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News & Notices

Time to Prepare Grant Applications

Rich Dunham, *Chair, Grants & Fellowship Committee*

Have a project that would benefit from financial support? The USITT Grants & Fellowship Committee is seeking applications for new grant funding for projects to be carried out by members. While the application deadline is not until January 10, this is the time those considering a proposal need to think about the types of projects to be funded and how to make a successful application.

Any member of USITT may submit an application and participate in the Grants & Fellowships process. These programs provide funding for individuals interested in completing research in a specific area of study related to the design/technical elements of the entertainment industry. This may come through conducting research into historical or cultural elements of theatrical design and technology, exploration of significant (both known and unknown) theatre artists and crafts people, or research towards the development of a new technology.

The Grants & Fellowship program is open to all USITT members. In alternating years, it offers significant funding for either Project Grants or Fellowships. This year the committee will consider Grant projects. Grant applications will be accepted for the 2012 funding cycle until January 10, 2012. Anyone interested in the Fellowship program is encouraged to visit the [USITT website](#). Those interested may also contact any of the Grant & Fellowship Committee members.

For more than 25 years USITT has awarded grants and fellowship funding through the Edward F. Kook Fund. The fund was created specifically to provide assistance to USITT members who are fostering creativity in technical theatre practice. Through Edward Kook and the efforts and financial contributions of a number of other individuals, a special fund (the Edward F. Kook Fund) was created to provide these monetary resources.

More than \$250,000 has been provided to members to conduct a wide variety of research. While this funding provides the means of bringing an individual's research into reality, it benefits the rest of the membership and the industry. As a stipulation of receiving funding, researchers are expected to share their research with the rest of the membership and professional community through articles for *TD&T* and making panel presentations at national conferences.

Recent recipients of USITT Fellowship or Grant Funding have shared such diverse topics as touring and analyzing many of China's recently constructed, state-of-art performance facilities (Haibo Yu); exploring Bollywood and the Indian film industry's costume houses along with conducting personal interviews

with a number of leading Indian costume designers (Cheri Vasek and Deepsikha Chatterjee); and Robert Gerlach's research into the color rendering abilities of LEDs as a light source, which became a significant element of the Selador LED lighting system.

Individuals and corporate members interested in continuing this important mission of the Institute may make tax deductible contributions to the Edward F. Kook Fund by contacting the National Office at 800-938-7488, ext. 102 or making an [online contribution](#).

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Member Benefits: Savings on Conference Transportation

One of the great challenges for any Annual Conference & Stage Expo attendee is getting to the Conference site. From the classic road trip to navigating airports, the conference experience for most people begins with a trek. In recognition of that trek, USITT has worked to arrange discounts for members every step of the way.

United Airlines is the official air carrier of USITT's 52nd Annual Conference & Stage Expo. As one of the dominant



carriers into Los Angeles International and Orange County airports, United has schedules that can help get people from almost anywhere to the Conference. Use meeting code 588HO to receive a discount on roundtrip travel with United.

Once in the greater LA area, Super Shuttle can get you to Long Beach quickly and with a member discount. This discount, which is good year round

anywhere Super Shuttle operates, is 10 percent off a round trip booking. [Click here to go to Super Shuttle's page](#) and the discount code will already be populated. If you go to their website directly or use a travel professional, the discount code is PJP46.

Conference hotels in Long Beach give the lowest rate offered at the closest properties. All contracts guarantee that USITT members receive the lowest rate for the time they are staying. If there is a lower rate at these hotels, let the Staff know and they will work to get that rate honored for all members. It is part of the guarantee to members.

USITT's members are the strength and backbone of the organization. By working to help get people to Long Beach, the conference will be a great success.

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2012 Elections Start Mid-November

Sherry Wagner-Henry, *USITT Secretary, Nominations Committee Chair*

Electronic voting for 2012 Board of Directors positions will begin November 9. Current members will be notified by e-mail when voting opens, and be able to cast ballots until January 5, 2012. The ballot will include a brief biography and a position statement for each candidate. [Click here to read about current candidates and their position statements.](#)

Members who do not have access to electronic communication will receive paper ballots.

The USITT Nominations Committee presents the following slate for the 2012 election cycle.

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

Officers will serve three-year terms starting July 1.

Directors (six to be elected): Kasey Allee-Forman, Bill Browning, Paul Brunner, Alessia Carpoca, Jack Feivou, Raymond Kent, Michael Mehler, Linda Pisano, Brian Reed, Carolyn Satter, Tom Young

Those elected Directors will serve three-year terms beginning July 1, 2012.

Thanks to the 2011 Nominations Committee for recruiting candidates and stewarding applications through the nominations process. This is a time-intensive procedure that involves a great deal of thoughtful observation and ingenuity.

The committee strives to ensure that the future leadership of the Institute is



well-populated with candidates from all categories of membership, all areas of expertise, and all areas of geographic location, as well as experience with the organization, and other important modes of diverse thinking and representation.

An equal measure of thanks goes out to the candidates themselves, who have been made aware of the important work required of them if elected to these positions.

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[Deadline November 17 for Student Architects](#)

November 17 is the deadline for architectural and theatre students to apply for the "Ideal Theatre" Design Competition. Sponsored by American Seating and the American Society of Theatre Consultants, the competition has theatre students collaborating with architectural students as designers to create the idea performance space.

[Applications can be obtained online.](#) Winners will be announced at the Long Beach 2012 Conference & Stage Expo.

[PLASA Exhibitors Label Show 'Great Success'](#)

With preliminary visitor figures of over 12,000 and strong international engagement, organizers are delighted with the positive feedback to this year's PLASA 2011.

Visitors relished being first to get their hands on some of the industry's hottest new products. Over 500 products were launched at the show. PLASA 2011 also delivered an enhanced visitor experience, with many new interactive features drawing substantial crowds, including the STLD's LED luminaire shootout, the expanded Theatres Trust Ecovenue feature, and the new PLASA Production Bar in Earls Court 2.

The second PLASA Rigging Conference was attended by 175 delegates from 18 countries, some traveling from as far as Malaysia, Singapore, Sweden, Canada, the United States, Hong Kong, and Australia. More than 70 rigging professionals also turned out for the informal Riggers' Forum on Sunday afternoon.

[Download Award Winners Photos](#)

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WSD2013 to Focus on Modes of Exhibit

The application process to exhibit at World Stage Design 2013 has begun. The event will take place September 5 through 15 at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama in Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom.

The diversity of capturing design will be the theme of WSD2013. Not only an exhibition representing the work of individual designers, the event will create a center of activity for diversity, widening participation, and multicultural exchange making it relevant to the exhibitors. It will allow them to reflect on their individual practice in the context of global developments by meeting and sharing their work, process, and philosophy. WSD2013 will allow a wider audience of students, teachers, and the general public to experience and form a greater understanding of the work of those who create the performance environment.



Along with the traditional displays of models, photographs, costumes, and drawings that WSD has always offered, exhibitors will have the opportunity to propose new presentation techniques. Recognizing the role of not only the scenographer and set, costume, lighting, and sound designers but the nontraditional performance creator and visual artist, WSD2013 welcomes those who create live performance moments.

The exhibition is open to any designer wishing to apply. Each application will be by production; therefore a designer who designed set, costume, video, lighting, and sound on one production, would be charged one entry fee. All exhibition applicants will have work displayed in an online catalogue. If application exceeds the physical spaces available in Cardiff, a panel of international curators representing the OISTAT Scenography Commission will make a final selection. (This selection will focus on equal representation of nationality, fields of design, and aesthetic quality)

Download an application form at www.wsd2013.org. Digital entries and payment will be accepted January 15 through March 15, 2013.

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The Last Word:

A New Way to Go Green

Matt Kizer



An online database and ad system is now in place allowing theatre companies to exchange and reuse materials. The site was created and conceived by Matt Kizer at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire. It is called GreenTheatre.net and is a developing project with a committee of professionals from across the United States.

In 2008, I was the set designer for a production of *Into the Woods*. It was produced on our main stage, a 51-foot proscenium. It was a big set, done in a fairly traditional way for that show. A local high school was producing the same play a few months after us. We were able to give them a lot of scenery that we would otherwise have thrown away. It was nice to see so much scenery get used a second time.

In 2009, I was pleased to have this happen again, with another high school, after a production of *Oklahoma!* Informally, my technical director and I agreed that, whenever possible, we would try to find someone willing to take items off our hands rather than throw them away.

In 2011, I had the good fortune of attending the Plenary Session on Sustainable Production at the USITT Annual Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. Representatives from three different organizations discussed current efforts to develop more sustainable theatre practices.

Participants included Jeff Lemire and Anthony Runfola from Childsplay, a theatre company for young audiences in Arizona and a recipient of a Think It! Grant from TCG; Charles Deull, co-chair of the Broadway Green Alliance; and Richard Cuthbert, director of engineering and co-founder of Global Design Solutions. The panel discussed changes to design and production practices in order to reduce and reuse materials, and ways to instill more sustainable practices within the industry and in the everyday life of theatre patrons.



The themes I kept hearing revisited in this session were that we need to "...educate, motivate, and inspire the theatre community and its patrons to adopt environmentally friendly practices..." [paraphrased here from the Broadway Green Alliance's website]. The desire to share resources to cut down on consumption and cost kept coming through as well as the difficulties in getting sharing to work well.

That same morning, I also attended the meeting for New England Regional Section headed by Joseph Donovan. Sustainability was not the hot topic at that meeting, but a related topic was. Everyone wanted a way to share resources.

All theatres have some limit to their storage, whether it be for scenery, costumes, or props. We all make decisions at every strike about what to keep and what to throw away. From the sense of both environmental and financial responsibility, these choices are painful.

At the Plenary Session on Sustainable Production, *Craigslist* was discussed. People have experimented with sharing or selling scenery there. Unfortunately, it is a terrible tool for that. There are too many people selling every kind of thing on Craigslist. Theatre needs a tool that caters specifically to production needs. Though Craigslist might not be the right tool, the model itself might be just right.

In July 2010, I registered the domain name *GreenTheatre.net*. I had a mind to develop a discussion forum about environmentally friendly theatre. After this conference, I knew what sort of format was really needed. It needed to behave like *Craigslist*, but it needed to be just for theatre. This means a classified ads-style forum, where people can shop at the national level, but target items regionally if they choose. This forum is called *GreenList*.

GreenList is structured to be a centralized network of online theatre communities. It offers free online classified advertisements for the exchange of resources. Just go to GreenTheatre.net, and click on the big tab that says "GreenList."



North America is represented broken up into regions. Most of the regions are based on the regional sections of USITT. All 50 states are represented, and Ontario as well.

The website and the database, however, are only the very beginning needed to make this work. We work in an industry that is all about solving problems within short deadlines. Next month's show usually demands our attention more than thinking about our stock.

If GreenList had a thousand items already listed on it, ready to be picked up, everyone would be shopping on it right now. Designers would be examining what is available as they completed their designs. We could find something similar to what we want, and plan on modifying it or designing around it. High schools would start planning their seasons based on what the regional and

university theatres were producing first.

On my last two shows at Plymouth State University, I knew exactly what pieces would be GreenListed even before they were built. I put design drawings online before the show even opened. With enough traffic going through the site, a theatre could claim pieces before they are built, and pick them up at strike.


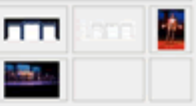
On the site, there are printable tags that read: "This Item Has Been GreenListed." At strike, we go through and attach one of these to every piece that is being listed as available online. The items then go into storage. For every piece we ask ourselves: Will we use it again soon? Are we willing to store it until then? If not, is it likely another theatre would claim it?

What has to happen now, though, is we need to get theatres using the site. There are some items listed now, but in order to get theatres using the site, we need to get a lot more items listed. This means promoting the site at conferences and festivals, and approaching theatres and technical directors.

Five people so far have committed to helping to promote GreenTheatre.net and GreenList. They are Ken Canfield with School of the Arts in Rochester, New York; Joseph Donovan with University of Maine; Max Lydy with University of North Carolina at Wilmington; Dave Reynolds with the Kings College Theatre Department; and me.

At this time, we are actively seeking people who are interested in promoting the site as committee members. We are also asking for all theatres--high school, regional, community, and university-- to subscribe to the site and begin listing stock. Any theatre or organization that chooses to endorse GreenTheatre.net regularly in its programs or publications will be listed within its region on GreenList.

Home >> New England >> New Hampshire >> **Cut drop from the musical, Chicago**

Item details		add to favorites
Category	New Hampshire	
Created	03-25-2011	
Owner	mlibzer	
Title	Cut drop from the musical, Chicago	
Description	We have a soft cut drop from the musical Chicago. It is a triple-portal that simply framed our cyc. Art Deco style. See picture attached. 46" x approx. 32" high. Welding, gronomets, pipe-pockets in each leg. I am waiting to find out exactly what the terms will be with my school this coming Wednesday. I will update the ad at that time. I won't know whether it will be for sale or free until then, but I will say this could easily be shipped, if the recipient paid that cost.	
Price		
Promotion level	None	
Flag this Posting Reply to posting Email to a friend		

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The Cling as 'Bling'

We thank USITT Treasurer Travis DeCastro for passing along this photo of how he is displaying his USITT Member window cling. Not only do we enjoy seeing what his view looks like, but we appreciate knowing that his "cling" is showing those passing by that he is proud of his membership.



Want to share your view, or how your cling is used, with *Sightlines* readers? Just take a photo and send it along to barbara@office.usitt.org.

Special Fun at Master Classes

Former President Carl Lefko showed off his special talents not as a designer, but as a master of barbecue as a special part of the 2011 Southeast Regional Section Master Classes.

While Carl was the master chef, reports are that he was ably assisted by Clif and Sylvia Hillyard Pannell. For this special occasion, Sylvia even had a cake created to help fly the USITT Southeast colors!



Grindle at Southeast

We will include a more complete report on the serious side of the Southeast Master Classes in an upcoming issue of *Sightlines*, but until then, reports from all in attendance, including USITT Executive Director David Grindle, are that the facilities at the University of Georgia in Athens and host Rich Dunham were outstanding!



Richard Pilbrow 'Knighted'

Richard Pilbrow was honored as part of the 2011 PLASA show in London. Mr. Pilbrow received a standing ovation when he was honored for his lifetime of work as a lighting designer from the West End in the 1950s to the new National Theatre and beyond.

Mr. Pilbrow is the fourth person to receive the Knight of Illumination award. In announcing the award, designer Durham Marengi said Mr. Pilbrow had inspired several generations of lighting designers ever since establishing the United Kingdom's first lighting design company in 1957.

At the podium, Mr Pilbrow said, "We lighting designers have been rather belatedly seeking a little more recognition. When I began, nobody really wanted me at all."

Each winner receives the traditional Knight of Illumination trophy, an authentic medieval battle sword hand made in Toledo, Spain.

Scenofest Images

We have had several people comment on the dramatic images which accompanied the report on Scenofest in the *October issue of Sightlines*. We thank Chris Van Gothem for both taking the photos and allowing us to use them.

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HSN: HSN Welcomed

We welcome **HSN**, based in Florida, as a new Contributing member of USITT. Rick Juliano, director of sets and lighting, is the contact person for the Florida-based television network.

Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.: Executive VP Recognized, Legacy Equipment Used in Anniversary Production

Helen Meyer, executive vice president of Berkeley, Calif.-based **Meyer Sound**, was recognized with the 2011 InfoComm International Women in AV Award. At ceremonies held on September 23 in conjunction with the InfoComm 100 conference in Portland, Oregon, Ms. Meyer accepted the accolade with the other winner this year, Erin Bolton, partner and strategic development for Pivot Communications. Now in its third year, the Women in AV Award acknowledges female AV industry professionals who represent a strong entrepreneurial spirit and excellence in technology management.

Along with her husband John Meyer, Ms. Meyer co-founded Meyer Sound in 1979. In her role as executive vice president of the privately held professional audio manufacturer, she is principally responsible for the operations, sales, and marketing, as well as the long-term growth strategies of the company. Meyer Sound products are used by some of the best-known names in music and entertainment including Metallica, Céline Dion, and Cirque du Soleil.

She has received numerous awards including a Citation from the Audio

Engineering Society and “Woman of Distinction” from the *East Bay Business Times*. Honors shared with John Meyer include the MIPA Lifetime Achievement Award and the USITT Harold Burris-Meyer Distinguished Career in Sound Award. Among her many professional and community activities, she serves as a board member of the Berkeley Repertory Theatre and the Mark Morris Dance Group.

The Broadway classic comedy *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* has been recently resurrected in a 50th anniversary production at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre in New York City. For sound reinforcement, the non-powered UPA-1C loudspeakers, a Meyer Sound legacy product which was released in the early 1990s and is longer in production, was specified.

The UPA-1C loudspeaker was a favorite among sound designers before Meyer Sound pioneered self-powered loudspeakers in the mid-1990s to incorporate onboard amplifiers, processing, and control circuits. Many of Meyer Sound’s self-powered systems have since become a staple in touring sound and on Broadway, including the UPA-1P, the self-powered version of the UPA-1C loudspeaker.

Production Resource Group (PRG) provided the UPA-1C system. Its large Meyer Sound inventory also includes a number of newer products that are regularly heard on Broadway shows.

The present incarnation of the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* stars Daniel Radcliffe (of “Harry Potter” fame) as J. Pierrepont Finch, a window washer who climbs the corporate ladder thanks to Shepherd Mead’s satirical self-help book of the same name.

More information about Meyer Sound is available at: telephone, 510-486-1166; fax, 510-486-8356; e-mail: winnie@meyersound.com; www.meyersound.com.

Creative Stage Lighting: Named Outstanding Distributor

Creative Stage Lighting was named Outstanding New Avolites Distributor nearly six months after Avolites announced Creative Stage Lighting as its exclusive distributor in the United States. CSL sales director Kevin Loretto accepted the award during the PLASA 2011 show.



Phillips Group: Miller Named North American Sales Manager

In order to continue its worldwide operational realignment, **Philips Strand Lighting and Philips Selecon** has appointed industry-veteran Leonard Miller as North American sales manager.

Based in the Dallas, Texas headquarters, Mr. Miller has 25 years of professional experience in sales, operations, and technical production for live entertainment and events including theme parks and attractions, trade shows, museums, sports, television, film, and cruise lines. He will work closely with Julie Smith, general commercial manager, and Pete Borchetta, product marketing manager, to form the leadership team to guide Philips Strand and Selecon North American Sales and Marketing.

Additionally, Kara O'Grady was named Mid-Atlantic regional sales manager, covering the Mid-Atlantic Region of New York City, Long Island, New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Washington D.C., and Virginia. She has an extensive resume in the professional lighting industry which includes East Coast sales manager for Rosco Labs and Production Resource Group's Systems Integration Division. She received her BFA in lighting design and technical production from North Carolina School of the Arts, and then worked as an assistant lighting designer for the Opera Company of Philadelphia. She has been a lighting designer and programmer for many theater, dance, television, and corporate events throughout the east coast.

For the complete listing of Sales and Marketing team for Philips Strand Lighting and Philips Selecon North America, please visit www.strandlighting.com.

J. R. Clancy, Inc.: Pirate Antics Aided by Rigging 'Magic'

Two life-sized pirate ships, bands of swashbucklers sword fighting across a 15-foot-deep lagoon, sails unfurling, and props descending from the sky—there's nothing like a major family entertainment attraction to challenge every aspect of theatrical production.

So when Mike Compton of Pirates Voyage took on the challenge of bringing the new attraction to life in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, he knew he needed the rigging experts from J. R. Clancy, Inc. To raise and lower the massive set pieces, Clancy supplied 11 custom-built, variable-speed drum hoists, each with 750-pound capacity and a blazing top speed of 416 feet per minute. With seating on every side of the arena, the hoists would be in full view at all times, so the hoists are mounted to the side of the catwalks, and diverting loft blocks are mounted from the roof steel to get the lines to drop in the proper locations. There are four types of hoists, each designed differently to get the proper space and capacity requirements for the different scenic elements. The hoists lower such pirate-specific props as anchors, skeletons, and a throne into view at dramatic speeds to delight the audience.

More information about J. R. Clancy, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Wenger

Corporation, is available at www.jrclancy.com, or by calling 800-836-1885.

Rose Brand: Offers Embossing Process, New Scholarship

Rose Brand's new Foil Embossing process turns ordinary fabric into a custom creation with intricate metallic patterns that reflect light magnificently. Customers can design their own pattern or select from Rose Brand's in-stock items. The process works on almost any fabric up to 54 inches wide, including stretch fabrics. Both the foil and the adhesive are flame retardant. Rose Brand's most popular stock patterns are the **Crackle Tendo** and the **Sparkle Tendo**. These patterns work great for creating eye-catching stretch shapes. [Click here for more information](#), or call a Rose Brand sales representative.

Rose Brand has created the Rose Brand Scholarship Program to award \$5,000 to a student. A Rose Brand credit for \$2,500 will also be given to the student's school to help enhance the theatre program. The scholarship is intended for students who wish to pursue a career in scenic design, theatre direction, or scenic art. Applications are now available. [Visit Rose Brand's Facebook page](#) for more information on how to apply.

ETC: ETC Congo lights up Moscow Art Theater Named for Chekhov

The Moscow Art Theater named for A.P. Chekhov has been a staple of Russian theatre in some form since its first performance in 1898. With a repertoire of both foreign classics and Russian favorites, the Moscow Art Theater also stays true to its namesake, staging the highest caliber productions of Chekhov's works. To ensure the lighting for the shows shines as brightly as the stars on stage, the Moscow Art Theater employs an **ETC** lighting system.

In 2003, the theatre's old system was replaced with ETC products including two ETC Congo control consoles at its forefront.

Since 2004, the lighting for every show on the main stage has been controlled by the Congo consoles, including recent products such as *The Humpbacked Horse*, *Three-Cent Opera*, *Pickwick Club*, *These Ghosts* and *The Cherry Orchard*. The Moscow Art Theater's current season is packed with performances and tours, and the ETC system guarantees spectacular lighting every step of the way.



These Ghosts at the Moscow Art Theater named for A.P. Chekhov.

Photo/Yekaterina Tsvetkova

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California Lutheran University: New Sustaining Member

USITT welcomes **California Lutheran University** as a new Sustaining member of the Institute. Cal Lutheran heard about USITT through their Regional Section. To learn more about the university, and its Thousand Oaks campus, visit

www.callutheran.edu

Theatre Projects: Celebrate Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts Opening

Theatre Projects, in collaboration with architect Moshe Safdie and acoustician Nagata Acoustics, designed and planned the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts which opened September 16 in the heart of Kansas City, Missouri. Theatre Projects played the lead role in theatre design and planning as well as in engineering the customized theatre equipment. BNIM in Kansas City served as the executive architect.

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is a world-class arts space featuring two distinct performance spaces that will serve as home to the Kansas City Ballet, Kansas City Symphony, and Lyric Opera of Kansas City. The 1,800-seat Kauffman Theatre, a proscenium theatre for opera and dance, draws inspiration from the great opera houses of Europe. Balconies wrap around the auditorium to create ideal proximity and sight lines for the audience. The space gives the audience the sense of an intimate performance yet still feels grand.

The 1,600-seat Helzberg Hall, designed for symphonic music, deploys another successful form, only recently rediscovered: the vineyard concert hall, an arena-

type space that places the musicians in the very heart of the room with the audience seating in terraces (reminiscent of a vineyard) encircling the concert platform. The sedate wood tone and fluid shape of the concert hall give the impression of a curved musical instrument and follows the exterior shape of the building.

Richard Pilbrow, Theatre Projects' founder and early Kauffman Center project leader, said, "Both the Kauffman Theatre and Helzberg Hall combine outstanding acoustics, fine and spacious stages, and state-of-the-art theatre technology while creating unparalleled intimacy"

Michael Ferguson, Theatre Projects project manager for the Kauffman Center, said, "The two rooms have very distinct characters. Helzberg Hall, with its curves and wood tones, feels like a classical guitar while the Kauffman Theatre plays like an electric guitar with vibrant colors and dynamic shapes. The two together in one facility are perfect complements."

Theatre Projects began planning a world-class performing arts center in Kansas City with Julia Kauffman and the Muriel B. Kaufman Foundation in 1999. Working closely with the Safdie team as well as Nagata Acoustics, Theatre Projects developed the Kauffmans' vision into a balance of cutting edge technology and intimate performance space that offers virtually unlimited experiences. The center also includes warm-up rooms, administrative offices, and support spaces.

Theatre Projects team consisted of Mr. Pilbrow; Mr. Gerguson; Brian Hall and Carol Allen, theatre designers; and Michael Nishball, theatre equipment designer.

Theatre technology and equipment were provided by [JR Clancy](#) (theatrical rigging), [Gala Systems](#) (theatrical lifts), [Theatre Solutions, Inc](#) (theatrical seating), and [ETC](#) (Theatrical dimming & control).

Sapsis Rigging, Inc.: Rigging Company Reaches Milestone

Bill Sapsis, president of **Sapsis Rigging, Inc.** is astonished, ecstatic, flabbergasted, overjoyed, relieved, tickled pink, and downright thrilled to announce that Sapsis Rigging, Inc. is celebrating its 30th anniversary. Mr. Sapsis noted he began the company in 1981 on a Friday the 13th, in the middle of a recession. "I figured, what the hell, I had nowhere to go but up, so why not start a rigging company?"

From its humble beginnings in the basement of Mr. Sapsis's home in the Manayunk section of Philadelphia, Sapsis Rigging soon graduated to a shop that was not so affectionately dubbed "The Dungeon." A succession of increasingly more pleasant locations led to the 20,000-square-foot permanent home the company now enjoys -- right across the street from a cemetery.

Sapsis Rigging has always been committed to providing the best products and services and the safest installations to its customers. Over the years, the company has been involved in a variety of interesting and high-profile projects.

"None of these projects would have been possible," noted Bill, "without the hard work and dedication of the SRI staff and crew. This includes the full time folks and the freelancers. Over the years, we've been very fortunate to have some of the best of the best work for us, and I am very grateful for their contributions."

For more information, contact Bill Sapsis at bill@sapsis-rigging.com.

Acuity Brands/Pathway Connectivity, Inc.: Acuity Brands Acquires Pathway Connectivity, Inc.

Acuity Brands, a market leader in innovative energy-efficient lighting, control, and daylighting solutions, announced it has acquired **Pathway Connectivity, Inc.** Pathway is a leading manufacturer of networked data communications and interface equipment for architectural and entertainment lighting control applications world-wide. Established in 1985 and based in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Pathway designs and manufactures innovative electronics that enable lighting control systems to communicate with intelligent lighting fixtures and power devices, even when those products utilize different communications protocols. Terms of the cash acquisition were not disclosed and the acquisition is not expected to materially impact Acuity Brands future consolidated financial results.

Pathway made its debut as part of Acuity Brands at the LDI2011 Trade Show and Conference in Orlando, Florida, October 28 to 30.

For additional information, visit Acuity Brands at www.acuitybrands.com and Pathway at www.pathwayconnect.com.

Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.: Offer Software Events Throughout U.S.

Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc. will present the Vectorworks 2012 tour in the United States beginning November 1. Designers in the architecture, landscape, and entertainment design industries will have the opportunity to attend events throughout the month to experience hands-on test drives of Vectorworks 2012 software.

These events are free, and attendees can receive three AIA, LA CES, or APLD continuing education learning units as well as discounts on Vectorworks software training. Members of the software subscription program Vectorworks Service Select will receive 20 percent off training purchases, and non-members will receive 10 percent off training purchases made at the events.

The events will take place in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland and San Rafael, California; Columbia, Maryland; Boston, Massachusetts; New York, New York; and Seattle, Washington. Designers can choose between three-hour classroom or virtual online training sessions, or they can attend a user group meeting in each location to learn about the new features in Vectorworks 2012 software and get a sneak peek into other design solution partners such as DeckWorks Outdoor Living by Trex, Include Censeo and Asset, SCIA Engineer, AR-works and MAXON CINEMA 4D.

For more information and to register, visit www.vectorworks.net/testdrives.

Checkers Industries: Company Adds Slip Protection

Guard Dog Low Profile Cable Protectors are now available with added traction from **Checkers Industries**. They are available with an optional carpet kit with Velcro fasteners and/or anti-slip rubber pads for use on smooth surfaces. For more information, visit www.cableprotector.com.

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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

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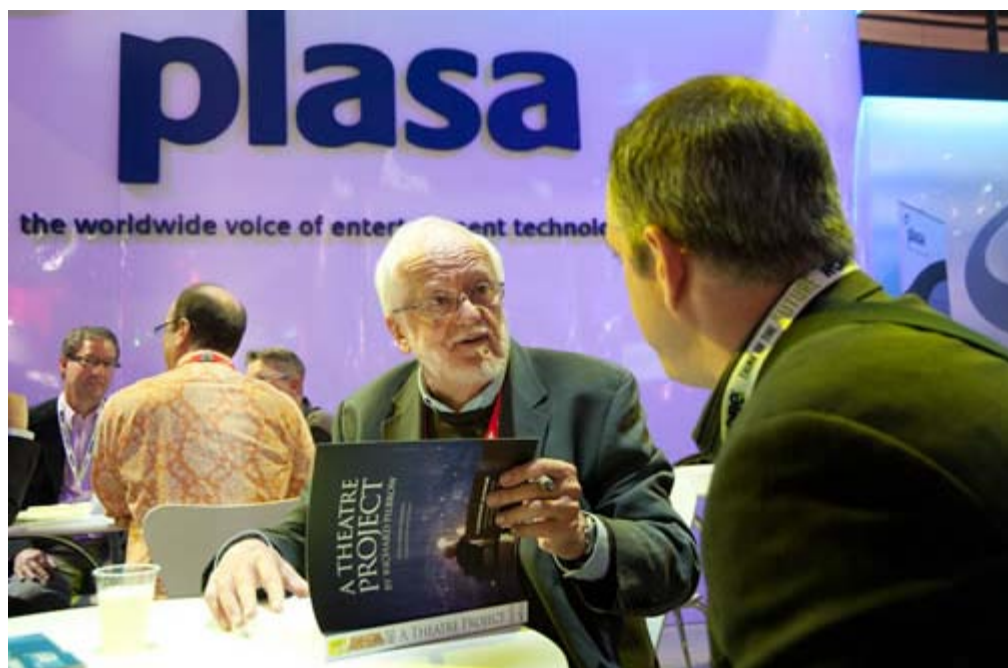
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News From **Joe Aldridge**, *USITT President* Connections Made, Renewed



Richard Pilbrow, renowned theatre consultant, producer, and USITT Fellow, signs copies of his new book at PLASA in September.

Photo/Courtesy PLASA

On the day that the last issue of *Sightlines* was made public, I received e-mails from several of the folks that I met at the CITT Rendezvous thanking me for the mention of my experiences in Victoria. Once again, I extend my congratulations to CITT, its officers, and its members for hosting such a wonderful experience for me and other attendees.

September 10 through 14, I traveled to London to attend my first PLASA conference. USITT purchased a booth, and so I joined David, Monica, and Barbara to staff it. It also gave me an opportunity to help recruit potential new exhibitors for our conference. We had a number of USITT members attending and a number of former exhibitors who welcomed the personal invitation to renew their membership. Potentially, we will see at least a half-dozen new exhibitors in Long Beach. While similar to LDI, PLASA has a unique quality that other conferences do not possess. It seems that most exhibitors were thoughtful enough to host an open bar in their booths. Happy hour was from opening to close of the exhibit floor. I was asked who had the Guinness more often than I

was asked directions to any particular booth!

I wish to offer my congratulations to USITT member and Fellow Richard Pilbrow for being selected for the Association of Lighting Designers 2011 Knight of Illumination Lifetime Achievement Award. Well done! Richard attended PLASA and was signing copies of his book, which he will also do at the Long Beach 2012 Conference & Stage Expo.

During October, the Institute will prepare for the November Board meeting, which is to be held in Syracuse. The Board meeting will occur on Friday, November 11 with the full Board in attendance. On Saturday, various committees will convene for the morning and a Board retreat will be held in the evening. This meeting will not be available via teleconference since it is a scheduled meeting.

The rigging safety initiative is moving along very well, and we are preparing to begin accepting applications for the third round of submissions. If you know of any secondary school in your area that would benefit from a rigging assessment, encourage them to apply. We are looking forward to continuing this program and aiding needy programs. There is no reason that the future practitioners of our art should have to learn under potentially dangerous conditions.

If you happen to have been at LDI, I hope that you took the opportunity to drop by the booth and visit with the staff and officers representing 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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Southwest: Winter Symposium Slated January 14 to 15

The Southwest Regional Section is preparing for its annual winter symposium to be held on the campus of Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. Two days of workshops are planned over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend January 14 to 15 with a get together on the evening of January 13. Scheduled are hands-on workshops in scene painting, foam carving, wig ventilation, rendering techniques, mask making, rigging, WZYWIG, and tech olympics. A special invitation is extended to the Section's neighbors in the Heart of America Regional Section. Check the Southeast website at USITT-SW.org for current information.

Ohio Valley: Ohio Valley Section's Conference a Hit!

The Ohio Valley Regional Section had a very successful Conference September 24 at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania. The Peggy Ezekiel Design Exhibit had a strong showing of entries. The list of awards can be seen on the [Ohio Valley website](#).

The Conference hosted a wide range of presenters from Vincent Lighting sessions on moving light maintenance and lighting rental package assessment to Ray Kent from Westlake Reed Leskosky's session on 3D projections. Other hot topics included Blogging and Storyboarding, Flying FX, and Google docs.



OVS extends huge thanks to Michael Mehler, Jim Summerfield, Scott Choffel, and Allegheny College for hosting this year's conference. Thanks also go to the

Ezekiel Committee, adjudicators, student volunteers, and all the Board Members who contributed to the success of the Peggy Ezekiel Exhibit and the conference.

The spring event this year will be a Digital Photography for the Stage workshop with William Kenyon from Penn State University in his new photo lab. Bring a camera and learn how to get the most out of each and every production photo. Keep checking the website for updates on this exciting event.



The OVS National Conference Scholarship is available. This scholarship is intended for students who plan on attending the Annual USITT Conference & Stage Expo as an educational opportunity to further their career goals. This year the awarded amount will be \$500. For an application and all the rules and regulations, visit the [Ohio Valley Website](#).

For Suggestions on future programming for OVS, contact Tammy Honesty or Brian Morgan at usittohiovalley@gmail.com.

Photos/Elynmarie Kazle

Heart of America: Exciting Fall Workshops

Approximately 25 participants attended the Heart Of America Regional Sections's Fall Workshops at Avila University in Kansas City, Missouri. Workshops included a history and current technology of fall arrest systems by Mark Damon of Process Marketing Group; model making by Robbie Jones of the University of Nebraska, Omaha; DMX troubleshooting by Rick McConnell of Kansas City's XS Lighting; rigging load calculations by Ben Stark of Kansas State University; using theatre skills for other industries by Michael Downs of Downsart; entrepreneurship and stage weapons by Ed Baker of Wichita State University; and Michael Downs, Ben Stark, and Darren Levin of Kansas State presenting various portfolio techniques and examples. Saturday's events were followed by several members seeing *August: Osage County* at Kansas City Repertory Theatre at UMKC.



Photo/Mark Putman

Northern Boundary: Cross-Section Invitations

Members of the Northern Boundary Regional Section were invited to participate in the recent Midwest section event. Sherry Wagner-Henry, a NBS member noted, " It's always a pleasure to participate in events of the Institute and get to know more of our colleagues from around the country--extending an opportunity to folks who are already geographically close is a great way to build even further on that spirit of collegiality. I wish I could participate, but our son is turning seven years old that day and already has a birthday bash planned. I love American Players Theatre and often forget what a wonderful resource it is at just a few hours away. Many thanks for thinking of us."

Chesapeake: Holds 22nd Stage Expo, Mini Conference

On September 24, the Chesapeake Regional Section celebrated its 22nd annual Stage Expo and Mini Conference at Towson University in Towson, Maryland. Chris Ashworth, founder of Figure 53 (Qlab), was the keynote speaker and stayed for a very well attended Q and A session.

There were over a dozen workshops ranging from specialized puppet construction to Photoshop for scenery to USITT chapters on College Campuses. For the second year, the "Nano Reach, No Riders" rain gutter regatta fundraising event took place to raise money for Behind the Scenes. This year, riders for Long Reach, Long Riders were on site along with Moe Conn's Harley to help with some additional fundraising for the Section to contribute to Behind the Scenes.

Newly elected officers include Gregg Schraven of University of Maryland-Baltimore County as Treasurer and Moe Conn of Community College of Baltimore as Member at Large. The Section thanked Gregg Hillmar for many years of service, most recently as Treasurer, and Randy Whitcomb for four years as Member at Large. Both are moving to new positions with the Board in Committee work for Membership and Planning, respectively. The Section would also like to thank the vendors that attended and helped make this Expo possible: AKT3, Barbizon, 4Wall, Parlights, and Vectorworks.

Announcements will be going out soon for the evening meeting at USITT's Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach and for the date and location of the 2012 Chesapeake Expo. The section thanks all those who attended, and notes that "if you couldn't, we will see you next time!"

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

A Word Is a Word Is a Word – Or is it?



Big or little, words (and elephants) can fool you.

Photo/David Grindle

A friend of mine specializes in the cultural interactions of people. She teaches at Indiana University, and when I was at IU I had most of the stage managers take a course called "Cross-Cultural Communication." This course focused on the various cultures in the United States and how words mean different things to different people, even in the same country or organization.

We see this all of the time when communicating with people in other "English" speaking nations. My friend, Antonia Collins, lives in Wales. We spent an evening around the dinner table talking about words that have vastly different meanings. Some are funny. Pants in the U.S. are worn over your underwear; pants in the United Kingdom *are* your underwear. So when I said, "I've ripped my pants," the urgency wasn't as apparent until I corrected myself and said trousers.

Other times, the meanings are not so funny in their difference. A plan, any plan, in the U.K. can be referred to as a scheme. Those of us in the U.S. treat that word with very negative overtones. So, when my U.K. friends were discussing a tax scheme, it took me a bit to grasp that no one was upset a scheme was going on! It became my favorite word to play with much to the annoyance of

some of the folks around me.

In theatre we see this cross cultural communication breakdown as well. I am an eight-crayon person. As a stage manager it worked well; basic colors describe the world for me. But when I tried to "speak designer" and said something was teal, the designer almost lost his mind. "There's no *teal* anywhere in this entire show!" Oops, I should have stuck with blue or green. Apparently there are lots of names for the marriage of the two, and I picked the wrong one.

As I type this on a computer to go out in an electronic newsletter, I have to remind myself that the written language is one of the things that catapulted us towards the Renaissance and brilliant discovery. Words mean something. I jokingly said to a person recently, "That's a policy with a lowercase p," meaning unofficial. I was told, in the same manner, that there were no lower case p policies. We often get in to moments of frustration or downright anger with our colleagues in this world because they use a word that means one thing to us and another to them. But then we don't sort out what the problem is.

Think about the moment of confusion you encounter every day because you use a simple word, and it is misinterpreted. The theatre world is full of them (brace, practical, distressed, physical), and they lead to more frustration because each of us attaches details and meaning that are personal to us that the receiver may not be aware of.

One final example. A friend was an Assistant Stage Manager on a production of *Aida* (the opera, not the musical). Several times in the first dress with animals, he told a rather famous singer she would need to move; there was an elephant coming through. The singer remained where she was. Finally, the pachyderm came through nudging the artist out of the way, and the singer turned to the ASM and said, "You didn't say it was a *big* elephant!" True story; I swear it. But it's all about the words.



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

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

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Wyoming: Student Chapter Sponsors Local Charity Event

The Wyoming Student Chapter of USITT was recently honored by an anonymous donor who provided a sponsorship of the Wyoming Downs Syndrome Association's Annual Buddy Walk on behalf of the Wyoming USITT Student Chapter.

The Wyoming USITT Chapter was delighted to take part in this heartening event. Throughout the day, members participated as volunteers serving free popcorn, snow cones, and cotton candy to well over 1,000 participants. The student chapter was supported by theatre and dance faculty as well as fellow students.



The Buddy Walk was developed by the National Down Syndrome Society in 1995 to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October and to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome. The Buddy Walk has grown from 17 walks in 1995 to nearly 300 walks planned for 2011 worldwide. In 2010, more than \$11.2 million was raised nationwide to benefit local programs and services, as well as the national advocacy and public awareness initiatives of NDSS that benefit all individuals with Down syndrome.

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Conference & Stage Expo

'Entertainment Capital' Offers Much to Explore

Brian Alan Reed, *Long Beach Promotions Coordinator*

Plans for the 2012 Conference & Stage Expo include some exciting conference sessions that will take advantage of Long Beach's location within the "Entertainment Capital of the World." These panel discussions and presentations promise to inform USITT members about the many avenues for creativity and careers in southern California.

Costumers can look forward to a couple of distinctive sessions: one about dancing celebrities and one about robotic "performers." The first will focus on what's involved in designing for television's *Dancing with the Stars*. (Wondering what *really* happened with that whole Nancy Grace debacle in September? Find out from someone who *really* knows.) By contrast, there will be a session entitled *Costuming on the Move with Disney Animatronics*. Join Disney's creative costuming team as they discuss and demonstrate specialized costume and cosmetology techniques used for animatronic figures that depict characters from both live action and animated features. Attend both sessions and perhaps answer the question "Which is closer to reality?"

Design and Production on Cruise Ships could present a nice break from landlocked productions. The panelists will talk about recent projects including installations on the locally-docked *Queen Mary*. Learn about the challenges of working in a venue on the high seas: What's different, what works, and what doesn't?

For theatre architects and their prospective clients, there will be a thought-provoking session called, *Now That You Have What You Wanted, Is It What You Want?* There are many elements at play when a new live performance venue comes together: egos, desires, politics, money, logistics, and more. Now that the venue is built, is it what the clients really wanted?

Theatre consultants and end-users will look back at the process and discuss how the venue is actually used today. Along these same lines, on Wednesday afternoon, March 28, there will be tours led by the designers and users of the Clayes Performing Arts Center at Cal State Fullerton, including its 800-seat concert hall, 250-seat thrust theatre, and 150-seat black box theatre.

Designing for film and television has been a hot topic at previous Long Beach conferences, and the 2012 version will provide at least a couple of sessions on production design and art direction. Scenic designer, production designer, and

educator John Iacovelli will chair a panel on *Theatre Designers Working in Film and Television*. This will be an opportunity to learn how theatrical designers made the transition to the big and the small screens. The differences in the demands and expectations of each medium will be investigated. Panelists will discuss their training and what they wish they had known when they were starting out. There also will be a separate session entitled, *Conversations with Members of the Art Directors' Guild*.

Curious about the "big picture" when it comes to entertainment production? There are some exciting sessions being planned. These include back-to-back sessions chaired by Patricia MacKay: *Coming Up with the Big Idea* and *Making the Big Idea Real*. The first seeks to answer "How does a design come together when there is no script, or the writers are the last to know?" Learn first about this process as experienced professionals discuss their recent collaborative projects. Then learn in the second session about how to get it built on time and on budget. Panelists will discuss recently completed, high-profile projects as real-life case studies, such as 'Beyond All Boundaries' at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans and "King Kong in 3D" at Universal Studios.

Another "big picture" session in the works for Long Beach is *A Mouse, A Duck, and Seven Dwarves—The Production Pro*. Making magic for millions of guests and audience members each year takes a lot more than pixie dust and happy thoughts in the Magic Kingdom. Learn about Disney's production process, and how they take an idea from concept to reality at the highest level of professionalism and execution.

These are just some of the many and varied sessions that will take advantage of the special resources and expertise that southern California can provide. Make plans to join us in Long Beach and expect to be enlightened — and even entertained — along the way.

For more complete information on the more than 200 sessions to be offered at the 2012 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach from March 28 to 31, visit www.usitt.org/2012 and click on the sessions link.

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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

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Conference & Stage Expo

Stage Expo Moving Closer

Helen Willard, *Stage Expo Sales Manager*



In addition to exhibiting at Stage Expo, many companies and organizations sponsor and present programs at the conference. Some programs are co-sponsored by USITT Commissions and exhibitors; other sessions are developed by the Commissions with exhibitor personnel as presenters.

Several of these were described in the August issue of *Sightlines*. Here are brief descriptions of some additional sessions which will be presented by exhibitors in Long Beach from March 28 to 31.

- **New Transducer Technology Enhancing the Theatre Experience**

Sponsored by Alcons Audio

The seminar will explain in a popular, scientific way the history and background of this "new" transducer technology for reproducing mid- and high-frequencies, enabling HiFi sound at theatre sound pressure levels. Learn why performing arts theatres around the globe are adopting this technology for sound reinforcement. Practical applications are explained with real world implementations.

- **Static & Video Projection of Video on Your Stage**

Sponsored by Apollo Design Technology

Video and gobo projections are terrific visual environments for a show but require some new and "mysterious" equipment as well as design

consideration. This panel will discuss and demonstrate various tools from readily available equipment to digital content that the lighting designer has available to project various design elements on the stage. The discussion will include designers' experiences about how they integrated video and static projections in their shows.

- **Rigging Fundamentals**

Sponsored by JR Clancy

Join JR Clancy for a discussion on rigging basics, techniques, and tips. Topics will include counterweight rigging operation, inspection and maintenance, show and scenery rigging for a counterweight house, and a question and answer session.

- **Projection & Effects Done the Easy Way**

Sponsored by Rosco

Media servers, HD video, and LED curtains step aside. Creating layered projections with gobos is still the most common and successful way to add depth and detail to stage lighting. Explore the range of tools available to build exciting and creative lighting effects with conventional tools such as glass gobos, custom slides, rotators, and animation wheels.

- **New Language of Color**

Sponsored by Rosco

In a new world of lighting, specifying color choices is much more than the once simple act of choosing a gel number from a swatchbook. Whether dialing in CYM values in a moving light, defining palettes on a console, or attempting to match an LED fixture to a par 64, the event will de-mystify the science and process of these new languages of color.

- **Alternative Projection Screen Materials**

Sponsored by RoseBrand

Projection has gained widespread use in theater and the entertainment industry. This session will look at a range of alternative materials that can be used as projection surfaces. Traditional and new screen surfaces will be discussed as well as what to look for in a surface to get good results without blowing the budget. Some unusual fabrics have been used as projection surfaces with interesting results.

Plan to join the Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach March 28 to 31 for these and many other sessions. Exhibitors interested in submitting a proposal for an exhibitor-sponsored program at the 2013 Conference & Stage Expo in Milwaukee should contact Helen Willard at hwillard@aol.com for more information.

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