



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

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Stellar Achievement Honored

Outstanding education from [Cobalt Studios](#); technical production prowess by [Neil Mazzella](#); incredible sound achievements by [Otts Munderloh](#); architectural excellence of [Timothy Hartung](#); and the potential of nine [Young Designers & Technicians](#) will all be honored at the USITT 2013 Annual Conference.



Collaborators Needed for PQ Student Exhibit

Student or Young Career members of USITT are needed to help with the creation and curation of USITT's PQ student entry. [more »](#)



A Learning Opportunity with USITT

The newly created Student Board Fellowship program is now open for applicants who will spend a year learning from and working with USITT's leadership. [more »](#)



In Memoriam – Jack Mann

The first person to receive credit as a Broadway sound designer, and winner of USITT's Distinguished Achievement Award in 2009. [more »](#)



Mentoring in New York City

Read about a Find a Fellow participant's experience in New York City... and the contest which could send you there. [more »](#)



USITT's President Message: Many Paths to Information

There is always more to be gained from mixing all levels of experience and information. [more »](#)



Executive Director - Always Making Improvements

USITT's programming, at the Annual Conference and beyond, can always improve when members get involved. [more »](#)



ETC Extends a Welcome

30 years of exhibiting, educating, and celebrating the craft of theatre all come into focus as ETC welcomes the Annual Conference & Stage Expo to its home state. [more »](#)



Lighting Portfolio Review

All levels on both sides of the table benefit from a one-on-one review of a lighting portfolio. [more »](#)



Session Highlights

Each session at the 2013 Annual Conference is a one-of-a-kind experience, but some could [happen Only in Milwaukee](#), others focus on [Health & Safety](#), and some continue decades-long traditions like the [Costume Poster](#) session. Enjoy them all.

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Education Commission

Planning for 2014 is already underway as the Education Commission seeks nominees and session ideas. [more »](#)



The Last Word — X-Rated Milwaukee

A detailed look at the blue movie era that flourished in Milwaukee in mid-20th century, and even into the 1980s. [more »](#)

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- **Cobalt Studios Inc.:** Member Helps Theme Park Nab Brass Ring
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- **L-ACOUSTICS:** L-ACOUSTICS introduces loudspeaker modules for CATT, EASE, ODEON and LARA
- **International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees:** Local Signs Agreement with Audio Works
- **Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.:** Awards Scholarship, Upgrades Cloud Offering
- **Irwin Seating Company:** Redesigns Popular Seats
- **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas:** Institute Gives, Receives at KCACTF Region 1
- **Alcons Audio:** Alcons BC332 Is The Readers Choice

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News & Notices

Cobalt Studios to Receive 2013 USITT Special Citation for Education

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*



The Cobalt Studios Christmas letter for 2012 included this light-hearted scene from the Cobalt Studios in White Lake, New York.

Photo/Courtesy Rachel Keebler

Cobalt Studios, the scene-painting studio in White Lake, New York, will receive USITT's 2013 Special Citation for Outstanding Work in Education for its 25 years of dedicated service in training scenic artists.

The award will be presented to Cobalt co-founders Rachel Keebler and Howard Jones at the 2013 [Conference & Stage Expo](#) March 20 to 23 in Milwaukee. They began Cobalt Studios in 1988 to train scenic artists after having taught at large universities, including the University of North Carolina School for the Arts.

"Over the years, we received many calls from employers asking us to recommend painters. We found that the list of qualified people we could recommend was too short," Ms. Keebler wrote on [Cobalt's website](#). They decided to build a working studio and scene-painting shop where artists could receive intensive hands-on training with programs lasting weeks, months, or up to two years.

Set in New York's Catskill Mountains, Cobalt is just four miles from the site of

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the original 1969 Woodstock concert venue. Student artists paint, learn, and work alongside professionals at the studio, producing custom stage backdrops for actual theatrical productions. Participants stay in a farmhouse that accommodates a dozen people and share cooking and chores, ideas and inspiration, and artistic community.

“Cobalt Studios is modeled after the guilds from the Renaissance,” Ms. Keebler writes. “Here we combine the classroom experience with the workshop experience... where a cohesive group of artists nurtured a respect for their craft as an active part of their community life.”

“The program is also modeled after Taliesin, Frank Lloyd Wright's school for architecture. For half of the time, professionals teach classes to the students: a combination of lectures, demos, individualized projects and practice. For the other half of the time, students become apprentices on real jobs, applying class lessons in full scale, working with and under the watchful eyes of professionals.”

This method allows Cobalt students to spend more time experimenting with newer materials, inventive techniques, and creative design than most academic institutions are able to offer. Summer programs draw experienced high school and college teachers seeking ways to better prepare their students to pursue the art of scene painting.

USITT's Education Commission has planned an award ceremony for Cobalt for 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 21, and asks that attendees wear Cobalt T-shirts or its trademark color blue. The following morning, March 22, at 9:30 a.m., Ms. Keebler and Mr. Jones will join USITT's other **Distinguished Award winners** in a conversation about their lives, philosophy, and experiences.

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News & Notices

USITT Names Neil Mazzella of Hudson Scenic Distinguished Achiever

Broadway Technical Director Neil A. Mazzella of Hudson Scenic Studios in Yonkers, New York, will receive USITT's 2013 Distinguished Achievement Award in Technical Production.

The award will be presented to Mr. Mazzella in a special ceremony at USITT's 2013 Annual **Conference & Stage Expo** March 20 to 23 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It recognizes his "profound contribution to professional theatre by enhancing the relationship of theatre craft to theatre art."

Mr. Mazzella is CEO of Hudson Scenic Studio, Hudson Sound & Light, and Hudson Theatrical Associates. He has been technical supervisor for over 40 Broadway productions, including *All About Me* with Michael Feinstein (2010) and *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial* with David Schwimmer (2006).

He co-founded Hudson Scenic Studio with Gene O'Donovan in 1980, and it has become one of the most successful providers of custom scene fabrication, automation, and painted drops for the live entertainment industry. Among its best-known projects is the automation behind the New Year's Eve ball drop in Times Square.

What started as a small shop with five workers now inhabits a 125,000-square-foot complex employing over 100 craftspeople. In 2004, it opened a lighting and sound branch, Hudson Sound & Light, which has since merged with Christie Lites to provide sound and lighting equipment for Broadway shows including Gore Vidal's *The Best Man*, *The Gershwins' Porgy & Bess*, *Mary Poppins*, and *Bonnie & Clyde*.

In 2007, the Hudson family expanded again, forming Hudson Theatrical Associates in Manhattan, offering technical supervision, labor supervision, and production management for theatre, industrials, and live events. The company has provided technical supervision for such recent hits as *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*, and *Hugh Jackman Back on Broadway*. Mr. Mazzella received the Tony Honor Award for Excellence in Theatre in 2007.

Besides overseeing three companies, Mr. Mazzella has served as chair of the



Neil Mazzella

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Yale University School of Drama Board of Advisors from 2001 to 2012, and has taught on the faculties of Yale, Columbia University, and SUNY Purchase. He graduated from Yale School of Drama in 1978 with an MFA in technical theatre.

In a 2007 interview in *Playbill*, he recalled that the first Broadway show he ever saw was *A Man for All Seasons*, starring Paul Scofield.

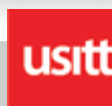
"It was the early 1960s, and my mother took me," he told *Playbill*. "There were a series of blackouts, and when the lights came back, the set had changed. I sat there and wondered what happens onstage when the lights go out. It captivated me. It captured my imagination. And I've spent my whole life trying to figure it out."

USITT has planned an award ceremony for Neil Mazzella for Friday, March 22 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. during the 2013 Conference & Stage Expo at Milwaukee's Delta Center. That morning, he will join USITT's other **Distinguished Award winners** in a conversation about their lives, philosophy, and experiences.

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News & Notices

USITT to Honor Sound Designer Otts Munderloh

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*

Renowned Broadway Sound Designer Otts Munderloh will be honored with a USITT Distinguished Achievement Award in Sound Design and Technology at the 2013 Annual Conference & Stage Expo March 20 to 23 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Mr. Munderloh has worked with many famous artists including Bob Fosse, Mike Nichols, Jerome Robbins, and Michael Bennett, in a medium that has become more malleable with changing technology.

He began mixing sound for theatre in his 20s and was working as a sound designer on Broadway by 1975, when director/choreographer Michael Bennett hired him for the original production of *A Chorus Line*. The show became a smash hit and broke a record for longest running Broadway show eight years later.

Four decades of Broadway credits followed for Mr. Munderloh including sound design for such celebrated shows as 1980's *Harold and Maude*, the 1986 revival of *Cabaret* with Joel Gray, 1988's *Macbeth* starring Glenda Jackson and Christopher Plummer, and Lily Tomlin's acclaimed one-woman show, *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* (1985).

Over the years, he and others adapted to advances in sound that changed live theatre. In a 1987 *Chicago Tribune* interview, Mr. Munderloh said unamplified acoustic sound had vanished from Broadway.

"You can't hear singing from their mouths, even if you're sitting in Row D. You hear it from a speaker," he explained, adding that modern shows "rise and fall on how good your sound operator is."

Besides his own long run on Broadway, Mr. Munderloh extended his work to diverse off-Broadway, pre-Broadway, regional theatre, and opera productions such as San Diego's La Jolla Playhouse production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* in 2000 and the Lyric Opera of Chicago production of *Sweeney Todd* in 2002. He also designed sound for concerts including Mandy Patinkin's *Celebrating Sondheim* show on Broadway in 2002 and *Patti LuPone on Broadway*.



Otts Munderloh

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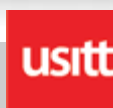
USITT's 2013 Distinguished Achievement Award will recognize Mr. Munderloh for his extensive contributions to the art of theatre sound, "moving from dials, to faders, to touch-screens, all the while maintaining an unwavering commitment to theatrical sound."

Besides honoring him with an awards presentation on Thursday, March 21, USITT will feature Mr. Munderloh on a panel of [distinguished award winners in conversation](#) about their careers and their visions on Friday morning, March 22.

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News & Notices

Architect Timothy Hartung Named USITT Distinguished Achiever

Timothy Hartung, an accomplished architect whose work includes many well-known theatres, will receive the 2013 USITT *Distinguished Achievement Award in Architecture* at USITT's 2013 Annual **Conference & Stage Expo** March 20-23 in Milwaukee.

Mr. Hartung is a founding partner and managing principal at **Ennead Architects LLP** (formerly Polshek Partnership) in New York. He has been a leader on USITT's Architecture Commission and established the Institute's annual **Architecture Awards** recognizing design excellence in performing arts spaces.



Timothy Hartung

He will receive the award in a special ceremony Friday, March 22, at the Conference. It recognizes his "instrumental work in the design of numerous outstanding performing arts projects," and "decades of leadership in elevating the visibility and effectiveness of the USITT Architecture Commission."

Mr. Hartung embraced architecture early. He received his bachelor's in architecture from Penn State in 1973 and went to work for Damianos and Pedone, a firm with a strong interest in the arts. In 1978 he helped found Polshek Partnership -- where he has specialized in theatre and museum work -- and oversaw the firm's restructuring as Ennead in 2010.

Among the performing arts centers he has designed are Stanford University's Bing Concert Hall, the Oklahoma City Civic Center Music Hall, and the Santa Fe Opera. He also oversaw master plans for Carnegie Hall and Boston's Symphony Hall, among others.

His recent projects include several expansions to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.; the Museum of the City of New York, and the Asheville Art Museum in Asheville, North Carolina.

Mr. Hartung has been active on USITT's Board of Directors and its Architecture Commission, which established the Architecture Awards in 1994. Since then, four of his projects have received USITT awards: The Ed Sullivan Theater Adaptation in 1996; the Holland Performing Arts Center in Omaha, Nebraska, in 2007; the Burgin Center for the Arts in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, in 2008; and Allegheny College's Vukovich Center for Communication Arts in 2010.

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His other awards, including many from the American Institute of Architects, fill two pages of his resume.

In a 2010 interview with New York's Metropolismag.com, Hartung attributed his and Ennead's success to "embedding ourselves in the culture of the client."

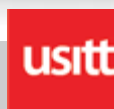
"Our clients appreciate that we're thinking the same way they are," he explained. "We're not coming from the moon, trying to convince them that they should do something that is inherently different from their own mission."

Fans can hear more about Mr. Hartung's illustrious career when he receives his award at the USITT Conference at Milwaukee's Delta Center. The Friday award ceremony and reception begin at 7 p.m. March 22, and include the presentation of the 2013 Architecture Awards. Friday morning, he also will participate in a panel featuring all eight 2013 USITT *Distinguished Award Winners in Conversation*.

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News & Notices

2013 YD&T Award Winners Announced!



Cole W. Muth was technical director for UW-Madison's 2010 production of *The Yum-Yum Room*, whose set used over 3,500 feet of yarn.

Photo by Brent NiCastro.

Nine young designers will receive USITT Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts at the **2013 Annual Conference & Stage Expo** in Milwaukee.

The YD&T awards annually honor young theatre designers and technicians in the areas of production, sound, scenic technology, costumes, lighting, make-up, stage management, and scene design. The awards are sponsored by leading companies and individuals, and each winner is chosen from a national slate of nominees by a jury of professionals and academics in their field.

- Cole W. Muth**, technical director, lighting designer and 2012 MFA graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will receive the KM Fabrics Inc. Technical Production Award. He was nominated by Daniel Lisowski, faculty technical director at UW-M. The award, established by KM Fabrics founder Richard K. Heusel in 1994, recognizes excellence in technical direction or production.

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- **Erik T. Lawson**, sound designer and 2012 MFA graduate of Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, will receive the Robert E. Cohen Sound Achievement Award. He was nominated by Joe Pino, professor of sound design at Carnegie Mellon. The award was established by Clear-Com founder Robert Cohen in 2005 and honors creative application of sound in the performing arts.
- **Daniel Perez**, technical designer and 2013 MFA candidate at Yale University School of Drama, will receive the Frederick A. Buerki Golden Hammer Award. The award was established in 1998 by USITT Fellow Bernhard R. Works in memory of UW-M theatre design professor Fred Buerki. It recognizes creative application of scene design and technical direction. Perez was nominated by Ben Sammler, professor of technical design and production at Yale.
- **Albulena Borovci**, a costume designer and 2013 MFA candidate at Carnegie Mellon, will receive the Zelma H. Weisfeld Costume Design & Technology Award. She was nominated by Susan Tsu, professor of costume design at CMU. Ms. Borovci was among 16 nominees for this award, established in 1997 by costume designer and USITT Fellow Zelma Weisfeld to recognize creativity and skill in costume design.

Albulena Borovci's costumes for the 2012 Carnegie Mellon production of *The Rivals* were described by one reviewer as "drop-dead gorgeous."

Photo courtesy of Louis Stein.
- **Ethan Vail**, a senior at Purdue University, will receive the USITT Lighting Design Award sponsored by Barbizon Lighting Company. Mr. Vail, already an accomplished lighting designer, was nominated by Michael McNamara, head of lighting at Purdue. The award was established by Barbizon in 1997 to honor company co-founders Sid Bloom and Sam Resnick. It recognizes outstanding potential in the field of lighting design.

Purdue University senior Ethan Vail designed the lighting for Purdue's 2012 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Photo by Michael Banks.
- **Courtney O'Neill**, a set designer who received her MFA from Northwestern University in 2012, is winner of the USITT Scene Design Award sponsored by Rose Brand. She was nominated by Todd Rosenthal, a Tony-award winning scenic

designer and professor at Northwestern. She was chosen from among 13 nominees for the award, which was established by Rose Brand president George Jacobstein in 1997 to reward excellence in scenic design.



A scale model of Courtney O'Neill's set for *The Tempest* is among the portfolio pieces the Northwestern University grad submitted for her YD&T award.

- **Lauren Wilde**, a make-up artist and MFA candidate at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, will receive the USITT Make-up Design Award sponsored by Kryolan Professional Make-up of Germany. She was nominated by Michael Meyer, wig and make-up director at UNCSA. The award, established in 1998, recognizes creative application of make-up design in the performing arts.



Makeup artist Lauren Wilde designed this facial prosthetic for a satyr in *The Death of Eurydice*.

- **Peyton Taylor Becker**, a stage manager and BFA candidate at University of North Carolina School of the Arts, will receive the USITT Stage Management Award sponsored by Clear-Com. She was nominated by Jamie Call Blankinship, professor of stage management at UNCSA. The award honors work displaying excellent stage management skills.
- **Jared LeClaire**, a scenic and projection designer who will graduate from the University of West Georgia in May, will receive the USITT W. Oren Parker Undergraduate Scene Design Award sponsored by Stage Decoration & Supplies. He was nominated by Brad Darvas, theatrical design professor at UWG. The award, established in 2002 in memory of designer W. Oren Parker, drew 10 nominations this year for excellence in

scenic design by a young artist.

A total of 60 students were nominated for the 2013 YD&T awards. They were asked to submit resumes, letters of recommendation, and a portfolio of their work. Each award was adjudicated by a panel of experts in the specific area of the award, along with representatives of the award sponsors.

Each winner will receive a cash prize and free registration for the 2013 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo March 20 to 23, where their awards will be presented on Opening Night. During the Conference, they will have the opportunity to meet and discuss their work with award sponsors and adjudicators.



Jared LeClaire made this model of his set design for the 2012 University of West Georgia production of *Broke-ology*.

Sketch by Jared LeClaire.

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Space Still Available at Arduino Session

There is still space available for hands-on participants in the Arduino Super Session to be held Saturday, March 23 from 2 to 4:45 p.m. as part of the [Milwaukee 2013 Annual Conference & Stage Expo](#).

This is an introductory hands-on Arduino super-session. Participants will have an opportunity to program the Arduino to control real world devices. An Arduino is an inexpensive, open-source, physical computing platform based on a simple microcontroller board and a free development environment for writing software for the board. The first hour will be dedicated to software and hardware setup using the Arduino Integrated Development Editor. Students will develop a basic "Hello World" program with LEDs. The remainder of the session will focus on input with sensors and controlling output devices.

This session is limited 32 participants. Bring project ideas and give it a go! All hardware will be supplied for this session; participants must provide a computer with USB port and software downloaded before arriving at the convention center. The Arduino Software can be downloaded at arduino.cc/en/Main/Software. Processing can be downloaded at processing.org/download.

To sign up as a participant, e-mail name, phone number, and e-mail address to usittarduino@gmail.com. Observers are welcome to sit in on the session.

Raffle, Auction, and Boutique Proceeds to Benefit Behind the Scenes

The Long Reach Long Riders and The ESTA Foundation will host their annual

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raffle to benefit Behind the Scenes at the 2013 Conference & Stage Expo in Milwaukee, Wisconsin March 21 to 23. This year's raffle will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Long Reach Long Riders annual motorcycle ride. The Riders have raised over \$350,000 for charity.

The Behind the Scenes Boutique will also be open featuring the new USB LED Ghostlight, an assortment of great Behind the Scenes swag, and the famous Long Reach Long Rider T-shirts and kazooos.

Winning tickets for nine regular prizes and one grand prize will be drawn at 1 p.m. on Saturday, the final day of Stage Expo.

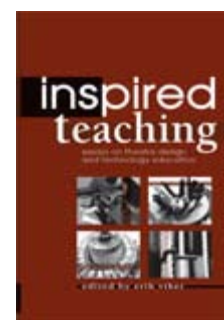
The prizes are: Grand Prize, Spotlight with Renderworks provided by Nemetschek Vectorworks; Stage Technician's Kit provided by BMI Supply; \$250 Visa Gift Card provided by Daktronics; Enttec DMX USB PRO Mk2 with case provided by Enttec Americas; Kindle Fire provided by InterAmerica Stage; 16GB Wi-Fi iPad Mini provided by iWeiss; 50 Sheets of Gel provided by Lee Filters; \$250 Gift Certificate to rosebrand.com provided by Rose Brand; \$250 Gift Certificate at Sapsis Rigging provided by Sapsis Rigging; and a Full Conference Registration for the USITT 2014 Conference & Stage Expo provided by USITT.

Pre-drawing activities will include the ever popular kazoo parade, some swag give-aways, a live auction of two tickets to a Broadway show along with a backstage tour donated by Local 1 IATSE, and custom pens and a seam ripper handcrafted by Shan Ayers.

All proceeds from the raffle, auction, and boutique sales benefit [Behind the Scenes](#).

Launch *Inspired Teaching* at Expo

A useful compendium of insights and techniques for teaching is being released at the Milwaukee 2013 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. *Inspired Teaching: Essays on Theatre Design and Technology Education*, edited by Erik Viker, will be sold at the USITT Marketplace at Stage Expo. In April, the collection will be available as either a print-on-demand or e-book from the USITT online bookstore.



The book is published by the Institute as a member benefit and includes essays provided by over 20 members of USITT with more than 400 years of collective teaching experience. It includes a forward by Richard Durst, President Emeritus of Baldwin-Wallace College, a former USITT president, and a Fellow of the Institute.

Tour Stage Expo With a Pro

Join one of four special tours of Stage Expo 2013 – with seasoned professionals who can provide connections and information. Sign up at the Network Nexus area of the USITT Booth and select your guide: Sylvia Hillyard Pannell, costumer; Rick Thomas, sound designer; LeRoy Stoner, lighting designer; or

Dennis Dorn, technical Director.

Visit the Innovation Gallery and Innovation Stage to learn about the latest in products and technology.

Standards in Public Review, Announce Safety Alliance

Three PLASA standards are now in public review, and PLASA has formed an alliance to promote safety in the entertainment industry.

The **public review materials** for the standards are available until April 1, the last day to comment for:

BSR E1.44 – 201x, Common Show File Exchange Format For Entertainment Industry Automation Control Systems – Stage Machinery, defines a common show file format for the exchange of automation control data between control systems by different manufacturers of stage machinery.

BSR E1.45 - 201x, Unidirectional Transport of IEEE 802 data frames over ANSI E1.11 (DMX512-A), defines a minimal method to transport IEEE 802 data frames unidirectionally over ANSI E1.11 physical links using an Alternate START Code. The primary idea is to allow communication of 802 data to luminaires over an ANSI E1.11 DMX512-A datalink for data transmission from those luminaires using Visible Light Communication, IEEE 802.15.7.

BSR E1.48 - 201x, A Recommended Luminous Efficiency Function for Stage and Studio Luminaire Photometry, specifies an energy-based luminous efficiency function $V(\lambda)$ based on recent research for lumen output measurement for any stage or studio luminaire in which 20 percent or more of the output power is at wavelengths shorter than 500 nm. This standard is intended to encourage the use of a far more accurate $V(\lambda)$ function in the entertainment industry.

For more information, contact Karl G. Ruling, technical standards manager, PLASA, 630 Ninth Avenue, Suite 609, New York, NY 10036; karl.ruling@plasa.org.

PLASA and the Event Safety Alliance formally announced their mutual endorsement in the ongoing efforts to raise awareness and use of industry best practices and technical standards throughout live entertainment production.

For more information about the Event Safety Alliance visit www.eventsafetyalliance.org. For more information about PLASA's Technical Standards Program visit tsp.plasa.org

Deadline Nears for WSD, Scenofest

World Stage Design is an opportunity for any and all USITT members to exhibit their designs internationally. WSD is a competition open to any designer in any area of performance design.

- The deadline for submitting

interest is March 15. Information and applications are available at www.wsd2013.com/exhibition.

- Interested students and colleagues should **register** to receive updated information about World Stage Design/Scenofest in September in Cardiff, Wales.
- **Scenofest** includes performances, discussions, lectures, workshops and informal interaction among the leaders in performance design from around the world.



For more information, contact Michael Ramsaur at mram@stanford.edu.

Costume Symposium on Wearable Technology

Costumes and electronics **do** go together. Learn about electronics and create projects incorporating various kinds of electronics within costumes or costume pieces at this year's USITT Costume Symposium.

Wearable Technology is now open for **registration**. USITT is offering a special rate for those who register early, and a student discount is available.

Wearable Technology will be June 14 to 16 at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York. Each participant will receive instructions illustrating step-by-step processes for building circuits, sample programs for the microprocessor, and photos and illustrations of examples as well as a kit of electronics to use in the workshop projects.

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News & Notices

Seek PQ '15 Student Team Members

Thomas Burch *Prague Quadrennial 2015 Student Exhibit*

USITT is seeking a team of three student and/or early career designers to collaborate on the design and curation for the American Student Design Exhibit that will travel to the Czech Republic for the **Prague Quadrennial 2015**.

The goals of the exhibit team will be to conceive the scope and focus of the exhibit, collaborate on and design the physical exhibit itself, and curate the designs that will represent American student designers. Team members should have computer skills to include graphics, database, Photoshop, internet research, and CAD experience. Members should have a keen sense of design in their fields, the ability to write effectively, and the ability to collaborate with others remotely.

Team members will have periodic phone conference/Skype meetings where ideas are discussed, tasks evenly distributed, and information shared. These will happen with varying frequency throughout the following two years. There will be a group meeting at the 2014 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo which team members will be expected to attend. There will be a two-day "exhibit fit-up" meeting at Indiana University around January of 2015 (IU will build all three American exhibits). The exhibit load-in will take place over two to three days in Prague in June 2015.

Think of it as a long-form collaboration... from initial Skype/phone conference to completion in Prague will be a span of nearly two and a half years, but it's not life-encompassing for that timeline. USITT will cover travel and hotel for the January 2015 "exhibit fit-up" in Indiana and for travel to and from Prague, and up to three days of hotel during the onsite exhibit installation. USITT Conference & Stage Expo travel will **not** be covered. In previous cycles, student exhibit team members have been successful in getting conference travel support from their home institutions.

Submit name, area of design, basic school info (degree, year in school, or recent year graduated), contact info, name and contact info of academic advisor (as a reference), and a brief paragraph detailing interest in being a part of this team to Tom Burch at (tom.burch.design@gmail.com).

The deadline for application is April 15, 2013. Decisions will be made by May 1.

Bottom line... organizers admit that this is a lot of hard volunteer work, but getting to be a part of such an experience is unlike anything else... and in Prague. Those who participate will get to meet people from around the world

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that love theatre, and those connections can pay back huge dividends over the course of a career.

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News & Notices

Student Board Fellowship/Mentorship Program Launched

Richard Devin *USITT Past President*

An exciting new program has been launched which will provide an opportunity for student and early career members to gain leadership training. The new Student Board Fellowship Program will allow emerging professionals to shadow the experience of serving on a non-profit board, with emphasis on membership arts and culture organizations. While the primary purpose is to introduce those chosen to a governance structure, future board service is a potential outcome.



Two of those who apply for the Student Board Fellowship Program will be chosen for one year appointments and participate in USITT Board meetings and committees. Each recipient will be assigned a Board mentor for the year and will participate in two to three electronic board meetings and face to face meetings during their year as well as the annual summer board retreat.

Application deadline is **April 25**, and those who are chosen to participate will be notified by May 31.

In addition to board meetings, the student or young professional members will be part of one board committee or special project during the year. They will be non-voting participants on the board.

Each will have travel and hotel expenses and Annual Conference fees covered by USITT. A one year Student or Early Career membership is also included.

For the 2012-13 governance year, President Lea Asbell-Swanger invited two students to test the model. Marcella Dova and Laura Blegen, both students at the Bolz Center for Arts Administration at UW-Madison have been providing constructive feedback during this test phase.

After a discussion at the August Board meeting, Lea appointed a committee to create criteria and applications for choosing recipients. Co-chairs Martha Marking and Sherry Wagner-Henry have been working with Brooke Feldman, Emily Gill, Jill Maurer, Michael Mehler, and Dick Devin to guide the planning process

To apply, click here for the 2013-14 board year.

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Applicants will need to provide a cover sheet, statement of purpose, resume, and letters of recommendation. Finalists will be interviewed.

Students and young professionals and educators are encouraged to spread the word about this new opportunity and to apply by the April deadline! Membership is not required to apply.

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In Memoriam:

Jack Mann

Jack Mann, widely known as the first person to receive a Broadway credit as sound designer, died January 28 at age 89. His wife of 70 years, Jean, died just two months earlier.

Mr. Mann was a theatrical sound pioneer who received the USITT Distinguished Achievement Award in Sound in 2009. A Michigan native, he got his first job as a theatre electrician at 18, then went off to serve in World War II. After the war, he came home to work in theatres for eight years before moving to New York City.

He soon gained a reputation for creative sound techniques and, in 1961, earned the first sound designer credit on Broadway for *Show Girl*, a musical comedy revue that ran for 100 performances at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre. He worked on Broadway for 27 years with such artists as George Abbott, Leonard Bernstein, Harold Prince, and Stephen Sondheim.

His many Broadway credits include productions of *A Little Night Music* (1973-74), *Sweeney Todd* (1979-80), *The Tap Dance Kid* (1983-85), and *Into the Light* (1986). He retired to his home in Port Republic, New Jersey, where he and Jean were known as "Gram and Gramp."

In 2009, at age 85, Mann was honored at USITT's Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, receiving his Distinguished Achievement Award from David Collison, author of *The Sound of Theatre*, who traveled from Britain for the occasion.

Jean Mann died after a brief illness on December 4 at age 90. Her husband followed peacefully seven and a half weeks later. He is survived by his son, Brian Mann, four grandchildren, and five great-grandsons. Friends may sign a guestbook [here](#).

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Jack Mann, with David Collison at the presentation ceremony of Mr. Mann's USITT award.

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News & Notices

USITT: Coast to Coast



Kristin Sutter was one of two student members who won the Find a Fellow Contest at the 2012 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach, California. Ms. Sutter was paired with Fellow Elynmarie Kazle for a mentoring session in New York City focusing on stage management.

The Find A Fellow Contest will be held again at the Milwaukee 2013 Conference & Stage Expo. Eligible participants can pick up a contest form at the Network Nexus Booth at Stage Expo, near the USITT Marketplace. The form will have six boxes on it, each box containing a photograph of a Fellow but no clue as to the Fellow's name. These photos will not necessarily be current, making identity more difficult. The challenge is to discover the identity of the six Fellows, find each Fellow, and have the Fellow sign the contest form.

The contest forms must be turned in by noon, Saturday, March 23.

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Two names will be drawn at random from those who successfully identified all six Fellows. Each winner will be awarded a two-day, all expenses paid mentoring session with a Fellow in his area of interest.

Kristin Sutter

Spring break in Southern California with best friends -- awesome. Waking up at 10 a.m. to a phone call, not so much. On the other end was Tim Kelly telling me I had won the *Find a Fellow* Contest; we're back to awesome.

After researching all the participating Fellows, I decided to ask USITT Fellow Elynmarie Kazle if I could shadow her for a few days. Luckily for me, she accepted the challenge. We conferred with the Fellows Committee and decided to meet in New York City where Elynmarie has a great number of personal contacts.

Friday, November 30: I took an exam, drove to Columbus, and hopped on an airplane to LaGuardia. Once I arrived in NYC, I took the shuttle to meet Elynmarie at Grand Central Station. It was just like a scene in a movie. The first evening, Elynmarie and I walked around the city -- Times Square, the Village -- and I bought a MetroCard, - all things I hadn't done before. Throughout our evening, we talked about life experiences and how we dealt with difficult issues. She even helped me realize what I want to do after graduation. After such a whirlwind of adventures, I had to sleep quickly so I could wake up early to go to Radio City.

Saturday, December 1, 8:30 a.m.: I'm standing at the Radio City Music Hall stage door ready for my half hour call to shadow *The Radio City Rockettes' Christmas Spectacular*. Yes, I shadowed the stage management team for the *Christmas Spectacular* - dream come true. I followed four of the five stage managers, walked all three levels of the stage, learned the inner workings of the show and the building itself, and saw a couple of my friends who are actually performers in the show. It had been a surreal day, and it was only 10:30 a.m. Could it get any better? We met up with Pat Sosnow, stage manager of *Evita*. Pat gave us a mind-blowing backstage tour, then we sat in the house and chatted about her previous experiences in theatre: *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *How To Succeed...* to name a few.

After Radio City and *Evita*, we headed over to The Actor's Studio. Courtesy of Deborah Dixon, executive director, I had the opportunity to walk the halls and rehearsal spaces that many actors and actresses had walked before me. They also have an awesome black box space that actors can reserve to perform their projects. The most incredible moment was standing in Lee Strasberg's office. Here I was, a college senior in 2012, standing in Lee Strasberg's office -- astonishing!

Radio City, *Evita*, and The Actor's Studio; now it's 1 p.m., and we were only halfway through. We grabbed a quick slice of pizza then headed over to the Music Box to see *Dead Accounts* starring Norbert Leo Butz and Katie Holmes. As soon as the show was over, Elynmarie and I waited at the stage door to get

autographs with the cast; can you believe I had never done that before? When we had the full cast's autographs (except Mr. Butz; he wasn't leaving the theatre between shows), we walked over to The Drama Book Store and browsed while waiting for a friend.

Elynmarie contacted a former student whom she worked with when she ran Weathervane Playhouse in Akron, Ohio. Derric Nolte, now a graduate of lighting design from Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, moved to New York in 2012 and has been working as a PA and stage manager. We met up at Starbucks. Which one? I don't know. As Elynmarie says, "Don't ever tell someone you'll meet them at a Starbucks. They're on every corner, and you'll always go to the wrong one." Anyway, we had a great time chatting about how Derric moved to the City after graduating college and hasn't stopped working since. That never happens, so he gave me helpful pointers on how to make that happen for me, too. Somehow we got on the topic of Elynmarie and me going to see *Bring it On: The Musical* later, and Derric mentioned that he knew the stage manager, Ryan Bell. He asked if we could get a tour. Luckily for us, Ryan agreed!

8 p.m.: At the end of a wonderful, long day in the City, we were sitting in our box seats for *Bring It On*. When the theatre finally cleared at the end of the performance, we went backstage to meet Ryan. I learned about the customized sprung floor, the road boxes from the tour that they still use; everything. After about an hour of chatting backstage, we left the theatre to meet up with my friend Kris Valentine, stage manager for *Forever Dusty* Off-Broadway. Elynmarie, Kris, her fiancé Eric, and I ended up staying out sharing life stories until 2 a.m.

Shadowing *The Radio City Rockettes' Christmas Spectacular*, tours of *Evita*, The Actor's Studio, and *Bring It On: The Musical*; meeting up with old friends; making new -- best experience ever. I never would have thought that attending the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach would lead me clear across the country and to where I am today. I now have contacts for all the people I met in those two days, and a newfound love for New York City. It was an amazing experience that I never would have had without the help of the USITT *Find a Fellow* project. Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible and to those who have encouraged me along the way.

To read Elynmarie Kazle's impressions of the experience, [click here](#).

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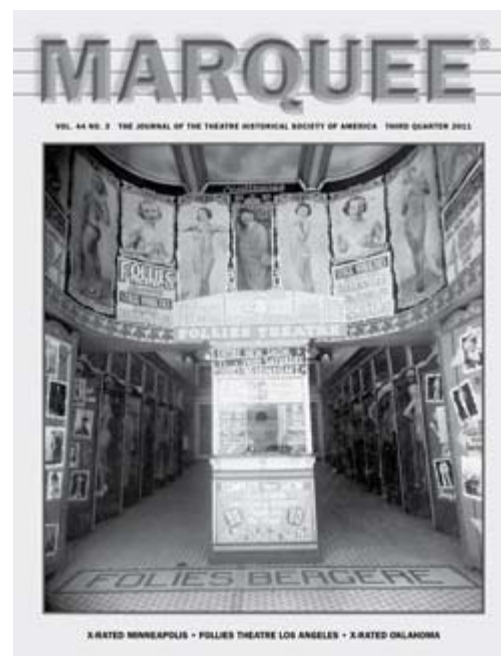
X-Rated Milwaukee

Ever wondered how some many of the theaters and movie palaces in a mid-America city survived in the 1990s? We thank Matthew Prigge for allowing us to share with our readers "Fade to Blue," his detailed report on the history and use of Milwaukee's theatres as movie houses in the 1990s.

His account won the prestigious Weiss Award and was first published in *Marquee*, the journal of the Theatre Historical Society of America in the third quarter of 2011.

We appreciate THS for allowing us to share this fascinating and lavishly-illustrated article and reprint it [here](#).

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Best Wishes on Addition

Great good wishes to Health & Safety Commissioner David Glowacki on the addition of a new, future stagehand to his family. Velena Kathryn Grace Glowacki arrived January 16 with vital statistics of 9 pounds, 4 ounces. She was 20 inches long and may account for her father's sleep-deprived appearance the next time you see him.

Warm congratulations to all involved in this production.

Rigging Expert Sweet Retires

Respected theater-technology expert Harvey Sweet has retired from ETC (Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.), after four years as rigging senior product manager. He finished his tenure on December 31.

Said Dr. Sweet, "Having worked for over 59 years -- most of them in theatre production and theatre equipment manufacturing/installation industries, with the last four at ETC -- the time has come to hang up my hammer and my keyboard."



Harvey Sweet

He was most recently among those honored with the PLASA 2012 Frank Stewart Volunteer of the Year Award (LDI 2012). He was a fundamental part of ESTA's E1.6 – 1 Rigging Task Group, which was recognized for developing the motorized-rigging standard. As the Task Group's leader, Harvey spent seven years on the project.

He has written three theatre technology textbooks. He received a Ph.D. in scene

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design criticism and a master's in theatre technology and design, both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He taught theatre technology, scenic design, and theatre aesthetics for over 30 years at several universities, and has been very active with USITT.

Harvey and his wife, Peggy, will continue to reside in Waunakee, Wisconsin. The couple celebrated his retirement with an Asian cruise.

Katz Named Technical Director

Congratulations to Michael Katz who has recently been named technical director of the University of Massachusetts-Boston. Known for his thought-provoking T-shirts at every USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo, he will join the Board of Directors for a three-year term starting in July.

Mic Performs Swimmingly in *Rain*

In November, Vinny Osborne was on deadline, preparing for *Singin' in the Rain* to be performed by the Port Laois Musical Society in Ireland. He needed for an earset microphone which could better handle water immersion as well as deliver impeccable audio quality. The celebrated sound designer chose Point Source Audio's CO-5w waterproof microphone for his lead actor. Launched by Point Source Audio in April, the CO-5w is the waterproof version of PSA'S CO-5 omnidirectional earset microphone.

Video, Photos Highlight Brockman Exhibit Opening

We appreciate Brain Bjorklund sharing his photos of the opening of C. Lance Brockman's exhibit at the University of Minnesota – Minneapolis.

There is also a great [video](#) with Lance and others talking about the work on display. The exhibit runs through March 15, leaving Lance just enough time to wrap it up before heading for the 2013 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in "nearby" Milwaukee.



Photo/ Brian Bjorkland

Techni-Lux Announces New Distributorship with Mighty Bright

Techni-Lux Inc of Orlando, Florida, has partnered with Mighty Bright, a leading manufacturer of personal LED clip-on and task lights, for the specialty, entertainment, and music industries. Mighty Bright products, including the popular Orchestra Light and Duet LED Music Light, are now available from Techni-Lux.

For additional information, contact Techni-Lux at 407-857-8770, or visit www.techni-lux.com

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- **ETC:** Vienna State Opera Chooses Gio System
- **Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.:** Melbourne's Hamer Hall Features Sound Systems

MainStage LLC: Partnership Offers More to Customers

MainStage LLC, a dynamic new partnership among **Mainstage Theatrical Supply, Inc.**, **Production Advantage, Inc.**, and **Vincent Lighting Systems** was recently formed. While the three companies who have joined to form MainStage will change slightly, all remain in the same locations, staffed by the same people, and continue to provide excellent products and services.



Advantages of the merger are that customers are offered more locations, expanded product lines, and robust rental and production services.

Daktronics, Inc.: Church Adds LED Displays as Part of Campaign

As part of its Decade of Destiny campaign, Saddleback Church, based in Lake Forest, California, has added high definition LED displays supplied by **Daktronics, Inc.** to its facility.

The Decade of Destiny is the church's 10-year vision for its members. Church leaders looked at



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different types of technology to showcase the church's services.

For more information, visit Daktronics at www.daktronics.com; e-mail the company at sales@daktronics.com; call 605-692-0200 or toll-free 800-325-8766 in the United States; or write to the company at 331 32nd Ave. PO Box 5128 Brookings, S.D. 57006-5128.

Philips Strand Lighting: LED Practical, Educational at Highlander Auditorium

The Highlander Auditorium is a primary teaching location for the Baldy View Regional Occupational Program (BVRP) theatre program. Technical Director Bill Cox leads the instruction and used allocated lottery funds to upgrade the lighting system with 16 PLCyc LED luminaires from **Philips Strand Lighting** and **Philips Selecon**.

In addition to the practical theatrical applications for the Highlander Auditorium, the luminaires are useful in the career technical education programs of the BVRP.

"I am using the new lights to teach color theory and how a basic theatrical lighting system works," Mr. Cox explained.

For more information visit www.strandlighting.com or www.seleconlight.com.



Creative Stage Lighting : Company Announces Staff Changes

Creative Stage Lighting has announced a number of staff changes to prepare the company for growth in 2013.

Michael Carattini has joined the company as director of sales. He previously held leadership roles with entertainment lighting companies including Coemar, Robe, Strong, and DTS Lighting. Mr. Carattini brings in-depth

understanding of dealer sales and a high-level understanding of lighting control platforms, including Avolites lighting control. He will be responsible for sales strategy, including defining new regions and markets, determining product and market focus, and developing sales tactics. He also will be CSL's sales manager in the central region of the United States. He will report to CSL President George B. Studnicky III.



Michael Carattini

Steve Washington has joined the company as director of business development. He had leadership, development, and operations positions with Vari-Lite, PRG, and Wybron. Mr. Washington joins CSL with an extensive background in media servers and lighting control consoles. He will be responsible for developing relationships with vendor partners and overseeing certain operations, including product support. He will be CSL's sales manager in the western region of the United States and report to Mr. Studnicky III.



Steve
Washington

Within the company, George B. Studnicky IV has become vice president. He has served in the company's rental and production operations since 2000 and has been department manager since 2007. As vice president, he will be responsible for overseeing special projects within the company and working closely with the CSL management team.



George B.
Studnicky IV

Creative Stage Lighting is a manufacturer, wholesale supplier, and distributor of products for the stage and theatrical lighting professional, including lighting fixtures, consoles, lamps, filters, cables, and other lighting and electrical accessories.

Production Resource Group, L.L.C.: Mbox Studio Available

Production Resource Group, L.L.C. (PRG) announced that Mbox Studio, a software-only media server application, is now available for purchase. A compact version of the popular Mbox media server, this product can be easily installed and operated on a user-supplied, Intel-based Apple Mac computer (Intel processor, OSX 10.6.7 and higher).

Mbox Studio Version 3.6 is the first public release of the Mbox Studio. Users of Mbox Studio may also download Mbox Director, a graphical user interface (GUI) control application, at no charge. For more information about MBos Studio, visit: www.prg.com/product/mbox-studio. For more information about PRG, visit www.prg.com.

ETC: Vienna State Opera Chooses Gio System

After an extensive search over a number of years, The Vienna State Opera has taken delivery of an **ETC** Gio lighting system. The theater invested in four Gio desks, along with two ETC Remote Processor Units (RPU's) and an ETC Ion system to cover the main stage lighting, auditorium, and Kinderzelt, a tent on the roof for children.



For more information on ETC and its products, visit www.etcconnect.com

Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.: Melbourne's Hamer Hall Features Sound Systems

Following a two-year, \$136-million inside-out redevelopment, Australia's Arts Centre Melbourne reopened its Hamer Hall with one of the Southern Hemisphere's largest and most sophisticated **Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.** systems. Featuring the advanced precision beam steering technology in the CAL column array loudspeaker—which began shipping this year -- Hamer Hall is now outfitted with 147 self-powered Meyer Sound loudspeakers operating in three modes tailored to different acoustic and amplified events.



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- **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas:** Institute Gives, Receives at KCACTF Region 1
- **Alcons Audio:** Alcons BC332 Is The Readers Choice

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities: University Upgrades Membership

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities has recently upgraded its membership in USITT to that of a Sustaining member.

The Institute appreciates the increased level of support that membership category provides.

Cobalt Studios Inc.: Member Helps Theme Park Nab Brass Ring

Iceploration, a multi sensory ice show performed at Busch Gardens Tampa, recently won a prestigious IAAPA Brass Ring Award. **Cobalt Studios Inc.** of White Lake New York painted two backdrops for this production, an Amazon rainforest and the Serengeti Plain.

The Brass Ring award acknowledges outstanding achievement for live entertainment at theme parks worldwide. *Iceploration* follows the story of a boy and his grandfather as they journey to the four corners of the earth. In addition to this honor, Cobalt Studios owner Rachel Keebler will receive the 2013

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USITT's Special Education Citation award in Milwaukee this March.

Iceploration is currently performing at the Moroccan Theatre through summer 2013.

Rose Brand: Announce Ten Scholarship Finalists

Rose Brand announced the finalists of the Rose Brand Scholarship on its [Face Book Page](#).

They are *Marni Balint*, Ohio State University, graduate student; *Kyra Bishop*, Webster University, junior undergraduate student; *Sarah Brandner*, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, graduate student; *Matheus Fiuza*, Rowan University, junior undergraduate student; *Matthew Imhoff*, Michigan State, graduate student; *Natalie Khuen*, University of California - San Diego, graduate student; *Jared LeClaire*, University of West Georgia, senior undergraduate student; *Jamie Lew*, University of Southern California, junior undergraduate student; *James Ogden*, University of Texas, graduate student; and *Josafath Reynosa*, University of Tennessee, graduate student.



This year's winner will be announced at the USITT 2013 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Milwaukee, Wisconsin March 20 to 23.

The finalists will be judged by a panel of industry experts including scenic designer and Tony Award winner, Donyale Werle; the president of Scenic Art Studios, Joe Forbes; Walt Disney Imagineering designer Pete Happe; scenic and production designer and Primetime Emmy winner Joe Celli; and the owner of Tait Tower, Adam Davis.

The Rose Brand Scholarship awards \$5,000 to a student and \$2,500 in Rose Brand credit to the student's school to enhance the theatre program. The scholarship is intended for students who wish to pursue a career in scenic design.

L-ACOUSTICS: L-ACOUSTICS introduces loudspeaker modules for CATT, EASE, ODEON and LARA

New modules are now available for third party software from **L-ACOUSTICS** including CATT-Acoustics, EASE, ODEON, and LARA.



Sound designers and acousticians can simulate the L-ACOUSTICS line source arrays. Each third party software can be used in parallel with SOUNDVISION to simulate additional parameters such as total sound pressure level, intelligibility and clarity factor. This development allows acousticians to input clients' requirements into L-ACOUSTICS speaker design. Visit L-ACOUSTICS'S [download center](#).

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees: Local Signs Agreement with Audio Works

On January 28, **International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees** (IATSE) Local 63 signed a collective agreement with Audio Works. The agreement covers all of the company's employees and contract technicians except those excluded by operation of Labour Relations Act of Manitoba.

Audio Works is Manitoba's premiere, full-service sound, lighting, stage, and multimedia production company and provides equipment and services across Canada.

The new agreement includes minimum four-hour calls, coffee breaks, a newly created truck driving position and a newly created crew chief position. It was ratified unanimously by the employees of Audio Works.

Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.: Awards Scholarship, Upgrades Cloud Offering

Gabriel Munoz Moreno received the first Vectorworks Young Architects Student Scholarship awarded by **Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.** He will receive \$2,500 toward tuition and fees for his bachelor of architecture degree.

A Boston native, Mr. Moreno spent his childhood living in several European cities including Frankfurt, Brussels, Rome, Milan, and Madrid. He is working on a thesis related to sustainable architecture at San Pablo CEU University in Spain. He spent the summer of 2010 at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design.

For additional information about The Vectorworks Young Architects Student Scholarship, visit www.vectorworks.net/scholarship.

Vectorworks has released a new version of the Vectorworks Cloud Services mobile application, Vectorworks Nomad 1.0.9, and desktop application, version 1.0.14.

Users can now access previous versions of Vectorworks files synchronized to

their Vectorworks Cloud Services account, allowing them to view the history of changes and markups in each project.

Vectorworks Cloud Services is available to members of the Vectorworks Service Select subscription program. To learn more, visit www.vectorworks.net/cloudservices.

Irwin Seating Company: Redesigns Popular Seats

Irwin Seating Company recently introduced new versions of its popular Citation and Millennium models which have set the standard for durability across a wide spectrum of facilities including multi-purpose arenas, places of worship, schools, and universities.

The Citation was introduced in 1968 and was one of the first chairs to feature a plastic rear outer shell. Millions of Citation chairs are used around the world in facilities like FedEx Forum in Memphis, Tennessee, and Yankee Stadium. The Millennium was introduced in the mid '80s and has been installed in thousands of schools throughout North America in addition to facilities like the Amway Center in Orlando, Florida, and the O2 Arena in London, England.

The redesign of Citation and Millennium helps Irwin Seating Company keep costs in check. In addition to redesigned Citation and Millennium models, the company introduced the Solo Worksurface line of lecture room furniture and Integra and Solara beam mount chairs in partnership with Blue Cube, Ltd. It has reengineered its telescopic nose-mount chair mechanism which will speed up arena change-overs by allowing workers to collapse up to ten backs at once through the use of an innovative spring-assist system. For more information, visit www.irwinseating.com.

Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas: Institute Gives, Receives at KCACTF Region 1

Six winners for the **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas** Student with the Most Potential Award from KCACTF Region 1 were announced recently. They are Spencer Batho, sound; Kelly Fanton, projections; Maureen Freedman, scenic; Stephanie Harrop, SF X make-up; Rachael Perry, projections; and Michael Portrie, Sound

Jane Childs, wife the late Don Childs, co-founders of SILV, chose the winners with Jesse Dreikosen, Herrick Goldman, Natalie Kearns, and Chris Velvin. Regional volunteers who made the event seamless included Luke Sutherland, Daniel Kozar, and



Jane Childs, left, receives a special award at Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region 1 from Rafael Jaen, USITT liaison to KCACTF, who was mentored by the late Don Childs, co-

Charlie Wittreich.

founder of Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas.

In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Childs were honored with the Kennedy Center Gold Medallion for "extraordinary contributions to the teaching and producing of theatre and having significantly dedicated their time, artistry, and enthusiasm to the development of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival." Recipients have demonstrated a strong commitment to the values and goals of KCACTF and to excellence in educational theatre. It is the most prestigious regional award given by KCACTF.

Mrs. Childs accepted the award and the presenter, Rafael Jaen, was another SILV friend honored with a Gold Medallion that evening.

Alcons Audio: Alcons BC332 Is The Readers Choice

The fourth annual Live Sound International and ProSoundWeb.com Readers Choice Awards, a key signifier of the best technology in the North American professional audio market, chose **Alcons Audio's** BC332 high output cardioid subwoofer as one of the winners.

For more information visit:
www.alconsaudio.com and
www.cardioidsubwoofer.com. For
more hot news, visit Facebook:
www.facebook.com/AlconsAudio



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News From **Lea Asbell-Swanger**, *USITT President*

Institute Focused on Learning, Not Academia



Here we are, just a couple of weeks away from the 53rd Annual Conference & Stage Expo! One of the things that I enjoy receiving is a weekly update on Conference registrations. The most recent one that I was sent shows our registration numbers to be ahead of the pace of the last four conferences. We've had to increase the hotel nights in our blocks, even adding another hotel to the mix. This is a great problem to have! It seems that all kinds of people are finding value in what we offer at the Conference, yet there are still misconceptions about what USITT is.

One of the most prevalent assertions is that USITT is for students and academic institutions, and if you are not affiliated with either of these profiles, there's not much benefit to a USITT membership. Despite surveys that allow members to self-identify and that show our membership to be much more diverse, the perception persists.

Now, don't get me wrong. I have great respect and appreciation for all those who do fall within the definition of student, professor, teacher, school, or university. There is no question that those individuals and organizations provide incredible volunteer and financial support to USITT. More importantly, they will not let us forget the importance of training and education. From my vantage point, they are the spark that reminds us that learning is a lifetime pursuit.

I work at an organization that is affiliated with a university, but I am not involved

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in academic pursuits in any typical sense. Furthermore, I did not become involved with USITT until I had left my official student status behind and started full-time work. I consider myself very lucky to have had executive leadership at that time who valued and encouraged professional development of all staff, budgeted for it adequately, and expected results that benefited the organization. Therein, perhaps, lies a key to how we might add to the value and importance USITT has to offer.

In the last few months as President, I have been mindful of the proposed projects, awards, and activities that center on students. Interestingly, it's not just academically oriented people or places that have this tendency; it's everyone. What this seems to say is that the aforementioned perception about USITT is strong, but it doesn't mean we can't expand the definition of who we are. We just have to make a strategic effort to broaden the focus of proposals that come our way. Furthermore, each of us, especially those who work outside of academia – and many of us do both – have an added responsibility to share the opportunities for life-long learning that USITT provides.

Another bonus of the generational mix of USITT is the realization that learning does not stop at a certain age and the ability to teach and train doesn't magically begin at one either. Within the fast-moving technology that serves the arts and entertainment industry, we have to accept that those who have only known the business with certain technologies in place instinctively understand different and new ways to apply those technologies the rest of us haven't considered.

For those who will attend the Conference, please consider that every other attendee has knowledge to share. Ask questions across generational lines – in both directions – and listen carefully to the answers. Learn about the new products on display even if you believe you'll never have the opportunity to use them; you never know what opportunity is just around the corner. Most importantly, take the knowledge and information you find at the Conference home and share it with someone that didn't attend so they know that they *should* have.



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

Please e-mail Lea at Lea.Asbell-Swanger@usitt.org.

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- **Upstate New York:** Workshop with Beijing Olympics Designer
- **Desert State:** Phoenix Site of Annual Meeting, Conference
- **Southwest:** Winter Symposium Breaks Records
- **Southern California:** Career Fair, Design Competition

Upstate New York: Workshop with Beijing Olympics Designer

Han Lixun, the chief designer for 2008 Beijing Olympic Opening Ceremony, will be in the United States to present his work and to speak with university students. The **Upstate New York** Regional Section will host him for a workshop March 9 at the University at Buffalo Center for the Arts in Amherst, New York.

His keynote will reveal behind scenes stories of the ceremony -- including interactions with well known figures in contemporary arts.

From conceptualization and bidding to material and technical choices, from contextualizing the design in a given space to the collaboration with architects and engineers, from experimentation on mechanical, multi-media and lighting devices to testing the validity of his visual modeling, from what were not realized in the Ceremony to what has happened in China's design tech world after the Ceremony, his presentation will provide insight into China's historical inventions and contemporary culture, including its politics, ethics, aesthetics, technology, and the world of design.

He will discuss ways to meet today's societal demands in the field of arts, providing career building skills and strategies. His hour-long presentation will be followed by a question and answer opportunity.

Han Lixun graduated as a scenic designer from Shanghai Theatre Academy, China in 1985, and later studied the art of space design at Art Academy in Dusseldorf, Germany (under Karl Kneidl). His career spans theatrical design, event design, interior design, theme-park design, public art, art installation, and site specific theatre.

More information can be found [here](#).

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Desert State: Phoenix Site of Annual Meeting, Conference

On January 21, the **Desert State Regional** Section held its annual meeting and conference at Xavier Preparatory Academy in Phoenix, Arizona. Preston Dolye and his staff graciously gave up their day off and were extremely accommodating.

Rose Brand's Peter Monahan gave the keynote address, and eleven seminars were held. Barbizon Arizona sponsored breakfast for the attendees and Clearwing brought their grill and cooked up burgers with all the fixings. The Section also presented the immediate past Chair, Fran Sutherland, with a gavel for her years of service as the Chair and ringleader.

Sessions included "What to Bring to an Interview" in the morning and mock interviews were held for participants in the afternoon. Both college and high school students had the opportunity to practice interviewing skills with local industry professionals. Clyde Parker and Anthony Rufulo joined Lisa Adamsen and Ben Alexander in this session.

Gail Wolfenden-Steib demonstrated the "The Airbrush is Your Friend," and Nathan Ward, an instructor at the host facility, educated the group on "The Art and Craft of Steel."

Participants even had the opportunity to practice bending steel. Jill Maurer and David Empey brought lighting toys and explained "The Future Without the Light Bulb," and Almir Lejilc explained in the audio session "Which is the Right Mic." Tim Trumble enlightened the group on "Photographing Your Show," and Peter Monahan clarified "Everything You Didn't Think You Needed to Know About Your Soft Goods." Erica Black and Tom Aberger provided tools to help in "Dealing with People You Can't Stand."



Not only were there seminars and discussions, Desert State acknowledged two University Chapters with both a certificate and monetary compensation. To qualify, a Student Section needs to have a minimum of five members, be officially sanctioned by their educational institution, list their fund raising goals and activities, and explain what the funds will be used for. Northern Arizona University and Arizona State University were this year's recipients.

Desert State also awarded three Student Award Scholarships to attend the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo and a one year National Student Membership. Congratulations to Julia Glover, Gabriela (Gabby) Higuera, and Stephanie Nguyen.

The Section Meeting in Milwaukee will again have breakfast sponsored by Barbara and Louis Bradfield, Friends of Desert State USITT, and Jennie and Jerry Gorrell of Theatre Safety Programs.

Southwest: Winter Symposium Breaks Records

Members of **Southwest** Regional Section, other professional theatre practitioners, and related artists from around the country gathered for a weekend of workshops, discussions, speeches, design/tech responses, competition, and networking January 18 through 20. The Winter Symposium held at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas was the best attended in the history of the organization.

Students got a chance to set up their displays Friday night. By Saturday morning, 71 entries were in place and the attendees gathered for a welcome followed by the first round of workshops and responses to the students' work.

Saturday provided the participants with hours of design/tech responses, 11 workshops, and two thought-provoking speakers. Judy Dolan, the 1997 Tony Award winner for Best Costume Design, and Arthur Edward Chadwick, the set designer for *Dexter* and 2012 *Criminal Minds*, shared their thoughts with the group. Sunday there were 12 more workshops, a membership meeting, and finally the awards ceremony for the design/tech competition. Workshops were held in making tutus, cold foam make-up, dyeing, puppetmaking, scene painting, welding, microphone placement, sound engineering, projection surfaces, lighting for dance, rendering techniques in Photo Shop, production work and paperwork, production management, and interviewing.



More than 200 people from Western Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas, and guests from California, Massachusetts, and Virginia participated in the event.



Southern California: Career Fair, Design Competition

The Southern California Regional Section held its Sixth Annual Career Fair and Design Competition on the campus of Cal State Los Angeles. Great thanks go to hosts Anne McMills and Meredith Greenberg. The day kicked off with a short Section meeting and an inspiring address by keynote speaker Jim Moody, a Fellow of USITT.

Many professionals and educators volunteered to do portfolio reviews for the students. Staff and student volunteers led visitors on tours of the Luckman Theatre complex. Many vendors were on hand to talk to participants, show off new products (sneak peek at the new ETC board), and provide information on internships and summer positions with their companies. Vendors who sponsored and hosted tables at the event were Rose Brand, ETC, GAM, Selecon, Strand, Disney Technical Services, Debbie's Book, PCPA, PRG, Cal State LA, Cal State Fullerton, MPA, and H & H Specialties.

Sessions and workshops included "A Look at the New LED Fixtures" by David Hilton of ETC; "Stage Management: Student to Pro" by Ms. Greenberg of CSULA; "Transferring the Rendering : From Small Art to Big Arts" by Mary Heilman of Cal Arts; "Employers' Expectations of Costume Shop Staff" by Suzanne Shultz Reed of Pomona College; "Sketch-up; Using Current Technology to Spice Up Your Design" by Chris Sinnott of Palomar College; and "Multi-media for the Theatre" by Adam Flemming.

Committee members included Ms. McMills, Ms. Greenberg, Jeff Flowers, Jeff Allen, Brian Reed, Steve Schweitzer, Chris Sinnott, Michael Vitale, Donna Parsons, Jeff Hickman, Thomas Hird, James Taylor, and Jon Lagerquist.

Section members are looking forward to next year's event on the campus of PCPA in Santa Maria.

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News From **David Grindle**, *USITT Executive Director* **Always Making Improvements**



Ideas for programming, sessions, or displays that spark conversation and learning are always welcome.

Photo/USITT Archive

March brings my third conference as Executive Director and 12th overall. That's still relatively few compared to some of our members, but not an insignificant amount either.

As Executive Director, I hear lots of comments about the Conference, both good and bad. They come both solicited and unsolicited. They are often completely opposite opinions on the same topic, but all are heard and many lead to action.

USITT is proud that we have a wide range of members. Some segments are more vocal than others, but that doesn't mean we aren't aware of the need to program for each. Yes, there is only so much that can be offered in each Conference day. The physics of time and space restrict us, but it means we must be more cautious stewards of what we program.

One topic that comes up each year is programming. The most common is "Why do you schedule all of the good sessions at the exact same time?" I will say that it takes great conspiracy and plotting to do so. It is a remarkable feat to accomplish this for every attendee, but we have an entire team of volunteers

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and staff that adjusts the programming algorithm to insure everyone's favorite topics are programmed against each other. There -- it has now been admitted.

The real tough ones are the people who tell me they don't come to our Conference because of the programming. One recent e-mail noted, "USITT is so heavily geared toward the academic world and not those of us who work in non-academic settings. A majority of the sessions at USITT have something to do with primarily teaching at the college level." When I look at our programming, I can't wholly disagree.

Our Institute is one with a diverse membership, so our programming must work harder to reflect that range of interest and levels. This topic is being discussed by the Board and Conference leadership, but that conversation must extend beyond just the leadership. We hear a broad spectrum of membership calling for programming that is relevant to all segments of our community. We work on that throughout the year, but the Annual Conference, our cornerstone event, must highlight it.

We are making changes to the way we create programs, to the timeline for creating and presenting sessions, and to the funding needed to create a quality experience for all. It can't be done in a void. You, the member, must assist. Suggest topics that you want to hear about and presenters who excite you. Each Commission has a Vice-Commissioner for Programming; reach out to yours. Or send ideas to the staff; we'll pass them on.

We can and will do better with the quality and level of our discussions. On the USITT website you can search our Conference sessions this year by "ability level." Each session has been labeled with a focus audience. Some topics are for everyone, but some aren't. To let us know how we're doing, you can rate each session via the Conference app once you attend. With this information, we can follow through with offerings best suited to the needs of our attendees.

We are finding ways to provide programming at all levels year-round, but the Conference should be the place where we spotlight the best of our knowledge for everyone. It only takes a tap or three to provide session feedback to us via the app this year. Let your voice be heard. What topics should we address in the future and at what ability level? It is your Institute; raise your voice and help us make it more helpful and relevant to you at every stage of your career.



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

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

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Conference & Stage Expo

ETC Has Big Plans for USITT 2013

Laura Hoepker *ETC*

ETC's main lobby in Madison is an impressive sight.

Photo/ETC

At Milwaukee's 2013 Conference & Stage Expo, ETC and USITT will mark 30 years of exhibiting, educating, and celebrating the craft of theatre. The first show was USITT 1983 in Corpus Christi, when Fred and his wife Susan loaded up Fred's parents' Volvo with a booth and an ELC (Entertainment Lighting Console) which later became the Concept, and drove on down to introduce the market to ETC.

Since then, we have been dedicated to USITT and the things we love most about this event -- teaching students and educators about our products; showing new gear to consultants, specifiers and end-users; and supporting great programming like the New Product Showcase, Tech Olympics, Light Lab, and the Lighting Commission and its sessions. My favorite part of USITT is the community of theatre professionals and friends that the Conference brings together for a fun and exhausting (in a good way!) week.

This year, ETC will have more new products, presentations in the Layers of Light Theater, and even more fun! We have a lot going on! You can sign up to visit the ETC headquarters on Tuesday, where you will tour our factory, have lunch with Fred in Century Theater, and then take a trip to downtown Madison to tour the Overture Center for the Arts. Come to the ETC product booth to see

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ETC's newest lighting control desk and cool new fixtures. Then head over to the Layers of Light Theater to find out why "It's not easy being green," how to layer new ETC fixtures into a hybrid rig, and what is new in ETC Rigging.

The always popular student session will be held in the theatre on Saturday at the close of the show. Students should stop at the reception desk beforehand to get an all-access pass.

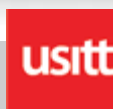
Watch for ETC personnel in a number of sessions throughout the Conference including Steve Terry with Randy Early at the Opening Night celebration, sharing their thoughts on the subject of "Technology: Is it the Tail or the Dog?"

We look forward to seeing everyone in Milwaukee... and to another great 30 years together!

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Conference & Stage Expo

Seek Portfolio Review Participants

Anne E. McMills *Lighting Design & Technology Commission*



Lighting Design & Technology Portfolio Reviews are beneficial for both those conducting the reviews and those whose work is examined.

While preparing for USITT's 2013 Conference & Stage Expo – registering for the Conference, making hotel and flight arrangements, planning what sessions to attend, and which booths to visit first – consider joining the Lighting Design & Technology Commission's portfolio review as either a presenter or a reviewer.

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

The overall review process takes 30 to 45 minutes for each review and is a constructive way to participate in Commission-sponsored activities. Anyone with a degree in lighting, currently working in the professional or educational lighting field, and interested in having a hand in shaping the future of upcoming lighting designers should consider becoming a reviewer.

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

For more information, e-mail Anne E McMills at amcmill3@calstatela.edu. Those who wish to present can find further information [here](#).

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Conference & Stage Expo

Only in Milwaukee: Sessions & Events That Showcase Local Arts

LeRoy Stoner *Milwaukee Promotions Committee*



You've heard the real estate maxim, "Location, location, location!" USITT is taking advantage of our 2013 Annual Conference & Stage Expo location to bring you some of Milwaukee's artistic treasures, via sessions and tours you can experience "Only in Milwaukee."

Besides our daylong [Regional Events](#), our Milwaukee planners have arranged a few shorter "OIM" events that capitalize on the wealth of local talent.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20:

- ~ 9:30 -10:45 a.m., **Costume Solutions in Dance.** The Milwaukee Ballet, founded in 1970, has become one of the nation's top ballet companies, and Mary Piering has been its Costume director since 1984. Join her and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Costume Design Prof. Pamela Rehberg for a look at pattern, construction, and craft solutions that have been part of the Milwaukee Ballet's lavish production work. Delta Center Room 202BC.
- ~ 9:30 -10:45 a.m. **Historical Theatre Preservation.** Milwaukee has successfully saved and preserved several historical theatres, including Milwaukee's "jewel box," the 1895 Pabst Theatre. Join Casey Guilfoyle, a

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stage technician and licensed electrician who has worked on several historic projects, for a discussion of these efforts as case studies for theatres in the area. Delta Center Room 201C.

- **~1- 2:15 p.m. Collaborating on *Peter and the Wolf*.** Learn how the Milwaukee Ballet Academy, the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center and the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra collaborated to mount an all-student production of *Peter and the Wolf* in 2012. This extraordinary cooperative venture between youth and adult performance groups set an inspiring example. A discussion of how they did it includes Artistic Director John Maclay of First Stage Children's Theatre, Choreographer Michael Pink of the Milwaukee Ballet Academy, Conductor Carter Simmons of the Milwaukee Youth Symphony and Costume Designer Pam Rehberg of UW-Milwaukee. The shows were held at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, itself a collaboration between First Stage and the MYSO. Delta Center Room 103D.
- **~ 1- 4 p.m. Milwaukee Theatre Walking Tour.** Visit the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's three-theater venue housed in a former power plant; the beautifully restored Pabst Theatre; the Riverside Theatre concert hall and the Turner Hall Ballroom, both historic gems that were rebuilt after devastating fires; and the history-laced Milwaukee Theatre --- all within four blocks of the Delta Center! Led by experts: UW-Milwaukee Professor LeRoy Stoner and Theatre Architect Scott Georgeson.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21:

- **~ 9:00-11 a.m. Painting the Skylight Theatre.** Catch a shuttle to the Skylight Music Theatre's former commercial warehouse building to see and hear how Skylight renovated the interior of its 358-seat Cabot Theatre to resemble an opulent European opera house. Join Diane Fargo, professor of scene painting at Boston University, and Cobalt Studios' Rachel Keebler for a tour and description of how the faux painting work was conducted.
- **~ 9:30-10:45 a.m., Milwaukee Skylight: A Theatre in the Void** tells the story of how an empty warehouse in Milwaukee's historic Third Ward was converted by the Broadway Theatre Center into a theatre building that now houses the Skylight Music Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre and Renaissance Theaterworks – spurring growth and investment in the area. Theatre architect Scott F. Georgeson of Milwaukee's Workshop Architects Inc. leads the session. Delta Center Room 201 C.
- **~ 12:30-3 p.m. Theatre of the Fraternity Tour: Creating the World of Freemasonry.** A shuttle to the Humphrey Scottish Rite Masonic Center transports you to the world of Freemasonry to explore the magnificent settings of the Wisconsin Scottish Rite Foundation. The Freemasons used painted illusionary wing and drop settings to enhance the initiation experience and capture the market of "a nation of joiners." Presenters C. Lance Brockman, professor of scene design at the University of Minnesota, and Wendy Waszut-Barrett, an expert in historic backdrops, take you on a historical and visual journey. Sign up at 7:45 a.m. Wednesday.

■ ~ **1-2;30 P.M. The Power Plant and the Rep: 25 Years Later.** Take a look back at how Milwaukee’s circa-1900 East Wells Power Plant, known as the Oneida Street Station, was converted in 1987 to the Patty and Jay Baker Theater Complex, housing three theatre spaces for the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. Find out how the space is used today in a discussion featuring users, consultants, and architects, led by Scott Georgeson. Delta Center Room 201C.

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Conference & Stage Expo

Commission Adds to Leadership

David Glowacki *Health & Safety Commission*

After a year of investigation and consideration, the Health & Safety Commission will make an administrative change to take effect with the 2013 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Commission has added two Vice-Commissioners for Programming – one for Safety Programming and one for Health Programming.

Bill Reynolds will be Vice-Commissioner for Safety Programming, and Bryan Huneycutt will be Vice-Commissioner for Health Programming.

The programming responsibilities will be shared, allowing both VCs to have more time during annual Conferences to network and develop programming ideas for future events. The change will help achieve better balance between safety- and health-oriented sessions. The additional leadership will help identify and develop future presenters, session chairs, and leaders. The Commissioner will have greater freedom to identify and develop new initiatives to help meet the needs of the industry.

Bill Reynolds has been on the faculty at Yale University School of Drama since 1982, and is the director of theatre safety and occupational health for Yale School of Drama/Yale Repertory Theatre. He teaches theatre safety and health classes and workshops in risk management for graduate students in several departments at YSD/YRT. Previously, he was the director of facility operations for YSD/YRT. He graduated with a bachelor of arts from Northern Michigan University in 1973 and received a master of fine arts from the Yale School of Drama, Dept. of Technical Design and Production in 1977. Mr. Reynolds has presented theater safety, occupational health, and life safety sessions for the New England Theater Conference; the Campus Safety, Health and Environmental Managers Assn.; the American Occupational Health Conference; USITT; and InfoComm.

Mr. Huneycutt is the area manager for entertainment safety integration for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Creative Entertainment with a focus on injury reduction and prevention efforts. He graduated from the University of North Carolina-Charlotte and attended graduate school at George Washington University in the tourism administration program with a concentration in event and meeting management. He has worked for Disney Entertainment in many different capacities over his 20 years with the company. In his current role, he works with creative, production and operational teams to ensure that safety is front-of-mind in all aspects of entertainment, from creative concept to daily

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Conference & Stage Expo

Costume Poster Sessions Offers Many Techniques

M.C. Friedrich *Costume Design & Technology Commission*

Participants in the 17th Costume Design & Technology Poster Session will be featured from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, March 21 at the 2013 Conference & Stage Expo in Milwaukee.

Those attending will be able to meet and chat with the presenters and ask specific questions about what they are sharing. In many cases, the actual pieces that are the topics of the presentations will be available.

There are 25 posters being presented this year. Learn about helmets (medieval and WWI), 1940s hairstyles, and pantyhose wigs. See others' solutions for rich opera costumes, embroidered patches, and clever boning and hoop skirts. Want to use half-scale forms more after last year's hands-on sessions? Learn design and patterning techniques for the classroom. See tips and tricks for detailed and handwork techniques, real and faux, for tatting, glove making, and blackwork.

Crave high tech, order and/or clear communication? Find the posters on iPad uses, fabric storage, silhouette cutting machines, and visual dressing sheets.

Love costume history? There will be presentations on Felician nun's habits, period color palettes, and transforming historic stays and corsets. Using lighted costumes or costuming non-humans? Find the posters on glowing hearts and lighted fairies, a latex reptile man, and a bronze statue.



This illustration prepared by Lisa Lantz, Assistant Professor with the Theatre/Dance Department of Luther College is from the USITT 2008 Costume Poster Session archive. See what's new at the 2013 session.

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Conference & Stage Expo

Seek 2014 Award Nominees, Session Suggestions

Jonathan Allender-Zivic *Education Commission*

Know an outstanding high school or secondary education teacher who demonstrates exemplary pedagogical skills and an outstanding commitment to the training of future theatre artists? The Education Commission is looking for nominations for the 2014 Distinguished Achievement Award.



Nomination letters should be addressed directly to the Education Commission and may not come from the nominated individual. The recipient of the Education Commission's Distinguished Achievement Award is recognized at the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo as part of the Commission's event programming.

The following criteria should be considered while crafting a nomination:

- Membership in USITT is not required although activity in national organizations of theatre practice is noteworthy.
- Demonstration of a strong history of notable student achievement during and beyond the secondary education level is extremely important. Specific profiles of such success should be outlined.
- While a nominated educator may not have a discernable national reputation, the nomination letter must clearly demonstrate possession of an "extra something" which sets the instructor apart from other colleagues.
- Specific, strong support from one or more organizations such as EdTA, ITS, or VTA is a very useful platform upon which to build a nomination. Such groups may wish to create nomination letters or dossiers to submit to the Education Commission.

All nominations are due by March 8, 2013 and should be submitted to: Professor Matthew Allar, USITT Education Commission DAA Chair, College of William and Mary, Department of Theatre, Speech, and Dance, P.O. Box 8795, Williamsburg, VA 23187

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The Education Commission is also looking for input on programming for the 2014 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Fort Worth. Topics related to theatre technology and education can be submitted via a proposal form on the [USITT Education Commission website](#) or [click here](#). Proposals are due by March 11.

Questions about the submission process or appropriate topics should be directed to usitt.educomm@gmail.com

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As of October 15, 2012

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