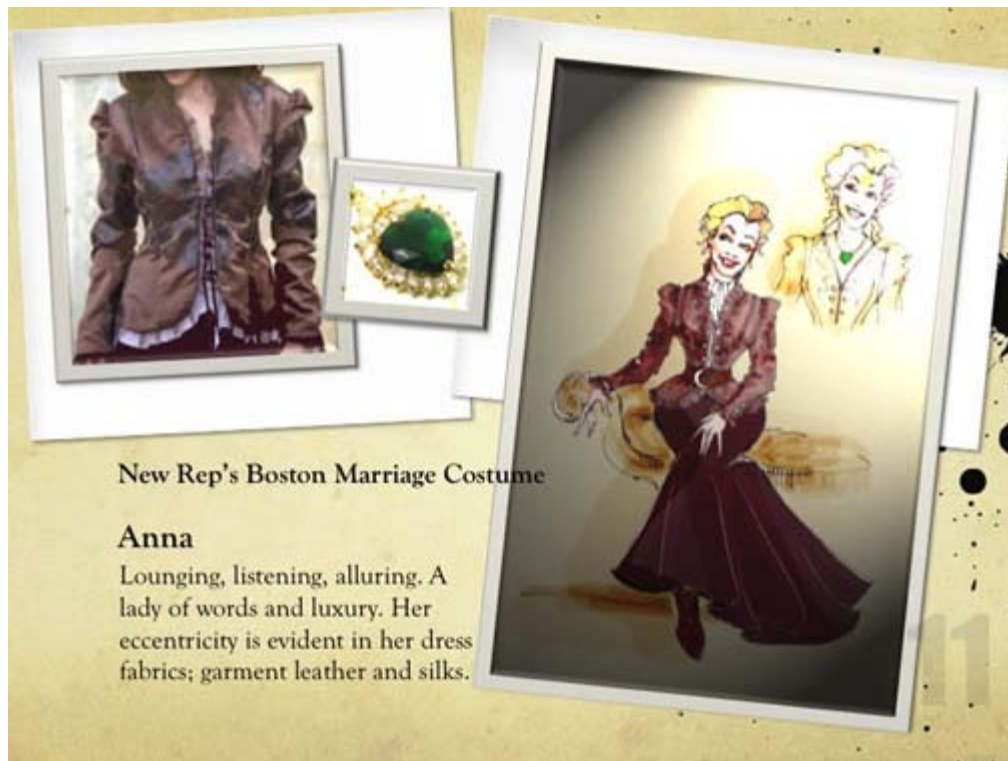
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Commissions

Digital Costume Rendering: Painting From Your Desk!

Rafael Jaen *Symposium Leader*



New Rep's Boston Marriage Costume

Anna

Lounging, listening, alluring. A lady of words and luxury. Her eccentricity is evident in her dress fabrics; garment leather and silks.

Sample sketch using a PowerPoint template with added research and a Photoshop painted sketch.

For those who missed the Professional Development Workshops on digital painting sponsored by the USITT Costume Design & Technology Commission in 2009 and 2010, worry not!

This summer's Costume Symposium July 27 to 30 at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville will present a hands-on workshop designed to demonstrate ways in which to paint effective costume renderings using Photoshop software.

Class materials will offer

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comprehensive step-by-step samples how to use layers, how to create and manipulate fabric patterns, and tools to create depth and texture. The demonstrations will also include how to apply color theory for highlighting based on lighting gel colors.

The first day will review various steps, such as the planning and archiving digital costume sketches, creating page templates and painting exciting character sketches using Photoshop Elements.

During the next two days of the symposium, participants will create their own templates for a full show and draw/paint their own sketches using the techniques explored the previous day. Each participant will work in small groups and have one-on-one coaching during the process.

In addition, there will be a final presentation and discussion, which will include the teaching points gathered by the group. Field trips will complement the development of design metaphors, color theory, and texture processes.

The deadline for the early registration discount is May 1. For complete information on the symposium including details on housing, transportation, requirements, and an application, click [here](#).

Layer 1



Sketches painted using Photoshop layers. The photo sequence shows:

- 1) the painted costume with the actress actual face (copied, pasted and free transformed),
- 2) the second sketch shows new layers for shadows added by copying, painting and transforming the actual costume silhouette and a side shadow using the color burn tool,
- 3) the last sketch includes an environment layer which is the actual theater space in which the production takes place. Text was added as well as another layer.

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Live Session Crosses International Boundaries

Jan Chambers



Kingdom of Dreams Theme Park in Guragon, India (inset - production of *Zangoora the Gypsy Prince*)

The Scene Design Commission hosted a panel at the Charlotte 2011 Conference & Stage Expo that may become a conference staple: live international video exchange. The topic was Exploring World Design – Teaching and Designing Abroad.

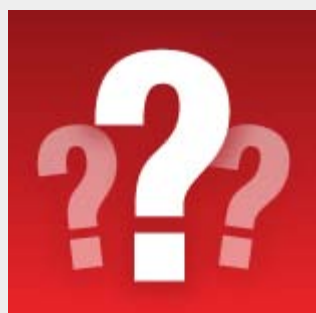
Anita Tripathi Easterling spent several weeks last fall as a guest artist and teacher at the National School of Drama in New Delhi, India. Heidi Hoffer is traveling South Africa for the year on a Fulbright Award. They came together in a session at the conference with Ms. Easterling

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Video conferencing from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. (inset - Heidi Hoffer leads the discussion with the Charlotte audience on the monitor behind her).

chairing the panel in person and Ms. Hoffer joining in live from Pretoria via satellite video. Alongside Ms. Hoffer were students and faculty members from the University of Pretoria, The University of the Witwatersrand, and Tshwane University of Technology. All were eager to hear and see Ms. Easterling's presentation on Indian theatre, as well as Ms. Hoffer's description of her experiences in South Africa. With the Charlotte audience added into the mix, it truly was a global experience.

Ms. Easterling noted that the primary difference between theatre in India and in the United States is the presence of folk theatre in most aspects of Indian performance and the integral component of movement and dance. Whether the production is an ancient Sanskrit drama, a contemporary experimental piece, or a blockbuster musical, extensive training in Indian theatre arts is fundamental. The National School of Drama in New Delhi is one of the foremost training institutes in the world, but is the only one of its kind in the country. The program is a three-year conservatory, and its applicants are Indian citizens, fluent in both Hindi and English, who have already completed studies (in any subject) on the university level. Admission to the school is highly competitive and only 20 of the most serious students are accepted each year. While it is possible to specialize in either acting or design in the second and third years of study, the curriculum immerses all students in every aspect of classical, folk, and modern forms of Indian theatre as well as contemporary world theatre.



Repertory Production at the National School of Drama, New Delhi, India

Ms. Hoffer's presentation drew clear parallels between the theatre cultures of the two countries in terms of diversity of offerings. She recounted a variety of theatrical events that she is participating in including *Winnie the Opera*, a new work based on the life of Winnie Mandela; devised experimental theatre on the sex trade; and the nine-show season of apartheid plays staged by the University of the Witwatersrand Department of Drama. Wits University, as it is known, was host for the first semester of Ms. Hoffer's Fulbright year; the University of

Pretoria is host for the second semester. Ms. Hoffer's responsibilities at these institutions are a range of teaching of design classes, mentoring student designers, and conducting workshops in addition to designing several shows for each host university. [Read more about her Fulbright Award experience.](#)

Both Ms. Hoffer and Ms. Easterling inspire those wishing to expand their knowledge and experience of theatre to other countries. [Ideas for international guests or panels for USITT's 2013 conference \(or beyond\) can be submitted via online proposal forms.](#)

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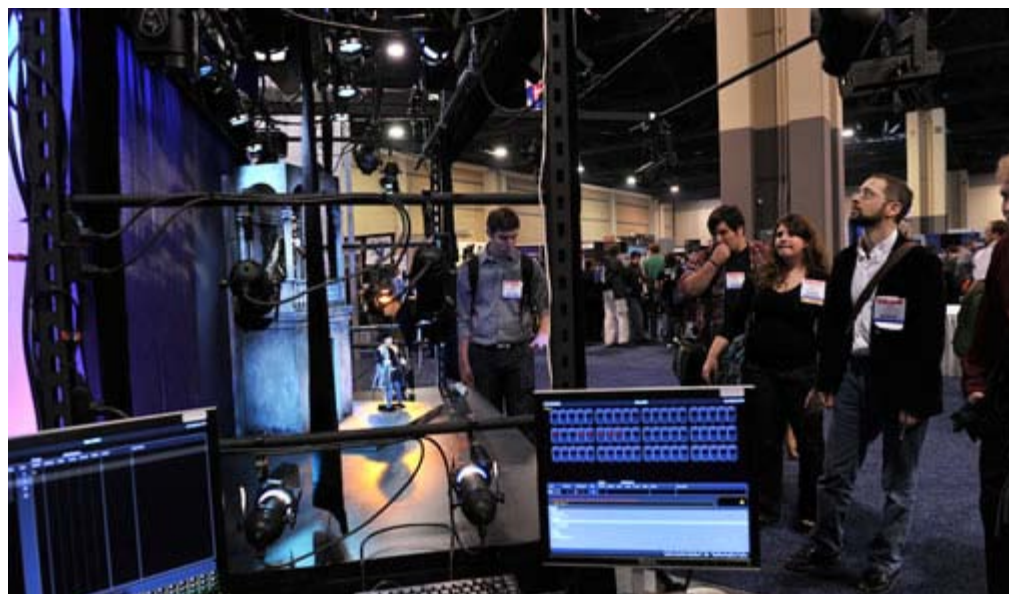
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Conference & Stage Expo

Farewell Charlotte, Hola Long Beach

Helen Willard - *Stage Expo Sales Manager*



Strong interest in exhibits at Stage Expo during 2011 means that more than 70 percent of the available booth space for Long Beach has already been reserved.

Photo/Richard Finkelstein

Total attendance at the 2011 Conference & Stage Expo in Charlotte was just over 4,200, which kept Stage Expo exhibitors busy all three days of the show. With 175 exhibitors in 27,750 square feet of exhibit space, and a wide variety of special exhibits, Stage Expo 2011 filled exhibit halls B & C1 of the Charlotte Convention Center.

Per usual, a large crowd gathered for the Stage Expo Opening. As the lobby of the Convention Center and the mezzanine above began filling with attendees, suddenly opera music filled the air, and one by one, four singers from Opera Charlotte stepped out of the crowd to perform. This was a "Random Act of Culture", a program funded by the Knight Foundation. If you missed it, or want to see it again, a video of the performance is on YouTube at <http://bit.ly/eY8Ma7>.

Then VP Conferences Dave Will waved the green flags, the USITT tape was cut, and the crowd streamed into the exhibit halls to gather product information, see the latest technology, and collect swag. Exhibitors were extremely happy with the traffic at Stage Expo, in part due to the more than 800 people who

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visited Stage Expo 2011 on visitor passes.

Exhibitors were invited to reserve Long Beach 2012 booth space during the priority space selection held in Charlotte on the last day of Stage Expo 2011. A total of 83 booth exhibitors booked nearly 20,000 square feet of space during the priority space selection. Over 70 percent of the available booth space has been reserved for next year's show, so Stage Expo 2012 is already well on its way to filling two large exhibit halls in Long Beach.

The 52nd Annual USITT Conference & Stage Expo will be held in the Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center, located in the heart of downtown Long Beach's entertainment district. Stage Expo 2012 will be in Halls A & B of the LBCC, which are on the lower level, with meeting rooms located on the first and second floors of the Convention Center. Those who were in Long Beach for the 1998, 2001, or 2004 USITT Annual Conferences will remember the ease of traveling from registration to the meeting rooms and down to the exhibit halls.

Booth space selection will continue until all available booth spaces are sold. Priority space selection for table spaces will be conducted in the fall. Anyone who would like to exhibit at Stage Expo 2012 in Long Beach should contact hpwillard@aol.com for more information.

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Conference & Stage Expo

2012 in Long Beach: What's Past is Prologue

Brian Alan Reed Long Beach Promotions Coordinator



In 1998, overhead projectors will all the rage for sharing information.

Photo/USITT Archive

Looking for reasons to plan a trip to USITT's 2012 Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach, California? It might be worth recalling the rewarding times members had at the Long Beach conferences in 1998, 2001, and 2004. The city's location provides many opportunities for diverse conference programming possible only in southern California. If the past is any indication, then the next Conference, (March 28 to 31 next year) should be both exciting and enlightening.

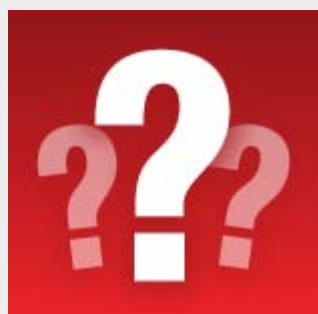
In thinking back to the 1998 Annual Conference, some might remember a day-long professional development workshop (PDW) bus tour of Lexington Scenic Studio and Cinnabar-Hollywood Scenic Studio, with a stop at Universal City Walk for lunch. Regionally-based Conference sessions covered such topics as the film sound production process, career alternatives in L.A. for students with a theatre degree, scenic design for regional television, designing for aquariums, special effects make-up for film and television, and design and production for the sci-fi series Babylon 5. Not bad for USITT's first Long Beach gathering.

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In 2001, USITT continued to provide members with informative programs derived from resources in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. The PDWs included a museum tour to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), the Kaye Museum of Miniatures, and the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising's annual exhibit, "The Art of Motion Picture Costume Design." There was also a PDW on "Shopping L.A.," an all-day bus tour to costume rental houses, make-up suppliers, and fabric stores in downtown L.A.'s fashion district.

Attendees also had the opportunity to see a Tuesday evening performance of *The Lion King* at the Pantages Theatre on Hollywood Blvd.

The sessions included "Costuming for Film: The Art and Craft," "Armchair Prop Shopping" with Deborah Ann Hemela of *Debbie's Book* fame, "Design for Film 101" with John Iacovelli, and "Design for Themed Entertainment: Concept, Process, and Budgeting." Mary Heilman of Cal Arts chaired "Showbiz Painters: Scene Painting for Film and Television." There also were presentations on "Float Design and Construction for the Tournament of Roses Parade" and "Non-Theatre Employment for Theatre-trained Professionals."

For the 2004 Annual Conference, the workshops included another visit to FIDM's annual costume design exhibit and LACMA's Costume Collection. There was a trip to the Getty Center and the Huntington Library, Gardens, and Museum, and a theatre tour and performance at South Coast Repertory. The session topics included theme park lighting, the Warner Brothers Studio's costume warehousing system, specialty props for film and television, and a tour of the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

The design exhibits were particularly extensive in 2004, including the work of three southern California designers (Charles Berliner, Herb Camburn, and John Iacovelli) and designs produced over several decades for the Bob Baker Marionette Theatre in downtown Los Angeles.

Considering all that occurred at the last three Long Beach conferences, the 2012 version should be something very special. Start planning soon to attend, and get ready to take advantage of all that southern California has to offer.

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

2009-2012

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

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Secrets of the Institute

David Grindle's "secret"

A friend asked me, shortly after I took on the role of Executive Director, "Have you learned the secrets of the Institute?" It was meant as a joke, but the fact of the matter is, YES, I have learned some of the secrets of the Institute. What I've learned is, there are many benefits of USITT membership that people have either forgotten, weren't aware of, or just don't get the publicity that they deserve. I have learned there are people who are our members that love to help solve problems and share wisdom (and not just for students). There are even great things happening for people in the Institute by people in the Institute that no one knows about.

Some of these are tangible benefits while others are aspects of programming and services that have been around "forever" and people think "everyone knows that" but maybe they don't. Over the next few months I thought it would be fun to highlight SECRETS OF THE INSTITUTE.

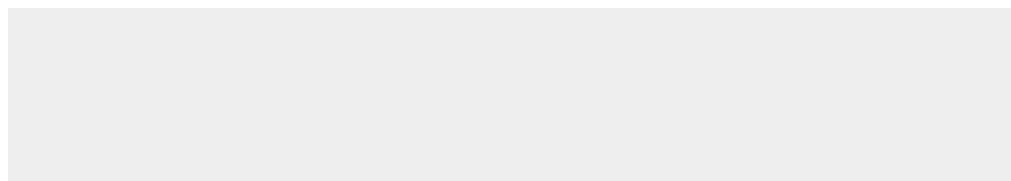
SECRET OF THE MONTH:

H&H Specialties Refunds Conference Registration for Selected Students

Reid Neslage, president of H&H Specialties in the Los Angeles area and Fellow of the Institute, has for over 10 years paid the registrations for five or six student members to attend the conference. Once Very Early Registration ends, the names of students who have been a member for at least one year are randomly chosen from the list of registrants. Those students then receive their registration refunded as it is paid by Reid and H&H.

While we have many awards and honors through the Institute, this is a nice "surprise" for a student who wants to attend the conference to learn and network. It rewards dedication to the Institute through renewed membership as well as commitment to your craft through seeking new knowledge at the conference.

Thanks to H&H Specialties and Fellow of the Institute, Reid Neslage. It's a great Secret of the Institute that's not so secret any more.



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Mr. Neslage with the 2011 winners of the H & H Specialties Student Conference Initiative

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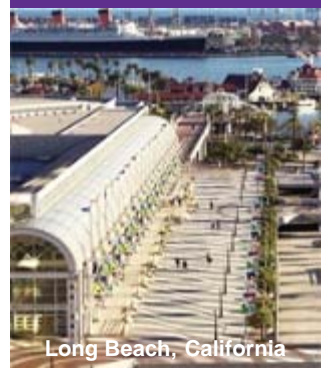
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