



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

October 2013

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FORT WORTH MARCH 26-29



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USITT's Executive Director: The Artists Among Us

We sometimes become so used to the massive amount of creativity we see and engage with each day, it can take a special setting to open our eyes... [more »](#)



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Get (re) Engaged

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News & Notices

Taylor Named 2014 Distinguished Achiever in Education

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*

When USITT's Awards Committee announced it selected high school teacher Dana Taylor for a 2014 Distinguished Achievement Award in Education, no one was surprised – except him.

"I was surprised to be nominated and even more shocked that I got it," he said. "I mean, this is pretty impressive company to be in. I lack a Tony Award. The only thing I have in common with Ming Cho Lee (2006 Winner) is a consonant and a vowel."

Mr. Taylor will receive the award at the [2014 Annual Conference & Stage Expo](#) March 26 to 29 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mr. Taylor has spent 25 years teaching professional standards, best practices, and excellence in theatre technology at the high school level – and he admits that is rare.

"It's hard not to be noteworthy when so few people are doing what you do," he joked.

Michael Mehler, Chair of the Awards & Resolutions Committee, called him "one of the most knowledgeable people involved in technical theatre education at the secondary school level."

A singer, conductor, and choral music teacher, Mr. Taylor's devotion to theatre technology arose almost accidentally when he started teaching chorus at Mount Vernon High School in Indiana in 1989. The school had just renovated its auditorium.

"They decided they needed an auditorium manager, and the choir room was right next door, so I got the job," he said. "It was more a matter of proximity than ability, but sometimes that's how things work."

He arrived at Mount Vernon with a passion for choral music and lucked into a second passion for technical theatre, he said. His auditorium manager role led to a theatre tech class team-taught with a drama teacher. He got absorbed in learning theatre tech from classes, books, friends in local theatre, "lots of trial



Dana Taylor

and error working with kids," and, eventually, USITT.

In 1997, he formed a USITT student chapter, and has brought students to several USITT Conferences. Since then, his school has formed a Fine Arts Academy and pumped over a quarter of a million dollars into state-of-the-art sound, lighting, and rigging equipment for its students, he said.

Besides mounting four school productions a year, the 60 students in the program do outside work, including scene and lighting for the Evansville Philharmonic's annual Peppermint Pops concert, which pays for their USITT Conference trips.

"I tell kids going to the Conference, 'You are going to a place where everyone is just as geeky as you,' where they see a chain hoist and go, *Wow!*" he said. "It's a place where they aren't just the kids backstage in black T-shirts – they are colleagues."

Since 2007, his students have been giving back to their colleagues with a fundraiser inspired by Fellow Bill Sapsis and his [Long Reach Long Riders](#) annual motorcycle ride for Behind the Scenes, an [ESTA](#) charity for industry professionals facing illness or injury. The Mount Vernon Short Reach Short Riders tricycle race annually raises \$1,500 to \$2,000 for Behind the Scenes.

Mr. Taylor's involvement in USITT has led to writing and editing work for *Projection Lights and Staging News*, *Dramatics*, and *Teaching Theatre* magazines, and service on the board of the ESTA Foundation. He has received many awards for his work as an educator and artist, including the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana's 2011 Artist of the Year Award.

He says his greatest satisfaction is in seeing students grow and achieve -- in theatre and beyond.

That's a quality worthy of the spotlight.

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Seeking Member Authors

Members of USITT who have recently published a book can be part of the Member Author Book signing event at the 2014 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Fort Worth. Members who have published a book, or are scheduled to release a book during 2013 may participate in the program. This is a great opportunity to promote a book and help USITT share the work of the membership. Deadline to apply is November 15 and books must be printed and available for purchase by December 31. Those interested should contact Carol Carrigan at carol@usitt.org or 800-938-7488, ext. 106 for more details.

ETCP Testing Offered at LDI 2013

The ETCP Examinations will be given at LDI 2013 in Las Vegas, Nevada Saturday, November 23. All three ETCP examinations will be given in one morning session. Those interested must submit their application, along with supporting materials and fee, to the ETCP office no later than October 28.

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

Free Webinar on Live Event Safety

The Event Safety Alliance and Take 1 are offering "A 60-Minute Introduction to Producing Safer Live Events" in webinar format at 2 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Wednesday, November 13, 2013.

Registration is now open at [this website](#).

A week after the Event Safety webinar, the Event Safety Alliance will take its message of "be prepared" to LDI 2013 where it will host a presentation entitled "The Event Safety Guide: The Future of Safe, Responsible Show Production" on November 23, 2013 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Las Vegas Convention Center. At 3:30 p.m. the same day, the ESA will host a 90-minute roundtable discussion entitled "You Are The ESA" at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Announce Sixth A-ha! Program Recipients

MetLife Foundation and Theatre Communications Group (TCG) announce the sixth round recipients of the MetLife/TCG A-ha! Program: Think It, Do It, which empowers TCG member theatres to take groundbreaking approaches to artistic, managerial, production, and/or technological challenges and opportunities. Seven theatres were awarded grants totaling \$250,000 to either research and develop new ideas, or experiment and implement innovative concepts.

The A-ha! Program has two components: Think It grants (\$25,000), which give theatre professionals the time and space for research and development and Do It grants (\$50,000), which support the implementation and testing of new ideas.

The 2013 MetLife/TCG A-ha! Program recipients are:

THINK IT

- Bag&Baggage Productions (Hillsboro, Oregon)
- Children's Theatre Company (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
- Golden Thread Productions (San Francisco, California)
- National Black Theatre, Inc. (New York, New York)

DO IT

- Center Theatre Group (Los Angeles, California)
- The Playwrights' Center (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
- Young Playwrights' Theater (Washington, D.C.)

More information about the program and previous recipients is [available here](#). To read reports from the sixth round of recipients, [click here](#).

For more information on the MetLife Foundation, visit www.metlife.org. For more information on Theatre Communications Group (TCG), visit www.tcg.org.

Union Supports Behind the Scenes at All Levels

At the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) General Executive Board Meeting in July in Boston the board approved a \$25,000 donation to Behind the Scenes.

Some Locals and Regions voted on donations during the convention while

others acted immediately upon returning home. Those Locals who have already stepped up to follow the International's lead include United Scenic Artists Local 829, Makeup Artists & Hair Stylists Guild Local 706, Motion Picture Costumers Local 705, and Florida Studio Mechanics Local 477. Individual members have also contributed generously, sometimes in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

Behind the Scenes provides financial assistance to entertainment technology professionals who are seriously ill or injured. For more information about Behind the Scenes, to donate, or to apply for a grant, visit

www.estafoundation.org/bts.htm.

Three Standards Available for Review

Three PLASA standards recently have been posted to the [Technical Standard Public Review Page](#). The last day to comment for these three standards is October 7.

BSR E1.4 - 201x, Entertainment Technology — Manual Counterweight Rigging Systems, describes the design, construction, and installation of manually powered counterweight rigging systems used in theatres to support and move scenery and lighting equipment. The 2009 edition of the standard is being revised to include additional essential safety requirements.

BSR E1.37-2 - 201x, Additional Message Sets for ANSI E1.20 (RDM) – Part 2, IPv4 & DNS Configuration Messages, provides additional get/set parameter messages (PIDs) for use with the ANSI E1.20 Remote Device Management protocol. Messages in this document are intended for configuring network interfaces and Domain Name System settings on devices with an IPv4 address.

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.

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

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To Open Grant Award Applications

Rich Dunham *Chair, Grants & Fellowships Committee*

It's fall and time for another round of applications for financial awards made possible through the USITT Grants & Fellowship Program.

The Grants & Fellowship program is open to all USITT members and, in alternating years, offers significant funding to Project Grants or Research Fellowships. This year, the Committee will accept applications for Grant Awards. Grant applications will be accepted until January 10. Anyone interested in the Grants program should visit the [Grants & Fellowship Program's web pages](#) for further information and application materials. Members should also receive information this fall.

Each year USITT's Grants and Fellowship Committee awards approximately \$20-30,000 in funding to grant and fellowship proposals that have been made by members. These programs provide funding to help complete research in areas of study that are related to the industry. This study may come through conducting research into historical or cultural elements of theatrical design and technology, exploring significant (both known and unknown) theatre artists and crafts people, or researching the development of a new technology.

The funding provided by the program can also stimulate other granting sources by reinforcing the credibility of a researcher's work. A number of past award winners have had new avenues of research opened and personal development opportunities realized by having this funding provide the seed money that was required to complete projects.

Over the years, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been provided to USITT members through individual grants and fellowship funding provided primarily by



Michael Mehler discusses innovations in sustainable theatre with Anthony Runfola in the Tempe Performing Arts Center lobby. Mr. Mehler was assisting in research supported by the USITT Grants & Fellowships program.

Photo/Paul Brunner

the Edward F. Kook Fund. While this funding has provided the means of bringing an individual's research into reality, it also benefits the rest of the membership and industry. As a stipulation of receiving funding from USITT, researchers are expected to share their research by writing articles for *TD&T* or making panel presentations at the Annual Conferences.

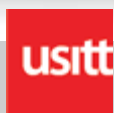
Paul Brunner, who received one of last year's awards, and Michael Mehler co-authored an article that appeared in the most recent edition of *TD&T*.

Several notable projects that have been fulfilled through past recipients of USITT funding include; Lance Brockman's research on historical scene painting and the Twin City Scenic Project, Deborah Bell's research and continued publications regarding the ancient art of mask making, and Robert Gerlach's research into the color rendering abilities in using LEDs as a light source –which became a significant element of the Selador 7-channel LED lighting system found in ETC luminaires. The 2013 round of fellowship awards currently being sponsored include Howard Kutz's research on costuming during the Federal Theatre Project, Helene Siebrits, research at the Amrita Performing Arts Centre in Cambodia, and Anita Easterling's research of Indian scenic designer Khaled Choudhury.

Individuals and corporate members interested in contributing to the Kook Fund can make tax deductible contributions by contacting the National Office at 800-938-7488, ext. 102 or making an [online contribution](#).

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Save on inbound and third-party shipping! When ordering from a supplier, take advantage of the **USITT Freight Savings Plan**. If the order weighs under 150 pounds, tell the supplier to ship via FedEx Ground Collect or Bill Recipient.



Need it quickly? Choose FedEx Express and give the supplier your account number. For less-than-truckload (LTL) shipments, select YRC Freight or FedEx Freight. Written routing instructions can be found at www.siriani.com/ib3Pfedex_LTL. For help routing inbound shipments, call Siriani at 1-800-554-0005 or e-mail solutions@siriani.com.



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News & Notices

Making Schools Safer, One Stage at a Time

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*



Fall means back to school and back to stage -- time for schools to apply for USITT's Rigging Safety Initiative. [Apply here!](#)

The program offers free stage rigging inspections and safety training to 10 schools twice a year, in spring and fall. Since launching the program in 2011, USITT has approved free inspections for 42 high school stages around the nation.

One of them, Arapahoe High School in Centennial, Colorado, shared this success story:

High school drama teacher Ian Ahern read about the Rigging Safety Initiative in an e-mail last spring and realized he had no idea when his auditorium's rigging was last inspected.

"It turned out the school administration wasn't sure either, so we realized it was something we should have done," he said.

The school applied for and got a free inspection that found worn rope locks on its 25-line counterweight system that could fail if not addressed.

"I am so pleased," Mr. Ahern said. "This was something I wouldn't have thought of, and if I did, I wouldn't know who to talk to. So it was a great help."

JR Clancy of Syracuse, New York, helped USITT found the Rigging Safety Initiative with a \$25,000 donation. Three other rigging companies -- ETC of Middleton, Wisconsin; Shepard Exposition Services of Atlanta, Georgia; and H&H Specialties of South El Monte, California -- became sponsors this year.

Thanks to the sponsors and participating contractors, USITT can help schools obtain top-notch inspections and a four-hour safety class for up to eight staff and students for a reduced rate of about \$1,000 per school -- paid for by the program.

All stage rigging should be inspected regularly, but since schools aren't covered by OSHA, they're not legally required to do so. USITT wants to establish best safety practices at the high school level and eliminate cost as a reason to put off an inspection.

Ian Ahern is in his fourth year at Arapahoe High School. He jumped at the chance for a free inspection, he said. On approval, USITT sent a list of participating contractors in his area. He saw the name Norcostco and called. "I had used them for props and costumes, but I didn't know they did rigging inspections," he said. "School let out on Memorial Day, and we got our inspection June 1."

"It went really well," he said. "The inspector was super-friendly and showed me a lot of things I didn't know about counterweight systems. He gave me a breakdown of what needed immediate attention, what could be improved over time, and what I might need to think about five or 10 years down the road. And he trained me on what students should do to be safe."

Since school was out, Mr. Ahern took the training solo and will hold his own safety sessions for stage crews, starting with the fall play, *Romeo and Juliet*, he said.

As for the rigging, the school has a work order to replace worn rope locks on all 25 lines before the play opens. "The work will cost \$700 to \$1,000, but I have repair money in my budget, and it's so well worth it," Mr. Ahern said. "I am so grateful we received this aid to improve safety measures for students in the theatre."

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International Artist Exchange Grant Now Open

USITT is offering grants of up to \$5,000 to help educational institutions bring international theatre artists to their programs to teach and interact with U.S. students.

The International Artist Exchange Grant supports collaborative projects involving at least two institutions. The sponsored artist must specialize in a field of interest to USITT members, and institutions must document the experience and share it via a visual presentation or published report.

[Application and eligibility information for 2014 grants can be found here.](#)

This will be the second round for the International Artist Exchange Grant. The first grant brought Japanese scenic designer Toru Shimakawa to Ohio Northern University and the University of Oklahoma for several weeks in spring 2012.

Mr. Shimakawa participated in the 2012 USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach, California; served as designer and artist-in-residence at Northern Ohio University for a production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; and then traveled to the University of Oklahoma to guest teach for a week.

Other international artist projects could include workshops, courses, symposia, production appointments, exhibitions, or Regional Section conferences.

The International Artist Exchange Grant does require a financial commitment from the institutions involved; they must provide at minimum a combined match to the USITT funding.



Scenic Designer Toru Shimakawa worked on the production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* at Ohio Northern University in April of 2012 as part of the first USITT International Artist Exchange Grant.

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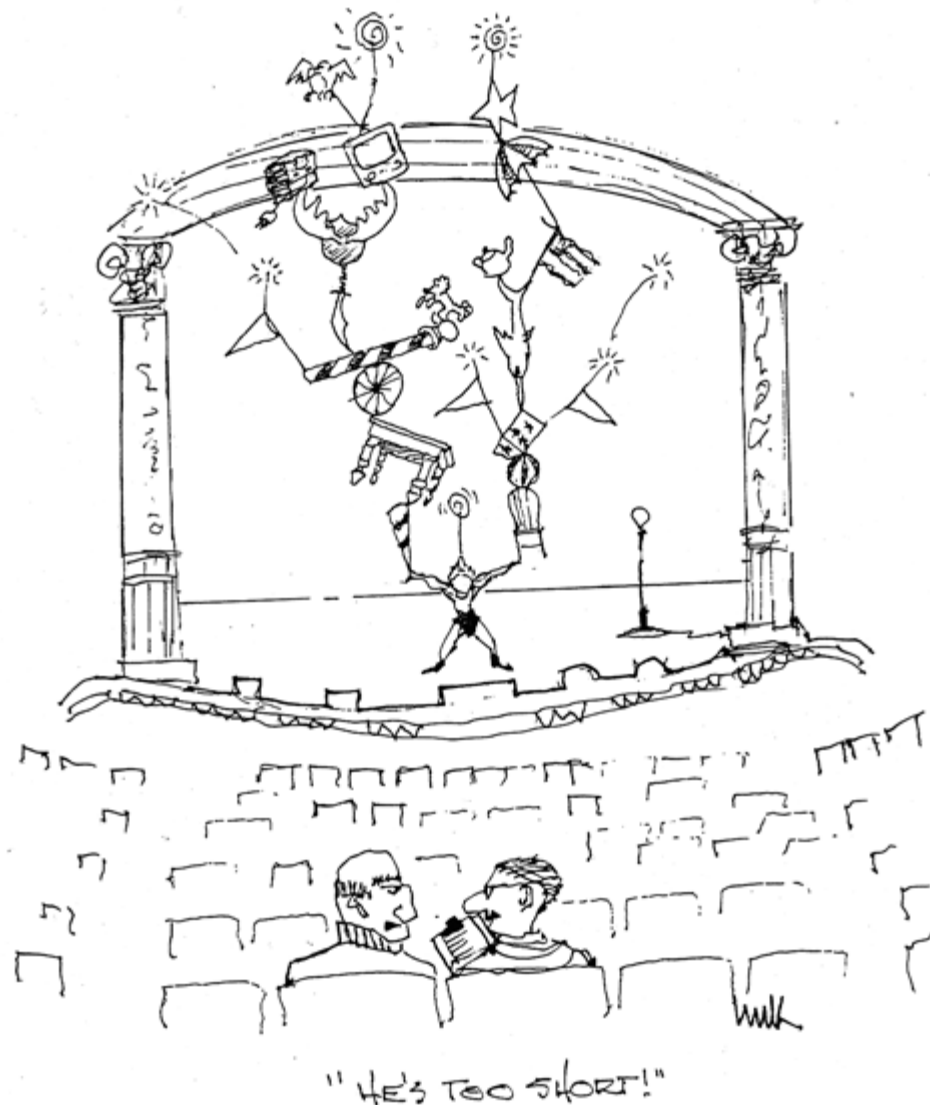
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The Last Word:



by Michael Devine

As many of us start new seasons, we appreciate the humor of Michael Devine. This, and many of his other cartoons, will be included in a volume of his work which is being published early in 2014.

Mr. Devine was honored with the 2012 Distinguished Achievement Award in Scene Design.

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Promoting Competition Between Students

We thank Beth Martell, Technical Production Commissioner, for letting us know about this great competition which will lead to an appearance at the 2015 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. This is what we call "planning ahead." News about the event is below.

Midwest Mechanical Design Competition

For the past seven years, students from The University of Illinois and Indiana University have faced off in a mechanical design competition, pitting dart launchers, tennis ball cannons, basketball shooters, and other small mechanical prototypes against each other to determine who had the best design. This year the participants will build baseball pitching machines, and it's your turn to join in. Theatre students – grad or undergrad – are eligible to enter the competition and compete in the shootout on May 10. The winner gets a free pass to the 2015 USITT National Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio and a shiny acrylic trophy, courtesy of the Midwest Regional Section. [To find out more click here.](#) The competition is a ways off, but registration is limited, so act now.

Teachers, this makes a great project for technical direction students to hone their design and prototyping skills. This competition can be worked into a graded class. To incorporate this project into a class, e-mail bmartell@illinois.edu with anticipated enrollment so space can be held for the class.

Free Subscriptions to Costume Publication

The Costume Society of America is offering free electronic newsletter subscriptions to non-members. The newsletter contains information about current and future museum exhibits, new books, events, museum jobs, and similar topics. To subscribe, contact the newsletter editor at e-news@costumesocietyamerica.com

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Rose Brand: Three Join Rose Brand

Three people were recently added to **Rose Brand's** staff.

Nicole Kerrigan joins the sales team in the New Jersey office. She has more than a decade of experience working on entertainment and event production. Prior to Rose Brand, She spent many years as a project manager at Global Scenic Services, Showman Fabricators and other organizations. Notable projects include set development for ABC Eyewitness News in New York City and the Fox News Presidential Debates, as well as exhibit space and branded office environment development for Chicago Bears Halas Hall. Ms. Kerrigan's education includes a BFA from SUNY-Purchase.



Nicole Kerrigan

Tom Sullivan joins Rose Brand as a senior project manager in the New Jersey office. His background includes 16 years at Hudson Scenic Studio where he was the engineering department manager working for Broadway productions and other entertainment venues. Recent projects included the Tony Award-winning set for *Matilda*, *Motown the Musical*, the United Kingdom and Australian Tours of *The Lion King*, *The Master Builder* at BAM, *Assembled Parties*, and *The Guardsman* at the Kennedy Center. He also worked as the assistant technical director at the Metropolitan Opera for nine seasons and the Julliard School. Mr. Sullivan is an adjunct professor at Purchase College Conservatory of Theatre Arts and Film in Purchase, New York. He has an MFA in technical design and production from



Tom Sullivan

the Yale School of Drama and a BA in fine arts from SUNY- Albany.

Kevin Twomey was named technical projects manager in the Los Angeles, California office. His background includes over 10 years in technical production in both theatre and feature films. Some of his more notable projects include the touring productions for *The Wizard of Oz*, *Grease*, and *Miss Saigon*, as well as the feature films *The Hunger Games*, *We're The Millers*, and *The Host*. He has a BA in fine arts from Boston University.

ETC: Control Systems Make European Stages Sparkle

Two European theatres – the National Theatre in London and the Munich Opera Festival – recently upgraded and use **ETC** products.

In 2009, with its lighting rigs growing increasingly complex and more diverse, the National Theatre in London decided to put several just-launched ETC Eos desks in the driver's seat on its three stages. The staff quickly became dedicated to the Eos family of controls, adding Gio and Ion over the years. When ETC debuted the Eos Titanium (Ti) desk – with even more powerful hardware and software than its predecessor – there was no question that the National would upgrade. The Ti desks are already controlling shows in the National's Olivier and Lyttelton theatrical spaces, following a seamless transition from the classic Eos consoles.

This year's Munich Opera Festival kicked off with spectacle. Richard Wagner, Giuseppe Verdi, and the Bavarian State Opera all celebrate their 200th birthdays in 2013. As a result, the Opera staged *Wagner vs. Verdi*, a playful competition in which the two great composers meet each other as giant marionettes in the plaza outside the Bavarian State Opera House. A new ETC Gio lighting control desk was used for the open-air festival.

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

City Theatrical: Free Webinars Highlight DMX Features

There are three **City Theatrical** free webinars on wireless DMX still scheduled.

SHoW DMX Neo on Tuesday, October 29 at 11 a.m. EDT, will demonstrate how to set up a complex, multi-universe, wireless DMX system and tune it to meet the needs of a professional show.

Register for this webinar

SHoW DMX Vero and Vero Net, on Tuesday, December 10 at 11 a.m. EST will show how to set up a permanent outdoor architectural wireless DMX system.

Using Specialized Antennas With Wireless DMX, on Tuesday, January 7 at 11 a.m. EST covers using specialized antennas with wireless DMX to improve shows and installations.

All webinars require [registration](#).

For more information on SHoW DMX products, [click here](#).

Meyer Sound: Company

To celebrate its 40th anniversary, the Telluride Film Festival debuted a new Werner Herzog Theatre for this year's festivities in the Colorado ski town. Movie screenings at this 650-seat theatre were heard through a cinema system from **Meyer Sound**, a festival sponsor for the third consecutive year. The 2013 Telluride Film Festival ran August 29 to September 2.

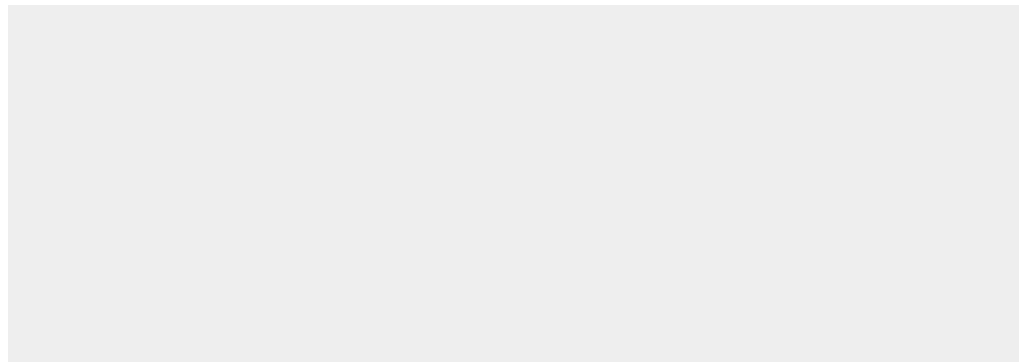
More information about Meyer Sound is available at 510-486-1166; e-mail: winnie@meyersound.com or by visiting www.meyersound.com.



Creative Stage Lighting : Lights Camp Bisco 2013

Creative Stage Lighting recently provided lighting crew and equipment for the Camp Bisco music festival at the Indian Lookout Country Club July 11 to 13. The festival featured performing such artists as Passion Pit, STS9, Boys Noize, Squarepusher, and The Disco Biscuits.

Creative Stage Lighting provided stage and lighting equipment for the two main stages. Creative Stage Lighting crew included crew chief Kevin Parsley and lighting technician Jessica LaPoint. Other crew included Gregory Wershing and Evan Miller.





PLASA: Name Rock Our World Awards Finalists

PLASA announced eight finalists in the sixth annual Rock Our World Awards, to be presented at the PLASA Cocktail & Awards Reception at LDI 2013. The Rock Our World Awards were created to honor ground-breaking achievement by PLASA members and to acknowledge the genius of both the creator of the technology and the designer or integrator who applies it in a real world environment.

The finalists for the sixth annual Rock Our World Awards are: GBLOCK - Gallagher Staging and Productions, Inc.; GCT (guy cable tensioner) - TOMCAT USA; Mbox Extreme Media Server as used on Oblivion - Production Resource Group; TiMax2 SoundHub and TiMax Tracker - Out Board; AsteraTouch - Astera LED-Technology; dmXLAN v4 Software - ELC Lighting; Royal Opera House Muscat - Theatre Projects Consultants; and London Olympics Opening Ceremonies.

Winners will be selected by a panel of industry judges and will be announced at the PLASA Cocktail & Awards reception on November 21. [Reservation forms are available here.](#)

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- **TMB:** Hippotizer Reigns at Livestock Show, Rodeo
- **L-ACOUSTICS:** Seek Info on Stolen Products
- **L-ACOUSTICS:** Mehta Featured in Historic Kashmir Concert
- **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas Inc.:** Earns Non-Profit Status
- **GLP:** New Lighting Product Used in Keith Tour
- **Alcons Audio USA:** Adds to Digital Cinema Sound Products

RC4 Wireless/Soundsculpture Inc.: Offer Starter Kits, Open Branch Office

Props people, lighting designers, and electricians will be excited to discover that **RC4 Wireless/Soundsculpture, Inc.** now offers specially priced **RC4 Magic Wireless DMX & Dimming Starter Kits** for a limited time. The company has also opened a Missouri office.

Every new starter kit comes with three unique and secure Digital IDs. Since every **RC4 Magic** user has their own IDs, no RC4 user can ever interfere with another RC4 user's show. A low-cost **Wireless LED Dimming Kit for Educators** is also available. Special **RC4 Magic** pricing runs through November 30. Learn more at www.theatrewireless.com.

The new branch office is located in Raytown, Missouri with Sean Dane as sales director/application specialist. Contact him there via e-mail, sdane@theatrewireless.com; cell phone, 816-510-3812; or mail, 6720 Appleton, Raytown, MO, 64133.

TMB: Hippotizer Reigns at Livestock Show, Rodeo

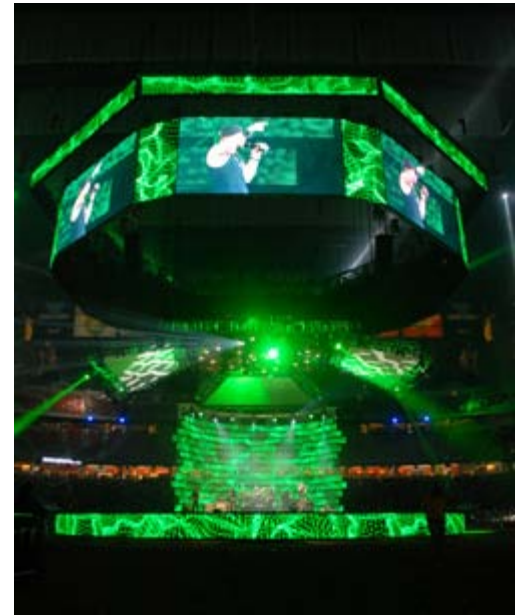
Twenty shows, 20 acts, 20 days! Hippotizer saddled up at Houston's Reliant Stadium and went the distance at this year's Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. The

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annual Texas extravaganza featured nightly concerts by some of the biggest names in music, enhanced by video content wrangled and programmed by John Dickson of LD Systems, Houston.

Six outputs from three Hippotizer HDs, for which **TMB** is exclusive distributor, delivered synchronized video playback to a variety of video displays.



For more information about Hippotizer, visit www.tmb.com/products/hippotizer. Learn more about many other innovative and exciting products from TMB at www.tmb.com.

L-ACOUSTICS: Seek Info on Stolen Products

In January 2012, **L-ACOUSTICS** sent out a notification that a trailer had been stolen on December 8, 2011, in Mexico City, following a Britney Spears concert. The missing trailer contained 24 L-ACOUSTICS K1 and 18 V-DOSC line source elements, 12 K1-SB low-frequency extension enclosures, and 48 SB-218 subwoofers among other items.

Some of this equipment has started to surface on the American continent and has been offered anonymously to a third party. Please be vigilant in keeping a look out for this equipment. Any knowledge as to the existence and/or whereabouts of this equipment should be shared with L-ACOUSTICS, Procolor or local law enforcement authorities. Product returns or submissions of information may be made anonymously. Serial numbers are available upon request.

For further details, contact Jochen Frohn, L-ACOUSTICS' director of business development at, jochen.frohn@l-acoustics.com or Javier Barba, owner and general eirector of Procolor, at contacto@procolor.com.mx. [The original notification can be accessed here.](#)

L-ACOUSTICS: Mehta Featured in Historic Kashmir Concert

Maestro Zubin Mehta and the Bavarian State Orchestra hosted a landmark event September 7 in the foothills of the Himalayas in the town of Srinagar. Srinagar had not witnessed any official form of cultural activity since a cricket match in 1983, making this one of the most eagerly anticipated concerts in recent times.

Sound and Light Professionals (SNL Pro) debuted its brand new **L-ACOUSTICS** K1 rig for this historic event.

Mr. Mehta is the music director for life of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and main conductor for Valencia's Opera House. Nearly 2,000 guests attended the event, hosted by the German Embassy in the Shalimar Gardens in Srinagar. It was the lifelong dream of Mr. Mehta's to perform in the beauty and serenity of the Shalimar Gardens. The concert was televised live in 32 countries, live streamed on YouTube, and filmed in HD for a future concert DVD.



Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas Inc.: Earns Non-Profit Status

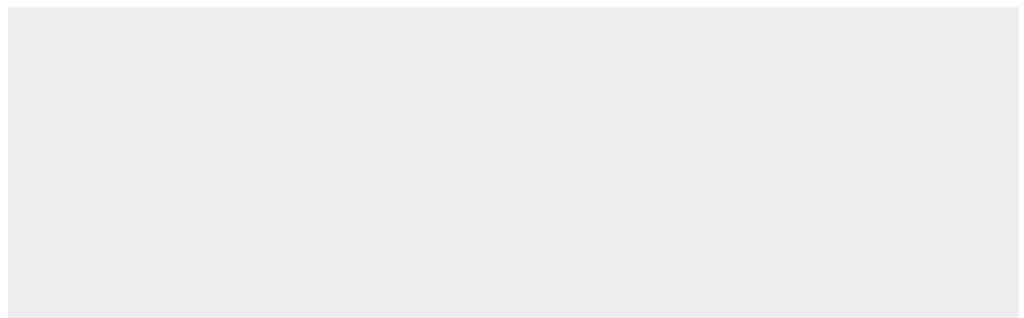
As of April 23, **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas Inc.** has been designated as an Educational Institution under a 501.c.3 corporation.

SILV thanks everyone for their continuing support.

GLP: New Lighting Product Used in Keith Tour

Looking to create a new stage ambience for country legend Toby Keith, long-time lighting designer Seth Jackson was the first production designer to use **GLP's** new impression X4S LED wash light.

He has specified 83 of the compact 'S' fixtures, which introduces a new level of functionality. Supplied by Bandit Lites, they dominated the set for Mr. Keith's current Hammer Down tour.





Toby Keith

Photo/Kayleigh Rose

Alcons Audio USA: Adds to Digital Cinema Sound Products

The arrival of digital cinema has brought new challenges for sound systems. Simply using higher power versions of existing speaker designs is not enough to enhance the digital cinema sound experience. As an addition to **Alcons Audio USA**'s evolutionary Digital Cinema sound system program in the surround domain, the company introduced the CRS8 high-fidelity pro-ribbon surround system.

The CRS8 is a two-way, passive-filtered, full range loudspeaker combining an exceptional clarity and intelligibility with lowest distortion and an unusually high dynamic range.

For more information visit www.digitalcinemaready.info and www.alconsaudio.com.

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News From **Lea Asbell-Swanger**, *USITT President* **Institute's Stories Create...**

The universe is made of stories, not of atoms.
~**Muriel Rukeyser**

Muriel Rukeyser was an American poet and political activist best known for her poems about equality, feminism, social justice, and Judaism. Her first collection of poetry was published in 1935 as that year's winner of the Yale Younger Poets Series, the oldest annual literary award in the United States. In addition to her poetry, she wrote a fictionalized memoir, plays and screenplays, and several biographies. Her last book, *More Night*, a children's picture book, was published posthumously in 1981. (She died on February 12, 1980.)



I wasn't familiar with Muriel Rukeyser or her work until I read the quote above as part of a colleague's e-mail signature. The quote was intriguing as it seemed a compelling combination of art and science, and it referenced stories as a foundation of something greater.

As I've mentioned before, I believe that storytelling is what unites us. As I considered this quote in those terms, I was reminded that it's not the small parts, the atoms if you will, but the collaboration or how the parts collide and join (to take this to the border of allegory) that defines the end product. Often the collisions are the most productive parts of the process. Think high energy (passion) seeking low entropy (order and structure). As we know, ultimately the story has to fit within a defined space, time period, and resources – you know the old saying: fast, cheap or good; pick two – but we've all been part of the magic that has accomplished all three.

Now what does any of this have to do with USITT? It is the vehicle by which we share that magic with one another and, from that, create new magic. It turns out that the magic is really understanding and creatively using science and technology. It's about innovation as a means of better storytelling.

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USITT provides training, education, networking opportunities, documentation, international exchange, research funding, etc., so that methods can be shared, modified, and improved. Long-time innovators in the industry are honored alongside those just beginning careers. Alliances are formed with a host of organizations, some with overlapping multiple points of interest and some with just one essential connection. The mechanisms used for these activities are not all new, but each of them has been impacted by changes in technology and will continue to be because USITT is also improving its storytelling.

Remember, if you're reading, this *you*; *you* are USITT and integral to its story.

And so, *the universe is made of stories...*



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

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[New York Area: Schedule Design, Tech Poster Contest](#)

The New York Area Regional Section will hold its First Student Design/Tech Poster Contest Saturday, November 2d at the New York City College of Technology. This is slated to become an annual event.

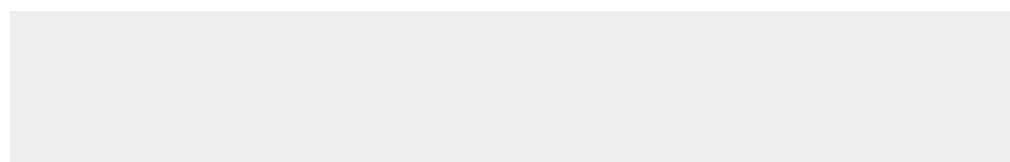
Graduate and undergraduate students in the New York metro area are invited to submit posters detailing recent projects for a chance to win a complimentary, full-conference pass to the 2014 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Fort Worth, Texas. For contest details, direct inquiries to usittnyc@gmail.com.

[Ohio Valley: Fall Conference Abounds with Events](#)

The Ohio Valley Regional Section held a very successful Fall Conference on Saturday, September 14 at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Those attending were able to take advantage a full day of workshops, presentations, and a review and judging for the annual Peggy Ezekiel Awards paired with a Design Expo.

Sessions highlighted how to participate in International Theatre Festivals, Increasing High School Involvement in USITT, Lighting and the iPad, 24-Hour Theatre, and Cutting Machines for Crafts. Kelly Wiegant Mangan shared scene painting tips and tricks, and the members held a Section meeting to discuss USITT business.



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Kelly Wiegant Mangan, right, shows off scenic painting techniques at one of the featured workshops at the Ohio Valley Regional Section Fall Conference. Ms. Wiegant Mangan is an instructor at Bowling Green State University, where the event was held.

Photos/ Elynmarie Kazle Zimmerman

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News From **David Grindle**, *USITT Executive Director* **Step Back, Appreciate the Art**

One of the downfalls of my job is that I don't always get to see our leaders as the artists they are. I know them as board members, operations people, or committee members. While I know that every person in our organization is an artist of some form, getting to see them as such is frankly a rarity.

This came to my attention at World Stage Design. I've worked with Sandy Bonds since starting this job. I knew Sandy as a member of the Costume Commission, Vice-President for International Activities, and Artistic Director of PQ 2011. Sandy is also a costumer. A really brilliant costumer!

Now, I've been open about my belief that fabric defies all laws of physics. I'm also an eight-crayon person, so my color palate is limited. These are among the traits that led me to stage management as a career path in theatre. But those don't stop me from appreciating the people who can do what Sandy does.

To see her work on display was eye opening. I saw creative fabric, story telling through clothing, and a modern take on period clothing. These all showed me a side of a colleague that I knew was there (after all, she was a member of USITT), but I had never gotten to experience.

Membership in an organization like



Photos/ David Grindle

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SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

USITT is a marvelous treasure chest. The people who work amongst us for the good of the Institute do it while doing other jobs. Only 10 of us work full-time for USITT; the rest comes from people who have art at their soul. We get so busy making the Institute happen, sometimes, that we don't get to step back and enjoy that art.

The art comes from managers, designers, engineers, architects, and technicians. It is in different forms, but it is there. Yet, so often we don't get to see it.

This isn't a USITT thing. In theatre, we often don't get to experience the art of our colleagues unless we are doing a show together, and our arts are collaborative. Then, it is hard to appreciate the art of our colleagues because of the goal we are working towards. It has a different meaning in this context. To get to experience the art of a friend with no attachment to the show is a unique experience that is all too rare for us.

I don't have the solution, just an observation.



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

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

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Fellows: Update - David Hale Hand

The Fellows of USITT represent a group of men and women who have been recognized for their significant professional contributions and development along with continuous involvement in the Institute leadership through Sections, Commissions, Committees and elected office positions. One of the key elements of being elected a Fellow of USITT is that the honor is for life. As our Fellows move through their professional and personal lives, many things change. New positions, geographic moves, retirements, family commitments, and changes in professional objectives and passions are among the reasons some of our Fellows are less visible to the membership than in the past. The Fellows Update is a quarterly Sightlines feature that will focus on a Fellow, what he or she is doing today, and how to make contact. Our Fellows represent an incredible resource with depth of experience and institutional memory that can be of service to any member. Don't hesitate to contact them when they can be of assistance. The first article is by Past President David Hale Hand who will also lead this outreach in the future. – Randy Earle, chair, USITT Fellows.

Randy Earle, Chair, Fellows

David Hale Hand, USITT member since March 1962; Co-Founder and Chair of the Rocky Mountain Regional Section; Member of the Board of Directors; VP Conferences (six years); National President 1986-1988; Fellow of the Institute since 1988

Retirement from Walt Disney Imagineering in 1995 also meant a retirement from many wonderful and meaningful activities which I enjoyed in my past. Unfortunately, it meant missing the close association with many of my dear family of USITT.



David Hale Hand

My wife and I soon moved back to Colorado where I had lived for 28 years before, to be near our children and grandchildren. We now live in a Del Webb Community outside of Denver.

Retirement by no means meant sitting in an easy chair and watching the world go by. We have traveled extensively, including the fabulous, three-week, Yangtze Three Gorges River tour and many other locations throughout Asia. I had spent considerable time in Asia during my professional career and really enjoy the people.

Working for Walt Disney Imagineering, I gained a huge background in theme parks and resorts, which enhanced the 50 years of professional experience I already had achieved working in the technical theatre industry. At WDI, people associate and learn from some of the best of the best. When I left WDI, I was besieged by people who wanted me to help them to build theme parks. Unfortunately, none of these people have any money to accomplish their dreams and have no way to find the huge amount of money required for such undertakings. They also do not know the first thing about business plans, pro formas, feasibility studies and relationship requirements with funders. Further, only Disney and Universal have the knowledge and resources to build a theme park. The viable products have become hotel developments with elements of theme and water parks, and visitor support systems making them basically a mixed-use small town or village. Such projects are not built in "downtown" areas but as their own, self-contained campus.

My first real experience caused me to develop a plan in central California which evolved from a very small community plan to be located on a closed Air Force base. The plan grew and grew to create the basis of a template which I have used for other proposals. That plan failed as the economy of California went from bad to worse.

Undaunted, my plan was recognized in the Philippines and then In Fiji. We are still trying to get them funded, but do have some potential for success.

Some people know that my father, David D. Hand, was supervising director of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*, *Bambi*, and about 80 other works. He was production supervisor, responsible for all production at the studio (number two man under Walt) from 1930 to 1944. He then began his own animation studio, GB Animation, with J. Arthur Rank, in the United Kingdom. He was definitely a pioneer of the animation industry. He was directly responsible for 21 Academy Awards or nominations, which were won by Walt Disney. He was awarded the Windsor McKay "Annie" for Lifetime Achievement and the Legend of Disney Award, and was honored by Queen Elizabeth (Queen Mum) during the Festival of Britain.

I have donated all of Dad's memorabilia to the newly created Animation Hall of Fame in Orlando, Florida. Dad, along with other pioneers of the industry including Walt Disney, was elected into its first class of honorees, to be presented in November.

I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Animation Hall of Fame and am

working with them to find the funds to build their new campus.

In my spare time, I have written a book on my life (for my family) and have taken up oil painting (little pictures – not stage drops).

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Commissions

(Re) Catch the Fever!

Donna Meester *Costume Design & Technology Commissioner*

By now, most have recovered from the effects of "Convention Fever." It's time to be reinfected!

Many great ideas for new projects are brought up during the contagious four days of the Annual Conference but are, unfortunately, forgotten during the other 361 days of the year. How many creative conventioners have been working to bring their ideas to fruition? What's stopping them? What about the quiet creative geniuses who would love to see the development of a particular project but are not sure how to go about it?

Maybe someone has a great idea but doesn't have time to pursue it. If so, don't be afraid. New ideas are always welcome.

What about the continuation of an old project like a third edition of the Projects for Teaching?

Let the Costume Design & Technology Commission know! The Commission works to bring great one-time and continuing projects to its membership. Projects can be proposed by someone but implemented by others. The Commission welcomes any ideas as well as anyone who wants to contribute to implementing an idea. Anyone interested can contact Donna Meester at dmeester@as.ua.edu.

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Commissions

Education Commission Seeks Posters

Jonathan Allender-Zivic *Education Commission*



The **Education Poster Session** always provokes lively discussion on new ways to teach, or new concepts which can be applied to the process.

Photo/Daryl Pauley

The Education Commission is looking for submissions for its poster session at the 2014 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Fort Worth, Texas. Abstracts should be no more than 200 words in length describing what is to be shared.

These are due by November 4, 2013. The completed poster and any handouts do not need to be ready until February, so submit a proposal now. Many proposals have grown from the poster session to things like articles in TD&T, conference sessions, or working relationships between members sparking years of ideas.

The names or schools of poster session applicants must not be mentioned or appear on or in the abstract. As part of the submission, a separate biography of 50 words is required. Submissions should be sent in an editable format (Word files are ideal).

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Posters will be reviewed by a jury of your peers. The jurors will not see the names of the submitter, or the biography. The biographies will be used for the Conference program.

For more information and to submit a poster, go to [Education Commission Poster Session web page](#).

Any questions about proposals should be e-mailed to Dave Navalinsky at educommposter@gmail.com.

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Commissions

Costume Sessions Engage Participants

Jenny Kenyon *Costume Design & Technology Commission*



"You cannot help but learn more as you take the world into your hands." ~ John Updike

Master craftsman and apprentice – the education of the arts has been a hands-on experience since the late Middle Ages when young people agreed to become an inexpensive form of labor in exchange for food, lodging, and formal training. While this exact system is no longer the norm, the idea of hands on mentoring is alive and well within the theatre community.

The Costume Design & Technology Commission honors this tradition by programming sessions that let participants exchange ideas and techniques. For the past several years, the Commission has created sessions that are hands-on in the areas of design, technology, and hair and make-up covering topics from *Working with Color Mediums*, *Inspiring Design*, *Creating a Quarter Scale Mannequin* and *Draping in Scale*, and the cutting edge *Patterning Palooza*.

At the Fort Worth 2014 Conference & Stage Expo in March, the Costume

Design & Technology Commission will continue to offer hands-on sessions that are informative, innovative and fun. *Backgrounds, Borders & Fonts* will explore many different methods and techniques for creating a depth to costume renderings without overwhelming the work. *Tambour Beading Bash* features the work and teaching of master beading artist, Polly Kinney (formerly of Barbara Matera Costumes). She will explain the methods and materials needed to create beautifully embellished costumes for dance and theatre. She will also demonstrate, and then she and several of her assistants will oversee participants' handiwork. (*Tambour* means "drum.") Finally, *Getting Wiggy With It* will cover bald caps, care and feeding of synthetic and real wigs, and a variety of other topics. What is unique about these sessions is that individual stations are set up, and participants can walk through at their leisure and attend the stations that interest them.

The Costume Design & Technology Commission is always interested in hearing about topics and ideas for upcoming conferences. Feel free to contact the Vice-Commissioners with suggestions:

- **Jenny Kenyon**, *Vice-Commissioner for Programming*
jenkenyon@aol.com
- **Karen Anselm**, *Vice-Commissioner for Make-up/Hair/Wigs*
kanselm@bloom.edu
- **Thomas Bernard**, *Vice-Commissioner for Design*
tjbernar@calpoly.edu
- **Regina Truhart**, *Vice-Commissioner for Technology*
truharra@ucmail.uc.edu

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Conference & Stage Expo

When It's Time to Change

Ron Procopio *Stage Expo Manager*



When Peter Brady sang those magical notes on the *Brady Bunch*, he told a generation that nothing stays the same forever. At the Stage Expo, that cannot be truer. The growth and development of USITT has been talked about, and we are already working on its future.

This year at Stage Expo in Fort Worth, there will be even more changes from last year's event. The biggest change will be the disappearance of the USITT Booth and bookstore. Don't worry; it's not leaving the show. Rather, it will be located in the lobby area where it will be open for business a day earlier. A *TD&T Café* will be outside the bookstore, providing a space to grab a cup of coffee and sit and catch up with colleagues.

Much of the college and professional recruiting that has been done at the Stage Expo has taken place wherever space was available (banquet tables, networking lounges, the exhibitor lounge, etc...). To address this, "Interview Alley" will allow companies to get away from the noise and excitement of the floor and conduct interviews in a professional environment.

For the first time at the Stage Expo, USITT will feature an International Pavilion.

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USITT has been working around the country and now the world to connect our membership with other professionals and institutions including PLASA, DTHG and the Palm Expo overseas. This year, the Pavilion will allow those and other international associations to discuss opportunities for USITT members to work and connect in their countries as well as discuss distribution for corporate members. ([See International Pavilion](#))

An exhibit similar to the Cobalt display last year in Milwaukee (which featured 180 feet of backdrops from a variety of shows) will be hanging in Fort Worth. Submission winners will showcase their backdrops. Want to participate? Submissions are being accepted now for next March.

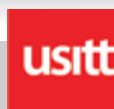
Fort Worth will have other areas and items like publication bins with industry magazines, the USITT Give-A-Way, and the Innovation Gallery & Stage. There will be an entrance from Stage Expo to the Sound Lab, where participating companies will give presentations throughout the event.

Mike Seaver, as Peter Brady, showed that everyone goes through *Growing Pains*. This year's Stage Expo will show that those pains are well worth the effort!

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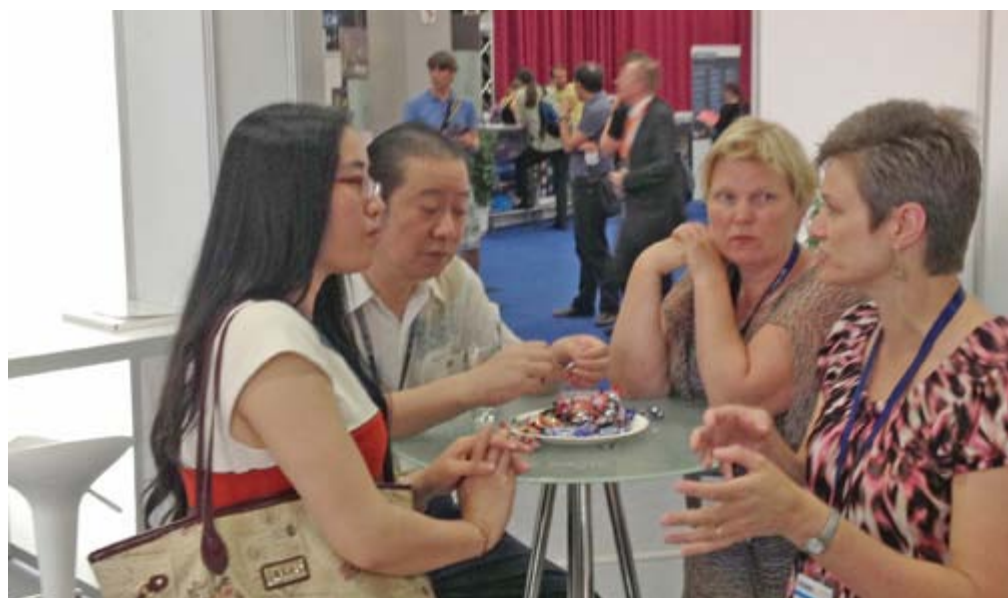
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Conference & Stage Expo

International Pavilion to Expand Conference Borders



USITT was well-represented in DTHG's show in Germany. In March, the international pavilion concept will move to Stage Expo.

Photo/David Grindle

USITT's 2014 Annual Conference & Stage Expo will include a place for counterparts from other nations to interact with USITT members and each other – an International Pavilion.

President Lea Asbell-Swanger, Executive Director David Grindle, and VP for International Activities Markéta Fantová got the idea from their trip to DTHG, the German Theatre Technology Association, in Berlin this past summer.

DTHG set up its first International Associations area where organizations from Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, China, and the United States displayed informational materials and designs. USITT and the Dutch association, VPT, shared two sides of a display wall.

"I liked it that two countries shared a wall, so we were connected to each other," Mr. Grindle said. "It made for a very nice flow of communication as people walked by. It wasn't a big, vast world."

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"Lea, Markéta and I looked at each other and said, 'This is a great idea!'" he added.

They brought the idea home, where it was well-received by Conference planners.

"An International Pavilion will allow us to give our members an ever-expanding opportunity to communicate with colleagues around the world," Mr. Grindle said. "It will be an open area at Stage Expo with each country having an identified space to share the work of their members; a place where our allied organizations can distribute material, meet with people, and help us make connections internationally."

"That helps us grow not only the international presence at our Conference & Stage Expo but helps bring USITT International Activities closer to the individuals and businesses to continue the dialogue at home and around the world."

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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

October 2013

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