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The monthly newsletter for USITT members

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FORT WORTH MARCH 26-29

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11 Emerging Designers & Technicians Honored

When USITT's Annual Conference opens in Fort Worth, these 11 young professionals will be recognized for their skills and talents...

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Elite Training in Vegas in May

Applications are now open for the fourth version of USITT's Elite Training. The event is in late May, and stage management has been added as a discipline... [more »](#)



International Guests In Fort Worth

WSD Gold Medal winner Sophie Jump, renowned opera designer Boris Kudlicka, and lighting expert Jesper Kongshaug will be among the international guests in Fort Worth... [more »](#)



Become a USITT Board Mentee

Spend a year interacting with the USITT Board of Directors and learn about governance, organizational structures, and more. Applications for two seats at the table are now open... [more »](#)



Four Outstanding Theatres Win Awards

One Honor and three Merit awards will be given as part of the 2014 USITT Architecture Awards program. The winners will be highlighted... [more »](#)



2013 Young Designer Winner Visits London

Ethan Vail recounts his visit to PLASA where he was able to represent USITT and interact with companies and people from across Europe, and the United States, too... [more »](#)



USITT's Executive Director & President: A Visit to Fort Worth

'Twas the weeks before... [more »](#)



Designing for Safety

Crowd control, designing with safety concerns in mind, and the work of the Event Safety Alliance will be examined in separate sessions in Fort Worth... [more »](#)



Seek Education Ideas for 2015 Sessions, Articles

The Education Commission has a great line-up in Fort Worth, and is looking toward Cincinnati for session ideas... [more »](#)



Propose a Session for 2015

The Costume Design & Technology Commission already has outstanding sessions lined up for the 2014 Conference, and now it wants ideas for 2015... [more »](#)



Stage Expo Setting Records

The doors have not even opened, but the 2014 Stage Expo is already setting records with new exhibitors, innovations from returning exhibitors, and excitement from wall to wall... [more »](#)



Find Time for Portfolio Reviews

Tuning up a portfolio is a great idea at any career stage, but for those about to move into the professional world, tips can be invaluable... [more »](#)



Scenic Artists at Stage Expo

Be part of a new Scenic Art Challenge at Stage Expo. Sign up now and demonstrate skills under the guidance of experts... [more »](#)



The Last Word – Unexpected Doors

For Karen Maness, the connections made through USITT were more than a path to information... [more »](#)

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- **ETC:** Shanghai Theatre Restored, Product Shines Light on 1960s Scandal
- **Meyer Sound:** Sound System Fuels Stunt Tour

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- **Alcons Audio:** Audio Company Displays in 'Home Town' at ISE 2014
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- **L-ACOUSTICS:** AVL System Retrofit Part of Church Expansion

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- **Midwest:** Cirque Workshops Scheduled March 21 to 23
- **Southwest:** Symposium and Collaboration with Broadway Across America's Touring Production of *American Idiot*
- **Ohio Valley:** Seek Help to Archive Historic Theatrical Equipment at Penn State
- **California:** PCPA Hosts Mini-Conference, Celebrates 50 Years

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News & Notices

Young Award Winners to be Honored



Patrick Rizzotti, Scene Design by RoseBrand, *The Good Person of Szechuan*

Eleven winners will receive accolades and cash prizes as part of USITT's Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts program. The presentations are just part of the 2014 Annual Conference & Stage Expo March 26 to 29 at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

Three of the winners are from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, three are from Carnegie Mellon University, and two are from the Yale School of Drama. The other three are from Purdue University, the University of Virginia and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

The awards ceremony will be part of USITT's Opening Night celebration on Wednesday, March 26 beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Convention Center Arena, which will also be used for the biennial Sound Lab.

USITT members from across the country nominated talented young artists who are completing or recently completed their education for the honors, known informally as YD&T Awards. Two new awards, in costume making and scene painting, will be given this year.

The 2014 YD&T winners are:

Sound Design:

Mercer Aplin, of Purdue University – the Robert E. Cohen Sound Achievement Award.

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Mercer Aplin, Robert E. Cohen Sound Design, *Medea*

Lighting Design:

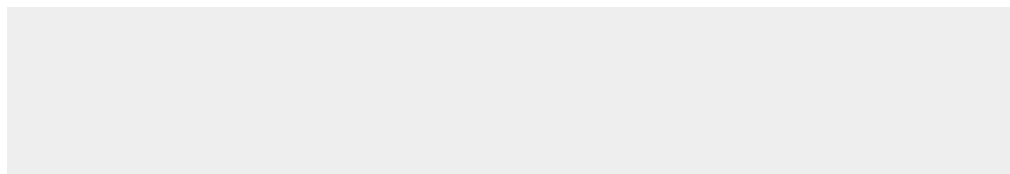
Dan Efros of Carnegie Mellon University – the USITT Lighting Design Award sponsored by Barbizon Lighting Company.



Dan Efros, Lighting Design Sponsored by Barbizon, *Spring Awakening*

Costumes:

Lindsay Hinz of the University of Virginia – the Zelma H. Weisfeld Costume Design & Technology Award; **Leah Pelz** of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill – the Barbara Matera Award in Costume Making, sponsored by Judy Adamson.





Lindsay Hinz, Zelma H. Weisfeld Award,
You Can't Take It With You

Leah Pelz, Barbara Matera Award in
Costume Making, Sally Bowles dress for
Cabaret

Scenery

- **Nicholas Christiani** of Yale – the Bernhard R. Works' Frederick A. Buerki Scenic Technology Award, known as the "Golden Hammer" award.
- **Patrick Rizzotti** of CMU – the USITT Scene Design Award sponsored by Rose Brand.
- **David Valentino** of University of North Carolina School of the Arts – the USITT W. Oren Parker Undergraduate Scene Design Award sponsored by Stage Decoration & Supplies.
- **Alexa Busnot** of UNCSA – the new Master Craftsmanship Award sponsored by Bernhard R. Works, given this year in scene painting.



David Valentino, Oren Parker Undergrad Scene Design, *M. Butterfly*



Alexa Busnot, Master Craftsmanship,
Scene Painting



Nick Christiani, Golden Hammer, telescoping
tower for *Aladdin* the musical

Makeup

- **Kai Ravelson** of UNCSA – the USITT Makeup Design Award sponsored by Kryolan Professional Make-Up.



Kai Ravelson, Makeup Design sponsored by Kryolan, period wig & makeup

Technical Production

- **C. Nikki Mills** of Yale – the KM Fabrics Technical Production Award.



C. Nikki Mills, KM Fabrics Technical Production, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*

Management

- **AJ Cook** of CMU – the USITT Stage Management Award sponsored by Clear-Com Communications Systems.



AJ Cook, Stage Management by Clear-Com, Scene from *Four Saints in Three Acts*

In addition to cash prizes up to \$1,000 the award winners will be featured in a multi-media awards show, have the opportunity to meet their award sponsors informally, network with industry leaders, and participate in some of the 200 workshops, meetings, and activities at the Conference.

YD&T awards are adjudicated by a committee of experts in each field who make recommendations to the USITT Awards Committee. Ultimately, USITT's Board of Directors votes to approve those recommendations.

In past years YD&T winners have been invited to attend workshops and training based on their areas of expertise. In 2013, two YD&T winners were asked to represent USITT at trade shows in Europe which allowed them to show their work and meet celebrities in their fields.

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Apply for Elite Training in Las Vegas



Elite Training 2013

Photos/Barbara E.R. Lucas

Applications are open for USITT's 2014 Elite Training weekend May 29 to 31 at the Cirque du Soleil Training Center in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The program, open to student and early career members, offers three days of hands-on training to eight participants each in the fields of rigging, automation, projection, sound, and – new this year! -- stage management.

The deadline to apply is April 18, and applicants will be notified by April 28.

[Apply here.](#)

Past trainees describe Elite Training as a life-changing experience. It includes:

- intensive small-group and one-on-one attention from top trainers at Cirque, Stage Technologies, Silver State Wire Rope, Coolux, Meyer Sound, and CM

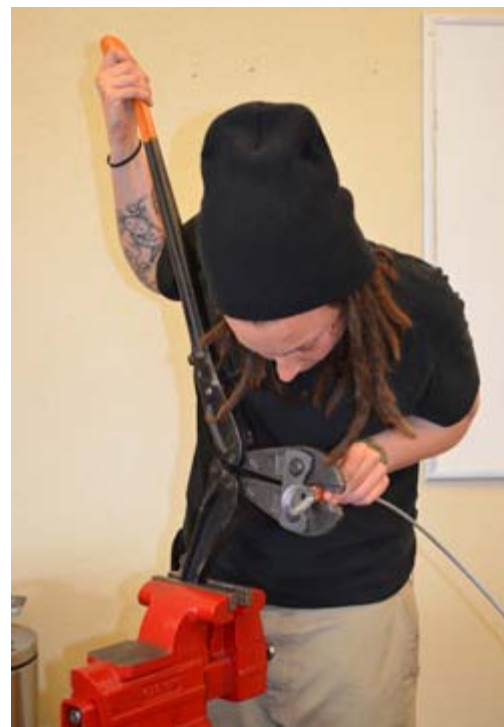
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Entertainment Technology,

- hands-on learning with partners' latest products, and
- backstage tours and job shadowing on Cirque shows such as *KÁ*, *Mystère*, and *Criss Angel BeLIEve*.



Tuition is free for those accepted into the program; participants pay for their travel, meals, and housing. (A block of discount hotel rooms will be available near the training center.)

This will be USITT's fourth year offering Elite Training. One of last year's rigging participants, Jen Seleznow, assistant technical director at the Lookingglass Theatre Company in Chicago, called it "a great experience for students and young professionals."

"Aside from learning about new products and practices, I found the full-scope exposure to Cirque du Soleil both dynamic – in that so many sections of the company were revealed – and encouraging, because the tour leaders and trainers were so approachable," she wrote in a thank-you to USITT.

Elite Training Coordinator Shane Kelly said the sponsors – including a new rigging sponsor, Nicopress, for 2014 – offer their best equipment and training personnel "to contribute to our participants' experience."

Silver State Wire Rope and CM Hoists welcome rigging students into the Silver State shop, training room, and warehouse, he said. Coolux and Meyer Sound provide huge amounts of equipment and software along with very involved training staff. Stage Tech sets up many of their winches and control desks at the training center and welcomes students to its shop to practice their skills on other gear, Mr. Kelly said.

"Cirque du Soleil – the artists, technicians, and administrators – are so welcoming and generous with their time," he added.

"The Elite Training participants tour some of the shows and shadow on some shows, and in both instances they are fully included and made a part of that

night's production. I am always struck by how intense the training schedule is, but how energized everyone is through all three days of training."

[Click here](#) for complete information and to apply for Elite Training 2014. Trainees must make their own travel and housing arrangements.

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Travel Across the World with International Sessions

Margaret Mitchell

International guest designers Sophie Jump (United Kingdom), Boris Kudlicka (Slovakia), and Jesper Kongshaug (Denmark) will share their exciting work at the Fort Worth 2014 Conference & Stage Expo.

Ms. Jump was awarded the World Stage Design Gold Medal in Cardiff, Wales in September. She will share her recent designs and discuss her winning project, *Like a Fish Out of Water*. Mr. Kudlicka, a renowned opera designer in Europe and the United States, will present his groundbreaking work and discuss how collaboration with strong directors influences his creative process. Lighting designer Jesper Kongshaug will present a session entitled "Light as Art." He will share his insights about lighting for ballet, opera, and television as well as light design for public spaces.

Other conference highlights sponsored by the International Committee will include a session on the 2013 WSD and exhibition highlighting performance design work and Scenofest, as well as the innovative professional work performed at the conference. Alexandra Bonds and Laura Crow will share stunning images of the World Costume Festival which was held in the Philippines in 2013.

Award winning designers Aby Cohen (Brazil), Reija Hirvikoski (Finland), Marina Raytchinova (Bulgaria), and Austin Wang (Taiwan) will discuss the influences of diverse cultures related to their creative processes. Cheri Vasek and Deepshikha Chatterjee will lead a session on the costume design process in Indian film; production organization and handcrafted beadwork, zari work and embroidery techniques of South Asia will be discussed.

USA 2015 PQ curators will share the current process and progress for the [national exhibitions](#). USITT members who are interested in working cross culturally and internationally will have multiple opportunities to learn more about OISTAT and USITT international initiatives



Jesper
Kongshaug



Sophie Jump



Boris Kudlicka

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and events.

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Nominate for USITT Elections

There is still time to nominate potential members of the USITT leadership. The Nominations Committee will meet at the end of March to create a slate for the 2015 election cycle.

Visit the [Nominations page](#) to learn more about the positions which will be open for nominations, and for links to the nominations form. For a Q&A about the entire process, see the [recent article](#) by Sherry Wagner-Henry, Secretary and Chair of the Nominations Committee.

Vincent Olivieri Selected for International Travel Grant

Freelance sound designer Vincent Olivieri has been selected to receive the 2014 Member International Travel Grant. The award will be presented at the 2014 Conference & Stage Expo in Fort Worth, Texas. Mr. Olivieri plans to create the sound design and score for a new musical, *Extraterestri Clandestine* (*Illegal Aliens*) for the National Theatre of Romania.

This work will be the second in a trilogy of musicals written and directed by Eli Simon with a cast of Romanian musicians and actors. Once completed, the production will tour across Romania and to international theatre festivals. Mr. Olivieri will share the results of his collaboration with USITT members through sound and video files, and production photographs.

Got Projects?

Does anyone have a project for teaching scenic design that works well for students and - who wants to share it?

The Scene Design & Technology Commission will discuss submissions for a new volume of *Projects for Teaching Scene Design: A Compendium* at its meeting 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26. Watch for more information in upcoming issues of *Sightlines*.

Announce Global Connections Grant Recipients

Theatre Communications Group (TCG) recently announced the Cycle A recipients for the third round of Global Connections. Supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, this grant program provides ON the ROAD grants to foster new relationships with international colleagues and IN the LAB grants to further pre-existing international collaborations.

The seven recipients receiving up to \$5,000 for unrestricted travel in ON the ROAD grants are Alexander Borinsky of Brooklyn, New York; Anisa George of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Elizabeth Williamson, of Hartford, Connecticut; members of Interact Center for the Visual & Performing Arts, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Jeremy B. Cohen, also of Minneapolis; Béleck Georges of Haiti; and Anna Vigeland of Amherst, Massachusetts.

Three organizations were each awarded \$10,000 in IN the LAB funds. They are Bond Street Theatre, New York, New York; Dell'Arte International; Blue Lake, California; and The TEAM, Brooklyn, New York.

More information about the recipients and their projects, as well as on the application process, is available at www.tcg.org/globalconnections.

Rigging Safety Standards Approved

Two of PLASA's standards related to theatrical rigging safety have been revised and approved by ANSI as American National Standards. ANSI E1.21 for temporary outdoor structures and ANSI E1.4 for manual counterweight rigging systems and are now published and available for [free download](#).

ANSI E1.21-2013, Entertainment Technology — Temporary Structures Used for Technical Production of Outdoor Entertainment Events, is a revision of the 2006 edition to include all the technical production structures used in the staging of outdoor events.

ANSI E1.4-2014, Entertainment Technology - Manual Counterweight Rigging Systems, clarifies requirements to ensure that a theatre's manual rigging system can hold the curtains, scenery, and lighting equipment it is designed to hold.

Both standards (and many more) are available for free download because of the sponsorship of ProSight Specialty Insurance. For more information, contact Karl G. Ruling, technical standards manager, PLASA, 630 Ninth Avenue, Suite 609, New York, NY 10036; 1-212-244-1505; karl.ruling@plasa.org.

App Sales Increase Donations to Behind the Scenes

At the LDI show, Dennis Varian of ETC presented a check for nearly \$26,000 to Behind the Scenes, which reflected ongoing proceeds from sales of ETC's iRFR and aRFR (Radio Focus Remote) application for iPhone, iPod Touch, and Android. The donation brings ETC's total Behind the Scenes contributions to date to just under \$150,000.

ETC's donation was gratefully accepted by Rick Rudolph, chair of the Behind the Scenes Committee, who was accompanied by members of The ESTA Foundation Board of Directors, the Behind the Scenes Committee and the Long Reach Long Riders.

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

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Board Mentorship Deadline Approaches

Applications are now open for the second round of an exciting new program, the Board Fellowship/Mentorship Program, launched to encourage members to be involved in the Institute's governance.

The deadline to apply for the program is April 28. The mentorships also provide opportunities for students and early career members to gain leadership training. To learn more and apply by the deadline, [click here](#).

Students and young professionals apply for two, one-year appointments to participate in USITT Board meetings and committees. Each mentee will be paired with a Board Mentor for the year and participate in at least two electronic and face to face meetings of the Board of Directors. They are also invited to the annual summer board retreat. Mentees will serve as active members with one board committee or special project during the year and will be a non-voting representative on the board. Those selected will have travel, hotel, and Conference fees covered by USITT and will receive a one year Student or Early Career Membership. The total estimated program award per participant is \$3,500.

Applicants must provide a cover sheet with details about where the applicant attends school (or graduated from in the last three years), area of study, contact information, acknowledgement of commitment to the board schedule, and signature. Upper level undergraduate or graduate students and young professionals within three years of graduation may apply. A young professional applicant will be asked to include an academic transcript. The online application form is on the USITT website at [On-line Fellowship/Mentorship Application](#)



Pinky Estell was chosen as a Board Mentee for the 2013-14 year and has been an active participant at meetings and on the Planning Committee.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

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Form.

Applicants must also provide a statement of purpose, not to exceed one-single spaced page, describing what they expect to gain from the experience and what they hope to contribute.

A resume, one letter of recommendation, and unofficial transcript must be included. Finalists will participate in an online interview with admissions committee members.

The selection committee will review applications between April 29 and May 10, then schedule interviews with the top five finalists from which two will be selected by May 31 so that they can be included and introduced with new board members at the June 2014 E-Board meeting.

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Hawaiian School's Center Earns Top Architecture Award

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*



Seabury Hall Creative Arts Center, a theatre prep-school performing arts center on Maui in Hawaii, will receive USITT's highest architecture award--the Honor Award. Three other venues – the SF Jazz Center and the Bing Concert Hall, both in California, and the Jerome Robbins Theater in New York --will receive Merit Awards for 2014.

USITT's Architecture Commission will present the awards in a special session on Friday, March 28 at the 2014 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Fort Worth, Texas. The Architecture Awards presentation is one of 18 sessions planned by the Commission, including [several offering AIA/CES credits](#).

The Architecture Commission annually recognizes the best contemporary performance spaces built or renovated in recent years with Honor or Merit awards.

The top winner for 2014, [Seabury Hall Creative Arts Center](#) in Makawao, was designed by Flansburgh Architects of Boston, Massachusetts, with associate architect Riecke Sunnland Kono Architects Ltd. of Kahului, Hawaii, and theatre consulting by Theatre Projects Consultants of South Norwalk, Connecticut.

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The \$5.4 million arts center replaced an outdated facility with a new 500-seat theatre and dance rehearsal hall on the grounds of Seabury Hall, a college preparatory school for performing arts students set on the high slopes of the Haleakala volcano on East Maui.

The architects used a steel shed structure for the theatre, with wide barn doors that open the space to the natural environment overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The pre-fabricated construction of the theatre and dance rehearsal pavilion kept the cost under \$5.5 million. The project was completed in September 2012.

Two of the Merit winners are California projects completed in 2013 – the SF Jazz Center in San Francisco, and the Bing Concert Hall at Stanford University. The third is the renovation of a former rental roadhouse at the Baryshnikov Arts Center in New York into the Jerome Robbins Theater.

The \$75 million **Bing Concert Hall** was designed by Ennead Architects of New York with theatre consulting by Fisher Dachs and acoustical consulting by Nagata Acoustics. It was constructed at a cost of \$75 million as both a new, state-of-the-art home to the university's music department and Stanford Live, and a venue for visiting performers serving the greater San Francisco Bay Area community.



With the barn door open, the dance studio beyond can be seen from the theatre.



Bing Concert Hall

The **SF Jazz Center** was designed by Mark Cavagnero Associates of San

Francisco with consulting by Auerbach Pollock Friedlander and SIA Acoustics, at a cost of \$32 million. It is the first freestanding venue in the United States designed especially for jazz. The three-story center is comprised of the Robert N. Miner Auditorium, which accommodates 350 to 800 seats, plus a lab, rehearsal space, box office, café, and offices.



SF Jazz Center

The **Jerome Robbins Theater** at the Baryshnikov was formerly known as Theatre C, and is now a 299-seat, end-stage theatre and main performance space completed in 2010. The architect was Wasa/Studio A, with Arup/David Taylor as theatre and acoustical consultant.



Jerome Robbins Theater

USITT's Architecture Awards are chosen based on creativity, contextual resonance, functional operation, use of new technology, and community contribution. Each project will be represented in a special exhibit at Stage Expo, where an awards reception will be held.

The adjudicators for the 2014 awards included architect Buzz Yudell of Moore Ruble Yudell Architects, theatre consultant Robert Long of Theatre Consultants

Collaborative, and Rick Talaske of Talaske Associates. Architecture Commission Vice-Chair William Murray oversaw the adjudication process.

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News & Notices

A Trip to London with USITT

Ethan Vail 2013 Winner, USITT Lighting Design Award sponsored by Barbizon

As a recent graduate from Purdue University, I thought that fall 2013 would be interesting because it was my first fall not in school. I expected to be working in Chicago area theatre, going to the wedding of one of my best friends, venturing to Pennsylvania to design for Lock Haven University, and working on a fundraising concert for Young People's Theatre Company. I did not anticipate adding a trip to London with USITT to attend the 2013 PLASA Tradeshow!

When David Grindle first called me and offered me this opportunity, I was floored. I was excited to get to travel to London because I have always wanted to visit Europe -- but to travel to London for theatre and doing what I love, that made it infinitely better.

I arrived in London and went to bed as soon as I arrived at the hotel; a night of little sleep due to a wedding and then straight to an airport meant sleep was needed before heading to the show. We arrived at PLASA the next morning, and I helped set up the USITT booth. I started looking around at the equipment that was on display and was thrilled to see some of the latest and greatest equipment debuting at the show.

I was immediately impressed by a company called TMB which produced an LED strobe light called Solaris Flare that stunned me with its brightness. Not only was I impressed with this fixture and saw possible design uses for it in my future, I was thrilled that the CEO, Colin Waters, demonstrated it for me. Colin was just one of many people I started meeting at PLASA who allowed me to feel I was making contacts that could benefit me for years to come.

Along with TMB, I also talked with City Theatrical, whom I have been a fan of for



Ethan Vail was able to show his portfolio and discuss his work during his time at the PLASA show in London last fall.

Photo/Janet Gramza

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years because of the equipment and programs (I find Lightwright a very beneficial tool as a lighting designer) that I have either bought or used. I was amazed after hearing Gary Fails, the president of City Theatrical, talk about the company and how they actually had to rebuild after Hurricane Sandy hit the New York area. Knowing that City Theatrical rebuilt better than ever reminded me that the theatre industry is a strong force and will be around for years to come.

My favorite contact was someone I had no idea I would even come close to meeting. On the second day of the trade show, I was briefly introduced to Rick Fisher, lighting designer for *Billy Elliot: The Musical* and member of the Association of British Lighting Designers. Meeting a Tony Award-winning lighting designer is thrilling enough, but to have him sit down with me the next day and look over my portfolio was the highlight of the trip. Being told from a highly acclaimed designer that my work was "good work," was enough validation for me to realize that I am following the right path.

I cannot express the thanks I have not only to USITT but to Lea Asbell-Swanger, Marketa Fantova, David Grindle, Janet Gramza, Christine Troscher, and Ron Procopio for allowing me this opportunity and spending the week with me. These four USITT staff members made me realize that, even though I am just a recent graduate, my ideas and opinions matter. In essence, no matter what point someone is in a career, USITT will take opinions into consideration to help make the organization better for its members.

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The Last Word:

Unexpected Paths

Karen Maness



Bob Overbeck painting at 20th Century Fox.

Photo Credit: unknown

"How does a book project begin? Sometimes by design but as often by serendipity," writes Karen Maness and Richard Isakes in their article "Perspective" in the November/December 2013 issue of *The Journal of the Art Directors Guild*.

Ms. Maness has had a serendipitous journey through her activities with USITT that has opened doors to many opportunities. She will join the incoming class of the USITT Board of Directors this summer.

The path that eventually led to a book idea began when, as a Scene Design & Technology Commissioner, Ms. Maness was organizing a program about design and craft opportunities in the entertainment industry for the Long Beach 2012 Conference & Stage Expo. The West Coast Scenic session centered on scenic backings, or backdrops, for film and television.

Her article describes how, when she approached the Art Director's Guild (ADG)

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with the session idea, they directed her to journeymen scenic artists Michael Denering, Pat DeGreve, and John Moffitt for an insider's look into the world of the scenic artist in Hollywood film and television. Their stories "hinted at a fascinating untold narrative long overlooked by those who document the history of the industry," the article says.

After the Conference, ADG asked Ms. Maness, charge artist and member of the scenic painting faculty for Texas Performing Arts, and her University of Texas at Austin colleague Richard Isackes to investigate and archive the story of the Hollywood backing. Thus began the ADG Scenic Artists' Oral History Project.

"I have collected hours of interviews and hundreds of images of the finest of Hollywood backings artists," Ms. Maness said of her efforts over two years.

A documentary book offering a rare glimpse into the hidden world of Hollywood's painted movie backings is a natural result of the project.

Ms. Maness, collaborating with ADG, will oversee a third exhibition of stunning Hollywood backdrops from many popular movies at J.C. Backings this summer, timed to correspond with UCLA's Showcase West. [Here](#) is a link to last year's event.

Ms. Maness is thankful for the many unexpected doors that have opened to her through USITT and put her on such unexpected, but exciting paths.

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- [Annual Meeting on March 26](#)

Get Ready for Design Team Voting!

Applications have been submitted and the Rose Brand Action Design teams have been chosen!

Get ready to vote for a favorite design. Track the progress of the four Action Design Competition teams on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) starting March 26 during the Fort Worth 2014 Conference & Stage Expo. Rose Brand will be located at booth 1109. Each Action Design Team will be located on the perimeter of the show floor in labeled booths RB1, RB2, RB3, RB4 and RB5.



Action Design 2013 Winner

This year a special Professionals Team will be placed in competition. This team has the same challenge as the student teams which is to create a design from a mystery theme with limited supplies. Take the opportunity to browse the designs and watch the action from start to finish. Voting will be available at the Rose Brand booth or on the company's Facebook and Twitter pages.

See You in Fort Worth

The boots are being packed, the office is moving massive amounts of great merchandise for the store, and the National Office is ready to meet members from far and wide at the 54th Annual Conference & Stage Expo. The whole event is filled with new ideas, innovative design, imaginative technology, and just plain great Texas fun. It is not too late to participate. [Sign up now.](#)

Members, remember to sign in first to get your discounts.

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Annual Meeting on March 26

After Jaston Williams gives the Keynote in the Fort Worth Convention Center Arena, make sure to be part of the 2014 USITT Annual Meeting. This is the official business session of the Institute, and provides an opportunity for members to hear about the overall health of the organization, ask questions, or just be able to put names and faces together for members of the Board of Directors. The Keynote and Annual Meeting session starts at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, March 26.

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- **ETC:** Shanghai Theatre Restored, Product Shines Light on 1960s Scandal
- **Meyer Sound:** Sound System Fuels Stunt Tour

Rose Brand: Offer Premium Projection Screens

Rose Brand Premium Projection Screens are the highest quality custom PVC screens available. These screens are made of superior PVC media with very consistent thickness and shade. Each screen is ultrasonically welded with precision to create practically invisible seams.

Call 800-223-1624 or e-mail customerservice@rosebrand.com for custom screen development, pricing, questions and samples

ETC: Shanghai Theatre Restored, Product Shines Light on 1960s Scandal

China's Shanghai Grand Theatre (SGT), has become one of the world's most state-of-the-art and environmentally-friendly theaters following a recent renovation that included a full ETC lighting system.

ETC also supplied lighting fixtures for a the production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's new musical, *Stephen Ward*, based on a scandal from the 1960s



SGT is home to three halls – the 1,800-seat Lyric Hall, the 600-seat Drama Hall, and the 300-seat Studio Hall. They were updated the energy efficiency of 150 Source Four LED Lustr+, 48 Selador Desire D60 Fire and Ice, 114 Selador Classic Vivid-R LED luminaires, and 32 Source Four LED CYC adapters. Two Gio control desks and 52 ETCNet3 Gateways control the lighting.

Stephen Ward is playing in London, Great Britain and focuses on a man at the center of a 1960s political scandal known as the Profumo affair. The musical

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attempts to salvage Ward's reputation and prove he was wrongly convicted. ETC provided a huge lighting rig that includes 65 Source Four LED luminaires instead of tungsten fixtures. The largest part of the Eos-controlled rig is moving lights.

To learn more about all of ETC's products, visit www.etcconnect.com.

Meyer Sound: Sound System Fuels Stunt Tour

A self-powered **Meyer Sound** MILO line array loudspeaker system recently accompanied the 15-city, European arena tour of *Nitro Circus Live*, the extreme stunt show featuring daring stunt specialists on motorbikes, skateboards, and BMX bikes.



Over the roar of both frenzied fans and motorbikes, the Meyer Sound system from London-based Capital Sound delivered clear, powerful audio for the show's announcements, interviews, and music playback.

Hosted by and featuring daredevil entrepreneur Travis Pastrana, the *Nitro Circus Live* tour was spawned by the success of the *Nitro Circus* reality TV series which started in 2006.

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News From USITT's Executive Directory & President

A Visit to Fort Worth



*'Twas the weeks before conference
And all through the office
Not a creature was stirring....
They were packing and processing registration*

*Road boxes were packed
In the storeroom with care
In hopes that the delivery men
Soon would be there*

*With Carol processing payments
And I with contracts in my lap
We really just wanted*

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A long winter's nap

*Then out in Fort Worth
There arose such a clatter
We sprang up in New York
To see what was the matter*

*Away to the airport we flew like a flash
Checked all of our luggage
And grabbed petty cash*

*The moon on the breast of the Syracuse snow
Was nice, but it's cold
So to Texas
Let's GO*

*Then what to our wondering eyes did appear
But designers, technicians, and a few engineers*

*Led by a President that laughed with glee
We knew in a moment that it must be Lea*

*More rapid than eagles the attendees they came,
And she whistled and shouted and called them by name*

*Now Scenic, Now Costumes, Now Lighting and Education
On Management, on Sound, Tech Production, Health and Safety**

*Into Fort Worth, they drove and they flew
With excitement for the week, and empty swag bags, too*

*Stepping in the Convention Center
And looking around,
From Stage Expo came President Lea with a bound*

*She spoke lots of words and went straight to her work
Greeting members, seeing old friends, being kind, not a jerk*

*And laying her finger aside of her nose
Giving a nod, to the Sound Lab she rose
And we heard her exclaim as she took in the sight
Welcome to Conference, y' all, have a marvelous night*

*the commission name has changed, but the rhythm stays the same

With sincere apologies to Clement Moore or whoever actually wrote the original



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- **Alcons Audio:** Audio Company Displays in 'Home Town' at ISE 2014
- **GLP:** Impression X4S Keeps Christmas Jam Running All Night
- **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas:** Seek Students for 2014 Sessions
- **L-ACOUSTICS:** AVL System Retrofit Part of Church Expansion

RC4 Wireless/Soundscape Inc.: Wireless Equipment Makes *Wicked* Travel Easier

The sell-out musical sensation *Wicked* has hit the United Kingdom and Ireland touring circuit with a sleeker and altogether more agile show with the help of wireless DMX products from **RC4 Wireless/Soundscape Inc.** and Lumen Radio.

The *Wicked* UK and Ireland tour is one of the biggest tours of its kind. The aim was to retain the same production values and scale as the West End show, while scenically and technically making it easy to transport. Part of this process has been to replace the complex cabling that fed moving scenic elements with a range of powerfully compact wireless DMX products from RC4 Wireless. Utilizing state-of-the-art LumenRadio CRMX rf technology, these products include RC4 LumenDim4 4-channel low voltage dimmers, RC4 LumenData receivers and SuperNova software from Lumen Radio.

Alcons Audio: Audio Company Displays in 'Home Town' at ISE 2014

Dutch audio innovator **Alcons Audio** showcased its latest pro-ribbon sound system innovations at the Integrated Systems Europe show in Amsterdam February 4 to 6.

The relatively wide scope of the show enables Alcons Audio to display its broad portfolio of system solutions.

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For more information visit
www.alconsaudio.com and
www.proribbontechnology.com.

GLP: Impression X4S Keeps Christmas Jam Running All Night

Preston Hoffman provided a dynamic lightshow with a difference for the third consecutive year at the annual Warren Haynes Christmas Jam in Asheville, North Carolina. He decided to use **GLP's** new compact Impression X4S almost exclusively, bolstered by a few other discharge or conventional tungsten effects.



Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas: Seek Students for 2014 Sessions

Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas is looking for students to fill the remaining seats for SILV 2014.

Students from Mexico City, Mexico; Johannesburg, South Africa; and Colorado, Maine, Louisiana, Texas, California, Massachusetts, and Nevada in the United



States, are already signed up.

For more information, visit
www.stagecraftinstitute.com.

L-ACOUSTICS: AVL System Retrofit Part of Church Expansion

Calvary Church of Naperville, Illinois, located in the western suburbs of Chicago, recently wrapped up a five-month sanctuary renovation that increased seating to 3,000 without moving any walls. As part of the project, the church also underwent a full AVL system retrofit, which features **L-ACOUSTICS'** KARAI system provided by CCI Solutions of Olympia, Washington.

The system was chosen over five others bidding for the job.

For more information on Calvary Chapel of Naperville, visit
www.calvarynaperville.org. CCI Solutions, an L-ACOUSTICS certified provider, can be found at www.ccisolutions.com.

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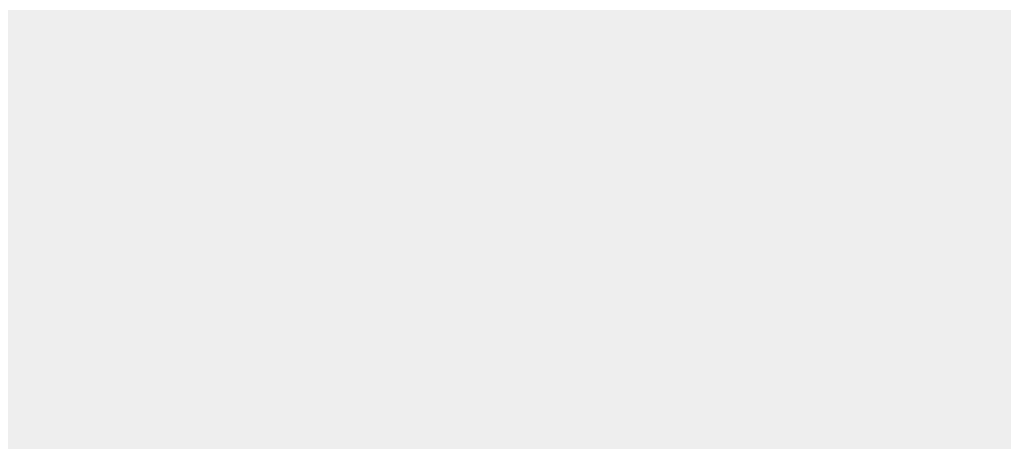
- **Midwest:** [Cirque Workshops Scheduled March 21 to 23](#)
- **Southwest:** [Symposium and Collaboration with Broadway Across America's Touring Production of *American Idiot*](#)
- **Ohio Valley:** [Seek Help to Archive Historic Theatrical Equipment at Penn State](#)
- **California:** [PCPA Hosts Mini-Conference, Celebrates 50 Years](#)

Midwest: Cirque Workshops Scheduled March 21 to 23

The Midwest Regional Section will present its Cirque du Soleil Live Entertainment Workshop, Friday, March 21 through Sunday, March 23 on the Purdue University campus in West Lafayette, Indiana.

This workshop available at no charge. Cirque workshops will bring participants together in one meeting place to consider common concerns and topics. This will followed by Master Classes targeted at specific disciplines including acting, audio, automation, management, lighting, and rigging. At the end of each day, the group will meet together again to celebrate the magic of live entertainment in special events hosted by Cirque du Soleil. Visit midwest.usitt.org/cirque for more information and the registration form.

Southwest: Symposium and Collaboration with Broadway Across America's Touring Production of *American Idiot*



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Photo/Matthew Smith

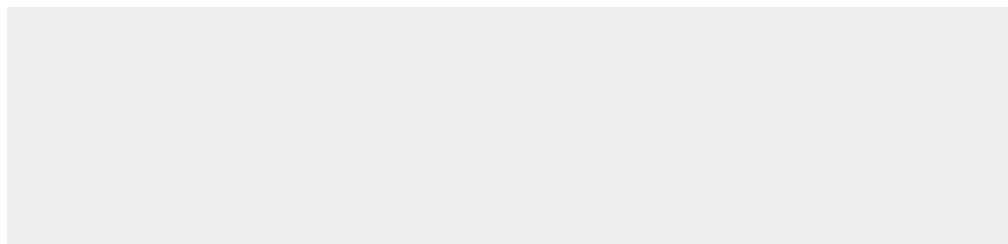
The University of Texas at Austin was the setting for the Southwest Regional Section's 2014 Symposium January 17 to 19. The three-day event included hands-on workshops, design exhibits, networking, and a speech by David Grindle, USITT Executive Director.

The record-breaking 260-plus attendees also had access to the national tour of Green Day's *American Idiot*. Representatives from dozens of regional colleges and universities and four Texas high school groups were there. Students were able to network and connect with industry professionals securing interviews for summer and long-term work.



Thirty-one workshops included information on armor construction, 3-D modeling, LED lighting, digital rendering, stage management, painting and lighting translucent drops, wigs, props, puppets, and a TD roundtable. On Saturday, Paul Horpedahl, director of production for Santa Fe Opera, provided the evening's keynote address. On Sunday, Stacey Myers from Cirque du Soleil provided the second keynote.

For nearly 12 hours over Saturday and Sunday, guest responders and adjudicators talked with the students as they presented their work on one of the 81 panels or tables in the region's Student Design/Tech/Management Competition.





David Stewart, left, Production Manager at Texas Performing Arts, and David Grindle, USITT Executive Director, talked about stage management and its challenges to an attentive audience.

Photo/Kasey Allee-Foreman

Ohio Valley: Seek Help to Archive Historic Theatrical Equipment at Penn State

Buried in the acoustical baffles and storage areas of Penn State University's Theatre Building is veritable *Raiders of the Lost Ark* warehouse containing theatre technology artifacts: lighting fixtures from the '30s to the '70s, an intact original light palette, a light plot hand drafted by Stanley McCandless, product information, and company memorabilia. To help document and archive all the material, the Ohio Valley Regional Section will sponsor a team to spend a week there June 8 to 15.

Members will complete a professional development workshop on documenting and archiving then create digital images of each artifact, document them, and create a master list of what is stored there.

The Section has obtained funding for food and lodging for the group, but needs support for the team's travel expenses as well as more team members. To help out, contact William Kenyon, professor at PSU, wkenyon@psu.edu, or Jeffrey Gress, Chair, Ohio Valley Section, at jgress@capital.edu.

Photos/Courtesy Jeffrey Gress





California: PCPA Hosts Mini-Conference, Celebrates 50 Years

The California Regional Section held its Mini-Conference and Career Expo January 25 in Santa Maria, at PCPA, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this season.

The event, with 79 participants, included welcome remarks by PCPA Artistic Director Mark Booher and a rousing keynote address by Libby Appel, artistic director emerita of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Martha Marking, USITT Vice-President for Members, Sections, and Chapters also attended.

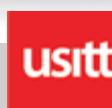
There were mini-workshops on scenery automation, specialty props construction, scene painting techniques for stage floors, and scenic model-making. The programming also included tours of PCPA's recently renovated and expanded facilities.

The student design, technology, and stage management competition and exhibit resulted in three award winners: Jayne Dutra of Cal State Fullerton, David Hernandez of USC, and Travis Nelson of PCPA. The Career Expo featured representatives of Cal State Fullerton, Debbie's Book, ETC, Doug Fleenor Design, H & H Specialties (whose much-appreciated donation paid for the morning refreshments), Kingsmen Shakespeare Company, PCPA, Princess Cruises, Rose Brand, Smash Props/NewRuleFX, and Smooth-On.

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Commissions

Safety Focus of Three Conference Sessions

David Glowacki *Safety & Health Commissioner*



Managing crowds, no matter how well behaved, involves many different considerations.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

The Safety & Health Commission programming for the Fort Worth 2014 Conference & Stage Expo will include three great sessions.

Companies like Cirque du Soleil, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, and NBCUniversal have learned that investing the time and effort to consider safety concerns during the design process regularly pays off in big savings during the construction and execution of their shows and events. Representatives of these major players will gather for the session **Putting Safety First** 1 p.m. Thursday, March 27 to discuss how they have modified their design processes to include safety input and remove many of the last-minute challenges common to live production.

Since 1994, the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code has required trained crowd managers in places of public assembly such as large nightclubs, auditoriums, ballrooms, and arenas. Plan on attending the **Life Safety Management- Crowd Manager** session 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 26 to find out what it means to be a "crowd manager" and the benefits of crowd management training for all levels of live event work. Training options to be certified as a crowd manager and crowd manager supervisor will also be shared and discussed.

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The Event Safety Alliance was formed in 2011 in response to an alarming increase in the number of injuries and deaths at large outdoor concert events. Since its creation, the ESA has rapidly gained traction, support, and respect as a major voice in the effort to make these events safer for technicians, performers, and patrons. Representatives of the ESA will share information about this important organization and introduce the newly-developed Event Safety Guide, a comprehensive collection of best-practice information 8 a.m. Friday, March 28.



For additional information about these sessions and the rest of the Safety & Health Commission offerings, refer to the USITT website or the Conference App.

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Commissions

Seek Education Ideas for 2015 Sessions, Articles

Jonathan Allender-Zivic

The Education Commission has a great line-up in Fort Worth, Dr. Stephen Brady's student-only session on the unique challenges of working with supervisors, mentors and faculty who hold grading power and yet are often colleagues, to his PDW on leadership, to discussions on how to select a season to best benefit your program. The Education Commission

will also honor Dana Taylor as this year's Distinguished Educator. Take a look at the complete list of offerings on the Conference section of usitt.org/Sessions.

The Education Commission asks any interested persons or parties to submit a session proposal for the Cincinnati 2015 Conference & Stage Expo. Anyone with a topic related to the field of theatre education and who thinks it will make a good session can follow this [link](#) and fill out the online session proposal form. Session voting will take place during the Conference. Check the Commission's website and come to the Education Commission meeting 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, and reception 2:45 p.m. March 28.

Well written, reasonable, and thought out proposals will be presented to the Commission's members for review and discussion. Ideas on what sessions might be appropriate can be obtained from 2013 Conference & Stage Expo offerings [here](#).

For more information, contact the Education Commission's Vice Commissioner for Programming, Ashley Bellet usitt.educomm@gmail.com

Ideas for education-related Sightlines articles (300 word max) are also welcome. Send ideas and contact information to Jonathan Allender-Zivic, jallenderzivic@gmail.com or Shan Ayers, shan_ayers@bera.edu.

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Commissions

Costume Commission Looks for 2015 Sessions

Jenny Kenyon *Vice-Commissioner of Programming, Costume Design & Technology*

The Costume Design & Technology Commission is in the last stretches of getting ready to high-tail it to Fort Worth Texas for the 2014 Annual Conference & Stage Expo but is beginning the process again for Cincinnati 2015 Conference & Stage Expo.

Commission members in Fort Worth will vote on the sessions they want to see in Cincinnati. The deadline for 2015 session proposals is February 21.

Visit USITT.org, go to the Costume Commission page and look for the heading "Propose A Session." The page describes a professional development workshop (PDW) or a session The PDW is usually scheduled the Monday and/or Tuesday before the start of the Conference and are often on topics that need several hours or a day to cover. These are much more in-depth and require scheduling and logistics. A PDW has to be reviewed fiscally and physically for viability. Fill out the form and send it to Jenny Kenyon, Vice-Commissioner of Programming for CD&T, at jenkenyon@aol.com or Martha Cooper, Vice-Commissioner for Pre-Conference Events, at mhcooper@fsu.edu.

For a session, click on the form and fill it out. Those who have difficulty with the PDF can print it, fill it in manually, and e-mail the page to jenkenyon@aol.com. Place "USITT session proposal" in the subject line.

The person who proposes a session does not have to chair it although that is common. Anyone with a great idea for a session, but doesn't feel able to chair it should send on the idea. It may be something that everyone is clamoring for. The Commission will work to find a panel and/or chair.

There are a few basic kinds of sessions. There is the single presenter/lecturer who has often done extensive research or creative work on a single topic. It may be something specific or general. While these are great, anyone proposing a session is encouraged to find ways to spur member, nonmember, and industry involvement. The other common form is the panel. There are several benefits to this format. No one person is saddled with talking for over an hour, and the membership gets the advantage of several opinions or methodologies and several contacts within the field. This is where the session chair is a key player keeping everything on track and providing materials for the archive. Usually

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three to five people make up a panel. Commission members are happy to help find panel members.

The CD&T encourages a wide range of topics for sessions. They can include cutting edge processes and technologies, creative ways of doing things, or a new perspective on a previous topic. The Commission's constituency ranges from students just learning the craft to seasoned professionals and educators, so sessions are not expected to meet everyone's needs. It can focus on a particular group or a range of experience levels.

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Conference & Stage Expo

Setting Records at Stage Expo

Barbara E.R. Lucas



The Fort Worth Convention Center will look quite different when USITT guests arrive at the end of March. Registration, the TD&T Café, and entrance to Stage Expo will fill the space.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

With less than a month until Stage Expo throws open its doors in Fort Worth, visitors already know they will be part of a record-breaking event.

Ron Procopio, Stage Expo Manager, has been extremely busy finding space for new companies and organizations that want to be part of Stage Expo and helping make sure that long-time exhibitors are ready to show off all the exciting new products and programs to be rolled out starting March 27.

"We are excited to provide such a great showcase for the many companies who see USITT's event as the place to reach customers, find employees and let their products shine," he said. More than 60 of those who are new or returning after an absence are highlighted [here](#).

With the USITT bookstore relocated to the lobby of the Fort Worth Convention Center, Stage Expo has grown to include an area for "Watch Them Work," an

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ever-changing parade of talented artists. The Innovation Stage returns with a lineup of products and awards.

The 2014 Conference app lets exhibitors speak directly to attendees. Show specials, new product demos, press releases, and more are being posted. Visitors can also map a route to be sure to stop in to visit specific booths or see special exhibits. They can add sessions to individual calendars.

Stage Expo is integrated with SoundLab in 2014, where visitors are encouraged to see how the various sound technologies work together during live performance, giving attendees the chance to relax for a few moments and hear local talent onstage.

The record-breaking size and excitement from Stage Expo in 2014 is already creating a conundrum for 2015. This will be the second time for USITT to visit the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, but the increased interest means that Mr. Procopio is reenvisioning how the event will fit into the space.

"We expect to grow again in 2015," he said.

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Conference & Stage Expo

Sign Up Early for Portfolio Reviews

Those attending the Fort Worth 2014 Conference & Stage Expo have the opportunity to have their portfolios reviewed by professionals working in today's industry.

Six Commissions are offering the analyses to be done by appointment only on Thursday, March 27 and Friday, March 28. The Costume Design & Technology, Lighting Design & Technology, Management, Scene Design & Technology, Sound Design & Technology, and Technical Production Commissions will each offer 30-minute, private reviews by two experienced professionals.

Only those with full Conference registrations may apply. Contact the proper Commission representative:

- **Costume Design**, Esther van Eek, evaneek@uwindsor.ca
- **Lighting Design**, Jennifer Read, readjil@lavc.edu
- **Management**, Carolyn Satter, Carolyn.satter@sandiegotheatres.org
- **Scene Design**, Properties Design, Scenic Art, Scenography, Ann Cadaret, ann_cadaret@pba.edu
- **Sound Design**, Vincent Olivieri, Olivieri@uci.edu
- **Technical Production**, Michael Roller, mrolleri@email.unc.edu

The chair will notify each participant of the time slot assigned. Interviews will be conducted at the Fort Worth Convention Center, on Thursday and Friday, with some interviews on Saturday. The schedule for each Commission will be posted at the Conference Registration area on Wednesday afternoon and updated each morning.

Because of the popularity, schedule requests should be made before the Conference. Requests during the Conference will be scheduled if space is



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available. No internet access is available in the portfolio review rooms.

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Conference & Stage Expo

Caution: Scenic Artists at Work

Anthony R. Phelps



Photos/Ron DeMarco

The first Scenic Art Challenge will be held 1 p.m. Friday, March 28 at the Fort Worth 2014 Conference & Stage Expo. The Scenic Design & Technology Commission will be sponsoring a paint lab as part of Stage Expo and hopes to make the challenge an annual event.

Up to eight students will be allowed to show off their painting skills under the supervision of professional scenic artists and instructors. Students will be given a rendering and supplies, and will have four hours to create the painting in the lab. Observers are welcome. On Saturday, March 29, a panel of scenic artists will give feedback to all the participants.

Space in the lab is limited. Participants can sign up to be part of the event

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starting Wednesday morning in the message area near Stage Expo. For questions, e-mail phelps@paintersjournal.com.

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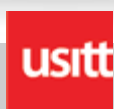
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