



# Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

April 2014  
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FORT WORTH MARCH 26-29



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### LINK – a new way to Connect

A joint program of USITT and SETC will bring together those considering a graduate degree and schools who offer them... [more »](#)



### Sparking Innovation

A new symposium this September in North Carolina, featuring Tupac Martir and Richard Cuthbert will let creativity flow with Spark!... [more »](#)



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Applications are now open for the fourth year of USITT's Elite Training. The May event has added stage management as a discipline... [more »](#)



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## News & Notices

# Annual Event a Texas-sized Success



The crowd at USITT's Keynote saw that the Fort Worth Arena had never looked so good.



Jaston Williams made the audience both laugh and cry as he delivered the Keynote in 2014.





Richard Pilbrow was the genial MC for Opening Night



Registration was busy, and lines moved quickly.



Creativity was shared and enlarged.



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## News & Notices

# LINK to Grad School Success

LINK, a new way to connect to advanced theatre degrees, has been launched by USITT and SETC.



LINK will bring together programs with graduate degrees and those considering options for additional education in one convenient, affordable location for interviews and information exchange.

LINK will be held November 14 to 16 at the Atlanta Airport Hilton. A special hotel rate has been negotiated, along with a discount on air travel.

Interviews and auditions will be held with performers, designers, technicians, and managers. The event is not all business. It will include a social time to allow organizations and individuals to mingle and get to know each other outside of the interview format.

Both universities and potential grad students expressed great enthusiasm when the program was introduced at SETC's 2014 Convention in Mobile, Alabama in early March.

The low cost (only \$40 for each student to register) and online application process were noted by students as both time and money-savers. Educational institutions will be able to view portfolios and information about students before meeting them in Atlanta, and students can research schools in the same way.

The collaborative effort led by David Grindle, USITT Executive Director, and Betsey Horth, SETC Executive Director, is a great fit for both organizations, providing a service which members can use quickly and easily.

Schools are already signing up to participate. Those already committed for November include:

- [Boston University](#)
- [Louisiana Tech](#)
- [Rutgers University](#)
- [Savannah College of Art and Design \(SCAD\)](#)
- [University of Alabama](#)
- [University of Georgia](#)

- [University of North Carolina School of the Arts](#)
- [University of Texas at Austin](#)
- [Virginia Commonwealth University](#)
- [Wayne State University](#)

Electronic applications for students will open in August.

Visit [www.usitt.org/link14](http://www.usitt.org/link14) to see who else is interviewing, or to participate.

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## Seek Ideas for Second Scene Design Volume

Submission for the second volume of Projects for Teaching Scene Design: A Compendium will be accepted starting in April. To submit information on potential projects, complete an online form on the USITT website.

Submissions will be selected based on clear outcomes or learning objectives, uniqueness, or a new twist on an old favorite. There will also be a section of beloved projects from the first volume and a makeover section of how those projects from the first volume have grown and morphed over the years.

Plans are to make this volume available both as a hardcopy in a three-ring binder at the USITT store at the Annual Conference and as a print on demand/downloadable option throughout the year. A panel of editors will review projects. Final submissions will be accepted in March 2015.

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# Symposium to 'Spark' Innovation

**Janet Gramza** *Communications Associate*

USITT and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts are teaming up to spark new ideas and innovations in arts technology with a three-day *Spark* symposium featuring British production designer Tupac Martir and Global Design Solutions co-founder Richard Cuthbert. The event will be held September 7 to 9 at UNCSA in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.



USITT President Lea Asbell-Swanger announced the new venture at the 2014 Conference & Stage Expo in Fort Worth.

"This is part of USITT's renewed emphasis on research, and we are excited to launch the first Spark Symposium this fall," David Grindle, Executive Director, said. "We'll bring together artists and engineers to look at innovations and designs and brainstorm new ones to help our industry move forward. We will be taking advantage of UNCSA's labs and theatre spaces to get people's hands on new equipment to try new things."

Planners envision Spark bringing some 200 people to UNCSA. to participate in two types of sessions, he said.

Exploration Sessions will feature new products and products in development that people will be able to experiment with. Spark Sessions will allow participants to break into groups to discuss and brainstorm creative solutions to specific problems the industry is facing. Mr. Martir and Mr. Cuthbert, are on board to help lead the symposium, Mr. Grindle said.

Mr. Martir, of **Satore** Visual Design Studio in London, has been called "a light



Richard Cuthbert, Global Design Solutions co-founder



Tupac Martin, British production designer



magician” whose clients include fashion designers Alexander McQueen, Stella McCartney, and Louis Vuitton, and rock stars Elton John, Sting, and Beyoncé. His ground-breaking performance projects include the multidisciplinary show *Nierka* and a new British art festival, *Looking Outside My Window*, to debut in May.

Mr. Cuthbert is engineering director and co-founder of **GDS**, the award-winning United Kingdom manufacturer of a wide range of technology-based products including the ARC wireless and wired LED auditorium house lighting system; LiteWare, the original wireless battery uploader, and BlueDome, the original and leading backstage LED working light system. GDS credits include the lighting cue system for *Spider Man Turn Off the Dark*, a new LED lamp system for the Bastille Opera House in Paris, and a new house light system for the UK's 1766 Bristol Old Vic Theatre.

Other Spark speakers and participants will be announced as added. Affordable hotel housing for Spark has been contracted at the Historic Brookstown Inn in Winston-Salem, for the Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday after Labor Day. Visit [www.usitt.org](http://www.usitt.org) in May for registration details and other information.

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## News & Notices

# Fellows Provide Mentoring

C. Lance Brockman *USITT Fellow*



Lance Brockman with Justin in the lobby of the Joe Dowling stage at the Guthrie Theater.

*USITT completed its third round of Find a Fellow at the 2014 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Fort Worth, Texas. Each winner spends a weekend with a Fellow the winner selects. The 2014 winners will be announced in May, but to build excitement, here is a report from a Fellow who participated in 2013 and the student winner.*

It was a pleasure to be selected to mentor a student from USITT this past fall. Justin Tucker, currently a theatre major at Alabama State University in Montgomery, was interested in learning more about scenic painting and design. Although I just retired from the University of Minnesota, there are still many of my former students and collaborators working in the Twin Cities, so the task of matching Justin's needs with this rich arts community was easy and, for both of us, extremely enjoyable.

The trip started out a bit strained in no small part because of problems making the connecting flight on Delta from Montgomery to Atlanta. Even though Justin was accommodated on a later flight, we missed the closing performance of *A Brown Tale* at Penumbra Theatre—a show I designed. Fortunately, I was able to send progress shots of the set and production images to him electronically.

During his visit, we got a complete tour of the Guthrie Theater by Michael Hoover, scenic charge and designer for the recent production of *Uncle Vanya*. Scott Latendresse, a freelance art director for theme parks and TV from Los Angeles, was in town visiting, so he joined us and was able to help Justin understand the nuances between various production media. We were also able to schedule a visit to the off-site paint shop and a full tour of the nationally renowned Children's Theatre Company provided by the lead scenic artist, Mary Novodvorsky. It was great to see the various styles and visual needs required by the legion of designers that contribute their artistry to these two theatres.



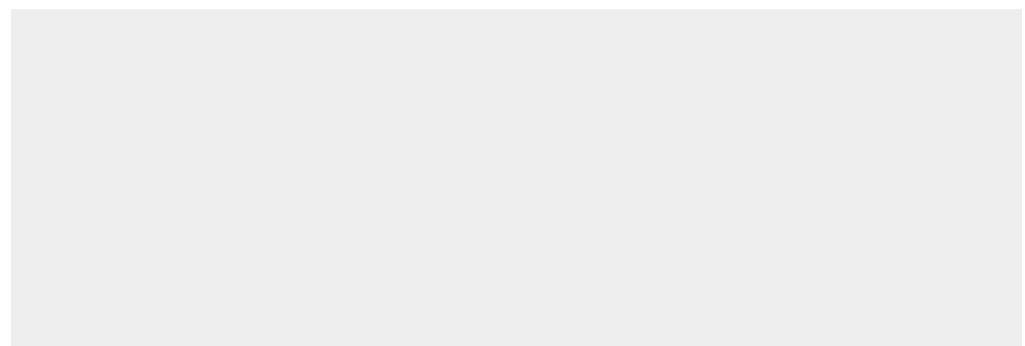
Justin visits with Scott Latendresse, freelance designer from Los Angeles, and Mike Hoover, charge artist for Guthrie Theater.

It was also quite wonderful to be able to share with Justin the Twin City Scenic, Great Western, and Holak Collections located in the Performing Arts Library of the University of Minnesota. The processing and digitizing of these seminal collections of sketches was supported in part by the Kook Endowment of USITT, and his amazement at being able to hold and examine his historic legacy, some of the sketches were over 100 years old, was a joy to see. [For a more complete examination visit here.](#)



We did get to visit the scenic shop of Penumbra Theatre to see the current projects both for that theatre and other regional performance companies. While in the shop, Justin got to spend time with Angilique Powers, charge artist and teacher, and Jason Allyn-Schwerin, their versatile technical director. During Justin's last evening, we went to see the production of *Uncle Vanya* so he could see how lighting changed and enhanced the setting that he was able to examine close up the previous day.

For both of us, it was a chance to get to know each other and to share the ambitions of a future generation with the seasoned experiences and unique opportunities that have been a part of my professional and academic career.







Justin examines sketches from the Twin City Scenic Collection at the Performing Arts Archives of the University of Minnesota.



Justin examines textured surfaces with Angelique Powers, scenic charge of Penumbra Theatre and teacher of scenic painting at the University of Minnesota.

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### News & Notices

## USITT to Offer eSET -- *Essential Skills for the Entertainment Technician*

**Janet Gramza** *Communications Associate*

USITT has inherited the *Essential Skills for the Entertainment Technician* program begun by the former ESTA Foundation, and is already planning the next step: exams and certificates for entry-level technicians in the industry.

"USITT has transferred the intellectual property rights to eSET from the former ESTA Foundation – now PLASA – so we can continue the great work they started," said David Grindle, Executive Director.

Members and guests learned details of the transfer from USITT President Lea Asbell-Swanger at the Annual Meeting during the Fort Worth 2014 Conference & Stage Expo.

The eSET program will provide exams in at least 10 disciplines for technicians to show working knowledge of basic skills in those areas. Disciplines include sound, costume, special effects, lighting and electrics, multimedia/projection, properties/set dressing, rigging, safety, staging/scenic fabrication, and venue jobs.

USITT is forming an eSET Council to oversee working groups in the first four concentrations – rigging, lighting, safety, and costumes – in time to offer exams at the 2015 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati. Additional disciplines will roll out over the next three years. Bill Price, director of systems at Barbizon Lighting Company and former chair of the ESTA Foundation Board, will lead the new eSET Council. The five-member council will organize working groups of industry and academic professionals to define the essential skills needed in each discipline and develop exams.

eSET is not a formal certification like the Entertainment Technician Certification Program, which provides professional accreditation for theatrical riggers and electricians, Mr. Grindle said.

"eSET is for entry-level positions in several disciplines," he said. "It will allow employers to be able to say, 'This person has the essential skills to be called an entertainment technician.' It also gives our field an entry-level set of standards



so that a theme park, a cruise line, a church, or other venue will know a person has the skills whether they have a degree or not.”

eSET will use exam fees to develop photo essays and videos demonstrating proper methods of performing each skill, to be used for test preparation. Next year, different working groups tackle the same process in additional disciplines.

“Once you pass an exam in a discipline, your certificate is good for three years, during which you will have to accrue continuing education credits -- through working in professional theatre, going to a conference, or taking online classes -- to renew,” Mr. Grindle said. “Or, you can retake the test.”

In creating the program, ESTA devised a 2,000-term glossary of “the language of live entertainment technology,” with its own 99-cent iPhone and iPad app. The eSET app is available from [iTunes](#).

“As ESTA became PLASA, it began putting more effort into its charitable work on Behind the Scenes, so it never launched eSET in full form,” Mr. Grindle said. “But the board didn’t want eSET to stagnate, so they were very excited to offer it to us. We are excited to accept it and continue the great work with many of the same people.”

More info will be available at [www.usitt.org](http://www.usitt.org).

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#### News & Notices

## 'Arbor' Day Program Provides Safe Rigging for Schools

**Janet Gramza** *Communications Associate*

Last April, USITT held its first Arbor Day fund-raiser to increase support for its Rigging Safety Initiative established three years ago by JR Clancy. This year, members are asked to observe Arbor Day – for the rigging carriage – by spreading word of the initiative to secondary schools in their areas, or by earmarking a donation to USITT for the program.

Last fall's round of applications saw the largest number of schools approved so far for free stage rigging inspections and training. Thirteen schools were accepted into the program, bringing the current total to 65 schools in 22 states.

The Rigging Safety Initiative, founded with a \$10,000 donation from Clancy in 2011, aims to approve at least 20 schools a year in two rounds of applications, each spring and fall. The deadline for schools to apply for this spring is April 15. Apply [here](#).

Schools are not covered by OSHA, and many can't answer the question of when their stage rigging was last inspected. The Rigging Safety Initiative provides free rigging inspections and four-hour safety training for up to eight school staff and student stage crew members.

Two of the high schools accepted last fall reported accidents that stepped up the need for safety inspections. Fortunately, no one was injured.

Jonathan Geller, theatre manager for the Aspen School District in Aspen, Colorado, said the accident at his high school theatre – where a heavy batten crashed to the stage and the arbor bent – led him to seek outside support for repairs and maintenance to the high school's rigging system. His application included 10 photos of problems with the 58-line counterweight system, including one he captioned "Scary Note on Lineset 58" – showing a hand-written note on the controls that read, "Move VERY Slowly & Bounce Carefully!"

Mr. Geller said most people think of Aspen as well off, but the school district theatre hasn't benefited from wealthy skiers vacationing at mountain resorts. Until the accident, he said, the district had little support even for routine upkeep and maintenance.

"Having this program pay for our inspection and safety training frees up money to allow us to actually make repairs," he said. "This allows us to bring in experts

to show us the scope of the problems and the training to be able to offer a safer, more reliable system.”

Besides Aspen, the other schools approved for the program are:

- Sparta High School in Sparta, New Jersey,
- Northwest Community High School in Indianapolis, Indiana,
- West Bend High School in West Bend, Wisconsin,
- Veterans Middle School in Marblehead, Massachusetts,
- two schools in New York State, Clarence High School in Clarence, and Nichols School in Buffalo,
- two schools in Ohio, Lakewood High School in Hebron and Padua Franciscan School in Parma, and
- four schools in Michigan: Cityside Middle School and Zeeland East High School, both in Zeeland; Northview High School in Grand Rapids, and Godwin Heights High School in Wyoming, Michigan.

The Rigging Safety Initiative is the only national program aimed at preventing safety problems on secondary school stages and instilling best safety practices at the student level. Besides JR Clancy, the program has received support from ETC in Middleton, Wisconsin; Shepard Exposition Services of Atlanta, Georgia; and H&H Specialties in South El Monte, California.

Every little bit helps. Share the link – [www.usitt.org/rigging](http://www.usitt.org/rigging) -- or make a contribution using this [form](#).

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## News & Notices

# Join Elite Training at Cirque du Soleil

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*



Even during a busy Conference, USITT and its Elite Training sponsors – Cirque du Soleil, Stage Technologies, Meyer Sound, Coolux, Silver State Wire Rope, Nicopress, and CM Entertainment Technology – have been planning the next training weekend in Las Vegas May 29 to 31.

Elite Training 2014 adds a new discipline – stage management – to the fields of rigging, automation, projection, and sound. Up to eight student and early career members in each will get free, hands-on training from industry leaders at the Cirque du Soleil Training Center in Vegas.

The deadline to apply is April 18. Apply [here](#).

Past trainees describe Elite Training as inspiring, invaluable, and even life-changing. One of last year's participants, sound designer Shannon O'Neill of Illinois State University, praised the program in her blog, [Sounds Like Shannon](#).

"I was accepted into the sound program and got to train on Meyer Sound's D'Mitri sound playback system and to shadow at Love, Cirque du Soleil's Beatles show," she wrote. "It was great! We got to hang back and run microphones for a while, and then we got to go inside the sound booth and talk to one of the playback engineers. There was so much sound equipment, and so many speakers that I could hardly believe myself."

Elite Training offers intensive training from top instructors in each field on their



companies' latest equipment, plus backstage tours and job shadowing on Cirque du Soleil shows including *KÁ*, *Mystère*, and *Criss Angel BeLIve*. One of last year's automation students ended up getting a job on *Michael Jackson One*, said Stage Tech vice president for business development Gemma Guy.

"We have a new state-of-the-art training facility in Vegas that we open up to the Elite Training students in automation," she said. "I tell kids to go into automation because it's not that big in America yet, but it's going to take off."

Elite Training tuition is free to those accepted into the program. Trainees must arrange their own travel, meals, and housing. A block of discount hotel rooms will be available near the training center, and several of the sponsors do provide lunch. For more information, go to [www.usitt.org/elite](http://www.usitt.org/elite).



Photos/Barbara E.R. Lucas

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The Last Word:

## Excitement at Fort Worth



Kids who Care from Fort Worth performing before the start of Stage Expo 2014.



Shirley Prendergast at the Lighting Designers of Color session.



Eugene Lee talks to well-wishers.



Taynesihia Jefferson's family, including her mother Nan, center, with the first group of Gateway scholars.





We ARE USITT!





David W. Will, USITT VP for Conferences, as he declares the 2014 event complete.

Photos/Glen Ellman, T Thatcher, T Grabowski, R Finkelstein, J Gramza, B Lucas

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The monthly newsletter for USITT members

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### Students Receive Support for Conference

Winners of the 2014 H & H Student Conference Support are Justin Bennett, Michael Cochran, Brandon Wheat, David Millard, Emily Smith, and Matthew Wolski.

All students who have been USITT members for at least one year and are registered for the Annual Conference & Stage Expo by the very early deadline are eligible for a random drawing to receive the support, made possible by the generosity of Reid Neslage and H & H Specialites, Inc. of South El Monte, California.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Kate Harrow, a student at University of Southern California, who won the Nemetschek Vectorworks contest to attend the Fort Worth 2014 Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

This was the first year Vectorworks has provided Conference registration based on applications from students.

### SUNY-Purchase Alumni Involved in Olympics Ceremony

Several alumni of Supporting Member SUNY-Purchase played active roles in designing the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics' opening ceremony. Rob Bissinger '91 served as art director and Anita La Scala '05 as assistant art director for the

three-hour extravaganza. Jason Courson '02, Evan Adamson '03, and Dan Sobel '03 worked on the design team.

The Purchase alumni worked under artistic director George Tsypin, winner of USITT's 2008 Golden Pen Award, before heading to Sochi to realize their vision. In addition, USITT member and Purchase Prof. Dan Hanessian '90 served as technical designer for NBC studios at the Olympics.

## Symposion, Election Part of OISTAT Activities

Breda's Museum is planning a symposium -- Costume Preservation in Museum, Theatre, and Fashion -- in collaboration with the Costume Design Group of OISTAT.

The event will be held April 4 as part of a scheduled program with activities in Brussels and Antwerp, Belgium, and Breda, Netherlands. For more about speakers and programs, go to [www.symposium-bredasmuseum.nl](http://www.symposium-bredasmuseum.nl).

The OISTAT Technology Commission will hold a meeting and election for the position of chair April 10 to 13 in Shanghai, China.

## By Design Day 2014 – for giving, not forgetting

*"We really can't tell you how much this saved our home and family."*

*"For everybody who contributes to Behind the Scenes, thank you. You helped save my life."*

*"I can't thank you all enough. Light Relief does life changing work, and my life has been changed by what you do."*

Without the help of either Light Relief in the United Kingdom or Behind the Scenes in the United States and Canada, these people — and many more — would have been in severe financial difficulties as a result of illness or injury.

A major fundraiser for both charities is *By Design Day*, being held on Thursday, April 24. Anyone can make a personal donation, hold a collection at work or, if a designer, give a day's royalties to one or both of these charities. Visit [www.estafoundation.org/ByDesignDay](http://www.estafoundation.org/ByDesignDay) for more information and to make a donation.

## Lamb Appointed Band Master for CSMR Band.

Point Source Audio announced that company President James Lamb has been tapped as the first commander of the newly-formed California State Military Reserve (CSMR) Band. Mr. Lamb, a lifelong trumpeter, composer, and arranger, earned an appointment as a warrant officer in the California Military Reserve in August. In addition to playing trumpet and writing arrangements, he will help coordinate support for California's three National Guard Bands, based





in Sacramento, Oxnard, and Los Alamitos.

James Lamb

The California National Guard Bands uphold a long tradition dating back 150 years of Guard bands providing music at military and civic events across the state. The bands perform a wide-ranging repertoire that requires high standards of musicianship. Qualified musicians who are interested in volunteering should contact Mr. Lamb at [jlamb@point-sourceaudio.com](mailto:jlamb@point-sourceaudio.com).

After leaving the Navy in 1991, Mr. Lamb enjoyed a career in New York City as a professional trumpeter, music arranger, and conductor. He then transitioned into work in the audio industry, first for Apogee Sound and later for Digigram. In 2004, he founded Point Source Audio.

## Allen Packs Last Template

After 26 years of packing templates and keeping track of inventory, debits and credits, Fred Allen is hanging it all up and retiring from Field Template. Mr. Allen was always recognizable at USITT Stage Expos with his trademark lime green shirt and jean jacket.

In the beginning, Mr. Allen explains, "I really just wanted a template to use with my drafting, the least favorite part of light design for me. A plastic template held the possibility of reducing that time significantly. Steve [Shelley, co-founder] had shown me a Field Template concept drawing one winter while he was touring with ABT. Once he had explained the concept, I was hooked. I had to have such a template."

However, Mr. Allen's enthusiasm was not appreciated by any of the template manufacturers at the time. Mr. Shelley was rejected at every turn and ended up partnering with Mr. Allen to find a factory to cut the template and develop a network of theater dealers to sell them. Field Template is the last one standing in the lighting template business, primarily due to the educational market and SoftSymbols, the most complete, accurate library of lighting symbols ever assembled.

Mr. Shelley will continue designing and selling the plastic Field Templates, along with upgrades to SoftSymbols. Mr. Allen will retain the custom template business and will launch a new web site for it.

For information about custom templates, contact Fred Allen, Fred Allen and Associates, 880 West 18th Street, San Pedro, CA 90731; 310- 832-4700 ; fax 310- 732-2247; e-mail [fred.allen@cox.net](mailto:fred.allen@cox.net). For information regarding the design and sale of Field Templates, contact, Steve Shelley, Field Template LLC, 714 Amsterdam Avenue #15, New York, NY 10025; 212-865-2969; fax 530-937-7426; e-mail [shelley@fieldtemplate.com](mailto:shelley@fieldtemplate.com).

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- **Stage Technologies:** Supplies Stage System to Everyman Theatre
- **Philips:** March Event Highlights Major Expansion of LED Portfolio
- **PRG:** Chooses Prolyte for Trusses, Introduces Best Boy Wash

## Meyer Sound: Sound System Products Debut in Frankfurt

LYON, the latest addition to the **Meyer Sound** LEO Family of linear sound reinforcement systems, led the company's lineup at Prolight & Sound 2014 March 12 to 15 in Frankfurt, Germany.

Bringing the linear reproduction of the LEO system into a more flexible and compact package, LYON is designed for applications where LEO's extreme long throw is not required. They include arena and large auditorium installations, as well as tours and festivals. Meyer Sound LEO was nominated for a Pipa Prolight & Sound International Press Award in the Concert Sound category. Magazines from around the world voted for the winners.

Also making its Prolight & Sound debut was the MJF-210, the lightest self-powered stage monitor in the Meyer Sound product line.

## ETC: Adds New Desk to Cobalt Family

The short commands and on-the-fly lighting controls of **ETC's** Cobalt family are now packaged to take on tour. The new Cobalt 10 lighting desk features the same capacity and functions of the larger Cobalt 20 desk, but is compact enough to take on the road or fit into control rooms with limited space.

Cobalt 10 officially made its debut at the Prolight & Sound tradeshow in Frankfurt,



Germany, March 12 to 15. More information on the Cobalt 10 desk and all of ETC's products is available at [www.etcconnect.com](http://www.etcconnect.com).

## Creative Stage Lighting: Adds To Sales Staff

**Creative Stage Lighting** announced a number of staff additions into its sales department.

Paul Rabinovitz has joined the company as director of sales. He has been in the entertainment lighting industry since 1980 and comes to Creative Stage Lighting with many years of experience from such companies as Strong Entertainment Lighting, Xenotech, and Teatronics. Mr. Rabinovitz is an active PLASA member. He will be responsible for developing sales tactics, procedures, market focus, and other administrative sales roles.

Larry Weinles joins CSL as central regional sales manager. His industry background includes extensive touring experience, lighting and sound design, and production management.

Mike Gillis joins CSL as Canadian regional sales manager. He is an industry veteran with sales positions at TMB and ACT Lighting.



Paul Rabinovitz

Mike Gillis

Larry Weinles

## Stage Technologies: Supplies Stage System to Everyman Theatre

**Stage Technologies** has supplied a stage engineering system for the newly reopened Everyman Theatre in Liverpool, United Kingdom. The system is based on a specification designed by Charcoal Blue consultants and the

Everyman Trust that focuses on flexibility and future expansion.

This combined both automated and non-powered engineering applications spread throughout the fly tower, thrust grids, and at stage level with a completely reconfigurable and removable staging and seating rostra.



Photos/Origin8Photography

## Philips: March Event Highlights Major Expansion of LED Portfolio

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With the launch of Mid-Power March, **Philips Lumileds** made another significant foray into the mid-power LED market, further complementing its industry leading role in high-power LED emitters and arrays.

The program introduces multiple, new mid-power LED products as well as significant upgrades to existing products. They were accompanied by the introduction of a new color binning structure that will enable tight color control.

## PRG: Chooses Prolite for Trusses, Introduces Best Boy Wash

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The world's leading supplier of entertainment and event technology, **PRG** (Production Resource Group), has selected Prolite for its European trussing inventory. The company also introduced the Best Boy Wash luminaire at Prolight & Sound 2014 in March 12 to 15 in Frankfurt, Germany

PRG provides integrated services and equipment, including audio, video, lighting,



rigging, staging, and scenery and automation systems, and chose Prolyte to supply a structured platform of complementary truss products. For more information, visit [www.prolyte.com](http://www.prolyte.com).

The PRG Best Boy Wash luminaire is a feature-rich wash light that fills a critical gap in the market while setting a new standard for its class. For more information about the Best Boy Wash luminaire, other PRG products and PRG services, contact Chris Conti at [cconti@prg.com](mailto:cconti@prg.com) or visit [www.prg.com](http://www.prg.com).



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News From *USITT's Executive Director*

## After the Annual Conference...



The spirit of sharing innovation at the USITT 2014 Annual Conference was felt everywhere.

"Inspiration" and "innovation" were the key words around our recent conference.

As USITT continues to move forward, these words drive our offerings and operations. We have new educational programs, new partnerships, and renewed focus on research.

Members asked for a way to discuss innovation and have hands-on opportunities away from the conference. SPARK! will offer that September 7 to 9 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Engaging in conversation with designers, engineers, and "out of the box" thinkers while exploring the newest materials will help spark new ideas among the participants. By bringing people together to spark new ideas, we can inspire partnerships and creativity that impels industry and design.

The eSET program will continue the great initiative started by our partners at the ESTA Foundation. Bringing together industry and academia to establish a nationally recognized base knowledge for technicians will make our schools better and our stages safer. Through partnerships like these we can offer

certificates that attest to an individual's learning allowing employers to know that basic skills, terms, and processes are known by the people they employ with an eSET certificate.

Finally, our academic members asked for an audition and interview weekend that fell at a different time of year than the traditional winter recruiting season. By partnering with the Southeastern Theatre Conference, we are able to offer LINK, an affordable interview weekend for perspective students in all areas of performance and design looking for MFA degrees. This partnership has been eagerly received since it was announced and is proving even more popular than we had imagined.

Each of these new activities builds upon existing ones to create an Institute that is vibrant and reaching out to our membership and our industry year-round. USITT is more than one week in our lives each year. It is inspiration and innovation that works to be a vital part of your professional life each day.

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- **Pathway Connectivity:** Chicago-area Theatre Lights Up with New Console
- **RC4 Wireless:** Introduces Next-Generation Dimmers
- **TMB:** Hit Milestone of 1,000th System Sold
- **IATSE:** Local Wins Decision for Cinema Brossard
- **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas:** Lucky Eights Portend Exciting Summer Session
- **Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.:** New Edition of Software Training Guide Available
- **L-ACOUSTICS:** Midwest-based SR Provider Accepts Delivery System

## Sapsis Rigging: Phoenix Fly in St. John's Cathedral

**Sapsis Rigging** provided rigging design and installation services as well as all of the equipment to fly two sculptures in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. The sculptures, designed and crafted by Chinese artist Xu Bing, represent a male and female Phoenix flying through the nave of the cathedral.

The two phoenix, which weigh 13,000 pounds each, were suspended from a truss grid which was in turn suspended from 38 chain hoists attached to the building. The entire installation took just under two weeks to complete.

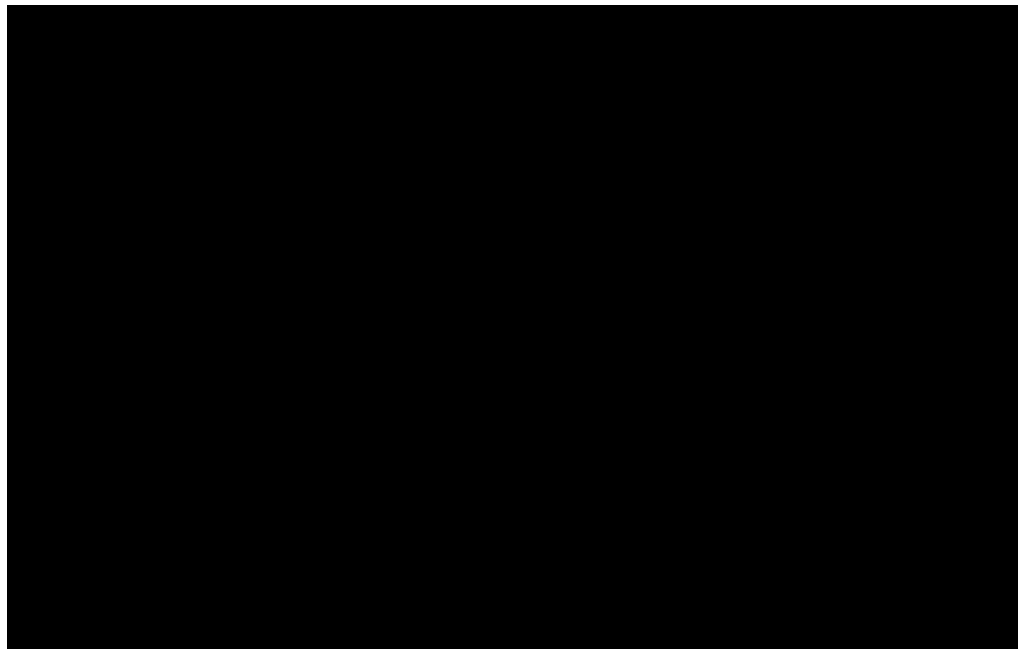
A time lapse video shows the work.



Photo/Canna Gray







## Pathway Connectivity: Chicago-area Theatre Lights Up with New Console

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Stage 212, a community theater in LaSalle, Illinois, has selected the **Cognito lighting console** from **Pathway Connectivity** as part of a plan to upgrade its old, outdated lighting board with a programmable system aimed at improving theatrical lighting flexibility.

The Cognito lighting console is ideal for community theaters such as Stage 212, which have switched over entirely to color-changing LED lights, and will perform equally well in venues that own a mix of traditional dimmers, moving lights, and LED fixtures. The console is networkable and features a streamlined interface that guides users through the programming process.

For more information visit [www.pathwayconnect.com](http://www.pathwayconnect.com).



## RC4 Wireless: Introduces Next-Generation Dimmers

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**RC4 Wireless**, maker of award-winning low-voltage dimmers, introduces next-generation W-DIM4 and W-DIMm3 wireless dimmers for use with Wireless Solution W-DMX systems.



The W-DIM4 is a four-channel wireless DMX receiver with four dimmers integrated into one small device. The W-DIMm3 is a wireless DMX receiver and three dimmers in a miniature device.

## **TMB: Hit Milestone of 1,000th System Sold**

**TMB** and AC Power Distribution have celebrated the delivery of the 1,000th ProPower Rack Panel Distribution (RPD) system. The latest ProPower RPD rack was handed over at a special ceremony at TMB's global headquarters earlier this month.

Custom-configurable ProPower RPD power distribution features a comprehensive range of cULus Listed panels, with virtually every type of connector, voltage range, or special purpose distro device used in the North American live event and entertainment industries. Over 150 panels are available, with more being added regularly.

ProPower is a registered trademark of TMB, who is exclusive distributor of ProPower RPD, ProPower DP, ProPower CE RMD, and ProPower CE HPS. Find out more about the entire ProPower range at

[www.tmb.com/products/propower](http://www.tmb.com/products/propower). Learn more about AC Power at [www.acpowerdistribution.com](http://www.acpowerdistribution.com), and TMB at [www.tmb.com](http://www.tmb.com).

## **IATSE: Local Wins Decision for Cinema Brossard**

**IATSE** Local 262 has come out ahead in the local's recent dispute over bargaining rights at Cinema Brossard in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The local already held bargaining rights for employees of the cinema. The dispute centered on Cineplex refusing to apply the existing agreement to four VIP theatres it added to the existing cinema.

The Quebec Labour Board issued its decision in favour of Local 262 on February 7. The 65 employees working at the VIP cinema are now covered by the agreement and will soon become members of the union.

## **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas: Lucky Eights Portend Exciting Summer Session**

**Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas** is gearing up for one of its most exciting sessions in 2014.

It is SILV's eighth year with eight weeks of classes. The number eight is a significant number for luck and

prosperity in Chinese culture, so all those eights are lucky for SILV.

To share the experiend of SILV2014, go to [stagecraftinstitute.com/admissions](http://stagecraftinstitute.com/admissions).



SILV mascot Tharon sends her seasonal best to USITT thanks to a current portrait by one of her most talented fans - Gren Burgess of Southern Mississippi.

## Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.: New Edition of Software Training Guide Available

**Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.** has updated a training guide for users of Vectorworks software, *Vectorworks Essentials Tutorial Manual, Sixth Edition*.

This tutorial, written by expert Vectorworks trainer Jonathan Pickup, is a must-have workbook for anyone new to the software. The book includes an introduction to the Vectorworks interface; a section to familiarize readers with tools and commands; an introduction to 3D modeling; tips on organizing information to create models, drawings, and reports; and a discussion about using worksheets. Notes and practice exercises throughout the tutorial and on an accompanying DVD provide additional guidance.

The book is part of Nemetschek Vectorworks' self-paced training options. For more information and to purchase this tutorial, visit [www.vectorworks.net/training/guides.php](http://www.vectorworks.net/training/guides.php).

## L-ACOUSTICS: Midwest-based SR Provider Accepts Delivery System

Fresh back from the 25th annual Pollstar Awards in Nashville, Tennessee where it was nominated for "Sound Company of the Year," Thunder Audio recently took delivery of its first **L-ACOUSTICS** system, the new K2.

Comprised of 36 K2 and six KARA variable curvature WST line source elements, eight K1-SB and 18 SB28 subs, six ARCS II constant curvature enclosures and 10 LA-RAK touring racks--each housing three LA8 amplified controllers--the sound reinforcement provider's recent purchase marks one of the very first K2 systems sold in the United States.





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- **Midwest:** To Hold Mechanical Design Competition
- **California:** UCLA to Host Design Showcase
- **Southeast:** Save the date for Southeast Master Classes

### Midwest: To Hold Mechanical Design Competition

There's still time to design and build a pitching machine for the Midwest Regional Section's Mechanical Design Competition, to be held at the University of Illinois Krannert Center on May 10.

This year, the small prototypes will be tested for pitch speed and accuracy. All college theatre majors are invited to join in the fun and compete for a full conference pass to the 2015 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati. [Click here for more information](#), or e-mail Beth Martell at [bmartell@illinois.edu](mailto:bmartell@illinois.edu).



### California: UCLA to Host Design Showcase

California Regional Section and nearby members are invited to participate in Design Showcase West at UCLA on June 7.

The annual event consists of a morning VIP viewing session (by invitation only), followed by an afternoon session (from 2 to at least 4 p.m.) open to the public. Design Showcase West is hosted by the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television; the Costume Designers Guild, Local 892; the United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829; the Set Decorators Society of America; and the Art Directors Guild, Local 800.

This is a great opportunity for students, faculty, and other working professionals to meet talented new MFA design graduates from around the country and to

view their recent work. It also is a good chance to catch up with some old friends and colleagues and to make some new acquaintances and professional connections.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Southeast: Save the date for Southeast Master Classes

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SE-USITT Fall 2014 Master Classes will be held at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida on September 12 – 13. More details will be released in the next few months.

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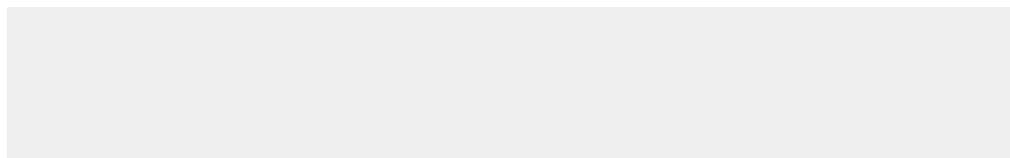
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- Sherry Wagner-Henry, *Secretary*
- Daniel Culhane, *Treasurer*
- David Krajec, *Vice-President for Commissions*
- Mark Shanda, *Vice-President for Communications*
- David W. Will, *Vice-President for Conferences*
- Marketa Fantova, *Vice-President for International Activities*
- Tom Hackman, *Vice-President for Programming*
- Martha Marking, *Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters*
- Daniel Denhart, *Vice-President for Special Operations*
- Joe Aldridge, *Immediate Past President*

## Directors

### 2011-2014

- Jack Feivou
- Jennifer L. Knott
- Andi Lyons
- Kevin Rigdon
- Loren Schreiber
- Joe Tilford

### 2012-2015

- Kasey Allee-Foreman
- Bill Browning
- Alessia Carpoca
- Michael Mehler
- Linda Pisano
- Carolyn Satter

## 2013-2016

- Paul Brunner
- Michael Katz
- Elynmarie Kazle
- Robert Scales
- Kim Scott
- Board Mentees: Pinky Estell & Michael Vitale

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- **Barbara E.R. Lucas**, *Sightlines* Editor, Director of Communication
- **David Grindle**, Executive Director
- **Carol B. Carrigan**, Director of Finance and Human Resources
- **Monica L. Merritt**, Director of Member Services
- **Jim Lucas**, Marketing Sales & Services Associate
- **Shannan Hoerger**, Member Services Associate
- **Ron Procopio**, Stage Expo Manager & Special Events Coordinator
- **Christine Troscher**, Education & Training Coordinator
- **Janet Gramza**, Communications Associate
- **Lori Furcinito**, Finance Assistant

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- Apollo Design Technology, Inc.
- Automatic Devices Company
- Barbizon Lighting Company
- University of California – Santa Cruz
- Cirque du Soleil
- City Theatrical, Inc.
- J.R. Clancy, Inc.
- Creative Handbook
- Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- d&b audiotechnik
- Daktronics
- Disney Parks Creative Entertainment
- Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC)
- The ESTA Foundation/Behind the Scenes
- Foy Inventerprises, Inc.
- Friends Beauty Supply
- Future Light
- GAMPRODUCTS, INC.
- H & H Specialties Inc.
- InterAmerica Stage, Inc.
- KM Fabrics, Inc.
- Kryolan Corporation

- Live Design Magazine/LDI Show
- MDG Fog Generators
- Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.
- Michigan Technological University
- Musson Theatrical, Inc.
- Norcostco, Inc.
- Oasis Stage Werks
- Philips Group
- PLASA
- PRG
- Production Advantage, Inc.
- Robert Juliat America
- Rosco Laboratories, Inc.
- Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics, Fabrications & Supplies
- SECOA
- Stage Technologies
- StageRight Corporation
- StageSpot
- Steeldeck Inc.
- Sustainable Technologies Group
- Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- Texas Scenic Company
- Vincent Lighting Systems
- Wenger Corporation
- Yale School of Drama/Repertory Theatre
- ZFX , Inc. – Flying Effects

## Sustaining Members

- A.C. Lighting Inc.
- A.C.T. Lighting
- ACME Corp. Production Resource
- The University of Alabama
- Alcons Audio USA
- Altman Lighting, Inc.
- Aquarii, Inc.
- Atlanta Rigging Systems
- Auerbach Pollock Friedlander
- Automation FX

- A V Pro, Inc.
- Baby Lock
- Backdrops Beautiful
- Backdrops Fantastic
- Batts Audio, Video and Lighting
- BellaTEX, Inc.
- Ben Nye Makeup
- BMI Supply
- University of California — Irvine
- California Institute of the Arts
- Center Theatre Group
- Chainmaster Buhentechnik GMBH
- Chauvet
- Chicago Flyhouse Inc.
- Chicago Spotlight, Inc.
- Clear-Com Communication Systems
- Clearwing Productions
- Cobalt Studios
- Columbus McKinnon Corp.
- Cooper Controls
- Creative Conners, Inc.
- Dallas Stage Scenery, Inc.
- Dazian Fabrics, LLC
- Designlab Chicago
- Doug Fleenor Design, Inc.
- Dragon & Phoenix Software, Inc.
- Elation Lighting
- Emerson College Dept of Performing Arts
- Entertainment Lighting Services
- ENTTEC Americas, LLC
- Florida State University
- Focal Press
- Fox Studios
- Full Compass Systems, Ltd.
- GALA Systems, Inc.
- GLP German Lighting Products, Inc.
- Gerriets International Inc.

- Grand Stage Company, Inc.
- Hall Associates Flying Effects
- Harkness Screens (USA) Ltd.
- heatshrink.com
- Herbert L. Camburn Associates
- iWeiss Theatrical Solutions
- IALD-International Association of Lighting Designers
- IATSE Local 126
- InCord Ltd.
- InLight Gobos
- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
- Irwin Seating Company
- James Thomas Engineering
- Johnson Systems Inc.
- Kenmark, Inc.
- Kirkegaard Associates
- L-ACOUSTICS
- Lectronsonics, Inc.
- LEE Filters
- Lehigh Electric Products Co.
- Leprecon
- Leviton/NSI/Colortran
- Lex Products Corp.
- Limelight Productions, Inc.
- Lite-Trol Service Company, Inc.
- LVH Entertainment Systems
- Lycian Stage Lighting
- The MAGNUM Companies, Ltd.
- Mainstage Theatrical Supply
- Mega Systems
- Mehron, Inc.
- University of Minnesota – Twin Cities
- University of Missouri-Kansas City
- Mongol Global Tour Company, Inc.
- MRD, Inc.
- Mutual Hardware
- Nemetschek Vectorworks



- Niscon Inc.
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- University of North Carolina School of the Arts
- Northern Sound & Light, Inc.
- Ontario Staging Limited
- OSRAM SYLVANIA
- Pathway Connectivity
- Penn State University
- Period Corsets
- Prolyte Group
- Prepared, LLC
- Rational Acoustics, LLC
- RC4 Wireless/Soundsculpture Inc.
- Rockford University
- Saginaw Valley State University
- Sapsis Rigging Entertainment Services, Inc.
- Sculptural Arts Coating, Inc.
- Sensey Electronics
- Serapid, Inc.
- SEW-Eurodrive, Inc.
- Show Sage
- Siong Ann Engineering Pte Ltd
- Smooth-On, Inc.
- Stage Decoration & Supplies, Inc.
- Stage Equipment and Lighting, Inc.
- Stage Rigging Services, Inc.
- Stagecraft Industries, Inc.
- Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas
- StageLight, Inc.
- Staging Concepts, Inc.
- Teletec De Mexico S.A. DE C.V.
- Terex USA (Genie)
- Texas Performing Arts
- Theatre Consultants Collaborative, LLC
- Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.
- Thern Stage Equipment
- Tiffin Scenic Studios, Inc.

- TMB
- Ultratec Special Effects Inc.
- Union Connector Co., Inc.
- United Scenic Artists Local 829
- USHIO America, Inc.
- XS Lighting, LLC

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