



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



FORT WORTH MARCH 26-29



[Lead story ›](#)

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF ›](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR ›](#)

[Search the Archives](#)

GO

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE ›](#)



A Grant from 2001 Returns Dividends

Not only did USITT funding in 2001 lead to research and a whole new company, but Rob Gerlach and Novella Smith decided to surprise USITT in 2014... [more »](#)



Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom

Some stars from the USITT Annual Conference in Fort Worth shared their experiences, good and bad, and illuminated the diverse paths they have traveled... [more »](#)



Ann Roth Monograph on Sale

Readers were thrilled to meet the authors and the subject of the latest in USITT's Monograph series. Now the book is on sale... [more »](#)



Read a Good Book? Nominate it

The USITT Golden Pen has honored more than 20 books that inspire or educate. Now is the time to nominate a book for 2015... [more »](#)



Crowdsourcing OISTAT Database

The International Organization of Scenographers, Theatre Architects, and Technicians is compiling a database of books, chapters, and scholarly articles and seeks assistance... [more »](#)



Three Grants Awarded in 2014

Almost \$30,000 in USITT grants were announced in March, helping diverse projects to move forward... [more »](#)



Ribbons Assist Rigging Inspections

Colorful pieces of cloth attached to badges at the Annual Conference also help keep school safe. And there is still time to support the Rigging Safety Initiative... [more »](#)



Profile of a Fellow: Larry Hill

Involvement with USITT can create a lifetime of connections...and inspires creative ways to support the organization far into the future... [more »](#)



USITT's Executive Director

Where, or where, is the absolute best place to hold a USITT event? That question is asked often, but the answers are not so obvious... [more »](#)



Cincinnati in 2015

The city which played host to the 2009 Annual Conference is expanding its cultural offerings and opening more restaurants and entertainment venues as it prepares for 2015... [more »](#)



Education Commission Looks Forward

Online voting will help shape the Education Commission's offerings for 2015, plus more ways to get involved... [more »](#)



Rose Brand Action Design

Four hours of intensive activity, lobbying for votes, and a close competition marked the 2014 version of the competition... [more »](#)



Long Reach Long Riders in Fort Worth

Not everyone can ride a petite three-wheeler with panache, but to help raise more than \$12,000, LRLR was willing to give it a try... [more »](#)



The Last Word – "Why?" Inspires

Fort Worth lived up to its promise of helping those attending to be inspired at a stage management session... [more »](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ottawa Setting for 24th Rendez-vous
- TCG's Crossing Borders Slated June 19 to 21
- Roscolux 359 Keeps Giving to Behind the Scenes

NEWS FROM: AROUND THE INSTITUTE

- Lose Something in Fort Worth? We Might Have It
- An Interesting Case of Recycling
- Congrats to Three at Schuler Shook

NEWS FROM: CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

- **Creative Stage Lighting:** Now High End Systems Distributor
- **Rosco:** Helps Autism Speaks Light It Up Blue
- **ETC:** Debuts Products, Part of Siberian Theatre Renovation
- **Daktronics:** Highlights Controller at Conference
- **Meyer Sound:** Introduces Surround Loudspeaker at CinemaCon
- **Rose Brand:** Blog Features Designer's Use of Kaos
- **ZFX, Inc.:** Giving Stage Expo Participants a Chance to Fly

NEWS FROM: SUSTAINING MEMBERS

- **Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.:** Accepting Grant Applications
- **Cobalt Studios:** Faux Bois, Historic Scene Painting Topics for Seminars
- **TMB:** Introduces Solaris LED Flare Jr at Prolight+Sound
- **GLP:** Celebrates 20th Anniversary with Style
- **L-ACOUSTICS:** Boulevard Pro Adds KARA Package to Inventory

[Lead story »](#)

Volume LIV, Number 5



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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News & Notices

Major Donation to USITT Spurs Research

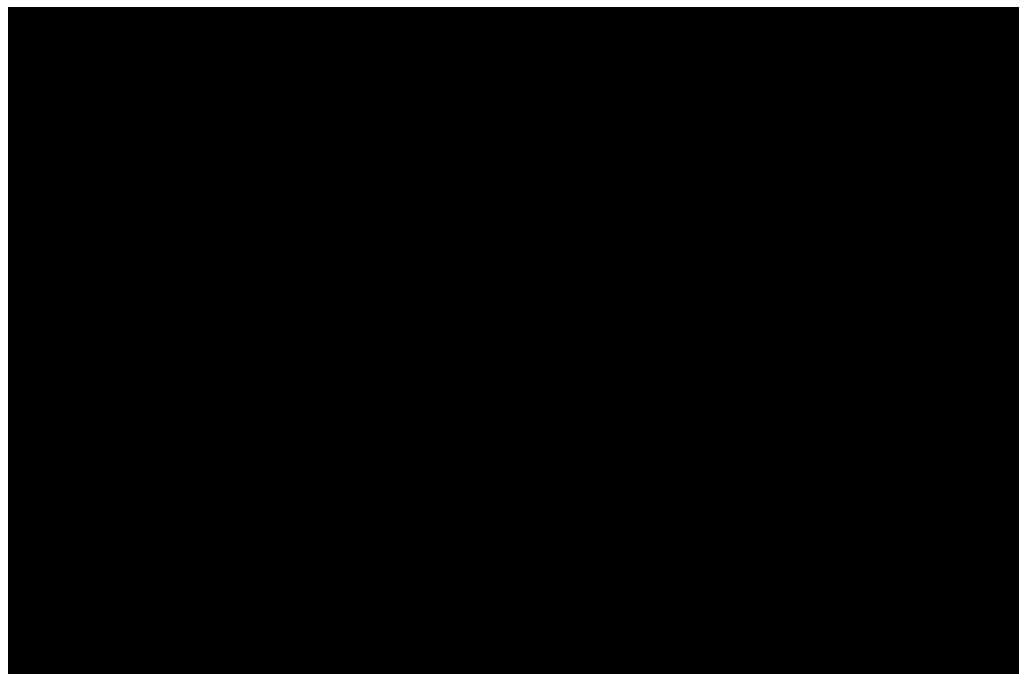


Novella Smith and Rob Gerlach each presented USITT with a check for \$10,000 in support of USITT's Edward Kook Fund at USITT's Annual Meeting on March 26 2014. From left are Rich Dunham, chair of the Grants & Fellowships committee, Dan Culhane, USITT Treasurer, Rob Gerlach and Novella Smith, founders of Selador.

USITT's ability to fund cutting-edge research took a huge step forward on March 26 when Novella Smith and Robert Gerlach made a \$20,000 donation to the Edward Kook Fund. The gifts, announced at USITT's Annual Meeting in Fort Worth, were a surprise engineered by Ms. Smith and Mr. Gerlach as a way to show their appreciation for support they received in 2001 for their *Development and Study of LED-Based Theatrical Lighting*. That grant, coupled with an enormous amount of time and effort, helped lead to the creation of the Seledor series of LED lights.

Lea Asbell-Swanger, USITT's president, noted that one of USITT's strategic goals is to "promote and grow research that enhances the performing arts and live entertainment industry" and that the gift from Mr. Gerlach and Ms. Smith will be instrumental in showing the strong support for this type of research. View the check presentation below, or [click here to view the video on YouTube](#).





Mr. Gerlach says the donation is "such a great moment for us, to be able to give back, a moment of coming full circle." Giving a donation to the Kook Fund was initially Ms. Smith's idea. Her first suggestion was "I think we should 'return' the money." Instead they are giving back double what they received.

The initial grant application they wrote was seeking support for research only, but Tim Kelly (then head of the Grants & Fellowship Committee) encouraged them to think more broadly, to jump start thinking about what might be possible. That generous and wonderful "no strings attached" support is why they want to pay it forward.

Going from the initial grant application to the actual production of a lighting instrument was an arduous process. Both say it was a passion that drove them forward, and the strong support of family and spouses is what made their dedication possible. "We put our families at financial risk" Ms. Smith noted, because even though they received positive feedback to their research and initial prototypes, they did not have a product to sell for several years.

Ms. Smith took a course at Rensselaer on LED manufacturing and was surprised to learn that it cost \$1 million to create something new. Then, when she figured out their expenses and the time and resources the two had "donated" to the effort, that figure was just about correct.

"The USITT grant went for materials" Mr. Gerlach said, but the support



Rob Gerlach and his wife Kimberly at the booth he created to highlight the work on LEDs for the 2003 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

continued. They had access to USITT's members and leadership for surveys and feedback, and were able to show their work at Stage Expo in 2003 where they demonstrated a prototype fixture that had been hand-assembled by Mr. Gerlach's entire extended family. Time was tight as he literally raced against highway closure and blizzard conditions to get the materials across Wyoming to Minneapolis for the event.

He vividly recalls giving a session about his work and expecting an empty room. Instead the place was packed. As he talked about the research on human color perception, that people actually see more than RGB, the audience sort of "ho-hummed" but then they turned off the lights and turned on that hand-assembled fixture and the audience gasped. "And we still did not have a single fixture to sell" Ms. Smith said.

Stepping from research to testing to more research to a final product was taxing, but they were able to find budding industrial engineers, electronic engineers, and people who understood DMX who all came together at "at just the right time for us," said Mr. Gerlach.

For USITT, the \$20,000 donation also comes at a time when the organization is renewing its focus on research and development. Mr. Gerlach and Ms. Smith are both extremely supportive of that approach, and note that they hope that discussions about intellectual property and managing trade secrets will be part of the process.

To help support further research efforts, visit

[Front page](#)

[Next story](#)



Novella Smith and Bryan Dunford showing their research and testing on human color perception and additive color mixing at USITT's Stage Expo in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2003.



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



FORT WORTH MARCH 26-29

[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News & Notices

Announcements

- [Ottawa Setting for 24th Rendez-vous](#)
- [TCG's Crossing Borders Slated June 19 to 21](#)
- [Roscolux 359 Keeps Giving to Behind the Scenes](#)

Ottawa Setting for 24th Rendez-vous

The [CITT 24th Rendez-vous Annual Conference and Trade Show](#) will take place August 14 to 16 in Ottawa, Ontario.

The conference offers three days of sessions, workshops, backstage tours, trade show, social events, and networking opportunities. USITT members can register at the member rate for the event. Registration to exhibit at the [Trade Show](#) is open.

Pre-conference workshops will be replaced with hands-on console & media server training. Education Forum and Roadhouse Roundtable discussions will be moved to Saturday. The AGM luncheon has become an AGM breakfast.

The New Product Breakfast will kick off Friday morning and the Corporate Luncheon, sponsored by [MDG Fog Generators](#), will allow delegates and exhibitors some layback time just before the Trade Show opening.

CITT's Annual General Meeting Breakfast on Saturday is a must for all CITT members to learn more about what the organization has been doing over the year and to review the annual reports and financial statement.

Evening social events include the opening night Meet & Greet Junk Challenge on Thursday, Swag Bingo Live Auction Friday night, and the Awards Banquet where individuals and companies who have excelled in their field of live performance in Canada are honored.

TCG's Crossing Borders Slated June 19 to 21

Attendees will cross more than just theoretical boundaries during the 24th annual Theatre Communications Group (TCG) National Conference: Crossing Borders June 19 to 21 in San Diego, California. They will journey to Tijuana, Mexico to engage with local artists and culture.

Theatre performer and playwright **Taylor Mac** will be one of the featured presenters, with more speakers to be announced soon.

Before the Conference, on June 18, TCG will convene two, full-day **Pre-Conferences** in Tijuana, Mexico: the International Artistic Collaboration Forum and the third, in-person Diversity & Inclusion Institute.

For more information about the conference and to register, [click here](#).

Roscolux 359 Keeps Giving to Behind the Scenes

Rosco Laboratories recently presented its sixth annual royalty check to the ESTA Foundation's to Behind the Scenes. The money, raised from the sales of Roscolux 359 Medium Violet, tallied \$2,227 this year to bring total donations from the product's sales to just over \$15,000.

For more information about Behind the Scenes, to donate, or to apply for a grant, visit

www.estafoundation.org/bts.htm.



[Previous story](#)

[Next story](#)

Volume LIV, Number 5



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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



FORT WORTH MARCH 26-29

[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News & Notices

Wit, Wisdom, Wackiness from Fort Worth

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*

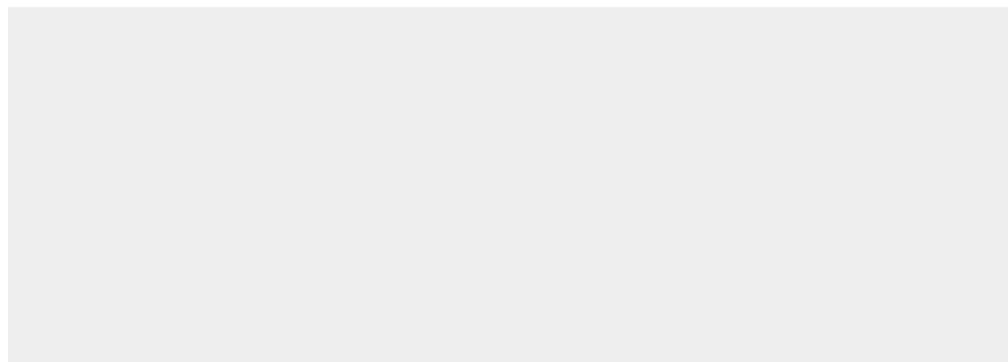


Photos/Tom Thatcher, Richard Finkelstein, Tom Grabowski, Glen Ellman

They triggered laughter; they prompted tears; they brought people to their feet for standing ovations.

The seasoned heroes at the 2014 Conference & Stage Expo are most at home backstage, but they wowed with wit, wisdom, and a little wackiness when put in the spotlight in Fort Worth, Texas.

Here are some gems:





"I notice Susan Davis is here, who was my dresser at the Seattle Opera. So I'm beginning to wonder how many people in this room have seen me in my underwear."

– **Darren K. Woods**, Fort Worth Opera general director, 2014 Thomas DeGaetani Award.

"Those of you aspiring to careers in the arts -- know that the rewards you get are a direct result of the work you give."

– **Mr. Woods**.



"I am overwhelmed by this award. I never think about these kinds of things. I'm more worried about what's not exploding when it should."

– **James R. Bakkom**, artist and props master, 2014 USITT Award.

"Lights are important. But when you blast 'em in a Banty chicken's eyeballs, they go nuts."

– *Mr. Bakkom.*

"I would be working for the McCarthy Construction Company if it wasn't for the 1974 Iowa State Fair. That's where I first saw the Grateful Dead, which started me on my life of crime."

– **Bob McCarthy**, 2014 Distinguished Achievement Award in Sound Design.

"I learned in Japan there's a thing in their culture called 'face saving.' You don't want to make anyone look bad. The trick is to bring the person in and make them discover the problem. Then they get to still be in control of their show. Because if you save somebody's butt and fix their show, but you embarrass them, then they can't have you back. But if you save somebody's butt and nobody else knows it, then you've made a friend for life."

– **Mr. McCarthy.**



"Do not defy the basic laws of physics. Gravity and inertia are always with us."

– **Bernhard R. Works**, USITT Fellow and award sponsor.

"Man's first tool. Man's first weapon. Peace."

– **Mr. Works**, presenting the "Golden Hammer" to Nick Christiani, winner of the Fred Buerki Scenic Technology Award.



"The presenters were told to keep it short. Only costume people know long from short."

– **Zelma H. Weisfeld**, presenting her Costume Design & Technology Award to Lindsay Hinz.



"I learned so much by assisting great lighting designers. What you get in school is theory, and you can always use theory. But you learn more by doing. I think I enjoyed assisting more than designing because of the learning aspect."

– **Shirley Prendergast**, 2014 Distinguished Achievement Award in Lighting Design.

"One thing I learned from Jules Fisher, besides lighting design, is you take your crew out to dinner on opening night."

– Ms. Prendergast.



"My mentor was Irene Sharaff. I was painting scenery at the Bucks County Playhouse, and Jean Rosenthal, the lighting designer, said, 'You have to meet this woman Irene Sharaff.' So I did, and Ms. Sharaff said, 'How would you like to come to Hollywood and work for no money?' I was 19, and I wanted to be a costume designer. I wanted to wear a big hat and carry a cigarette holder, and she looked like the person who could make that happen."

– Ann Roth, 2014 Distinguished Achievement Award in Costume Design.

"I met many teachers today at the book-signing, and I thought that was great. Because what is the most important career in the world? ... Costumes!"

– Ms. Roth, to big laughs.



"I make my life up as I go along. I just try to get up every day and have a great idea."

– **Eugene Lee**, 2014 Distinguished Achievement Award in Scene Design.

"My first Broadway show was called Dude. The director was Rocco Bufano. Ever heard of him again?"

– **Mr. Lee.**



"I've learned that happy people make better art. So I try to keep people happy."

– **Susan Threadgill**, 2014 Distinguished Achievement Award in Management.

"I wanted to be a playwright at first. It took me a year to decide that I didn't really want to watch what someone else would do to my work."

– **Ms. Threadgill**



"The biggest risk you take every day is just showing up... The worst thing that's going to happen is it's not going to work, and that's OK.' Failure is OK."

– **Dana Taylor**, 2014 Distinguished Achievement Award in Education.

"I try to stay out of the booth during a performance so I'm not up there gasping because a light cue is half a second late. I try to let the students play. I especially like it when my students become my colleagues more than my students, when they see something wrong with a cue and they fix it and don't tell me."

– **Mr. Taylor**.



"The 'U' stands for U -- you, you, you. The 'S' stands for us seniors, we old buggers who've been around a long time. 'I' stands for international, intimacy, and infection, because theatre is truly an infectious disease. 'T' of course stands for theatre. And the last 'T' is, you've all got to be like

thunderbolts and shake things up... What a state the world's in! We've got to do our best to cheer it all up."
– **Richard Pilbrow**, USITT Fellow and Opening Night emcee.

[« Previous story](#)

[Next story »](#)

Volume LIV, Number 5



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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



FORT WORTH MARCH 26-29

[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News & Notices

Roth Charms at Conference

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*

Hollywood and Broadway costume designer Ann Roth was a smash hit at the 2014 Conference & Stage Expo in Fort Worth, Texas, where she helped launch the monograph, *The Designs of Ann Roth*. She also accepted the 2014 Distinguished Achievement Award in Costume Design, discussed her creative methods, and engaged dozens of fans at her book signing.

The new monograph, written by Holly Poe Durbin and Bonnie Kruger, is available [here](#).

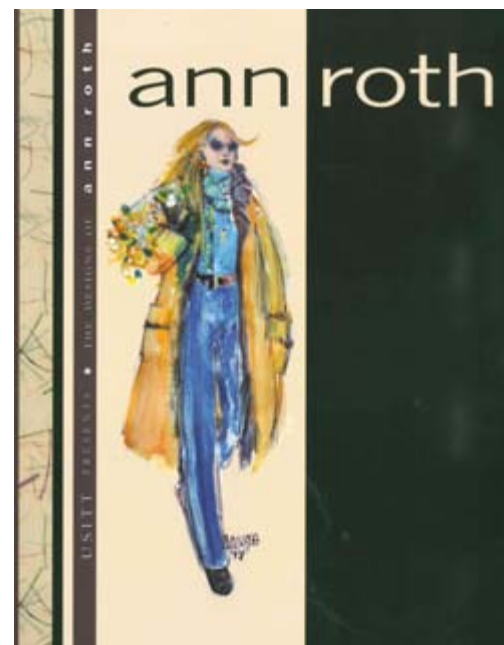
Ms. Roth started her morning with the Distinguished Achievement Award Winners in Conversation, sharing the stage with Eugene Lee, Shirley Prendergast, Bob McCarthy, Dana Taylor, Jim Bakkom, Susan Threadgill, and moderators Kevin Rigdon and Michael Mehler.

With so many great minds sharing anecdotes and advice, she managed to rivet the audience with her description of using a costume to turn an actor into a character.

"What I like to do is, say an actor has been flown in overnight and he's incredibly cranky --Dustin Hoffman," she said, then told the story of how Mr. Hoffman became Ratso Rizzo in *Midnight Cowboy* before her eyes in a cramped dressing room.

"I tell him we're going to go in the dressing room and create a character," she said. "I had already decided what it is he's going to wear, and it's here in the room, but he doesn't know it. I have a suit dyed an ugly purple color, and I had shoes hollowed out and weighted to make him walk funny."

Ms. Roth had him try on the suit with some "rotten suspenders," and told him he had to have dirty fingernails and a stolen class ring.



"And suddenly, you look in the mirror and you both see that there's someone in the mirror who's not Dustin Hoffman and not me," Roth said. "It's the character, and you have to just stand back and let it breathe. And that happens on every single thing I've ever done."

At her book signing with Ms. Durbin and Ms. Kruger, Ms. Roth greeted every fan who approached with questions and comments, as she wrote personal messages in their books.

"Are you a costume designer?" she asked several people. If they said, "yes," she asked, "Do you draw well?" If they said "yes," she said, "Good." If they said "no," she said, "Then start!"

Later, at her award session, she explained why drawing well matters. In designing a costume to create a character, "it's important for you to have an image in your mind before you start. It's not going to Macy's and saying, 'Oh, this looks nice with that.' It's having an image of the character, and what the character is wearing, and what those clothes look like ... And once you get that image, you should be able to draw it quickly."

"I don't trust any designer who can't draw," she added. "I insist you learn to draw! I think to be able to stick your nose in the air and say, 'I'm a costume designer,' you damn well better be able to draw, and that's all I have to say about that."

She said she works best with actors and directors who share her sense of humor. Director Mike Nichols, who wrote the foreword for her monograph, proved he "got" her back in 1964 when she worked on her first feature film, *The World of Henry Orient*.

Ms. Roth decided that a young girl whose parents were always off traveling would constantly wear her mother's fur coat. "It was a hot coat, as they say in New York," she said to big laughs.

Mr. Nichols loved her use of the coat to create the character, and invited Ms. Roth to work on Broadway's *The Odd Couple* that same year. They have since collaborated on two dozen plays and films – so far.

Ms. Roth said some of her choices were simpler. "Someone asked me why I designed *Romeo and Juliet* in pink and blue," she said. "I was pregnant."

She is known for meticulous research into period styles and fabrics, and her effort to be authentic and "real" to best serve the character and the story.

One questioner at the award session asked how big a role preparation plays in her work. "It's big," she said. "Very, very big." It has to be about what the character really would have worn. "If some movie star says, 'I don't like yellow,' you go, 'You? You do not exist! It's the character.'"

"But you don't say it that way," she added. "Although I have."

Ms. Roth's body of work ranges from period costumes for movies like *The English Patient* (1996) -- which won her a Best Costume Design Oscar -- to

portraying historic figures like Nicole Kidman as Virginia Woolf in *The Hours* (2002) and Meryl Streep's Julia Child in *Julie and Julia* (2009).

The Designs of Ann Roth – as well as eight previous monographs on significant American designers are available at www.usitt.org/store.

[« Previous story](#)

[Next story »](#)

Volume LIV, Number 5



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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News & Notices

Read a Good Book Lately? Nominate It for Golden Pen Award



Mike Monsos, left, chair of the USITT Golden Pen committee and Mark Shanda, right, USITT VP of Communications, present the 2014 Golden Pen award and plaques to Peter McKinnon and Eric Fielding, center.

"You can't enjoy Art or Books in a hurry."

— **E.A. Bucchianeri**, *Brushstrokes of a Gadfly*

As summer and the possibility of some free time for reading approaches, don't forget to share favorite books with the Golden Pen Committee. Nominations for the 2015 Golden Pen will be accepted from members through August 15 by [clicking here](#).

Each year, USITT presents the opportunity to recognize outstanding books through the Golden Pen Award, which honors outstanding publications in the field of design and production for the performing arts as well as the history and documentation of theatre and theatre design.

Books published in the last three years that have made a significant contribution

to any aspect of theatre design and technology are eligible. This year, *World Scenography 1975-1990* edited by Peter McKinnon and Eric Fielding, earned the award. It is a collection and documentation of much of the best design work from the world.

Previous winners include *Joseph Urban* by John Loring; *Making the Scene: A History of Stage Design and Technology* by Oscar Brockett; *George Tyspin Opera Factory: Building in the Black Void* by George Tyspin; and *M. Tabacki: a Design Monograph* by Gordana Popovic Vasic and Irina Subotic and are all "must-have" titles for university library holdings as well as personal collections.

The Golden Pen winner should provide an outstanding example of scholarly research and critical thinking, presentation of the work and methodology of exceptional theatrical practitioners, or description of the methods, skills, and technology involved in creating works of theatre.

Once nominated, the **Golden Pen** Subcommittee reads, analyzes, tabulates, and makes a recommendation to the Publications Committee which votes and forwards the recommendation to the Awards & Resolutions Committee for action by the Board of Directors. Books chosen as winners are added to the USITT marketplace where they can be easily obtained at a discounted price. Call 800-938-7488 to purchase recent Golden Pen books. Authors as well as subjects of books are invited to attend the Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

For more information, contact either the Office at info@office.usitt.org or Mike Monsos, Chair of the Golden Pen Subcommittee, at michael.monsos@umontana.edu.

[Previous story](#)

[Next story](#)

Volume LIV, Number 5



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News & Notices

Seek Suggestions for OISTAT Info Database

Carl Walling *International Activities Committee*

Your Recommendation for Building OISTAT Bibliography on Theatre Arts



A database of books, book chapters, and scholarly articles that may be useful to other theatre professionals, practicing artists, researchers, educators, and theatre students is being compiled by OISTAT's Research Commission. The Commission hopes to compile this information and share the recommendations on the OISTAT webpage.

Consider recommending:

- A book or article focused on theatrical design, architecture, theory, or practical applications of theatre which significantly shaped a perception of theatre.
- A book outside of the traditional boundaries of theatre performance.
- A previously published, peer-reviewed journal article valuable to other professionals in the field.
- An out-of-print text that can be recommended to students or young professionals.

In about five minutes, texts can be recommended internationally to other artists. Include the title of the text, the author, the reason for the recommendation (50 to 100 words) and the name of the person submitting the recommendation. [Click here](#) or [here](#) to submit suggestions.

The Commission welcomes all USITT members (including student researchers) to attend future OISTAT Research Commission meetings and events. The next

meeting will be part of the E-Scapes conference in São Paulo, Brazil, along with the annual Performance Design and Education Commission meetings. The E-Scapes conference will be August 10 to 15, and additional information can be found [here](#).

For more information about OISTAT, visit www.oistat.org.

[« Previous story](#)

[Next story »](#)

Volume LIV, Number 5



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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



FORT WORTH MARCH 26-29



[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News & Notices

Three Grants Awarded in 2014

Rich Dunham *Chair USITT Grants & Fellowships*

Great things were happening for USITT Grants & Fellowships at the Fort Worth 2014 Conference & Stage Expo including a **surprising donation** and announcement of 2014 grant recipients.

At the Annual Meeting on Thursday, past grant recipients Novella Smith and Robert Gerlack presented a \$20,000 contribution to the Edward F. Kook Fund.

This year's grant recipients were also announced at the Annual Meeting. They are:

- **Rich Dionne:** *"Izzy" Intelligent Scenery Simulation Platform; \$9,500.* Over the course of the next year, Mr. Dionne and other project participants at Purdue University will create a wirelessly controlled scenic wagon (affectionately dubbed "Izzy," or Intelligent Scenery Simulation Platform) to explore scenery control solutions. The primary goal is to examine how RC6 controlled scenic units respond to unexpected changes in the physical environment while providing location feedback that goes beyond that linked to traditional motor/winch driven systems.
- **Daniel Lisowski:** *Demystifying Dynamic Braking Resistor Calculations; \$10,000.* This project builds upon Mr. Lisowski's research to explore dynamic braking in entertainment automation effects. His goal is to advance the industry's understanding of braking resistors by building a portable test station for common motor drive/automated stage movements and to analyze the results. The portability of the testing/recording system will allow him to travel to multiple locations to test manufacturer and university stage automation systems.
- **Catherine Bradley:** *Creation of Educational Materials for the Virtual Textile Project; \$10,000;* This grant will provide funding that will allow the Virtual Textile Project (a partnership between McGill University and five different museums) to become a source of historical textile samples in digital format for individuals and institutions in an open access database. The team has already received additional commitments of funding and equipment of about \$120,000. The USITT funds will be used to create educational materials. The project's goal is to sample and make available 85,000 digital textiles by March.

Applications for Fellowships for next year are due by November 1. The

accelerated application process will allow the committee to submit recommendations at the January meeting of the Board of Directors so recipients can receive their awards at the 2015 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio. Questions about submitting a Fellowship application can be obtained by any member of the Grants & Fellowship Committee.

[« Previous story](#)

[Next story »](#)

Volume LIV, Number 5



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



FORT WORTH MARCH 26-29

usitt

[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News & Notices

Ribbons for Rigging Raises \$\$\$

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*

A new item at the USITT bookstore in Fort Worth was meant to turn the notion that the more ribbons on a conference badge, the higher the status, on its head.

Besides the usual "Commissioner," "Presenter," or "Award Winner" ribbons seen at the 2014 Conference & Stage Expo, attendees bought "Goddess," "Big Cheese," "Tired Feet," and "Plays Well with Others," ribbons for a good cause – safer student stages.

At \$1 per ribbon, the first Ribbons for Rigging sale raised over \$400 for the Rigging Safety Initiative, which provides free rigging inspections and safety training for schools across the nation. The novelty ribbons went over so well that they're sure to reappear at in Cincinnati,

People loved them. Some had three or four hanging off their badges.

Donations may be made year-round, so those moved to continue their role of "Goddess," "Big Cheese," or "Official Something" may contribute [here](#).

Finance Director Carol Carrigan and Finance Assistant Lori Furcinito ran the bookstore, which had its own room at the Fort Worth Convention Center, another first. They said attendees suggested offering more ribbons with theatre tech-inspired sayings next year.

For the first time out, the variety ranged from "Go Green" and "Celebrate Diversity" to "Diva," "Tired Feet," and "Huh?"

The ribbons helped spread awareness of the Rigging Safety Initiative, which provides as many as 20 school rigging inspections a year at a cost to the Institute of about \$1,000 each.

Founding sponsor JR Clancy established the program with a \$10,000 donation in 2011. Added support has come from ETC, H&H Specialties, and Shepard Exposition Services, as well as individual donations to the April Arbor Day



campaign

[Previous story](#)

[Next story](#)

Volume LIV, Number 5



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



FORT WORTH MARCH 26-29



[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

Reflection on Service to USITT

USITT Fellow: Lawrence J. Hill

Lawrence J. Hill, professor emeritus at Western Carolina University, has a long, rich history of service to USITT. He was a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Northern Boundary Regional Section serving that board for six years. He was Chair of Programming for the Minneapolis 1987 Conference & Stage Expo. He was a Member-at-Large for the National Board of Directors from 1990 to 1996, and was Treasurer for eight years at two different times. Mr. Hill was Chair of the Finance Committee from 1992 to 1996 and Co-Chair of the USITT@50 campaign. In 2005, he received the Joel E. Rubin Founders Award.



Larry Hill fundraising for USITT @ 50.

A Prologue — "Have you ever considered. . . ?" "Will you be attending the next...?" "Would you like to...?"

It is a pleasure to follow [Leon Braunner](#) in this series of articles, primarily because Leon laid out the richness of participating at the highest level of USITT leadership. His recognition of the importance of other Institute leaders, in both his personal and professional life, is indicative of the commitment and camaraderie found here. Those involved in this organization know it envelopes people in a rich environment.

My personal journey in USITT began when I was hired by the University of North Dakota in 1969. This was a decade before the creation of a Regional Section in the area. There was a core of folks who identified themselves as a regional group, but it took the energies of people like Lance Brockman, Dick Durst, and Jean Montgomery who kept asking, "Have you ever considered. . . a northern USITT section?" When people did something in response (by forming the Northern Boundary section), they entered into a bond that led to decades of friendships and collaborations within and outside the Institute. When a career opportunity appeared in the Southeast Section, I gradually found another advocate of the *do something* prompt -- Sylvia Hillyard Pannell. For me, the investment of action brought a deep involvement with interesting people

engaged in activities that serve the greater good.

All those who respond to the prompt, "*Will you be attending the next ... Section meeting, workshop, Commission meeting, Annual Conference, or Prague Quadriennial?*" are active, engaged folks setting out to do something which you, dear reader, should rush to join.

The prompt, "*What would you like to... ,*" resulted in the creation of such activities as Cover the Walls, the annual YD&T Awards, participation in building the Quadriennial exhibit, supporting student portfolio reviews, and a flourishing set of publications honoring our design history. With the fine experience of the Fort Worth 2014 Conference & Stage Expo in mind, some of us remember we ran our Conference programming for decades without stage managers, until a decision to *do something* changed the landscape.

I would like to personally thank the members of the Institute who serve on the Finance Committee. These individuals bring their vision and skills to engage in frank discussions about moving forward. They take their obligation seriously and listen to the requests of those who bring their needs to the table. My years of involvement with the Committee helped prepare me for retirement activities such as dealing with local, state, and federal agencies and to stand on the courthouse steps to bid on foreclosed properties on behalf of the Athens Area Habitat for Humanity. And the theatre background (plywood, promotional campaigns, and meeting deadlines) seems to have been appreciated as we moved 45-plus families into homes.

After more than 30 years of two careers in academia, my wife Carol and I found ourselves in joint service with an important nonprofit, the [Jeannette Rankin Foundation](#) in Athens, Georgia. This foundation provides renewable scholarships for women over 35 to return to college. Pass this information along to financial aid offices. Carol and I will continue our service of reading applications for JRF scholarships, now electronically. We have returned to the Northern Boundary Section by moving to Bloomington, Minnesota where both daughters and their families celebrate winter.

An Epilogue

Asked for a simple guide on how to do to *do something* for the Institute's future, and I'll reply, like Count Basie's band members, with "Just one more once!"

Prompt: Have you ever considered a planned gift to the Institute? Interested persons can contact Carol Carrigan at the USITT Office for more information or to set up a planned gift.

Prompt: Would you like to support research projects, special exhibitions, awards, and fellowships awarded by the Institute? Go online to the USITT home page and click on the GiVE tab at the top of the page.

Prompt: Will you attend next year's conference in Cincinnati? Read *Sightlines* and be sure to go online to register early to join your USITT colleagues, pay your dues, and make an annual gift at the same time.

[◀ Previous story](#)

[Next story ▶](#)



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

The Last Word:

'Why?' Inspires

Jay Sheehan *Vice-Commissioner, Management Commission*

This year's Fort Worth 2014 Conference & Stage Expo was based on the concepts of inspiration and innovation. I can think of no better place to get inspired than USITT. Each year when I leave the conference, I feel recharged and inspired to be a better teacher, leader, and human being. I am constantly amazed by the ability of my colleagues and students to inspire me. Nowhere was this more evident than at the session *Why, Not? How to Stage Manage*.

This was not a session on the nuts and bolts of stage management; rather *why* we choose to lead and manage in the manner we do. We can learn how to take notes, create paperwork, and run rehearsals, but as the session leaders and Stage Management Mentors Antonia Collins (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Wales) and Michele Kay (University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music) stated, until we ask *why*, we are doing ourselves a disservice.

So much information about human relationships and connections were thrown at me during the session that I couldn't write them down fast enough. I wasn't alone because, as the session ended, students and professionals rushed to the stage seeking additional advice and inspiration. After the session, both leaders challenged us to get honest with ourselves and truly look at why we lead and manage.

Some of the most important concepts discussed are:

- The human connection is the essence of our work.
- Lead with your heart; be fair and treat people with respect.
- Be a reflective learner.
- Hold yourself accountable for your actions.



But one particular quote left me a changed person, and I believe it embodies the true essence of what USITT is all about: "The candle loses nothing when lighting another candle." We are here to help nurture, guide, and teach one another in each encounter. I believe using this information and taking advantage of the membership will help make us all better teachers, leaders, students, and human beings.

Are you ready to inspire? You never know when it may be your turn to light someone else's candle, but when it is, remember that you will lose nothing in the process. Thank you USITT for your innovation and inspiration. I can't wait to see what's in store for us in Cincinnati.

[« Previous story](#)

[Front page »](#)

Volume LIV, Number 5



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



FORT WORTH MARCH 26-29

[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News From

Around the Institute

- [Lose Something in Forth Worth? We Might Have It](#)
- [An Interesting Case of Recycling](#)
- [Congrats to Three at Schuler Shook](#)

Lose Something in Forth Worth? We Might Have It

Did you lose something at the Annual Conference? The lost and found items from the USITT onsite Conference Office are now in the Syracuse office. Call Shannan at 800-938-7488 ext 101 and claim your keys or other missing items.

An Interesting Case of Recycling

USITT Fellow Ken Vannice had a bit of fun with his badge when USITT "returned" to Fort Worth after an almost 20-year absence. Ken found, and wore, his 1996 credentials – but he tucked them into the back of his badge holder. The silver star sticker indicated he paid for a banquet ticket, something that was not necessary in 2014 when everyone was invited to an indoor and outdoor celebration to close the Annual Conference.



Congrats to Three at Schuler Shook

Three theatre planners at Schuler Shook were promoted to new roles within the American Society of Theatre Consultants (ASTC) at the organization's annual business meeting held March 29 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Christopher Sprague, a project theatre consultant with Schuler Shook, was promoted to full membership with the society. A practicing theatre consultant for more than seven years, he has numerous projects to his credit. He also remains active in designing production lighting, recently designing the lighting for the 20th Anniversary of Dance at



Christopher Sprague

Ohio Northern University. His background includes positions at Houston Grand Opera as associate technical director, safety manager and associate lighting designer, as well as theatrical lighting design work for Boston Lyric Opera, Skylight Opera Theatre, Houston Grand Opera, and New York City Opera.

Mr. Sprague is based in the Chicago office of Schuler Shook where his current work includes the Sarasota Opera Pavilion Building, Sarasota, Florida; Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana; University of Manitoba – Tache Hall Renovations & Additions, Winnipeg, Canada; and Northwestern University – Bienen School of Music New Building, Evanston, Illinois.

At the same meeting, Joshua Grossman, ASTC, was elected president of the ASTC. A principal in Schuler Shook's Chicago office, Mr. Grossman has served on the society's board of directors since 2009 and works to promote the field of theatre planning through involvement in PLASA and USITT.

Mr. Grossman is busy with projects for the DePaul University School of Music, Chicago; Roxy Center for Arts and Education, Clarksville, Tennessee; and The University of Chicago Lab Schools, Chicago.

Jack Hagler was re-elected to the ASTC board of directors. He is the partner in charge of Schuler Shook's Dallas office and has been a member of ASTC since 1994. He also served on the planning committee for USITT's Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Fort Worth, coordinating the local promotions effort for that event.



Joshua
Grossman



Jack Hagler

[Previous story](#)

[Next story](#)

Volume LIV, Number 5



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News From

Contributing Members

- **Creative Stage Lighting:** Now High End Systems Distributor
- **Rosco:** Helps Autism Speaks Light It Up Blue
- **ETC:** Debuts Products, Part of Siberian Theatre Renovation
- **Daktronics:** Highlights Controller at Conference
- **Meyer Sound:** Introduces Surround Loudspeaker at CinemaCon
- **Rose Brand:** Blog Features Designer's Use of Kaos
- **ZFX, Inc.:** Giving Stage Expo Participants a Chance to Fly

Creative Stage Lighting: Now High End Systems Distributor

Leading moving light and control manufacturer High End Systems has entered into a distribution agreement with **Creative Stage Lighting**, making it the United States wholesale distributor of the entire High End Systems product line.

The increased partnership comes only months after Creative Stage Lighting was designated a Major Reseller of High End Systems's Hog 4 lighting control products and High End Systems' new Axon HD and HD Pro media servers. The entire High End Systems line is now accessible through CSL's dealer network.

Rosco: Helps Autism Speaks Light It Up Blue

Rosco's #68 Parry Sky Blue and #80 Primary Blue were the official color filters of Autism Speaks' Light It Up Blue campaign again this year. Light It Up Blue is a unique global initiative that occurs on World Autism Awareness Day April 2, and helps raise autism awareness. In honor of this historic day, many iconic landmarks, hotels, sporting venues, concert halls, museums, bridges, and retail stores used the two blue Roscolux filters to light themselves.



Rosco's Stamford, Connecticut headquarters was lit up blue for World Autism Awareness Day 2013

2013 marked the first year the two colors were the official color filters of the event, and Rosco CEO Mark Engel presented Autism Speaks with the first benefit check last fall. The donation represented a portion of the profits generated by the sale of R68 and R80 in the weeks leading up to the event. This donation was accompanied by an additional, online fundraising effort coordinated through several Rosco dealers that raised an additional \$4,275.

For more information, visit www.rosco.com/LIUB.

ETC: Debuts Products, Part of Siberian Theatre Renovation

Two new products from **ETC** debuted at Stage Expo in Fort Worth, Texas, and the company's products were used in the renovation of a 16th century Siberian theatre.

The Source Four LED Series 2 made its North American debut at ETC's booths at USITT's 2014 Stage Expo. Since introducing the Source Four LED luminaire in 2012, ETC has experimented with the x7 Color System, mixing together new color combinations to create brighter light that covers a larger spectrum. Thanks to the improved color capabilities and increased brightness, the Source Four LED Series 2 is a multipurpose tool that can fill any role in a lighting installation, including front-of-house and long-throw positions.

ETC also unveiled the much-anticipated LED version of the Source Four Mini spotlight. At less than two pounds and nine inches long, the Source Four Mini LED looks like its tungsten counterpart, but features an energy-efficient 12-watt, 35,000-hour LED lamp.



The Tobolsk Drama Theater, named for P.P. Yershov, is thought to be the oldest theater in Siberia, with performances dating back to the 16th century. Today, after a massive reconstruction project, the theater is one of Russia's most technologically advanced venues with a lighting system including ETC fixtures, entertainment controls, and architectural controls.

To learn more about the Source Four LED Series 2, Source Four Mini LED, and all of ETC's products, visit www.etcconnect.com.



Daktronics: Highlights Controller at Conference

When the 2014 Annual Conference & Stage Expo opened at the Fort Worth Convention Center in Fort Worth, Texas, **Daktronics** featured the latest control solution at its booth.

The new Pro Series hand-held remote controller is both a tablet and a laptop, giving operators the option of using the built-in keyboard plus the convenience of orienting the tablet's screen for maximum comfort and ease.

Daktronics also showed its popular Vortek Classic hoist, now even quieter with new and improved braking material.

Meyer Sound: Introduces Surround Loudspeaker at CinemaCon

Meyer Sound has announced that the new, self-powered HMS-15 surround loudspeaker debuted during CinemaCon 2014 in Las Vegas, Nevada, March 25 to 27.

Easily the most powerful in the company's expanding line of surround loudspeakers, the HMS-15 delivers both the intensity and subtle nuances of soundtracks to every listener, without compromise.



The HMS-15 is designed for high-power, longer-throw applications in cinema exhibition auditoriums as well as in post-production and screening rooms. Pre-released HMS-15 units have been in use to great acclaim at Lucasfilm's Skywalker Sound in Marin County, Calif.

The HMS-15AC begins shipping in July, and the 48 V DC-powered HMS-15 in October.

Rose Brand: Blog Features Designer's Use of Kaos

The new article on the **Rose Brand** blog features set designer Akiko Nishijima Rotch's use of Kaos— a firm, nonwoven, handmade substrate with unique visual and textural properties.

Ms. Rotch used Kaos in her set design for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, playing at both the Perseverance Theatre in Juneau, Alaska, and the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts in Anchorage. The article discusses how she captured the feeling of the steamy Mississippi Delta and character dynamic in her set design.

The article and more can be found on The Rose Brand blog
<http://blog.RoseBrand.com>.

ZFX, Inc.: Giving Stage Expo Participants a Chance to Fly

Among **ZFX, Inc.**'s services highlighted at the Fort Worth 2014 Conference & Stage Expo demonstrated the ease of incorporating the "proscenium walk" into a production of *Mary Poppins*.

Back by colossal demand were the fondly termed "pony rides," where ZFX offered random Stage Expo attendees the chance to experience flight.

A leader in performer flying since 1994, ZFX is a Contributing member of USITT. Find more information about ZFX, Inc. at www.zfxflying.com or by calling 502-637-2500.

Janet Gramza, USITT Communications Associate, participated in a flying demonstration at State Expo in Fort Worth, supported by colleague Barbara E.R. Lucas, Director of Communications.



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[◀ Previous story](#)

[Next story ▶](#)

Volume LIV, Number 5



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



FORT WORTH MARCH 26-29



[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News From *USITT's Executive Director*

Considering Conference Locations



Finding the perfect location for a USITT event can be like ignoring the hazy foreground to the clear and shiny sky above. (And, no, this is not a hint that San Francisco is in the lead as a new Annual Conference location.)

It's that time again. The Institute is looking for locations for future conferences. Just as building the schedule of sessions is a challenge, selecting future cities creates challenges for those tasked with that responsibility.

What goes into the choice? This is a question we are asked by competing cities and attendees, so here are some of the answers.

First and foremost- **cost**.

Cost of facility rental, airfare to attend, hotel rates, all of these are first on the list. Cities return their bids, and those that don't fit within our parameters are asked to resubmit a better bid or they are cut from consideration. This presents some challenges for us in finding cities that meet all of these cost challenges (or even two of them).

USITT needs 36 session rooms holding between 30 and 300 people each. Stage Expo requires over 150,000 square feet of exhibit space at the bare minimum. Even planning for modest growth of exhibitors, we need bigger and bigger convention halls. That means many cities from our past are no longer

viable for us.

But, that means we need to find cities with enough meeting and expo space that have affordable hotel rooms. The hotel industry took a hard hit in 2008 along with the rest of the economy. That got us some great rates. Today, the hotel industry is back on its feet and the average room rate is climbing fast. We need over 1,000 hotel rooms on our peak nights, and we want them reasonably close to the meeting. Here's another factor that reduces the number of cities we can visit. From there we toss out cities with rates well over \$200 per night plus tax, and we are getting to a narrower and narrower band of places we can begin to look at taking the conference.

Travel costs play a significant part in the decision. Airfares have climbed and so has the cost of gas. We factor that into some of our decision. Even the cost of getting from the airport to the convention center is part of our thoughts.

Additional cost figures all lead to how cities are chosen. The cost of attending USITT's Annual Conference & Stage Expo is not insignificant. But it remains first and foremost in the minds of every person tasked with finding the locations. As much as we want to go to certain cities, the costs are prohibitive. As much as we want to always go somewhere new, the number of places that can accommodate our space and our wallets grows smaller each year.

The recent Voice of the Member survey showed that the annual conference, our cornerstone event, is the most valued event we offer. It pointed out the weaknesses that, when fixed, would make for a stronger event. Those are being addressed. The survey also showed that price consciousness is a strong member value and that value really does play a role in choosing conference sites.

The first point of our strategic plan is to "maximize value to members." Value comes in many forms and dollar value is one of them. We hear our members and do work to keep costs as affordable as we can. Hopefully, having more information about what goes into a conference site selection will help you understand the challenges of finding that "new" spot.

[◀ Previous story](#)

[Next story ▶](#)

Volume LIV, Number 5



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



FORT WORTH MARCH 26-29

usitt

[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

News From

Sustaining Members

- **Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.:** Accepting Grant Applications
- **Cobalt Studios:** Faux Bois, Historic Scene Painting Topics for Seminars
- **TMB:** Introduces Solaris LED Flare Jr at Prolight+Sound
- **GLP:** Celebrates 20th Anniversary with Style
- **L-ACOUSTICS:** Boulevard Pro Adds KARA Package to Inventory

Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.: Accepting Grant Applications

Submissions for the Vectorworks Academic Research Grant program are being accepted by **Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.** The program funds individuals and teams that develop design solutions to global concerns worldwide.

The grant aims to support projects that:

- Design or improve a public space that incorporates humane design concepts and principles
- Increase awareness of a design idea or solution (for example, an individual developing a curriculum, arranging a symposium, establishing a program or department, or writing a textbook/resource guide on the subject)
- Disseminates information for greater public/professional awareness

Visit www.vectorworks.net/grant for an application and further information.

Individuals and teams are encouraged to submit projects that represent any design discipline. Learn more by contacting academicteam@vectorworks.net or following [@Vectorworks](#).

Cobalt Studios: Faux Bois, Historic Scene Painting Topics for Seminars

Spring has arrived and the Specialty Pro Seminars from **Cobalt Studios** just keep on coming! Two seminars are scheduled in May at the facilities in White Lake, New York.

Nels Christianson will lead a seminar on *Faux Bois: Interior Grade*

Woodgraining May 5 to 8.

C. Lance Brockman will lead *The Art of Scene Painting – the Historic Method, Part 1* May 13 to 16. Potential students can find examples of historic scenery at the [University of Minnesota's Scenery Collections Database](#).

Space is limited, so reserve now. [Click here for more information](#).

TMB: Introduces Solaris LED Flare Jr at Prolight+Sound

At Prolight+Sound in Frankfurt, Germany, **TMB** proudly introduced Flare Jr, a powerful new compact lighting fixture developed with technology from the award-winning Flare.

The Solaris LED Flare Jr features many of the breakthrough advances of the original Flare in a package one-third the size. Flare Jr, with its tremendous RGBW output, performs superbly as a combined wash/strobe/blinder and effect light, plus it features full RDM functionality and is offered with a LumenRadio wireless control option.

TMB is worldwide exclusive distributor for Solaris LED Flare:

www.tmb.com/products/flare. Learn more about many other products from TMB at www.tmb.com.

GLP: Celebrates 20th Anniversary with Style

GLP (German Light Products) celebrated a landmark birthday at this year's Prolight+Sound Show in Frankfurt, Germany, when Udo Künzler, the company's founder, invited the ranks of international press and distributors to raise a glass and toast the company's first 20 years.

He was surrounded by the milestone products that have marked GLP's evolutionary journey over two decades, commencing with the Patent light and leading up to the birth of the ground-breaking impression series in 2007. Two high profile industry professionals who have contributed to sales of the impression series on both sides of the Atlantic, Kasper Gissel and Mark Ravenhill, were present (the latter providing a stirring introduction).

As guests feasted on cake and champagne (or GLP's specially bottled German beers), the party filtered next door to GLP dealer, B&K Braun, where the revelry continued.



Stated Mr. Künzler, "This was a very special occasion for us, and it was great to be able to welcome so many friends and supporters who have helped us along the way."

L-ACOUSTICS: Boulevard Pro Adds KARA Package to Inventory

Boulevard Pro, a leading New York City area audio systems and backline provider, has added a full **L-ACOUSTICS** KARA package its in-demand products and systems inventory for live event and touring customers require.

In addition to the dV-DOSC, dV-SUB and 112P enclosures already on hand, Boulevard Pro recently expanded its L-ACOUSTICS inventory with the acquisition of 36 KARA enclosures, eight ARCS WIDE constant curvature systems for in-fill applications, five coaxial 8XT as front fills, 16 SB18 subs, and a dozen LA8 amplified controllers housed in four LA-RAK touring racks. The new system was purchased to meet the sound reinforcement needs of venues seating upwards of 3,000.



[« Previous story](#)

[Next story »](#)

Volume LIV, Number 5



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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

Conference & Stage Expo

Cincinnati Will Shine in 2015



USITT's Conference Committee is already planning to bring innovative programming and opportunities as part of the 2015 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio March 18 to 21.

Planners will be in the Queen City checking out whether the Greek chili is still served five ways at Skyline Chili, Goldstar Chili, and other emporiums. What is it about chili? The stories differ, but what nobody disputes is that more than two million pounds of chili are served each year topped by about 850,000 pounds of shredded cheddar cheese.



While in Ohio, there will also be discussions about the butterfat content of Graeter's ice cream and whether the new flavors match up with past favorites. Committee members will thrash out whether anyone under 21 remembers the stars of *WKRP in Cincinnati* (a 1970s sitcom that was more famous in reruns than when it originally aired).

All those questions, and many more, will be answered as the programming for USITT's 55th annual event comes together.

For some, this will be a return visit to Cincy, where USITT held its 2009 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Others will be discovering the city for the first time. Stage Expo will fill the Duke Energy Convention Center, since more than 160 exhibitors have already committed to participate. For those having trouble finding the place, its western façade sports 50-foot tall letters spelling out the city name for travelers along Interstate 75.

Plan now for March as the best in news, solutions, connections, and collaborations in Cincinnati are showcased.



[Previous story](#)

[Next story](#)

Volume LIV, Number 5



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



FORT WORTH MARCH 26-29



[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

Conference & Stage Expo

Education Issues, Sessions Highlight Conference

Jonathan Allender-Zivic *Education Commission*



The Education Commission's Poster Session.

The Education Commission appreciates everyone who attended its sessions at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Fort Worth; making it a successful conference for the Commission.

Commission members thanked session chairs and panelists for their work and dedication in bringing together this year's numerous sessions.

The Education Commission has posted lots of information on its [website](#) including the final version of the Tenure and Promotions Guidelines.

The electronic session submission and voting process for this year's conference went very smoothly. Feedback should be sent to any Commission member so ideas and adjustments can be incorporated in the future. Proposals for 2016 sessions are now being accepted on the website.

The Commission is looking for digital copies of posters presented at previous poster sessions to create an online digital archive. E-mail submissions to David Navalinsky dnavalinsky@gmail.com.

The Education Commission seeks interested educators who are looking to contribute ideas for articles for *Sightlines*. Anyone with a tenure and promotion folder, published works are always a great addition. Submit ideas and contact

information to Jonathan Allender-Zivic (jallenderzivic@gmail.com).

[Previous story](#)

[Next story](#)

Volume LIV, Number 5



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

Conference & Stage Expo

Name Rose Brand Competition Winners



Based on their beautifully designed, developed and lit scenic environment, Team Leap Day won the Rose Brand / USITT Action Design Competition at the Fort Worth 2014 Conference & Stage Expo.

In a contest first, these same students also won the individual prizes for top scenic, costume, and lighting designers, as well as technical director. Team Leap Day included:

- Costume Designer, Jodie Daniels, University of Houston
- Lighting Designer, Amanda Warren, Stephen F Austin State University
- Scenic Designer, Rachel Bennick, The University of Texas at Austin
- Technical Director, Hillary Collazo Abbot, Ohio Northern University

The Action Design Competition pits four teams of student designers and technicians against one another to rapidly conceive, design, and build a scenic environment under a chosen "mystery" theme. Each team was given limited supplies with no prior knowledge of what might be available. The team

members had four hours to make the best of their mystery supplies as they planned and executed the ultimate themed environment all while being watched by visitors to Stage Expo. This year's themes were "oddball" holidays: Leap Day, Darwin Day, April Fools' Day and Opposite Day.

Joining the students was a special team of design professionals who created their own scenic design inspired by their theme, Pi Day. They provided recommendations on the top designers in each category and were a wonderful resource for to the student participants.

Photos of the competition and booth designs are at bit.ly/rosebrand-facebook.

Other students participating in the competition Included: Jodie Daniels, University of Houston; Amanda Warren, Stephen F. Austin State University; Rachel Bennick, The University of Texas at Austin; Hillary Collazo Abbott, Ohio Northern University; Nicole Giangola, Ohio Northern University; Annette Roggenbuck, Southern Oregon University; Carl Rugato, High Point University; John A. Mitchell, Dixie State University; Kaylah Dulin, Ohio Northern University; Sarah Schwartz, Southern Oregon University; Matthew Plamp, University of Houston; Eric Swabey, Keith, St. Edwards University; Tiffany Delligatti, University of Connecticut; Jacob Novak, Ohio Northern University; Moriah Aronson, Skidmore College; Tom Gray, University of Alabama in Huntsville; Thomas Fernandez, Clemson University; Brian Sechrist, University of Alaska; Edward Pottorff, University of Alabama; and Mike Harvy, Yale University.

Professional participants were Linda Pisano, Indiana University; Jill Klecha, The University of the Arts in Pennsylvania; Andy Fitch, University of Alabama; and Andi Lyons, SUNY-Albany

[Previous story](#)

[Next story](#)

Volume LIV, Number 5



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



[Next story ›](#)

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

Conference & Stage Expo

Kazoo Parade, Auction Highlight LRLR Celebration

A kazoo parade led by a tricycle, donation presentations, plus a raffle and live auction highlighted the Long Reach Long Riders (LRLR) celebration of their 11th ride during the Fort Worth 2014 Conference & Stage Expo. The group raised more than \$12,000 at the event to benefit Behind the Scenes (BTS).

Bill Sapsis, LRLR emcee, honored Mt. Vernon (Indiana) High School's Short Reach Short Riders' (SRSR) and their annual tricycle ride fundraiser by leading the LRLR's opening kazoo parade on a tricycle. The SRSR group has raised \$10,000 for BTS.

Dana Taylor and SRSR received a citation reading, "With an abundance of creativity and fun, you have shown the industry that small, persistent efforts can have monumental results."

The employees of Vincent Lighting Systems, through their long-term Workplace Giving Campaign, also reached the \$10,000 total mark with their donation at the Conference. LRLR presented a certificate of appreciation to the company which was received by Paul Vincent, Kim Craigie, and Walt Weber.

Students from the USITT Chapter at Penn State University presented a check from ongoing fundraising activities. Significant contributions were received from Bill Sapsis, Rick and Patty Rudolph, and Tracey Cosgrove and Mark McKinney.

After a frenzied bidding war, Steve Terry won two tickets to *Matilda* on Broadway donated by IATSE Local 1, and a number of lucky individuals won the bidding for handcrafted items donated by Shan and Trish Ayers.

The winners and their prizes are:

- **Gabe Bristow** - Grand Prize, Vectorworks Spotlight with Renderworks
- **Paul Graham** – BTS Apollo Wrench and 10 Little Focus wrenches



- **Jim Davis** – Technician's Tool Kit from Barbizon
- **Mike Wood** - \$250 Visa Gift Card from Daktronics
- **Chris Collins** – Five theatre titles from Focal Press
- **Daniel Del Busto** – GoPro from InterAmerica Stage
- **Josh Wroblewski** – 50 sheets of gel from Lee Filters
- **Sheryl Sturges** – Vermont's Finest Smokehouse Combo from Production Advantage
- **Joe Aldridge** - \$250 gift certificate from Sapsis Rigging
- **Jimmy Byrd** – full USITT 2015 Conference & Stage Expo registration
- **Diana Raymond** – ETC Source Four Mini from Vincent Lighting Systems

The companies who signed up for the Behind the Scenes Pledge-a-Product Program, in which a portion or all of a product's sales benefit BTS, were highlighted. Rosco made a donation of proceeds from the sales of Roscolux 359 Medium Violet, while Electronic Theatre Controls presented a check from downloads of the iRFR and aRFR smart phone app.

For more information about Behind the Scenes, visit www.estafoundation.org/bts.htm. For more information about the Long Reach Long Riders visit www.lrlr.org.

[« Previous story](#)

[Next story »](#)

Volume LIV, Number 5



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



FORT WORTH MARCH 26-29



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

For the Record:

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- Joe Tilford

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- Bill Browning
- Alessia Carpoca
- Michael Mehler
- Linda Pisano
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Volume LIV, Number 5



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2014
Print this page ›



FORT WORTH MARCH 26-29

FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Grant Winners Give Back
- Announcements
- Distinguished Achievers Share Wisdom
- Roth Monograph on Sale
- Nominate Books for Award
- Help Create OISTAT Database
- Three Grants Awarded
- Ribbons Assist Rigging
- Profile: Larry Hill
- Last Word: Why

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Contributing Members
- USITT's Executive Director
- Sustaining Members

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- Cincinnati in 2015
- Education Session Wrap-up
- Rose Brand Contest Winners
- LRLR in Fort Worth

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »

CONTACT THE EDITOR »

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

For the Record:

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- [Contributing Members »](#)
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Sustaining Members

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Volume LIV, Number 5



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