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**Tom Hackman Creates Programming**

USITT's new Vice-President for Programming has seen his responsibilities with the USITT Annual Conference grow, just as his family has grown. [more »](#)

**USITT's New Website Adds Functionality**

The mid-September launch of USITT's new, more functional website is being created in response to the needs of members. [more »](#)

**Making Tech Expo the Biggest Ever**

The Tech Expo committee is challenging the membership to make the field of entries for Tech Expo 2013 bigger than it has ever been, and they are making it easy to enter. [more »](#)

**In Memoriam -**

Remembering three vital and innovative members of our community whose recent deaths we are sad to report. [N. Clark Bowlen](#), [Frederick J. March](#), and [Alan M. Stalmah](#).

**Brockett Center Honors a Legend**

The new Oscar G. Brockett Center of Theatre History and Criticism at the University of Texas at Austin's Department of Theatre and Dance will be a tribute to the esteemed scholar. [more »](#)

**Entertainment Innovation Conference**

We are only days away from the start of the EIC in at the North Carolina School of the Arts, which has added events and presenters. [more »](#)

**Travel Grants for Students**

Entry forms will soon be available for the 2013 USITT Student Travel Grant program. [more »](#)

**USITT' President Envisioning the Future**

USITT's Board of Directors got an earful (or several ears full) of information about envisioning what the organization should do as it moves forward. [more »](#)

**Executive Director**

An answer, finally, to an age-old question... [more »](#)

**Costume Posters Past and Future**

Even as the Costume Design & Technology Commission seeks submissions for the 2013 Costume Poster Session, it is seeking to fill in past presentations. [more »](#)



Educational Posters Needed

The Education Commission is again seeking poster presentations and presenters to be part of the 2013 Annual Conference. [more »](#)



Greater Visibility

A broader range of sponsorships will be available at the 2013 Annual Conference & Stage Expo to help raise awareness of companies and products. [more »](#)



Are They Lost?

Last year's Find a Fellow contest was just the beginning. In 2013, six more of USITT's Fellows have volunteered to have their photos from a slightly earlier time be part of this fun contest. [more »](#)



The Last Word — Boot Camp for Puppet Makers

An intensive session in Indiana helped participants understand how to create, and use, these intriguing props, or characters, or... more. [more »](#)

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- **Creative Stage Lighting:** Sapphire Touch Now Shipping In U.S.
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- **Sapsis Rigging, Inc.:** Rigger Helps STREB Fly Over London
- **IATSE:** Union Announces Agreement, Executive Board Changes
- **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas:** SILV Completes Season

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- **ETC:** Three Million Lighting Fixtures Shipped
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Officer Profile

Tom Hackman

Tom Hackman, USITT's new VP-Programming, uses his expertise on cave rescues to help extract two injured cavers. Mr. Hackman is on the left, facing away from the camera, giving his USITT Student Volunteer t-shirt some unique exposure.

Photo/Courtesy Tom Hackman

USITT's new Vice-President for Programming, Tom Hackman, may hold a new job title with the organization, but he brings years of experience in helping create and run the Annual Conference & Stage Expo to the position.

Tom notes that his family has literally grown up with his involvement with USITT. His daughter Caroline was born after he served as a Conference Photographer for the 2005 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Toronto, Ontario, Canada and his fellow Conference Committee members eagerly awaited the birth of his second child, Cyrus, while he was Programming Co-coordinator. Over the years, reports and updates on their progress have leavened many long meetings.



Tom Hackman

He credits LaVahn Hoh with bringing him into the organization, and the Health & Safety Commission with making him feel welcome and involved. He remembers as a student having his

portfolio reviewed by Dick Block and Steve Gillian at the encouragement of Tom Bloom. They were not kind, but Tom worked to improve his presentation and the next year asked them again for a critique. That led to a job offer and his first ever professional summer gig, which reinforced the importance of networking within USITT.

Tom received his undergraduate degree from Davis & Elkins College, one of only two NAST-accredited programs in West Virginia. He is very proud that this small liberal arts program recognizes the importance of that designation, and has returned there twice, now serving as Associate Professor and Dean of the West Virginia Governor's School of the Arts, a three-week summer residential program. "They learn about themselves and their art," he says, noting how rewarding it is to see students at different levels thrive.

For USITT, he sees his role as encouraging programming to thrive as well. He notes that he is following in the footsteps of several great individuals who have put in place outstanding programming, and he will continue that, while finding potential that is not currently being tapped. "We do some amazing sessions and we need people to be aware of how they can connect and be part of the process."

He wants to bring more constituencies into programming and help them make connections, and give the Commissions the support they need to do their sessions. "My job is to make programming happen, not to only create it. I'm a TD, I'm used to making things happen."

Tom says that TD training means he likes to "design and build stuff" whether it is scenery, props, or a new program. His children have a zebra for a swing, scaled-down pieces from a 100-year-old carousel showing that he does not think within any box. He also creates furniture, and has carved rocking horses, which his children adore.

"Spare" time is in very limited supply around the Hackman household, but Tom still will participate in cave rescues if called upon. He used to be more active in caving, which he started in college, but the fear of spreading white-nose disease among native bat populations has curtailed that as a hobby.

He is no longer exploring caves, but he is spending his time exploring options to make USITT's programming even more interesting and evolved.

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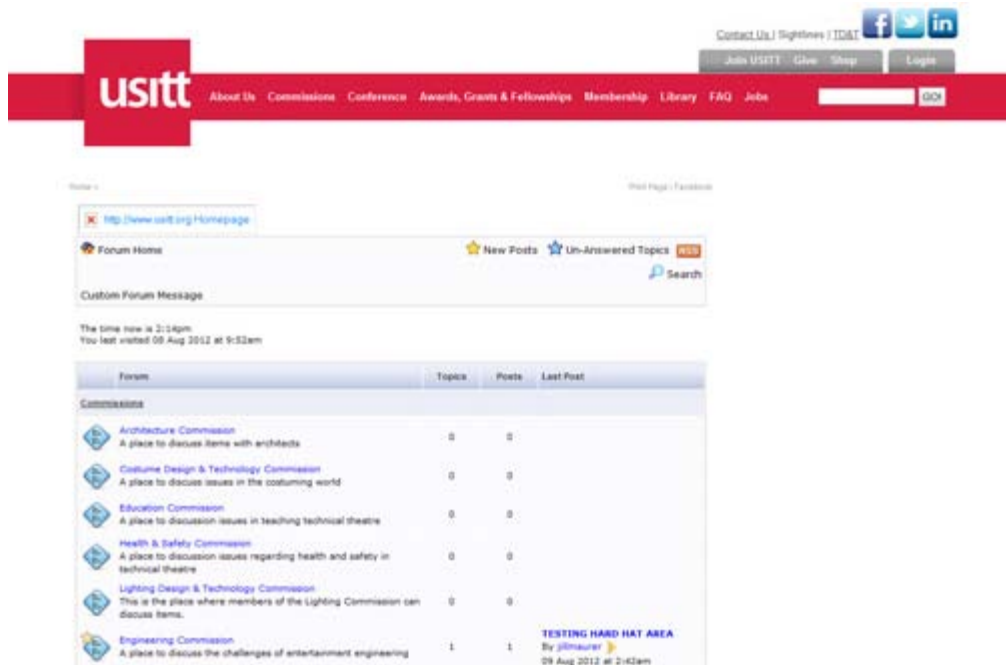
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News & Notices

Website Update Brings Interaction, Current Info



The screenshot shows the USITT website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'About Us', 'Commissions', 'Conference', 'Awards, Grants & Fellowships', 'Membership', 'Library', 'FAQ', and 'Jobs'. Below this is a forum page titled 'Forum Home' with a search bar and options for 'New Posts' and 'Un-answered Topics'. The main content area displays a table of commissions:

Forum	Topics	Posts	Last Post
Architecture Commission A place to discuss items with architects	0	0	
Costume Design & Technology Commission A place to discuss issues in the costuming world	0	0	
Education Commission A place to discuss issues in teaching technical theatre	0	0	
Health & Safety Commission A place to discuss issues regarding health and safety in technical theatre	0	0	
Lighting Design & Technology Commission This is the place where members of the Lighting Commission can discuss items.	0	0	
Engineering Commission A place to discuss the challenges of entertainment engineering	1	1	TESTING HARD HAT AREA By jlmaurer 09 Aug 2012 at 2:42am

We want forums to talk with each other!

We want access to our member record!

We want an online directory that's current!

Three requests that have been expressed to the leadership and staff of this organization for quite some time are coming to fruition. The USITT website is about to undergo a major upgrade that will provide many of the services members been calling for. Over the past few months the Institute has been working with Timberlake Membership Services to establish a new member database that is integrated with the website.

Timberlake provides these services to over 300 organizations similar to USITT. They are making it possible for members to login to the website, update their own profiles, search for members, and search the website, as well as many other features that will make USITT.org a place to interact and get information.

Each Commission will have a forum to post questions and share information. Sections and Chapters will have dedicated areas to post questions and share answers. There's even a spot to talk about Conference items.

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

The online calendar will help visitors know what is going on around the Institute and even allow members to register for events that are managed through the national office.

The new site is currently being beta tested by about 100 members prior to the launch to the full membership. The current plan is to implement the upgrades the weekend of September 14 to 17. Look for e-mails that tell how to access profile with a username and password. Members will be able to reset individual information after the first login.

Member feedback has driven these changes. Explore the new site when it goes live and use it as a resource. It has features the membership has asked for; we hope you enjoy them.

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Seek 'Ideal Theatre' Entries

Architecture and theatre students are invited to participate in USITT's Seventh Annual "Ideal Theatre" Student Design Competition. The competition encourages architecture students to work with young theater artists to explore the emotive power of space, how space can aid storytelling, and how it can be manipulated to achieve a dramatic purpose. The design of the space itself should form the environment of the play supplemented by costumes, props, lighting, sound, actors, and the audience. Winning design teams will interact with working professionals and receive free Conference registrations and cash prizes.

Application deadline is December 7, and the deadline for completed submissions is January 4.

A jury will select three projects for Honor Awards. The Honor Award teams will be invited to the USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Milwaukee, Wisconsin March 20 to 23. The three teams will present their designs at a special event when a final winner will be determined.

For additional information, including a design brief, application and prize list, visit www.usitt.org.



Nominations Open for YD&T Awards

Nominations open September 1 for the annual USITT Young Designers & Technicians Awards. The Institute is very pleased that sponsors for this program continue to support and encourage new talent in the performing arts of the future.

Think of all the talented young people in the industry. Surely one deserves some financial encouragement and national recognition. Take a few minutes to gather information in order to nominate them.

Each submission will require an entry fee and specific materials which may include photographs, appropriate paperwork, drawings, and renderings. All nominees and nominators must be current USITT members. Interested applicants are encouraged to visit www.usitt.org for more information.

All registrations must be received by midnight Eastern Daylight Time October 17. The deadline for submissions is November 15. Awards will be presented March 20 on the first day of the 2012 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Conference Culminates 50th Anniversary, Awards Presented

Theatre Communications Group (TCG) convened 1,000 theatre practitioners from around the world at its 22nd National Conference June 21 to 23 in Boston, Massachusetts. This year's conference was the culmination of TCG's 50th anniversary and the beginning of TCG's year-round conference and online community, Conference 2.0.

The conference theme of Model the Movement invited attendees to transform their field into a movement for the digital age. Executive Director Teresa Eyring also publically shared, for the first time, TCG's new vision statement.

Live-streamed videos captured the excitement of intellectual and artistic exchange – and extended the conversation to individuals from around the world. View archived conference videos of plenary sessions and award presentations at tcg.org/conference.

TCG presented the following awards at the conference:

- **National Funder Award** – American Express has supported non-profit theatre and TCG for years, with a recent focus on supporting leadership development for emerging leaders.
- **Theatre Practitioner Award** – Michael Maso has led The Huntington's administrative and financial operations since 1982, producing more than 160 plays in partnership with three artistic directors and leading The Huntington's 10-year drive to build the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts.

- **Peter Zeisler Memorial Award** – 24th Street Theatre Company, based in Los Angeles, California, produces theatre for all ages as well as arts education and community outreach programming.
- **Visionary Leadership Award** – Ed Bullins has written over 50 plays dealing with the intricacies of the black experience in America. Mr. Bullins entered the literary world during the Black Power Movement, a period of racial pride and social consciousness.
- **The Alan Schneider Director Award** – Bart DeLorenzo is the founding artistic director of the Evidence Room in Los Angeles. He has directed productions at the Geffen Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, the Kirk Douglas Theater, the Cleveland Playhouse, CalArts, and the Odyssey Theater, including premieres of Donald Margulies, Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, and Justin Tanner.

ILC Gives to Behind the Scenes

Intelligent Lighting Creations (ILC) hosted a charity golf event benefiting Behind the Scenes July 10 at the Hilton Indian Lakes Resort. Over 40 customers and clients of ILC came out to support the cause and mingle with company representatives and industry professionals.

ILC doubled the amount raised and presented Behind the Scenes with a check for \$5,065.

In addition to ILC hosting this event, sponsors donated as well. Philips Strand sponsored the registration table, Philips Vari*Lite sponsored the beverage cart, and Lex Products sponsored the reception. Three companies, Apollo Design, Martin Professional and Elation Professional funded the four hole competitions, which awarded four golfers \$100 cash. ILC also provided incentives for the two-person scramble winners.

September 15 Deadline for ETCP Exams at LDI

ETCP examinations will be given at LDI 2012 in Las Vegas. All three ETCP examinations will be given in one session the morning of October 20. Candidates who wish to take more than one exam should contact ETCP. Interested applicants must submit their application, along with supporting materials and fee, to the ETCP office no later than September 15. USITT members receive a discount on the exam.

Candidate information, including eligibility requirements and applications, is available on the [ETCP website](#). To have information mailed, contact Meredith Moseley-Bennett, ETCP Certification Manager, at 212-244-1505 or etcp@plasa.org.

Announce Grant Recipients

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Theatre Communications Group (TCG) announce the inaugural round of recipients for the Leadership U[niversity]

program. Six early-career theatre leaders will receive **One-on-One** grants for professional development via mentorships at TCG Member Theatres. Eight mid-career and veteran theatre professionals at TCG Member Theatres will receive **Continuing Ed** grants for learning opportunities to advance their leadership skills.

One-on-One grants of \$75,000 will go to talented early-career leaders with an additional \$5,000 honorarium for each mentor. Up to an additional \$14,500 in supplemental funds may be used for student loan repayment, professional development or life needs. **Continuing Ed** Grants of \$6,000 have been awarded to the applicants' home theatres on behalf of the theatre practitioners.

One-on-One Grant Recipients:

- **Diana Buirski** will be mentored by **Denver Center Theatre Company's** managing director, **Charles Varin**. Buirski will hone her skills in fundraising, budgeting, and season planning.
- **Amanda Delheimer Dimond** will be mentored by **Looking Glass Theatre Company's** (Chicago, Illinois) executive director, **Rachel Kraft**. Ms. Dimond's mentorship will encompass the areas of executive and artistic direction.
- **Seema Sueko** will be mentored by **Arena Stage's** (Washington, DC) artistic director **Molly Smith**. The mentorship will focus on artistic direction.
- **Matt O'Hare** will be mentored by **The Builders Association's** (New York City) artistic director **Marianne Weems** and sound designer **Daniel Dobson**. O'Hare's mentorship will focus on interactive sound and video design for theatre.
- **Quentin Talley** will be mentored by **Penumbra Theatre's** (St. Paul, Minnesota) founder and artistic director **Lou Bellamy**. The mentorship will cover programming, education, and directing.
- **Maureen Towey** will be mentored by **Berkeley Repertory Theater's** (Berkeley, California) artistic director **Tony Taccone**. Towey's mentorship will focus on interactive technologies and community engagement.

Continuing Ed Grant Recipients:

- **Chicago Dramatists'** (Chicago) associate artistic director, **Meghan Beals McCarthy**, will connect with playwright development centers around the country.
- **Dallas Theater Center's** (Dallas, Texas) stage operations manager, **Travis Ross**, will explore safety practices and procedures.
- **Dell'Arte International's** (Blue Lake, California), executive director, **Stephanie Thompson**, will seek perspectives from leaders in the theatre field and her local community.
- **Seattle Repertory Theatre's** (Seattle, Washington) associate artistic director, **Braden Abraham**, will visit organizations with successful

playwright residency programs and writers groups.

- **Tennessee Women's Theater Project's** (Nashville) founder and artistic director, **Maryanna Clarke**, will travel to Nightwood Theatre in Toronto, Ontario to investigate elements of its success and longevity.
- **The Civilians'** (Brooklyn, New York) artistic director, **Steve Cosson**, will research models of investigative and verbatim theatre organizations, and artistic directors.
- **The Old Globe's** (San Diego, California) technical director, **Benjamin Thoron**, will explore project management methods in both theatrical and industrial settings.
- **Theatre of Yugen's** (San Francisco, California) artistic director, **Jubilith Moore**, will travel to Japan to participate in Theatre Nohgaku's Noh Costuming Workshop.

Portable Stage, Fall Arrest Draft Standards in Review

BSR E1.21 - 201x, *Entertainment Technology - Temporary Ground-Supported Structures Used to Cover the Stage Areas and Support Equipment in the Production of Outdoor Entertainment Events*, and BSR E1.39 - 201x, are in review through September 24. The reviews are over when the end date of September 25 is reached and may be downloaded for free at tsp.plasa.org/tsp/documents/public_review_docs.php.

BSR E1.21 is a revision of ANSI E1.21 -2006. It is being revised to cover the design, manufacture, and use of all the portable structures (not only roofs) used to support scenery, lighting, and sound equipment, and to cover the stages in the production of outdoor entertainment events.

BSR E1.39 is a draft of a new standard being written to establish 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.

For more information, contact Karl Ruling, PLASA's technical standards manager, at karl.ruling@plasa.org.

Behind the Scenes Reaches Milestone, Attends Nashville Event

Behind the Scenes has reached an important milestone in its history – it has issued over a quarter of a million dollars in grants to entertainment technology professionals who are seriously ill or injured.

These grants have gone to a wide array of industry members and their families.

The wife of a cameraman with cancer who underwent radical surgery, chemo, and radiation and was about to lose his health insurance, wrote, “We are

overwhelmed by your kindness and help to us. I promise we will pay this kindness forward to someone in need like you have done for us. Thank you so very much from our hearts and our children. You have shown our children the true kindness of fellow man.”

An audio engineer undergoing multiple surgeries and lengthy treatment due to an autoimmune disease wrote, “I am the sound man - that guy whose name you may not remember. I couldn’t believe that, when I needed help, Behind the Scenes was there and didn’t turn their back on me. I am the crew guy, not the superstar. Without Behind the Scenes, I would not have made it; that’s a fact. I can never thank them enough for their help, and I can never thank them enough for the compassion they showed me in my true time of need. For everybody who contributes to Behind the Scenes, thank you. You helped save my life.”

All funding for Behind the Scenes comes from individuals and companies in the industry. Make a donation, purchase Behind the Scenes swag (including specially designed [holiday cards](#), support one of the many initiatives such as the Long Reach Long Riders, or purchase from one of the industry companies who have designated the profits of certain products to the charity. For more information about Behind the Scenes visit www.estafoundation.org/bts.htm.

Behind the Scenes participated at PLASA Focus Nashville to raise funds and awareness about the charity. The fundraising was made possible by the generous donation from Mainstage Theatrical Supply, Inc. of an ETC Source Four Lustr+ LED Light Engine as a raffle prize. The raffle winner was Steve Gilbard from Coolux. Behind the Scenes raised just over \$1,000.

Local Certifies 36 Theatre Riggers

The Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP) has awarded 36 International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local One members with its Rigger - Theatre Certification.

"We are extremely proud to add some of Broadway’s finest theatre riggers to the list of ETCP Certified Technicians," said Paul Dean, Jr. who helped organize a four-day training course prior to the exam administration. "Our members who are ETCP Certified also include technicians from Lincoln Center, The Metropolitan Opera House and various television studios who work throughout Local One’s jurisdiction which includes Manhattan, the Bronx, Staten Island, and Westchester and Putnam Counties.”

Eddie Raymond, Chair of the PLASA North American Board, said, “Once again Local One has demonstrated that they are leaders in the theatrical industries. By hosting the ETCP Theatre Rigger Certification Exam and successfully certifying 36 members, Local One has set the standard for theatre locals throughout the Alliance.”

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News & Notices

A Tech Expo Challenge

Rob Kerby

Here's a challenge to all USITT members: make this the biggest Tech Expo ever!

What does that mean? It is simple. Take a little time to look over the past production challenges and triumphs; if there is a unique or innovative solution, share them with the rest of the membership.

Nothing would be better than to have an overload of entries to go through and select for the 2013 Tech Expo Catalog and Exhibit.

Those who haven't entered before shouldn't be shy about entering! Take a look at the [Submission Instructions](#) and [Exhibit Application](#). Here is valuable information regarding both the required article and exhibit. If selected, a graphics and text editor will be assigned to the entry who will help prepare it for the Tech Expo Catalog. Those chosen will be asked to create a display to show off the entry at the Stage Expo in Milwaukee.

Remember, this is a juried event and that selection for the Tech Expo can be instrumental in securing funding for attendance to the annual conference as well as be support material for things like promotion and tenure. For those in academic theatre it is also a great way for students to work on their writing and presentation skills. It also doesn't hurt those students when it comes to portfolio materials when seeking employment or grad school admission.

The submission deadline is Friday, November 2. For more information, contact Rob Kerby at kerbyr@nku.edu. Don't delay! In no time at all, November will be here.



Tech Expo projects can take many different approaches and involve many different areas of live productions, as seen in this example from 2011.

Photo/Erika Courtney

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In Memoriam: N. Clark Bowlen

N. Clark Bowlen, 71, died January 8 following a courageous struggle with a debilitating illness.

Mr. Bowlen, a stage set and lighting designer and producer, was a senior member of USITT. He was an emeritus professor of communication at Manchester Community College, and founding member of Shakespeare Hartford and Veterans' Memorial Theatre Company. Mr. Bowlen served on the board of Company One Theater and The Repertory Theater Company of New Britain, and was vice president of Veterans' Memorial Theatre Company.



N. Clark Bowlen

An innovative theater professional, he stretched the boundaries of classical works, including Shakespeare, while preserving original language and artistic continuity. He was an early adapter of computer design and screen projections. His sets were minimal, open spaces allowing dramatic lighting and articulated characters to engage audiences. Mr. Bowlen received the prestigious Ming Cho Lee Design Award for his *Glass Menagerie* set.

Additionally, he supported new works by local playwrights and led the original development of M.C.C.'s internationally acclaimed *Came So Far for Beauty: The Music of Leonard Cohen*.

He was an avid kayaker and founding member of Conyak, leading weeklong wilderness trips through New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Maine. He loved downhill skiing and was a devoted conservationist.

He is survived by his wife and artistic partner, Kathleen Keena; his brother Bruce, wife Rachel and son Christopher; and his sister Beverly, husband Sam Williams, and daughters Laura and Paige and many other family and friends.

Donations in his memory may be made to Veterans' Memorial Theatre Company, c/o Myron Craig, Treasurer, 241 South Water Street, Unit 3, East Windsor, CT 06088.

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In Memoriam: Frederick J. March

Frederick J. March, 73, of San Marcos, Texas, died August 6.

He received his BA and MA from Texas Tech University and served on the faculty of Texas State University (then Southwest Texas State), with positions that included: 1967-83 as tech director and scenic designer, 1983-88 as director of theatre, 1988-99 as chair of the department of theatre, and in 1999 was named professor emeritus. Mr. March was an Army veteran.

He served on the National Board of Directors for USITT, was a founding member of the Texas (now Southwest) Regional Section in 1971, and subsequently served as Secretary/Treasurer, and President for the Regional Section.

He had been active in TETA and received its Educator of the Year Award (1988) and Founders Award (1983). He was president from 1993 to 1995. Mr. March received two Excellence in Design awards from ACTF.

Frederick Christoffel, Chair/Scene Designer Professor of Design at Texas Tech noted "As a student at Tech, under Cliff Ashby's direction Fred designed and supervised the first 'theatre with-in a theatre' built on the Mainstage for the first Summer Rep in 1966, called "Three in Three-Quarter."

That structure was used until 1968, when Fred was hired to supervise construction of the elliptical in-the-round structure, also built on Mainstage, design by Ashby.

USITT's Immediate Past President Joe Aldridge recalled, "Fred and I were friends from TTU. In fact, on the Summer Rep seating from 1968, I was the student carpenter on that gig. My first summer stock position."

A Celebration of Life service was held August 11 at Cheatham Street Warehouse in San Marcos.

He is survived by two sons, Joe March and wife, Ann of Hoover, Alabama, and David March and wife, Joyce Griffith of Durango, Colorado; daughter, Wendy March Mueller and husband, Larry of Denver, Colorado; and three grandchildren, Madison and Caelan March, and Gemma Mueller.



Frederick J.
March

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Memorial contributions may be made to the Sunshine Kids Foundation, 2814 Virginia Street, Houston, TX 77098. www.sunshinekids.org.

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In Memoriam: Alan M. Stalmah

Alan M. Stalmah, 55, of Valparaiso, Indiana, died July 26 after a year-long battle with cancer. Born December 15, 1956 in Gary to Anthony and Katherine (Gibbons) Stalmah, he was a lecturer and theatre technical director at Ohio Northern University from 1992 to 1996 and Valparaiso University from 1996 to 2010.

He was active in USITT and was a member of the Midwest Regional Section Board for eight years, four as Secretary.

His colleague, Ken Fraza, said, "I knew Alan through the USITT Midwest Section Board. He even hosted a few of our Section Board meetings. When I was coordinating a high school Tech Olympics for Indiana Thespians, he cheerfully volunteered to drive all the way to Indianapolis just to judge for three hours. He was a warm and kind individual who I felt had students' learning very much as his central focus."

Mr. Stalmah was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Valparaiso, and was an avid Bears and Cubs fan.

On August 3, 1991, he married Stephanie Bebout, who survives him. Also surviving are their children: Thomas Joseph and Katherine Claire Stalmah; a brother, Robert Stalmah of Merrillville; father- and mother-in-law, Thomas and Cheryl Bebout of Van Wert, Ohio; and many additional friends and family members.

Memorial contributions may be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church and School.

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Center to Honor Oscar Brockett

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance is launching the Oscar G. Brockett Center of Theatre History and Criticism. The Brockett Center will serve as an international leader in promoting excellence in theatre history scholarship.

Dr. Brockett's scholarship professionalized the academic study of theatre, and it is the center's goal to encourage the next generation of theatre historians by:

- Promoting archival historical research, educational programs in theatre history, and engaged discussion of theatre pedagogy;
- Commissioning essays by senior scholars around the world to discuss issues relating to theatre history and historiography;
- Developing a connection with the American Theatre Archival Project to train artists in theaters nation-wide to archive materials for future generations;
- Hosting symposiums on topics in theatre history and bring esteemed scholars to campus through a guest speakers series; and
- Awarding an annual prize in Dr. Brockett's name, in partnership with ASTR, to the best published essay written in the field of theatre history.



Oscar Brockett

The Brockett Center's mission is to support undergraduate and graduate students studying theatre history. The Center will encourage excellence in the teaching of theatre history through an online syllabus bank and active discussion of pedagogy.

To ensure that archival material is widely accessible, the Brockett Center website will host extensive historical documents, performance criticism, and podcasts.

Finally, the Brockett Center will be a place where live theatre is studied and celebrated. The Center will forge relationships with professional artists in Austin and around the world. Faculty affiliated with the Brockett Center will give presentations and workshops on topics in theatre history and dramaturgy to enrich the theatre-going experience and encourage community-wide discussion.

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Oscar Brockett was a world-class scholar, teacher, and community-member. It is in his spirit that the Brockett Center will provide leadership in theatre scholarship, pedagogy, and community engagement.

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News & Notices

New Presenters Added to Innovation Conference

*Godspell*, produced by Ken Davenport

The 2012 Entertainment Innovation Conference September 6 through 8 at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts has grown. EIC added Broadway producer Ken Davenport, new presenters, and sessions with Cirque du Soleil and PRG to its lineup. A complete schedule is now available at eic.uncsa.edu.

Registration is open through August 30. Visit eic.uncsa.edu for registration and information. USITT members receive at 10 percent discount on Conference registration fees.

The conference, in Winston-Salem, is sponsored by USITT.

Famed Broadway producer Ken Davenport of Davenport Theatrical Enterprises will sit down for a lively conversation about "Getting the Show off the Ground: Innovative Producing for Broadway." His credits include *Godspell*; *Chinglish*; *Oleanna* starring Bill Pullman and Julia Stiles; *Speed-the-Plow*; Will Ferrell's *You're Welcome America*; *Blithe Spirit* starring Angela Lansbury; and *13. Combined*. Mr. Davenport's productions have grossed more than \$100 million worldwide and are produced internationally in more than 25 countries.



Ken Davenport

Presenters from Cirque du Soleil include Kim Scott, director of show support resident shows division (health and safety sessions); Bettina Bolzer-Bowles,

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head of wardrobe-Michael Jackson Immortal World Tour (costumes and wardrobe sessions); Nicola Roberts, general stage manager-*La Nouba* (stage management sessions); Geoff Devenney, operations production manager-*La Nouba* (health and safety sessions, management sessions); Valérie Leblond, assistant director of centre for research and innovation in performance (performance research sessions); Megan Masching, head of electrics, *Criss Angel Believe* (lighting and projections sessions); and Kathleen Price, artistic make-up supervisor-resident shows division (make-up sessions).

PRG will lead six sessions during the three-day conference and include Commercial Shop Operations: The Broadway Show, featuring details on bidding and project management, collaboration and fabrication, and installation, presented by Lisa Cline, director of estimating and project management, and Sam Pierce, operations manager.

Three additional sessions will review the Evolving Business of Commercial Theatre Production featuring case studies about truss collapses, new standards for design and safety, and the differences between American and European standards in production. These sessions will be led by Shawn Nolan, head of technical engineering and standards, and Sam Pierce, operations manager.

More than 30 workshops, presentations, and interactive sessions will be taught by respected professionals using the latest innovations and technologies in the entertainment industry. Partner presenters include *Cirque du Soleil* staff and their technical partners, Meyer Sound and Broadway sound designer Tony Meola, award-winning designer Michael J. Kelley, Vari-Lite, PRG, Stage Technologies and ZFX.

For questions about the conference, e-mail eic@uncsa.edu. Check the [EIC Facebook](#) page for additional updates and news.

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News & Notices

Offer Students Grants for Travel



Leigh Brown, right, winner of the 2009 USITT Student Travel Grant, with Treva Reimer, who presented the award, at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati.

Photo/Casey Kearns

The 2013 Student International Travel Grant program opens September 15, 2012.

Students who are looking for support to travel and work on international research projects are eligible. The grant, offered every other year, can support students seeking funding for theatre design, technology, and research related international travel. The award amount is \$1,000, and is supported by the USITT International Fund and made available through the USITT International Committee.

Eligible projects may be developed from a wide variety of theatre topics.

Applications are due December 1, 2012, for travel between March 2013 and March 2014. One grant applicant will be selected and the award will be presented at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in March 2013. Winners do not need to attend to receive the award.

Current USITT Student members in their junior or senior years of study, or those in a graduate program, are encouraged to apply.

In addition to the application form, those requesting a grant are asked to

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compose a project narrative (500 word maximum) describing the project, where traveling, planned timetable, budget, and what is expected to be accomplished while overseas.

The application should include a letter of recommendation from a current teacher, resume, and for design-related applications, ten images of recent work. Please refer questions to Marketa Fantova, fantova@alfred.edu or Treva Reimer, reimert@central.edu.

A public report of the completed project is required by the end of the award year. Grant recipients will receive guidance in arranging either a presentation through the International Committee, or an article for *TD&T*, two of several ways in which findings can be shared with the membership.

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The Last Word:

Puppet Boot Camp a Blast!

Joel Ebarb *Costume Design & Technology Commission*



Photos/Sue Kiesau

Puppetry is one of the most exciting and evocative of the performing arts. For three days in early August, 36 brave and adventurous “puppet people” congregated near the Crossroads of America to experience the story-telling power of the anthropomorphic objects called puppets.

Joel Ebarb, symposium instructor and organizer, put the participants through their paces by teaching the skills necessary to construct and perform four different types of puppets: scarf marionettes (a training puppet created by the great Albrecht Roser), “Muppet” style open-mouth puppets in the style of the great puppeteer Jim Henson, “mystical and magical” shadow puppets, and Chinese-style rod puppets created from recycled plastic juice containers. He was assisted by Kathryn Wagner and Rachel Lambert.



The pace was fast and furious. Participants cut, pasted, patterned,

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glued, stitched, and decorated at breakneck speed. When all was said and done, everyone was astounded that they had learned and created as much as they had. Said one participant, "I thought there is no way we will ever get all of this done – but we did, and it was an amazing experience!"



One of the highlights of the symposium was the section devoted to shadow puppets, which culminate in mini-theatricals of one minute or less involving at least two characters. Puppets included zombies, dancing hippos, an undersea encounter between a mermaid and a diver, and an appearance by the singer formerly known as Prince.

However, the three days were not all work. The Costume Symposium was held on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, one hour away from the capital city of Indianapolis. The group traveled there for a cultural mini-vacation, visiting the beautiful Indianapolis Museum of Art with its exceptional gardens.



The group enjoyed a special tour of a textiles exhibit highlighting the designs of American designers with Indiana roots such as Halston, Blass, Norell, and Sprouse. Symposium participants also enjoyed discovering the restaurants and specialty stores around Purdue, in particular Von's Shoppes, home to millions of beads, books, and bibelots.



The workshop concluded with a final group exercise where all participants and their Muppet-style puppets performed an energetic and highly entertaining group lip-sync to Journey's "Don't Stop Believing" as performed by the actors from the popular television program *Glee*. To quote one participant, "I could do this all day! This was the most fun I have had in years!"



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Standards Incorporated into UL Reference

After more than 17 years of work—first by USITT (USITT Standard S3-1997), then by ESTA, then by PLASA—configuration requirements for stage pin connectors are being incorporated into UL 498, the standard used for Listing connectors.

ANSI E1.24-2012 is being incorporated by reference into UL 498, which will do much eliminate problems with connectors from different manufacturers not fitting together at all, or fitting together but with the dangers of arcing and overheating. However, the additional requirements may require stage pin connectors to be modified in order to maintain their listing under UL 498.

UL has proposed that products needing modification to maintain their Listing to be modified within three years of the publication of the revised UL 498.

Charles Berliner Retires

Congratulations to Charles Berliner, who retired at the end of August after many years of service with United Scenic Artists-Local 829 on the West Coast. Charlie has been a well-known designer of scenery and costumes for plays, musicals, film, television, and dance theatre.

He is one of a handful of theatrical designer recipients of a Design Arts Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, and his designs have been included in national and international exhibitions.

Charlie has participated in USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo activities for many years, including helping to organize special exhibits and present sessions. We wish him well in retirement.

Eric Fielding Also 'Retires'

Another well-known USITT member, Eric Fielding, is also retiring this year. A USITT Fellow, author and editor, he is has been resident designer at Brigham Young University.

A scenic, lighting, and graphic designer, Mr. Fielding is also a member of United Scenic Artists. He was the organizer and motivating force behind the first World Stage Design exhibition and catalog which was produced under USITT's auspices in Toronto in 2005. It was produced in South Korea in 2009, and a third iteration is planned for Wales in 2013.

He was honored with a Special Citation from USITT in 2005.

We wish Eric well in retirement, but expect that he will be hard at work on the next volume of *World Scenography*. *World Scenography 1975-1990* was published earlier this year and is [available from Amazon here](#).

Original Guthrie Workers Invited to New Guthrie Open House

Frank Butler, the production director at the New Guthrie Theater, has extended an invitation to all who worked in production at the original theatre to attend an open house at the new facility 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, June 9, 2013. This special open house is for the Original Guthrie's production personnel, their families, friends, and special guests.

Finding contact information for over 1,500 production personnel who worked in the original Guthrie is challenging. Anyone who was a director, designer, stage manager, production manager, technical director, or on any crew, please use the online form to send information. All those interested in this event can use the [online form](#) or e-mail Bob Scales, technical production director 1967-70, at rscales@usc.edu.

Current production staff will to give tours of the new building.

The creation of the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1963 was a defining event in American Theatre. It became the flagship of the Professional Regional Theatre movement opening with a company of actors presenting three plays in repertory, housed in a unique type of theatre with more than 1,400 seats surrounding an asymmetrical platform stage on three sides. There was no proscenium, no flies, and very little backstage. It was a stage that required some new thought about stagecraft and production techniques.

Two hundred ninety-one shows were produced and performed on this stage at the Original Guthrie over 44 years. The location of this building, an icon of American Theater, is now a grassy slope. Although the original building is gone, the Guthrie Theater is very much alive and well celebrating its 50th anniversary in its new, iconic building on the banks of the Mississippi River. The new building has three theaters and full support services for the theater company's operation.

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- **ETC: Three Million Lighting Fixtures Shipped**
- **Mayer Sound: College Park Center, The Britt Feature Meyer Sound**

Friends Beauty Supply: Welcome New Member

USITT welcomes new Contributing member **Friends Beauty Supply**. The company will also be exhibiting at Stage Expo. Visit the company's website at www.friendsbeauty.com.

Yale School of Drama: Yale Upgrades

The **Yale School of Drama** has increased its level of support for USITT to that of a Contributing member.

Ben Sammler remains the USITT contact for the professional training program offering MFAs in: design (scenic, costume, lighting, sound and projection); technical design and production (technical direction, production management, stage machinery design and automation and theatre planning and consulting); and stage management. Intern training programs are offered in all technical areas.

Yale has been a member of USITT for more than 30 years, and its additional support for the organization is greatly appreciated. Visit www.yale.edu/drama to learn more.

Apollo Design Technology, Inc.: 20 Years of Gobos and Lighting Accessories

Apollo Design Technology, Inc. recently announced the celebration of its 20th anniversary.

Apollo began in 1992 in the home of Joel and Keersten Nichols where they made custom gobos. They quickly moved into standard metal gobos and, over the years, have continued to add other high value, high quality products including award winning ColourScenic and SuperResolution glass gobos, dichroics, Smart Move rotators, Smart Color PRO scrollers, Apollo Gel, Right Arm, and LED lights.



Today, Apollo employs over 65 people and occupies a 31,000 square foot facility in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The company earned eight consecutive ESTA Dealer's Choice Customer Service Awards, was honored with ESTA Product of the Year awards, and the Indiana and Inc. 500 GrowthAwards.

City Theatrical, Inc.: One Billion People See SHoW DMX Neo Control London's Tower Bridge

There aren't very many projects more high profile than the opening of the Olympic Games. On July 27, London's Tower Bridge was the centerpiece of the opening ceremonies as the Olympic torch passed under it on the way to Olympic Stadium. **City Theatrical, Inc.**'s SHoW DMX Neo helped make the lighting a spectacular event.

For more on how the lighting was done, visit this Q and A at www.citytheatrical.com/newsletter/TowerBridge.htm.

Stage Technologies: Stage Technologies Supports Conference

The 2012 North American Theater, Engineering, and Architecture Conference (NATEAC) wrapped up in New York last month with attendees praising the presentations and organizers already planning the 2016 event. **Stage Technologies** was once again Platinum Sponsor of the conference, which saw a 20 percent increase in attendance over the inaugural event of 2008.

Participants enjoyed a mixture of presentations, networking and backstage tours to the Met Opera and Radio City Music Hall. This year's location, the New York Hilton in midtown, provided a convenient venue and more dining and entertainment options as well as accommodation on site.

Stage Technologies Group CEO Mark Ager delivered a presentation about how power flying systems are changing the face of theatre design. He used illustrations from a number of venues including the controversial "inside-out" Curve Theatre in the United Kingdom.

Gold sponsors were USITT, ETC, and PLASA.

Creative Stage Lighting: Sapphire Touch Now Shipping In U.S.

Creative Stage Lighting, North American distributor of Avolites and Avolites Media, announced that the new, highly-anticipated Sapphire Touch lighting console is now shipping in the United States.



The first Sapphire Touch was shipped to TERI Productions from Creative Stage Lighting and was already used on the two-week Riverbend Festival in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Avolites Sapphire Touch features two wide screen touch monitors, offering ultrafast programming with a huge workspace. Sapphire Touch and other Avolites lighting consoles are available through Creative Stage Lighting's dealer network. For more information go to creativestagelighting.com or call 518-251-3302.

Rose Brand: David Court Wins Fan, Company Awards

Scenic Designer David Court was named the **Rose Brand** and Fan Choice Awards winner for Scenic Design. A brief biography and photos of David's winning design are being featured on [Rose Brand's Blog](#).



David Court

The awards contest, hosted on Rose Brand's [Facebook](#) and [Pinterest](#) pages, invited scenic and event designers to submit photos of their best work. Rose Brand awarded two winners per category, one winner was chosen by fans on [Facebook](#) and [Pinterest](#), and another winner was chosen by Rose Brand. Mr. Court's work was voted best scenic design by both the Fans and Rose Brand.

PRG: New Film, TV Lighting System Available

Production Resource Group, L.L.C. (PRG) is now shipping the new TruColor HS lighting system for film and television production.

TruColor HS uniquely represents the next generation of professional lighting tools with an incredibly accurate, vivid color rendering across the visible spectrum. Equally impressive is the volume of light produced, with nearly twice as much output as a 2K soft source with no significant heat, no flicker, and no noise.

To learn more about TruColor HS and other TruColor fixtures, including TruColor Foton, visit www.trucolorlighting.com. To schedule a demo, contact trucolor@prg.com. For more information on PRG, visit www.prg.com.

ETC: Three Million Lighting Fixtures Shipped

“Is this magic?” asked a magazine reviewer in 1993, speaking of a new spotlight that was nearly twice as efficient as any other on the market -- Source Four-brand lighting fixture. Since then, **ETC** has shipped three million Source Four fixtures.

Source Four fixtures are out there in local schools and international theme parks -- plus theaters, TV studios, houses of worship, museums, opera houses, and points in between.

The Source Four classic incandescent ellipsoidal spotlight will be 20 years old this fall. This year ETC introduced a much-anticipated and well-received LED version of its classic spotlight.

The success of the Source Four line lies in its adaptation and evolution, says ETC CEO Fred Foster.

Few theaters around the world have such a long, rich and tumultuous history as the State Theater of Nations in Moscow, Russia. A recent large-scale renovation means the theater's tough times are a thing of the past, and an equipment upgrade – including a new lighting system starring an ETC Eos lighting control console and Source Four fixtures – prepares the Theater of Nations for its promising future.

Thousands of venues around the globe have staged *West Side Story*, but none have approached the musical like the 49-seat Chance Theater in Anaheim, California. The theater is doing *West Side Story* with a modern lighting twist: an all-LED rig, featuring ETC's latest lighting innovations. The goal of the show is to demonstrate how to use ETC LED fixtures to achieve the look of a conventionally-lit show while achieving huge energy savings in a small theater.

To learn more about ETC, its LED luminaires and all of its award-winning lighting products, visit www.etcconnect.com and www.layersoflight.com.



Photo/Doug Catiller



Photo/Doug Catiller

Meyer Sound: College Park Center, The Britt Feature Meyer Sound

College Park Center at University of Texas Arlington has installed a distributed audio system featuring more than 30 **Meyer Sound** loudspeakers.

The 218,000-square-foot venue, which hosts university sports, concerts, speakers, commencement ceremonies, and more, anchors the emerging 20-acre College Park District and is stimulating a revitalization of downtown Arlington.

The inaugural event at the College Park Center was a concert by hip-hop superstar Drake.

The crowds got up and danced when George Relles Sound fired up six Meyer Sound 1100-LFC low-frequency control elements—among the first to be shipped—at Britt Festivals in Jacksonville, Oregon. The formidable linear bass reinforcement systems, working underneath MICA line arrays, made their debut in early July concerts by Ben Harper and the Dukes of September Rhythm Revue (Donald Fagan, Michael McDonald, and Boz Scaggs).

George Relles Sound has been the principal audio reinforcement provider for the Britt Festivals since 1980, and has employed Meyer Sound systems exclusively since 1986.

The Britt (as it is known locally) is the oldest summer performing arts festival in the Pacific Northwest, beginning as a classical-only festival in 1963.

More information is available at www.meyersound.com.

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- **IATSE:** Union Announces Agreement, Executive Board Changes
- **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas:** SILV Completes Season

L-ACOUSTICS: Welcome New Member

We welcome **L-ACOUSTICS** as a new Sustaining member of the Institute.

USITT members may have heard L-ACOUSTICS products as part of Sound Lab at the 2012 Annual Conference. Since 1984, the company has been revolutionizing the professional audio industry with its legendary line source systems, developing a reputation for creating innovative solutions for the most demanding sound reinforcement requirements.

All systems are innovatively created with exceptional longevity, representing the best possible investment. For more information, visit www.l-acoustics.com.

TMB: 3D video projection at Maritime Hotel

Pearl Media Productions (PMP) was given the task of making the Maritime Hotel stand out from the crowd in New York's historic Meatpacking District. The solution was a 3D-mapped building projection using Hippotizer HD media servers and 360,000 lumens of projected 3D media content inspired by pop artist Keith Haring. **TMB** is the exclusive distributor for Hippotizer in the Americas. For more information about Hippotizer, visit www.tmb.com/products/hippotizer. Learn more about other innovative and exciting products from TMB at www.tmb.com.

Sapsis Rigging, Inc.: Rigger Helps STREB Fly Over London

Sapsis Rigging played a pivotal role in the aerialist event held in London on July 15. The event, titled One Extraordinary Day, was commissioned by the Mayor of London and involved performances by Elizabeth Streb and her "Action

Heroes" troupe at the Millennium Bridge, City Hall, Trafalgar and Paternoster squares, the National Theatre, and the LondonEye.

Sapsis Rigging provided design consultation and rigging equipment for all performer harnesses. Sapsis also provided onsite supervision at all venues.

For a video of the event, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=tAHRHTflz5w.



Photo/Julian Andrews

IATSE: Union Announces Agreement, Executive Board Changes

IATSE announced that technical employees of *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart have unanimously ratified their first collective bargaining agreement.

The contract is the culmination of negotiations between IATSE and the producers of the hit, made-for-basic-cable series following voluntary recognition of the union by the employer.

The contract provides the represented employees with health and retirement benefits as well as the continued maintenance of all existing conditions.

International Vice-President and Co-Director of Stagecraft Brian J. Lawlor announced his resignation recently at the IATSE General Executive Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Mr. Lawlor, elected to the union's executive board in the winter of 2004, has been a full-time representative of the Alliance since 2000. He was in the General Office through the end of August then moved back to his hometown of Orlando, Florida. He will continue to work as a representative at the direction of the international president and reporting to the Stagecraft Department. Mr. Lawlor stated that he was "operating under the life is too short theory" and has been contemplating this move for over a year.

The General Executive Board unanimously elected Local 478 President Phil Locicero to fill the vacancy. Mr. Locicero has been an IA member since 1989 and served as president of Local 478 since 1994.

For more information on the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, visit www.iatse-intl.org.

Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas: SILV Completes Season

The eight weeks of **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas** never flew by so fast. The first legacy class of the program founded by Don Childs is now an alumni class.

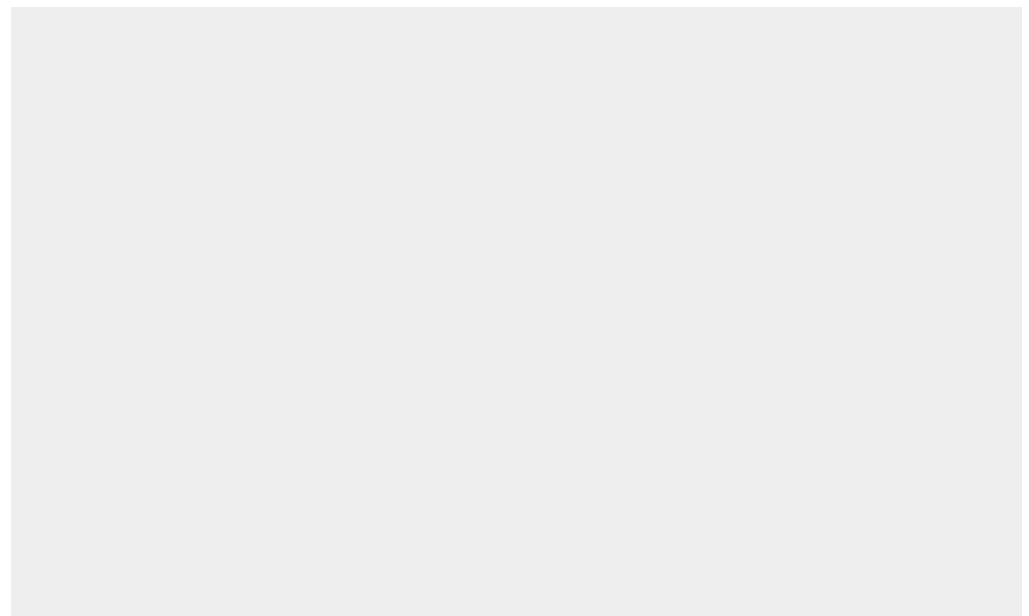
Stagecraft Institute thrives and survives on the investment of time by industry-leading faculty, partners, and friends including manufacturers, production groups, vendors, and venues. All of these components worked together, guided by the hands-on framework that Don Childs crafted almost a decade ago, to create a summer of unforgettable experiences.

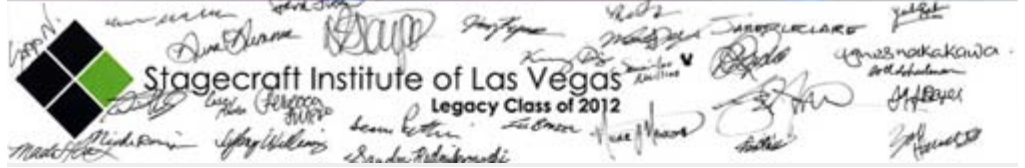


This summer included CAD, rigging, automation, sound, SFX, lighting technology, WYSIWYG, and a double week of projections, video and moving lights.

The final two weeks combined all of the content from the previous weeks and culminated with the *Technicians' Showcase* finale which allowed invited guests to experience the program from the inside out.

Visit www.stagecraftinstitute.com for details.





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News From **Lea Asbell-Swanger, USITT President** **Happy Labor Day!**



The Board of Directors met in Florida, and were treated to the only appropriate headgear for the Disney Boardwalk Hotel location ---- ears. They are modeled by Shannan Hoerger, Monica Merritt, Barbara Lucas, and Dan Culhane.

Photo/David Grindle

The Department of Labor website describes the holiday:

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

My favorite part, though, is the website's discussion of how the observance began. As is often the case, the credit for being "first" is disputed. My own little community of Boalsburg, Pennsylvania claims to be the originator of Memorial Day, but more than two dozen other communities make the same claim.

In the case of Labor Day, it comes down to two versions. One credits Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, but others suggest it was

Matthew Maguire, a machinist who was later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, New Jersey.

For me, the fact that both of these gentlemen were hands-on creators is an important distinction. Mr. McGuire's quote to describe the American worker to be honored was those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold." Isn't that what we do? Each of us starts with a story and then brings to it a unique component of our own creation. The final product is then shared with many who likely have no idea of the skilled hands and minds that were part of creating it, yet that product engages, delights, and inspires them no less.

As I write this, I've just returned from the August Board of Director meetings held at Disney World in Florida. Talk about simple stories turned into grand experiences! Besides the Board Members, Commissioners and the Conference Committee held meetings during what was a long weekend of activities. Many of the attendees arrived early with their families and enjoyed the recreational offerings before getting down to the business of the Institute. All the staff that we encountered were excellent hosts, but special thanks should go to Jack Feivou, long time USITT member and volunteer and new addition to the board, for all his assistance in making our visit magical.

Last month I shared that part of our work at these meetings would include the beginning of a new strategic planning process. I am happy to report that it didn't seem like work at all. Led by our consultant, Leslie Marqua, everyone was engaged and energized by the session that we started with on Friday morning and continued on Saturday morning. Leslie stayed with us for our formal board meetings in the afternoons interjecting her perspective on occasion as appropriate. The ad hoc committee, chaired by Immediate Past President Joe Aldridge, includes board and non-board members, all of whom attended. Non-board members include John Uthoff, Tim Kaufmann, and Ben Gasper with board representation from Joe, Dan Culhane, David Krajec, Sherry Wagner-Henry, David Grindle and me. That group also met for the first time in person with Leslie on Friday evening.

Even though this process has just begun, I can promise you that all involved so far are committed to and excited about the future of USITT and mindful that the membership is central to what that future should look like.

On a related, but separate topic, some of you may have participated in an electronic USITT member survey last winter. That survey was the result of a charge to an ad hoc committee comprised of Fellows of the Institute to create and, with the assistance of the Staff, distribute a survey to the membership. The goal was to measure member satisfaction with services and benefits currently offered. Generally speaking, the feedback was very positive, but in terms of providing improvements, there is greater need to attend to the concerns expressed.

To make the data more useful, the same ad hoc committee has done further work to sort and group the collected data according to several categories and subcategories so that areas of responsibility could be identified for further action. Since data collection of various types is typically part of assessment and

strategic planning, it was determined that the winter survey data would be forwarded first to the Strategic Planning Committee. Everyone on the Survey Committee agreed that this would assure that strengths and weaknesses identified by the survey would be addressed in a meaningful, proactive way.

So as you enjoy your Labor Day holiday (and I know some of you will not get that day as a day away from work), keep in mind that, through the work we share, each of us has contributed to “the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.”



We'd like to hear your comments on this story.
Please e-mail Lea at Lea.Asbell-Swanger@usitt.org.

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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

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- **Northern Boundary:** Plan Fall Conference
- **Heart of America:** Master Class in Wichita
- **Upstate New York:** Upstate Fall Meeting

Southeast: We're Going to Disney World!

The Southeast Regional Section announced it is going to Disney World.

That's right, the Fall 2012 Master Classes will be hosted by Walt Disney World on September 27 to 29 at the Contemporary Resort and other locations at the WDW Resort in Orlando, Florida.

Sessions will cover the Disney production process; behind the scenes with Cirque du Soleil *La Nouba*; backstage of IllumiNations; Disney Animatronics, and many others. The keynote speaker will be Gene Columbus, who spent 38 years with Walt Disney, producing, staffing and casting many of the productions at the various parks. Check the [USITT SE website](#) for registration and lodging information. Register and reserve a hotel room early since there will be a limited number of rooms available at the Contemporary Resort at a reduced rate, subsidized by the Southeast Section. All members of USITT are invited to attend this exciting opportunity, especially members in the Southeast.

Northern Boundary: Plan Fall Conference

The Northern Boundary Regional Section will hold its Annual Fall Conference September 7 and 8 at the University of Minnesota-Duluth Marshal Performing Arts Center.

The event will include a Cover the Walls Design Exhibit and workshop sessions on costuming, Photoshop, make-up, scenic art, Google Sketchup, and theatre architecture and renovation.

For more information, visit www.northernboundary.usitt.org.

Heart of America: Master Class in Wichita

[GO](#)[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

The Heart of America Regional Section is planning a Master Class and Workshops to be hosted by Wichita State University September 7 to 9.

Featured presenter will be Michael Downs of Downsart.net, a career experiential, production scenic designer/creative director/art director. He has over 625 productions to his credit in 40 countries, and spanning five continents, 49 of the United States, and 32 of his 49 years. His creative concepts, art direction, and design talent have touched virtually every communications channel that requires environments.

Also being planned is a tour of the Wichita Masonic Temple, a wonderful example of early 20th century scenic art. Other workshops and presentations are being planned to round out the weekend.

Visit USITTheartofAmerica.com for more information, registration, and to volunteer.

Upstate New York: Upstate Fall Meeting

The Upstate New York Regional Section will hold a day-long meeting on Saturday, September 8 at Nazareth College Arts Center. The day will start with a meet and greet, and include sessions from technical theatre workshops and a chance to view the renovated Arts Center facilities.

Additional details can be found by contacting Beth LaJoie at elajoie0@naz.edu.

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[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)[Search the Archives](#)News From **David Grindle**, *USITT Executive Director***Listening and Moving Forward**

How do you eat a 94 ounce steak? One bite at a time.

I've said this over and over to myself and others since coming to this position. There are so many great ideas put forward for programming, member benefits, and other things, where do you start?

Our recent member survey, done just prior to the Annual Conference, showed that our members are generally happy with the service they get and are willing to say where things aren't as great. The latter was probably the best part of what we got from the responses.

Since we returned from Long Beach, a group of members has been working to distill the comments into action. Happily, we can say there are things that are already coming to a reality. Our web upgrades are due to launch this month giving members many of the online resources they said they wanted.

Cost for members to attend the 2013 Annual Conference in Milwaukee is the same as it was in Long Beach for all categories. Hotels in Milwaukee cost less. All of these are things the membership commented upon that were already in the works.

It doesn't stop here. The Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Immediate

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Past President [Joe Aldridge](#), is using the results of that survey along with other member feedback, to help lay a plan for the next five years. This is extremely important as it helps us articulate which of the areas to focus on and tackle. We are back to the steak analogy. Without a plan, we will never achieve the seemingly impossible task.

USITT is an amazing organization that produces incredible results. The leadership, staff, and membership are not content to rest upon success but to build upon it. But that takes time and a plan. That plan takes comments, feedback, and input. For two years as President, Joe Aldridge openly called upon the membership to contact him if they had questions, comments, or concerns. I too have that same policy. As the Strategic Planning Committee works to bring a document forward to the membership, don't hesitate to contact either of us.

If you filled out the survey, that voice has been added to the mix. But if other ideas have come to mind or you didn't get to the survey, reach out and let your thoughts be heard. This plan will do its best to chart a course for the Institute that goes where the members need it to go. We all know it won't be perfect, and it won't address every concern or meet everyone's expectation. But it will be a plan made by the membership, with input from the membership, for the membership. Without it, we will just stare and wonder how to eat the whole steak.



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

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

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Costume Poster Sessions: Past, Present, Future

M.C. Friedrich



The Costume Poster Session is always a lively experience, such as this session from 2008. The commission is compiling an archive of past projects and soliciting posters for this year.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

Autumn is here and it is already time to prepare for spring and anticipate the 2013 Conference & Stage Expo in Milwaukee, Wisconsin along with the annual Costume Design & Technology Poster Session.

Past costume poster sessions, 16 years' worth, will soon be available in the digital archive on the USITT website. It's still in a rough format and work is continuing to finesse it. The Costume Poster editors have been busy collecting and organizing what can be found of the history of this event, but there are missing handouts needed to complete it. See the end of this article for missing handouts.

For now, help is needed! Anyone who has copies or can recreate them for this archive should contact M.C. Friedrich, poster session chair & archive senior

editor, at mcfriedr@mtu.edu.

But wait, there's more! In the past, authors and presenters of posters were limited by 10- to 15-year-old technology or what could be carried to the Annual Conference. Some past authors have gone further than just replacing what was and have expanded their information or added color photos. There is virtually (pun intended) no space limit with the archive. Others are encouraged to do the same. Again, contact M.C. Friedrich via e-mail to update a contribution.

Those who want to present at the 2013 Costume Design & Technology Poster Session may be part of the future in Milwaukee by submitting an abstract this fall to share innovations with peers. Go to www.usitt.org to find the instructors under the Conference tab.

During the Poster Session, designers and technicians share information that may not be well known or perhaps is a new invention. Review the list of past posters to see the depth and breadth of creativity.

Poster presentations, and the digital archive, are widely accepted as meeting the requirements for scholarly publication. Those who work for an educational institution might be able to get the school to fund some or all expenses to the Milwaukee 2013 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Poster presenters also may have the opportunity to publish their ideas in *TD&T*.

All submissions will be blind juried by the Costume Poster Selection Committee. Ideas need to be presented in the form of an abstract. Examples of past successful abstracts can be found [here](#).

The process for submitting an abstract and a 50-word bio will be through the website this year, a change from the e-mail format of the past. The biographies of accepted poster presenters will be used for the Annual Conference program.

The deadline to submit abstracts is November 15. All applicants will be notified by early December. Accepted presenters will be sent a list of guidelines. The actual presentation and handout information are not due until February 22.

For questions or additional information, contact M.C. Friedrich, Department of Visual & Performing Arts, Michigan Technological University, mcfriedr@mtu.edu.

USITT's Education and Lighting Design & Technology Commissions are also creating poster sessions for 2013.

USITT Costume Poster Session Archive: Missing Handouts

The Costume Design & Technology Commission is adding to its planned archive of Costume Poster presentations. The following are not currently available. Anyone who can assist with the missing information is asked to contact M.C. Friedrich.

1997

- Falstaff Padding by Wren Meadows

- Neoprene: From Head to Toe by Susan Brown-Strauss & Kathleen Gossman
- Using the Silkpaint! Paint Pen to Create Fabric Applique on Costumes by Jennifer Kane
- Tuxedos to Jumpsuits for A Chorus Line by Sharon Sobel

1998

- Using Unconventional Found Materials to Create Costumes by Nick Ularu
- Increasing Body Dimensions Using Bread Baskets, Shoulder Pads, and
- Square Dance Petticoats by Marie Chesley
- Adapting Modern Shoes to Period by Ruth Howell
- Adapting Period Research to Modern Garments by Martha Cooper

1999

- Blood Without Mess by Donna Conrad
- Using Adobe Photoshop & Super Paint in Rendering Techniques for Costume by Nic Ularu
- Where Costume Design and Special Effects Merge by Sara Medina-Pape
- Designing Backwards: Development, Design and Construction of Reversed Clothing for Vasclav Havel's The Memorandum by Dana Pinkston
- Two Color, Blend Fabric Dyeing Using Fiber Specific Dyes by Colleen Muscha

2000

- Costume Pattern Solutions: Man's Dancepants by Martha H. Cooper
- Hiding the Mic Cord: A Secondskin by Will Pickens
- Old School Methods Meld New World Materials

2002

- Just the Right Shoes by Ruth A. Howell

2004

- Puppets for a Pirandello Production: Designing a Character from Scratch by Amanda Suit
- Erte-Naissance: A Design Process for Shakespeare's The Tempest by Janet E. Swenson
- Welded Wire Headpieces for The Love of the Nightingale by Sherry Harper-McCombs

2009

- How to Create Carnage and Gore: As Demonstrated in The Pillowman and Sister Ignatius Explains It All by Angelina Herin
- Headdresses & Hairstyles, England 600 to Present

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Seek Future, Past Poster Presentations

The Education Commission is looking to create an archive of past poster presentations. Anyone who has ever presented a poster for the Commission is encouraged to supply any and all digital documentation, the poster itself, handouts, or any detailed description. This will be a way to share ideas with all of the USITT members.

Presenters for the 2013 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Milwaukee, Wisconsin are also being sought. Posters can be classroom projects, techniques for engaging students, or tips for making life in academia simpler. Students are encouraged to participate and submit ideas related to class projects or student life.

Proposals should submit as abstracts no more than 200 words in length giving a concise summary of the presentation. Abstracts are due by November 15. The completed poster and any handouts do not need to be ready until February, so submit a proposal now.

To submit a proposal, go to www.usitt.org to find instructions which are under the Conference tab.

To submit past presentations or new proposals, or for general questions, contact David Navalinsky at dnavalinsky@gmail.com.

The Costume Design & Technology Commission is also seeking poster submissions for 2013, continuing their long tradition of submittals. The Lighting Design & Technology Commission will present a poster session for the first time in 2013.

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Conference & Stage Expo

Branded!**Ron Procopio**

As the USITT Stage Expo takes shape, opportunities begin to present themselves peeling the layers away to reveal a number of ways companies can better display themselves to the more than 5,000 attendees. Sponsorship allows the company to get the competitive edge and be first to present themselves.

For 2013, USITT Stage Expo offers more opportunities for sponsorship than ever before. Some of these allow the exhibitor to be foremost in the attendee's mind; while benefiting programs for which the event is known.

The keystone sponsorship, new for 2013, is the Registration Sponsor. We're all accustomed to seeing registration as the lively and colorful hub for the event, with the Conference sessions and Stage Expo as the spokes of the wheel. An organization can now be part of that experience and center its brand in the show. Additionally, it would be part of the on-line registration experience. This is unique to USITT; offering both portions together for a very affordable price.

Some of the more traditionally seen sponsorships which provide great services are also available. Cyber Lounges have been redesigned for the 2013 attendees' needs; Tech Expo makes its return to the Stage Expo floor and has opportunities for companies to provide their support of the young, talented members of the Institute.

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Also available are opportunities to provide products and services for the show. It takes a lot of equipment to produce the USITT Conference & Stage Expo, and equipment providers are always welcome to feature their products.

A new [Sponsorship Opportunities](#) flier showing the different opportunities is online. For more information on how to participate, contact Ron Procopio at 800-938-7488 x 107 or e-mail ron@usitt.org.

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Conference & Stage Expo

Find A Fellow -- Again

Tim Kelly *USITT Fellow*

Which of these USITT Fellows will be participating in the 2013 version of the Find a Fellow contest for USITT student members?

Photo/Richard Finkelstein

How many Fellows must a Student Member find if the Fellow Member wants to be found?

The answer is six, which is the number of Fellows to locate in the USITT Student Member only Find A Fellow contest during the Milwaukee 2013 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Those who engaged in the 2012 FAF "scavenger hunt" in Long Beach have encouraged the Fellows to repeat this game in Milwaukee. Once again, there will be two prize winners selected at random from all the successfully completed forms. Each of those two winners will be provided a two-day, all expense paid mentoring session with a Fellow in their area of interest.

Photographs of the "treasure," the six Fellows who are subjects of the hunt, will be found on the 2013 FAF form available at the opening of Stage Expo. These forms may be picked up in the USITT Boutique Network Nexus Booth and returned there when completed. The basics are: get the form, ask anyone for help in determining the names of the six Fellows, find the Fellows, have them sign the form, and return completed forms by noon Saturday, March 23.

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

Winners will be announced at the Saturday night closing party. Pick up a form as early as possible in order to have the maximum amount of time to complete the contest. The photos are not very current. It may be a challenge for even some of the Fellows to help determine the names but, like last year, there will be hints.

Through participation in this lighthearted game students and Fellows have an opportunity to meet one another and strike up conversations. There are 78 Fellows in USITT who are easily approachable.

All the Fellows started out right where the students are and, through years of experience in the entertainment industry, have amassed a unique body of information. All Fellows feel it is their mission, duty, and great pleasure to pass along to the next generation of theatre practitioners insights to success.

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2012-2015

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