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Sightlines The monthly newsletter for USITT members

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Jean Montgomery Honored

A respected and esteemed long-time member of USITT and its leadership was honored twice at the 2012 Annual Conference. **more** »



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Five New Fellows Named

Lea Asbell-Swanger, William Browning, Rodney Kaiser, Michael Ramsaur, and Mark Shanda all joined the Fellows of the Institute, an honor that is not announced until the individuals are called to the stage to be inducted. more »



NATEAC Plans Move Forward

The 2012 North American Theatre Engineering and Architectural Conference, which USITT is sponsoring, has earned AIA./CES approval. more »



News From USITT's President

Looking back at conference highlights and reflecting on accomplishments and awards brings a warm response. **more** »



Executive Director

Sharing the excitement of the 2012 Annual Conference, and all the new initiatives and benefits that make membership in USITT special.



Breaking Records and Looking Ahead

The 2012 Annual Conference & Stage Expo set records, so it is already time to think about exhibiting with USITT in 2013. more »



BTS Charity at USITT

ETC, Rose Brand, the Penn State Student Chapter of USITT, and an extremely successful raffle at Stage Expo helped The ESTA Foundation's Behind the Scenes Charity. **more** »



Can You Spell Milwaukee?

This "gathering place by the waters" will be a vibrant backdrop for the 2013 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. **more** »

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LA Theatre Tour Mountain Section Axient Certified NEWS FROM: **SUSTAINING MEMBERS** NEWS FROM: CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS ■ TC Group Americas, Inc.: Welcome ■ Daktronics Inc.: Pilewski Added to Sales Team ■ Eilon Engineering Weighing Systems Ltd.: Appreciate Membership Upgrade Rose Brand: Announces 2012 Scholarship Winner ■ iWeiss Theatrical Solutions: Belton Joins Staff Meyer Sound: Loudspeakers Support Papal Mass in Mexico ■ SILV: Program Continues ■ City Theatrical: Eliminates Old Phone Staging Concepts: Equipment Adds Number, Announces Product Features Thousands of Seats to NCAA Tournament ■ ETC: Announce Winners of Student Video Challenge, Debuts Product PRG: To Hold Institute, Supply Products in Australia J.R. Clancy: Completing Work in Abu Dhabi PLASA: Registration Now Open Lead story > Volume LII, Number 5 usitt

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News & Notices

Montgomery Honored – Twice!



Jean Montgomery was presented with the Honorary Lifetime Membership award by Joe Aldridge, USITT President, as part of the Keynote of the 2012 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach, California.

Photo/R. Finkelstein

Jean Montgomery, well-known throughout USITT for her attention to detail and her interest in organizational structure and support, was surprised twice at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach, California.

On March 25 at the Keynote and Annual Meeting, she was presented with an Honorary Lifetime Membership award, bestowed on an individual who is recognized for providing significant years of continuous and extraordinary service to the Institute.

That award, given at the opening of the Annual Conference this year, is kept secret until it is announced.

It was, bestowed by President Joe Aldridge and reads:

This award is a token of great admiration and esteem for the breadth of your service to both the USITT Northern Boundary Regional Section and the National organization. Your discreet and professional manner in handling critical Institute matters, your commitment to prudence in USITT finances, and your dedication to preserving the heritage of USITT and its singular place in the theatre world are indispensable and deeply appreciated.

In her acceptance, Ms. Montgomery noted that she loves surprises, but hates being surprised.

At the Board of Directors session on March 30, Ms. Montgomery was asked to sit in with the board to continue the meticulous, time-consuming, and vital task of revising the Institute's Policies and Procedures. In addition to spending more than an hour in discussion of proposed revisions, the Board also



presented her with a resolution of appreciation:

- Whereas Jean Montgomery has watched carefully over USITT's evolving governance as past Secretary, and as personal attaché/adviser/counsel to the current Secretary and President, to insure most importantly that the Policies and Procedures of the Institute are organized in a readable, understandable and findable way, heretofore referred to as the PPC, and
- Whereas she additionally, for the protection and completion of the PPC insures that minutes, processes, and decisions are appropriately moved, seconded, (or tabled), documented, filed, and follow the order of Robert's Rules of Order, so help her God, and
- Whereas she has called upon her vast institutional history and knowledge for benefit of the organization of the PPC, in part, through her years of having touched, filed, and cleaned out Archives, preserving our Institute history for longer than most of us, save maybe Rick Stephens or anyone from the class of 1960 can remember, and
- Whereas she has been appointed or anointed the seeker, keeper, and tweaker of all things PPC because of all these and other reasons too numerous to mention, and,
- Whereas Gino has shared her knowledge and opinion of all things PPC with anyone who will listen, respond, or share an opinion, and
- Whereas given all this, she still refuses to be interviewed for the Living History Project, vowing that all her secrets of the Institute will die with her, and

Whereas she has been called upon once again to develop the PPC, because she is an invaluable colleague, supporter, mentor, teacher, and friend to all who have had the good sense to seek her out and pay attention. Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Directors of USITT acknowledges and commends her for her unwavering stewardship of this PPC project and the Institute as a whole. In honor of her faithful service, and willingness to be called upon once again for the untangling of Policy and Procedure, let it be known that Jean Montgomery is now, and forever, a lifetime plus member of the Institute's honorary Hotel California. Because in the immortal words of Don Henley and Glenn Fry, "You can check out anytime you like, but you can never leave." ⟨ Front Page Next story > Volume LII, Number 5 usitt © United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.

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USITT is excited to partner with organizations to offer discounts on training throughout the year.

Members receive discounts on Live Design Master Classes. These classes give access to some of the top designers in the nation and



behind the scenes access to see not only how to do something, but how it all integrates together to form a cohesive show.

The Entertainment Innovation
Conference at the University of North
Carolina School of the Arts offers 10
percent off registration for USITT
members. This weekend of interactive
workshops gives hands on access to
technologies in sound, lighting,
automation, and more. Registration
will soon be available at uncsa.edu.



USITT is committed to growing training and learning opportunities for its members throughout the year and across the nation. Using USITT membership to save on classes shows the value of membership.

If there are other member benefits that would be helpful, take the time to let the National Office know. Membership is the core of who we are; use yours today.

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News & Notices

Five New Fellows Announced at Long Beach Conference



USITT Fellows pose for a group photo at the 2012 Annual Conference In Long Beach.

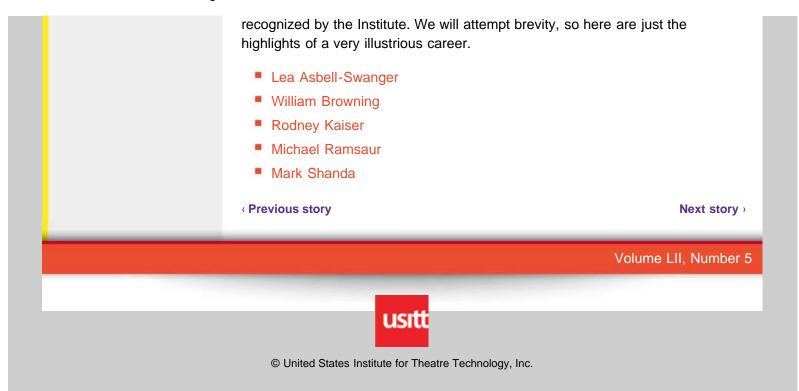
Photo/R. Finkelstein

The general introduction to all USITT's new Fellows and specifically Lea Asbell-Swanger was given by Richard Stephens

Fellow of the Institute is the honorary designation bestowed for life upon those members deemed to have made a truly outstanding contribution to both the profession of theatre and the work of the Institute.

This criteria, coupled with the fact that candidates are voted upon by the current body of Fellows, constitutes a recognition by one's peers of the highest professional honor. Tonight's inductees continue this tradition, as all are outstanding examples of the highest standards in professional accomplishments and Institute service, and we are very proud to welcome them to our ranks. We should also mention that the names of new Fellows are kept confidential until announced here this evening, adding considerably to the drama and suspense of this induction ceremony.

It is my honor to present the first of five new Fellows to be welcomed and



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News & Notices Lea Asbell-Swanger

Our first new Fellow, Lea Asbell-Swanger graduated from the theatre program of a prominent southern university and shortly thereafter was accepted into the MFA program of a major northern university. It was here, while still a student, that she joined the staff as a production assistant. Over the next 15 years, this remarkable young women rose through the ranks of staffers at her university to become the assistant director of Penn State University Center for the Performing Arts in 2001. During this journey, Lea Asbell-Swanger served in a wide variety of



Photo/R. Finkelstein

positions as well as fulfilling faculty assignments as an instructor of stage management and arts management. Lea also served as supervisory faculty for student interns with the Music at Penn Woods annual festival. A list of her current duties at Penn State is much too long to mention here (In fact her list of duties was so long, I thought for a moment I was looking at the job description of a technical director!), but highlights include training, recruitment and supervision of staff, booking and advancing presenters, and even negotiating union contracts.

Upon joining USITT in 1992, Lea immediately became active and has served as a panelist at every conference since 1993. A stalwart of the Management Commission, she has served that group as Vice-Commissioner for both Human Issues (1996-2003) and Programming (2003-2008). In 2003 she also began the first of three consecutive terms on the Board of Directors. In 2006, Lea was recruited to become a member of both the Finance and Nominations Committees. In 2007 Lea was asked to chair the 21st Century Task Force that examined the Institute's practices and governance, and the following year was asked again to chair USITT's Transition Advisory Team that developed and implemented an overhaul of the Institute's governance structure.

You might think that all of this would have been more than enough time and effort for a volunteer to donate to our Institute, but during these same years Lea became involved in two other projects "just for the fun of it." After attending a

Living History Project interview of Dr. Randall Davidson in 1999, she stepped forward and trained as an interviewer for the project. Subsequently, she not only has conducted the second largest number of interviews for the project, she agreed to co-chair this on-going effort from 2005-2010. But even this wasn't enough "fun" for our Lea. She next volunteered to participate on the Archive Committee. Since 2006 this indefatigable, dedicated, and indisputably "geeky" group, has spent literally hundreds of work hours sorting, culling, and organizing the Institute's records into a viable archive. I, for one, am simply in awe of her intelligence, energy, dedication, good humor, tact, and perseverance.

Given her outstanding performance in these many efforts, it comes as no surprise to anyone that Lea will begin her term July 1 as the Institute's 26th President. Please help me welcome to the stage our newest Fellow, Lea Asbell-Swanger!

Ms. Asbell-Swanger was inducted as a Fellow along with William Browning, Rodney Kaiser, Michael Ramsaur, and Mark Shanda.

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William Browning, center, with Dennis Dorn and Richard Stephens after his induction as a Fellow of the Institute.

Photo/R. Finkelstein

Newly inducted USITT Fellow William Browning was introduced by Dennis Dorn at the 2012 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach, California.

Our next Fellow has been a dear personal friend for over 30 years. He is recognized nationally as an esteemed educator and theatre professional. We also share a bond as Wisconsinites, current and former.

Our new Fellow began his USITT association approximately 35 years ago. From the very start, he was a Conference regular. By the mid-1980s, he was a perennial Conference panelist and presenter. While in Wisconsin, he was an active member of the Midwest Regional Section and served as a member of the outstanding 1990 Milwaukee Annual Conference & Stage Expo Committee.

From that auspicious start, our new Fellow continues his service to USITT. He is a strong Tech Expo supporter and has been an Expo committee member for nearly 30 years. In addition, he serves as an associate editor for *TD&T*, and at present is also serving his second term on the USITT Board of Directors.

Following completion of his MFA degree from a major Midwestern university, our new Fellow bounced around for a few years. Before long, he was recruited for an academic appointment which he has now held for 32 years, the last 18 as a full professor. During that time he has mentored scores of graduate students, designed lighting and/or scenery for over 140 productions, evolved into a computer graphics guru, and participated in scholarly activities including delivering papers at international conferences and authoring journal articles.

With all this dancing around, it is time to reveal that I am speaking about William "Bill" Browning, head of the University of Delaware's renowned PTTP technical program. He has headed the program for its entire 33-year existence, first in Milwaukee, and 10 years later at the University of Delaware.

Long-time Conference attendees will remember Bill's commitment to the Conference computer lab. Bill was recruited to join the Annual Conference Committee when it was originally formed in 1997 and served that committee as Computer Resources Coordinator through the 2005 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Toronto. Over the years, Bill's computer savvy grew into a resource used by many of us for a variety of tasks including simple communications, panel prep, and a significant number of group teaching activities.

Most recently, Bill has joined the Archives Committee and has assumed the task of coordinating the Institute's photo collection. Always a daunting task, with the advent of the digital age, the number of images has grown exponentially making the task even more formidable. But, if anyone can do it, Bill is that person.

Please welcome Bill Browning to the stage as our newest member of the USITT Fellows. His extraordinary contributions and leadership make him a distinguished addition to our group of honorees.

Mr. Browning was inducted as a Fellow along with Lea Asbell-Swanger, Rodney Kaiser, Michael Ramsaur, and Mark Shanda.

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Rodney Kaiser



Rodney Kaiser being presented with his Fellows pin by Christine Kaiser, also a Fellow of the Institute, as the group of current Fellows look on.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

Rodney Kaiser was introduced by Richard Devin with additional remarks from Joel E. Rubin, Ph.D., read by Mr. Kaiser's wife, Fellow Christine Kaiser.

It is my great pleasure to bestow the USITT Fellows ribbon on Rodney Kaiser.

Rodney has been an active member of the Institute for over 30 years and has served the entertainment industry with distinction. As a theatre professional, he worked with Kliegl Brothers, Inc. from 1967 to 1970, followed by employment with Hoffend and Sons, Inc. from 1970 to 1978 in stage rigging and lighting sales and installation, and has been with J.R. Clancy for 33 years, from 1978 to the present time. He holds two patents in the stage rigging field, one for a counterweight assisted winch and one for an arbor guide shoe assembly. He continues to serve his profession as special projects manager of J.R. Clancy, Inc.

Rod has been a USITT member and Conference exhibitor/attendee for more than 30 years. He was an early member of the USITT Rigging and Stage Machinery Standards group at the beginning of the efforts to write standards for manual counterweight rigging. He remained with the standards efforts from the

beginning, continuing as the work of the committee transferred to ESTA, when it became ANSI-accredited, and as a task group member of the Manual Counterweight Rigging standards until the standard was adopted in 2009.

He served on the Fire Safety Curtains task group from 2002 until it became an ANSI standard in 2009. He also served on the Powered Rigging Systems task group. Rodney also served as USITT's Technical Standards Committee Liaison for more than 10 years.

Other USITT service includes several years on the USITT Membership Committee; as a Young Designers & Technicians review panel member; and as an instrumental force in assisting the USITT office move from New York City to Syracuse, and the transfer of USITT archive materials from Kansas City to Syracuse.

Essential service was provided to the USITT Finance Committee members and Executive Committee members for many years as sounding board, host, and chief cook and bottle washer for many meetings held in Syracuse. He has also served as a Conference presenter/panelist.

An expert in stage rigging fundamentals, mechanics, manufacturing, and operation, Rodney generously has shared and continues to share his knowledge with end users, architects, and consultants. Mr. Kaiser attended the mechanical engineering program at Clarkson College of Technology and received a BA from the University of Rochester.

Finally, Rod has a unique distinction in that he is a member of the only husband and wife team of USITT Fellows.

From Joel E. Rubin, Ph.D., and read by Christine Kaiser

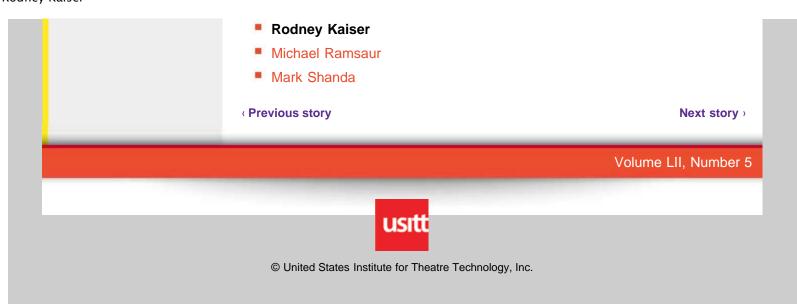
Rodney's long membership and ongoing activities in USITT started with his days as my associate at Kleigl Bros Lighting in the mid-1960s, and he has continued his active participation ever since. When Rodney moved from Kleigl to J.R. Clancy, the lighting industry's loss was the theatre rigging industry's gain.

Rodney became the expert's expert at Clancy, in my mind the ultimate resource behind questions that my firm as consultant posed to him as to the best method or procedure to ensure suitability and safety. Anyone who works with Rodney knows that his answers to rigging solutions are customer-motivated, not commercial; that alone seems to me to make Rodney quite unique.

I sense that, as Clancy has grown, Rodney's work has tended to become more internal, and he has had less opportunity to continue his many years of providing sage advice directly to USITT constituents. I firmly believe that Rodney as Fellow of the Institute will be able to much enhance his already ongoing and continuing contributions to USITT and to the theatre industry.

Mr. Kaiser was inducted as a Fellow along with Lea Asbell-Swanger, William Browning, Michael Ramsaur, and Mark Shanda.

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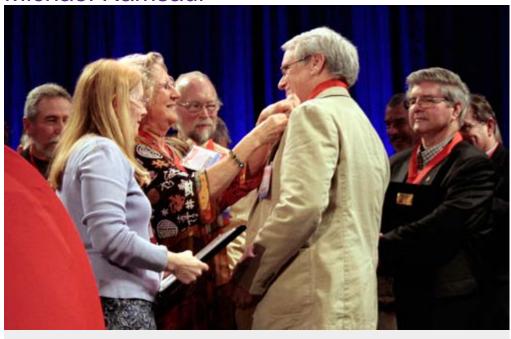
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Michael Ramsaur



Michael Ramsaur, center is presented with his Fellows pin by Sylvia Pannell, as Richard Stephens, Cindy Limauro, Richard Devin, and Rodney Kaiser look on.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

Michael Ramsaur was introduced as a Fellow by Cindy Limauro.

This person is highly respected as an international educator and lighting designer who has contributed extensively to USITT and OISTAT.

His contributions to the theatre/performing arts include:

- Professor at Stanford University serving as director of production and formerly (1989-2001) as chair of the department of drama
- Memberships in
 - United Scenic Artists
 - International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
 - Illuminating Engineering Society of North America
 - International Association of Lighting Designers

He has had a 40-year career in theatre including serving as lighting designer for

many theatre companies in the San Francisco Bay area, including Peninsula Civic Light Opera where he is the resident lighting designer.

Examples of his designs have been displayed at two USITT Design Expositions, a theatre design exhibit at the Trinton Museum of Art in Santa Clara, and theatrical design exhibitions in Prague and Shanghai.

He has been awarded Outstanding Lighting Design awards from the San Francisco Bay Area Critics Association, Dean Goodman Ward, and Drama Logue Award. His articles on lighting techniques have been published in three countries, and he has created a computerized software program to aid lighting designers.

He is a longtime member of USITT and has served on the Executive Committee and as Chair of the Northern California Regional Section. He is a member of the Lighting Design & Technology Commission, the Education Commission, and the International Activities Committee. He currently serves on the OISTAT Executive Committee, as the representative of USITT, the US OISTAT Centre.

He recently completed a term of office as the President of OISTAT (in 2009) and previously served for many years as Head of the OISTAT Education Commission.

He is one of the founding organizers of Scenofest, the educational component of the Prague Quadrennial. Under his leadership it has grown enormously and is a highlight of the PQ experience.

He recently was instrumental in organizing an International Lighting Design Symposium in China. He has been a strong advocate of theatre, particularly working to bring attention to under-represented countries of the international community.

Mr. Ramsaur was inducted as a Fellow along with Lea Asbell-Swanger, William Browning, Rodney Kaiser, and Mark Shanda.

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News & Notices Mark Shanda

Mark Shanda was introduced by Richard Stephens.

Our final new inductee this evening is a graduate of the technical production program of the storied University of Wisconsin-Madison. A former Eagle Scout with a penchant for getting things done, Mark Shanda arrived at the Ohio State University in 1986 to serve that department as its technical director. Over the next 15 years he also served his department as director of undergraduate studies, interim chair on several occasions, and a member of the OSU College of Fine Arts Council.

In 2001, Mark was appointed associate chair and director of theatre. In 2006 he was elected chair of his department. And in 2010 Mark was recruited to become the dean of arts and humanities for the Ohio State

University.



Mark Shanda, right, takes his place with all the USITT Fellows attending the 2012 Annual Conference after he was inducted into the group.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

An accomplished writer, Mark coauthored Drafting for the Theatre with

Dennis Dorn in 1992, and I understand that this year, after a mere interval of 20 years, they have now finished writing and have published their first revision! (Don't worry guys; no one knows better than I how long it can take to write a book.)

Mark has also authored numerous articles on theatre technology and personnel management that have appeared in Sightlines, TD&T, the Yale Tech Briefs, and numerous Tech Expo catalogues. His powers of observation, fairness, and articulate writing style have made Mark one of the nation's leading evaluators in cases involving issues of tenure and promotion as well as NAST departmental program evaluations.

A member of USITT since the mid-1980s, Mark has served the Institute as a presenter and chair at numerous conferences. He came to national prominence during two terms as Co-Commissioner of the Technical Production Commission. Mark continues to serve as chair of that Commission's Tenured TD Mentoring Project.

Mark also served two terms on the Board of Directors and in 1999 was the technical director of the U.S. entry to the Prague Quadrennial. He has chaired or co-chaired four Tech Expos and continues to serve as an editor for that ongoing national exhibit. This is a project near and dear to Mark's heart as he was an initial member of the Expo Committee in1987. These days, Mark continues to serve as the Vice President for Publications for the Institute.

Finally, I feel compelled to include this quote from Mark's nomination: "Mark is a real role model for those who believe that someone in theatre can lead a balanced personal life. He is active in his community, an elder in his church, and has fulfilled leadership roles in his children's school organizations. Throughout his career, and in whatever endeavor he has undertaken, Mark is known as a thoughtful, knowledgeable and steadfast individual." Please welcome to the stage Fellow Mark Shanda.

Mr. Shanda was inducted as a Fellow along with Lea Asbell-Swanger, William Browning, Rodney Kaiser, and Michael Ramsaur.

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Engineering and Architecture
Conference (NATEAC) was accepted
into the American Institute of
Architects (AIA) Continuing Education
System (CES) Provider program.



Architects will receive credit for any AIA/CES approved session they attend at NATEAC. Bill Sapsis, conference director noted, "The criteria for achieving AIA/CES approval is extremely stringent, and we are very happy to have been approved."

"We're very excited by this development" commented NATEAC Production Manager and AIA/CES coordinator Christy Havard. "The AIA/CES program supports the NATEAC mission statement extremely well and we believe this program will attract a wider range of architects to the conference."

The requirements of performance spaces are more complex than ever before, and there is a growing need for those responsible for these spaces - architects, engineers, consultants, manufacturers and end users – to share in their knowledge of 21st century technology. NATEAC takes place in New York City on July 22 and 23at the mid-town Hilton Hotel.

USITT is one of the sponsors of the event, which fits with USITT's mission of connecting performing arts design and technology communities to ensure a vibrant dialog among practitioners,

For more information, or to participate visit www.nateac.org

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News From **Around the Institute**

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- NAAFED Performer Rigging Workshop
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- LA Theatre Tour
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Where's the Executive Director?

You never know who you might find at USITT's Stage Expo. In 2011, it was the Easter Bunny. In 2012, there were several creatures with super powers wandering around. Can you tell which of these is the creature and which is USITT's Executive Director? Free swag for the first correct response to barbara@usitt.org.



Offer Discounts on NAAFED Performing Rigging Workshop

The North American Association of Flying Effects Directors (NAAFED) will hold its 2012 Performer Rigging Workshop from May 22 to 25 at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois.

USITT members, ETCP Certified Riggers, IATSE, CITT, EdTA, AEA, PLASA members, and students receive a \$50 discount on the \$600 workshop costs. Students are allowed to use both discounts.

The workshop is designed for all ages and skill levels. Practical application will follow lecture-based presentations to provide attendees with the opportunity to practice the theories learned. Participants will be exposed to the basics of good theatrical rigging practices, as well as hands-on exposure to a wide variety of performer rigging systems. By the end of this workshop, a participant who arrived with basic theatrical knowledge should be able to recognize unsafe rigging conditions, converse fluently with a flying effects rigger, efficiently assist with the installation of a flying effects system, and operate a flying effects system for a production.

Instructor Tracy Nunn ally is an ETCP Certified Rigger - Arena & Theatre (one of only 35 ETCP recognized trainers), head of the design and technology program at the NIU School of Theatre and Dance, and president of Hall Associates Flying Effects.

For more information, e-mail naafed@flyingfx.com. call 888-359-4255 or visit www.naafed.com.

Costume Symposium Features Puppets

USITT's 2012 Costume Symposium will be in West Lafayette, Indiana the first weekend in August, featuring a Puppet Boot Camp. Learn to make and manipulate four different types of puppets in this intense session lead by Joel Ebarb.

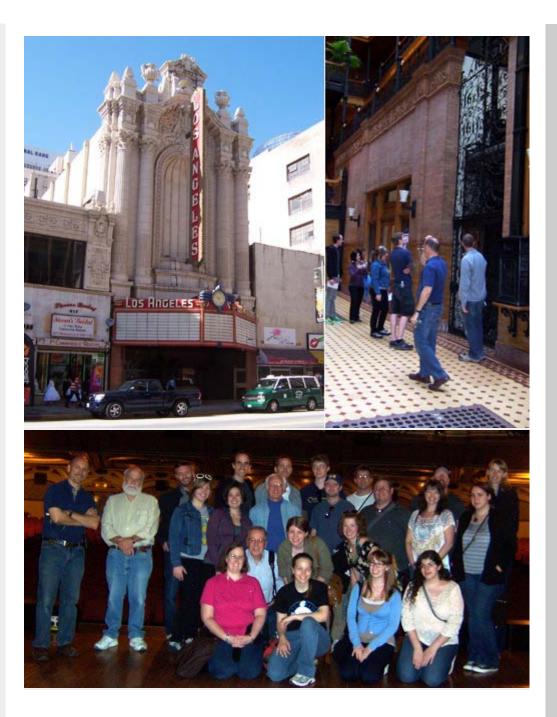
Applications are now available here »

LA Theatre Tour

We have a glowing report, and photos, from the LA Theatre tour held before the 2012 Annual Conference. Randy Earle noted, "Our tour, arranged by Bob Scales, was absolutely fantastic. We visited the Million Dollar, Palace, Orpheum, and Los Angeles theatres and had in-depth tours that permitted us to crawl around spaces the public usually cannot access.

"I hope this will be a model for future conferences in cities where such wealth of historic theatre architecture exists. Bob is to be congratulated for a very special contribution to the Conference!"

Note: The lobby with all the wrought iron work and palms is not a theatre; it's the Bradbury Building, a "must see" LA landmark on the tour.



Clearwing Productions Axient Certified

Clearwing Productions is now a certified dealer for the Axient System, the revolutionary wireless system recently introduced from Shure. The certification allows Clearwing to sell and install Axient as well as complete on-site trainings for customers. Nick Dressler and Bryan Baumgardner both completed the Axient Dealer Certification Training program in Chicago, Illinois, on March 15.

Axient employs several breakthrough technologies that work together to deliver interference-free audio in today's hostile RF spectrum environment.

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- Meyer Sound: Loudspeakers Support Papal Mass in Mexico
- City Theatrical: Eliminates Old Phone Number, Announces Product Features
- ETC: Announce Winners of Student Video Challenge, Debuts Product
- PRG: To Hold Institute, Supply Products in Australia
- J.R. Clancy: Completing Work in Abu Dhabi
- PLASA: Registration Now Open

Daktronics Inc.: Pilewski Added to Sales Team

Daktronics Inc. recently welcomed Greg Pilewski as the company's newest rigging sales team member. Mr. Pilewski will represent the Daktronics family of automated rigging products in the southern United States.

"With Greg's 25 years of professional experience in the industry, we're excited to share his talents and expertise with theatre consultants and dealers in the Southeast and South Central region," says Rigging Sales Manager Mike Cooper.



Greg Pilewski

Mr. Pilewski adds, "Over the years I have learned to enjoy all the unique challenges the entertainment industry provides. Now I can focus my energy on Daktronics rigging solutions and continue to offer the highly engineered rigging products and support to our current and future customers. It's great to join such a respected company delivering reliable, innovative motorized stage rigging systems."

He will be based out of Greenville, South Carolina.

Rose Brand: Announces 2012 Scholarship Winner

Rose Brand named Ryan Grossheim as the 2012 Rose Brand Scholarship

winner at the USITT Annual Conference in Long Beach, California. Mr. Grossheim is a graduate student in scenic design at San Diego State University. As the winner, he received a \$5,000 scholarship. A \$2,500 Rose Brand credit was awarded to his university to enhance its theatre program.

For more information on the 2013 Rose Brand Scholarship, e-mail scholarship@rosebrand.com to be put on the mailing list, or visit the Rose Brand Facebook page at bit.ly/rosebrand-scholarship. THE ROSE BROSE BROWN State University

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Rose Brand fabricated the main drape for the 2012 Academy Awards. The

drape was made out of 21 ounce Marvel and custom sewn in the company's West Coast facility. The drape featured 204 hand sewn, jeweled medallions, a trim band, and 150 percent fullness.

Meyer Sound: Loudspeakers Support Papal Mass in Mexico

At Bicentennial Park near Silao, Mexico, a sun-drenched, open-air Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI gathered a sizable crowd the Associated Press estimated at 350,000. To ensure everybody could hear words and music clearly and to full effect, more than 375 **Meyer Sound** loudspeakers converged at the site including 268 MILO line array loudspeakers, likely the most ever deployed for any single event.

City Theatrical: Eliminates Old Phone Number, Announces Product Features

City Theatrical, Inc. let go of its old Bronx phone number April 2. The company can be reached at its New Jersey number (201-549-1160), toll free number (800-230-9497), or at info@citytheatrical.com.

The company also announced new features for its SHoW DMX Neo. It features the extremely high data fidelity that the multi-award winning SHoW DMX is famous for, as well as incredibly fast 7ms latency, ensuring that wired and wireless DMX sources will appear exactly alike on a production. The extensive on-board user interface that professionals prefer allows optimized control over output power, full or limited bandwidth broadcast, and the ability to broadcast less than the full DMX packet to shrink the radio footprint.

ETC: Announce Winners of Student Video Challenge, Debuts Product

"You made us laugh, you moved us, you amazed us, and you inspired us. You proved that the entertainment-technology world can look forward to an infusion of enthusiasm, talent, and creativity from your generation. It was very tough to choose the winners. Thank you, all participants," said ETC CEO and Show Us Your ETC video judge Fred Foster.

ETC announced the winners of its Show Us Your ETC student video competition March 30:

- 1st prize Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania
- 2nd prize College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati,
 Cincinnati, Ohio
- 3rd prize California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, California



There were three honorable mentions:

- Lake Zurich High School, Lake Zurich, Illiniois
- Palo Alto High School, Palo Alto, California
- Home-schooled high school students, Madison, Wisconsin

As first-prize winner, Juniata College will have first pick of either an ETC Eos, Ion or Element lighting-control console. CCM will have second pick of the two remaining consoles, and Cal Arts will receive the remaining console.

the company's booth: Lustr+, Daylight, and Tungsten.

ETC also debuted the Source Four LED at the conference. The new fixture—combining the best of the popular Source Four with the best of Selador Desire LED technology—produces a sharp, clean beam of focusable light or a smooth wash while providing brilliant color changes and even more energy-saving efficiency. Three versions were demonstrated at

PRG: To Hold Institute, Supply Products in Australia

Production Resource Group (PRG) announced it will host its PRG Institute May 16 through May 18 in Secaucus, New Jersey. The institute offers introductory training on the VX76 lighting control consoles, Mbox Extreme media server, Best Boy and Bad Boy Luminaires, and Series 400 Power and Data Distribution System.

Attendees may register for the three-day session or for individual product training. ETCP certified electricians receive ETCP renewal credits. For more information and a session schedule, click here.

Click here to register for PRG Institute.

Arts Centre Melbourne, Australia's largest performing arts centre and the focal point of Melbourne's cultural precinct, has chosen PRG V676 and V476 control consoles to meet its lighting control needs. PRG will supply the consoles through its Australian subsidiary.

J.R. Clancy: Completing Work in Abu Dhabi

When the 1,000-seat theatre opened on the new Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates campus of Zayed University in December, the theatre's advanced technology included motorized rigging and controls provided by J. R. Clancy, Inc.



Zayed's new campus has space for up to 6,000 students—a dramatic

increase over the 200 students enrolled when the university opened in 1998. The new theatre is part of a convention center designed to involve the broader community of Abu Dhabi in performances and events on campus. J. R. Clancy worked in partnership with the UAE team of J & C Joel, Ltd., a worldwide theatrical fabric manufacturer, dealer and installer, to provide a combination of 20 counterweight rigging sets and 24 PowerLift motorized rigging sets. This system gives the new theatre plenty of capacity for raising and lowering scenery, lights, curtains, and an orchestra shell.

J. R. Clancy is a wholly owned subsidiary of Wenger Corporation. More information about Clancy is available at www.jrclancy.com, or at 315-451-3440.

PLASA: Registration Now Open

PLASA Focus: Nashville 2012 is a new event which brings the world's latest pro-audio, lighting, AV and stage technology to Nashville July 11 and 12. Taking place at the Nashville Municipal Auditorium, this event, organized by **PLASA**, will provide experience on the latest pro audio, lighting, video, and stage technology. Members of the entertainment technology community in the

Tennessee area won't want to miss this landmark first event in the region.

Meet global manufacturers, distributors, regional production companies. and industry organizations. Stay ahead of the curve and register for a free visitor badge today.

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- iWeiss Theatrical Solutions: Belton Joins Staff
- SILV: Program Continues
- Staging Concepts: Equipment Adds Thousands of Seats to NCAA Tournament

TC Group Americas, Inc.: Welcome

We welcome new Sustaining member TC Group Americas, Inc.

The company, based in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, includes several component areas including TC Electronics, TC-Helicon, Tannoy, Dynaudio Acoustics, LAB.gruppen, Linn, and Audica.

The website is under construction, but the url is www.tcgroup-americas.com and contact is Jennifer Kavanagh at jennk@tcg-americas.com.

Eilon Engineering Weighing Systems Ltd.: Appreciate Membership Upgrade

We appreciate the additional support to USITT which **Eilon Engineering**Weighing Systems Ltd. is providing by upgrading its membership to that of a
Sustaining member. The company is best known for its Ron StageMaster
wireless and wired real-time load monitoring systems, with up to several
hundred load cells overlaid on the show plan and shown on one laptop's screen,
enabling load monitoring and overload prevention.

To find out more about the company, visit www.eilon-engineering.com

iWeiss Theatrical Solutions: Belton Joins Staff

iWeiss Theatrical Solutions announced the addition of Nicholas Belton as project manager. Mr. Belton comes to iWeiss from Royal Caribbean International where, as stage and production manager, he led the day-to-day operations

of the cruise ships' state-of-the-art performance venues. His involvement in launching new theatre venues and working with contactors and vendors will prove especially valuable in his new position.

Mr. Belton earned a bachelor's degree in theater arts with an emphasis in design and stage management from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennyslvania. He can be reached at nicholasb@iweiss.com.



Nicholas Belton

SILV: Program Continues

Students in the 2012 season of

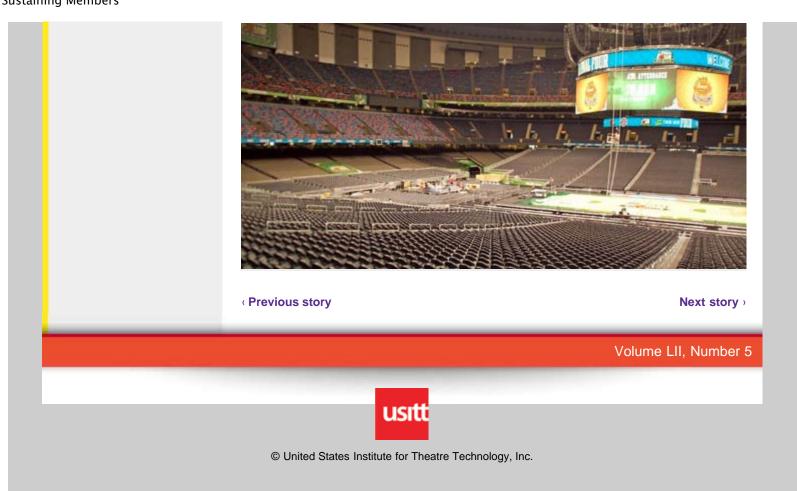
Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas
will be the first legacy class as the
program pushes forward after the loss
of founder and master mentor Don
Childs. Above all else, Don
exemplified the belief of his mentor,
Ladislav Vychodil, that "integrity is all
we have; an artist without integrity
has nothing." SILV will continue to
pursue his mission to carry on the
now generations-old tradition of



training by sharing experience with the next wave of technicians. It's all about the experience!

Staging Concepts: Equipment Adds Thousands of Seats to NCAA Tournament

Thanks to the temporary seating configuration constructed of custom seating riser equipment from **Staging Concepts**, 17,000 fans were front and center during the NCAA Final Four at the Mercedes Benz Superdome in New Orleans. This seating configuration involved a major dramatic move of the basketball court from the end zone, where it was in 2003 when New Orleans last hosted the Final Four, to the middle of the arena, giving tens of thousands of fans - primarily students - a chance to be near the action.



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News From Joe Aldridge, USITT President Honoring Award-winners and Other Memorable Events

A month has passed since we all met in Long Beach at what has turned out to be a record-setting Annual Conference. More exhibitors, more attendees, more sessions, and, above all, more fun!

One of the distinct pleasures for me since taking the office of President of USITT has been being able to read the names of the many award winning students who have been recognized by the Institute. Also, reading the names of my peers and their numerous accomplishments has given me immense pleasure. You have no idea how much work went in to making certain that Bernie Works



Luis Valdez spoke informally with many people after the conclusion of the USITT Keynote in Long Beach, California. His speech energized the start of the recordbreaking event.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

would be attending the closing night festivities last year in Charlotte. He had been selected to receive the Joel E. Rubin Founder's Award. Bernie was going to skip the event and take his wife to a quiet dinner. Little did he know that his wife had assembled the entire family secretly to witness him being honored by the Institute.

That very same evening, I was able to surprise a very dear friend of mine, Rick Stephens, when he also received the Joel E. Rubin Founder's Award. In a small way, it was poetic justice since Rick had been the one to read my induction into the Fellows at the Annual Conference in Houston in 2008.

This year, it was a pleasure to be able to surprise Jean Montgomery as the recipient of the Honorary Lifetime Membership Award. Gino was honored again at the final Board of Director's meeting on Friday of the conference for her perseverance and dedication to the compilation of Policies and Procedures, a task that has taken two long years and is nearing completion, for now. She loves surprises but hates being surprised. We got her twice this year.

It was also an honor being able to recognize Tim Kelly for his long-standing dedication to the Grants & Fellowships Committee. He has been involved, in

some way, since its inception. Until this year, he had taken care of the previous seven art auctions and flea markets that occur every three years. Through his leadership, the Kook Fund has benefited to the tune of \$80,000 as a result of all of those auctions.

To me, the highlight of this conference was the keynote address by Luis Valdez. If you were unfortunate enough to have missed it, check it out on the USITT website. The man spoke for over 20 minutes, sans notes, passionately about theatre and its meanings. He is such an inspiration that you need to view his presentation. Once you have seen it, you will want to share it with anyone you know and care about.

Thank you to all of the volunteers, the staff, the exhibitors, the panelists, and the attendees for making this one of the most memorable conferences in the last 28 or more years for me.



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

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News From Regional Sections

- Ohio Valley: Offers OSHA Training in May
- Midwest: Announce Founders Award Winners, Detail Tour of Center
- Rocky Mountain: Revitalizing Rocky Mountain Section

Ohio Valley: Offers OSHA Training in May

The Ohio Valley Regional Section will host an OSHA 10-hour Voluntary Compliance Training May 18 and 19 at Kent State Tuscarawas Performing Arts Center, New Philadelphia, Ohio. The Friday session will start around 5 p.m. The Saturday session will finish around 7 p.m. Space is limited, so register by May 4. The registration form will be posted on the website soon. Checks should be sent to John Seaman.

The Section will need people who are interested in coordinating, promoting, planning, and working on the Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati in 2015. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the regional and national organization of USITT. Anyone interested can send an e-mail to usittohiovalley@gmail.com. Activities in the planning process will begin in late 2012 or early 2013.

Midwest: Announce Founders Award Winners, Detail Tour of Center

The Midwest Regional Section announced its Founders Awards winners.

The member winner was Steve
Jacobs for his service to the Section.
He is an Executive Board member; he has been instrumental in promoting the Section with secondary education institutions and students of theatre both through his work as an educator and his involvement with the Illinois High School Theatre Association. He is a prime mover for the Section's



From left, Founder Bernhard Works, Steve Jacobs, and previous recipient Ellen White.

sponsorship of Tech Olympics at all four of the regional HS Theatre Festivals.

The college student winner is April Townsend, a BFA student in theatre costume design at Michigan State University. The high school winner was Nicole Rooney, a student at Glenbard North High School, in Carol Stream, Illinois. She plans to study scene design and production at Carthage College. She was not present when the award was given.



From left, Founder Bernhard Works and award winner April Townsend.

Photos/Mick Alderson

All three awards were announced at the Midwest Regional Section meeting March 29 at the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach, California.

Detail Tour of Center

For the Section's February event, the newly-opened Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, Indiana welcomed 15 members into the three-venue performing arts complex near Indianapolis. Kyle Lemoi, director of production, showed the nooks, crannies, tricks and quirks of this cornerstone of Carmel City Center, a \$300 million mixed-use redevelopment project.

The Center for the Performing Arts is not one building but rather a complex of buildings. Although the 200-seat Studio Theatre and 500-seat Tarkington Theatre appear to be contained within building, they are actually each a building connected to two others — a parking garage and office building. The Studio Theatre was not a part of the original complex design, but the resulting flexible seating configurations have created an intimate performance space perfect for two local companies — Actors Theatre of Indiana and Carmel Repertory Theater.

The Tarkington Theatre serves as the primary home of the Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre company. The tour's final stop was the crown jewel of The



The Palladium's Ceiling

Center: the 1,600 seat, 151,000 square foot concert hall, The Palladium. Inspired by Andrea Palladio's Villa Capra, La Rotonda, the building is a traditional shoebox-shaped concert hall with high ceilings, state of the art

acoustics, and center rotunda and skylight. The group had the opportunity to sit in on the rehearsal for that evening's performance.

The acoustic canopies' tempered glass panels are attached to steel trusses that are rigged with hoists. The 15 hoists lift the speakers, lighting battens, trusses, and acoustic canopies into the upper and lower attic of the Palladium, which for many was the highlight of the day's tour.

The afternoon included a discussion of the design, construction, and use of The Center with representatives from the companies that contributed to its creation.

This included Chris Darland and Andrew Morgan from the theatrical and acoustical consultants Artec Consultants; Steve Sturtz and Laurence Armstrong from Pedcor Design Group the design architects for the Studio and Tarkington; Mike Anderson the project manager from Shiel-Sexton Co.; Brandon Bogan from CSO Architects, the Palladium architect of record; Michael Lasley from Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre, Bridget Cox from J. R. Clancy, and Randy Riggs from Indianapolis Stage Sales & Rentals, the lighting system vendor who had the distinction of being the only company to work on all three performance spaces.

This panel of experts gave an amazing insight into the design, planning, construction, and opening of The Center in a very fun and relaxed conversation. Kyle Lemoi and his colleagues at The Center for the Performing Arts hosted a truly world-class tour of their world-class facility



The Palladium

Photos/Shane Kelly

Rocky Mountain: Revitalizing Rocky Mountain Section

On the heels of another great Annual Conference, the Rocky Mountain Regional Section is planning to revamp and revitalize its membership. In an effort to start

anew with a clean slate, all current officers have resigned, and the Section is nominations for Section Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice Chair for Publications.

The Section has been largely inactive (other than three very active student chapters) and has not recruited members or collected dues for a number of years. As a result, current members in good standing of USITT who reside in Colorado or Wyoming are eligible to both vote and run for these elections.

Contact any members of the 2012 Nominating Committee: Laura Love (Chair), llove9@mscd.edu; Sean McIntosh, smcintosh@caspercollege.edu; Chantelle Gray, cgray@cwc.edu; or Ron Gloekler, rgloekler@msn.com

The slate will be announced the first week of May. A tentative live and virtual meeting is planned for Monday, June 4.

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News From David Grindle, USITT Executive Director Looking Back at Long Beach

Five thousand -- that's a lot of people.

We had over 5,000 people attend the Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach. That outreach led to more people seeing the amazing membership of USITT at its best.

Session quality was among the best people had seen, and they were telling us about it. There were more exhibitors than ever before. We had Sound Lab, a phenomenal experience just to walk in the room, much less understand it.

Tony Walton, Han Peter Kuhn, Todd Debrencini, and many others lent their expertise to sessions that reached not only students but professionals in all areas at all levels of their careers.

So where does that leave us, the membership? It leaves us with the duty of sharing the exciting growth of the Institute with others and encouraging them to join. Together we can grow the Institute to something formidable and make greater and greater impacts upon the industry at all levels.

But that's the job of the National Office, right? Yes and no. Yes, we have the materials, we can send



Photo/Erika Courtney

letters to non-members who attended the conference, and we can do all of the things that membership development says to do to grow our numbers. But there is something that only individuals can do, and that is share personal stories.

When members tell others about the interactions, about the rejuvenation they

get from networking with their peers, when we share what we've learned and that we learned it through USITT, that's the best marketing we could ever ask for. With members sharing their experiences and encouraging people to join and maintain their membership, we will remain what has made USITT so fabulous, an organization that focuses on the personal interactions of the members.

During the Friday evening events, I sat with a group of students from Alabama State University. Tai, a young stage manager, began to share the joy she found in stage management. The excitement of bringing things together, coordinating the work of many in to a whole, the happiness of solving problems with a team all bubbled from her in a way that reminded me of how I felt as a young stage manager. Her excitement and enthusiasm for the career and art form I loved renewed my vigor for the art of technical theatre and management. Those kinds of opportunities are the things we need to share with others through membership.

USITT is moving forward. The Rigging Safety Initiative, review panels influencing the national education standards for technical theatre, Elite Training Las Vegas, Early Career Members, the Costume Poster Session Archives, and so much more have happened in the past two years. Share the excitement and help grow the membership. Wouldn't it be great if 5,000 was our total number of members rather than just our conference attendance?

Together, sharing the news and encouraging one another, we can make it happen.



We'd like to hear your comments on this story.
Please e-mail David at david@office.usitt.org.
Follow me on Twitter -- #USITTExec

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Conference & Stage Expo Farewell Long Beach, Hello Milwaukee

Helen Willard Stage Expo Sales Manager



Photos/Tom Thatcher

We broke all the records in Long Beach with more exhibitors (204) in more net square feet of exhibit space (30,950) than ever before. Preliminary attendance figures announced at the Conference included 5,048 attendees, a whopping 20 percent increase from 2011.

The large crowd which gathered to await the grand opening of Stage Expo was thrilled by a high-energy drumline. Currently performing at the Happiest Place on Earth in the exciting new "Mickey's Soundsational Parade!" six drummers wowed the crowd with their tightly synchronized performance. Thanks to our friends at Disneyland for providing this year's entertainment. If you missed it, you can see it on YouTube here.



After a rousing introduction by one of the drummers, VP-Conferences Dave Will cut the USITT gaff tape, and the crowd streamed into the exhibit halls to gather technical information and collect swag. Exhibitors were



extremely happy with the traffic at Stage Expo, in part due to the more than 1,300 people who visited Stage Expo on VIP passes.

Exhibitors were invited to reserve Milwaukee 2013 booth space during the priority space selection held in Long Beach on the last day of Stage Expo 2012. More than 80 booth exhibitors booked over 20,000 square feet of space during the priority space selection. Two-thirds of the available booth space has already been reserved for next year's show, so Stage Expo 2013 is well on its way to filling four large exhibit halls in Milwaukee's Frontier Airlines Center.

Booth space selection will continue until all available booth spaces are sold. Priority space selection for table spaces will be conducted later in the year. Anyone who would like to exhibit at Stage Expo 2013 in Milwaukee should contact hpwillard@aol.com for more information.

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Conference & Stage Expo USITT Site for Behind the Scenes Activities

The efforts of many volunteers and the generosity of donors resulted in more than \$45,000 being added to the coffers of Behind the Scenes during the Long Beach 2012 Conference & Stage Expo.

The Long Reach Long Riders and the ESTA Foundation's joint raffle and live auction raised just over \$9,800 in raffle ticket sales and BTS and LRLR-branded swag.

Prize winners are Dinna Myers -- Apollo Design Technology's Smart Move DMX gobo rotator; Byrne Blackwood -- Barbizon's technician's tool kit; Patrick Finn -- gasoline gift certificate from J.R. Clancy; Sheryl Sturges -- iPad2 16GB from Musson Theatrical; Spencer Lyons -- rosebrand.com gift certificate; Bill Beautyman -- Sapsis Rigging gift certificate; both Alexandria Vazquez and Jeff Flowers – USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo 2013 registrations; and Janice Robillard -- three pair of tickets to the Utah Shakespearean Festival.

The Grand Prize, Vectorworks Spotlight with Renderworks, went to Bruce Krempetz.

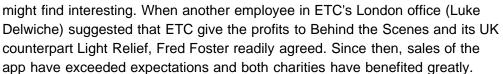
Pre-raffle activities included the traditional kazoo parade, presentation of donations from fundraising activities by backstagejobs.com and the Penn State Chapter of USITT; give-aways for the crowd provided by Wenger and InterAmerica Stage; and a live auction of four tickets to a Yankees home game donated by Jessie Friend and Lee Filters, two tickets to the Broadway production of *Nice Work If You Can Get It* donated by Local One IATSE, and custom made walnut pens and a wine bottle stopper donated by Trish and Shan Ayers.

BTS expressed special thanks to USITT, Alice Neff, Greg Williams, Patt and Frank Stewart, Bill Sapsis, Moe Conn, Stage Equipment & Lighting, Shepard Exposition Services, the donors of fabulous prizes, and all who bought raffle tickets, auction items, and swag.

ETC CEO Fred Foster presented a check for nearly \$26,000 to Behind the Scenes, which reflected ongoing proceeds from sales of ETC's iRFR and aRFR (Radio Focus Remote) application for iPhone, iPod Touch, and Android. The donation brings

ETC's total Behind the Scenes contributions to date to almost \$77,000.

This app was developed by ETC software engineer Chris Mizerak as a cool tool that ETC thought some



Rosco Laboratories presented a check for the fourth annual royalty payment to Behind the Scenes from sales of the color Roscolux 359 Medium Violet for \$2,174. Mark Engle, President of Rosco, said when he presented the check, "When we donate the proceeds from Rosco 359 Medium Violet to Behind the Scenes each year, we are reminded of the tight bond within our industry.



Designers choose this color and in return, Rosco helps their colleagues in need." This year's donation brings the total to more than \$10,000.

Individuals or companies can support Behind the Scenes by making donations online at www.estafoundation.org/bts.htm or by calling 212-244-1421.

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Conference & Stage Expo It Doesn't Matter How It's Spelled

LeRoy Stoner Milwaukee Promotions



The marquee of the Milwaukee Theatre provides a welcoming entrance to those visiting the Wisconsin city which will host the 2013 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

Photo/Courtesy Visit Milwaukee

Milliwocki, Milwacky, Milwaukie, Milwaukee - the word "Milwaukee" may come from the Potawatomi language "minwaking," or Ojibwe language "ominowaking,"

"Gathering place by the water."

No matter how it has been spelled or its origin, in March 2013 Milwaukee will be synonymous with USITT and stand for all the experiences and knowledge gained at each Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

Many significant additions and changes have occurred in the city since the Institute's last visit in 1990. Arts programming continues to grow and new facilities have been created to house the events. New since 1990 is the Broadway Theatre Center, home to the Skylight Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, and Renaissance Theatre Works.

The Calatrava wing of the Milwaukee Art Museum has become an iconic image for the growth of imagination in the city, while the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center (MYAC) fosters youth growth in the performing arts through the programs of First Stage Milwaukee, Milwaukee Youth Symphony, Milwaukee Children's Chorus, Danceworks, Festival City Symphony, and African American Children's Theater.

The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts -- home to the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Ballet, The Florentine Opera, First Stage Milwaukee, and frequent Broadway tours -- has received recent significant upgrades keeping it fresh, inviting, and capable of meeting contemporary requirements for live performance.

Comprehensive popular entertainment programming is maintained at the Riverside Theatre, the Pabst Theatre, the historic Turner Hall, and during the summer, at the Milwaukee Summerfest grounds. Under new artistic leadership, the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre produces diverse works in four venues each year. Not surprisingly, Milwaukee is widely recognized for the amount, quality, and diversity of its performing arts scene and its support of non-profit arts organizations.

While retaining its strong European connections, Milwaukee also welcomes African-Americans, Mexican-Americans, southeast Asians, and others to create a rich cultural diversity in the city.

The German tradition of Gemütlichkeit describes an environment that purveys a cheerful mood and peace of mind, with connotation of a notion of belonging and social acceptance, of being cozy and unhurried.

USITT visitors will leave Milwaukee with fond memories of the city and of their colleagues that live and work in it. Gemütlichkeit is alive and well here!

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