



# Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

February 2012

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### Officers and Directors Elected

The results are in for the 2012 USITT elections. Nominations are now being accepted for 2013 Directors. [more »](#)



### Nine Win YD&T Awards

Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts will be honored for excellence at the 2012 Annual Conference in Long Beach. [more »](#)



### Find a Fellow in Long Beach

Students will have a special opportunity for a two-day personal mentoring session with a USITT Fellow if they participate in this special contest. [more »](#)



### Triennial Art Auction

2012 means the return of Art Auction and the opportunity to bid on great art and buy some interesting theatre-related items. [more »](#)



### In Memoriam: Don Childs

Educator, designer, and mentor Don Childs died December 18 in Oklahoma. [more »](#)



### News From USITT's President

Starting a discussion on the needs of the community. [more »](#)



### Executive Director

Seeing the Conference experience through different eyes. [more »](#)



### Preview of Lighting in 2012

Useful, interesting, and varied offerings from the Lighting Design & Technology Commission. [more »](#)



### Hands-on Costume Sessions

A variety of programs from the Costume Design & Technology Commission are aimed at a hands-on experience. [more »](#)



### Scene Design Training

What should training for film, television, and entertainment design "look like" in the 21st century, and how do viewpoints converge. [more »](#)



### Costume Student Initiative

Proposals are needed from people who want to participate in a special session for students from the Costume Design & Technology

Commission. [more »](#)



## Education Session Proposals for 2013

Even before the start of the 2012 Annual Conference, the Education Commission is offering an online way to submit session information. [more »](#)



## Special Exhibitions

From Programmable Logic Controls to retrospectives of the work of Ben Nye, Cliff Faulkner, Shigeru Yaji, to the Prague Quadrennial, special exhibitions will be a vital. [more »](#)



## Making International Connections

The successes and stories of Prague Quadrennial, carnival in Cuba and its costumes, mask making techniques from around the world, and planned activities of World Stage Design 2013. [more »](#)



## Finding Food in Long Beach

Not four-star cuisine, but an interesting selection of affordable and interesting food in Long Beach and nearby. [more »](#)



## The Last Word

Ruminations from the USITT/USA Artistic Director on the exhibit that will be part of Stage Expo in March. [more »](#)

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### NEWS FROM: REGIONAL SECTIONS

- **Ohio Valley:** Seek Board Nominations
- **New England:** Job Fair in Boston
- **Midwest:** Announce Upcoming Events, Theatre Tour Review

### NEWS FROM: SUSTAINING MEMBERS

- **Full Sail University:** New Sustaining Member
- **Chauvet:** Joins Our Community
- **Elation Lighting:** Joins at Sustaining Level
- **The Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas:** Institute's Summer Schedule Online
- **Meyer Sound:** Two Named to Constellation Team, Equipment Supports Judas Priest

### NEWS FROM: CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

- **Rose Brand:** ETCP Recognized Employer, Offers Catalog Online
- **SECOA:** Dan Culhane Named to New Post
- **Stage Technologies:** Expands Rental Offering in U.S., Schedules Training Sessions
- **Vincent Lighting Systems:** Firms Team Up for 'Green' Lighting Overhaul
- **J.R. Clancy:** Murphy Leads J.R. Clancy, Young Retires
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### News & Notices

## Directors Elected, Seek 2013 Nominations

**Sherry Wagner-Henry** *USITT Secretary*



USITT's 2012 elections saw average participation, with almost 24 percent of members voting either electronically or using paper ballots representing almost 800 members voting.

The following officer positions were filled: Dan Culhane was elected Treasurer; Mark Shanda, Vice-President for Communications; Martha Marking, Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters; Tom Hackman, Vice-President for Programming; and Dan Denhart, Vice-President for Special Operations. These officers are filling three-year terms.

Also elected to three-year terms are Directors Alessia Carpoca, Linda Pisano, Carolyn Satter, Bill Browning, Kasey Allee-Foreman, and Michael Mehler. All officers and directors begin their terms on July 1. They will participate in orientation and be invited to sit in on board meetings and discussions at the 2012 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach.

Sherry Wagner-Henry, USITT Secretary, certified the election results.

Now that 2012 voting has concluded, nominations are being sought for candidates in the 2013 election cycle. The Nominations Committee is chaired by the Institute's Secretary with Anthony Phelps, Ben Gasper, Brian Bjorklund, Carl Lefko, Debra Garcia Lockwood, Donna Meester, Jason Foreman, Jennifer Knott, Jimmie Byrd, Joe Tilford, Laura Hoepker, Linda Essig, and Mike McNamara as members.

Nominations are open for six Director positions who will begin their service in 2013. Because of the new three-year officer terms in the Institute Bylaws (adopted in 2010,) there will be no Officer positions on the ballot.

Any USITT member in good standing can nominate someone or themselves to a position on the USITT Board of Directors.

[Complete the 2013 Election Nomination Form here](#). Nominations Committee members may also be contacted with a suggested nominee. All completed applications (form plus attachments) must be submitted by March 2 to [swh@umn.edu](mailto:swh@umn.edu).

Once completed, applications are collected and committee develops the 2013 USITT Board of Directors Election slate. The slate will be presented and voted by the membership next fall.

Questions or concerns about the nominations process should be directed to Ms. Wagner-Henry, Nominations Committee Chair.

Many congratulations to the incoming class of 2012! The membership looks forward to working with you in the years ahead.

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## News & Notices

# Announce 2012 YD&T Award Winners



Winners of the nine USITT Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts have been selected for 2012. All winners were nominated by USITT members. The adjudication process included jury members whose areas of expertise matched the award categories working with representatives of the individuals and companies who sponsor the awards.

The winners will be honored during USITT's Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach California in March. Awards will be presented during the Opening Night celebration on Wednesday, March 28.

## Winners and their awards are:

- **Scott Wolfson** of Indiana University is the winner of the *KM Fabrics, Inc. Technical Production Award*. Paul Brunner (who won the award in 2001) nominated Mr. Wolfson, who is scheduled to graduate in May. This award is given to an individual who demonstrates



excellence or outstanding potential in technical direction or production. Jurors noted Mr. Wolfon's "efficient use of time and collaboration with other departments" in achieving a 40-hour changeover which "embodies the spirit of a technical director."

- **Hidenori Nakajo** will receive the *Robert E. Cohen Sound Achievement Award*. Joe Pino nominated Mr. Nakajo who will graduate in May 2012 from the Carnegie Mellon University. One adjudicator describes Mr. Nakajo's compositions as "expressive and polished, while also being very connected to the project they are created for."
- **Catherine Wilson**, winner of the *USITT Lighting Design Award* sponsored by *Barbizon Lighting Company*, will also graduate from Carnegie Mellon in May. Ms. Wilson was nominated for the award, which honors someone with excellence or outstanding potential in lighting for the performing arts, by Cindy Limauro. Her portfolio submission showed "fantastic renderings" and the actual show was noted as "very powerful and speaks to the planning that is involved in lighting."

- **Charles Murdock Lucas** is one of three University of North Carolina School of the Arts graduates who will be honored. He will receive the *USITT Scene Design Award* sponsored by *Rose Brand*. Charlene Gross nominated Mr. Lucas, who was noted by the jury as "an extremely gifted designer... Each design is unique to the story."



- **Shannon Smith**, a student at Ohio University, was selected for the *Zelma H. Weisfeld Costume Design & Technology Award*. Ms. Smith, who will receive her degree in June, was nominated by Holly Cole. The award will again be presented by Ms. Weisfeld, professor emeritus at the University of Michigan. Ms. Smith was noted as being "highly original and very talented." And "an extremely promising young designer."
- **Andrew Wallace** will receive the *Bernhard R. Works, Frederick A. Buerki Scenic Technology Award*. He will graduate in May from Yale University. Mr. Wallace was nominated by Bronislaw Sammler, who also nominated the winners for this award for the past three years and himself received the 2009 USITT Distinguished Achievement in Technical Production Award. Adjudicators commented "The work shown by Andrew demonstrates excellence in technical direction and a level of professional work that all students should strive to meet."



- **Holland Berson**, winner of the *USITT Make-up Design Award* sponsored by *Kryolan*, will receive her graduate degree in May from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Nominated by Michael Meyer, Ms. Berson was complimented by an adjudicator for her "very refined, detailed, professional quality examples!" Another noted her work was "professional level, almost flawless."
- **John Bowhers**, also of UNCSA, will receive the *USITT W. Oren Parker Scene Design Award* sponsored by *Stage Decoration & Supplies, Inc.* He was nominated by John Coyne. One adjudicator commented on Mr. Bowhers' "very sophisticated sense of sculptural space. Beautiful use of images, textures, and penetrated planes. Skillful models. Good understanding of drafting as a design tool. Delightful and theatrical sense of storytelling in his storyboards."
- **David Beller**, recipient of the *USITT Stage Management Award* sponsored by *Clear-Com*, was nominated by Tina Shackelford. He will graduate in May from Carnegie Mellon University. One adjudicator was impressed that he has "not only master the paperwork basics, but is seriously exploring new and innovative ways to accomplish those tasks without paper."

More than 70 students were nominated for awards during the 2012 process. After being nominated, each submitted a portfolio including a resume, letters of recommendation, and examples of their work in a specific field covered by the award.

In addition to the public recognition they will receive when the awards are presented on March 28, each winner will receive a cash prize, complimentary registration for the 2012 Annual Conference, and an opportunity to meet and discuss their work with award sponsors and members of the adjudication panels.

A complete list of past Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts is available [here](#). The application process for 2013 YD&T award will be available online in the fall of 2012.

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## News &amp; Notices

## Prizes Offered to Students Who 'Hunt' Fellows

At the Long Beach 2012 Conference & Stage Expo March 28 to 31, there will be a "scavenger hunt" contest with the prize of an all-expenses-paid mentoring sessions for two USITT Student Members.

Participants may pick up a contest form at the Network Nexus Booth. The form will have six boxes on it, each box containing a photograph of a Fellow but no clue as to the Fellow's name. These photos will NOT necessarily be current, making identity more difficult. The challenge is to discover the identity of the six Fellows, find each Fellow, and have the Fellow sign the contest form. Contestants are allowed to ask anyone at the Conference for assistance in identifying the six Fellows.

Once the form is completed, it must be turned in at the Network Nexus where all correct forms will be entered in a drawing. Contest forms must be turned in by 11 a.m. Saturday, March 31.

Two names will be drawn at random from those who successfully identified all six Fellows. Each winner will be awarded a two-day, all-expenses-paid mentoring session with a Fellow of their choosing. The students may know of a Fellow they would like to have as a mentor, in which case the Fellows Organizing Group will communicate with that Fellow to see if she/he is able to participate. If they do not have a specific Fellow in mind, the Fellows Organizing Group will assist in identifying a Fellow in the appropriate area of interest.

The Fellows Organizing Group will be responsible for making the initial contact with the Fellow Mentor. They will make certain the Fellow Mentors and the students can agree on a time and place for the mentoring sessions. The sessions may take place at the Mentor's home city or perhaps at a project location where the Fellow Mentor is working.

Each winner will be responsible for making arrangements for their transportation, lodging, meals, and any other personal needs which will be paid for by USITT as the contest prize. The Fellow Mentor will be responsible for determining the times and places for the mentoring sessions and deciding on the substance of the session.





Within 10 days after the mentoring session, each student will be responsible to write a narrative detailing the mentoring session. This narrative will be published in the Fellows Newsletter and may be used in other USITT publications.

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## Early Deadline Approaching

To save money, register for the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo by Thursday, February 16. Remember, Stage Expo, all regular Conference sessions, Opening Night, Closing Night, and all the information in between is included in Conference registration.

Have your member number available and [click here](#) to sign up now.

## Paper and Pencil Exams Offered in Long Beach

ETCP examinations will be given at USITT's Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach, California. All three examinations will be given at the same time and are scheduled for the morning of Saturday, March 31. Candidates who wish to take more than one exam should contact ETCP. Interested applicants must submit applications, along with supporting materials and fee, to the ETCP office no later than **March 1**. Space is limited.

Candidate information, including eligibility requirements and applications, is available on the [ETCP website](#). For mailed information, contact Meredith Moseley-Bennett, ETCP certification manager, at 212-244-1505 or [etcp@plasa.org](mailto:etcp@plasa.org).

## Silver Sponsors for NATEC

Taking a leadership role in bringing together people who design and build theatre spaces, USITT and J. R. Clancy, Inc., are Silver Sponsors of the 2012 North American Theatre, Engineering, and Architecture Conference (NATEAC) scheduled for July 22 and July 23 in New York City.

Directed by Bill Sapsis, the NATEAC conference promotes communication between the architects, engineers, consultants, and manufacturers responsible

for designing and building new theatres and renovating existing facilities. J. R. Clancy has been a lead sponsor of this event since 2008. Clancy also participated in the Theatre Engineering & Architecture Conference in the United Kingdom — the inspiration for the North American conference — in 2002 and 2006, and became a sponsor of the UK conference in 2010.

Registration and schedule information for NATEAC can be found at [www.nateac.org](http://www.nateac.org). More information about USITT's support will appear in the February *Sightlines*. Information on J. R. Clancy, a wholly owned subsidiary of Wenger Corporation, is available at (800) 836-1885 or [www.jrclancy.com](http://www.jrclancy.com).

## Display Entwines Extremes

"Baroque to Bauhaus: Designs from the Tobin Collection" will be on display at the McNay Museum in San Antonio, Texas until June 10.

In Baroque to Bauhaus, scene and costume designs, gilded ornaments stand out against steel girders and lace mantillas against oilskin raincoats, all of which embrace extremes of artistic expression and human emotion. Costumes lent by the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Metropolitan Opera, and the Santa Fe Opera bring designs from the Tobin Collection to life. New acquisitions for the McNay's collection heighten the contrasts through engravings of outdoor spectacles complete with fireworks in 1700s Rome and bejeweled Art Deco costume designs for *The Drowsy Chaperone* on Broadway.

This exhibition was organized by the McNay Art Museum and is a program of the Tobin Theatre Arts Fund.

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## Kook Fund Art Auction in Long Beach

**Tim Kelly** *Fellow, Art Auction Committee*

The Edward F. Kook Fund Tri-Annual Theatre Art Auction is coming to Long Beach and will be a featured event on the show floor during USITT's 52nd Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

The Grants & Fellowship Committee has accumulated donations of extraordinary artwork to be offered. There will be approximately 30 individual works of theatre art; costume renderings, set designs, lighting plots and more, all created by some favorite artists. Look for fabulous works of art from Carrie Robbins, Becky Cunningham, Betty Poindexter, Jules Fisher, Herb Camburn and many others.

The auction will commence at the opening of Stage Expo on Thursday morning and will continue through 1 p.m. on Saturday when the final bids will be taken.

The Silent Auction format allows participants to surreptitiously bid and re-bid in an effort to outwit opponents. Not only is the artwork the prize at the end of the process, getting there is half the fun. All the proceeds from the auction go directly to the Edward F. Kook Fund which provides financial support for the Grants & Fellowships program. Each purchase of a \$5 bid number makes a small donation to the Kook Fund.

Back by popular demand will be the Kook Fund Garage Sale of items unique to the theatre world. There's no telling what wonderful and whimsical bits and pieces will appear for purchase at this part of the event. The auction is exciting, the cause is good: assisting USITT to provide grant and fellowship research funds. Look for the 8th Tri-Annual Kook Fund Art Auction next to the USITT booth at Stage Expo.



Louis Brown 1967





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# In Memoriam: Don Childs

**Kristina Hanssen** *Southwest Section Chair*

Don Childs, beloved friend, designer, educator, father and husband, died December 18 in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Nothing can be written about Don that will express the void left in the lives of those that considered him our friend and mentor. From students and artists to industry professionals, all will miss his creative mind and talents.

He touched the lives of hundreds if not thousands of students, artists, and all who met him. He was a tireless worker who put his all into each and every production he worked on, creating both sets and lights for hundreds of shows across the United States and Canada.

He was a prolific, award winning lighting and set designer who felt that it was his duty to give back by training new artists in his craft. In 1970, he began his life-long dedication to teaching which led him to universities in six states and two countries. In 2006, he and his wife, Jane, founded Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas, a summer training program centered around Mr. Childs's belief that education is best served by hands exposed to the newest technology in the field and some of the best live shows using that technology.

Opportunity was what he tried to offer everyone: opportunity to grow as an artist, technician, and more importantly, as a person. While Mr. Childs was teaching at Concordia University in Canada, a group of young men asked for a space to perform. Mr. Childs gave them that space, encouragement, and chances for some of his students to gain experience. Today, this group is known as Cirque de Soliel.

Don worked tirelessly for USITT to expand the horizons of members and potential members. He was immediate past chair of the Southwest Regional Section, but before that was a charter member of the Northern California Section and founding Chair of the St. Lawrence Section (which became inactive



Don Childs

when CITT developed), and was a Director at Large in the 1980s.

He organized special exhibits at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo, led or was a presenter at many sessions, and supported the organization in many ways both small and large, including as an exhibitor at Stage Expo.

He is survived by his wife, his daughter, Tera, and thousands of students and friends. Those touched by his friendship can attest that Don lived every day by his friend Ladislav Vychodil's saying: "Integrity is all we have; an artist without integrity has nothing." Don had integrity and our love.

A remembrance is being planned in Long Beach, California on Saturday, March 31 after the close of the 2012 Stage Expo.

At the family's request, memorial donations may be made to USITT to support students attending the USITT Annual Conference. Donations, made payable to USITT and designated to Don's memory may be sent to 315 South Crouse Ave., Suite 200, Syracuse, NY 13210.

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The Last Word:

## Coming Up with the Big Idea and Making the Big Idea Real - A Journey of Experience Creation

**Szu-Feng Chen** *Scene Design & Technology Commission*



Beyond All Boundaries, National World War II Museum, New Orleans.

Design and production by the Hettema Group

"What would be a successful approach to tell a story?" That conversation happens regularly between theatre artists. Themed entertainment creators share similar questions, yet expand their conversations to explore new paths to experience a story. These professionals, most of whom started their careers in theatre, have a unique way of coming up with the big idea and making it real.

Because the 2012 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo is being held in Southern California, headquarters of themed entertainment world, the Scene Design & Technology Commission and regional programming coordinators are bringing together a group of luminaries to share their experiences and their creative processes. Two supersessions, held back to back, will let attendees explore the process from start to finish as secrets from behind the creation of the magic world are revealed.





Conceptualized City Center time keeping device in Dubai.

Final colorized key art to scale provided by Tom Vanucci.

From the initial concept to a logistical plan, the brainstorming process involves writers, producers, designers, architects, storytellers, technologists, project managers, and analysts. Phil Hettema, the president of the Hettema Group, and Mark Thomas, founder and principal of On Track Themes, will lead the conversation with professionals discussing the collaborative process during recent high-profile projects such as "Beyond All Boundaries" at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, King Kong in 3D at Universal Studios, and the Shanghai Expo 2010.

**Coming up with "The Big Idea"** will be held 1 to 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 29. What is the first step to make the magic happen? How does a design come together when there is no script, or when the writers are the last to know? Brainstorming is step one. What is the budget? Where is the project located? What does the client want? What could we do that would be totally new and different? It is an entirely collaborative process involving designers, architects, show designers, technologists, writers and producers all sitting around a big table hashing through ideas. See the process at work as experienced professionals discuss their recent collaborative projects.

The panel, moderated by Mr. Hettema, will show the way. His credits of design and creative direction include countless attractions,



Concept illustration and final scenic for underwater area

Gwen Ballantyne at Thinkwell for Fernbank's NatureQuest.



themed entertainment projects, and environmental experiences both nationally and internationally. His conversation with creative writer Amanda McTigue; award winning creative director and designer Michael Devine; concept designer and artist Gwen Ballantyne; creative director Tom Vanucci; and project manager Mark Thomas, will present the creative process of each. The panelists will share their approaches to concept development and recent creative design experiences.

**Making the Big Idea Real** will be held 2:45 to 4 p.m. Thursday, March 29 and reveal the mechanism behind the fantasy kingdoms. This session will concentrate on what happens after a client is sold on a concept. How does it get built on time and on budget? Panelists will discuss recently completed, high profile projects, such as "Beyond All Boundaries" at the National World War II Museum and King Kong in 3D. The session will include several surprise guest appearances. Moderator Mr. Thomas is recognized as a technical innovator and problem solver in the entertainment industry. His guidance in project management from budget to practical operations has been an essential element to numerous productions. His discussion with Mr. Hetteema along with respected technical director Chris Manson (Thinkwell Group), Chris Conte, (Entertainment, Electrosonic Inc.), project manager Eric Sambell (Epic Production Technologies), product manager and designer Seth Briskman, and creative consultant Steve Leff, will compare and share their recent project development from a practical point of view.

Both panels have Patricia MacKay, Szu-Feng Chen, and Karen Maness as co-chairs.



Fashion Show Mall Las Vegas. Custom architectural components--LED boards, projection kiosks, signage and graphics--create a customizable advertising infrastructure on the Las Vegas Strip.

Photo/S. Leff.



Rogers Arena scrim projector system for the Vancouver Canucks, installed in 2010. System uses 16 Barco CLM-R10+ 10K lumen projectors, paired with Flexible Picture Systems IAP-200 keystoneing processors, to project on four 13'-6" w X 36' h semi-transparent scrims. To accommodate sight lines the projectors are hung 30' above the top of the image and scrims are flown and folded using automated Thern Stage Equipment 120'/min wire rope hoists during game play.

Photo courtesy/Canucks Sports and Entertainment.

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# Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

February 2012

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## Updates Coming

The USITT office is working on a project to improve information flow about programming and exhibitors at Stage Expo, all aimed at enhancing information exchange and the overall 2012 Annual Conference experience.

Look for updates at [www.usitt.org/2012](http://www.usitt.org/2012) and in member e-mails.

## USITT Hotels in Long Beach

People can still take advantage of reduced hotel costs by staying with USITT in Long Beach for the 2012 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Although the Hyatt Long Beach is currently full, rooms may become available at that facility. In the meantime, rooms are still available at the Renaissance and the Westin which are both very close to the Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center.

[Book a room online here.](#)

## In Memoriam: Marcia M. Busch-Jones

Marcia Marie (Gott) Busch-Jones, 67, of Bloomington, Indiana died December 2, after a long bout with metastasized colon cancer. She was the wife of Ted Jones, and was known to many USITT members because of their travels, including visiting Prague and the Prague Quadrennial three times because of their association with USITT.

She started working for Indiana University in its Office of Publications and as associate professor of fine arts. She became director of the Office of Publications and oversaw its expansion and renaming to IU Creative Services, with Marcia as executive director. She retired in 2009.

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- **ETC:** Famed Bolshoi Theater Completes Construction, Holiday Lights Go 'Green'

## Rose Brand: ETCP Recognized Employer, Offers Catalog Online

Jesse Adams, rigging project manager at **Rose Brand**, is now an ETCP Certified Rigger for Theatre making the company an ETCP Recognized Employer. The certification demonstrates expertise in rigging that employs the use of counterweighted systems, mechanical systems, and hydraulic systems installed in facilities for the use of theatre technicians in the execution of their rigging responsibilities

Rose Brand is now giving customers the option of viewing its catalog electronically. Customers can find the e-catalog on the homepage of [RoseBrand.com](http://RoseBrand.com).



Jesse Adams

## SECOA: Dan Culhane Named to New Post

**SECOA Inc.** has named Dan Culhane to the newly created post of technical business development manager. His new responsibilities involve strengthening SECOA's outreach to the consulting and architectural communities that design and construct performing arts facilities. Acting as a key liaison between SECOA and other providers of design services, he will focus on providing technical solutions both for projects in early planning stages and other industry wide challenges.



Dan Culhane



Previously manager of the engineering department, Mr. Culhane brings a wealth of expertise and years of building industry relationships. Currently serving on the Board of Directors for USITT, he was recently elected USITT Treasurer, starting July 1. He is involved in the development of ANSI Standards for the entertainment industry. He is an ETCP Certified Theatrical Rigger and a member of the PLASA Rigging Working Group, for which he chairs the task group on the manufacture of chain hoists. He also is a member of the PLASA Stage Lift working group engaged in writing a standard for orchestra pit lifts.

Prior to joining SECOA, Mr. Culhane was technical director for the Guthrie Theater and The Children's Theatre Company. He has an MFA in theatre technology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and a BA from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

He can be reached at 763-506-8885, 800-328-5519 and [d.culhane@secoa.com](mailto:d.culhane@secoa.com).

## Stage Technologies: Expands Rental Offering in U.S., Schedules Training Sessions

**Stage Technologies** is expanding its United States rental services division to increase availability of its automation systems, the same extensive rental products and services already available from the United Kingdom

Recently Stage Technologies provided the performer flying rig used on Taylor Swift's Speak Now tour in the US and will continue with the tour as it heads to Australia and New Zealand in 2012.

Stage Technologies' USA office is also launching its training schedule for 2012. The popular three-day training course – An introduction to automation and the eChameleon suite – will be run in February, May, and October and is aimed at programmers, operators, and other professionals interested in learning the features of eChameleon suite, the common software platform across all Stage Technologies control consoles. The course provides hands-on learning with the software including features, functionality, and setting up and plotting a show. It is held at the Cirque du Soleil Training Center in Las Vegas.

For more information, visit [www.stagetechnology.com/training](http://www.stagetechnology.com/training) or [www.stagetechnology.com/las-vegas-training-registration](http://www.stagetechnology.com/las-vegas-training-registration).

## Vincent Lighting Systems: Firms Team Up for 'Green' Lighting Overhaul

When universities are looking for ways to update their existing lighting systems, many have to begin the process by approaching their respective budgetary committees to plead their cases and discretionary funds are not often approved. When

Northern Kentucky University (NKU) decided to implement a school-wide "green" initiative, lighting designer Terry Powell leapt at the opportunity, and worked with Adam Hayward at **Vincent Lighting Systems** to overhaul his lighting rig with 24 PL3 Wash luminaires from **Philips Selecon** and a Palette VL control console from **Philips Strand Lighting**.



Located in the suburb of Highland Heights, seven miles southeast of Cincinnati, NKU has more than 15,000 students, and produces four main stage productions inside the Corbett Theatre where the lighting fixture renovation took place.

### J.R. Clancy: Murphy Leads J.R. Clancy, Young Retires

After 30 years with **J.R. Clancy**, Bob Theis stepped down from his position as chief executive officer on December 31. He will continue until July as an advisor to the board of Wenger Corporation, the company that owns J.R. Clancy.

Mike Murphy, who has served as president of Clancy since 2009, became the company's top executive. He will retain the title of president. In his 14 years with Clancy, Mr. Murphy has been integrally involved in sales, project management, new product development, and supervision of some of the company's largest and most complex projects. He also developed and implemented the company's quality management program, which led to the company achieving ISO 9001 registration.

Looking ahead, Mr. Murphy plans to maintain Clancy's leadership in product innovation and project management.

Tom Young, vice president of marketing at J.R. Clancy since 1998, left the company for health reasons. He arrived at Clancy in 1993 to take the position of international sales representative, bringing the company more than 20 years' prior experience in engineering, sales and marketing of theatrical lighting at Skirpan Lighting, and Colortran Inc., and rigging systems at Hoffend, Inc. At J.R. Clancy, his capabilities drove the expansion of sales overseas, helping to make the company a significant player in major projects in Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific Rim.



Tom Young

As Clancy's vice president of marketing, Mr. Young built the company's reputation as the leading manufacturer of theatre rigging systems in the United States. When the company's focus expanded to include off-the-shelf automated

rigging products as well as traditional counterweights, he developed the messaging and marketing plan that positioned J.R. Clancy as a leader in technological innovation.

Beyond his position at Clancy, Mr. Young has served on the Board of Directors USITT and as a director of the Entertainment Services and Technology Association (ESTA). He held the position of vice-president of the ESTA board for two terms. He and his wife, Sheila, are planning a move to the Pittsburgh area.

More information about J.R. Clancy is available at 800-836-1885 or [www.jrclancy.com](http://www.jrclancy.com).

## ETC: Famed Bolshoi Theater Completes Construction, Holiday Lights Go 'Green'

After six years of construction, Russia's Bolshoi Theater – one of the world's preeminent cultural meccas for opera and ballet – has finally reopened its doors to newfound glory. The massive renovation project was focused on preserving the architectural and artistic features of the building while adding modern necessities and installing state-of-the-art technology in the theater's historic main hall, including a completely new lighting system controlled by an ETC Eos lighting control system.

The reopening marks the beginning of the Bolshoi's 236th season, with a schedule bigger and busier than any in the theatre's history – 365 performances, with a staggering 319 shows at home

Fort Worth, Texas-area residents and visitors were treated to a feast for the eyes this holiday season — the festive lights outlining historic Sundance Square. This year the lighting display was expanded, while going greener with LED lighting controlled by an ETC Unison Mosaic show-control system.

A signature of the downtown area has been the sparkling white lights outlining buildings, windows and trees. The goal this year was to replace those building-outline lights with long-lasting, programmable RGB LEDs that would still simulate the warm lighting look of incandescent lamps while also changing colors and creating patterns.

For more information on Mosaic show-control and other ETC products, go to [www.etcconnect.com](http://www.etcconnect.com).



Two ETC Eos consoles during programming for a show in the Bolshoi Theater's Main Hall.

Photo/Igor Tabakov



Lights in Sundance Square.

Photo/Brian Luenser

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- **Elation Lighting:** Joins at Sustaining Level
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- **Meyer Sound:** Two Named to Constellation Team, Equipment Supports Judas Priest

## Full Sail University: New Sustaining Member

**Full Sail University** has joined USITT at the Sustaining member level. The Florida-based organization will be exhibiting at Stage Expo. Full Sail provides "real world education" at its media arts college with more than 25 years of experience training award-winning music, production, and design professionals. Full Sail Real World Education features degrees for creative minds in computer animation, digital arts and design, entertainment business, film, game design and development, recording arts, and show production and touring. For more information, visit [www.fullsail.com](http://www.fullsail.com).

## Chauvet: Joins Our Community

USITT also welcomes **Chauvet** as a new Sustaining member. They will be part of Stage Expo where participants can see what is new at the company. Chauvet, a leading manufacturer of professional lighting, offers an innovative ranges of LED-fitted fixtures. Their flagship products: Legend series of professional moving yoke spot, beam and wash, COLORado series of indoor/outdoor LED wash lights, Q-Series of value-priced club fixtures, and MVP Series of modular LED video panels. Find out more at [www.chauvetlighting.com](http://www.chauvetlighting.com).

## Elation Lighting: Joins at Sustaining Level

Another new Sustaining member is **Elation Lighting**. The Los Angeles-based company provides a wide variety of entertainment lighting for the theatrical market. They note the new Platinum Series, Arena Par, and ELED Fresnel II are ideal choices for a wide variety of stage and theatrical applications. In addition,

Elation also provides a variety of fog and special effects machines, great for any theatrical production. Find them at [www.elationlighting.com](http://www.elationlighting.com) or visit them at Stage Expo.

## The Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas: Institute's Summer Schedule Online

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The summer schedule, details and registration forms for **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas** are now available online at [stagecraftinstitute.com](http://stagecraftinstitute.com). Classes include CAD, automation, rigging, sound, lighting tech, WYSIWYG, projections & video, and moving lights, all fully hands-on and taught by industry leaders. Class size is limited, so register today to secure a spot.

## Meyer Sound: Two Named to Constellation Team, Equipment Supports Judas Priest

---

**Meyer Sound** has added Mac Johnson and Ana Lorente to the Constellation acoustic system's team. Mr. Johnson has been named project manager, transferring from his prior position as education programs coordinator for the company. Ms. Lorente, formerly with the projects department of Meyer Sound Spain, will now serve as project designer.

Mr. Johnson has served in Meyer Sound's industry-leading education program since 2007, and his duties recently expanded to include Constellation demos and trainings. He also played a principal role in recent temporary Constellation systems deployed at the Barbra Streisand Scoring Stage of SONY Studios in California and at the Great Mountains Music Festival in South Korea. He will remain based at the company's Berkeley, California headquarters. Before joining Meyer, he was managing partner of N.B.S. Production. He has extensive experience as a production manager, sound designer, and FOH engineer.

While with Meyer Sound Spain, Ms. Lorente handled design and project coordination for Constellation systems in Spain at Laboral University Auditorium near Gijón and Centro de Innovación Tecnológica del Entretenimiento (CITE) in Seville. Before her tenure at Meyer, she was an audio and Pro Tools engineer at AudioGraph International. In her new role, she will assist with Constellation project design and management and will be based in Valencia, Spain.

Judas Priest, one of the most renowned and influential heavy metal groups, has embarked on what the band is calling its final world tour, with abundant support from Meyer Sound equipment and supplier Major Tom Limited. Judas Priest's "Epitaph" tour has included Europe, South America, Mexico, and 35 stops in Canada and the US (wrapping up December 3 in Biloxi, Mississippi). The next stop is Japan in early 2012.

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**SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »**

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

## Community Needs to Invest Effort, Time



Every venue, even those in sunny California, works to draw an audience.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

Well, only two months until we meet again in Long Beach. This Conference promises to be even more exciting than the last time we met there. The area has continued to grow and develop which means more dining and drinking opportunities!

I continue to be discouraged by what I read in the national news. Another arts organization has ceased to exist. I just read that Opera Boston was ceasing operations as of January 1. Call me a skeptic, but I don't see how the economy could be rebounding at the rate that the more optimistic among us seem to believe is happening. As members of the arts community, we have a responsibility to do whatever we can to make certain that the arts survive.

As we all know, the elimination of arts programs in communities and in academic institutions has become prevalent as a first line of cost savings measures in the past two to three years. Bill Sapsis, a friend of many of us, said it most succinctly in a recent post on the Stagecraft Mailing List. With his permission, I think that what he posted is worth sharing.

December 27, 2011

*I have a friend (I think he's still on this list) who is the TD (technical director) of a LARGE mid-western university with a very well developed athletic program. I was there conducting a seminar once during homecoming weekend and he was talking about how the football team gets all the money. I asked him four questions...*

- *How many seats in the stadium? - 80,000*
- *How often do they fill them all? - Every game.*
- *How many seats in the theatre? - 2,000*
- *How often do you fill them all? - Never have.*

*Folks, all you can do is the best you can. Make the best impact on the community\* that you can whenever you can and then hope for the best. There are many ways to improve the visibility of the theatre or arts program, but they all take an enormous effort on your part and a lot of time, two commodities in very short supply these days.*

*However, if you never lose sight of your goals and you incorporate those goals in all of your work, you just might make a change, not only in the way the administration views your department but also within the community.\* Nothing is easy these days and maintaining our tenuous toe-hold on the arts, especially in academia, is challenging at best. But the alternatives are just not acceptable.*

*\*I define Community as all of us. Professionals, university faculty, staff, students, the neighborhood which the school is located, the town where the neighborhood is located, and so on. I'm reminded of the bumper sticker "Think globally. Act locally."*

*I'm not in academia and I don't have the answers, but I think we, as a community\* need to start talking more seriously about the 800 pound gorilla in the room. Maybe this is a topic for a USITT a session?*

*I dunno. Maybe I've had too many gingerbread cookies (or too many slices of my homemade carrot cake, the primary ingredient of which is Grand Marnier), but I gotta believe there's more we can do than just piss and moan on this list.*

*Bill Sapsis*

Bill makes a lot of sense. If you don't know Bill, get to know him. It isn't difficult. He is very approachable and very willing to share. As you can see from his writing, Bill is very pragmatic in his thoughts and he shoots from the hip.

Bill, thank you for sharing and for telling it like it is!

I think that this would be an excellent topic for discussion at USITT. Don't be



surprised to see it listed on the Long Beach programming matrix. We, as a community, have to become more proactive and less reactive lest we fade into obscurity.

Be safe and be well.



**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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## Regional Sections

- **Ohio Valley:** Seek Board Nominations
- **New England:** Job Fair in Boston
- **Midwest:** Announce Upcoming Events, Theatre Tour Review

### Ohio Valley: Seek Board Nominations

The Ohio Valley Regional Section is accepting nominations for board seats. Positions up for election are Chair of the Section, Vice Chair of Programming, and four Board Members at Large.

Send name, the position, and a brief bio to Rick Clever:  
richard\_clever@owens.edu. Voting will begin at the Section's annual membership meeting Thursday morning at the Long Beach 2012 Conference & Stage Expo.

### New England: Job Fair in Boston

The annual REPA Job Fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 18, 2012 at the Back Bay Events Center, 180 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts. Sponsors are StageSource and USITTNE

For job seekers, admission is free, and no registration is required.

Employers in entertainment, theatre, film, television, dance, industrial suppliers, and related industries can find employees to fill job openings in design, technical production, consulting, management, marketing, and administration.

This is an opportunity to meet producers and employers, drop off a resume and show a portfolio. Positions in production, design, tech, administration along with summer stock and internship opportunities are available/

Applicants are provided with a list of attending employers and job openings. Employers may conduct interviews and review portfolios on the spot or take resumes and business cards for follow up. (Resumes of applicants unable to attend will also be distributed to registered employers, call 617-720-6066 to find out how).

## Midwest: Announce Upcoming Events, Theatre Tour Review

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Three upcoming events in the USITT Midwest Regional Section are open to anyone in the area.

On Saturday February 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the section will tour the newly-opened Center for Performing Arts in Carmel, Indiana, a new three-venue performing arts complex near Indianapolis.

The morning features an extensive tour with Director of Production Kyle Lemoi and the afternoon will include a discussion of the design, construction, and use of The Center with representatives from the companies that contributed to the creation of the three venues. This includes the theatrical and acoustical consultants Artec Consultants; design architects Pedcor Design Group; construction management company Shiel-Sexton Co.; lighting system vendor Indianapolis Stage Sales and Rentals; lead architects CSO Architects; and resident company Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre. Contact Shane Kelly, Vice-Chair for Programming, at [skelly19@depaul.edu](mailto:skelly19@depaul.edu) to register for this event.

On April 14, the Midwest Section will gather at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan for a day of hands-on workshops in rigging, digital media, and management. In the morning, participants will have the choice between a workshop that explores how to use digital media in theatrical productions or a Production Management Roundtable featuring production managers from around the Midwest Section. The afternoon will have a continuation of the digital media workshop where participants will shoot live-action video and green screen session in preparation for using them on stage. Also in the afternoon will be a hands-on bridge and spot rigging workshop — bring your calculators! Look for registration materials on the USITT Midwest webpage, [www.usittmidwest.org](http://www.usittmidwest.org) in February.

Also in April USITT Midwest is co-sponsoring, with Chicago Spotlight, a two-day scenic painting workshop taught by Jen Knott at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. Ms. Knott is a professional scenic artist, USA member, and paint products manager for Rosco Laboratories

This is an intensive workshop for intermediate to advanced scenic painters where participants will be able to complete a number of projects while learning new tips and tricks. Space is very limited and people must register for this event before March 23. For more information or to sign up, contact Steve Jacobs, Director of Training Workshops at Chicago Spotlight at [steve@chicagospotlight.com](mailto:steve@chicagospotlight.com)

On November 12, members of the Midwest Regional Section gathered on Chicago's Navy Pier for a day of tours and workshops at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre.

The production staff at CST, led by Director of Production Chris Plevin and Technical Director Edward Leahy, welcomed 20 section members to tour all the production spaces at CST. The group began in the 500-seat Courtyard Theatre, the primary thrust theatre, which was hosting the critically acclaimed production

of *Follies*.

Chris and Ed led the group through the modifications made to the Courtyard Theatre to accommodate the musical needs to *Follies* as well as the tight backstage spaces that have been transformed to use every square inch to support the production and serve as storage for the company. The drawback of having such a great location such as Navy Pier for CST is that it has a finite amount of space to work with to house the production support spaces for two theaters including a prop shop, costume shop, wig and make-up shop, lighting workshop, and sound workshop.

After the extensive tour, the group split off to workshops in millinery and flying. Melissa Bochat, the CST costume crafts supervisor, discussed the design, construction, and finishing techniques used on many of the hats that were built for *Follies*. Mark Witteveen from Chicago Flyhouse discussed the methods and protocols his company uses to safely fly performers at CST and other venues. This included what items to include on a pre-show checklist, how to inspect the flying equipment, and how to make sure effect runs safely and consistently.

In the afternoon, the day's workshops continued with Ed Leahy and Chris Plevin working with the participants on how to create a risk assessment process for theatre. Ed and Chris have adopted a system from the UK for judging the risks at each step of the process as well as judging the possible severity of those risks. This information is then used to create action items to assure that everyone working on the show, from staff to over-hire, is working in an environment without undue risks. James Savage, CST's sound master, walked participants through how he and the sound design team created an aural environment to support the orchestra and singers in *Follies*.



Members of the Midwest Regional Section at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre on Chicago's Navy Pier.

Photo/Shane Kelly

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

## The push is on!



The view from the Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center away from the water.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

The Annual Conference starts in eight weeks and people are geared up and excited. So am I. As we head to my second Conference as executive director, I find I know more and that means I'm more excited than when I was a member.

Faces. I am excited about faces. I see smiles of old friends meeting again and the look on the face of a first time attendee. Both are warm images to me. They show the joy of learning and working with people. To see my old friends is exciting, and to meet new people is a joy I love. Seeing our members sharing that energy makes me happier.

I look forward to attending meetings of the Board, Sections, Commissions, and working groups. It sounds strange to some that I look forward to meetings, but I do. In those meetings I get to be in touch with the membership's wishes, desires, and vision for USITT. Those are the meetings that set the agenda for my job, and for all of us who work for USITT.

Stage Expo. It is still a great place to see old friends, but I also get to see new products, companies, and innovation. Bringing all that to one place, and witnessing the enthusiasm generated when people get inspired by something at

Stage Expo is a joy. Inspiration breeds innovation, and that is what our Institute is about.

As a member I got to enjoy these things for myself. As Executive Director, I enjoy these things through the members' eyes. To see people get new energy for production and design because of their involvement with USITT gives me, and all of the office and elected leadership, renewed energy for the work we do for the members.

If you can make it to Long Beach, please do. The vitality promises to be incredible, with new opportunities never available before. I can't wait to enjoy it with you and through you.

PS -- if you [read my article last month](#), the marching band won both the field band and parade band competitions. They ended by getting to play as the featured band in the Gator Bowl preview and brought home 11 trophies and a hefty cash prize.



**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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## Lighting Sessions Offer Variety

**Dave Borron** *Vice-Commissioner for Programming; Lighting Design & Technology Commission*

The Lighting Design & Technology Commission always strives to provide conference programming that will be of interest and useful to its varied constituents. Many hours go into the planning of these sessions beginning prior to the previous year's conference and often continuing until the day the session is presented. This year is no exception.

The session offerings at the Long Beach 2012 Conference & Stage Expo reflects topics to pique the interest of the majority of members no matter what area of lighting their interests lie or their level of expertise.

### In **Lighting Designer/Director**

**Collaboration**, a panel of designers and directors will discuss how to make the communication process

less turbulent. Topics like learning each other's language, what questions to ask, and how to present design ideas in a way that the director understands. Most of us have been there, sitting at the tech table setting and fine tuning looks when the director announces, "The lighting is all wrong! It doesn't work at all! This isn't what we talked about in the production meetings! Fix it!" This is a failure in communication. It doesn't matter who's to blame, the issue needs to be resolved expediently.

**Preparing for a Career on the Road** will focus on leading the "glamorous life" of a roadie. This session will deal with learning the necessary skills to get the job and what to expect once the journey begins. Whether traveling with a theatrical production, concert tour, or an industrial, the panel of experienced roadies will explain how to be successful and how to avoid the ever-present pitfalls, from meeting stars to 18-hour days and not knowing what day it is or what city you are in.



USITT's lighting sessions always draw a crowd. In 2011 the facilities of Light Lab were a special part of Conference programming, and they will be followed in 2012 with additional interesting sessions.

In a **Career Path to Architectural Lighting**, a panel of architectural lighting designers will discuss the similarities between architectural and theatrical lighting, what training is necessary to get into this exciting field, and talk about some of their most and least successful projects. This session will appeal to any member with an interest in "permanent lighting."

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## Costume Sessions in Long Beach and Beyond

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



Brittany McManus, Jessica Walling, Terri Nikolits, Nicholas Jones are busy creating dress forms to ship to the Conference.

Photo/Regina Truhart

The Costume Design & Technology Commission will offer three hands-on sessions at the Long Beach 2012 Conference & Stage Expo. The newest offering is *Hands-on Make-up*. This will join the popular technology and design sessions.

Martha Ruskai and Amanda French will lead the make-up session to include a discussion about teaching make-up followed by breakout groups who will have a chance to focus on make-up for different artists and the use of a variety of tools. Anyone interested in seeing make-up kits from different vendors will have the chance to compare them side-by-side.



Vice-commissioner for costume technology Regina Truhart and vice-commissioner for costume design Tom Bernard have teamed up this year to present two consecutive hands-on collaborative sessions scheduled for Saturday afternoon beginning at 2 p.m.

The afternoon will begin with Mr. Bernard's Inspired Design where participants will draw, paint, color, scribble and possibly interpretive dance their way through a series of inspiring rendering exercises developed to help translate the imagery of language into the imagery of a two-dimensional costume rendering. The goal is to create abstract costume designs that express the pure essence of the language in some sort of two-dimensional form. As Tom noted in a preliminary planning meeting, "I'm excited to get back to exploring the core elements of costume design; we don't always have time to enjoy the creative moments of design these days."

After a short break, participants are invited to bring their designs into Ms. Truhart's Draping as Sculpture which starts at 3:30 p.m. to continue exploring the key elements of design through the three dimensional medium of fabric sculpture. The participants will be organized into small groups, made up of both designers and technicians.

They will be given a variety of materials to work with, and then guided through a series of collaborative draping techniques that focus on the elements of design rather than the more complex technical details of pattern development. The goal of this session is to allow the participants to explore the magic of draping as a pure art form rather than to get caught up in the complexities of pattern development.

Supplies needed to build and ship the 30+ half-scale dress forms needed for this session have been donated by the Professor Dean Mogle, head of the costume design and technology program at University of Cincinnati College Conservatory Music.

While it's certainly possible to attend these sessions separately, in the spirit of collaboration, all are encouraged to attend both for the full experience.

## Programming Ideas Wanted

Now is the time to propose exciting sessions for the next conference. Session proposal forms are online at the USITT website under the Costume Design & Technology Commission tab. Proposals will be decided on during the commission's meeting in Long Beach.

The deadline for proposals is March 9. Mark this on your calendar. This is the same deadline for PDW proposals.

Fill out the same form but indicate next to the title that it's a PDW. Send the completed form to Melissa Merz, [melissa.merz@ttu.edu](mailto:melissa.merz@ttu.edu), and Donna Meester, [dmeester@as.ua.edu](mailto:dmeester@as.ua.edu). This should ensure that at least one will get it.

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# Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

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## Training for Film, TV, Entertainment Design Focus of Session

**Michael Franklin-White** *Session Chair*

*The Relationship Between Traditional and Digital Methodology in Film, TV, Commercial Work and Theatre* is a special panel discussion from the Scene Design & Technology Commission at the Long Beach 2012 Conference & Stage Expo. It will use the availability of Southern California resources to focus on the Los Angeles film and television industries.

The session will look at developing television, film, and digital content in theatre training programs during a rapidly enlarging digital age, and its relationship to traditional training. The panel will discuss what is essential in training the next generation of production designers for television, film, and the digital entertainment world. At the USITT Annual Conference in Charlotte, panelists discussed the need to fuse the classical skills of design with digital training. They proposed a classical undergraduate liberal and fine arts education with training in such traditional crafts such as hand drawing and painting with digital crafts.

These conclusions may be reexamined in Long Beach. Major Los Angeles film and TV media professionals such as Thomas Walsh, production designer and co-chair of the Art Directors Guild Film Society and a member of Art Directors Guild Local 800 as well as USA 829 will participate. Ramsey Avery, production designer, art director, and concept designer along with John Iacovelli and Jim Pohl are scheduled to be on hand. Both continue to work in theatre. They, along



The Young Designers' Forum and Young Technicians' Forum in 2011 were an opportunity to showcase work, but a session in Long Beach will explore how training might influence what is on display.

Photo/Erika Courtney

with East Coast professionals, will present a combined approach to the same set of work principles. Also involved will be Cara Brower, set designer; and Peter Rogness, Allison Ford, Teresa Carry-Thacker, Christine Jones, Derek McClain, and Kim Jennings.

The hope is that these sessions will not only make it clear that either or both of these approaches lead to results on stage, on set, and on the screen, but there is a simple *fusion* between all crafts, organized and arranged by an artist, and more importantly as a designer.

At the 2011 Annual Conference & Stage Expo, the Commission brought together Patricia Woodbridge, Tom Cariello, Laura Crow, Helene Siebrits, and Charles McCarry to demonstrate the minimum skill sets and understanding of theatre literature, history, and liberal arts for students entering the entertainment and theatre industries. Another set of panelists representing United Scenic Artists, Local 829 which included Kurt Sharp, Carl Baldasso, Ms. Woodbridge, Mr. McCarry, and Mr. Cariello presented their knowledge of minimum standards in scene design to enter the union.

An examiner reported that candidates for union membership in New York were remarkably unprepared, and candidates were either overly digitally oriented or completely traditional.

Also noted was that there were no digitally-created works displayed at the Young Designers Forum in Charlotte; they were all traditionally-generated.

*For a double-session on coming up with the Big Ideas and making it real, [see The Last Word](#).*

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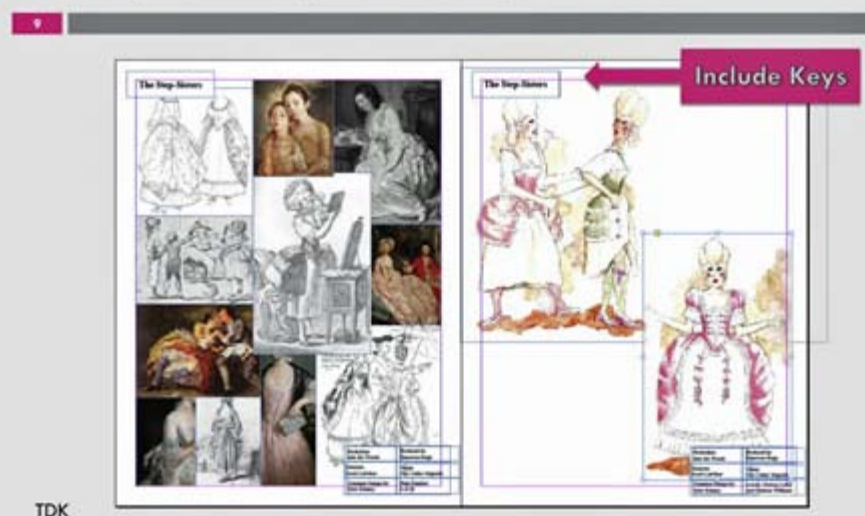
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## Deadline Nears for Student Leadership Presentations

**Rafael Jean** *Student Leadership Initiatives Session Chair*

### Layout: Page-Making



An example of a slide from Tyler Kinney used in the 2011 Costume Design & Technology's Student Leadership Initiative session. He demonstrated how to use InDesign to create costume research booklets.

Students who want to become more involved in the Costume Design & Technology Commission as well as teachers who would like to get their students more involved have a prime opportunity in the Student Leadership Initiative Session planned for the 2012 Long Beach Conference & Stage Expo. The deadline to submit an abstract for a presentation is February 15.

The session will be held Saturday March 31 and will feature two or more student presenters. Each will have 15 to 20 minutes to share their slide shows. The topics can cover anything from unique costume designs, new technical ideas, innovative costume crafts, wardrobe tracking techniques, innovative wig or make-up techniques, and digital applications to students working in a collaborative process.

Last March 2011 when the Student Leadership Initiatives programming got its start, Claremarie Verheyen, professor of theatre and dance commented, "The

Student Leadership initiative was a wonderful treat for the 'old-timers' who pretty much know each other's 'tunes.' To meet, see, and learn from our younger membership...was truly eye-opening and thrilling."

Any and all ideas will be considered. Send them to Rafael Jaen, [rafael\\_jaen@emerson.edu](mailto:rafael_jaen@emerson.edu). E-mails should include name, e-mail, cell phone, school, concentration, topic name, and description plus the name of a faculty mentor. Faculty mentors should send an e-mail supporting the student. Those selected will be notified by February 21 via e-mail.

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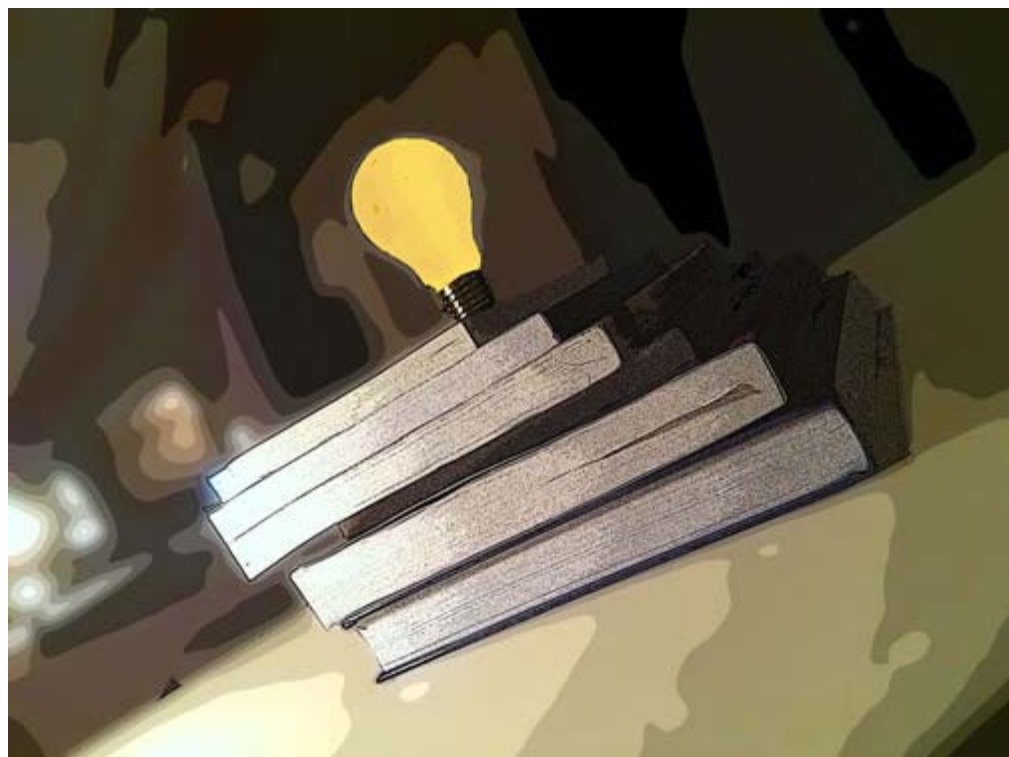
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## Seek Proposals for Education Sessions

**Jonathan Allender-Zivic** *Education Commission*



The Education Commission is asking anyone interested to submit a session proposal for the Milwaukee 2013 Conference & Stage Expo. Those with a topic related to the field of theatre education and who think it will make a good session [follow this link](#) and fill out the online session proposal form. Session submissions will be discussed and voted upon at the Education Commission meeting that will be held in Long Beach on March 31 at 4:30pm.

For examples of what could make a good Education Commission session, look at [the Long Beach sessions](#) being offered by the Commission.

Members who think they have a good idea, but are not sure if it will past muster with your fellow technicians and educators, are urged to submit it and find out! Well written, reasonable, and thought-out proposals will be presented to the Commission's members for review and discussion.

For more information, contact the Education Commission's Co-Vice Commissioners for Programming, Adam Mendelson, [usitt.educomm@gmail.com](mailto:usitt.educomm@gmail.com), or Ashley Bellet, [abellet@gmail.com](mailto:abellet@gmail.com).

Don't have an idea for a session proposal, but have a great idea for an education-related *Sightlines* article (300 word max)? Send ideas and contact information to Jonathan Allender-Zivic, [jallenderzivic@gmail.com](mailto:jallenderzivic@gmail.com) or Shan Ayers, [shan\\_ayers@berea.edu](mailto:shan_ayers@berea.edu) .

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Conference & Stage Expo

## Varied Special Exhibitions in Long Beach

Compiled by **Daniel Denhart** *VP Special Operations*



Ben Nye with Lana Turner

Many special exhibitions will be a vital part of the 2012 Stage Expo in Long Beach, California this March. Some are returning favorites like Design Expo, some have been seen internationally like the USITT/USA exhibits which were part of the Prague Quadrennial in 2011, and others are especially created for USITT.

## Programmable Logic Controls

The Technical Production Commission will be building on the Programmable Logic Control (PLC) exhibit from the 50th Anniversary Conference in Kansas City. In Long Beach the exhibit will demonstrate typical PLC programming with an emphasis on PLC networking. Sit down, stay a while, and work one-on-one with a PLC programmer. Learn the basics, build on existing skills, or gather tips and tricks to enhance programming knowledge and skills. The exhibit is designed to allow people to work hands-on with Automation Direct PLC

equipment and immediately see the results on various PLC-controlled Rube Goldberg-style machines.

## Ben Nye – a retrospective

The career of Ben Nye will be the subject of a retrospective presented by the Costume Design & Technology Commission, the same year his son and company are being celebrated as recipient of a 2012 Distinguished Achievement Award. From his retrospective tribute we get a glimpse of Ben's contribution to the performing arts industry.

He was born in 1908 in Broken Bow, Nebraska, moved to Omaha where he attended high school, and then studied geology at the University of Nebraska. He moved to Los Angeles in 1926 where he worked as a commercial artist for a department store until the Great Depression.

In 1934, Ben became an apprentice in the Makeup Department, studying under Monte Westmore. After he passed his Journeyman test, he working at Fox on "second reelers", more commonly called "B" movies. Ben joined Mr. Westmore as his assistant on David O. Selznick's *Gone With the Wind* where Ben also took care of the principals including Olivia de Havilland, Leslie Howard, and Hattie McDaniel.

While attending to Miss McDaniel, who played Scarlett's nanny, Ben noticed there were no makeup shades for ethnic performers. He had to carefully blend colors so she would not appear red or "pasty". Some 20 years later, he would "fix" the problem by developing foundation shades for ethnic skin tones.

In 1944, studio mogul, Darryl F. Zanuck, asked Ben to take over the Fox Makeup Department. Ben reorganized the department and worked hard to build a team. 'I gave my crew the respect they deserved. I listened to their opinions, and they soon learned I knew their work was important.'



Ben working with Alice Faye



Ben making up Pat Medina



Ben with George C. Scott

In addition to those included in this exhibition, Ben worked with hundreds of notable actors including James Stewart, Gregory Peck, Lana Turner, Cary Grant, Richard Burton, Joanne Woodward, and Elvis Presley.

While at Fox, Ben supervised over 500 feature films and television productions. He trained dozens of artists in one of the finest apprenticeship programs in Hollywood. It was because of Ben's love for the craft that he willingly and generously shared his makeup techniques with the next generation of artists.

After retiring from Fox, Ben set his sights on making his cosmetics available to the entertainment industry. The result is Ben Nye Makeup, where his legacy continues through the makeup line that bears his name.



Ben with Henry Fonda

## Cliff Faulkner and Shigeru Yagi – a retrospective

A special exhibit organized by the Southern California Regional Section will showcase these two artists.

Shigeru Yagi's main career focus has been costume design, although he now enjoys scene design as well. His work has been seen nationwide -- at Lincoln Center, Yale Repertory Theatre, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, San Jose Repertory, and the Nashville Ballet.

Southern California work includes productions at South Coast Repertory, Cornerstone Theater Company, the Pasadena Playhouse, and East West Players.

Currently his designs for *Peter Pan*, starring Cathy Rigby, can be seen at Madison Square Garden and at theatres across the nation. He has created designs for DreamWorks Animation, Universal Studios Tour, Spectra F/X, and Disneyland, including *Mystic Rhythms*, a live



Emily Swallow as Lady Caroline Bramble in San Jose Repertory's *Enchanted April*. Costume by Shigeru Yagi



Michael Elich and company in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival production of *The*



spectacle show for Tokyo Disney Sea in Japan. Among his numerous awards and recognitions are seven Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards, a Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award, and an Emmy Award nomination.

Cliff Faulkner now focuses his attention on training the next generations of theatre artists, having worked as both a scene and costume designer, a stage and art director, and an illustrator. For 20 years he was a resident designer at South Coast Repertory, where he created scenery and costumes for more than 70 productions of new plays and the classics. He has designed 12 productions for the Old Globe in San Diego, plus others for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Pasadena Playhouse, the Westwood Playhouse, and smaller Los Angeles theaters. His work as an art director for live events has been seen in North America, Europe, and Japan.

Cliff and Shigeru both teach in the Drama Department of UC Irvine, and were together honored with a 2011 Bridge Award from Cornerstone Theater Company.

*Music Man*. Costumes by Shigeru Yaji.



Howard Shagra and Jennifer Parsons in the South Coast Repertory production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Scenery by Cliff Faulkner.

## Architecture Award Winners

The Architecture Commission is presenting this year's USITT Architecture Award winners as well as a display of the recently created USITT Architecture Student Design Competition. Through increased sponsorship, the Student Design Competition continues to grow, thriving as an outstanding educational opportunity for our student membership.

## Art Auction

The USITT Art Auction will be offered this year affording you the opportunity to purchase wonderful theater art and support the USITT Endowment fund. Be sure to stop by and join in the bidding, and don't forget your wallets! [Details can be found in Tim Kelly's article here.](#)

## From the Edge

The USA-USITT Design Exhibition has returned from Prague and will be a feature exhibit in Long Beach. The 2011 Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design & Space had more than 40,000 visitors during 10 active and inspiring days in June. The American pavilion, From the Edge, will be one of the Special Exhibits on display during the USITT Long Beach conference.

The USA-USITT Design Exhibit team recommends people experience the exhibit more than once while at the Long Beach Conference & Stage Expo



promising the interior collage will be different every time you stop by!

## International Design

Marketa Fantova, USITT's VP for International Operations is preparing several international design exhibitions highlighting award winners from the 2011 Prague Quadrennial Design Exhibition, separate from the USITT-USA Exhibit. Watch for detailed in the March issue of *Sightlines*.

## Design Expo

There is still time to be a part of the 2012 Design Expo. Members are encouraged to pull out their best design work from a production within the last two years and showcase it at the Conference.

Design Expo is a juried, biennial exhibition of costume, scenic and lighting designs created by USITT members. In 2010, 151 designers competed. The exhibit displays student, professional, and academic work side by side



Design Expo 2010

Winners are chosen by a distinguished panel of theatrical professionals who will identify 12 to 16 designers with outstanding design work for inclusion in the *Design Expo Catalog*, published in the Summer 2012 issue of USITT's journal, *TD&T - Theatre Design & Technology*.

**Entry information is available [here](#).** Application deadline is February 15, 2012.

As a final note, Doug Gilpin is in need of help! Doug is the chair of the Design Expo committee and with the help of Greg Gillette are now the only two remaining committee members on the Design Expo committee. Anyone who would like to become an active member of the committee should contact Doug at [gilpin@hsu.edu](mailto:gilpin@hsu.edu).

Be sure to plan plenty of time into your conference schedule to stroll all the Special Exhibits being presented at Stage Expo during our 2012 Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach.

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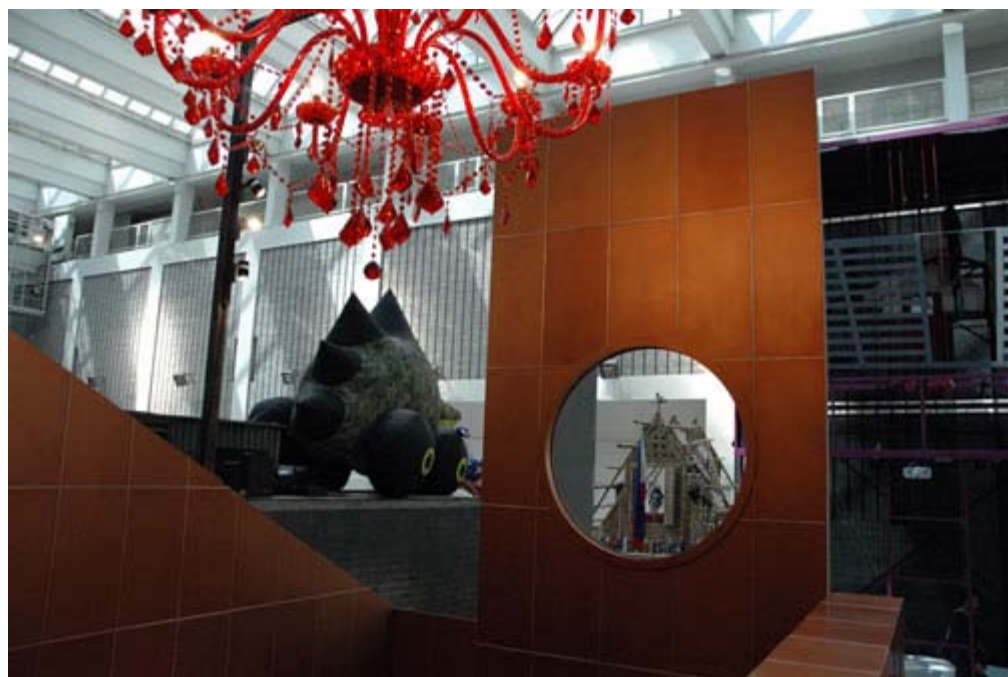
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Conference & Stage Expo

## Investigating the International Scene at Long Beach

**Marketa Fantova** *VP-International Activities*



Postcard from Prague

Photo/Susan Tsu

This year's offering of international sessions at The 2012 Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach includes a wide variety of topics, and introduces works by artists from many different countries and many different areas of performance design.

Participants will look back at successes and stories of Prague Quadrennial, learn about carnival in Cuba and it's costumes, observe mask making techniques from around the world, and visit the virtual site and planned activities of World Stage Design 2013.

In *Postcards from Prague*, USITT-USA Artistic Director Susan Tsu will lead a walk through the National Exhibit Pavilions displayed at the 2011 Prague Quadrennial. From the holograms of Serbia, to the national pride exhibited in Brazil and Mexico, and on to the extraordinary craftspersons of Canada and Spain, join Susan Tsu for a rollicking trapeze around the world -- PQ style!

Mike Monsos will take visitors back to Scenofest 2011, virtually into the city of Prague itself that offered a great many opportunities for learning, interaction, and shared experiences through theatre and performance design. Sean Crowley will introduce the new Scenofest activities planned for 2013 World Stage Design in Cardiff, United Kingdom.

Join Deb Bell for a session that presents an overview of the mysteries and mythic associations of traditional masks from Sweden, Bali, Japan, Trinidad, Mexico, Nigeria, Northwest Canada, and several other countries. Her book, *Mask Makers and Their Craft* explores universal challenges facing traditional mask makers.

Even as their centuries-old intricate techniques in wood carving and leather modeling are threatened with extinction, new techniques in vacuform, latex, and silicone molds increasingly beguile audiences on stage and screen. Additionally, video games such as the Nintendo *Wii* games allow players to create personal avatars that simulate, exaggerate, or distort these "masked" images at will, yet traditional mask iconography continues in these new mask versions.

Do the benefits of having international students in the classroom justify the difficulties of bringing them here? This will be the main question around which the discussion led by Alessia Carpoca will be centered.

March *Sightlines* will include information about sessions featuring winners of the PQ Golden Triga, Best Scenography and Use of Technology, and Lighting Design awards. The issue also will introduce the international artists coming to USITT's Long Beach event from Brazil, Cuba, Croatia, and Cyprus.



A special international session on mask making will be held in Long Beach.

Photo/Deb Bell

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### Conference & Stage Expo

## Saving Your Way through Long Beach

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

College or grad students might need to save on expenses while attending the 2012 USITT Conference & Stage Expo. Even those who are not starving students in these tough economic times like to save a few bucks when traveling. Here are a few ideas about how to stretch meal money while are visiting Long Beach this March.

There are plenty of restaurants near the Long Beach Convention Center (LBCC), but not all of them are economical. Those willing to stroll a mile or less can find a few other possibilities that might not shrink the wallet so quickly. For those in the mood for Mexican food, there is a local favorite, **Super Mex** at 732 E. 1st Street, just west of Long Beach Blvd. and less than a mile northeast of the LBCC. Super Mex serves a wide selection of traditional favorites, with reasonably priced drinks, too.

For something completely different, venture a couple of blocks north to 730 E. Broadway, to the nearest **Roscoe's House of Chicken 'n' Waffles**. An L.A. area institution since the '70s, Roscoe's serves up crispy fried chicken and tasty waffles (obviously) and other down-home recipes such as red beans and rice, mac and cheese, candy yams, collard greens, and sweet potato pie. Open until 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 2:30 a.m. on Friday and Saturday, this particular branch of Roscoe's also features the **Sea Bird Jazz Lounge** for visitors' listening and drinking pleasure.

Only about five blocks east of the convention center at 455 E. Ocean Ave. is **Modica's Deli**, specializing in pasta, Italian-style sandwiches, and salads. They have been in business for over 15 years and — last we checked — nothing on the menu costs more than \$10.99. They are open until 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Southern California has always been synonymous with fast food, but arguably the most legendary local chain, **In-N-Out Burger**, does not have a restaurant close to the LBCC. Those who arrive from the east with limited funds and a craving for a double-double cheeseburger "animal-style" and a "Neapolitan" shake (both from the not-so-secret menu) will have to go about four miles by car or cab — about 15 minutes — to 4600 Los Coyotes Diagonal in Long





Beach. Weird address, but great burgers!

For some out-of-towners, a trip to southern California has to include an excursion to **Trader Joe's**, a specialty deli/liquor/market chain, with stores stocked with lots of good things to eat and drink.

Unfortunately, the nearest one to the LBCC is at 6451 E. Pacific Coast Highway, about five miles (15 minutes' drive) from downtown.



TJ's is great, but a similar, closer alternative for picking up inexpensive sandwiches, salads, chips, trail mix, beverages, toiletries, etc. is the **Fresh and Easy Neighborhood Market** at 450 The Promenade North (at 3rd Street), only half a mile north of the LBCC. It is an easy stroll, even carrying a grocery sack, from USITT's hotels.

If all else fails and there's a rush, keep in mind that some of the restaurants closest to the convention center can provide food to go. That includes Islands, a great place for burgers and salads; P. F. Chang's for Asian cuisine; and California Pizza Kitchen. Visitors cannot bring food into the convention center, but the weather in late March should be great for al fresco dining. USITT Conference attendees on a budget can satisfy their appetites in Long Beach and save money doing it.

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# Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

February 2012

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USITT gratefully recognizes the individuals and businesses in these special categories of membership:

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- American Harlequin Corporation
- Apollo Design Technology, Inc.
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- Foy Invenrprises, Inc.
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Kryolan Corporation

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- MDG Fog Generators
- Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.
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- PRG
- Production Advantage, Inc.
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- Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics, Fabrications & Supplies
- SeaChanger
- SECOA
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- StageRight Corporation
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- Steeldeck Inc.
- Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- Texas Scenic Company
- Vincent Lighting Systems
- Wenger Corporation
- ZFX, Inc. - Flying Effects

## Sustaining Members

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- Ben Nye Makeup
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- Global Design Solutions
- Grand Stage Company, Inc.
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- IALD-International Association of Lighting Designers
- InCord Ltd.
- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
- Irwin Seating Company
- James Thomas Engineering
- Johnson Systems Inc.
- Kenmark, Inc.
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- Lehigh Electric Products Co.

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- Northern Sound & Light, Inc.
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- Ontario Staging Limited
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- Philips Controls/Entertainment Technology
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As of December 15, 2011

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