



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

April 2012

[Print this page »](#)

[Lead story »](#)

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Kicking Off the 2012 Conference
- Sponsoring NATAEC
- Puppet Boot Camp
- Announcements
- Member Benefits
- Tech Thrives in Midwest
- The Last Word - The Conference

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections
- Executive Director

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Stage Expo Stars
- Propose an Exhibit

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »



Kicking off the 2012 Annual Conference

See what was happening for four days in Long Beach, March 28 to 31, 2012. [more »](#)



USITT Supporting NATAEC

Registration is now open for the 2012 North American Theatre Engineering and Architectural Conference, which USITT is participating in as a Gold level sponsor. [more »](#)



Learn at Puppet Boot Camp

USITT's 2012 Costume Symposium will be a learning experience starring puppets at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana. [more »](#)



Member Benefits

The first USITT International Artist Exchange Grant will help bring a Japanese artist to the United States for interaction with students in Ohio and Oklahoma. [more »](#)



Technical Competitions Thrive

The Midwest Regional Section is a hotbed of student participation in a variety of state-wide and regional events. [more »](#)



News From USITT's President

USITT's Annual Conference provides a showcase of people and companies which continues to draw from well outside our traditional field – something from which we all benefit. [more »](#)



Executive Director

Arbor Day – the USITT way – provides an opportunity to support a program that is already helping schools know more about their rigging and how best to operate it. [more »](#)



2012 Stage Expo

A look at some of the hundreds of companies and organizations that made Stage Expo 2012 a special place to be for three days in March. [more »](#)



Propose an Exhibition

The ideas generated by members are what drives the special exhibitions at Stage Expo each year. It is easy to propose an interesting exhibit for 2013 or beyond. [more »](#)



The Last Word – The Conference

Some of the unusual and interesting sights around the Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center and beyond. [more »](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWS FROM: AROUND THE INSTITUTE

- CITT/ICTS Rendez-Vous Events Planned
- Ghostlight Society Benefits Behind the Scenes
- Announce Plasa Focus: Nashville 2012
- Many Standards Under Review

- Amazing Conference
- Jacob Stutesman Wins
- Announces the Top 10 Rose Brand Scholarship Finalists
- Fantasee Lighting's Techfest Returns

NEWS FROM: CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

- **J.R. Clancy, Inc.:** Company Announces Personnel Changes
- **PRG:** PRG Acquires Paskal Lighting
- **Rose Brand:** Introduces New Fabric
- **ETC:** Announces New Emergency Controller, Architectural Lighting Products

NEWS FROM: SUSTAINING MEMBERS

- **Limelight Productions, Inc.:** Jones Joins Customer Service Team
- **Serapid, Inc.:** Announces New Two Hires
- **Meyer Sound:** Announces Promotions, Provides Equipment for 'The Big House'
- **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas:** Announces Summer Staff
- **TMB:** Hippotizer Brings Halftime Spectacular to Life

NEWS FROM: REGIONAL SECTIONS

- **Ohio Valley:** Plans OSHA Safety Training Event

[Lead story ›](#)

Volume LII, Number 4

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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

April 2012

[Print this page ›](#)

[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Kicking Off the 2012 Conference
- Sponsoring NATAEC
- Puppet Boot Camp
- Announcements
- Member Benefits
- Tech Thrives in Midwest
- The Last Word - The Conference

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections
- Executive Director

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Stage Expo Stars
- Propose an Exhibit

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

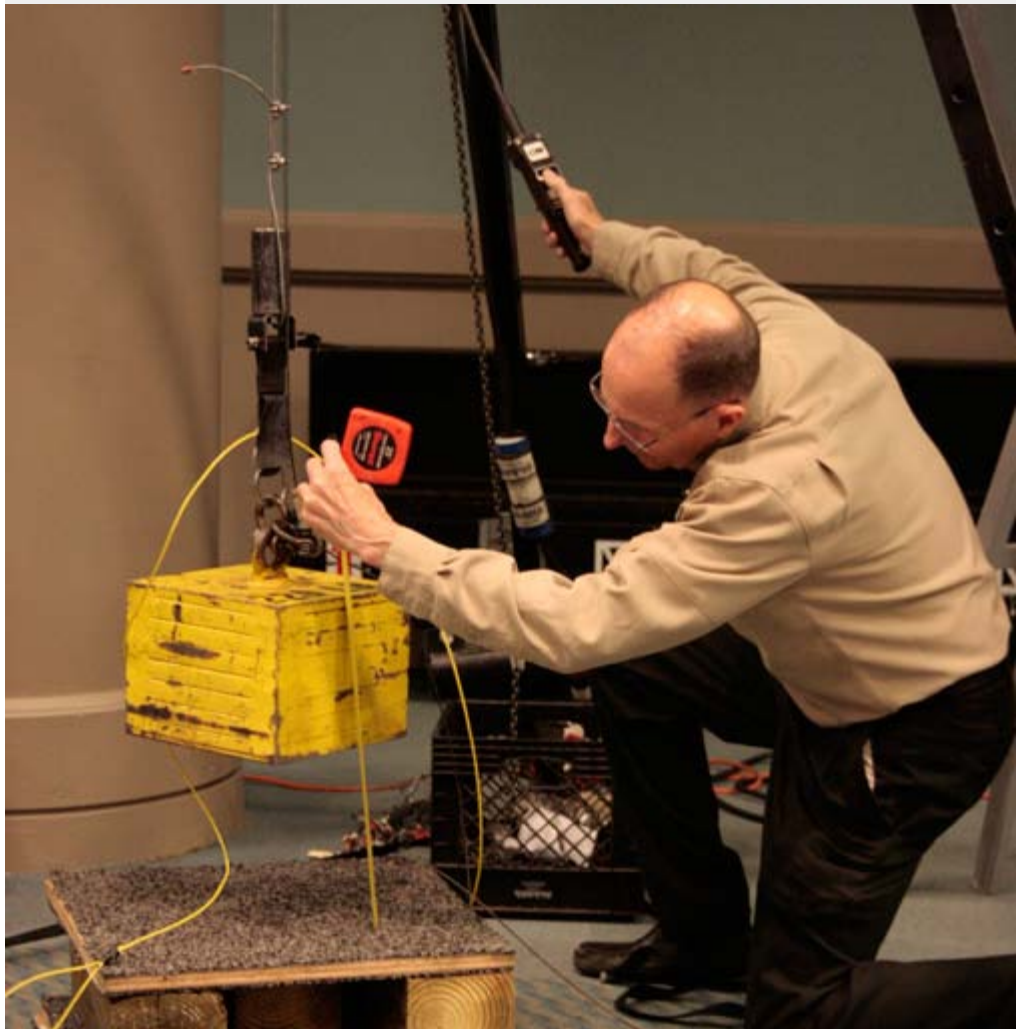
VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News & Notices

Kicking Off Another Fantastic Annual Conference & Stage Expo











Long Beach, California
March 28-31, 2012

Photos/R. Finkelstein, T. Thatcher, E. Courtney, and Casey Kearns

[Front Page](#)

[Next story](#)

Volume LII, Number 4



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

April 2012

[Print this page ›](#)

[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Kicking Off the 2012 Conference
- Sponsoring NATEAC
- Puppet Boot Camp
- Announcements
- Member Benefits
- Tech Thrives in Midwest
- The Last Word - The Conference

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections
- Executive Director

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Stage Expo Stars
- Propose an Exhibit

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News & Notices

USITT to Support NATEAC in 2012

In keeping with its mission of enhancing the knowledge and skills of its members, USITT has become a Gold level supporter of the upcoming North American Theatre Engineering and Architecture Conference (NATEAC).



Registration is now open for the 2012 event which will be held July 22 and 23 in New York, New York. The conference has been accepted as part of the American Institute of Architects Continuing Education system. NATEAC's goal is to create a foundation for dialog among those involved in the creation of theatre space ranging from new construction to renovation of an existing facility.

Its aim is to put together a two-day program that will act as a springboard for discussion that can continue long after the conference has ended.

USITT President Joe Aldridge, in announcing USITT's support, noted that NATEAC's missions and participants aligned well with USITT's mission. Helping to bring together professionals for such intense concentration on a specific topic brings information that is disseminated to and is useful for many in the industry.

Included with the Conference registration are admission to all Conference panels on July 22 and 23, breakfast and lunch on both days and the very popular pre-conference New York City Harbor Cruise on Saturday evening, July 21.

Bill Sapsis, Conference Director noted, "I'm very happy that, even with moving the conference to the Hilton Hotel, we've been able to hold the registration fee to the same as it was in 2008. NATEAC 2008 was extremely well received and the feedback we received encouraged us to follow the same outline as before." NATEAC also plans to have discounted Broadway show tickets and back stage tours.

The Conference will host over 60 industry professionals from the most respected architecture, consulting and engineering and manufacturing firms in the United States, Canada and Great Britain. These panelists will offer their expertise and experience in the design and construction of performing arts facilities in North America. For more information please visit <http://nateac.org>.

The North American Theatre Engineering and Architecture Conference sponsors

can be viewed at <http://nateac.org/sponsors.htm>.

[‹ Previous story](#)

[Next story ›](#)

Volume LII, Number 4



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Kicking Off the 2012 Conference
- Sponsoring NATAEC
- Puppet Boot Camp
- Announcements
- Member Benefits
- Tech Thrives in Midwest
- The Last Word - The Conference

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections
- Executive Director

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Stage Expo Stars
- Propose an Exhibit

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News & Notices

Puppets to Star at Costume Symposium

For anyone who has wondered about the intricacies of puppets and marionettes, the USITT Costume Design & Technology Commission is holding **Puppet Boot Camp** August 2 to 4 at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Participants will explore the skills necessary to successfully create and then manipulate basic puppets. Each participant will receive detailed instruction in how to make and how to operate four simple but effective forms of puppetry, using easy-to-learn techniques that the beginner can master and more intermediate puppeteers can appreciate.

On the learning agenda are:

- "scarf" marionette
- "Muppet"-style hand puppet,
- Chinese rod puppet, and
- shadow puppet.

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will have completed four puppets and receive a workbook and CD containing all materials, patterns, and Power Points used for instruction.

Purdue University's Department of Theatre will host the 2012 Costume Symposium, Puppet Boot Camp.

The three-day event will also include a visit to the Indianapolis Museum of Art to explore the museum holdings, the textile and fashion arts collection, and the extensive gardens.

Joel Ebarb, Associate Professor and Chair, Purdue University Department of Theatre will chair the symposium. He will be joined by **Rachel Lambert**, Costume Shop Manager for Purdue University's Department of Theatre.



[Click here for a complete lineup of Puppet Boot Camp activities and sessions, or to register for the event.](#)

[« Previous story](#)

[Next story »](#)

Volume LII, Number 4



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

April 2012

[Print this page ›](#)

[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Kicking Off the 2012 Conference
- Sponsoring NATAEC
- Puppet Boot Camp
- Announcements
- Member Benefits
- Tech Thrives in Midwest
- The Last Word - The Conference

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections
- Executive Director

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Stage Expo Stars
- Propose an Exhibit

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News & Notices

Announcements

- [CITT/ICTS Rendez-Vous Events Planned](#)
- [Ghostlight Society Benefits Behind the Scenes](#)
- [Announce Plasa Focus: Nashville 2012](#)
- [Many Standards Under Review](#)

CITT/ICTS Rendez-vous Events Planned

CITT/ICTS is already filling the days and nights of its 2012 Rendez-vous August 16 to 18 in London, Ontario, Canada. Pre-conference workshops and certification courses will be held August 14 and 15.

On the agenda are backstage tours of local venues, a corporate barbecue, and the famous Junk Challenge at the Grant Theatre McManus Theatre.

[A complete list of sessions, tours, and social events can be found here](#) and online registration will be available shortly.

Ghostlight Society Benefits Behind the Scenes

The new Ghostlight Society of Behind the Scenes is now accepting members to help support a comprehensive legacy giving program.

To kick off the Ghostlight Society, John McGraw and Lori Rubinstein have made provisions for Behind the Scenes in their wills. Mr. McGraw noted, "I had a long and rewarding career in this industry as both a stagehand and a business owner. At Production Arts, my employees were like family to me, and I made it a priority to try and assist those who faced illness and injury. I would like that commitment to industry professionals to continue after Lori and I are gone."

The Ghostlight Society is designed to accept cash or gifts made by designating The ESTA Foundation as the beneficiary of retirement plan funds, annuity funds, or any number of tax-deductible trusts or planned giving options available to donors.

Since May 2006, Behind the Scenes has provided over \$240,000 in grants to industry professionals or their surviving family members to assist in many ways.

More detailed information about the Ghostlight Society and convenient online

giving options are on the Foundation's website at www.estafoundation.org. To speak to a representative of the ESTA Foundation about becoming a member of The Ghostlight Society, call 212-244-1421 or e-mail info@estafoundation.org.

Announce Plasa Focus: Nashville 2012

PLASA Events is pleased to announced its second regional event in North America, PLASA Focus: Nashville 2012, to be held July 11 to 12 at the Municipal Auditorium, in Nashville, Tennessee.

Nashville is the latest event to be launched under the PLASA Focus banner, and follows the popular PLASA Focus: Austin. The show will run prior to the annual Summer NAMM event, bringing together industry professionals from around the world.

Each two-day PLASA Focus show is free to registered visitors, and a unique inclusive hard wall booth package—including furniture, power, material handling allowance and lighting—gives exhibitors a simple and affordable exhibiting experience. A strong regional focus will attract visitors who do not usually travel long distances to national industry events. PLASA members receive substantially discounted exhibit space at all PLASA Focus events and further discounts for exhibiting at multiple events.

Many Standards Under Review

PLASA has eight standards under review [here](#). Members of the public who are affected by these standards are invited to review them.

- *BSR E1.6-2 - 201x, Entertainment Technology — Design, Inspection, and Maintenance of Electric Chain Hoists for the Entertainment Industry*, is part of the E1.6 powered entertainment rigging project. This draft standard covers the design, inspection, and maintenance of serially manufactured electric link chain hoists having capacity of two tons or less and used in the entertainment industry. Its review runs until April 24.
- *BSR E1.6-4 - 201x, Portable Control of Fixed-Speed Electric Chain Hoists in the Entertainment Industry*, covers the controls often used to operate chain hoists. Its review runs until March 27.
- *BSR E1.8 - 201x, Entertainment Technology—Loudspeaker Enclosures Intended for Overhead Suspension—Classification, Manufacture and Structural Testing*, is a revision of the existing standard for the structural integrity of loudspeaker enclosures that are suspended overhead. It is designed to ensure that flown speaker enclosures don't break and drop debris. Its review runs until May 1.
- *BSR E1.39 - 201x, Entertainment Technology – Selection and Use of Personal Fall Arrest Systems on Portable Structures Used in the Entertainment Industry*, establishes minimum requirements for the selection and use of personal fall arrest systems on portable structures in the entertainment industry. It also establishes minimum requirements for manufacturers and owners of these structures being used as work

platforms. Its review runs until April 24.

- *BSR E1.37-2 - 201x, Additional Message Sets for ANSI E1.20 (RDM) – Part 2, IPv4 & DNS Configuration Messages*, is part two of the E1.37 project. It provides additional get/set parameter messages (PIDs) for use with the ANSI E1.20 Remote Device Management protocol. The review runs until April 23.
- *ANSI E1.9-2007 (R201x), Entertainment Technology - Reporting Photometric Performance Data for Luminaires Used in Entertainment Lighting*, defines the minimum photometric data to be presented on documents purporting to accurately describe the photometric performance of stage and studio luminaires used in the live entertainment and performance industries. The review runs until April 30.
- *ANSI E1.35 - 2007 (R201x), Standard for Lens Quality Measurements for Pattern Projecting Luminaires Intended for Entertainment Use*, describes a method for measuring stage and studio luminaire lens quality with particular emphasis on contrast and perceived image quality (sharpness). The review runs until April 30.
- *ANSI E1.36 - 2007 (R2012), Model Procedure for Permitting the Use of Tungsten-Halogen Incandescent Lamps and Stage and Studio Luminaires in Vendor Exhibit Booths in Convention and Trade Show Exhibition Halls*, is a model set of procedures that can be used by convention center and trade show exhibition hall staff to mitigate the risks associated with the use of tungsten-halogen lamps and stage and studio luminaires. The review runs until April 30.

[Previous story](#)

[Next story](#)

Volume LII, Number 4



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

April 2012

[Print this page ›](#)

[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Kicking Off the 2012 Conference
- Sponsoring NATAEC
- Puppet Boot Camp
- Announcements
- Member Benefits
- Tech Thrives in Midwest
- The Last Word - The Conference

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections
- Executive Director

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Stage Expo Stars
- Propose an Exhibit

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News & Notices

Member Benefits: Grant Aids Japanese Artist's Visit to Universities

The first USITT International Artist Exchange Grant will bring Toru Shimakawa to both Ohio Northern University and the University of Oklahoma this spring. In addition, Mr. Shimakawa participated in the 2012 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach, California.

Mr. Shimakawa, a Japanese scenic artist, has studied in the United States and is a member of USA 829 and the Japan Association of Theatre Designer and Technicians.

He will design and be in residence at Northern Ohio for its production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* in April and then travel to Oklahoma for a week of teaching and interaction with students there.

Kathe Devault of Ohio Northern and Scott Henkels of the University of Oklahoma collaborated to bring Mr. Shimakawa to their respective institutions and to seek the USITT grant.

As noted in the application for USITT assistance, both organizations feel it is important that students continue to be exposed to international artists and practices, a perfect mesh with the grant's purpose to support institutions working together to integrate international theatre artists into programs to enhance educational and cultural exchanges.

The program was created in 2011 and is supported in part from USITT's Samuel H. Scripps Fund for international activities. The grant is given only to USITT member organizations. [Click here to learn more, or to apply, visit here.](#) Grant applications will be reviewed again in September.

[‹ Previous story](#)

[Next story ›](#)

Volume LII, Number 4



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Kicking Off the 2012 Conference
- Sponsoring NATAEC
- Puppet Boot Camp
- Announcements
- Member Benefits
- Tech Thrives in Midwest
- The Last Word - The Conference

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections
- Executive Director

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Stage Expo Stars
- Propose an Exhibit

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News & Notices

Technical Competitions Thrive in Midwest

Compiled by: **Steve Jacobs, Ellen White, and Ken Frazz**



In looking back at the 2011-2012 season of technical competitions throughout the Midwest Regional Section, it became evident that Tech Olympics/Tech Challenge continues to enjoy healthy participation and educational benefits.

The Wisconsin High School Theatre Festival on the campus of The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater was held in November for the 12th year. A total of nine teams and 45 high school students competed. The Michigan Educational Theatre Association/Michigan Thespian Festival in November and December, on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University is in its fourth year and still "young" compared to the other states. High school students enjoyed competing in the light hang, costume quick change, knot tying, sound system, and prop set-up events.

In January, the Illinois High School Theatre Festival (sponsored by Illinois Theatre Association) was held on the campus of Illinois State University-Normal. For 10 years, Tech Olympics has been a popular activity at the Festival, doubling in size from the early years. Participation has leveled off the past few years with 16 schools and 90 competitors. Also in January,

Tech Challenge was held during the Indiana Thespian State Conference on the campus of Huntington University. For the first seven years, the challenge saw an average of 28 students jumping to 44 in 2010 and 66 in 2011. This year it leveled off at 17 teams and 68 students.



The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) Region 3 Festival took place on the campus of the University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana in January with 17 two-member teams, for a total of 34 competitors, participating.

Wisconsin held a new event called the Cable Roll Relay. Originally set up as an exhibition event, the judges decided to make it part of the competition. The Cable Relay (sponsored by ETC) is a team event for up to four people. The students line up in single file at the starting line. On the go, the first person proceeds to the first cable, rolls the cable properly and secures it, moves it to the storage location, and goes back to the starting line where he tags off to the next person in line to do the same thing.

Once all the cables are rolled and the last person crosses the finish line, the time is stopped and the rolled cables are judged for neatness and location. There are four different 25-foot cables used in this event: a DMX cable, a standard orange extension cable, a stage pin (SO) extension cable, and a microphone/audio cable. The event caused many discussions of the various ways to coil the different cables, including the over-under version, the wrist twist, and the unacceptable "around-the-elbow." Two morning sessions were for practice, where more often than not, the students were learning the event for the first time. In the Team Competition, Champion Dominican



High School's Black Team took first place followed by Neenah High School coming in a close second and Deforest High School in third place.

In Michigan, instead of a second and third place team award, an individual "All-Around" Technician award went to Miranda Trotman from Henry Ford II High School who received a PAR fixture from ETC. First place team competition award went to the students of Romeo High School.

In Illinois, the Lake Zurich High School, which had not fielded a team for a number of years, returned and took first with the fastest team time.

In Indiana, Lake Central High School placed first, followed by Carmel High School in second, Prairie Heights in third, and Logansport fourth.

Tech Olympics at the KCACTF Region 3 festival are slightly different from the high school events with two-man teams rather than five to seven people on a team. Team event awards went to: Jeffrey Clark and Emily Kong from Adrian College, Michigan, sound; Chris Smock and Joe Rogers from Michigan, set/carpentry; and Evan Keeton and Gina Smothers from Oakland University, Michigan, prop shift.

Individual awards went to Liz Walen from St. Mary's College, Indiana, hang and focus a light, and Cory Boughton from University of Michigan-Flint, knot tying. Team awards were: first place - Jalina Olhren and Tyler Weldon from Northern Michigan, second place - Charlie Jacque and Andrea Knoll from Northern Michigan, and third place - Sara Vansteenbergen and Amanda Herrman from Ripon College, Wisconsin.

Among the sponsors who helped make these events successful were Mainstage Theatrical, Designlab Chicago, The Lighthouse (Green Bay), Acme Corp. (Milwaukee), Indianapolis Stage Sales and Rental, Chicago Spotlight, Intelligent Lighting Creations, Grand Stage, Hall Flying Associates, Broadway Costumes, and ETC, which continues to provide two Source 4 fixtures to each of the Tech Olympics/Tech Challenges.

[Previous story](#)

[Next story](#)

Volume LII, Number 4



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- [Kicking Off the 2012 Conference](#)
- [Sponsoring NATAEC](#)
- [Puppet Boot Camp](#)
- [Announcements](#)
- [Member Benefits](#)
- [Tech Thrives in Midwest](#)
- [The Last Word - The Conference](#)

NEWS FROM:

- [Around the Institute](#)
- [Contributing Members](#)
- [Sustaining Members](#)
- [USITT's President](#)
- [Regional Sections](#)
- [Executive Director](#)

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- [Stage Expo Stars](#)
- [Propose an Exhibit](#)

FOR THE RECORD:

- [Leadership](#)
- [Contributing Members](#)
- [Sustaining Members](#)

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

The Last Word: **Goodbye to the Beach**









More than great weather made the 2012 Annual Conference & Stage Expo memorable.

Photo/T. Thatcher, B. Lucas, E. Courtney, R. Finkelstein, and P. Gibson Ralph

[« Previous story](#)

[Front Page »](#)

Volume LII, Number 4



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Kicking Off the 2012 Conference
- Sponsoring NATAEC
- Puppet Boot Camp
- Announcements
- Member Benefits
- Tech Thrives in Midwest
- The Last Word - The Conference

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections
- Executive Director

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Stage Expo Stars
- Propose an Exhibit

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News From Around the Institute

- [Amazing Conference](#)
- [Jacob Stutesman Wins](#)
- [Announces the Top 10 Rose Brand Scholarship Finalists](#)
- [Fantasee Lighting's Techfest Returns](#)

Amazing Conference

This issue of *Sightlines* captures a few snapshots of all that occurred at the 52nd Annual Conference & Stage Expo. New products were launched, new Fellows were inducted, and creativity and innovation was honored during four exhausting and exhilarating days in Long Beach.

Look for more specifics in the May issue, as we organize and collect information.



Jacob Stutesman Wins

Congratulations to Jacob Stutesman, winner of the 2012 Sapsis Rigging Professional Development Award. He will attend the Rigging Fundamentals

professional development workshop without charge thanks to the generosity of Bill Sapsis and Sapsis Rigging Entertainment Services, Inc. Mr. Stutesman's name was selected at random from all those students who registered for the PDW before the early deadline, the process which Mr. Sapsis requested. A period-correct fedora approved by a member of the Costume Design & Technology Commission was employed during the selection process.

Announces the Top 10 Rose Brand Scholarship Finalists

Rose Brand announced the finalists of the Rose Brand Scholarship on its [Face Book Page](#). The top 10 were comprised of graduate and undergraduate students from across the United States. The finalists will now be judged by a panel of experts in the industry, which include Scenic Designer and Tony Award Nominee Anna Louizos; the CEO of Hudson Scenic, Neil Mazella; Scenic Designer and Tony Award Nominee Beowulf Boritt; and Production Designer and Emmy Award Winner Joe Stewart.

The ten finalists are Sarah Brandner, graduate student, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities; Andrew Broomwell, graduate student, University of California-Irvine; Stephanice Busing, graduate student, University of Texas-Austin; Ryan Grossheim, graduate student, San Diego State University; Matthew Iacozza, sophomore, University of Connecticut; Michael Lewis, senior, Emory University; Richard Ouelette, senior, Keene State College; Stephan Michael Moravski, graduate student, New York University; Samantha Sayers, junior, State University of New York-Fredonia; and Yu Su graduate student, Carnegie Mellon University.

The Rose Brand Scholarship awards \$5,000 to a student and \$2,500 in Rose Brand credit to the student's school to help enhance the theatre program. The scholarship is intended for students who wish to pursue a career in scenic design, theatre technical direction, or scenic art. The winner of the scholarship was announced this year at the USITT Annual Conference.

Fantasee Lighting's Techfest Returns

Fantasee Lighting will host Techfest 2012 11 a.m. to 7 p.m on Thursday, April 26 and Friday, April 27 in Michigan.

The Sixth Annual Lighting, Rigging and Special Effects Tradeshow is free. Products and services showcased will target the special events, entertainment, and corporate markets. Representatives from more than 20 suppliers, manufacturers, and associations will be participating. A partial list includes: TMB, James Thomas Engineering, CM, Leprecon, LEX Products, and AC Lighting.

Educational seminars and console training sessions will be offered on both days, providing hands-on experience with the very latest equipment. The educational seminars and console training sessions are free. Registration is required for console training only. Light refreshments are served and prize drawings take place throughout the event.

In conjunction with TMB, Fantasee Lighting will sponsor a two-day Hippo School, on April 24 and 25. Registration and pricing information will be available soon.

Visit the [website](#) for schedule announcements, updates, and more information.

[Previous story](#)

[Next story](#)

Volume LII, Number 4



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.

**FRONT PAGE »****NEWS & NOTICES:**

- Kicking Off the 2012 Conference
- Sponsoring NATAEC
- Puppet Boot Camp
- Announcements
- Member Benefits
- Tech Thrives in Midwest
- The Last Word - The Conference

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections
- Executive Director

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Stage Expo Stars
- Propose an Exhibit

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »**SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »**

News From

Contributing Members

- **J.R. Clancy, Inc.:** Company Announces Personnel Changes
- **PRG:** PRG Acquires Paskal Lighting
- **Rose Brand:** Introduces New Fabric
- **ETC:** Announces New Emergency Controller, Architectural Lighting Products

J.R. Clancy, Inc.: Company Announces Personnel Changes

Three promotions and an addition to its staff were recently announced by **J. R. Clancy, Inc.**

Marilyn Larsen, a 25-year veteran of the company, was promoted to marketing services.

She started at Clancy in 1987 as a receptionist and quickly moved up to office manager. In 2001, she went to work for the engineering and project management department and most recently added marketing services to her responsibilities supervising all advertising, public relations, and marketing activities for the company. She is the principal liaison with Wenger Corporation, Clancy's parent company, for marketing needs.

Bridget Cox, promoted to director of project management, joined Clancy in 2008 as a dealer project manager, before moving into the contract projects division in 2009. As a contract project manager, she served as the project lead on some of the company's largest jobs, including the Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, Indiana, and the massive Civic, Cultural & Retail Complex (CCRC) in Singapore. In her new position, she will oversee both the contract and dealer sides of the business. She was previously the lead rigger at Glimmerglass Opera, and more recently was the assistant technical director for New York City Opera at Lincoln Center. She holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from East Carolina University in theatre design and production.



Marilyn Larsen



Bridget Cox

Patrick Finn adds product development to his responsibilities as product manager. He joined Clancy in 2009 as a dealer project manager and has handled such projects as the renovation of the Paris Theatre in Las Vegas; the new Pirates Voyage attraction in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; the University Theatre at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock; and the Capital Theatre in Fort Edmonton, Alberta. He became product manager in 2010. Before joining Clancy, he served as technical director at the Long Wharf Theater in New Haven, Connecticut; Virginia Opera House in Norfolk; Ohio Light Opera in Wooster, Ohio; and City Theatre Company in Pittsburgh.



Patrick Finn

Andrew J. McArthur has returned to J.R. Clancy as sales manager. He was a senior project manager for the company in the 1990s. For the last 11 years, he has been the president of ECCS, Inc., in Las Vegas, where he was principal consultant on projects including the showroom at Beau Rivage Hotel & Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi; Copley Symphony Hall in San Diego; MGM Grand Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Roman Catholic Church in Las Vegas; Val A. Browning Center for the Performing Arts in Ogden, Utah. His professional experience also includes sales and consulting with Pelton Marsh Kinsella, Trizart Alliance US, Inc., and Mountain Productions, Inc., a major touring concert staging contractor. Mr. McArthur is an ETCP certified rigging professional and a member of IATSE Local 9. He serves on the board of directors of the Las Vegas Performing Arts Center.

More information on J. R. Clancy can be found at www.jrclancy.com, or at (800) 836-1885.

PRG: PRG Acquires Paskal Lighting

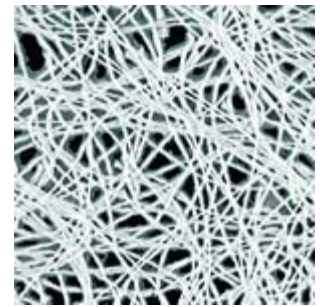
Production Resource Group, L.L.C. (PRG), has acquired Paskal Lighting, a United States-based lighting, grip and expendables company.

Founded in 1988, Paskal Lighting has served the motion picture and television industries for over 20 years with one of the largest inventories of lighting and grip equipment, as well as a fleet of production. Paskal Lighting will operate under its own brand name, as a full member company of the PRG group, with Evan Green continuing in his role as president.

For more information on PRG, visit www.prg.com.

Rose Brand: Introduces New Fabric

Rose Brand's newest fabric, Kaos, is a handmade, paintable material that features a wonderfully textured, random, and chaotic quality. Available in fine, medium, heavy, or open thread, Kaos can be used in a multitude of ways for set designs, trade shows, special events, interior design, and costumes. It is offered in either natural or black colors.



For more information on Kaos visit bit.ly/rosebrand-kaos.

ETC: Announces New Emergency Controller, Architectural Lighting Products

ETC recently announced the addition of a new product and a new system to its line of controllers.

The company is adding a new product to its emergency-lighting lineup – the DMX Emergency Bypass Controller. The DMX Emergency Bypass Controller takes over a single DMX512 universe, allowing DMX512-controlled lights to function as normal or emergency fixtures. In the event of a power outage, fire alarm, or other safety issue, this controller prevents the LED setting to go to default, which is totally off. The UL924-Listed DMX Emergency Bypass Controller is compatible with other emergency-lighting products, such as ETC's Emergency Bypass Detection Kit (EBDK).



ETC also introduced its Unison Paradigm architectural line, greatly expanding its scope of lighting control. The new Paradigm Central Control Server scales up Paradigm systems to master the most complex lighting venues. It supports up to 48 Paradigm Architectural Control Processors in multiple subsystems that may contain up to twelve processors each.

For more information on these or other ETC products and systems, and to locate an ETC dealer, go to www.etcconnect.com.

[Previous story](#)

[Next story](#)

Volume LII, Number 4



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.

**FRONT PAGE »****NEWS & NOTICES:**

- Kicking Off the 2012 Conference
- Sponsoring NATAEC
- Puppet Boot Camp
- Announcements
- Member Benefits
- Tech Thrives in Midwest
- The Last Word - The Conference

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections
- Executive Director

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Stage Expo Stars
- Propose an Exhibit

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »**SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »**

News From

Sustaining Members

- **Limelight Productions, Inc.:** Jones Joins Customer Service Team
- **Serapid, Inc.:** Announces New Two Hires
- **Meyer Sound:** Announces Promotions, Provides Equipment for 'The Big House'
- **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas:** Announces Summer Staff
- **TMB:** Hippotizer Brings Halftime Spectacular to Life

Limelight Productions, Inc.: Jones Joins Customer Service Team

Jennifer M. Jones has joined **Limelight Productions, Inc** as office manager and inside sales assistant.

She is a graduate of SUNY-Plattsburgh with a degree in mass media communication, specializing in television production. Ms. Jones was a member of the school's television station serving for a time as lighting design director and head set designer. Following graduation, she spent two summers as a freelance stage manager and production assistant for ESPN. She has worked at the Center for Eco Technology as an audit services administrator and scheduling and customer service manager as well as volunteer work for Habitat for Humanity.

At Limelight, she will be the first point of contact for customers, who range from amateur theatre groups to colleges, touring productions, and major film and television studios.

Serapid, Inc.: Announces New Two Hires

Serapid, Inc. recently added two new members to its staff – Dennis H. Lucas and Robert C. Adams.

Mr. Lucas joins the company as vice president and general manager to lead and grow client engagements, as well as lead the daily management of engineering, manufacturing, and operational activities. In his 30 plus years in manufacturing, Mr. Lucas has specialized in strategic planning, domestic and international sales, developing new business, client relationships, and quality assurance and management of departmental operations. Most recently, he was president/CEO

at DS Technology Inc., where he also served on the board of directors.

Mr. Adams joins Serapid as engineering manager and chief engineer. He will provide project management and head up new product development while leading the engineering team. He spent more than 25 years in manufacturing specializing in engineering the development of new processes and technologies in material handling. An experienced and innovative engineering leader, he has an extensive background in automated transfer systems design.

Mr. Adams founded Tribis Engineering, Inc., an automated test systems manufacturer and testing laboratory where he successfully developed a testing technology, Wide Spectrum, to replace the industry standard PV limit model. For 13 years, he was engineering manager at Welker Bearing Company, where his expertise in tribology and mechanisms were key to expanding corporate product lines.

Mr. Adams is a PhD candidate in mechanical engineering at Oakland University, where he holds a MS in mechanical engineering. He received a BS in mechanical engineering from San Diego State University. He is a frequent lecturer, holds multiple patents, and is a member of ASME, STLE, and SAE.

Meyer Sound: Announces Promotions, Provides Equipment for 'The Big House'

Prompted by the growth of its digital product line, **Meyer Sound** has promoted two key design services team members. Todd Meier, formerly director of design services, has been promoted to the newly created position of digital products manager. Meanwhile, Michael Creason, who had served as a design services associate since 2008, is taking over duties as design services manager.

As digital products manager, Mr. Meier will have a pivotal role in guiding the continued growth of Meyer Sound's digital systems, including the award-winning D-Mitri digital audio platform and the development and integration of company software offerings.

He joined Meyer Sound in 1997 with a strong background in theatrical system design. His work include several major projects in Las Vegas including O by Cirque du Soleil at the Bellagio and Rio's Masquerade Village.

In his new management role, Mr. Creason will lead a design services team that works with audio consultants and dealers to create audio systems that meet or exceed customer requirements. He gained extensive experience in theatrical sound design as an associate collaborating with major Broadway designers before joining Meyer Sound. He served as audio supervisor for Glimmerglass Opera Festival for eight seasons, and designed and mixed a range of productions in the New York City Area. His Broadway credits include *Proof*, *Take Me Out*, *Grease*, *A Chorus Line*, *The Pajama Game*, and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

"The Big House," aka Michigan Stadium, got even bigger in 2011 when the University of Michigan completed an expansion and upgrade that included a large complement of equipment from Meyer Sound.

At a capacity of almost 110,000, Michigan Stadium is the largest in the United States and third largest in the world. To address the sound reinforcement needs on such a scale, the PA system includes 28 Meyer Sound MILO 60 line array loudspeakers, eight SB-3F sound field synthesis loudspeakers, four MSL-4 loudspeakers, a Galileo loudspeaker management system with two Galileo 408 processors, and an RMS remote monitoring system.

Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas: Announces Summer Staff

Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas (SILV) announced its full team for the summer. All staff members are former students of SILV and late founder Don Childs.

Danny Colosky, formerly with the Alley Theatre in Houston and currently scenic studio manager/clinical instructor at Oklahoma State University, will be operations manager. Nathan Stanaland, a graduate of Sam Houston State who has worked with the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C., and the Music Theatre of Wichita, and been a freelance scenic artist, will return as company manager. The intern staff includes Matt DeJong (University of the Arts), Kayla Freeman (Frisco High School graduate, now taking general education classes and all theatre work she can find), and Madi Hack (theatre technology and design student at Oklahoma State University).

Continuing on staff are Jane Childs, interim director; Tera Childs, business manager; and Graham Campbell, managing director.

TMB: Hippotizer Brings Halftime Spectacular to Life

More than 123 million people tuned in to watch the display integration and amazing 3D effects accomplished using Hippotizer's UberPan and VideoMapper software components at this year's Super Bowl XLVI Bridgestone Halftime Show. Well... they may have actually *remained* tuned in to watch a spectacular show featuring Madonna and a supporting cast of over 200, but minutes into the performance they were also more than likely mesmerized by the stunning multimedia show. A total of eight Hippotizer HDs, supplied by **TMB**, were used to drive 32 Barco FLM HD20 projectors flown 150 feet above the stadium floor, as well as 800 BasicTech FLED video tiles in the stage. Green Hippo's UberPan software made it possible to blend eight discrete outputs seamlessly across the entire multi-resolution canvas, with the augmentation of VideoMapper, which mapped the unique geometry of the LED video tiles in the stage floor.

TMB is the exclusive distributor for Hippotizer in the Americas. For more information about Hippotizer visit www.tmb.com/products/hippotizer.

[Previous story](#)

[Next story](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Kicking Off the 2012 Conference
- Sponsoring NATAEC
- Puppet Boot Camp
- Announcements
- Member Benefits
- Tech Thrives in Midwest
- The Last Word - The Conference

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections
- Executive Director

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Stage Expo Stars
- Propose an Exhibit

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

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

A Powerful Tool for Engagement



USITT President Joe Aldridge enjoyed a California moment at Stage Expo. He proved that you can have fun and network with exhibitors at the same time.

Photo/Courtesy Norcostco.

Once again, I am writing a post-Conference column at least a month in advance. It is difficult to forecast how well the Annual Conference will go for everyone, so, I hope that you had a great experience in Long Beach. We continue to push the limits in terms of programming and PDWs, and this makes us the premier event to attend.

Our Annual Conference has such a great reputation that the Deans of the College of Fine Arts (a director/actor) and College of Engineering (mechanical), the Associate Dean for the College of Engineering (electrical engineering) and the President (zoologist) of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas are scheduled to attend so they can learn first-hand what it is that this organization does so well.

I am encouraged that we have new exhibitors as well as returning exhibitors registered for this conference. Fortunately for us, this isn't the exception; it has become the rule! It is encouraging that we have exhibitors/members who are coming forward with new programs and initiatives to benefit the younger members of the Institute.

I cannot begin to sufficiently express my appreciation for the work that the staff does in preparing for a conference. While volunteers do the bulk of the planning, they also create more tasks that have to be dealt with by the staff, but usually some (ok, a lot!) of that work creates more tasks for the staff. It is my hope that you express your appreciation to them if and when the opportunity is presented to you. We are fortunate to have them working for and with us.

My congratulations to the new Fellows and to all of the award winners recognized at the Conference. I wish to offer many thanks to all of the volunteers and staff who helped to make this Conference a success.



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

[◀ Previous story](#)

[Next story ▶](#)

Volume LII, Number 4



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.

**FRONT PAGE »****NEWS & NOTICES:**

- Kicking Off the 2012 Conference
- Sponsoring NATAEC
- Puppet Boot Camp
- Announcements
- Member Benefits
- Tech Thrives in Midwest
- The Last Word - The Conference

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections
- Executive Director

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Stage Expo Stars
- Propose an Exhibit

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »**SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »**

News From

Regional Sections

- **Ohio Valley: Plans OSHA Safety Training Event**

Ohio Valley: Plans OSHA Safety Training Event

An OSHA 10-Hour General Industry Voluntary Compliance Training event, sponsored by the Ohio Valley Regional Section, will be held on May 18 to 19 at Kent State Tuscarawas Performing Arts Center. The program is intended to provide a variety of training on general industry safety and health regulations to both entry-level and experienced workers. Topics covered will include: Introduction to OSHA, Walking and Working Surfaces, Exit Routes, Emergency Action Plans, Fire Prevention Plans, Fire Protection, Electrical Safety, Personal Protective Equipment, Hazard Communication, and Fall Protection.

Portions of this workshop will be led by local OSHA Consultation Service representatives, and the workshop will include a tour of a performance facility to help familiarize participants with OSHA inspection procedures.

The presenter is David C. Glowacki, the production manager for the new Performing Arts Center at Kent State University-Tuscarawas. He is serving as Commissioner for Health & Safety and as the associate editor of Health & Safety for TD&T. In 2006, he completed USITT-sponsored training to become an OSHA authorized outreach trainer, which he renewed in 2010. In 2008 he became a licensed aerial work platform safety instructor.

At past USITT Annual Conferences, he presented sessions on chemical hazard communication, personal protective equipment, and other OSHA-related safety topics. He also served on the Board of Ohio Valley Regional Section as a Member-At-Large from 2005 to 2008.

The cost is \$125 for the two-day workshop. Registration and more information will be posted on Facebook, the Ohio Valley website, the Yahoo User Group, and e-mail.

[‹ Previous story](#)[Next story ›](#)



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Kicking Off the 2012 Conference
- Sponsoring NATAEC
- Puppet Boot Camp
- Announcements
- Member Benefits
- Tech Thrives in Midwest
- The Last Word - The Conference

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections
- Executive Director

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Stage Expo Stars
- Propose an Exhibit

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News From **David Grindle**, *USITT Executive Director* **Let's Celebrate Arbor Day!**

Okay, I'm piggybacking here, but it works. Arbor Day is April 27 and that seems an appropriate time to support the arbors we all work with – the rigging kind.

In 2011, USITT started the Rigging Safety Initiative. This program has funded inspections of theatres at 22 schools in 14 states around the United States. The schools were chosen based on need criteria that looked at the age of the system, any known issues, and length of time since it had last (or ever) been inspected. The schools receive an inspection, with a full report, and four hours of safety training for their staff.

Each one of us has felt the pinch of tightening budgets when it comes to maintenance issues. If you work in a school, attend one, or know someone who does, you know that things such as safety inspections often go undone because the funding is going to the more pressing issue of what was broken last. This program is hopefully providing an opportunity to identify and fix problems before people get hurt or systems become inoperable. It keeps our stages working and all of the people who pass across them safe.

The training program insures that the most current information is being given to the people who need it the most. Each of us knows how stage lore leads to things being operated incorrectly or not quite properly. The training component of this grant assures that the staff that deals with the theatre, most of whom probably weren't around when it was installed, know the proper way to operate the equipment to keep people safe. Again, resulting in lower chance for human error and safer stages.

This program has impacted hundreds of lives in one year, but it needs continued funding to keep things moving along. I hope you will take a moment to celebrate Arbor Day and make a donation to the Rigging Safety Initiative. Programs like these help the Institute make a lasting impact today and tomorrow. It is something all of our members can be proud of because it shows



the work your Institute is doing.

[Click here for a donation form.](#) Help us make Arbor Day a safe day for theatres everywhere



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

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

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[« Previous story](#)

[Next story »](#)

Volume LII, Number 4



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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

April 2012

[Print this page »](#)

[Next story »](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Kicking Off the 2012 Conference
- Sponsoring NATAEC
- Puppet Boot Camp
- Announcements
- Member Benefits
- Tech Thrives in Midwest
- The Last Word - The Conference

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections
- Executive Director

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Stage Expo Stars
- Propose an Exhibit

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

Conference & Stage Expo Stage Expo 2012







New products and innovations, creativity, and special exhibits at Stage Expo
March 29-31

Long Beach, California
March 28-31, 2012

Photos/E. Courtney, T. Thatcher, R. Finkelstein, B. Lucas

[Previous story](#)

[Next story](#)

Volume LII, Number 4





FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Kicking Off the 2012 Conference
- Sponsoring NATAEC
- Puppet Boot Camp
- Announcements
- Member Benefits
- Tech Thrives in Midwest
- The Last Word - The Conference

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections
- Executive Director

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Stage Expo Stars
- Propose an Exhibit

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

Conference & Stage Expo

Special Exhibit Ideas Welcomed

Dan Denhart VP-Special Operations



Special exhibitions can be simple or complex, based on the proposals submitted. At the 2011 Stage Expo in Charlotte, North Carolina, the designs of John Scheffler, Harriet Lake, and Gene London were each featured in a special exhibition. The Jig Show made its debut as an exhibition as well.

Photos/R. Finkelstein

Suggestions for special exhibitions for USITT's Annual Conference & Stage Expo are continuously sought. Those who would like to present an exhibition at Stage Expo can submit ideas to Dan Denhart, Vice-President, Special Operations.

Exhibits tend to result from proposals submitted by a Commission or through the host region of the annual conference. The subject matter of exhibits tends to relate to a specific Commission, although sometimes dual Commission proposals have been supported.

Those interested should talk to the appropriate Commissioners and then submit a Special Exhibition Application. The due dates for Special Exhibit proposals are:

- **May 15:** Idea Proposals (using the Special Exhibit Application form)
- **June 15:** Applications Due
- **July 15:** Full Detail Proposals Completed, including budget

This schedule is designed to allow idea to evolve into a full proposal. Following the acceptance of the proposal, a promotional article of 250 words will be due August 1.

Special Exhibit application forms are available on the USITT website.

[Previous story](#)

[Next story](#)





Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

April 2012

[Print this page ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Kicking Off the 2012 Conference
- Sponsoring NATAEC
- Puppet Boot Camp
- Announcements
- Member Benefits
- Tech Thrives in Midwest
- The Last Word - The Conference

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections
- Executive Director

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Stage Expo Stars
- Propose an Exhibit

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

For the Record:

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Volume LII, Number 4



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

April 2012

[Print this page ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Kicking Off the 2012 Conference
- Sponsoring NATAEC
- Puppet Boot Camp
- Announcements
- Member Benefits
- Tech Thrives in Midwest
- The Last Word - The Conference

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections
- Executive Director

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Stage Expo Stars
- Propose an Exhibit

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

For the Record:

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

▪ [Contributing Members »](#)

▪ [Sustaining Members »](#)

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Sustaining Members

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As of March 15, 2011

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Volume LII, Number 4



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