

usitt

# Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

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[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)**Art Abounds in Long Beach**

When USITT visitors reach Southern California in March, there will be plenty of choices for outside activities, both close at hand and a bit farther afield. [more »](#)

**Member Benefits**

New alliance with Delta means even more choices for Conference visitors. [more »](#)

**Online Nominations open for 2013 Elections**

Even as electronic voting for 2012 Board of Directors positions continues, members can nominate for positions on the 2013 slate. [more »](#)

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**Giving "green" another look**

Implementing reuse and in educational settings brings rewards in many ways. [more »](#)

**Thinking about Milwaukee**

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**Build Knowledge at Electrical Workshop**

Experts provide information, and ETCP renewal credits, too. [more »](#)

**Stellar Programming for Costumers**

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Conference &amp; Stage Expo

## Theatre and Art on View in Southern California

**Brian Alan Reed** *Long Beach Promotions Coordinator*



The main entrance of the Long Beach Museum of Art is a nice walk down Ocean Boulevard from the Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center.

*Photo/Destinations Magazine*

When planning to attend USITT's 2012 Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach, California, consider what productions will be featured at local theatres and what art exhibits will be on view at nearby art museums. While there is a seemingly endless list of theatre and art events in southern California during the conference week, here are a few suggestions about what might be worthwhile.

About 25 miles north of Long Beach, at The Music Center in downtown Los Angeles, the **Center Theatre Group** will produce two very different shows. The Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles' Tony Award-winning regional theatre, will offer its interpretation of Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, March 14 to April 22. For something considerably different, direct from Broadway, there is Green Day's *American Idiot*, performing right next door at the Ahmanson Theatre, March 13 to April 22. This show is described as "a highly theatrical and

thoroughly satisfying rock opera that burns up the stage.” Also at The Music Center, in the Walt Disney Concert Hall, pianist Andre Watts will be performing with the [Los Angeles Philharmonic](#) on March 30 to April 1.

[South Coast Repertory](#) in Costa Mesa, is Orange County’s own Tony Award-winning regional theatre. SCR, which is 21 miles south of Long Beach, will feature plays by two contemporary playwrights. The *Prince of Atlantis* by Steven Drukman, running March 30 to April 29, is set in Boston and is “all about family, loyalty, and love.” *Sight Unseen* by Donald Margulies, running March 11 to April 1, is about a trend-setting artist who, while visiting England for an exhibit, seeks out his first love and early source of inspiration hoping to rediscover what made him an artist in the first place.

The city of Long Beach features two distinctive art museums. [The Long Beach Museum of Art](#) is reasonably close to the Long Beach Convention Center, only a mile-and-a-half walk south along Ocean Drive. The LBMA has no special exhibits on view during the conference week, but the museum’s “prized permanent collection includes approximately 3,000 paintings, drawings, sculptures, works on paper, and decorative arts objects.”

[The Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach](#), only a mile northeast from the convention center, will feature two exhibits. *Project Room: Marco Maggi* is an exhibition that “will consist of various sculptural installations reflecting his interest in mapping, anthropology and language. Maggi is best known for his use of everyday and industrial materials such as Plexiglas, acrylic, aluminum foil, paper, and cardboard on which he inscribes a vocabulary that evokes Pre-Columbian cultures and early twentieth-century Russian Constructivism.”

The other exhibit at MOLAA will be *Esteban Lisa: Playing with Lines and Colors*, a retrospective exhibit of the Argentinean/Spanish painter (1895-1983), marking “the first time the extraordinary abstract works of the artist have been shown in a museum in the United States.”

For those interested in more traditional art or California’s artistic past, the [Laguna Art Museum](#) in beautiful Laguna Beach (a 30-mile drive south from the convention center), will feature *California Artists: Late 19th and Early 20th Century*. The exhibit, on view now through April 29, includes idyllic scenes from noted California realist and impressionist painters such as Franz Bischoff, Edgar Payne, and William Wendt, many of whom inhabited the art colonies on the central and southern coasts of California such as Carmel, Santa Barbara, Laguna Beach, and San Diego. The museum might just as well have entitled this exhibit “Paradise Found!”

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## News &amp; Notices

## Member Benefits: Discounts on Flying to the 2012 Annual Conference

Delta Airlines has joined with USITT to offer member discounts to LAX, Long Beach, and John Wayne-Orange County airports for the 52nd Annual Conference & Stage Expo. These discounts range from two to 10 percent off Delta's published fares, depending on the class of fare and the departure airport.

To take advantage of the discounts, call Delta's Meeting Desk at 1-800-328-1111 and tell them you are using meeting code NM8N4. There are no phone ticketing charges for using this type of reservation with Delta. If you are using a travel agent, give them the same meeting code and they can work with Delta.



These discounts are good for travel starting March 21 and continue through April 4, so people can have a couple of days in sunny southern California in addition to a fantastic conference.

USITT's previous agreement with United Airlines was cancelled due to complications with the merger between United and Continental.

USITT is working to provide discounts for our members in travel to make a trip to the Annual Conference a reality for as many as possible.

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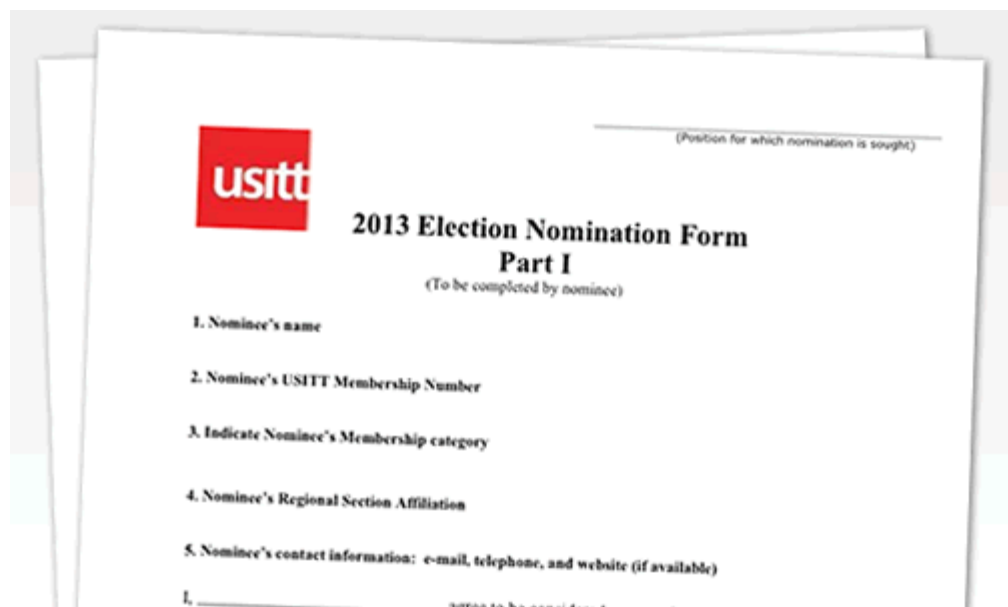
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## News &amp; Notices

## Call for 2013 Nominations

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



As voting for the 2012 election year is underway, USITT encourages all members to make nominations for the 2013 election slate and to take an active role in identifying the future leadership of the organization. This is especially critical as the Institute continues into its second half-century.

USITT welcomes the prospect of identifying emerging new leaders. Member nomination of candidates for the USITT 2013 election slate will guide and inform the Nominations Committee in selecting effective future leadership for USITT and “securing the future” of our great organization.

Now is the time to nominate for the 2013 election cycle. Work is underway to find candidates for positions on the Board of Directors to take office July 1, 2013. Because the bylaws revision of 2010 increased the term of office to three years for officer positions (to parallel the three-year terms of directors), there are no officer positions open for election in this 2013 cycle.

Directors are responsible for representing the membership in all decisions made by the Board. They shall be members in good standing of the Institute and a Regional Section for all the time they serve. They are expected to attend all Board meetings. Each member of the Board of Directors shall serve as a member of an Institute committee or be a Commissioner or Vice-Commissioner. There are 18 Directors, six to be elected each year.

Complete the 2013 Election Nomination Form, which can be found by [clicking here](#). Information on the roles and responsibilities of a board member, which should be read before nominating yourself or someone else, can be found by clicking here. To read the info sheet for prospective board members, [click here](#). Once all applications have been collected and verified, the committee will work to develop a slate of up to 12 potential Directors. This slate will then be presented and voted on by the membership. To allow a full review by the Nominations Committee, forms are due by March 2, 2012.

Because USITT is a membership organization, it is up to members to help encourage future leaders to become part of the board. Members are also strongly encouraged to consider self-nomination if they are interested in serving the Institute as a director.

Questions or suggestions regarding this process may be addressed to any member of the Nominations Committee. The committee roster may be found [here](#).

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## [Free Shipping from USITT during December!](#)

Order publications or merchandise through [ShopUSITT](#) and get free shipping for the entire month of December.

What a great way to order holiday gifts and save!

## [Very Early Registration Deadline December 8](#)

Register early and save. The Very Early Conference registration deadline is fast approaching. Register by December 8 to receive the lowest registration rates. All rates, excluding student rates, will increase starting December 9. [Click here to register on-line.](#)

Questions about registration? Call 800-938-7488 ext 104 or e-mail [monica@office.usitt.org](mailto:monica@office.usitt.org).

## [Offer Help with Conference Catering](#)

USITT offers a wide variety of food and beverages for all types of events at the 2012 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Catered functions are easy to arrange; just contact Tracy Davis at the USITT office at 800-938-7488, extension 105, or e-mail [tracy@office.usitt.org](mailto:tracy@office.usitt.org). She will provide menus once they become available and coordinate catering orders with Conference hotels and the Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center.

## [PLASA Announces Winners of Members' Choice Product Awards](#)



PLASA announced the winners of the 2011 Members' Choice Awards October 27 at the LDI and PLASA Awards Ceremony. The awards recognized newly released outstanding entertainment technology products. Voting on these awards was open to all employees of PLASA member companies who attended the LDI show. The 2011 winners are:

#### **Gadget Category**

Apollo Design Technology's Wrenchmate 2; an adjustable wrench with a closed-end wrench built into the handle with three different sizes to provide easy access to the common sizes found on lighting fixture clamps.

#### **Equipment Category**

LightConverse 3D Show Platform Version 52 integrates and visualizes multiple show-related disciplines including lighting, video, laser, pyrotechnics, and moving objects. New features include 3D Object Tracking capabilities and the ability to realistically visualize 1536 fixture in real-time.

ETC Source Four Fresnel features classic Fresnel optical system coupled with HPL lamp technology. Unique quarter turn socket and access-door design allow lamp to be changed from beneath without breaking focus.

### World Stage Design 2013 Reminder

World Stage Design and Scenofest will be held at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff, Wales September 8 to 12, 2012. WSD is open to all International Organization of Scenographers, Theatre Architects and Technicians (OISTAT) members. Since USITT is an OISTAT Centre, all USITT members are automatically members of OISTAT

World Stage Design 2013 includes World Stage Design Digital and online Exhibition; World Stage Design Physical Exhibit September 8 to 12; WSD Scenofest for Professionals September 4 to 12; WSD Scenofest for Students September 4 to 12; and WSD as Performance Festival September 4 to 12.

Designs submitted must be from realized productions performed from 2009 through 2013. Designers interested in exhibiting may send the "intent to submit" application. Digital images of the designs will be submitted January through March. Designers must attend the exhibit and install their work. Each exhibitor will be provided with an exhibition space including two display panels and the means for display including lighting and support for models. The designers will be assisted by on-site support staff.

Sean Crowley, WSD project leader and head of design at RWCMD, will be present at the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach to talk about WSD and Scenofest. More information about WSD and the application to exhibit can be obtained at [wsd2013.org](http://wsd2013.org).

### ETC Presents Check to Behind the Scenes

At the LDI tradeshow, ETC CEO Fred Foster presented a check for \$26,000 to Behind the Scenes, which reflected ongoing proceeds from sales of ETC's iRFR

(Radio Focus Remote for iPhone and iPod Touch) application.

When ETC introduced the iRFR, developed by software engineer Chris Mizerak, employee Luke Delwiche suggested the profits be put towards Behind the Scenes and its United Kingdom counterpart Light Relief. The most recent check brought the total ETC has donated just to Behind the Scenes to almost \$51,000. Since 2007, ETC has also made additional annual donations to Behind the Scenes

The ETC iRFR application is purchased through iTunes for iPhones and iPod Touches that people already own – no special hardware or factory-coding is required. Users simply purchase the app that corresponds to the charity they wish to support.

ETC CEO Fred Foster says, “It has been very gratifying to have helped support this great fund, and we encourage others to join in and donate as well.”

Individuals or companies can support Behind the Scenes by making donations online at [www.estafoundation.org](http://www.estafoundation.org) or by calling 212-244-1421.

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## The Last Word: Onward to 2012

From the USITT staff in shivery Central New York to our friends throughout the world, we wish you great joy for a 2012 filled with interesting challenges and fulfilling connections.

- Barbara
- Carol
- David
- Jim
- Monica
- Shannan
- Tracy

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### Board Visits Syracuse

It was great to have the Board of Directors, along with members of the Finance and Publications committees, in Syracuse in November. The fall colors were a bit past their peak display, but we managed to have a Wednesday that was warmer than Las Vegas and a Friday with snow flurries falling past the window of our 20th floor meeting room.

One thing you can always count on around the USITT National Office is variety – in viewpoints and in weather conditions.

The board was in town mostly, we believe, to help Executive Director David Grindle celebrate his 40th birthday which was the day *after* the meetings ended. He was feted with a cake including a photo from his kindergarten graduation, black balloons, singing, and a special guest appearance by his wife, Julie, at a dinner which featured President Joe Aldridge's favorite Dinosaur Barbecue.



### Aldridge Speaks at SU

Mr. Aldridge spent some of his visit as a special guest at Syracuse University's School of Visual and Performing Arts where he spoke to several classes about his experiences. The wide-ranging discussion covered his experiences as a stagehand in Las Vegas, as a professor, and as a member of USITT. Students and faculty (and a USITT staff member) were startled to learn



that Joe was 30 feet in the air completing part of an installation when the famous fire broke out in the MGM in Las Vegas.

No one will be surprised to learn that his first reaction was "Really? Are you serious?" before climbing down and promptly leaving the building.

## Lustig to Receive First Honorary Fellow

At the annual meeting of the American Society of Theatre Consultants (ASTC), held this year in St. Louis, Missouri, Edgar L. Lustig was named the first Fellow of ASTC (FASTC).

Jim Read, ASTC President stated; "The Fellows membership category has been established to honor members who have rendered conspicuous service or made notable contributions to the advancement or diffusion of the knowledge of theatre consulting or the fostering of its practical applications, and who have rendered significant service to the ASTC in multiple fashions. In recognition of decades of service to ASTC and his contribution to the world of theatre, we are proud to announce the elevation of Ned Lustig to the most honored status of Fellow of the American Society of Theatre Consultants."

Mr. Lustig has been a theatre consultant for 45 years. As a founding member, he has served as secretary-treasurer since the organization's formation 1983. He has made prodigious contributions in technical theatre as technician, manager, technical director, manufacturer, designer, and consultant. Mr. Lustig is known for his inventions and innovations in theatre and lighting equipment technology, most notably the dimmer affixed to the lighting instrument. His consulting work includes The Ferrara Theatre in America's Convention Complex, High Point University's Hayworth Fine Arts Center, University of Chicago's Mandel Hall, Wright State University's Recital Hall, and Drake University's Fine Arts Center. In addition, he has contributed his talents as set and lighting designer for theme park work at Busch Gardens in Tampa, Florida and Williamsburg, Virginia.

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- **Creative Stage Lighting:** Becomes Exclusive North American Distributor

### SeaChanger: Debutes New Luminaires at LDI

**SeaChanger** is expanding its product line with three new luminaires all using a highly efficient 575W HMI lamp. The new 24,000 lumen SeaChanger HMI is on display at LDI 2011 in Orlando, Florida October 28 to 30. The SeaChanger HMI fixtures join the current SeaChanger range that employs tungsten and plasma light sources. Also debuting at LDI is SeaChanger's new, faster color transition technology. This feature will be incorporated in all SeaChanger products, allowing color changes in only 0.5 seconds. Now designers can flash through color changes with unprecedented speed.

### Stage Technologies: Signs Up as First Platinum Sponsor

Bill Sapsis, director of the North American Theatre Engineering and Architecture Conference (NATEAC), announced the first Platinum Sponsor for NATEAC 2012, **Stage Technologies**, has stepped forward to reprise the role it played as a Platinum sponsor at the inaugural NATEAC in 2008.

In 2008, NATEAC attracted over 250 industry professionals, venue owners, and end users from nine countries. For more information visit [nateac.org](http://nateac.org).

## Meyer Sound Laboratories: Sound Systems Installed in Finland, LSU

The Espoo Cultural Centre (Espoon kulttuurikeskus) is the premier venue for performing arts and cultural life in Espoo, Finland's second largest city. Earlier this year, **Meyer Sound Laboratories** dealer Studiotec installed a new M'elodie line array system in the cultural centre's 800-seat Tapiola Hall (Tapiolasali). Meyer Sound's Constellation acoustic system was installed in the Union Theater at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

System versatility is key at the Tapiola Hall, which hosts musicians from around the world for dance, opera, and conferences, as well as crossover performances with classical orchestras and electric bands. Local children with their Finnish kantele are also among the stars at the venue.

LSU's Constellation system is among the first to employ Meyer Sound's D-Mitri digital audio platform as the hardware host. The system comprises one DCP core processor, three DVRAS processors (for running Constellation's patented VRAS™ algorithms), and four DAIO-816 input/output frames.

## Rose Brand: Choose Judges, Announce Newest Fabric, Offer Truss Products, Discuss LitePads

**Rose Brand** announced the panel of judges who will choose the recipient of the Rose Brand Scholarship. The applications will first be reviewed and judged by Rose Brand, in order to select 10 finalists. The winning candidate will then be selected from among the finalists by a panel of high profile experts in the industry, which include Scenic Designer and Tony Award Nominee Anna Louizos; the CEO of Hudson Scenic Neil Mazella; Scenic Designer and Tony Award Nominee Beowulf Boritt; and Production Designer and Emmy Award Winner Joe Stewart. The winner of the scholarship will be announced this year at the USITT 2012 Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach.

The \$5,000 Rose Brand Scholarship is awarded to a student with \$2,500 of credit with the company 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, theater technical direction, or scenic art. Applications are available on [Rose Brand's Facebook page](#).

Rose Brand's newest fabric, Royale, is a 32 ounce, 54-inch wide, inherently flame retardant, matte velour. Royale is the perfect choice for high-end installations and historical replacements due to its opaque and sound-absorbing characteristics. Its available in custom colors or any of cotton velour colors. Call a Rose Brand sales representative or visit [bit.ly/royale-velour](http://bit.ly/royale-velour) for more information.

Total Structures has added Rose Brand Theatrical as its first stocking distributor for the full line of Totalite truss products. With



a large stock of the most common components including base plates, corner sections, and connector, Rose Brand's sales team will be able to help customers with their equipment needs and provide equipment with shorter transit times than before.



Rose Brand has added Rosco LitePads and accessories to its line of products for sale. LitePads are super slim profile LED light sources that deliver soft, even illumination. LitePads are available in both custom and standard sizes as well as varying light intensities. Learn more at [bit.ly/litepad-blog](http://bit.ly/litepad-blog).

## Daktronics: Introduces New Products at LDI

**Daktronics** demonstrated its new Pro Series control options, including the heavily-requested, new maintenance pendant, the economical, feature-rich E Series controller, and the handy Banner at LDI in Orlando.

Daktronics' Banner hoist also was on display at the LDI exhibit hall. Targeted for lightweight 150-pound capacity hoisting needs, the uses are unlimited to move signage, advertising, banners, or other applications. Operated with a hand-held wireless remote control, the hoist's secondary brake makes it suitable for use above the owner's customer occupied spaces.



## ETC: Introduces New LED Luminaire

**ETC** introduced the Selador Desire Studio HD—one of its three, new white-light luminaires designed expressly for studio and stage use at LDI. The breakthrough Studio HD uses a combination of warm white, cool white, and color LEDs to provide multiple color temperatures, from 2700 degrees to about 6500 degrees Kelvin for maximum design-palette flexibility.



ETC's Desire D60 LED-fixture series also made its American debut at LDI. The D60 gives the lighting professional an even brighter 60-LED version of the Studio white-light LED arrays.

For more information on ETC's new Desire Studio HD and other Selador luminaires, visit [www.etcconnect.com](http://www.etcconnect.com).

## J. R. Clancy, Inc.: Showcase Hoist Advances at LDI

**J.R. Clancy** showcased its most recent advance in theatrical rigging at t LDI 2011. The new PowerLine line shaft hoist features a lighter backbone than the standard line shaft, making it easier to install with no reduction in strength or



durability. The new hoist brings users an expanded choice of brake options and drums to meet virtually any standard application. The PowerLine series includes Clancy's heavy-duty transmissions and universal joints for longevity and safety.

Visitors to the Clancy's booth were able to view a detailed feature video on the award-winning programmable chandelier at the Winspear Opera House in Dallas, Texas, and the comprehensive "Complete Rigging Solutions" program.



For more information on Clancy products, contact Eric McAfee at [ericmcafee@jrclancy.com](mailto:ericmcafee@jrclancy.com) or (800) 836-1885, or visit [www.jrclancy.com](http://www.jrclancy.com).

## Philips Vari-Lite: Continues Philips Realignment with Key Appointment to Central US Sales Territory

Respected lighting industry professional Charlie Hulme was appointed Central United States sales manager at **Philips Vari-Lite** recently.

Mr. Hulme replaces Leonard Miller, who recently became national sales manager for Philips Strand Lighting as part of the Philips reorganization in North America. Based in the Dallas, Texas headquarters, Mr. Hulme's territory will include Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.



A 25-year veteran of the entertainment industry, Mr. Hulme has experience in concert lighting, automated lighting manufacturing, networked lighting control systems, professional sound reinforcement, and AV systems integration. He is a member of the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America, is an ANSI accredited Certified Technology Specialist (CTS), and has earned LC certification from the National Council on Qualifications for the Lighting Professions.

For a complete listing of all the sales and marketing contacts for Philips Vari-Lite, visit [www.vari-lite.com](http://www.vari-lite.com).

## PRG: Best Boy Debuts at LDI

**PRG's** Best Boy 4000 Spot Luminaire, a new automated fixture, made its debut at LDI in October. The Best Boy is a 20,000+ lumen, 700-watt fixture that offers an all inclusive feature set promising no compromises in performance.

## Creative Stage Lighting: Becomes Exclusive North American Distributor

**Creative Stage Lighting** has entered into an exclusive agreement with Kinesys,

a manufacturer of prominent and innovative motion control products. Creative Stage Lighting will serve as Kinesys's exclusive distributor in North America.

Kinesys exhibited with Creative Stage Lighting at LDI 2011.

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- **Automation FX: New Sustaining Member**
- **Big Image Systems: Celebrate Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts Opening**
- **Nemetschek Vectorworks: Rigging Company Reaches Milestone**
- **Pathway Connectivity: Acuity Brands Acquires Pathway Connectivity, Inc.**
- **TOMCAT: Offer Software Events Throughout U.S.**
- **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas: Company Adds Slip Protection**

### Automation FX: New Sustaining Member

We welcome Automation FX as a new Sustaining member of the organization and a new exhibitor at Stage Expo.

The company, in Stratford, Ontario, Canada has been supplying quality automation products and systems to the theatrical and entertainment industry for over 20 years. The company offers a wide range of products from, pneumatic components and systems to electric motors and sensors... and its world renowned AirPux 2 scenery moving system.



Automation FX works with the smallest non-profit theatres to the largest world-wide productions. Whether you are a theatre, scene shop, motion picture or school, the company always offers top notch service and support for its customers.

A spokesperson notes "We look forward to automating your imagination! Please visit us at [www.AFX.bz](http://www.AFX.bz)"

### Big Image Systems: Returns to Sustaining Level

We also welcome Big Image Systems as a returning Sustaining member. The company, headquartered in Sweden with offices in Germany, now also has an office St Louis Park, Minnesota. It offers large format printing on flexible materials.

Learn more at [www.bigimagesystems.com](http://www.bigimagesystems.com)

## Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.: Offers Spanish, Other Languages for Software

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**Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.** released a Spanish-language version of the Vectorworks 2012 line of design software, including: Vectorworks Architect, Landmark, Spotlight, Designer, Fundamentals and Renderworks. The Spanish-language version will be available this month throughout the Americas, the Caribbean, and Spain.

This version provides the Vectorworks Spotlight and Machine Design user interface elements in Spanish, and the existing translation has been further improved to provide a more technically and contextually accurate product.

For Spanish-language brochures, FAQs, videos and other marketing materials, visit [www.vectorworks.net/espanol](http://www.vectorworks.net/espanol). To learn more about Vectorworks 2012 software, visit [www.vectorworks2012.net](http://www.vectorworks2012.net). To check for Spanish-language availability from a local distributor, visit [www.vectorworks.net/international](http://www.vectorworks.net/international).

The company also announced that a number of its European distributors have released localized versions of the 2012 Vectorworks software. Versions in each country's native language are now available in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.

## Pathway Connectivity: Ethernet Product Recently Introduced

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The newest **Pathway Connectivity** DMX-over-Ethernet product, the Pathport Quattro was recently introduced by Acuity Brands, Inc. This innovative product provides real-time, interoperability solutions between sophisticated lighting control systems. A compact, four-port node, the Pathport Quattro product runs on Power-over-Ethernet, making it suitable for truss, desktop, or wall mount installation. 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.

For additional information, visit Acuity Brands and Pathway Connectivity online.



## TOMCAT: Marks 25 Years

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For 25 years **TOMCAT** has specialized in the fabrication of aluminium truss and structural components for the entertainment, audiovisual, exhibition and worship industries, as well as providing related products such as theatrical chain hoists, custom electric assemblies, lighting products and rigging hardware.

TOMCAT has been part of the United Kingdom-based Vitec Group plc since 2006 and works closely with its sister staging companies Litec and Brilliant Stages to provide total show solutions to customers all over the world.

Visit the company's new website at [www.tomcatglobal.com](http://www.tomcatglobal.com)

## Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas: Names Operations Manager

Danny Colosky will join **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas** as operations manager for 2012. He is a graduate of Sam Houston State University where he was both an actor and a technician. While there, he worked as the yard manager at the local McCoy's Building Supply, worked in the theatre department's scene shop, and completed a BFA degree. Additionally, while at the university, Mr. Colosky designed the set for a production of *Smokey Joe's Café* that advanced to the regional conference of KCACTF.



After graduation, he worked as a carpenter and automation technician at the Alley Theatre in Houston. He was employed there for five years before accepting his current position as scene shop supervisor and clinical instructor at Oklahoma State University.

For additional information, visit [www.stagecraftinstitute.com](http://www.stagecraftinstitute.com) or a call 702-388-7458.

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## News From **Joe Aldridge**, *USITT President* Happy Holidays!



USITT's new floating logo cube helped people find the booth at LDI. It will be a beacon for the USITT booth and boutique at the 2012 Stage Expo in Long Beach, too.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

October has come and gone and so has the mild weather. This means that I will have to pack for colder weather every time I travel to the eastern parts of the United States from now until May, starting with the upcoming Board meeting. Either I am getting on in years, or I have become too comfortable in the desert.

I attended LDI in Orlando and witnessed rain on the outside and a flood on the inside. An unfortunate incident in one of the meeting rooms on the third floor in the convention center caused the sprinkler system to activate flooding not only that floor but the floor below. Under normal circumstances the damage should have been minor. Unfortunately, the LDI Institute was holding sessions with lighting equipment that was drenched. It happened at lunch time and very few people were around. However, a number of people jumped in and helped to salvage the equipment, and the session was relocated. The flood was the topic of discussion for the duration of the show.

When I finally found time to walk the exhibit floor, I was heartened by the

number of booths prominently displaying the "Member of USITT" sign for all to see. USITT was well represented. In addition to me, David Grindle, Barbara Lucas, Monica Merritt, and Jim Lucas were in the USITT booth. To my way of thinking, our participation was extremely successful. We were able to speak to a number of potential new members and exhibitors who were unaware of the benefits of joining USITT. Hopefully, that legwork will pay off in future dividends.

I have been in conversations with Jeff Flowers at Rose Brand about a new design competition that they want to sponsor at the Long Beach 2012 Conference & Stage Expo. It sounds exciting and has potential benefits for student members. I will provide further details as they become available.

At the time of this writing, we are preparing to host our first full Board of Directors meeting in Syracuse. Traditionally, the fall board meeting has occurred in conjunction with LDI, but the Board decided to alternate between Syracuse and LDI. I look forward to a very productive meeting as we gather to conduct the business of the Institute. Since this is to be an in-person meeting, it, will not be available via the web. You can visit the office in Syracuse anytime. So, if you happen to be in Syracuse on business or for pleasure, feel free to stop by and visit with the staff. They enjoy visits from our members.

As we enter into the holiday season, it is my hope that all of our members can take the time to reflect on their good fortune and reach out to those who might be in need. The economy isn't recovering fast enough to help those friends and colleagues who have been hard hit. Keep them in your hearts and prayers as we prepare to enter a new year.

Happy Holidays!



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

Please e-mail Joe at [joe.aldridge@unlv.edu](mailto:joe.aldridge@unlv.edu).

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## News From Regional Sections

- **Southwest:** Plan Winter Symposium
- **California:** Fifth Year for Annual Event
- **Ohio Valley:** Scholarships Awarded
- **Southeast:** Hold Master Classes, Design Expo

### Southwest: Plan Winter Symposium

The Southwest Regional Section will hold its Winter Symposium January 14 to 15 in Stillwater, Oklahoma. It will be an intense weekend of hands-on workshops, student design and technical competition (\$13,600 worth of prizes were awarded last year), mentoring, and communing with fellow theatre artists. Check the website for weekly updates and a copy of this year's flyer, student design/tech competition rules, and preliminary workshop schedule.

Registration is \$35 for the weekend plus \$20 membership for individuals and \$5 for students. Entry fee for the design and technical competition is \$10

Members of the Northern Boundary and other nearby Regional sections are being invited to the Southwest Winter Symposium.

[Click here for more information.](#)

### California: Fifth Year for Annual Event

The California Regional Section presents the Fifth Annual Theatre Design and Production Career Fair Expo and Student Design Exhibit and Competition Saturday, January 21. Members of the USITT California Section (and those from neighboring Sections) are encouraged to save the date. The event is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the campus of Pomona College in Claremont, California.

Faculty and other theatre professionals, along with students, are welcome to attend at no charge. Potential employers and representatives from graduate and undergraduate programs are invited to participate in the job and career fair. Jeff Allen of PCPA ([jallen@pcpa.org](mailto:jallen@pcpa.org)) is the vendor contact for the section. Student designers, technicians, and stage managers for theatre and dance productions



are encouraged to submit their work for the Richard Thompson Student Design and Production Exhibit and Competition.

For more information about the event, see the section website [www.scusitt.org](http://www.scusitt.org) or contact Section Co-Chairs Donna Parsons ([stagemama@aol.com](mailto:stagemama@aol.com)) or Jim Taylor ([jptaylor@pomona.edu](mailto:jptaylor@pomona.edu)). For information about the venue, contact Sherry Linnell ([slinnell@pomona.edu](mailto:slinnell@pomona.edu)) or Jim Taylor.

## Ohio Valley: Scholarships Awarded

Rich Mason, Courtney Gomez, and Casey Shore have been selected by the Ohio Valley Regional Section Board of Directors to receive a free conference pass to the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach, California. This pass is awarded directly to them by USITT National and is based on the design/technical work submitted to OVS as part of the Peggy Ezekiel Exhibit. This award is given to the top three student exhibits selected by the board.

OVS will award a \$500 scholarship to one deserving student for the student to use the conference as an educational opportunity to further career goals. The deadline for submission is December 18. All rules and entry information for the scholarship can be found at [www.usittohiovalley.org/wp/scholarships](http://www.usittohiovalley.org/wp/scholarships)

## Southeast: Hold Master Classes, Design Expo

The Southeast Regional Section's annual Master Classes and Design Expo were hosted by the Department of Theatre and Film Studies at the University of Georgia in Athens, October 6 to 8.

Margaret Peot conducted practical fabric painting sessions to a packed house, demonstrating a wide variety of techniques. Delbert Hall had participants soaring over the mainstage as he taught the finer arts of performer flying effects. Mac Johnson and Meyer Sound held sessions demonstrating various hardware and software options that are available for audio work. Taking advantage of resources available at UGA, there were several sessions on virtual reality and show control, which included a demonstration of a robot dancing to Michael Jackson's "Thriller."



Jim Moody and Jeff Davis presented the keynote address, both of whom generously shared advice and wisdom based on their years of working as lighting designers for Broadway, opera, concerts, and television. The section also held its fall business meeting and welcomed Emily Gill (University of Montevallo)



as new treasurer and Ivan Ingermann (UGA) as secretary. Bob Thurston (outgoing treasurer) and Judy Adamson (outgoing secretary) were thanked for their many years of service to the section.

David Grindle, USITT Executive Director, addressed the section meeting with entertaining tales of moving to Syracuse, snow drifts, and lost children as well as bringing everybody up to date about USITT National. The Master Classes were wrapped up on Saturday evening with a social gathering hosted by Sylvia Pannell and featuring some of the world's finest barbeque by Carl Lefko. T

Acknowledged sponsors Barbizon, Charlotte; BMI Supply; Sculptural Arts Coatings; Stage Rigging Services; and Stage Decoration & Supply.

The region's next meeting will take place at SETC in March.

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

## The intern...



Who knows what tasks an intern might be asked to perform? Or whether they will end up in a music video at the end of the experience like the folks in Santa Fe Opera?

Photo/USITT Archive

It brings pride to the person carrying the title and trepidation to the person hiring for the position. Most of us look back on our internships in the industry with memories both fond and embarrassing. We are eager to learn and probably drove our mentors and coworkers insane with our energy.

In his series focused on the character Thursday Next, the author Jasper Fforde created a world where time travel was a matter of daily fact. As such, people could go back in time and warn themselves of things that would make their life in the past less complex. It makes me think about what I would say to the stage management intern at Cincinnati Opera in the 1993 season.

I think the first word would be **Breathe**. You are surrounded by brilliant people who know the industry and their jobs. List and pay attention.

**Be honest about your abilities** would come next. The urge to augment my resume was strong, so that I would look more experienced than my age. The fact was I was 21, which means I should have had the experience of a person my age. Anything more would seem strange to someone reading my resume.

***Be happy with your work assignments*** is a plus. You are the intern, make copies and tape floors with pride. Do it well and be excited that you get to sit in the back in a production meeting to learn as your reward.

***Be there when you are needed*** and its corollary ***take time off when it is offered*** are both necessary. You won't endear yourself to others by taking residence in the theatre whether you have a call or not.

And finally, ***be honored to have been chosen***. The people who hired you saw something they liked, but it doesn't make you irreplaceable. There were interns before you, and more will follow. Do good work, but don't think you are the greatest. You are the intern.

That is what I would tell me. Of course a rose colored memory says that I didn't need any of that advice. But the years since have put me in contact with more young technicians, designers, and stage managers than I can remember and true life tells me there is no intern that could be harmed by good information.

For those of you headed for internships, think about what I would tell my youthful self. For those hiring interns, what would you tell yourself if you could go back? I think we would all be excited and horrified if we could travel in time.

There is one other thing I would say more if I could go back. Thank you. Thank you to every person at Cincinnati Opera in the summer of 1993. In hindsight, I learned something from every person I came in contact with, and those lessons made me who I am today. And that all came from spending a summer as an intern.



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

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

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# Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members



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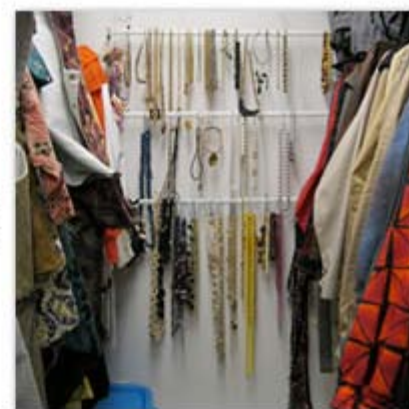
## Costume Storage Solutions Database

Sherry Harper-McCombs

**Tired of accessories looking like this?**



**Wish there was a simple, affordable way to store belts like this?**



**Or maybe a way to store necklaces?**

All costumers wrestle with the same storage challenges and many have come up with some clever ways to solve these challenges. The Costume Storage Solutions Database is a way to share these solutions to avoid reinventing the wheel.

The database currently contains images from a variety of costume operations large and small. There are some large rental houses represented, educational facilities, professional theatres, and community theatres; the solutions they have found for their various storage situations are as varied as they are. Searches

can be done according to type of facility (educational, professional, rental house, etc.) or by object stored (hats, jewelry, costume oddities, etc.).

In order to check out the database in its current form, [go here](#). Click on "Guest Account" and then enter "guest" in both the user ID and the password/PIN boxes. Click "Log In." On the next page, click on "Browse Collections" then toggle "Costume" to get to the storage photos. To see everything in the database, hit search without entering any parameters.

Submitting photos of a facility to the database is quite easy and requires only a little time and a digital camera. Anyone interested in more information either about the database or about how to submit photos, contact Sherry Harper-McCombs at [harpermc@dickinson.edu](mailto:harpermc@dickinson.edu).

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**One Man's Trash...**

**Mike Winkelman** *Education Commission Professor, Auburn University Montgomery*

This past spring, a panel discussion at the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo discussed ways of making theatre more "green." Various ideas were presented ranging from the use of various types of stock scenery, to designing more energy efficient theatres, to simply using better light bulbs. The problem still remained that theatre is just not a very green business, but that doesn't mean better solutions can't be sought.

The last two productions at Auburn University Montgomery were *The Great Easter Egg Hunt*, by Ken Jones—a broad comedy about an Easter egg hunt in the marshes of Florida—and *Unseen*, by Jeffery Scott Elwell—an original script about a boy whose father is killed on 9/11 and the boy's difficulty dealing with this loss.

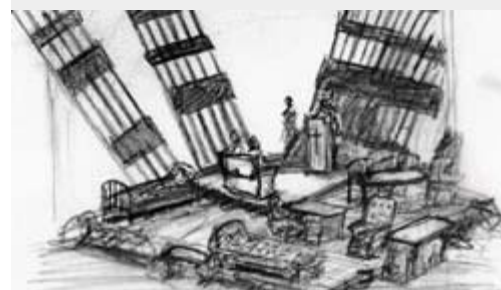
On the surface these two plays had literally nothing in common, either in theme or in design, but opportunities for re-use resulted in a good deal of the *Easter Egg* set being salvaged for use in the *Unseen* environment.

The set for *The Great Easter Egg Hunt* included a large bolder, which had to be substantial enough for actors to stand on and large enough to hide a group of hunters from their prey. The set design for *Unseen* wanted to replicate the look of the fallen towers, including the rubble and ashes as a way of showing the family's inability to escape from that moment in time.

Working through the problem of creating rubble, it occurred to



*The Great Easter Egg Hunt* production photo



*Unseen* concept sketch

designers as the Easter Egg set was struck that a great deal of trash, composed mostly of bent chicken wire and strips of gray material would be created for *Unseen*. This boulder very easily could be used to represent the bent steel and rubble of the fallen towers. This "waste" was saved and used as rubble. By adding a couple of additional touches, such as some shoes and actual broken cinder blocks, the look and feel of the devastation of 9/11 was successfully recreated.



*Unseen*

While there was a good amount of waste created in this process, it is far less than if resources were not reused their greatest advantage. *Unseen* has been recommended for presentation at the Southeast Regional Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, so bins to store the various materials need to be created until the materials finally finish their usefulness -- or become a part of the next set.

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## Adventures in Proposing Sessions

**Melissa Merz** *Vice-Commissioner of Programming, Costume Design & Technology Commission*

This past March, I got my first experience as Vice-Commissioner of Programming for the Costume Commission. It was exciting to see how it all works and watching it all come together. I'd been a part of all of it before, just not in this position. While much of it went very smoothly, it was surprising to find out how many people didn't know how to propose a session.

Timing is everything. For instance, the deadline for proposing a poster was November 15 for the Long Beach conference. However, during the Charlotte 2010 Conference & Stage Expo, the proposals for the sessions and PDW for the conference in Long Beach were voted on. Why so early? Voting at the conference gives members a chance to vote. While it's not everyone, it is a lot of people. After the Conference, we had approximately a month to verify the members still wanted to present and double check all the information on their proposal forms. These proposals then go up the chain and through the USITT office. It is all settled by the end of May so everyone involved can make the next conference go as smoothly as the last.

Anyone interested in proposing a session should start thinking about 2013. As soon as the form is available on the USITT web site, it can be filled out and sent to me at [Melissa.merz@ttu.edu](mailto:Melissa.merz@ttu.edu) any time. Or contact me for help with information needed to fill out the form.

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Many Commissioners and co-commissioners of programming have already visited Milwaukee, as have members of the Conference Committee. These visits allow some advance thinking about what programming would work will in the Wisconsin city.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

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Conference &amp; Stage Expo

## Slate Electrical Workshop in Long Beach



Hands-on experience at the Electrical Workshop held at LD1

Photo/Mitch Hefter

USITT is making it easy to learn more with an electrical workshop 6 to 9:30 p.m. Monday March 26 and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 27 at the Long Beach 2012 Conference & Stage Expo.

This one and a half day basic/intermediate level electrical workshop covers many items in the ETCP Electrician Candidate Handbook outline. It will explain the basics of entertainment electrical systems including an overview of the National Electrical Code and NFPA 70E: Standard for Electrical Safety Requirements for Employee Workplaces. An ETCP Electricians Practice Exam is included. This workshop may be used for ETCP renewal credits.

The workshop is \$280 for members and \$355 for non-members.

[Click here to register »](#)

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Conference & Stage Expo

## Programming for the Costume Commission

**Melissa Merz** *Costume Design & Technology Commission*

California here we come! And what would be better than to head into Los Angeles to see just a few of the things it has to offer. The Costume Commission's Professional Development Workshop (PDW) begins Tuesday morning before the 2012 Long Beach Conference & Stage Expo with a tour of the Ben Nye Make-up Company. It continues in the afternoon with shopping at some of the most popular make-up, wig, and hair places LA has to offer.

Excited to learn more about make-up? Todd Debrececi is leading a session about false teeth and contact lenses. He'll not only show some wonderful examples, but discuss the safety involved in using these kinds of effects. Inspired to teach a course in make-up? Friday holds a great on putting together a syllabus for a make-up course.

There are so many sessions, it's hard to cover them all. There is a session on patterning ruffles, pleats, and sleeves. Those interested in getting masks done fast can attend a session on Saturday. Peggy Rosefeldt will lead an informative discussion about Tony Award-winning costume designer Lucinda Ballard. For nearly 50 years, she designed costumes for a number of Broadway productions.

Continuing with the popular hands-on sessions, participants will have a chance to design using inspiring words from playwrights, then continue by draping those designs in the Technology session. Before these fun sessions, students from across the nation will have a chance to present some of their work for all to see. The juried poster session is always a great way to see new and exciting ways people are creating costumes.

Costumes are traveling the world this year. With an intriguing look at dress from



Ben Nye Make-up Company's headquarters is always flawless and light.

Photo/Courtesy Dana Nye

around the world, ideas of how to take research and reproduce or interpret these items for stage will be presented. Making costumes light up or even make special sounds will be covered in another session. Finally, find out what the Costume Commission is all about, and what things are going on within the Commission.

Dana Nye will receive the Distinguished Achievement Award and participate in an all-Conference session on Friday morning where all USITT DAA winners will hold a panel discussion moderated by Kevin Rigdon.

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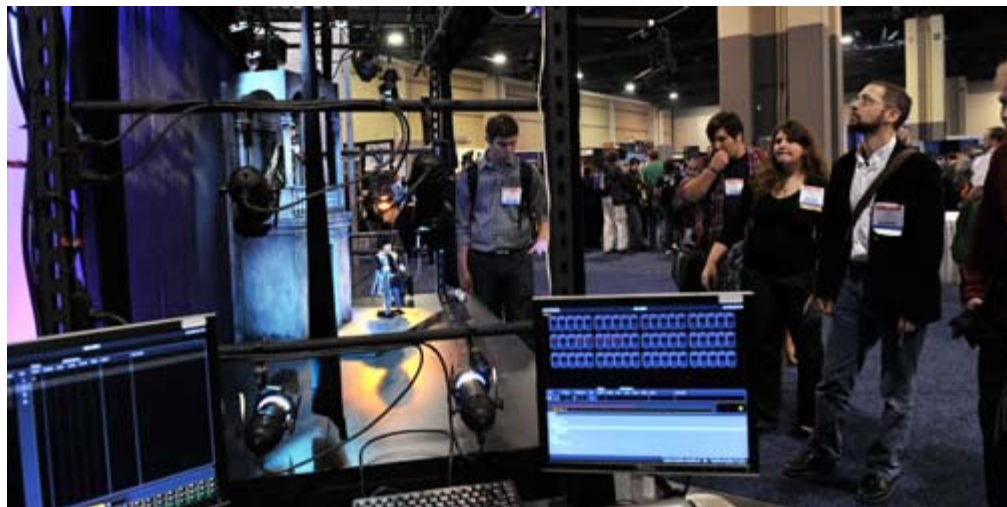
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Conference &amp; Stage Expo

## New Exhibitors at Stage Expo

**Helen Willard**

Stage Expo always provides information and products that keep visitors fascinated.

Photo/R. Finklestein

USITT's 52nd Annual Conference & Stage Expo will be held March 28 to 31, at the Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center in beautiful Long Beach, California. Stage Expo will be held on Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Plan now to allocate plenty of time to see all of Stage Expo, the annual showcase of businesses, products, services, and educational opportunities for the performing arts and entertainment industry.

Stage Expo will fill exhibit halls A and B located on the lower level of the LBCC. In addition to the booths and tables, Stage Expo 2012 will feature the USITT/USA PQ 2011 National Exhibit, *From the Edge*; the student exhibit, *Emerge*; and the architecture design exhibit. Other special exhibits include Design Expo 2012, the Endowment Art Auction, and several Commission-sponsored and Regional exhibits. There will also be eight Cyber Lounges so attendees can check e-mail and surf the web, as well as the USITT Booth & Boutique, where conference attendees can learn more about the Institute, purchase logo items, or attend book signings.

For more information about Stage Expo 2012 exhibitors, visit the Stage Expo Web Page to see the Stage Expo layout and a current list of exhibitors. Click on

a highlighted booth to find contact information and a brief description for each exhibitor. Links are provided to exhibitors' websites to learn more about their products and services prior to the show.

Newly added exhibitors include Alcons Audio USA, Altman Lighting, Automation FX, California State University-Fullerton, Eartec, EmptySpace Technology, Entertainment Lighting Services, ESL Power Systems, Full Sail University, Nicopress Products, Pathway Connectivity, Philips Strand Lighting, PCPA Theaterfest, and The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey.

A limited number of booths, commercial tables for small companies meeting criteria, and non-commercial tables for colleges, universities, and other non-profit organizations are still available. Any companies or organizations who are not listed as exhibitor but who would be a good addition to Stage Expo 2012 in Long Beach, can be suggested in an e-mail message with contact information to [hpwillard@aol.com](mailto:hpwillard@aol.com).

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