



# Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

March 2012

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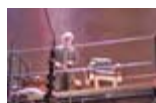
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### Distinguished Achievements Honored

Michael Devine, scene design; Howard Brandston, lighting; Dana Nye, make-up; Tom Hall, management; and Judy Adamson, education will be honored. [more »](#)



### 2012 Rising Star

Jason Simms, a scenic designer, will receive the award, sponsored by LDI2012 and *Live Design* magazine. [more »](#)



### Architecture Winners

Two honor winners, AT&T Performing Arts Center Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare and Swan Theatres Transformation and 10 merit winners. [more »](#)



### Art Auction

It's not just great drawings and art, there are plenty of interesting "garage sale" items, so bring your money. [more »](#)



### Member Benefits

Elite Training returns to Las Vegas, and the deadline to apply is March 31. [more »](#)



### Fellows at Long Beach

Answering questions, providing a place to converse, even a contest are part of what USITT Fellows plan for 2012. [more »](#)



### News From USITT's President

Preparing for Long Beach means both opportunities and transitions are ahead more. [more »](#)



### Executive Director

The calls may come to the USITT Office in Syracuse, but the answers to questions come from throughout the Institute. [more »](#)



### Designed to Thrill

A look behind what it takes to create frightful experiences at theme parks and attractions. [more »](#)



### Portfolio Reviews

Having a portfolio review is helpful at any stage of a career. [more »](#)



### Partnerships

Tapping into the power of partnerships can mean enriched programming and opportunities. [more »](#)



## Architecture

Tours and sessions will focus on structures during architecture sessions. [more »](#)



## Art Directors Guild

Explore the four branch crafts of the Art Directors Guild, and see what roles they play. [more »](#)



## Last Call for 2012 Stage Expo

Stage Expo is expanding, but the deadline to claim a space is fast approaching. [more »](#)



## International Sessions

Creators of the award-winning Brazilian entry from the Prague Quadrennial, along with Croatian and Cyprian designers are featured. [more »](#)



## To Honor PCPA

PCPA Theatrefest has created a unique blend that has enriched the Southern California cultural life, and continues to grow. [more »](#)



## 5D Returns

A forum for discussion of this new way to think about what we do, how we do it, and who participates in the process. [more »](#)



## Hispanic Voices

The Hispanic voice in theatre, while significant and vibrant has diminished. [more »](#)



## Sponsored Events

Opening Night, Cyber Cafes, and Closing Night are all made possible by generous support. [more »](#)



## The Last Word – West Coast Scenics

Making scenic artists for the 21st century – a West Coast perspective. [more »](#)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Super Shuttle Discount
- Cirque du Soleil Discount
- Certification Exams Offered at Long Beach
- Commission Encourages Participation in Meetings
- Shinsai Participation Grows
- Rigging Standard in Public Review

### NEWS FROM: AROUND THE INSTITUTE

- March 1 Deadline for Rose Brand's New Student Competition
- Annual Conference & Stage Expo Opens in March
- April *Sightlines* a Bit Late
- LRLR To Ride Through Northwest to Raise Funds

### NEWS FROM: CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

- **Dacktronics, Inc.:** Receives ISO Certification
- **Rose Brand:** Named Project Manager
- **Rosco:** Promoted to Senior Representative

### NEWS FROM: REGIONAL SECTIONS

- **Desert State:** Reviews Annual Meeting, Looks Forward to Long Beach, Costume-Con
- **Southern California:** Job Fair, Student Competition Successful

- **ETC:** Expand Lighting Control, Dimming Product Lines
- **J.R. Clancy, Inc. & Barbizon Lighting:** New Theatre Features Member Rigging

- **Ohio Valley:** Sours Chosen for Conference Scholarship

#### NEWS FROM: SUSTAINING MEMBERS

- **Doug Fleenor Design:** Welcome to Doug Fleenor Design, Inc.
- **RC4 Wireless:** Moves to 'Silicon Valley of the East'
- **Reed Rigging:** Provides Rigging for Talk Show Super Bowl Broadcast
- **Serapid:** Produces Stage System for the Bolshoi Theatre
- **TOMCAT:** Garl Named President, General Manager
- **Stage Institute of Las Vegas:** April 1 Deadline for Summer Scholarship Applications
- **iWeiss:** McWilliams to Direct Marketing and Sales
- **Meyer Sound:** Expands Low-Voltage Product Line Loudspeakers

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## News & Notices

# USITT to Honor Five with Distinguished Achievement Awards

Five outstanding individuals will be honored as part of the 2012 USITT Annual Conference when they receive Distinguished Achievement Awards. In addition to specific sessions where the honors will be presented and the winners celebrated, USITT has created a special session on Friday, March 30 where they will participate in a conversation, moderated by Kevin Rigdon, which will bring them together to discuss their careers and their visions.

Award winners are Michael Devine, scene design; Howard Brandston, lighting; Dana Nye, makeup; Tom Hall, management; and Judy Adamson, education,

## Judy Adamson

**Judy Adamson** has been the Costume Director in the Department of Dramatic Art and Head of the Costume Production program at the University of North Carolina since 1993. Before that, she worked at Barbara Matera Ltd., gaining experience at one of the foremost costume houses in New York.

She was Barbara's assistant and workroom manager until 1990 when she began draping for the company. She has draped clothes for such Broadway shows as *Crazy for You*, *Jelly's Last Jam*, *The Secret Garden*, *Showboat*, *Sideshow* and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, working with such designers as Irene Sharaff, Miles White, Theoni Aldredge, Florence Klotz, Pat Zipprodt, William Ivey Long, and Bob Mackie. At Matera's she draped for *Hairspray*, designed by William Ivey Long, did preparatory work on *Flower Drum Song*, designed by Greg Barnes and *Dance of the Vampires*, designed by Ann Hould-Ward.

Judy has also worked extensively in dance with American Ballet Theatre, Paul Taylor and Elliot Feld. She was the project director for a supported research grant with Carolina Ballet. She and her students have worked on such productions as *Coppelia*, *Carmen*, *Great Galloping Gottschalk*, and *Messiah* for the Raleigh-based dance group.

A long-time member and contributor to USITT, Judy compiles and maintains information on costume education programs throughout the country for USITT called Survey of Costume Programs in the United States. She has also written



Judy Adamson

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about how to choose a graduate school, and has made many presentations at SETC's annual conference.

In addition to draping for PlayMakers Repertory Company, Judy is working to reorganize and document the vintage collection in the Department of Dramatic Art, including a photograph and description of each garment. The plan is to have information available across disciplines with access through the internet.

Since 2002, Judy has worked at the Utah Shakespeare Festival in Cedar City, draping costumes for *Hamlet*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Hay Fever*, *The Glass Menagerie* and many others. Her students work at regional theatres, on Broadway and teach at colleges and universities nationwide where they continue to uphold the highest standards of costume draping and construction.

Ms. Adamson will be honored at an Education Commission session at 5:50 p.m. Thursday, March 29 in room 102B of the Long Beach Convention Center where she will give an overview of her career in education and a discussion of her pedagogy.

## Howard Brandston

**Howard Brandston** studied theatrical illumination at Brooklyn College and began his career in lighting in the New York theatre. Prior to founding his own firm in 1966, he was a designer at several manufacturing and lighting design firms including Century Lighting, Inc., where he served as assistant to Stanley McCandless, one of the pioneer figures in lighting design.

He has more than 50 years experience in lighting design, engineering, and electronics, designing illumination for more than 2,500 commercial, institutional, residential, and governmental projects.



Howard  
Brandston

Howard received two major awards in 1999. For his contributions to architecture, he was awarded the AIA Institute Honors award. Also, for his outstanding leadership in the lighting industry, he received the Illuminating Engineering Society Medal, its highest honor - he is the just the fourth designer to be so recognized by the IES.

In 1992 he was included in the Interior Design Hall of Fame, the only lighting designer ever to be awarded this honor. He was honored as an initial inductee of the Lighting Design Hall of Fame and also received the International Association of Lighting Designers Lifetime Achievement Award. He is one of six people in the 100 year history of the IES who has received all the highest honors awarded by the Society. Also in 2006 the Richard Kelly Award was presented to Mr. Brandston for his outstanding contributions to education.

He has been a guest lecturer or visiting professor at several colleges and universities.

Howard's articles have been published in over 70 publications, including *the*



*Sight Saving Review*, *Progressive Architecture*, *Lighting Design and Application*, and *Architectural Lighting*, the latter of which he serves as contributing editor.

His book, *Learning to See, A Matter of Light*, was released in 2008 and has received numerous positive reviews worldwide.

A special session from the Lighting Design & Technology Commission at 1 p.m. Friday, March 30 will honor Mr. Brandston and focus on looking at the past, looking at the future, and a discussion of the choices, possibilities, and decisions in a lighting designer's life.

## Michael Devine

**Michael Devine**, in a career that spans all areas of the arts and industry, has worked as an art director, production designer, creative consultant, concept designer, exhibit designer, scenic designer, director, and educator.

His professional credits represent themed entertainment, television and videotape production, television commercials, industrial shows, motion pictures, and television film production as well as museum exhibits and professional theatre productions.



Michael Devine

Michael served as creative director and design director for the Top of the World attraction at the World Trade Center in New York. He also served in the same capacity for the Skydeck exhibit attraction, *The Sights and Soul of Chicago*, at the Sears Tower in Chicago.

He was retained as director of exhibit design and development at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, and provided creative direction for the design of the new award-winning 22,000 square foot *U505* exhibit, the award winning \$3.5 million *Great Train Story* model railroad, and the *Toymaker* automated manufacturing exhibit.

Recent clients include The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, Texas Cattle Raisers Museum, The Graceland Project, America as Seen on TV (History of American television), "Action"! An Adventure in Moviemaking, and the Museum of the American Revolution at Valley Forge for Bob Weis' Design Island, and The Gospel Music Hall of Fame in Nashville Tennessee for Jack Rouse Associates.

Mr. Devine most recently served as creative director for Universal Studios' new 60+ acre theme park in Dubai.

Film, television, and commercial credits include productions which have received Emmy Awards and nominations, Individual Media Awards, Clio Awards and nominations. His numerous honors include 19 Drama-Louge Awards, and he is a member of USA, TEA, and the International Council of Museums.

As production designer, his industrial shows include multimedia presentations and corporate productions for Porsche, Lexus, Compaq Computer Systems, Acura, Honda, the Ford Motor Company, BMW, NSID, Hilton Hotel, Apple USA,

PC Magazine, Intel, and the Boeing Corporation.

His nearly 300 scenic designs have been featured in numerous theatre productions on Broadway, at the Mark Taper Forum, the Los Angeles Music Center, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and South Coast Repertory Theatre, where he is an artistic associate, as well as other notable regional theatres throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

Michael founded the Performing Arts Design and Technology program at California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, California. He has served as master teacher and guest lecturer at colleges and universities throughout the United States. He is Principal of the Devine Design Group, based in Savannah, Georgia.

The Scene Design & Technology Commission will honor Mr. Devine at a special session at 2:45 p.m. on Friday, March 30 in room 104A of the LBCC to celebrate his esteemed career.

## Thomas Hall

**Thomas Hall**, is one of the founding partners of AlbertHall&Associates and oversees the firm's operations from its home offices in California. He also has an active practice as consultant, executive coach, and leadership trainer across all disciplines of the nonprofit sector.

Prior to joining AlbertHall&Associates, Tom served the arts and culture community as a producer, executive director, consultant, and teacher. He has achieved success across multiple disciplines and his efforts to effect sustainable growth in the arts at the national, state, and local levels are well-known.

As managing director of the Tony Award-winning Old Globe Theatre, he oversaw a steady pattern of growth that included significant expansion of the company's programs and facilities and an increase in its impact from a respected regional company to one of the nation's most influential professional theatres.

While with the Old Globe, Tom produced over 265 productions, many of which transferred to leading regional theatres and Broadway. He also produced or co-produced over a dozen plays and musicals on and off Broadway, on national tour, and in London's West End, including the international hit, *The Full Monty*.

In addition to his professional activities, Tom has served on many public boards and commissions, including three terms as President, and two as Vice President, of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) and nine years as a member of the California Arts Council, three as its Chair. He is currently a member of the Board of Governors of the San Diego Foundation and a facilitator, trainer, and executive coach for the Fieldstone Foundation's *Leadership Network*.

Tom has been a panel chair, panelist, and site visitor for the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, and the San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture. He has also testified before Congress and state and local governments on numerous occasions concerning arts policy,

legislation, and public sector funding.

Tom has lectured on arts administration and labor relations at leading universities and law schools including, Duke University and the Yale School of Drama, and is a founding member of the Fieldstone Leadership Network where he teaches and leads seminars for trustees and non-profit executives regarding current trends and practices in organizational leadership and governance.

Tom is an honors graduate from University of California and is certified by the Institute for Cultural Affairs (ICA-US) in group facilitation and organizational planning.

Mr. Hall will speak about his career at a special session from the Management Commission at 2:45 p.m. Friday, March 30 in room 202A/B. A reception will follow.

## Dana Nye

**Dana Nye** is president of Ben Nye Makeup and worked as a professional makeup artist. He is the youngest son of Ben Nye, Sr., noted as one of Hollywood's most prominent makeup artists.

Dana earned his Bachelors of Arts degree in Business Administration at the University of the Pacific in 1969. After a year of graduate study, he joined his father directing the marketing efforts of the fledgling company, Ben Nye Company



Dana Nye

Ben Nye, Sr., who started the business in 1967, designed contemporary colors and products suited for film and theatrical productions.

Dana became president of the Ben Nye Company in 1975. He oversees all phases of operations including production, product development, sales and marketing. He still relies on his father's original, unique formulas as the basis for creating realistic and practical products vital to the entertainment industry.

Dana frequently travels domestically and abroad to introduce new products to dealers and end users. Trips include visits with opera wig masters, studio makeup artists, and instructors. His travels frequently included college lectures to educate both instructors and students on theatrical makeup techniques. Dana produced a popular video series widely used in the educational market. The series was translated in 2008 to DVD and includes updated tips and closed-captioning.

Dana worked professionally as a makeup artist for over 30 years. One of his early jobs was on the original *Planet of the Apes*. In previous years, his schedule would allow him to serve as makeup department head for one "sitcom" per season. His credits include *Happy Days*, *Webster*, *Murphy Brown*, *Dear John*, and *The Mommies*.

He also enjoyed serving as makeup artist for hundreds of television commercials. One of his last jobs was on the popular Paramount television



show, *Fraser*. Due to the growth of the business and an expanding product line, he now devotes his time to the Ben Nye Co.

As president, Dana has continued to expand the Ben Nye product line. He often consults with working makeup artists and instructors to ensure that the needs of these professionals are met. Recent development includes a broad range of beauty, special effects, and character makeup products.

In 2011, Dana introduced the MediaPro line to satisfy the needs of current Hi-def demands and digital media. Additional shades for performers of color were also developed in the Mojave Series.

Under Dana's direction, Ben Nye now offers the widest scope of specialty makeup for the professional market today, and the company has become one of the largest manufacturers of professional cosmetics in the world.

The Costume Design & Technology Commission's special session with Mr. Nye will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, March 30 in room 104B of the LBCC, and will include a reception in his honor.

The work of Ben Nye Sr. is highlighted in a special exhibition at Stage Expo.

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## News & Notices

# Jason Simms Wins Eighth Annual Rising Star Award

Ellen Lampert-Gréaux



Jason Simm's scenic concept for *Sweeney Todd*

Scenic designer **Jason Simms** is the recipient of the eighth annual **USITT Rising Star Award**, sponsored by LDI2012 and Live Design magazine. The Rising Star Award recognizes excellence and artistic achievement in the areas of scenic, lighting, sound, and projection design, or the convergence of these design disciplines. The award is given at the beginning of a career to a young designer in the first four years of professional (non-academic) work, following the completion of his or her highest degree. The 2012 Rising Star Award will be presented on Wednesday evening, March 28 at the **USITT Conference & Stage Expo** in Long Beach, CA.

Jason is a freelance New York-based scenic designer, born and raised in Carson City, NV. He began working in the theatre at the age of 15, earned his BFA at **Cornish College of the Arts** and MFA at **NYU, Tisch School of the Arts**. His credits include: Off-Broadway: *Urge for Going*, *The Public*; *Play Nice!* and

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*Ghost Light*, 59E59; Regional: *A Thousand Clowns*, Two River Theater Co.; *Dutch Masters*, Berkshire Theatre Group; *Fefu and Her Friends*, Ursinus College. Off-Off-Broadway: *A Bright New Boise*, Partial Comfort Productions; *DOT* and *Vendetta Chrome*, Clubbed Thumb; *American Treasure*, 13P; *Thirst(y)*, *The Pronoun I* and *Babes in Toyland*, Little Lord; *MilkMilkLemonade*, Astoria Performing Arts Center & The Management; *The Land Whale Murders*, Shelby Co.; *After*, Partial Comfort Productions at the Wild Project; Upcoming: *The Whale*, Denver Center Theater Company; *Sweeney Todd*, Yale University.

"It is with tremendous pleasure that I unflinchingly recommend Jason Simms for your award," says Chad Beckim, co-artistic director of [Partial Comfort Productions](#), in a letter of recommendation. "He is an absolutely brilliant designer, gifted in the art of transformation and among the most talented folks I've ever had the good fortune to cross paths with. From his talents to his work ethic to his sheer character, there is no better option for this award, and I honestly cannot promote him enough. This guy is genius."

David Grindle, USITT executive director, notes, "Jason Simms joins a small, prestigious group of young designers as this year's Rising Star winner. His work indicates to all of us that we will see his mark on scene design for many years to come. The Rising Star Award continues to draw nominees from all areas of design showing remarkable talent and skill. It is an honor to recognize someone of Jason's caliber and bring him to greater attention in the industry."

David Johnson, publisher of *Live Design*, adds, "We are very pleased to add Jason Simms to our distinguished list of Rising Star winners. It is fitting to honor a scenic designer this year as the Scenic Design Master Classes are among the new professional training options we will produce later in 2012. Jason represents the exciting next generation of designers."

LDI and *Live Design* have funded USITT's Rising Star Award, with the winner receiving a \$1,000 prize and conference registration. For additional information about the Rising Star Award, visit USITT at [www.usitt.org](http://www.usitt.org) or *Live Design* at [www.livedesignonline.com](http://www.livedesignonline.com).

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## News & Notices

# To Honor Architecture Winners



The interior of the Royal Shakespeare and Swan Theatres Transformation, Waterside at Stratford upon Avon shows the dramatic space.

Photo/Copyright Peter Cook

Two outstanding performance spaces, one in Texas and one in the United Kingdom, will received Honor awards from the USITT Architecture Awards program in 2012. An additional 10 projects will be recognized with Merit awards.

- The **AT&T Performing Arts Center Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre** in Dallas, Texas is an Honor winner. Architect was REX/OMA with associate architect Kendall Heaton Associates, Inc. Theatre consultant was Theatre Projects Consultants with DHB B.V as acoustical consultant.

- **Royal Shakespeare and Swan Theatres Transformation, Waterside** at Stratford upon



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Avon, United Kingdom will also receive an Honor award. Architects for the project were Bennetts Associates with Charcoalblue as theatre consultant and Acoustic Dimensions as acoustical consultants.

The awards will be presented at a special session of the Architecture Commission on Friday, March 30 at the 2012 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. The Institute has invited representatives of all 13 winning projects to participate.



AT&T Performing Arts Center Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre in Dallas, Texas will receive a USITT 2012 Architecture Honor Award.

Photo/Iwan Baan

### Merit award winners are:

- **Four Seasons Centre of the Performing Arts**, Toronto, Ontario Canada; Diamond and Schmitt Architects; Fisher Dachs Associates, theatre consultant; Sound Space Design, sound consultant.
- **Parabola Arts Centre, Cheltenham Ladies' College**, Cheltenham, United Kingdom; Foster Wilson Architects; Theatre Projects Consultants, theatre consultant; Paul Gillieron Acoustic Design, sound consultant.
- **Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center**, Florence, South Carolina; Holzman Moss Bottino Architecture, architect; FW Architects, Inc., associate architect; Theatre Consultants Collaborative, LLC, theatre consultant; Akustiks, sound consultant.
- **New York City Center**, New York, New York; Ennead Architects, architect; Fisher Dachs Associates, theatre consultant; Kirkegaard Associates, sound consultant.
- **Dancing Water Theater at City of Dreams**, Macao SAR, China; Pei Partnership Architects LLP, design architect; P&T Group; executive



architect; Franco Dragone Entertainment Group, theatre production; Theatre Projects Consultants, theatre consultant; Wilson, Crockett & Associates, Ltd., acoustical consultant.

- **Rose Center for the Arts**, Longview, Washington; Opsis Architecture, architect; Auerbach Pollock Friedlander, theatre consultant; Sparling Acoustical, acoustical consultant.
- **Visual and Performing Arts Village**, Aptos, California; HGA Architects and Engineers, architect; Auerbach Pollock Friedlander, theatre consultant; Sparling Acoustical, acoustical consultant.
- **BodyVox Dance Center**, Portland, Oregon; Boora Architects, architect; The Shalleck Collaborative, Inc., theatre consultant.
- **Santa Barbara Bowl**, Santa Barbara, California; Handel Architects, design architect; DesignARC, Inc., executive architect; Auerbach Pollock Friedlander, theatre consultant; Jaffe Holden, acoustical consultant; Van Atta Associates, landscape architect; Howard and Van Sande Structural Consultants, Inc., structural engineer.
- **David L. Kurtz Center for the Performing Arts**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Voith & Mactavish Architects, LLP, architects; Robert Davis Associates, theatre consultant; Marshall/KMK, acoustical consultant.

Awards were selected based on creative image, contextual resonance, community contribution, exploration of new technologies, and functional operation of backstage and audience spaces.

Jurors for the 2012 Architecture Awards program included Joseph Mobilia, associate principal with FDA where he has been project manager and has led the planning and programming for much of FDA's college and university work; and Mark Holden, FASA, who is a principal with Jaffe Holden where he is chairman and lead designer of acoustics. William Murray, AIA, guides the program as the Architecture Commission's Vice-Commissioner for Awards.

For a complete list of all sessions planned by the Architecture Commission and all USITT's Commissions, visit [www.usitt.org/Conference/Sessions](http://www.usitt.org/Conference/Sessions). To register for the Conference, visit [www.usitt.org/Conference/Registration](http://www.usitt.org/Conference/Registration)

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# Auction, Garage Sale Featured at Stage Expo

**Tim Kelly** *Art Auction Committee*



Some of the fascinating items offered during the 2009 Art Auction Garage Sale caught the attention of buyers. In 2012, a great collection of art and related items has been assembled.

Photo/Richard Finkelstein

USITT's 52nd Conference & Stage Expo will feature a very special exhibit: the popular Theatre Art Auction to benefit the Edward F. Kook Fund. Every three years for the past 24 years, the Grants & Fellowships Committee has produced this remarkable event. From the Kook Fund, and other USITT resources, the Committee has distributed well over \$230,000 allowing Institute members to unwrap and advance ideas that might not otherwise have been explored.

The Art Auction and Garage Sale will take place in a specially designed area adjacent to the USITT Booth on the Expo floor. There will be 30 or more unique theatrical costume and scenic designs as well as other specialty items to bid on. The Silent Auction bidding will open at 11 a.m. Thursday when the Stage Expo opens and the final bids will be taken at 1 p.m. Saturday just prior to the closing of Stage Expo. A bid number may be purchased for a \$5 donation to the Kook Fund. This number will allow bidding items in the Silent Auction and purchasing

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objects at the Garage Sale. The perspicacious and wily will maneuver for the next three days as bids and counter bids trump one another for ownership of treasured artwork.

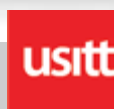
What will there be to bid on? Artwork from Carrie Robbins, Dunsai Dai, Jo Mielziner, Huaixiang Tan, Betty Poindexter, Jules Fisher / Eddie Kook, Maurice Stricle, Joe Tilford, and many others are included in the Silent Auction. There are several author signed and a few hard-to-find collectable books such as Jean Rosenthal's *Magic of Light* as part of this year's offerings. For treasures at a reasonable price, there is the Garage Sale where items strange and wonderful can be found including unique items of historic value such as books, hardware, and T-shirts.

All proceeds benefit the Eddie F. Kook fund and allow the Grants & Fellowship program to continue providing Institute members with research dollars.

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## Super Shuttle Discount

Don't forget that USITT members get a discount on Super Shuttle at all of its airport locations. Book roundtrip on the website and save. Super Shuttle serves all of the Los Angeles airports and is the most cost effective way to get from the plane to the Annual Conference. Use this [link](#) to get your USITT discount with Super Shuttle.

## Cirque du Soleil Discount

For the entire year, Cirque du Soleil is offering USITT members 20 percent off tickets to IRIS at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles. If you are going to be in southern California, this show is a great opportunity to see amazing performance and technology merged in an exciting evening. Thank you to Cirque du Soleil for providing this opportunity year-round in Los Angeles. [To buy discounted tickets, use the link here.](#)

**CIRQUE DU SOLEIL.**

## Certification Exams Offered at 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 their application, along with supporting materials and fee, to the ETCP office no later than March 1, 2012. Space is limited.

Candidate information, including eligibility requirements and applications, is

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available on the [ETCP website](#). To have the information mailed, contact Meredith Moseley-Bennett, ETCP certification manager, at 212-244-1505 or [etcp@plasa.org](mailto:etcp@plasa.org).

## Commission Encourages Participation in Meetings

The Scene Design & Technology Commission strongly encourages any USITT Conference participants to join its Commission meetings in Long Beach. These meetings are informative, informal sessions that provide opportunities to become actively involved. This is a great opportunity to network, establish professional contacts, and become part of next year's programming success. The Scene Design & Technology Commission meetings are 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 28 and 8 a.m. Friday, March 30. All full conference participants are welcome.

Those unable to attend the Long Beach Conference but wishing to propose a session for the 2013 Annual Conference & Stage Expo can contact Co-Commissioners Karen Maness [kmaness@texasperformingarts.org](mailto:kmaness@texasperformingarts.org) or Michelle Harvey, [harveymd@uta.edu](mailto:harveymd@uta.edu); or Vice-Commissioner of Programming Casey Kearns, [ckearns@uwyo.edu](mailto:ckearns@uwyo.edu).

## Shinsai Participation Grows

Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for theatre, announced that participation in *Shinsai: Theaters for Japan* has grown to over 35 organizations with 12 states as well as several provinces in Canada now represented. On March 11, the first anniversary of the earthquakes, this consortium will stage multiple fundraising events for the Japanese theatre community affected by the disaster, with audience donations distributed through the Japan Playwrights Association.

*Shinsai* [SHEEN-sigh] means great quake in Japanese. Participating theatres will stage fundraising events featuring a menu of 10-minute plays and songs – now available online – donated from major American and Japanese artists including Edward Albee, Philip Kan Gotanda, Richard Greenberg, John Guare, Oriza Hirata, Naomi Iizuka, Nen Ishihara, Shoji Kokami, Tony Kushner, Jeanine Tesori, Toshiki Okada, Yoji Sakate, Kumiko Shinohara, Toshiro Suzue, Suzan-Lori Parks, Doug Wright, John Kander, Fred Ebb, Stephen Sondheim, and John Weidman. Using the model of *365 Days/365 Plays*, theatres everywhere are invited to craft their own event, drawing from the donated plays and from work generated by their own resident artists.

For more information about *Shinsai* and to read the plays, visit: [www.tcg.org/shinsai](http://www.tcg.org/shinsai).

## Rigging Standard in Public Review

*BSR E1.6-4 - 201x, Portable Control of Fixed-Speed Electric Chain Hoists in the Entertainment Industry*, is available for public review on the [PLASA website](#) through March 26. The control systems covered are most often used to control one or more chain hoists being used to fly equipment or scenery in shows or events being done in arenas and convention centers.



For more information, contact Karl G. Ruling, PLASA technical standards manager, 630 Ninth Avenue, Suite 609, New York, NY 10036; 212-244-1505; [karl.ruling@plasa.org](mailto:karl.ruling@plasa.org).

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# Member Benefits

"It's tough to find opportunities to work with advanced systems like this..."

"...[it] made me realize why I love technical theatre."

"It was wonderful to actually feel how much people enjoyed their jobs and the companies they work for."

"It" is Elite Training Las Vegas to be held May 10 to 12. Apply now for a chance to learn in an intensive, hands-on environment.

Elite Training Las Vegas returns through the generous support of Cirque du Soleil, Columbus McKinnon, Stage Technologies, Meyer Sound, Silver State Wire Rope, and coolux International. Thirty-two student and early career members have the opportunity to learn about high end systems from the same trainers that train the staff at Cirque du Soleil in the Resident Shows training center in Las Vegas.

In an effort to expose more young technicians to the advanced systems running in theatres around the world, Elite Training was created to bring the most promising young people together for a weekend of classes, shadowing technicians, and networking with the industry. Participants make their way to Las Vegas and meet the others in their class. Class sizes are small to insure individual attention and opportunities to work with the equipment.

To apply, [click here before March 31.](#)

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The 2011 version of Elite Training provided invaluable to those who were chosen to participate.

Photo/Rochelle Wolfe

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# The Fellows: A Resource at Long Beach

**Tim Kelly** *USITT Fellow*



The Institute's Fellows will again be dynamically involved in various activities at the Long Beach 2012 Conference & Stage Expo. Many Fellows will lead or participate in personal development workshops, seminars, panel discussions, committee meetings, mentoring sessions, and Stage Expo exhibits. The Fellows, individually and as a group, continually endeavor to rededicate themselves to the purpose and mission of USITT. Some highlighted events are:

## Network Nexus

The Network Nexus booth will be located within the USITT booth at Stage Expo floor. This lounge is designed as a salon for relaxed conversations with Fellows and other Institute members. Everyone is welcome to stop by, have some refreshments, chat with colleagues, meet new and old friends, and just relax between sessions. The Fellows intend to make this area a cordial meeting place where ideas can be considered and information exchanged.

## Ask A Fellow

Fellows can be identified by their conference badge ribbons and their distinctive red "Ask a Fellow" buttons. The buttons are meant to encourage all Institute

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members to engage these "pillars of knowledge" in conversation. The Fellows are a congenial group willing and anxious to share insights and experienced knowledge on many facets of the entertainment industry. We set about to calculate the cumulative years of experience held within the group of 73 Fellows but the total became somewhat unmanageable. Suffice it to say, the answers to many perplexing questions can be found somewhere in the group.

## Student Contest / Find A Fellow

USITT and the Fellows are sponsoring a special contest open only to student members. An all-expense-paid, two-day mentoring session will be the prize for each of two student winners.

- Contest forms for this "scavenger hunt" will be found at the Network Nexus Booth.
- Participants must find, from photos on the form, six Fellows and have each sign the form.
- Once the form is complete with the signatures of the six fellows, the form must be turned in at the Network Nexus Booth.
- Completed forms will be entered into the prize drawing. The mentoring session will be with a Fellow in the student's area of interest.
- Mentoring will take place at the Fellow's home city or perhaps in a project location where the Fellow is working.
- The Fellows organizing committee will work closely with the winners to select a Fellow who will be the best possible match for the student.
- This may well be a career transforming experience for two student members.

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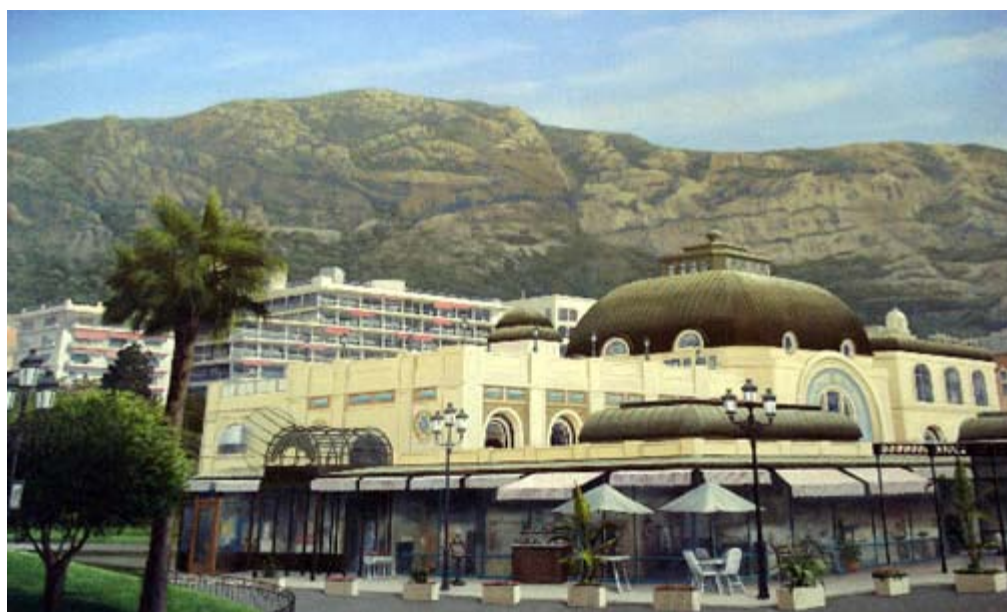
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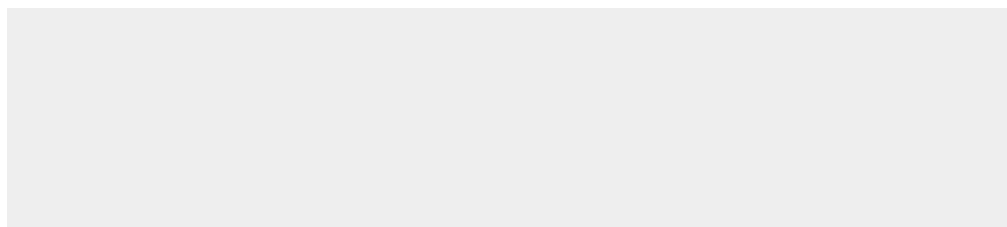
## The Last Word: "The West Coast Scenic"



The Scene Design & Technology Commission invites you to join them for a session that examines the work of four top scenic artists working in film, television, theatre, opera, themed entertainment, attractions, education, and beyond. We will discuss training, offer insights from the motion picture and entertainment industry, and discuss what it means to be a scenic artist in the 21st century. Presenting panelists are Pat Degreve, Michael Denering, Mary Heilman, and Tiana Torrilhon.

Chaired by Karen Maness, the session will be held 6 to 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 28.

CBS TVC Charge Scenic Artist Pat Degreve has more than 35 years experience with CBS, beginning his career on *The Carol Burnett Show* and *Sonny and Cher*. Pat served as the president of Local 816, Scenic, Title, and Graphic Artists for 15 years and is the current chair of the Scenic Artist Council of the Art Director's Guild.





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Michael Denering is one of the film industry's leading journeymen scenic artists with over 30 years in the motion picture industry painting murals and backdrops for Oscar winners and nominated films. His resume has well over 100 feature films to date including *Ghostbusters*, *Lost Boys*, *Dracula*, *Batman*, *The Green Mile*, *Spiderman*, *Lethal Weapon*, *What Dreams May Come*, *Jurassic Park*, *Planet of the Apes*, *Iron Man*, *Pursuit of Happyness*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Charlie's Angels*, *Seven Pounds*, *Transformers*, *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*, *Diehard*, and *Star Trek*. He is a member of the Art Directors Guild and serves on its Board of Directors.



Mary Heilman is the head of the MFA scene painting specialization in scene design at the California Institute for the Arts. As lead scenic artist and master painter for South Coast Repertory Theater in southern California for 17 years, she painted over 250 productions working with Ming Cho Lee, Ralph Funicello, Karen TenEyck, Robert Brill, Marg Kellogg, Adrienne LaBelle, Tony Straiges, and many others. She is a long time independent artist/contractor for Disney Imagineering and has contributed to projects in Tokyo, France, Florida, and California. She has executed projects for the Old Globe Theater, Mark Taper Forum, the Denver Center, and Arizona Theater Company. She teaches advanced studies in scene painting for Cobalt Studios in New York. In addition to her work on numerous film and television projects, her commercial design clients include Mazda, Suzuki and Toyota for Saatchi and Saatchi, Westin Hotels, and the U.S. Pentagon. She is a Director of USITT.

Tiana Torrilhon joins the panel as an emerging scenic artist, offering insight

into her experience navigating the current industry. She is a recent graduate of the California Institute of the Arts MFA theatre program where she specialized in scenic art. Since moving to Los Angeles, Tiana interned at Comcast Entertainment Group, now part of NBC Universal, (E!, Style, G4, FearNet) where for nine months she worked in the art department on studio tapings, press junkets, and live events including movie premieres, the Grammys, Emmys, Oscars, SAG Awards, Golden Globes, and E3: Electronic Entertainment Expo. She is currently working as an intern at Walt Disney Imagineering where she works primarily in color design creating both digital and hand-painted scenic artwork for the future Shanghai Disneyland Park as well as various other resort expansions.



California Institute of the Arts.  
Reproduction of Detail from Bronzino's  
"Madonna and Child." Tiana Torrilhon.

From stage to screen, we will celebrate the work of West Coast scenic artists and the power of the painted image. Presented by the USITT Scene Design & Technology Commission

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## March 1 Deadline for Rose Brand's New Student Competition

Rose Brand has announced the creation of the Rose Brand USITT Action Design Competition. The competition will involve up to four different teams of students competing against each other to create the best scenic environment. Teams will consist of a student scenic designer, technical director, lighting designer, and costume designer. Each team member will not know their teammates, which supplies they will be given, or the theme of their environment until the day before the competition. Teams will be given a 10 by 10-foot space and three and a half hours in which to work.



Rose Brand is accepting applications for students wishing to compete. Applications are due March 1. For more information on the competition and how to apply, visit Rose Brand's [Facebook page](#).

## Annual Conference & Stage Expo Opens in March

We look forward to seeing many of our members when the entire staff of USITT's National Office travels to Long Beach March 28 to 31 for the Annual Conference & Stage Expo. This issue contains lots of great information about sessions, exhibitors, and activities, so take advantage of all that's available.

## April *Sightlines* a Bit Late

While USITT strives to issue its electronic newsletters on the first of each month, the April issue may be a bit delayed. The 52nd Annual Conference & Stage

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Expo is closing on March 31, and we expect to have some coverage of that event included in the April issue.

## [LRLR To Ride Through Northwest to Raise Funds](#)

The 2012 Long Reach Long Riders (LRLR) ride will begin and end in Seattle, the Emerald City of the Northwest. The riders will gather on August 3 and head north the next morning. Before returning to Seattle eight days later, the group will visit some of the finest scenery the rugged Northwest has to offer. From the city of Victoria on Vancouver Island, to the Olympic Peninsula and the furthest northwest corner of the contiguous U.S. at Neah Bay, this promises to be one of the most scenic rides the LRLR have taken. Booming surf, majestic old-growth forests, and picturesque fishing villages will all be on the agenda. Additional sites may include Mt. Ranier, Mt. St. Helens, Crater Lake National Park, Klamath Falls, and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

The goal for LRLR is raising money for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights Aids and The ESTA Foundation's Behind The Scenes. To date, the LRLR have raised over \$300,000, mostly through small donations.

For more information about the Long Reach Long Riders, to join the ride, or to donate, please visit [lrlr.org](http://lrlr.org).

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### Dacktronics, Inc.: Receives ISO Certification

**Daktronics Inc.**'s factory which manufactures its Vortek automated rigging products is now certified to the ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management Systems standard. The company has steadily invested in improving its rigging factory since acquiring the business in 2006. Since that time, Daktronics has relocated the operation to a newer and larger facility, incorporated a lean management system, implemented an Enterprise Resource Planning system, and developed and installed in-plant, full-load hoist testing capability.

### Rose Brand: Named Project Manager

Jason Roscher has joined **Rose Brand** as a project manager in the technical services department in Secaucus, New Jersey. He will serve as a representative of Rose Brand in the field, managing installation of track and rigging systems in theatrical and commercial environments.

He has a background in technical theatre. Prior to joining Rose Brand, he worked at The Spoleto Festival, Lincoln Center Out of Doors Festival, and most recently spent a number of years working and in Las Vegas Cirque du Soleil's *Believe*, *Elvis*, and *Love* productions, as well as *Lion King Las Vegas*.



Jason Roscher

### Rosco: Promoted to Senior Representative

Damon Hatten, account representative based in Cincinnati and responsible for the Mid-West U.S. at **Rosco**



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**Laboratories**, has been promoted to the newly-created post of senior account representative. He started in sales with Rosco in 2005 and has a track record of continuous growth with outstanding leadership skills. He has a BA in theatre from Wilmington College and has professionally acted, technical directed, and master carpentered multiple productions. In his new position, he will play a more vigorous role in mentoring other Rosco reps in developing professional skills, rituals and practices. He will also participate in the development of Rosco's U.S. strategic plans and scale best account representative practices into the company's national strategy.



Damon Hatten

## ETC: Expand Lighting Control, Dimming Product Lines

Around the globe, thousands of venues rely on **ETC's** Unison architectural lighting control family as well as dimming controls for entertainment lighting.

The company has expanded the Unison family to bring intelligent control to even more facilities. The Unison Aero line offers cost-effective, energy-saving control for existing or new lighting systems in hotels, office buildings, dormitories, conference rooms, classrooms, nursing homes, retail outlets, restaurants, and any retrofit or new-build project.



Unison Aero's SmartClick control stations are completely wireless, so they can be placed anywhere a light switch is needed. The stations don't contain a battery, and are Powered by You, a patented system that harvests the kinetic energy created when turning them on and off.

Unison Aero systems can be installed quickly because they don't require any infrastructure changes or wiring.

For more information about the new Aero line of architectural control products, visit ETC's website at [www.etcconnect.com](http://www.etcconnect.com).

With the introduction of its ETC's Sensor brand in behind the scenes of entertainment-lighting venues worldwide, Sensor3 Power Control does dimming and more.

The Sensor3 Power Control System tightly integrates with ETC lighting consoles. Not only do technicians have instant access to system and circuit status, they can shift between dimmable and non-dim operation, update curves, change minimum or maximum output voltages, set preheats, activate backup

looks, and record loads. And Net3™ means any ACN-based software or remote console can be seamlessly integrated into the Sensor3 system.

For more on ETC Sensor3 Power Control, go to  
[www.etcconnect.com/products.dimming.aspx](http://www.etcconnect.com/products.dimming.aspx)

## J.R. Clancy, Inc. & Barbizon Lighting: New Theatre Features Member Rigging

With the opening of [the Parker Arts, Culture and Events Center \(PACE\)](#) in [Parker, Colo.](#) late in 2011, audiences looked forward to an exciting season of more than 60 performances of 28 different shows. From *A Christmas Story* and *Annie*, to the premier of an original musical, to a custom light show created by Luma, to the Irish dance troupe Direct from Ireland-Celtic Nights to an interpreted production of *Stuart Little* for hearing and deaf audiences, the facility's 536-seat theatre has the ability to host such diverse productions because of the easy-to-use automated rigging system provided by [J. R. Clancy, Inc.](#), and installed by [Barbizon Lighting of the Rockies](#).

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

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- **RC4 Wireless:** Moves to 'Silicon Valley of the East'
- **Reed Rigging:** Provides Rigging for Talk Show Super Bowl Broadcast
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- **TOMCAT:** Garl Named President, General Manager
- **Stage Institute of Las Vegas:** April 1 Deadline for Summer Scholarship Applications
- **iWeiss:** McWilliams to Direct Marketing and Sales
- **Meyer Sound:** Expands Low-Voltage Product Line Loudspeakers

### Doug Fleenor Design: Welcome to Doug Fleenor Design, Inc.

We extend a warm welcome to **Doug Fleenor Design** as a new Sustaining member of USITT and an exhibitor at Stage Expo. Doug Fleenor Design is a manufacturer of DMX512 distribution and interface equipment for the entertainment industry. A long and growing list of standard products is supplemented by a custom design service which provides solutions to unique problems. Started in 1990 by principal engineer Doug Fleenor, the company has become well known-for DMX controlled coffeepots, blenders, even a chain saw. To see more, visit [www.dfd.com](http://www.dfd.com).

### RC4 Wireless: Moves to 'Silicon Valley of the East'

**RC4 Wireless**, manufacturer of the acclaimed RC4Magic Wireless DMX and Dimming System, has relocated to Raleigh, North Carolina. Just minutes from Research Triangle Park (RTP), RC4 Wireless has joined one of the most technology-savvy regions in North America, the "Silicon Valley of the East." RTP is home to Cisco, Dupont, Ericsson, IBM, and many other international tech leaders.

The new address is: RC4 Wireless, 13604 Heathwood Court, Raleigh, NC, 27615, USA. Information can also be obtained by calling 866-258-4577, e-mailing [moreinfo@theatrewireless.com](mailto:moreinfo@theatrewireless.com), or visiting [www.theatrewireless.com](http://www.theatrewireless.com). Their emergency technical support number has changed to 919-400-3961.

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## Reed Rigging: Provides Rigging for Talk Show Super Bowl Broadcast

**Reed Rigging** provided production rigging support for a uniquely designed and constructed set for the *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon* television show broadcast from Indianapolis's Hilbert Circle Theatre. The Indianapolis-based broadcasts coincided with Super Bowl week for the NFL. Last year's Super Bowl set a U.S. audience record of 111 million viewers, and this year's contest is expected to exceed that number.



The Hilbert Circle Theatre, home to the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, was transformed from its 1916 historical splendor to a fully-functioning 21st century television broadcast studio incorporating miles of cable, cameras, video walls, lighting and state of the art audio systems into its ornate and elegant interior.

## Serapid: Produces Stage System for the Bolshoi Theatre

**Serapid**, producers of innovative technology for stage scenery movement, recently completed work on the renovation of the prestigious Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, Russia.

Serapid caught the world's attention with its stage equipment for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, and has produced equipment for scenery movement for hundreds of theater and concert halls across the globe, including the Copenhagen Opera House, the Saint-Nazaire halls of the Middle East and 50 cruise ships. The latest project was the magnificent Bolshoi Theater in Moscow which recently reopened its doors after six years of work and an investment of 21 billion rubles (nearly \$700 million).

## TOMCAT: Garl Named President, General Manager

**TOMCAT** announced that Mike Garl has joined the team as president and general manager. Mr. Garl, who joins TOMCAT from James Thomas Engineering where he was previously the president and managing partner, will be responsible for all the day-to-day activities at TOMCAT.

He studied at the Pasadena Playhouse and Carnegie-Mellon University, where he earned a degree from the School of Drama in 1972. He served as a technical director, lighting designer, and sound designer during college. In addition, he spent five years as the lighting designer and technical director for the summer seasons of Opera Barga in Barga (Lucca) Italy.



Mike Garl

After graduation, he worked at the University of Rochester and joined the faculty in the theatre department at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Before helping establish James Thomas Engineering in the United States, he spent five years with *Holiday on Ice* as the sound engineer, master electrician, and lighting designer/director.

Mr. Garl has been a member of the PLASA (formerly ESTA) Technical Standards Council since its inception in 1994, serving as its chairman since 2005. He is the past chairman of the Rigging Working Group and is an active member of the E1.2 and E1.21 Task Groups. As a result of his dedication to the organization, he received the ESTA Eva Swan Award in 2001.

## Stage Institute of Las Vegas: April 1 Deadline for Summer Scholarship Applications

The **Stage Institute of Las Vegas (SILV)** is accepting nominations for tuition scholarships for this summer. Submit a name and a few words on why this person would be a good candidate for the program and a scholarship. Filing deadline is April 1. Applicants can nominate themselves.

Those committed to a career in entertainment technology and who would benefit from the knowledge, the networking, and the experience of high level, intensive, training can check the curriculum at [stagecraftinstitute.com/classes](http://stagecraftinstitute.com/classes).

## iWeiss: McWilliams to Direct Marketing and Sales

Monty McWilliams was named director of marketing and sales at **iWeiss Theatrical Solutions**, a leading provider of drapery, rigging and installation. For the past 11 years he was the marketing director at Apollo Design Technology, Inc.

Mr. McWilliams holds both a master's degree in business administration and a bachelor of science degree in marketing from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. He can be reached at [montym@iweiss.com](mailto:montym@iweiss.com). Visit the company's website at [www.iweiss.com](http://www.iweiss.com).



Monty  
McWilliams

## Meyer Sound: Expands Low-Voltage Product Line Loudspeakers

**Meyer Sound's** line of self-powered, low-voltage audio solutions has grown with the addition of three new 48-volt, DC-powered loudspeakers that offer the same performance as their AC-powered counterparts. They are the UMP-1XP ultra-compact wide-coverage loudspeaker, the UPJunio-XP ultra-compact VariO, and the UMS-1XP ultra-compact subwoofer.

These systems open the way to a broadened range of low-voltage installations that demand exceptional audio clarity, higher SPL, and powerful bass impact. They will begin shipping in April. More information is available at 510-486-1166; fax 510-486-8356; e-mail [winnie@meyersound.com](mailto:winnie@meyersound.com) or [www.meyersound.com](http://www.meyersound.com).



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

## Preparing for Long Beach, and Beyond

The time to meet in Long Beach for the Conference is rapidly approaching. Final preparations are being made in anticipation of those four event-filled days that await us.

I, for one, am looking forward to seeing all of my friends and colleagues I normally see at the Conference. There are new opportunities for our student members to meet and interact with the Fellows. What a wonderful opportunity to pick the brains of that august group of women and men at the Fellows Network Nexus Booth at Stage Expo or anywhere that you might encounter them, for that matter. You will find one or more of them just about anywhere you look. Take the opportunity to introduce yourself and get to know them (us!) a little better.

Once again you have elected an outstanding slate of officers and directors who will take office on July 1 of this year. Congratulations to all of the winners and a hearty "Thank You" to all who were willing to run for office regardless of the outcome.

Sadly, my stint as President of this great organization is fast coming to an end. Hopefully, I am leaving USITT in better condition than what it was when I took office (and that condition was great to begin with!). Carl Lefko passed the mantle to me with the transition in good order, as Sylvia had to him.

The reorganization that was begun under their watch continues to take shape. President-Elect Lea Asbell-Swanger will still have some work to do, but she should have as smooth sailing as I have during her term of office. The organization continues to grow in very positive ways. As with those before me, I stand ready to assist Lea in any way that she deems necessary.

Don't forget your sun screen, and I will see you in Long Beach! Travel safe!



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*Please join President Joe Aldridge and President-Elect Lea Asbell-Swanger for the passing of the ceremonial gavel of office at the Closing Night party. Festivities get underway with a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres at 6 p.m. in Ballroom B of the Long Beach Convention Center. Both Joe and Lea have promised that their remarks will be brief.*



**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

- **Desert State:** Reviews Annual Meeting, Looks Forward to Long Beach, Costume-Con
- **Southern California:** Job Fair, Student Competition Successful
- **Ohio Valley:** Sours Chosen for Conference Scholarship

### Desert State: Reviews Annual Meeting, Looks Forward to Long Beach, Costume-Con

The Desert State Regional Section had a spectacular annual meeting on January 16 at Phoenix Theatre. The keynote speaker was Dennita Sewell, curator of fashion design at Phoenix Art Museum. Ms Sewell also led a select group on a tour of the research library at the Phoenix Art Museum.

The Section also welcomed Doug Tuttrup from ETC; Richard Lund from Strand; Clearwing Production's Jill Maurer, CTS and an ETCP certified rigger; and Dan Schay, formerly of Phoenix Theatre. All of them presented fascinating and educational seminars. Barbizon Arizona was the breakfast sponsor and, for the second year, Clearwing Arizona barbequed lunch. Many thanks go out to Mike Eddy and Phoenix Theatre for graciously allowing the use of the facility.

Desert State will be holding elections this spring for half of the board positions. They are two-year terms and individuals can only stand in an office for two terms. The new board takes office in September, and board meetings are held every other month in various locations throughout the state. The section seeks nominees for Chair, Second Vice-Chair, Secretary, Director, and Member at Large. The general qualifications for office are a willingness to serve the members of the Desert State Section, an ability to work with others, enthusiasm for the purposes of the Section, and a dedication to professionalism in the industry. By the time an individual takes office, he must be an individual member of USITT or be covered by an organizational membership. Anyone interested in running should contact [desertstateUSITT@gmail.com](mailto:desertstateUSITT@gmail.com).

National Conference is right around the corner and Long Beach is a short drive from Phoenix. The Desert State Section meeting will be 8 a.m. on Thursday March 29 in the Long Beach Convention Center. Look for the room number in the program. Breakfast sponsor is Theatre Safety Program.

Costume-Con 2012 will be held May 11 to 14 at Tempe Mission Palms Hotel.

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Desert State is supporting this event. This year's theme is Steampunk- Time Travel, Histories that Never Were, Futures That Might Yet Be. During this four-day day event there will be a Future Fashion Folio & Show, a "Project Runway"-style competition, Historical Masquerade, Single Pattern Contest, "Wild Wild West" Friday Night Social, and more. Visit [www.costumecon30.com](http://www.costumecon30.com) for more information. They are offering USITT members a 20 percent discount on registration.

## Southern California: Job Fair, Student Competition Successful

The Southern California Regional Section's Fifth Annual Job Fair Expo and Richard Thompson Student Design and Production Exhibit and Competition January 21 was a success.

"Many many thanks to all who attended," said Donna Parsons, Section co-chair. "A special thanks to Sherry Linnell, James Taylor, and the staff and students at Pomona College for hosting the event."

Workshops included LED color mixing and moving fixtures with Matt Gorka; Interactive Sound Design with Dave Mickey; and Stencils and scene painting with Mary Heilman.

Many professionals donated their time to do portfolio reviews in scenic, costume and lighting design, production, and stage management. Vendor tables were sponsored by PCPA, California State-Fullerton, SFX Props, H & H Specialties, and Rose Brand.

Congratulations to the student competition winners who received Long Beach 2012 Conference & Stage Expo passes. See you in Long Beach!

## Ohio Valley: Sours Chosen for Conference Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee of the Ohio Valley Regional Section Andrew Sours of the University of Pittsburgh as this year's recipient of a full registration to the Long Beach 2012 Conference & Stage Expo.

Mr. Sours is a sound designer in his junior year. Look for a newsletter article from him about his experiences in Long Beach.

The committee was Karen Glass, coordinator; Paul Sanow, Melanie Mortimore, and James Gage.

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# Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

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

## Answers Come from Members

The call was not an unusual one, but the timing was impeccable. A member had a situation at a theatre involving code enforcement and called USITT.

"Here's the situation... who do I call?"

The member received several names of people who were active in code development, enforcement, and theatre application, and went forward to solve the problem.



With the approach of the Annual Conference, the office gets very focused on the preparation of this event. Each of us has duties and responsibilities that must be completed, sometimes weeks prior, and that becomes our driving force. With only seven of us working full-time and supporting the volunteers, it gets busy. But this phone call reminded me of why USITT exists to begin with. We are here for members to dialogue about the challenges they face and the solutions they are developing.

There is currently a survey being circulated among the membership about what you value the most in the organization. We are wide ranging, diverse, and serve many constituencies. But no matter how we try through daily communication, we can't get everyone's opinion on what matters to them. That's why the survey.

The survey was created by a diverse group of people with backgrounds not only in USITT but serving people in their jobs. These folks wrote, rewrote, thought, and rethought every word of the document. It was tested with a small group whose feedback was incorporated. Why? Because we want to make sure that the questions are clear and the responses helpful. The membership's needs are what the organization exists to meet.

For most, the example I stated says it all. USITT exists to facilitate communication among the members. How we do that and through what programming requires input from the entire range of membership. Please take time to fill out the survey before it closes on March 4. Share with people what programs and services you find valuable, what we could do to serve you better, and what you want for the future of your Institute.

Take time to connect with USITT, so we can continue to help create meaningful



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connections for all of the members.



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

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

Follow me on Twitter -- #USITTExec

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## Designed to Thrill: The Entertainment of Halloween

**Anne McMeeking** *Student Co-Commissioner Scene Design & Technology*



Knott's Scary Farm

Something frightful is awaiting you at this year's Annual Conference in Long Beach, the *Designed to Thrill* session, sponsored by the students of the Scenic Design & Technology Commission.

The Wednesday session will feature three top designers and creators of haunted attractions in the Los Angeles area.

Ron Pardini, owner of CIFI studio, specialty props creator/fabricator and producer of haunted attractions will speak about his work for parks and film.

Ron specializes in custom art and props, from design, to fabrication,



A Ron Pardini creature creation

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sculpting and casting, through finishing, his 20 years' experience give him an eye for detail.

Joining Mr. Pardini is Chris Williams, Art Director for Universal Studios. Each fall Universal presents "Halloween Horror Nights" for which Chris and his team create haunted attractions and mazes, based on some of horror's finest films.

They have included mazes based on films and fearful subjects such as; The Thing, Hostel, Alice Cooper, The Wolfman, and La Llorona, a particularly intriguing maze based on Mexican folklore.

Todd Faux, the third presenter, is the Entertainment Design Manager at Knott's Berry Farm. Knott's, America's first theme park, transforms each year into Knott's Scary Farm with its famous and industry-leading Halloween Haunt. For over 17 years, Todd and his team have designed the stage and maze attractions throughout the park.

Join these three talented artists as they discuss the process of creating and executing these chilling and over-the-top spectacles. Topics will include the design process, creature and specialty effects creation, and tips & tricks for working in the attraction and theme park industry, wrapping up with questions from the audience.

The session is on Wednesday March 28 at 1 pm.

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## Lighting Commission Offers Portfolio Reviews

Jennifer Read *Lighting Design & Technology Commission*



Portfolio reviews provide an opportunity for members at all levels to have professionals critique the presentation of a body of work.

Photo/Carolyn Satter

While preparing for USITT's 2012 Conference & Stage Expo – registering for the Conference, booking the hotel and flight reservations, planning what sessions to attend and which booths to visit first – consider joining the Lighting Commission's portfolio review as either a presenter or a reviewer.

One aspect of the Lighting Commission's mission is to promote excellence in lighting design and lighting design education. Portfolio reviews allow presenters a wider audience to their progress and work by getting opinions from someone other than their primary mentor. Reviewers have an opportunity to see upcoming talent happening across the country along with sharing their knowledge and skills by giving comments or suggesting improvements to the presenter's work or presentation style in a helpful, yet non-threatening manner.

The overall review process takes approximately 45 minutes for each review and is a constructive way to participate in Commission-sponsored activities. Anyone



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with a degree in lighting, currently working in the professional field, and interested in having a hand in shaping the future of upcoming lighting designers should consider becoming a reviewer. Beginning reviewers will be teamed with those who have reviewed during prior USITT Conferences.

Presenters are made up of students at all levels, professionals just starting out or looking for the next step up, and educators needing a peer review for the promotion and tenure process.

For more information, e-mail Jennifer Read at [jread@whitworth.edu](mailto:jread@whitworth.edu). If you would like to be a presenter, you can find further information at [www.usitt.org/Conference/ConferenceOpportunities/PortfolioReview](http://www.usitt.org/Conference/ConferenceOpportunities/PortfolioReview).

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## The Power of Partnerships

James Thurston



Festival participants work with faculty facilitators to modify a sound score for their performance scene.

Images\Courtesy James Thurston.

Looking to explore new technologies used in live performance? Do limited resources prevent this kind of exploration? Consider partnerships. Partnerships with other schools, local tech centers, or local businesses are an excellent way to defray costs and build valuable relationships within a larger community.

Recently the Colby College Department of Theater and Dance in Waterville, Maine, collaborated with theatre and dance departments at Bates and Bowdoin colleges on a Mellon Foundation Collaborative Faculty Enhancement Grant to pursue a project titled, "Live Performance and Digital Media: Expanding Creative and Pedagogical Opportunities." Project leaders Roger Bechtel (Bowdoin), Rachel Boggia (Bates), and Jim Thurston (Colby) used grant funds to bring together students, staff, and faculty from all three schools for master classes, group discussion, and a final performance festival incorporating digital media.

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The grant included master classes with Troika Ranch choreographer/media artist Dawn Stoppiello and composer/media artist Mark Coniglio. Andrew Schneider (The Wooster Group/Media Artist) and Reid Farrington (The Wooster Group/Media Artist) offered additional master classes on specialized uses of software and hardware in live performance. Mr. Coniglio's Isadora software was the primary software used in the grant, and over 25 participants collaborated on the grant between fall 2010 and fall 2011.

A number of powerful outcomes emerged from the partnership process, including an enhanced use of digital performance media in classes and in production at all three schools. Equally important are the ongoing collaborations between staff and faculty focusing on opportunities for students, professional endeavors, and future partnerships.

These partnerships are a win-win scenario as long as goals and objectives are clear and schedules and funds are well managed.

Where to start? Talk to a department chair and make contact with the grant office. At the same time, a visit to local relevant businesses or local government can provide a powerful start.



Media Artist Andrew Schneider leads a master class on advanced programming using Mark Coniglio's Isadora software.

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## Structures Focus of Conference Offerings

**Scott Georgeson, FAIA** *Architecture Commissioner*

The Architecture Commission is looking forward to being back at the beach with many highlights for the Long Beach 2012 Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

The popular Wednesday afternoon theatre tours are planned. Sign up first thing Wednesday morning since lots are limited and they go fast. The bus leaves at 1 p.m.

Thursday are sessions on innovations in planning performance spaces. Find out how a robot can make a performance space. Learn the tricks that only theatre architects know about making theatres work better for the audience, technicians, and performers.

Friday morning starts with the business of the annual Commission meeting. Ideas for a 2013 session and Commission business will be discussed. Big plans for next year and beyond will be on the agenda as well as election of new leadership. Sessions for the rest of Friday will examine the needs of young and future audiences.

At its final session, the Architecture Commission will welcome the OISTAT Architecture Commission. International architects will share thoughts on working around the world. Friday night is for awards and party. Come and meet top theatre architects and future architects. The USITT Architecture Awards will be presented to the best new theatre built in the last couple years. The finalists in the Student "Ideal Theatre" competition will also be special guests. This year's teams are from Iran and France.

On Saturday, the finalist of the "Ideal Theatre" competition will present their projects at the USITT booth at Stage Expo, and participants get to vote for the winner. Check the conference schedule for details of session topics and locations.

Other architectural highlights at Stage Expo will be the Architecture Awards exhibit and the best entries to the student "Ideal Theatre" competition, and the PQ 2011 USA architecture exhibit.

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## Guild Members to Share Experiences

**Karen Maness** *Scene Design & Technology Commissioner*



Nathan Schroeder concept design Pirate Cove

The Scene Design & Technology Commission and the Southern California Regional Section will co-present *A Conversation with the Art Directors Guild* from 2 to 3:15 p.m. Saturday, March 31. The session will provide an introduction and unique opportunity to speak with members from each of the Guild's four branch crafts. The panelists will offer insight into their careers and professions as production designers, art directors, illustrators, storyboard/pre-visualization artists, matte artists, set designers, model makers, and scenic, title, and graphic artists.

John Shaffner will represent the art directors. He and his partner Joe Stewart are among the most recognized production designers in television with 31 Primetime and Daytime Emmy Award

Nominations, six Emmys, 16 Art Directors Guild Nominations, and one award. They are most known in multi-camera comedy designs for *Two and a Half Men*, *Big Bang Theory*, *Mike and Molly*, *Friends*, *George Lopez*, *Dharma and Greg*, and the *Drew Carey Show*.

Representing the illustrators/matte artists branch is Nathan Schroeder, a concept artist who has created artwork for *X Men*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*,





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*Thor*, *Captain America*, *The Avengers*, and many other films.

Representing set designers/model makers is leading industry Set Designer Scott Baker who innovatively blends his background in traditional fine arts and theatrical design with cutting-edge digital design skills, allowing him to rapidly visualize, conceptualize, and execute technically challenging designs on some of Hollywood's biggest movies. His credits include *Thor*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Avatar*, *Star Trek*, and *Lemony Snicket: A Series of Unfortunate Events*.

A scenic artist for 33 years, John Moffit will represent the scenic, title & graphic artists branch of the ADG. Over the span of his career, he drew and painted scenic backdrops, murals, portraits and fine art work for films and television, as well as designed and created artwork for theme parks, restaurants, theaters, and industry in the U.S., Europe, China and Japan. The last 20 of those years he was engaged by Warner Brothers Studios as its lead scenic artist. In 2007, he retired from Warner Bros. to take his current position as associate executive director at the Art Directors Guild.

Thomas A. Walsh, originating production designer on ABC-TV's hit series *Desperate Housewives* for which he designed the pilot and 84 episodes, will moderate the session. He is co-chairman of the Art Directors Guild Film Society, is a member of the Art Directors Guild Local 800 and the United Scenic Artists Local 829 in New York, and is currently the designer for the popular USA/Universal cable series, *In Plain Sight*.



Nathan Schroeder concept design *Thor*

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The monthly newsletter for USITT members

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Conference & Stage Expo

## Last Call for Stage Expo 2012

**Helen Willard** *Stage Expo Sales Manager*

The 52nd Annual USITT Conference & Stage Expo is just around the corner, so this is your final opportunity to book space for Stage Expo 2012. A limited number of booths and tables are available for those who would like to be a part of the show. If you would like to exhibit, but have not reserved a space, please contact Helen Willard immediately at [hpwillard@aol.com](mailto:hpwillard@aol.com).

Recent additions to the exhibitor list include; B Street Theatre, Broadway Green Alliance, Cal State Long Beach, Chauvet, Chicago Flyhouse, Costume Inventory Resources, Creative Handbook, University of Delaware, EdTA, Elation Lighting, Doug Fleenor Design, IALD, Leprecon, Montclair State University, Ohio University School of Theatre, OISTAT/WSD, Otis College of Art & Design, Pulp Art Surfaces, Rose Bruford College, SCAD: The University for Creative Careers, University of South Dakota, SIU Carbondale, Stage Managers Association, StageBitz, StageLight, Staging Concepts, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Timeless Communications, Trinculo's Attic, Tru Roll, Ultratec Special Effects, and Wireless Mic Belts.

For a complete list of Stage Expo 2012 exhibitors, visit the [Stage Expo Web Page](#). Click on a highlighted booth to find contact information and a brief description for each exhibitor. Links are provided to exhibitors' websites so you can learn more about their products and services prior to the show.

Then join the crowd that gathers for the grand opening of Stage Expo on Thursday, March 29. The exhibit hall doors open at 11:00 am, but plan to be there early to be part of the action. You never know what will happen at a Stage Expo Opening. Meet us at lobby level to witness the cutting of the ceremonial USITT gaff tape which officially opens the show.

Stage Expo will be open from 11 a.m. 5:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and



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from 9:30 a.m. to 2 pm on Saturday of the conference week.

Plan plenty of time to visit the commercial booths and tables, non-commercial tables, and the very special exhibits which make USITT's Stage Expo a unique show.

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## An International Perspective in Long Beach

**Marketa Fantova** *Vice-President for International Activities*



Numen for Use shows how tape and red curtains can be used in innovative ways.

Photos/Numen for Use

Check the schedule for International Activities sessions and special exhibits featuring international guests at the Annual 2012 Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach, California.

See the essence of Brazilian life portrayed by dramatic works and cutting edge scenography. Curators Aby Cohen and Antonio Grassi will share their process of creating the visually stunning PQ Golden Triga-winning National Exhibit: Characters and Frontiers—Brazilian Scenographic Territory. Among represented works of best Brazilian designers will also be images from productions of Teatro Vertigem BR-3 that was awarded the Gold Medal for best realization and production.

For inspiration and fresh ideas, do not miss the session featuring PQ Gold Medal Winners for Best Stage Design



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and Best Use of Theatre Technology, Numen for Use. This team of industrial designers from Croatia will show images to tickle the brain. Think a curtain is a "hanging drapery that conceals the stage from the view of the audience?" Think again. The definition of curtains will be challenged after seeing images of Numen's set design for Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Even simple packing tape becomes an essential material in the hands of Numen's artists for some interesting, site-specific projects.



Lighting designer is a title and a profession many take for granted; however, there are many countries where such a title still isn't fully recognized. Cyprus is one of them, yet it doesn't stop designers like Giorgos Koukoumas from creating original lighting environments that must be shared.



Organizers are keeping their fingers crossed that, not only will they be able to show the images of Cuban carnival costume as part of the special exhibit, but introduce the photographer and artist, Jose Antonio Prades Hung, head of the OISTAT Centre in Cuba. He promised to bring the mood of the Cuban carnival through his photographs, music, and passionate salsa dance.

Karen Glass will chair a session with two panelists and two different topics. Richard E. Donnelly will talk about internationally renowned designer Desmond Heeley. As both a costume and scenic designer, Mr. Heeley has designed for opera, ballet, and theatre in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, and Australia. Mike Wilga will bring back PQ '11 Scenofest and talk about his research and implementation of technology for Karel Čapek's play *The Insect Comedy*.



Sean Crowley and Ian Evans will cover every aspect of World Stage Design from submission and plans for the exhibit to WSD Scenofest.

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## PCPA to Receive DeGaetani Award

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

Photos/Courtesy PCPA Theatrefest

In 2013-14, the PCPA Theatrefest (the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts) will celebrate its 50th season. It is fitting that USITT will honor PCPA, for its long and successful history, with the Thomas DeGaetani Award at the 2012 Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach, California.

**PCPA Theatrefest** "is a professional conservatory theatre committed to reflecting and transforming our diverse community with the art of live theatre." The organization subscribes to the goal that "theatre has a vital role and responsibility in the community to enrich cultural literacy and improve the quality of life."

The Conservatory was founded in 1964 under the leadership of Donovan Marley. Since then, it remains the only year-round, resident professional theatre company located on California's beautiful Central Coast. In an area known especially for its wine country and its culinary specialties like Santa Maria-style barbecue, PCPA provides a very important cultural and entertainment resource to the people of Santa Maria, Santa Barbara County's largest city. It also brings theatre to the Solvang Festival Theater, thrilling local and visiting patrons in the city of Solvang, a popular tourist destination in the heart of Santa Ynez Valley wine country, an area made particularly famous by the 2005 motion picture

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## Sideways.

PCPA is an important training ground for aspiring actors, stage technicians, and stage managers. The Conservatory is located on the campus of Allan Hancock College, a public community college. The relationship between the Equity theatre company and conservatory programs based at the college is a unique and highly distinctive result of the merging of public and private interests and financial support.



In 1965, recognizing the cultural and economic benefits of a performing arts facility, Santa Maria voters approved funding to build the Marian Theatre, named after Marian Hancock. In the meantime, beginning in 1967, the conservatory began to accept students from outside the Allan Hancock College district. A new technical program for scenery, properties, and costume construction was established by adding new professional staff members. When completed, the Marian Theatre could seat 448 patrons around a thrust stage. Doors opened on July 10, 1968 with a production of *Camelot*, featuring Laird Williamson as Lancelot.

In 1971 PCPA held its first performance of *Hamlet* in Solvang's Hans Christian Andersen Park. Support for a theatre grew quickly through the community, and by 1974 the Theaterfest summer repertory season was in full swing in the newly built, 700-seat, outdoor Solvang Festival Theater. The community built the theatre, in 58 days in the summer of 1974, with the understanding it would be used to present theatrical productions staged by PCPA. The physical stage is nearly an exact replica of PCPA's Marian Theatre stage in Santa Maria, which allows for easier transfer of productions.

In November 1992, the Severson Theatre opened its doors, providing an intimate and flexible performance space for the company and its patrons.

Included among the more than 10,000 plus emerging theatre artists whose work has graced its stages are Robin Williams, Ralph Funicello, Kathy Lloyd, Belita Moreno, Mercedes Ruehl, Kelly McGillis, Boyd Gaines, Robert Blackman, Patrick Page, and Kathy Bates.



Today, PCPA has a resident staff of over 50 theatre professionals and additional guest artists. They work with nearly 100 acting and theatre technology students and interns each semester. The 2011-12 season features nine productions, including such classics as *The Rivals* and *Three Sisters* and musical adaptations of *Little Women* and *Legally Blonde*.

The current leadership of PCPA includes Artistic Director Mark Booher, Associate Artistic Director and Conservatory Director of Actor Training Roger DeLaurier, Conservatory Director of Technical Training Michael Dempsey, Managing Director Michael Black, and Production Manager Jeff Allen.

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Conference & Stage Expo

## USITT & 5D Continue Immersive Design Sessions

**Panela Leung** Session Chair



Alex McDowell's Immersive Design Mandala

*Connecting with the Future*, to be held 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. Thursday March 29, is the third session in a series presented in collaboration with 5D: The Future of Immersive Design at Long Beach 2012 Conference & Stage Expo. This year's panel will compliment the work of the past two years when immersive design-thinking changes collaboration and designer theatre experiences were explored.

The world of narrative design is changing fast. Designing immersively leads to deeper engagement for the audience and doing so means a shift in how designers think and work together. Three-dimensional projections, real time manipulation, and trans-media interactions are in their infancy as dynamic tools for the stage. *Connecting with the Future* will feature key pioneers who are



Alex McDowell

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incorporating cutting edge technology and collaboration techniques into the performing arts in truly innovative ways.

On the panel are: Alex McDowell is 5D co-founder and an award-winning production designer for films such as *Minority Report*, *Fight Club*, and *Watchmen*. He is an advocate for immersive design and, in 2010, served as production designer for *Death and the Powers*, a new opera by Todd Machover, presented in cooperation with Opera of the Future of MIT Media Lab and the American Repertory Theatre in Boston.



Roger Parent

Roger Parent is the founding president of Realizations.net, creating unique digital environments and most recently providing the software and interactive video support for the Metropolitan Opera's New Wagner *Ring Cycle*. As the former vice-president of production for Cirque du Soleil, he was instrumental in creating the collaborative process that propelled Cirque to the performance powerhouse it is today.

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Conference & Stage Expo

## Panel Brings Hispanic Voices to USITT



**Angel of the Desert** by Janine Salinas

Director: Sara Guerrero | Playwright: Janine Salinas | Producers: Lonnie Rafael Alcaraz/Sara Guerrero/Alejandra Navarro | Lighting Designer: Karyn Lawrence | Scenic Designer: Tatiana Kuilanoff | Costume Designer: Gina Davidson | Sound Designer: Corrine Carrillo | Venue: The Nicholas Stage | Company: Breath of Fire Latina Theatre Ensemble with South Coast Repertory

The Hispanic voice in theatre, while significant and vibrant, has been marginalized in the recent past as many theatre companies have diminished their commitment to specific Latina and Latino programming. Hispanic designers can find it daunting to gain work that feels relevant and important to them as an artist. On the other hand, the community created by Hispanic artists is loyal, supportive and rewarding.

Hispanic Voice in Design, a panel at the 2012 USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach, California, will explore these topics. The panelists will address how they have carved out careers and relationships with theatre companies who are committed to Hispanic issues, while also discussing their work in more traditional venues. Their designs in major regional theatres as well as smaller independent venues will be shown.



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Guest artists will include Christopher Acebo, scenic designer and associate artistic director at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Lonnie Rafael Alcaraz, lighting designer and professor at UC Irvine, Corrine Carillo, sound designer, and Frank Vela, Houston based technical director and lighting designer. They will talk about their experiences and other issues that face Latino designers.



**Culture Clash in AmeriCCa** by Culture Clash.

Director: David Emmes | Playwright/Performers: Culture Clash (Richard Montoya, Ric Salinas and Herbert Siguenza) | Lighting Designer: Lonnie Rafael Alcaraz | Scenic/Costume Designer: Angela Calin | Sound Designer: Tom Cavnar | Stage Manager: Cornell Worthington III | Venue: The Argyros Stage | Company: South Coast Repertory





**La Posada Magica** by Octavio Solis

Director/Playwright: Octavio Solis | Lighting Designer: Lonnie Rafael Alcaraz | Scenic Designer: Christopher Acebo | Costume Designer: Shigeru Yaji | Stage Manager: Jamie A Tucker | Venue: The Argyros Stage | Company: South Coast Repertory

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Conference & Stage Expo

## Sponsors Flock to Support Conference Events

A V Pro, Inc.; Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC); SECOA; and Texas Scenic Company will help start the 2012 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach, California, by supporting the Opening Night Celebration. Cirque du Soleil will sponsor Opening Night Celebration for the first time. Opening Night, which begins with the USITT Address by Fellow Jerry Gorrell, will include the presentation of Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts, The Rising Star Award sponsored by *LDI/Live Design*, and the induction of new Fellows.

Disney Parks Creative Entertainment again will sponsor the Closing Night Celebration on Saturday, March 31.

Stay connected at one of the many Cyber Lounges located throughout Stage Expo ([click here to view a map](#)). The lounges -- kiosks outfitted with computers and internet connections -- allow attendees to stay in touch with employers and family while working on their professional development. Eight lounges are supported courtesy of Theatre Projects Consultants Inc.; H&H Specialties Inc.; InterAmerica Stage Inc.; RC4 Wireless/Soundsculpture Inc.; IATSE Local 1; Live Design/LDI; and City Theatrical, Inc. BMI Supply will be sponsoring a Cyber Lounge for the first time.

USITT appreciates these companies and encourages members to take advantages of the events and opportunities they create.

All sponsorships include a recognition package and will place sponsors' names front and center for the industry professionals who attend the Conference



Conversation and information flows at USITT's Cyber Lounges

Photo/Tom Thatcher

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- Jennifer L. Knott
- Andi Lyons
- Kevin Rigdon
- Loren Schreiber
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