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July 15 Deadline for Award Nominations

Nominations are now open for USITT's special honors and distinguished achievement awards. The initial deadline, which allows review by the Awards Committee, is July 15.

Nominations are accepted for candidates for the:

- USITT Award: the highest honor given by USITT, recognizes a lifetime contribution to the performing arts community.
- Joel E. Rubin Founder's Award: given to a USITT member in recognition of outstanding and continued service to the Institute.
- Thomas DeGaetani Award:
 honoring a lifetime contribution to
 the performing arts in a particular
 region of the country, generally in

region of the country, generally in the location of the Annual Conference & Stage Expo.



Special Citation: recognizing outstanding achievement in any area of the performing arts by an individual or an organization.

The process for nominations starts with completion of the online forms, which can be found here.

The nomination process requires supporting documents which might include additional letters of support, resumes/CVs, articles written about nominee, or other materials enlarging on the reason the nomination is being made. A recommendation for wording on the potential awards plaque is also part of the



Betsey Baun of the Southeastern Theatre Conference received the USITT Award as part of the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in 2011. With her is USITT Executive Director David Grindle.

Photo/Erika Courtney



materials to be submitted.

USITT is also accepting nominations for its Distinguished Achievement Awards which are given in specific Commission areas. Any member may nominate a person for a Distinguished Achievement Award.

Those nominations are also due July 15 and require a letter or memo of support from the appropriate Commissioner, and only one award is given in an area each year. Nominations for those awards should be made here.

Once the Awards Committee has reviewed all nominations, it makes its recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval. Two awards, the Honorary Lifetime and Founder's awards, while approved by the Board, are kept secret until they are presented at the Annual Conference.

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News & Notices

ETCP Recognizes USITT Electrical Workshops

The USITT Electrical Workshop, operated by the Engineering Commission with Theatre Safety Programs, recently was approved as a Recognized Training Program by ETCP. While there are 16 Recognized Electrical Trainers, there are just three other recognized electrical training programs.



Electrical Workshop

USITT Electrical Workshops are designed to give the participant an understanding of electricity and a deep

participant an understanding of electricity and a deeper understanding of the hazards and consequences of working with electricity. These workshops are specifically designed for technicians working with electricity in the entertainment industry. They provide information that makes sense and provides explanations of the sophisticated systems and terminology that are commonly used when describing electricity within the entertainment industry.

Those involved have offered information programs as Professional Development Workshops held before the start of several recent USITT Annual Conferences, and have provided training at sites across the United States.

Mitch Hefter, Jerry Gorrell, and Ken Vannice are co-chairs. The program includes five principal presenters and five associate presenters.

Information will be available soon on both the USITT and ETCP websites on how to schedule a workshop.

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Tenure Workshop at EdTA Conference

USITT's first tenure preparation workshop will provide exciting opportunities for participants. The workshop will be held in conjunction with the Educational Theatre Association's conference in Chicago, Illinois September 23 and 24.

Session include how to express work as research to non-theatre faculty reviewers with breakouts for research universities and for liberal arts schools; preparing to submit proposals to publishers; finding appropriate outside reviewers and available resources; and individual dossier reviews. Presenters include Mark Shanda, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Ohio State University; Dennis Dorn, retired faculty and frequent outside reviewer from University of Wisconsin; Tony Hardin, associate professor of set and lighting design at the University of Kentucky; Shane Kelly, head of theatre technology, DePaul University; and Sarah Myers, assistant professor of theatre arts, Rocky Mountain College.

For more information or to register, click here.

By Design Day Support Continues

Although April 23 has passed, it's not too late to support By Design Day 2011, which raises money for Behind the Scenes in the United States and Canada and Light Relief in the United Kingdom.

Some of the industry's top designers pledged that day's royalties to the two charities while others are choosing to make a straightforward donation. By Design Day was championed this year by international designers from a number of disciplines including Neil Austin, Ken Billington, Paule Constable, Jonathan Deans, Rick Fisher, Howard Harrison, Scott Lehrer, Tony Meola, Scott Pask,



Ken Posner, Jennifer Tipton, and Hugh Vanstone.

Royalties have been pledged from shows on stages all over the world including Hamlet and Moonlight (Jon Clark); Warhorse, Clybourne Park, and Les Mis 25th Anniversary Tour (Constable); La Cage Aux Folles (Deans and Nick Richings); Priscilla Queen of the Desert (Deans and Nick Schlieper); Billy Elliot and Sweeney Todd (Fisher); Arcadia and Rock of Ages (Gregory Gale); The Book of Mormon and The House of Blue Leaves (Pask); Umbrellas of Cherbourg (Malcolm Rippeth); and Ghost and Tanz der Vampire (Vanstone).

To join your colleagues and pledge support, visit: www.estafoundation.org/bts or www.lightrelief.org.uk.

LED Luminaire Draft Standard in Public Review

BSR E1.41 - 201x, Recommendations for Measuring and Reporting Photometric Performance Data for Entertainment Luminaires Utilizing Solid State Light Sources, has been posted for public review on the PLASA website through June 20.

E1.41 offers recommendations for measuring and reporting the output of LED luminaires used in the live entertainment industry, with emphasis on color and color rendering. Current methods for luminaire output measurement assume the use of broad-band emitters, which LEDs are not.

Coffin Joins PLASA Team

Kacey Coffin, a board and committee member of ESTA since 2006, has joined the PLASA team in North America as executive assistant. She will be responsible for a variety of areas including membership and members service, as well as working with Certification Manager Meredith Moseley-Bennett on ETCP and with North American Executive Director Lori Rubinstein.



Ms. Coffin has been in the entertainment industry for over 10 years as co-owner of the former Fisher Theatrical. She became actively involved with the ESTA Business Education Committee in 2006 where she served as chair from 2008 to 2010. She was elected to the ESTA Board of Directors as a dealer representative in 2008. She also has been a member of the GenESTA Committee, most recently serving as chair. After the merger with PLASA, Ms. Coffin was appointed secretary of the PLASA North American Regional Board.

In 2008, she rode with the Long Reach Long Riders which inspired her to join The ESTA Foundation's Behind the Scenes Committee. In addition to her other duties, she will provide staff support for Behind the Scenes.

ETCP Announces Recognition For Contractors

The Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP) Council has added the Recognized Contractor designation to the Employer and Labor Provider Recognition programs. This program recognizes organizations that use ETCP Recognized Employers and/or ETCP Certified Technicians on projects and job sites. This designation would be appropriate for designers, integrators, producers, and production companies. It would also be applicable for venues such as performing arts centers, arenas, museums, theme parks, and houses of worship.

Organizations receiving ETCP Recognition will be listed on the organization's website along with contact information as well as a link to the organization's web site.

Anyone interested in having an organization ETCP Recognized, complete and return the appropriate Best Practices Agreement. The guidelines and application form are available online. To have the information mailed or e-mailed, contact Meredith Moseley-Bennett, ETCP certification manager, at 212-244-1505 or etcp@plasa.

Plugfest to Test Controls

The next PLASA Control Protocols Plugfest will take place July 22 to 24 at the DFW Marriott Solana in Westlake, Texas. The event brings colleagues and competitors together to further the industry by testing the limits of control protocols and working out the bugs they encounter. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Plugfest began in January 2009 as part of the ESTA (now PLASA) Technical Standards Program by members of various Control Protocols Task Groups representing a variety of manufacturers. Twice a year, when they are all in the same place at the same time, they bring controllers, lights, analyzers, and various other tools and devices, and connect them all through a network to look for and resolve problems. People attend from all around the world in an effort to improve products.

Although the schedule runs until 10 p.m., the group can often be found working into the early morning hours. Most of the members of standards task groups are there and happy to provide expertise.

For more information or to participate, contact Scott Blair at s.blair@ieee.org or sblair@rdmprotocol.org.

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Announce Election Slate for 2012

The USITT Nominations Committee, charged with bringing qualified candidates forward for consideration by members, has announced its slate for the 2012 election cycle.

All those elected will serve three-year terms starting July 1, 2012. USITT's membership has the opportunity to add names to the slate by petition until September 1. Balloting will be held later in the fall with results announced in January.



The following individuals are proposed for positions which will be up for election:

- Vice-President for Special Operations:
 Dan Denhart, Adam Klein, or Michael Murphy
- Vice-President for Communications: Mark Shanda
- Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters: Martha Marking
- Vice-President for Programming: Tom Hackman
- Treasurer: Dan Culhane

Members will be asked to select six members for the Board of Directors. Nominees are, in alphabetical order: Kasey Allee-Foreman, Bill Browning, Paul Brunner, Alessia Carpoca, Jack Feivou, Mitch Hefter, Raymond Kent, Michael Mehler, Brian Reed, Linda Pisano, Carolyn Satter, and Tom Young.

Additional names may be placed on the ballot by a petition supported by no fewer than 50 member signatures. Additional nominations need to include written approval of the nominee, a brief biographical description, and a position statement. Petitions for additional nominations for each elective office may be conducted electronically.

To file an e-mail petition, confirm the willingness of the individual to stand for election; collect the names of at least 50 current USITT members who support the nomination; and send an e-mail by September 1 to Sherry Wagner-Henry, incoming Secretary/Nominations Committee Chair, at swh@umn.edu. It should include the supporting documentation including the name, membership number, and e-mail address of those signing the petition.

Petitions may still be filed on paper and mailed to Mrs. Wagner-Henry at USITT, 315 South Crouse Avenue, Suite 200, Syracuse, NY 13210. These must be received in the USITT office no later than September 1.

Voting this year will again use an online system, with its secure electronic process for e-balloting. This allows all members to participate in the election process easily and conveniently. Paper ballots will again be available for those who request them or are unable to use the electronic balloting process.

By voting, members invest in the future of the Institute.

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Sightlines The monthly newsletter for USITT members

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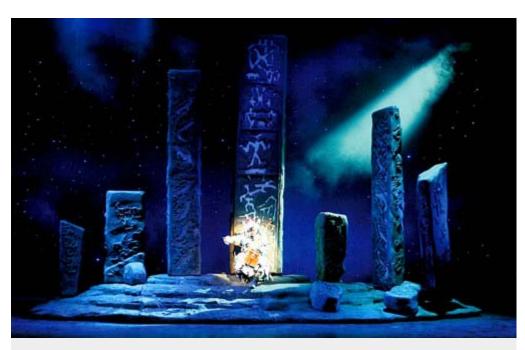
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News & Notices

Symposium Honored Chinese Designer

Michael Ramsaur Head, U.S. OISTAT Centre for USITT



The 2nd OISTAT International Lighting Design Symposium was held in Hangzhou, China April 1 to 6. Cindy Limauro and Michael Ramsaur represented USITT. The symposium was held in conjunction with a celebration of the career of the First Class Chinese Lighting Designer Zhou Zhenping. The combination event included 20 international guests and over 250 Chinese lighting designers, directors, and stage designers. In addition to the USITT delegates, guests represented Australia, the Philippines, the Netherlands, Finland, Hong Kong, South Korea, Hungry, Sweden, Brazil, the United Kingdom, and South Africa.

Zhou Zhenping is a First Class lighting designer - the top recognition of achievement within the theatrical lighting industry. A book of his work, The Brilliant World and The Light of the Soul: Works of Stage Lighting Designer Zhou Zhenping, was published by the China Theatre Press in 2009. Although Zhou has not worked internationally, he received





the Wenhua Stage Design Award from the Ministry of Culture seven times as well as received over 30 awards for his work in China. His specialty is designing Yue Opera, the

Michael Ramsaur, Zhou Zhenping, and Cindy Limauro

second most important opera style, next to Beijing Opera, in China. Yue opera is from the early 20th century with softer and more melodic music. He has designed regularly for the Zhejiang Yue Opera Troupe and the Hangzhou Yue Opera Theatre. The visual aspects of Yue and Zhou's work has a much more contemporary feel than the historic Beijing Opera. In addition to his work with Yue, he has designed Beijing Opera, drama, children's drama, Kunqu Opera, and many large performance events.

Presentations were given by Louis Janssen, president of OISTAT; Henk van der Geest, head of the OISTAT Lighting Design Working Group (both from The Netherlands); and Nigel Levings (from Australia). Mr. Janssen spoke of "Designing Theatres for Better Lighting," Mr. van der Geest about "Art and Lighting Design," and Mr. Levings about the "Intersection of Art and Technology." A presentation about the "Current Situation of Lighting Design in China" was given by Song Weijun, and a presentation about the "Education for Lighting Designers in China" was given by Wang Xiao. In addition to formal presentations, there were many lively panel discussions that included all international guests.

In addition to many tribute toasts to Zhou Zhenping from his Chinese colleagues, the formal presentations, and panel discussions, there was also a technology exhibit by Chinese manufacturers. International guests were able to tour the West Lake district and visit the Hangzhou Grand Theatre with its four performance spaces. The group also attended a performance of Yue Opera, an example of the lighting designs of Zhou Zhenping.

This is the second International Lighting Design Symposium organized by Mr. Ramsaur; the first was organized as a Pre Conference Workshop for the 2001 Long Beach Conference.

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News & Notices A Heartfelt "Thank You."

Richard Stephens USITT Fellow

In the infinite wisdom of the Institute's "Powers That Be" I was surprised, flattered and deeply honored to receive the Joel E. Rubin Founders Award on the final evening of this year's Annual Conference held in Charlotte, North Carolina on March 12. As has been the custom for many years, the names of the recipients were kept secret until the presentation, thus providing a spontaneous reaction for all to enjoy.

In recent years this presentation was part of the Keynote address and Annual Meeting that kicks off the Annual Conference on Wednesday morning. Recipients had the distinct advantage of at least being relatively fresh and well rested prior to the ensuing crush of the non-stop days to come.



Rick Stephens giving the Fellows Address in 2006.

Photo/R. Finkelstein

Unfortunately in my case, the honor this year was revealed on Saturday evening at the Closing Night Celebration, and I, after a solid week of working 14+ hour days on the Conference Committee was in a state of near exhaustion.

This coupled with the shock and surprise of such a great honor left me naturally befuddled and unable to even minimally express my gratitude to either the Institute or the many individuals that had given so much of themselves to help pave the way for whatever success my efforts on behalf of the Institute may have achieved. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to rectify this shortcoming here.

First of all I must thank USITT not only for this honor, but for the many opportunities and extraordinary support that have been afforded me throughout the last 30+ years. The work on Institute projects, and through them, the betterment of the profession as a whole are, in the greater scheme of things, the most lasting and enduring contributions of my career. I will be forever indebted



to the many Institute officers and Presidents who have honored me with their support and trust.

I did mention, on that fateful night in March, that no one ever accomplishes anything entirely on one's own, and this is particularly true when it comes to Institute activities. To this end I must also thank the mentors that have helped guide my path over the years. Chief among the many who have given so generously of themselves are Jerry Abbitt, Richard Devin, Sarah Nash Gates, Jay Glerum, Richard Arnold, and Dr. Joel E. Rubin just to mention a few. Of special note within this group is Dr. Robert Scales. He is not only the foremost theatre technician of my generation, but unfailingly generous and an outstanding role model as a human being. He was the first colleague I ever heard speak of the imperative of dealing with one's colleagues and co-workers in an honest and moral fashion, and as such will always number among my heroes in this life.

Likewise, I also owe eternal gratitude to the many USITT colleagues that have helped and worked so diligently and dedicatedly with me throughout the years. When I count the many USITT members of the Technical Production Commission, the Board of Directors, the Living History Project, the Archive Committee, and the Conference Committee with whom I have served and worked I'm always amazed and humbled. Again, space and numbers prohibit mentioning everyone by name, but special note must be made of such stalwarts as Dennis Dorn, Bronislaw Sammler, Mark Shanda, Stephanie Young, Jean Montgomery, Lee Asbel-Swanger, Bill Browning, Mike Murphy, and Pat Larmer.

Proudly I now number all these and dozens more as cherished friends and I want you to know that you share equally in this honor and moment of recognition. You have all incomparably enriched my life and career. Thank you and God bless you all.

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The Last Word: Off to Prague



This is the last view of the USITT/USA exhibits heading for the 2011 Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space until it is unveiled in June in Europe. Members of the build team, including Mike Monsos, left, from The School of Drama and Dance in the College of Visual and Performing Arts at the University of Montana, closed up the shipping container in April and sent it first to Seattle and then by ship through the Panama Canal to Europe. There is still time to see the exhibits when PQ opens June 16 to 26.

Photo/Courtesy Mike Monsos

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Golden Pen Award Shines

We have a report from Bobbi Owen, former Vice-President for Communications, that the USITT Golden Pen Award continues to receive national notice.

Ms. Owen was in New York City on a recent weekend for the Irene Sharaff/Tobin Awards event, She and Jody Blake decided to go see *Spider-man Turn off the Dark*. "We wanted to be able to compare notes between the old version (closed yesterday for a couple of weeks) and the new one (opening in a couple of weeks). The technology is truly amazing... They did everything."

In reading through the Playbill program, Ms. Owen noted that in his biography, George Tsypin mentions his book, *George Tsypin Opera Factory: Building in the Black Void*, and that it received the USITT Golden Pen award!

Pat Larmer Retires

Pat Larmer, well-known as the Troubleshooter Coordinator on the USITT Annual Conference Committee, has retired after 32 fun-filled years at Palomar College. Pat may have left his post as production manager at Palomar, but he is still on tap to help the 2012 Annual Conference, just down the road in Long Beach, run smoothly.

Long Riders Head for South Dakota

On July 1 the Long Reach Long Riders will begin its eighth annual charity motorcycle ride. What started out as a one time event has blossomed into an annual one that has raised over \$250,000.



The ride supports both Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and The ESTA Foundation's Behind the Scenes program. To find out more about the ride or these charities, click here and click on the Donate button.

While it's true that participants have a great time on the ride, each rider pays his/her own way so that all donations goes to the charity chosen by ride supporters. For an idea of what this ride is about, view a video put together by rider Mark "Aurelius" Heiser.

Students Honored

Congratulations to the Wyoming Student Chapter of USITT which recently received a contribution to the Wyoming Down Syndrome Association in its honor to sponsor the 2011 Wyoming Buddy Walk. The honor was presented as part of the group's awards ceremony on April 29.

Casey Kearns, Chapter Advisor, said, "I've participated in the walk for two years now and have volunteered for six years at Ark Regional Services Creative Arts Program. Ark provides day habilitation along with many other opportunities, one being the creative arts center with a black box theatre



Members of the Wyoming Student Chapter were easy to spot at the 2011 Annual Conference in their bright yellow shirts.

Photo/Monica Merritt

and dance studio where we produce live theatre and dance performances twice a year. I volunteer teach a stage design class, and many of the UW students have assisted me with projects over at Ark."

The Wyoming USITT student chapter has volunteered to assist with the organization of the walk this year in addition to walking.

Associates Unharmed Despite Severe Weather

Devastating tornados and other unusual weather phenomenon have struck so many different parts of the country and the world that we're pleased to report that many of our far-flung USITT members and colleagues are unharmed. Property damage can be repaired although, as those in New Orleans can attest, it can take a long time. Having our people safe is much more important.

In Memoriam: Dr. Paul Reinhardt

We note with sadness the death of Dr. Paul Reinhardt on April 29. He was honored at the 1998 Annual Conference & Stage Expo with a special exhibit of

his costume designs, *The Heritage of Dr. Paul Reinhardt*, which included renderings, photographs, and costumes. Dr. Reinhardt received his BA from the University of Tulsa, his MFA in theatre history/costume from the University of Texas at Austin, and his doctorate in theatre history from the University of Iowa.

He designed more than 175 productions, and his academic career encompassed Richmond Professional Institute, Northwestern University, the University of Iowa, the University of Texas at Austin, California State University at Fullerton, the University of Oregon, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, James Madison University, and Western Michigan University.

Dr. Reinhardt's professional design credits included Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Northwestern Repertory Theatre, the Scott Actor's Repertory in Fort Worth, Texas, the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts in Santa Maria, California, and ten years as principal designer at the Texas Shakespeare Festival.

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Rose Brand: Fabric Widest on Market, Blog Winners Named

Rose Brand's new fabric, Trevira Muslin, is 32 feet, 9 inches wide making it the widest flame retardant muslin on the market. This IFR Fabric is ideal for cycloramas and backdrops and is sold exclusively at Rose Brand or call a Rose Brand sales representative for more information.

Gilbert Monroy was the fifth winner of Rose Brand's How Did *You* Do It? Blog Contest. The contest asks Rose Brand customers to submit a picture of a project or production they have worked on and describe how they created it. Mr, Monroy submitted photos of aluminum frames he built to make the process of hanging stretch shapes easier and quicker. Church on the Move won the sixth Blog Contest. The entry explained how they created moving scrim panels. The pictures and explanation of how they did it can be found on Rose Brand's blog site.

Those interested in the next Rose Brand Blog Contest can visit bit.ly/RB-Facebook for more information on how to win.

ETC: New Lighting Fixtures, Controllers Featured on Websites

ETC is again pushing evolution in the lighting world by introducing a range of new, groundbreaking fixtures. The new fixtures – Selador Desire LED luminaires, Source Four Fresnel, and outdoor Source Four XT – advance ETC's mission of enhancing the artistry and functionality of light. They are featured on a new micro-website at www.layersoflight.com.



ETC's Congo control family just got a little bigger with



the new addition of the Congo Kid lighting console. The Congo Kid controller puts the Congo line's powerful software within reach – and within budget – for smaller venues that use conventionals, LEDs, scrollers, moving lights and media servers. For more information on the console, visit www.etcconnect.com



Creative Stage Lighting: Slates Open House Sites

Creative Stage Lighting has announced the latest dates in its touring Open House series.

Hosted with the help of CSL Dealer Members, CSL Open Houses bring the latest lighting and entertainment technology direct to CSL's Dealer Network, providing an opportunity for Dealer Members to demonstrate new products to their clients.

Lighting and theatrical equipment to be shown include products from Avolites, Compulite, JB-Lighting, Wireless Solution, Robe Lighting, Color Kinetics, and VMB.

For more details, including an up to date schedule, go to www.creativestagelighting.com/openhouses.

Syracuse Scenery: Rigging Inspections Boost Safety, Business

When Syracuse Scenery Vice President Frank Willard got the call to inspect a rigging system in an upstate New York school auditorium, he knew the system had a problem, but he didn't expect the extensive damage he found there.

"It was a crashed set, where the operator used the system incorrectly and almost killed himself," he said. "It was a facility rented to a local dance group. They had one technician stripping out the lighting fixtures they'd rented, and he was working alone. He operated the system completely inappropriately, and crashed the set in both directions. Counterweights spilled out of the arbor, and a weight missed him by just a few inches. The pipe came down and actually ripped the cables out of the junction box on the end of the batten."

Luckily for the theatre owner, Syracuse Scenery had the knowledge and the technical skill to replace the damaged system. The inspection turned into a positive experience for the dealer as well as for the customer. The theatre owner's system became operable again, and Syracuse Scenery got the installation job.

Rigging inspections have become good business for the company, Willard reported. Many of the inspections performed by Syracuse lead to sales of rigging equipment, with the accompanying labor and installation fees. These

updates and repairs help schools and other venues keep their students, volunteers, and staff members safer backstage, and the inspections give dealers the opportunity to reconnect with clients for the common good by spotting and removing potential dangers.

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Sapsis Rigging, Inc.: Holds 200th Rigging Safety Seminar

Bill Sapsis, president of **Sapsis Rigging**, **Inc.** and a leader in promoting rigging safety in the entertainment industry, recently conducted his 200th training seminar. The two-day seminar was held for IATSE Local 19 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Sapsis has held seminars at some of the country's most notable performance venues including the Metropolitan Opera, Radio City Music Hall, and Madison Square Garden. He has led week-long sessions in Helsinki, Finland; Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa; and numerous locations throughout North America.

For additional information about Sapsis Rigging, Inc.'s seminars and safety programs and products, call 800-727-7471 or e-mail sales@sapsis-rigging.com

Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.: Present Competition, Offer Aid to Japan

Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc. and MAXON Computer GmbH have teamed up to present the Inspired Visions Global Rendering and Animation Competition.

The competition is open to all professional and student designers around the world, and entries will be accepted in three categories: rendering with CINEMA 4D, animation with CINEMA 4D and rendering with Renderworks 2011. The CINEMA 4D entries must be built on a Vectorworks model. All renderings and animations will be posted on the competition website, and a prize will be awarded to the "Fan Favorite," as determined by votes from the public.



To enter, vote or learn more about the competition, visit the Inspired Visions website.

A&A Co., Ltd. of Tokyo, the Japanese distributor of Vectorworks software, is offering emergency support and services for reconstruction efforts related to the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

As a part of this initiative, A&A announced an offer to contribute 150 free licenses of Vectorworks 2011 and FastTrack Schedule software programs to organizations involved in reconstruction planning and projects. A&A will also provide software training, which includes dispatching training staff where needed. The software is developed by Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.

Serapid, Inc.: Finland City Awash in Light

Serapid, Inc. recently replaced an existing hydraulic stage lift system at the Townsend Center at the University of West Georgia.

A four-column LinkLift system was installed in place of the hydraulic system at the Townsend Center, which houses the theatre and music departments for the university. The new Serapid lift allows the theatre to be configured for a proscenium stage or orchestra pit.

For more information, contact SERAPID at 800-663-4514 (toll-free), 586-274-0774 (direct) or visit the website.

Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas: Offer Help with Great Presentations, Portfolios

The competition for jobs in all areas and industries is fierce. A good portfolio and presentation is not good enough anymore; you need a great portfolio and an even greater presentation. Get the help needed; learn the techniques that will make the difference. Join **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas** and Rafael Jaen, author of *Developing and Maintaining a Design-Tech Portfolio*, for an intensive weekend of portfolio and presentation techniques June 18 and 19in Las Vegas.

Bring materials or use those available to develop a portfolio and a presentation that will move your name to the top of the pile in the job search arena or to the top of the judge's list at the exhibition.



Hurry up ! Further details: www.stagecraftinstitute.com.

Auerbach Pollock Friedlander: Helps Complete BYU-Idaho Center

Four years after the groundbreaking in October 2006, the Brigham Young University-Idaho Center was unveiled during dedication services in December, making it home to one of the largest production theatres in North America built for the primary purpose of supporting weekly student devotional services. Brigham Young University-Idaho is part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints' education system.

Auerbach Pollock Friedlander, was part of the design team for the center providing consulting and design services for the new 15,000-seat auditorium and broadcast center which includes live event support spaces, pre/post production HDTV facilities, and a shooting studio for public service programming.

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News From Joe Aldridge, USITT President Saying Good-Bye, Saying Hello

Well, here it is spring (closer to summer, truth be told) again and very near the end of another academic year for some of us. It also marks the beginning of the second half of my term as President. I feel as though we have made great progress in securing additional, useful benefits for our members. Executive Director David Grindle has done an excellent job of working toward that mandate from me.

The rigging safety initiative is in full swing with applications pouring in from around the United States. We have a large number of individuals and companies signed up to perform the inspections. The committee tasked with vetting the school applications is set to begin the process and hopefully award the first round of grants in the very near future. If you know of a school in your area that could benefit from having their rigging system inspected, encourage them to submit an application.

The Elite Training Program, being sponsored by USITT and Cirque du Soleil, is set to begin next week in Las Vegas with a group of 31 students. Plans for future such weekends are well in the works. If you know of companies or groups who might be interested in hosting such an event, have them contact David Grindle in the USITT office in Syracuse.



USITT's first Elite Training Weekend was, fortuitously, held in Las Vegas in mid-May, providing an intensive learning experience for 32 of USITT's student and early career members.

Photo/David Grindle

The next Board of Directors meeting will be a web conference on June 3. The agenda and meeting information will be posted on the USITT website. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to do so.



It is with mixed emotions that I bid farewell to three of our officers who are leaving the Board as of June 30. Kim Williamson is finishing her third term as Vice-President for Commissions. Patricia Dennis is completing her third term as Secretary. Sandy Bonds is finishing her third term as Vice-President for International Activities and, more importantly, the second PQ Exhibit under her watch.

All three ladies have served with distinction and honor and will be sorely missed as they attempt to revert back into their roles as members. I have enjoyed serving with all three as officers and board members over the past several years. You could always count on any one of them to be the first to arrive and the last to leave. They took their responsibilities as volunteers very seriously and served the membership and the Institute very well.

Knowing them as well as I do, I doubt that any one of them will decline when called upon again to serve in some volunteer capacity. My hat is off to you with much appreciation and gratitude.

Let these three volunteers serve as role models for any of you who are contemplating seeking a greater volunteer role within the Institute!



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

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Regional Sections

Southeast: Master Classes Set for October

The Southeast Regional Section's Master Classes for fall 2011 are set for October 7 and 8 at the University of Georgia in Athens. One of the themes of this year's classes might be one of spectacle --using advanced technology as both a tool and element in production design. This year's workshops tentatively include not just one, but several stellar guest artists, classes featuring UGA media programs and equipment, and sessions featuring a variety of experts from several leading manufacturers/production services companies.

Speakers include lighting designers Ken Billington and Jeff Davis, as well as Broadway fabric painter Margaret Peot. Sessions relating to the UGA media and design programs will include both an introduction and hands-on foundation class in Maya 3D computer modeling and animation, and a session on using virtual design in interactive performance --using motion capture system and video wall technologies. Vendor sessions include Meyer Sound and two of their trainers who will offer several variations of their popular sound workshops on Friday and Saturday. TMB is bringing a Hippotizer media server and two representatives who will host a workshop on media server hardware as well as another session on content for media servers. Rosco Labs is providing two workshops on projection effects and making original gobos on a budget, while D2 Flying Effects will host two rigging sessions – one on flying effects. Additional sessions include: Lighting Apps for your iPhone, Working in Themed Design, sessions on prop creation and scenic painting, backstage tours of local theatres, and lighting technology sessions relating to newer forms of control and LEDs.

The University of Georgia is excited to host the master classes this fall. There is a block of hotel rooms at several local hotels (within walking distance of all activities and downtown attractions) with special rates ranging from \$89 to \$109 per night (plus tax) for Thursday to Saturday evenings. Look for registration materials and additional information in the mail or on the USITT-SE website sometime this summer. Contact Rich Dunham, head of design at the University of Georgia (706-542-8273 or rdunham@uga.edu) for more information.

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News From **David Grindle**, USITT Executive Director **Amazing Moments Still Create Wonder**



A scene from Act II of *Anything Goes*, at the Roundabout Theatre.

Image/Courtesy Roundabout Theatre

It is award season in New York for theatre. The Drama Desk, Outer Critics, and the Tonys among others are all honoring the best performers and designers on and off (and off-off) Broadway. It is an exciting time that can make or break a show or even a career.

Recently I saw the Roundabout Theatre's production of *Anything Goes*. It was a great show for my two sons to see as their first professional New York production. Great tunes, brilliant dancing, and cast extremely well. It has been nominated for several awards this season. But there's one "performer" who will never be nominated and yet gave a riveting performance.

During Act II, Moonface Martin and Billy Crocker are in the brig of the SS American. Moonface sings the number *Be Like the Bluebird* to "cheer up" Billy. There's really nothing new to the way the number was staged. The unbelievable Joel Grey does this number interacting with a "bluebird" represented by a very small irised-in follow spot. Not so unusual, except that the follow spot operator was a seasoned Broadway theatre technician that knew how to work his



instrument. The bird could "fly around" and even "land" on an outstretched finger.

The audience roared with applause at the end of the number. Joel Grey turned 79 the week the show opened and he did a masterful job. My older son leaned to me during the applause and said "Did you see that?" I said, "I told you that guy was a great performer." Will said, "Yeah, but the follow spot was amazing!"

While the person operating that follow spot didn't know it, at least four members of the audience were sending some of their approval towards the booth. It reminded me that what we do as designers and technicians can really make performers look great especially when it is done to the best of our ability. Joel Grey can certainly hold his own with that or any number. But the playful interaction between this seasoned veteran, and the seasoned veteran on follow spot made a great moment magical. It was obvious from the occasional glance up towards the booth that Mr. Grey knew that for those moments, his solo was a duet and that brought me more respect for an artist I already admired.

Occasionally I hear someone say "I'm just a techie." That phrase irritates me faster than almost any other. Often my response is "Then quit. Be proud of being a technician and an artist and you will do well in this industry."

Seeing that number on Broadway gives me all the more confidence to say that to someone. The designer, director, actor, and technician all came together in that moment to create something fun adding a layer of magic to a number. That's why we are in this business.

As we come to the end of many professional and academic performing seasons, start the summer, and keep rolling on year-round live entertainment, take a moment to thank each other. The designers for their wonderful ideas, the technicians for their brilliance at execution, and the cast and remaining creatives for the collaboration to make words and stories come to life. It's what we do and we should be proud of it and aspire to "play the role" of the bluebird as well as the unnamed, un-nominated but deserving technician at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre on 43rd Street.



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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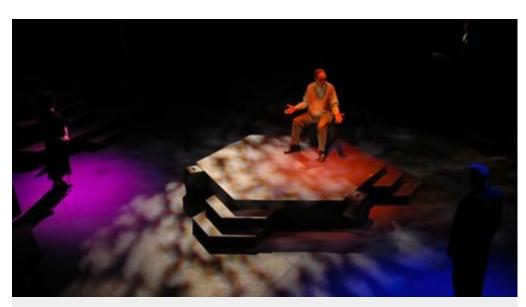
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One Person's Trash...

Jonathan Allendar-Zivic Education Commission



Lighting for *Copenhagen* was created because of work with the Vari-Lite educational outreach program, including using four VL-500s.

A product demonstration by Vari-Lite included hands-on time for students.

Photos/Jonathan Allendar-Zivic

"I want it to [insert absurd request here] on stage." This is a relatively common phrase that designers and technicians hear from directors and other designers, especially when it comes to the realm of academic theatre. Educators ask students to think and work outside the box, to challenge them, broaden their horizons and let their minds run free. This can lead to some very bizarre, absurd, and downright impossible requests. Some attempts are made to put them on stage running the risk of looking cheap; other ideas are turned down outright because they are unaffordable.

There are several places where things can be obtained very cheaply, free, or be borrowed.

Many states and state institutions have a surplus department where items being phased out or replaced



are sent. It is still "owned" by the government so it cannot just be offloaded. Many surplus departments have a way of selling off their inventories at a reduced price either at a large auction held a few times a year, through online listings, or at a designated sale.

Many states have waste exchange programs set up to intercept waste heading toward landfills. Instead of waste going straight to a landfill, a



database is created and people can usually, for free, obtain things that are waste to some but gold to others (fabric end rolls, demolition lumber, old furniture, hardwood off-cut). A directory of state waste exchanges is available from the EPA.

Contact a manufacturer or dealer. They know that educational institutions may not have the capital to outright buy the latest technology. Many have educational outreach programs which try to give students the ability to work hands-on with fixtures that may not normally be available to them. Contact a manufacturer's representative to get more information on individual programs.

Talk to the other schools (colleges, technical schools, and high schools) to see if they have what is needed. Not only may it save time and money, it opens new networking opportunities for students.

Local Habitat for Humanity Re-Stores, Goodwill, or Salvation Army outlets may be willing to loan items. At Coe we work with the local Re-Store in Cedar Rapids. If a piece of furniture that is in their stock can be used, they lend it and, as long as it comes back in as good or better condition, it doesn't cost anything. We also swap consumables, such as trading paint that can't be used for other items that are needed. Similar stores may also agree to swap items.

Educators are charged with educating students to be theatrical designers and technicians. Why not kill two birds with one stone by allowing students a freer set of reins for design, in addition to showing how they can obtain things once it becomes their responsibility? At Coe, this works as a great tool, where the students can learn what, where, and from whom they can obtain things. Share ideas for other resources at jzivic@coe.edu. For more on sustainable production, see the spring 2011 issue of *TD&T*.

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Leadership Changes for Management Commission

Jack Feivou Management Commissioner

USITT's Management Commission has realigned its structure for the upcoming year. Carolyn Satter is stepping down as Co-Commissioner for Programming, and was thanked for her service to both the Commission and the organization during the 2011 Annual Conference in Charlotte.

Sherry Wagner-Henry is also stepping aside as the Vice-Commissioner of Arts Management to focus on her responsibilities with the Board of Directors. She will take office as Secretary of USITT on July 1. Filling her role is Christopher Montpetit, who runs the Theatre Management Program at the University of Alabama.

During the Annual Conference, the leadership and members of the Commission wanted to make sure there is a focus at all levels of management, so the Management Commission will re-institute the Vice-

Tuning and the state of the sta

During the 2011 Annual Conference, William J. Byrnes received the Distinguished Achievement Award in Management and presented a session on his experiences which he related directly to his service to USITT. Presenting the award is Carolyn Satter, who is stepping down as Co-Commissioner.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

Commissioner of Production Management, a post which will be filled by Neil Kutner, production manager at BAM.

Other members of the Management Commission's leadership who will continue their service include: David Stewart, Co-Commissioner for Programming; Tayneshia Jefferson, Vice-Commissioner for Stage Management; Jay Sheehan, Vice-Commissioner for Entertainment; and Cameron Jackson, Vice-Commissioner for the Stage Management Mentoring Project.

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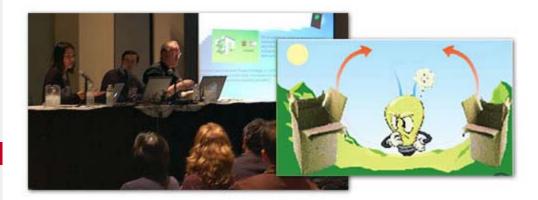
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Breaking the Box - A Session Experience

Panela Leung Scene Design & Technology Commission



Members of the panel discussion on Breaking the Box session at the 2011 USITT Annual Conference.

A screen shot of a graphic used in the Collaboration Challenge.

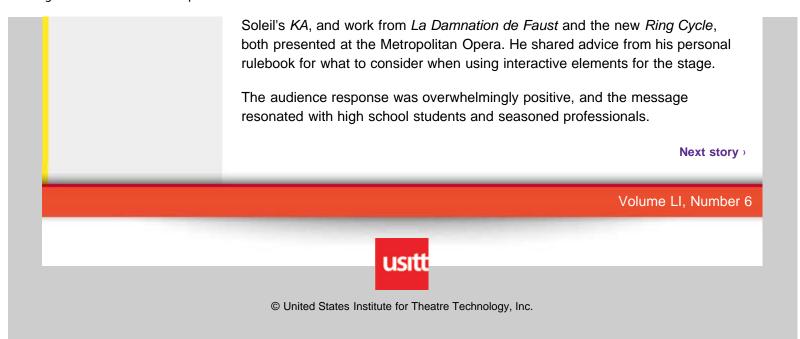
The 2011 Annual Conference & Stage Expo included a second successful session presented through the Scene Design & Technology Commission and 5D–The Future of Immersive Design Conference partnership.

Breaking the Box: Collaboration Challenge was one among several session offerings at this year's conference in Charlotte. This session was a sequel to the first partnership session presented in Kansas City 2010 and focused on answering the question, "How does immersive design thinking change our work in the theatre?"

Holger Förterer, media artist and interactive projections designer, and Peter Torpey, visual effects artist and member of the MIT media lab, were distinguished members of the panel.

Peter Torpey provided an exclusive, behind-the-scenes creative journey for *Death and The Powers: The Robot Opera*, which recently celebrated its American premiere at the American Repertory Theatre in Boston. *Death and The Powers*, a breakthrough piece that numerous critics hail as "the future of opera," was developed through an interdisciplinary collaboration between MIT Media Lab and the American Repertory Theatre.

Mr. Förterer gave an overview of his interactive designs that included Cirque du



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Conference & Stage Expo Anticipating A Return to Long Beach

Helen Willard - Stage Expo Sales Manager



Long Beach's opportunities for entertainment, dining, and exploration have been increasing. And the Queen Mary is still just across the water.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

The 52nd Annual USITT Conference & Stage Expo will be held in the Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center in Long Beach, California. Stage Expo will take place in exhibit halls A & B, a 148,000 square foot space located on the lower level of the Long Beach Convention Center (LBCC), with registration, meeting rooms, and the Grand Ballroom on the next two levels. Those who attended the '98, '01, or '04 conferences will recall the striking glass concourse and lobby which offer expansive views of the scenic harbor and downtown skyline.

The LBCC is smack dab in the middle of Long Beach's vibrant entertainment district, which continues to expand and improve. Shoreline Village, the Pike at Rainbow Harbor, the Aquarium of the Pacific, and the restaurants, clubs, and shops of Pine Avenue are all just steps from the convention center. Across Queensway Bay, the historic Queen Mary is docked, and the geodesic dome which once housed Howard Hughes' Spruce Goose is now the Long Beach Cruise Terminal, home port to two Carnival Cruise Line ships.



Located next to the LBCC, the Hyatt Regency Long Beach is the USITT conference headquarters hotel. Additional room blocks have been booked at the Westin Long Beach and the Renaissance Long Beach Hotel, both located nearby on Ocean Boulevard.

Plan now to join colleagues March 29 to 31 in Long Beach. More than 80 exhibitors have already reserved space for next year's show. For information on exhibiting at Stage Expo 2012, contact hpwillard@aol.com.

Preliminary Exhibitor List:

- A.C. Lighting Inc.
- A.C.T Lighting, Inc.
- The University of Alabama
- American Harlequin Corporation
- Apollo Design Technology, Inc.
- Ascension
- Automatic Devices Company
- Barbizon Lighting Company
- Ben Nye Makeup
- BMI Supply
- California Institute of the Arts
- Cirque du Soleil
- City Theatrical, Inc.
- J.R. Clancy, Inc.
- Clark Transfer, Inc.
- Clear-Com Communication Systems
- Columbus McKinnon Corp.
- coolux International
- Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- d&b audiotechnik
- Daktronics
- Disney Parks Creative Entertainment
- Dragon & Phoenix Software
- Eilon Engineering Weighing Systems
- Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC)
- ENTTEC
- The ESTA Foundation/Behind the Scenes
- Florida State University

- Lehigh Electric Products Co.
- Lex Products Corp.
- Limelight Productions, Inc.
- Live Design Magazine/LDI Show
- Mainstage Theatrical Supply, Inc.
- MDG Fog Generators
- Mehron, Inc.
- Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.
- Mongol Global Tour Company, Inc.
- NETworks Presentations
- Norcostco, Inc.
- University of North Carolina School of the Arts
- Oregon Shakespeare Festival
- OSRAM SYLVANIA
- Penn State University
- Period Corsets
- PLASA PRG
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Conference & Stage Expo

Long Beach 2012: Take the Blue Line

Brian Alan Reed Long Beach Promotions Coordinator



Photos/Barbara E.R. Lucas

Southern California is famous for its crowded freeways, but in recent years, public transportation has improved considerably. This is especially true because of the light rail lines that connect downtown Los Angeles to Long Beach and other destinations in the L.A. area. When making plans for USITT's 2012 Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach March 28 to 31, consider the opportunities to ride the light rail system north from Long Beach to downtown L.A. and from there to Hollywood, Little Tokyo, and Pasadena's Old Town. It is simple, easy, and involves no freeway frustrations.

The Blue Line runs north from downtown Long Beach to the Seventh Street/Metro Center Station. The second-to-last stop, the Pico/Chick Hearn Station, is close to the Los Angeles Convention Center, the Staples Center, the Nokia Theatre, and the Grammy Museum.

From the Seventh Street/Metro Center Station, it's a short walk to the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising. Riders also can connect to the Red Line, the Purple Line, and the Gold Line. The Red Line runs northwest to Hollywood, including the Kodak Theatre, the Walk of Fame and Grauman's Chinese Theatre. The Purple Line heads west to Koreatown. The Gold Line runs through downtown to Union Station.



On the way from the Seventh Street/Metro Center to Union Station, the Gold Line has two stops. The Pershing Square Station is close to Gallery Row, the Museum of Neon, the Los Angeles Theatre Center, and the Museum of Contemporary Art. The Civic Center Station is close to the Los Angeles Music Center, which includes the Ahmanson Theatre, the Mark Taper Forum, the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, and the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Union Station is the heart of L.A.'s public transportation system since it serves Amtrak trains, Metro commuter trains, and the Gold Line portion of the light rail system. Once at Union Station, take a moment to enjoy its 1939 vintage art deco interior. Travelers can also leave the station, cross Alameda Street, and stroll west to visit Olvera Street and El Pueblo Historical Monument and then north to Chinatown.

From Union Station, the Gold Line continues both northeast and southeast. Take the Gold Line northeast to Pasadena's Old Town, an excellent shopping and dining district that includes the Norton Simon Museum of Art and its small but excellent collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings and sculptures.

The Gold Line also runs southeast through Little Tokyo, with its many restaurants and shops, the Japanese American National Museum, a branch of the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA at the Geffen), and the David Henry Hwang Theatre.

Although southern Californians still depend largely on freeways for getting around, the relatively new light rail lines make it easier for both locals and tourists to get to more destinations without a car, taxi, or bus, and an all-day pass costs only \$6.

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