



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

January 2015

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the best

2015 CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO

CINCINNATI ■ MARCH 18-21

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Chris Wood – Newest Rising Star

A freelance lighting and sound designer, and Indiana University graduate, will be honored for his work with the 2015 Rising Star award... [more »](#)



2015 USITT Election Results, and on to 2016

New and returning members of the Board of Directors will begin three year terms in July, following the close of USITT elections... [more »](#)



Inspections and Training for 15 Schools

USITT has approved free rigging inspections and safety training for 15 schools in the Fall round of funding for the school program – the most ever... [more »](#)



Founders Award for Andi Lyons

A funny but fierce advocate for inclusion, diversity, and much more will be honored with the Joel E. Rubin Founders Award in 2015... [more »](#)



Rules Now Available for ASTC 2016 Challenge

Looking ahead is what theatre consultants advocate, so they have already put together the rules for the 2016 USITT/ASTC Venue Renovation Challenge... [more »](#)



Comprehensive Costume Exhibit in Moscow

Final selections are now being made for Costume Design @ the Turn of the Century, an extensive exhibition in the galleries of the state museum in Moscow this June... [more »](#)



Loren Schreiber Honored for Technical Innovations

A man known for his wizardry and precision in automation and beyond will receive the 2015 Distinguished Achievement Award in Technical Production in March... [more »](#)



Broadway Green Alliance to Reward College Captains

Deadline is March 1 for College Captains to enter their greener production and be eligible for prizes and fame at the USITT Annual Conference... [more »](#)



In Memoriam – Peter Cott

One of the men who helped create USITT's first Conference and who served on the Advisory Board... [more »](#)



LiNK a Success – will return to Atlanta

Strong positive feedback and high levels of participation in the inaugural LiNK mean that plans are already underway for graduate school auditions and interviews in 2015... [more »](#)



Executive Director's Report – The Potato Chip Factor

Taking a new look at what we like and thinking about ways that a different choice or two might move us in a different direction... [more »](#)



Use the App in Cincy

The USITT app is useful for planning sessions, visiting exhibitors, and a whole lot more to help you stay current on Institute events... [more »](#)



New at Stage Expo

The exhibitor list is growing, with new companies and organizations adding diverse products to what will be featured... [more »](#)



New Look to Fellows Event

A new time and a new format will add spark to USITT's Fellows in Conversation at the Cincinnati Conference... [more »](#)



Student Ambassadors Needed

Students will not have to leave the United States to interact with internationally renowned performance professionals because of opportunities offered in Cincy... [more »](#)



The Last Word – Joy Spanabel Emery

A reflection on decades of involvement with the Institute from a Lifetime Member Award winner and USITT Fellow... [more »](#)

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- **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas:** Embraces Challenges for 2015
-

- **RC4 Wireless:** Provides *Magic* for the National Theatre Production
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News & Notices

Chris Wood To Receive 2015 Usitt Rising Star Award Sponsored By Ldi/Live Design



Spring Awakening, 2013, University of Northern Iowa, Lighting design by Chris Wood.

Photo Credit: Jessica Kray

Chris Wood, a freelance lighting and sound designer, is the winner of the 2015 Rising Star Award sponsored by LDI/Live Design and given annually at USITT to a young designer in the areas of scenic, lighting, sound, or projection design, or the convergence of these design disciplines. The Rising Star Award is presented to young professionals in the first four years of their careers after completing their highest academic degree. Sponsored in perpetuity by LDI/ Live Design, with the first Rising Star presented in 2005.



Mr. Wood (www.chriswoodld.com) works in a variety of entertainment styles including concert, corporate, theatre, and opera, and indicated he “enjoys creating a unique style that is exciting and supportive of the production.” He has a passion for designing for new plays and musicals, and recently had the opportunity to design at the Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre (UFOMT) and Indiana Festival Theatre.

In August 2013, he designed lights for *Tuning In*, a new musical written by Larry Kass and directed by George Pinney. Additional premiere credits include *The*

Rockae, Charlie's Wake, The Birds, and Wizard of Wall Street. He also designed sound for a new play called *Death By Design: A Comedy With Songs And Murder* written by Rob Urbinati.

Since graduating from Indiana University, Mr. Wood has served as assistant lighting and sound professor at Millikin University, and as a guest lecturer and adjunct in both sound and lighting design at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He constantly maintains mentorships with students and young professionals, helping them on their creative paths.

David Grindle, executive director of USITT, says, "This award continues to draw outstanding talent, and we are glad to recognize Chris for exceptional work. Previous Rising Star winners like Sean Savoie continue to rise and make an impact on entertainment design across the spectrum."

"We are particularly pleased to congratulate this year's winner, Chris Wood, for his work in both lighting and sound design," says Ellen Lampert-Gréaux, Live Design's creative director. "He joins a group of very talented past recipients working in all areas of design, and he certainly fits the role of a talented young designer."

"It has been my privilege to have Chris as my lighting designer for the past two summer seasons at Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre," says technical director Steven Workman, who nominated Wood for the award. "Chris embraced the challenge of designing all four of our summer repertory productions and maintained a high production standard for each individual show while simultaneously balancing the use of a rep plot. It is my honor to nominate Chris for his exceptional work and willingness to go the extra mile."

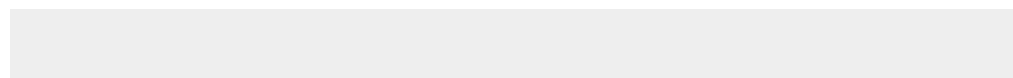
The 2015 Rising Star Award will be presented in March 2015 at the [USITT Annual Conference and Stage Expo](#) in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Past Recipients

Recent winners include:

- 2014 Janie Bullard, sound designer
- 2013 Aaron Porter, lighting designer
- 2012 Jason Simms, scenic designer
- 2011 Daniel Brodie, projection designer
- 2010 Ben Pilat, lighting designer
- 2009 Sean Savoie, lighting designer
- 2008 Elisheba Ittoop, sound designer
- 2007 John Horan, lighting designer
- 2006 Justin Townsend, scenic and lighting designer
- 2005 Kelly Hanson, scenic designer

[See all the past recipients here »](#)





Tuning In, 2013, E J Thomas Center/Lighting design by Chris Wood.

Photo Credit: Dale Dong

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New Officers Elected for 2015, Nominations Open for 2016

USITT members have made their selections for the Board of Directors to take office in 2015. Voting closed December 10.

The following members of the Institute have been elected. The organization congratulates them and thanks them for their willingness to serve the Institute and its members. They will serve three-year terms starting July 1.

Those in officer positions are:

- **Treasurer:**
Dan Culhane (single nomination)
- **Vice-President of Communications:**
Michael Mehler
- **Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters:**
Andi Lyons (single nomination)
- **Vice-President for Programming:**
Kasey-Allee Foreman (single nomination)
- **Vice-President for Special Operations:**
Eric Rouse (single nomination)

Mr. Culhane is an incumbent and will serve his second three-year term.

Six others elected to the Board of Directors are:

- Tammy Honesty
- Jenny Kenyon
- Linda Pisano
- Kevin Rigdon
- Loren Schreiber
- Joe Tilford

Jimmie Byrd, chair of the Nominations Committee and current Secretary of the Institute, confirmed the results of voting which was conducted both online and by paper ballot for those who requested to use that method. More than 20

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percent of eligible members participated in the process, *a greater turnout than in many national elections.*

Work is ramping up on the nominations process for the 2016 cycle. The committee shall offer nominees for the six terms on the Board of Directors which will end June 20, 2016. No officer positions are ending in this cycle, so nominations are being accepted only for the six directors.

To learn about the duties of USITT's Board of Directors, [click here](#). To start the online nominations process, [click here](#).

March 10 is the deadline for online nominations by members. The Nominations Committee will meet at the 2015 Annual Meeting to begin formulating a slate.

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News & Notices

15 Schools Approved for Rigging Inspections

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*



USITT has approved free stage rigging inspections and safety training for 15 schools -- the most since the Rigging Safety Initiative started in 2011. The largest number of applications from schools -- over 50 -- were considered for the fall term.

Many of the schools that applied said their stage rigging had never been inspected. Initiative organizers used a triage system, moving schools with the biggest safety concerns higher on the list for assistance.

One of the 15 school stages approved this term described an old canvas scrim tearing across the entire width and falling to the floor. "Fortunately, nobody was present," the school's fine arts coordinator wrote.

The new schools approved for the fall 2014 round of assistance are:

- Sauquoit Valley High School in

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Sauquoit, New York

- Butte Central Catholic High School in Butte, Montana
- Wahconah Regional High School in Dalton, Massachusetts
- Notre Dame Regional High School in Cape Girardeau, Missouri
- Tokay High School in Lodi, California
- Three schools in Wisconsin – Meyer Middle School and River Falls High School in River Falls and James Madison Memorial High School in Madison.
- Five Texas schools – William P. Clements High School and Stephen F. Austin High School in Sugarland, Belton High School in Belton, Cypress Springs High School in Cypress, and Elkins High School in Missouri City.



Inspecting the rigging at the Marblehead School District, Marblehead, Massachusetts

Photos/Courtesy Gregory Dana

A total of 31 schools are on the waiting list for future funding. Executive Director David Grindle said those that applied but weren't approved will be reconsidered at each round of funding. USITT accepts applications for the \$1,000 inspections and safety training twice a year, in spring and fall. It approves as many as it can fund each cycle.

Support from J. R. Clancy, Inc. of Syracuse helped launch the Rigging Safety Initiative four years ago to instill best stage safety practices at the high school level.

The RSI provides schools with a free inspection by one of USITT's participating certified inspectors and four hours of safety training on their rigging system for up to eight people.

Besides J.R. Clancy, three other rigging companies – ETC, H&H Specialties, and Shepard Exposition Services – and many individuals have

donated money to fund the program. With the Rigging Safety Initiative growing in visibility and more schools applying, USITT will need more donations to serve them all. [Donate here.](#)

Gregory Dana, technical director for the Marblehead School District in Marblehead, Massachusetts, said he was able to have the middle school performing arts center inspected last year and the district's high school stage inspected last month through the RSI.

"Thank you so much for providing the funds to allow these inspections to occur," Mr. Dana said. "The deficient items from the performing arts center inspection were attended to this fall. Ethan Gilson of ALPS in Randolph, Massachusetts, inspected the high school stage on December 8. I hope that whatever we find in Ethan's report will be dealt with promptly as well."

USITT's goal is to eventually inspect and train every school stage that applies. USITT's ETCP-certified rigging partners around the country provide the service for \$1,000 or less, paid by the program. To learn more about the RSI or to apply for the next round of assistance this spring, visit www.usitt.org/rigsafe.

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Action Design Competition Returns

It's almost that time again! The Fourth Rose Brand/USITT [Action Design Competition](#) will return this year at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The competition offers four teams of student designers and technicians the opportunity to design a scenic environment under a chosen "mystery" theme. Each team is given limited supplies with no prior knowledge of what will be available.

The team members will need to make the best of their mystery supplies with less than four hours to design the ultimate themed environment in the Stage Expo, during Expo Only hours.

The application for the competition will be available on RoseBrand.com in late January. Also, like them on [Facebook](#) and follow them on [Twitter](#) to view any updates.



Photo/Yazmin Gomez



Portfolio Reviews Just for You!

Students, young professionals, and all Conference attendees will have an opportunity for a portfolio review in Cincinnati this March.

Anyone registered for the Conference will have an opportunity to have a portfolio professionally reviewed by those working in today's industry. Reviews will be conducted by seven of USITT's Commissions.

The analysis is by appointment only on Thursday and Friday. Those participating are: Costume Design & Technology, Education (new for 2015), Lighting Design & Technology, Management, Scenic Design & Technology, Sound Design & Technology, and Technical Production. Participants have a 30 minute, private review by two experienced professionals.

To sign up for this opportunity people are required to have registered for the conference. All conference attendees will be sent additional information on how to request a review appointment, or can find information under Opportunities at www.usittshow.org.

EdTA Seeks Workshop Proposals

The [Educational Theatre Association](#) seeks qualified theatre professionals and educators to submit workshop proposals for its three 2015 educational events: the Junior Thespian Festival (for middle school students and educators, March 19 to 21), the Thespian Festival (for high school theatre students and educators, June 22 to 27), and National Conference (primarily for middle and high school theatre educators and college students pursuing theatre education, October 1 to 4).

The workshops should be interactive and informational; provide immediately actionable insight; demonstrate alignment with the new [National Theatre Arts Standards](#); and be designed to inform a range of learning needs for students and educators. Proposals will be accepted until spots are filled, for Junior Festival until December 1, and for the June Festival and Conference until March 1.

For more information, visit schooltheatre.org/proposals.

Behind the Scenes Happy Hour Massive Success

The Behind the Scenes Happy Hour, hosted by PLASA, was the biggest pre-LDI party of the year with over 400 guests. Twenty-three sponsors donated to the event, and all proceeds -- totaling over \$18,000 -- went to the Behind the Scenes charity.

Event Co-chair Steven Way, president of ALPS, said, "Our entire committee was very pleased with the new 'happy hour' format for this PLASA event. Our sponsors really stepped up, allowing us to expand the food and drink offerings, reach a wider audience of industry professionals, and as important, present the Behind the Scenes charity with a wonderful donation. Many attendees said this was our best event with amazing networking, and they look forward to next year."

The Behind the Scenes Happy Hour took place on November 20 at the Westgate Las Vegas. PLASA thanks the sponsors: 4Wall Entertainment (Diamond); Altman Lighting (Diamond); CHAUVET Professional (Diamond); I.A.T.S.E. (Diamond); LDI (Platinum); Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc. (Platinum); Ultratec (Platinum); Barbizon Lighting Company (Gold); PixelFLEX (Gold); RC4 Wireless (Gold); Stage Equipment and Lighting, Inc. (Gold); TOMCAT USA, INC. (Gold); Total Structures (Gold); TRUSST (Gold); Heartland Scenic Studio, Inc. (Silver); iWeiss Theatrical Solutions (Silver); LEX Products (Silver); Alan Rowe & Tristan Smith (Silver); Sapsis Rigging Inc (Silver); Shepard Exposition Services (Silver); Stan Pressner (Silver); and Mike Wood Consulting, LLC (Silver). Official media sponsors were Lighting&Sound America and Protocol. Event lighting was donated by A.C. Lighting, Inc.

Announce PLASA Focus: Kansas City 2015

PLASA Events will make its first trip to the Midwest for PLASA Focus: Kansas City 2015. This will be the second PLASA Focus event in 2015, and will take place on Wednesday, May 20 and Thursday, May 21 at the Kansas City Convention Center.

Companies already signed up to exhibit at the show include Altman Lighting, Group One, Avolites & Elektralite, Elation Professional, ETC, GLP, Harrington Hoist, Heartland Scenic Studios, IATSE, PixelFLEX, RC4 Wireless, Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas, Technologies for Worship, TMB, and Ultratec. Companies interested in exhibiting are advised to move quickly to secure their spots since applications are coming in quickly.

Running alongside the show is the highly acclaimed PLASA Professional Development Program, which offers two days of free educational seminars and workshops. The program features world-class speakers and is an opportunity for visitors to further develop their industry knowledge, take part in discussions, and have their questions answered. Sessions will be announced soon.

PLASA Focus shows are intended to target and appeal to a specific regional audience that otherwise may not be reached during larger national industry events. Special discounted rates are available to all PLASA members, regional

dealers, regional production companies, and series exhibitors.
For more information, visit www.plasafocus.com/kansas.

To Offer State-of-the-Art Listening Experience

The focus will be on acoustics, audio, and sound systems at a specially equipped SoundLab in Hall 3.2 at Stage|Set|Scenery June 9 to 11 in Berlin, Germany.

The SoundLab is being designed in close cooperation with Gerriets GmbH, KS Beschallungstechnik GmbH, Müller-BBM GmbH, SALZBRENNER STAGETEC, Sennheiser Vertrieb und Service GmbH & Co. KG, Shure Distribution GmbH and Deutsche Theatertechnische Gesellschaft. Additional companies exhibiting in the sections on audio and studio systems, acoustics, sound systems and electro-acoustics will be Audio-Technica Ltd. Deutschland, Clark Door Ltd, coolux GmbH, Eartec Co., HOAC Handels GmbH, Kunkel Consulting International GmbH, LSS Licht, Steuer- und Schaltanlagenbau GmbH, MTS Media Technical System s.r.o. by MovieTech, showTex, The Audio Specialists b.v., Think Abele GmbH + Co. KG (Movecat), Triple E Limited, Wenger Corporation, Werning Theatertechnik Theaterbedarf GmbH, and Wilhelm Westholt GmbH.

Trade visitors are welcome to come and experience the sound created by state-of-the-art audio technology. There will be demonstrations of innovative developments and products under live conditions, and experts will be on hand to provide advice at the SoundLab Lounge.

PQ '15 Fast Approaching

After four years, the largest world exhibition of performance design is set to flood the center of Prague!

Eleven days, 64 national expositions, more than 500 live events at more than 100 locations in Prague, and 50,000 visitors will comprise the 13th edition of the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space from June 18 to 28.

Besides the exposition of countries and regions, and exhibition of theatre architecture and art schools from around the globe, the program offers lectures, workshops, and a diverse range of live performance in public spaces. Moreover PQ '15 will bring together as many as 5,000 international theatre professionals. The main theme of the event is "SharedSpace: Music, Weather, Politics."

One of the main events will be a lecture by Canadian theatre guru Robert Lepage, known as a director, scenographer, and actor. He is renowned for his multimedia productions. Other leading theatre personalities scheduled to appear include Sean Patten (Gob Squad), Stefan Kaegi (Rimini Protokoll), Philippe Quesne (Vivarium Studio), Numen / For Use, Adrienne Lobel (The Metropolitan Opera, Peter Sellars), Jim Clayburgh (formerly of The Wooster Group / JOJI INC), and Mike Pearson (National Theatre Wales, Aberystwyth University).

All information can be found at www.pq.cz.



ETC Keeps on Giving

On the floor of the LDI Show, Fred Foster, CEO of ETC, presented a check for \$24,909 for Behind the Scenes to Rick Rudolph and Mark Heiser, the chair and treasurer of the PLASA Foundation. The donation, the second of this year, reflected ongoing proceeds from sales of ETC's iRFR and aRFR (Radio Focus Remote) applications for iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, and Android devices.

These apps, developed by ETC software engineers Chris Mizerak and Anders Ekvall, continue to be popular and have become the gift that keeps on giving to the charity. When ETC employee Luke Delwiche suggested giving the proceeds from the app to charity, no one could have known that it would bring help and hope to so many people. The check brings ETC's total Behind the Scenes contributions to date to just under \$200,000.

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

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News & Notices

Andi Lyons to Receive 2015 Joel E. Rubin Founder's Award

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*



Andi Lyons enjoys a sunny day in upstate New York.

Andi Lyons learned she won USITT's 2015 Joel E. Rubin Founder's Award five months ago, and she still doesn't believe it.

"I looked in my membership directory at the names of all the distinguished people who have received this award over the years, and I really thought, 'They have made a big mistake,'" she said.

Andi Lyons is known for both her sense of humor and her modesty about her own achievements. As a lesbian whose formal uniform is jeans and a tie, "I tend to stick out in a crowd," she said. To her USITT family, she stands out as a leader, role model, and pioneer for diversity and equality within USITT and in the backstage world.

"Awarding this recognition to Andi is a

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fabulous way to celebrate her 20 tireless years of leading the effort to change the faces of USITT,” Michael Mehler, a member of USITT’s Diversity Committee, wrote in his nomination.

Said Board Member Kasey Allee-Foreman, “Andi stands up for equality with a kindness, strength, and grace that I aspire to attain.”

Andi is a lighting designer and professor of theatrical design and technology at The University at Albany - SUNY. She joined the Institute in 1982 and has been an active force for change since 1992.

Growing up in Boston in the '60s, she was “not your average-looking person” and never pretended otherwise. “No one ever made the mistake of assuming I was a straight woman,” she said.

In high school, a teacher told her that her looks ruled out a science career. She went to Brandeis University, but didn’t fit in. She left and backpacked to California. She was broke and homeless when tiny Keuka College tracked her down with a scholarship offer.

There she fell in love with upstate New York, met her first life partner Susan, and started her career in theatre as a scene shop carpenter. On graduating, she was torn between English literature and theatre design and technology. She chose Yale School of Drama for her MFA in technical design and production because “it felt like real people did real work there.”

Illness struck Susan in Andi’s first year out of school. After cancer treatment, they moved to Albany so Susan could study library science. Andi got the technical director gig at Albany and thought she’d stay three years. That was 32 years ago.

She attended her first USITT Conference in 1987 in Minneapolis and loved it.



Andi Lyons helps with diversity training at the USITT Board of Directors meeting in August, in one of her traditional non-traditional ties.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

But the next year, Susan's cancer returned. She died in April 1991.

A year later, Andi went to USITT '92 in Seattle and found it "incredibly welcoming." But she was the only woman at the Technical Production Commission meeting, and she heard other women at the Conference saying, "There are hardly any women here!"

That was the start. She helped create the USITT Women's Caucus and the first women's networking session in 1995. Their first outreach led to the Human Issues Caucus, the Queer Nation Round Table, and the People of Color Networking Project. These days, diversity and inclusion are important parts of USITT's mission, thanks to her continuing efforts.

Andi, who married her second life partner, Janka Bialek, on their 21st anniversary last year, said her identity as "a big ol' dyke" helped her become "the one known for pointing out the elephant in the room."

"So many lesbian and gay people of my generation tried to be straight or hid their orientation," she said. "I never had that option, so I could speak out. It gave me the freedom to say the things that need to be said – which might make it a little uncomfortable for me, but makes it better for the next person."

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News & Notices

2016 Venue Challenge Set

Information about the 2016 ASTC USITT Venue Renovation Challenge has been completed and is available now to give students and advisors more time to plan.

Entries for the 2015 ASTC/USITT Challenge are now closed, after a successful debut of the event in 2014.

Because of his years in academic theatre, Van Phillips, one of the event's organizers, realized the academic course work for a degree (especially in graduate programs) was established at the end of new students' first semester. Most graduate committee chairs know by the end of the first semester if a student or group of students would benefit from exploring the ASTC/USITT Challenge under an Independent Study directed by the faculty member. "But," he said "(and it is a big BUT) the graduate committee chairs need to see the challenge material a year or a year and a half ahead."

The 2016 ASTC/USITT Challenge is now official. Information is available on the USITT website at www.usitt.org/astc2016.

Mr. Phillips noted "I had a long 32 year career teaching Theatre Design and Technology at The University of South Florida and then Purdue University. As an ASTC Theatre Consultant I have been part of the group forming the ASTC/USITT Challenge, which is designed to allow students working on degrees to expand their knowledge beyond just production and into the facilities that 'should' serve as a 'platform for production.'"

He continued by explaining that "Jo Mielziner, the great Broadway Designer and also Performance Facility Consultant (who I worked as an intern under and later became friends with), told me he wanted to write a book titled ... 4'-9". Why 4'-9"? Because that was the size limit on the width of a flat you could load on a railroad boxcar. The point of the book (and he had a folder full of notes) was restrictions put on productions because of facility and other physical limitations."

The members of the ASTC/USITT Challenge Working Group hope that participants will see the potential opportunities for expanding the experience for selected students which the Renovation Challenge represents.





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News & Notices

Costume Exhibit to Open in Moscow



Caitlin O'Connor- La Traviata, co-production among the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, and the Royal Canadian Opera Company

Costume Design @ the Turn of The Century, the most comprehensive international costume design exhibit ever curated, will open in June and coincide with PQ 2015. Designs will be exhibited in the galleries of the A.A. Bakhrushin State Museum in Moscow, Russia.

The Bakhrushin Museum, considered Russia's foremost stage museum, has the largest collection of theatre art in Russia and is well known around the world. The exhibit will be presented in at least six of the Bakhrushin galleries throughout Moscow. USITT member Igor Roussanoff is collaborating with the director of the Bakhrushin, Dmitry Rodinov, to organize this extensive multi-country collection conceived to

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represent seminal costume designs between 1990 and 2015. The 24 countries represented include the United States of America, Japan, Hungary, Finland, The Netherlands, Australia, Spain, Venezuela, Italy, Serbia, Belgium, Slovakia, Pakistan, Brazil, United Kingdom, Denmark, Russia, Canada, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Mexico, Germany, and Poland.

The exhibit website is at www.worldcostumedesign.com.

Curators from each country are reviewing submitted designs. Those selected will be sent to the museum for final curation. USITT members Susan Tsu, Laura Crow, and Alexandra Bonds served as curators for entries from the United States. Among the designers advanced to Moscow are two of the costume designers honored by USITT monographs, Willa Kim and Carrie Robbins. Both award-winning designers are known and admired for their costume designs on Broadway and in regional theatres.

Others whose costume designs are being considered are: Marianne Custer, Judith Dolan, Deborah Dryden, Joel Ebarb, Connie Furr-Soloman, Raphael Jaen, Jenny Kenyon, Wendy Meaden, Susan Mickey, Michelle Ney, Sabrina Notarfrancisco, Linda Pisano, Kristina Tollefson, and Nic Ularu.

Participation in this international exhibit reflects the mission of USITT to provide members with access to opportunities on the global stage.



Machine Dazzle (performance piece not clearly identified)



Candace Donnelly: Haroun and the Sea of Stories at New York City Opera



Susan Mickey- School for Lies, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre

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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

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Showcasing
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News & Notices

Schreiber Named 2015 Distinguished Achiever in Technical Production

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*

Automation wizard and technical director Loren Schreiber, the brains behind the San Diego Theatre Arts Research Laboratory (STAR Lab), will receive USITT's 2015 Distinguished Achievement Award in Technical Production.



Mr. Schreiber's credits include being the original technical director for Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* (1986) and Neil Simon's *Rumors* (1988) at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego.

In his 20 years teaching at San Diego State University, he has invented dozens of award-winning automation solutions and pioneered PC-based automation controls. He's also an amateur stunt pilot, cattle rustler, and co-founder of the Long Reach Long Riders (LRLR) charity motorcycle club.

Technical Production Commissioner Verda Beth Martell described him as "the cowboy-looking guy in the Hawaiian shirt selling patches for LRLR."

"It can be easy to get caught up in his cool and easy demeanor and forget that he is one of the greatest technical theatre researchers of our time," she wrote in her nomination.

Mr. Schreiber grew up in California, spent time in Africa for his dad's job, and discovered theatre on his return to the states.

"I was 17, in a new school (in Louisiana), and very shy," he said. "I had a crush on a girl in my homeroom who was interested in theatre." To impress her, "I checked out Uta Hagen's *Respect for Acting* from the school library and left it sitting casually on my desk." The girl noticed and invited him to join a theatre group. "Nothing ever came of my crush, except after 45 years I'm still in theatre," he said.



Instead of acting, he learned to build scenery. After a stint in the Navy, he worked in the scene shop at Louisiana State University, earning a BA in German literature and an MA in theatre history. "Since those degrees are incredibly marketable (NOT!), I headed to California to earn an MFA in scene design."

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He worked part-time as a scenic carpenter for the Old Globe and soon switched to technical theatre. Asked what led him to automation, he tells this story:

"The production manager, the assistant TD, and I were crouching behind a large faux tree on the outdoor stage of *As You Like It* at the Old Globe, waiting for our cue to push. The winch that originally moved the tree sat in a spaghetti of wire and cable after the stagehand who ran the winch was startled by a spider 'as big as a house cat!' and sent the tree in the wrong direction. It nearly fell off the back of the stage and into the San Diego Zoo. As I sat there, clearly visible to the audience, I thought, 'There has to be a better way!' I began designing and building electro-mechanical controls (relays, switches, etc.) that would take the stagehand out of the control system. I wanted a Big Green Button that, when pressed, would do everything a light board could do, only for making scenery move."

He is known for experimentation – including forging ahead through failures – to design special effects and automation machinery for theatre. He said his greatest challenge was Douglas W. Schmidt's scene design for the 1993 revival of *Damn Yankees* at the Globe.

"There were six winch deck tracks; four actor lifts; nine trapdoors and pop-ups; 36 pneumatic effects; one hydraulic turtle mechanism; and a host of flying elements all controlled by a system designed and scratch-built by little ol' me," he said. "The only thing it didn't have was an Emergency Stop button."

There's more to that story, one of many he will share in his award session at the Cincinnati 2015 Conference & Stage Expo. Meanwhile, as Ms. Martell wrote, "His work makes us all better."

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Alliance Launches Green College Contest

March 1 is the deadline to apply for the inaugural Broadway Green Alliance College Green Captain prize. The winner will be announced and posters of finalists will be displayed at the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio in March.

The winner will receive a pair of tickets to the Broadway or touring production of either *Wicked* or *The Lion King*, along with a professional backstage tour of the production and a meeting with a current Broadway Green Captain, subject to availability. (Past Broadway Green Captains have included: Bryan Cranston, Alan Cumming, Blythe Danner and Audra McDonald.)



The BGA contest honors and rewards College Green Captains for creating greener productions on college campuses. Winners will have brought innovative, creative, or widely-applied greening and energy-efficient methods into the design or production of theatre at their campus.

To apply for the prize, College Green Captains should submit a one-page summary explaining their work to make greener theatre. They must also submit a pdf of an 18-by-24 inch cardboard poster that showcases the best elements of their greening program. Additional materials can include a three to five minute video or up to 10 pages of written reports or spreadsheets documenting the greening. Photographs with captions explaining the program are encouraged.

Entries, including large files, can be sent to green@broadwaygreen.com. Any student or faculty/staff member interested in the contest and trying to make their theatre greener is encouraged to volunteer to be a College Green Captain, and sign up at www.broadwaygreen.com/college-green-captains. All prize applicants must be College Green Captains.

More information can be found at BroadwayGreen.com. Current or prospective College Green Captains can join the conversation on Twitter @CollegeGCs or on Facebook.

The winner will be selected by a panel of judges which includes Associate Professor of Theatre Technology at Indiana University and co-chair of the BGA Education Committee Paul Brunner; BGA Co-chair and Executive Vice

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President of Clark Transfer Charlie Deull; Assistant Professor of Sustainability and Design for Theatre at York University Ian Garrett; NRDC Senior Scientist Allen Hershkowitz, PhD.; and Tony Award-winning set designer, Donyale Werle (*Peter and the Starcatcher*; *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*).

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News & Notices

In Memoriam: Peter Cott



Peter Cott, a retired theatre executive who helped launch the first USITT Conference & Stage Expo in 1961, died on November 14 at age 90.

Mr. Cott and his husband, Kenneth Leedom, were the subjects of a *New York Times* feature article last year chronicling their [58-year love story](#).

Mr. Cott hailed from Long Island and worked as an actor, publicist, theater manager, and the executive director of Westbeth, the artists' residence in New York's West Village.

He served on the planning committee for the first Conference and on the Advisory Board for the formation of USITT, said Dr. Joel E. Rubin, Fellow, founder, and former president. In the early 1960s, Mr. Cott was executive director of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. He was a member of the USITT Board of Directors at that time.

He and Mr. Leedom met at a 1955 fund-raiser for the American Shakespeare Festival Theater in Stratford, Connecticut, according to the Times story. Mr. Leedom was raising money to build the theater, and Mr. Cott was the theater manager. Mr. Leedom went on to serve as executive director of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

The couple lived together for 55 years before they legally wed in October 2011.

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The *Times* celebrated their longtime relationship in September 2014, and noted its end with this [piece](#) Nov. 21.

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News & Notices

LiNK Weekend to Return in 2015

Positive feedback from participants in *LiNK* has ensured that the first theatre grad school recruitment event in Atlanta, Georgia November 14 and 15 won't be the last. *LiNK* brought 80 students and 48 schools together for two days of theatre grad school auditions and interviews.

"We heard from student participants that *LiNK* was literally life-changing," said SETC Executive Director Betsey Horth.

"*LiNK* was even more successful than we thought it would be, so we'll definitely do it again, hopefully even bigger next year," USITT Executive Director David Grindle said.

USITT and SETC partnered to organize *LiNK* as a low-cost opportunity for theatre graduate school programs and potential students to connect early in the school year's recruiting cycle. *LiNK* was held at the Atlanta Airport Hilton with Platinum sponsor Focal Press.

Aspiring theatre grad students were able to meet and interview with representatives from four dozen colleges, universities, and conservatories for only \$40, which included a Friday night *LiNK* soiree for informal networking. Theatre schools from across the country had access to a dedicated pool of candidates for their advanced degree programs for a \$125 fee.

USITT and SETC said providing an easily-accessible opportunity for grad school interviews and auditions at *LiNK* helps create an affordable and convenient way to promote diversity in theatre programs.

"Some of the students at *LiNK* saw as many as 18 to 25 schools each, and



Auditions were held in the Friday morning session of *LiNK* 2014 in Atlanta, Georgia

Photos/Barbara E.R. Lucas

many said they appreciated the relaxed, fun, non-competitive atmosphere,” said Christine Troscher, USITT’s training coordinator, who helped plan the event.

USITT and SETC agreed, based on this year’s turnout, they will need more rooms at the Hilton and may extend the Friday-Saturday event to include Sunday for more callback auditions and interviews time next year.

LiNK 2015 is in the planning stages for November. “Focal Press was happy to sponsor the inaugural *LiNK* event, and we are in discussions for future collaboration,” Mr. Grindle said.

Stay tuned to www.usitt.org and www.setc.org for more LiNK info.



One on one interviews with potential graduate students were the highlight of Saturday LiNK events.

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The Last Word:

Still Stretching, Still Writing

Fellow Joy Spanabel Emery has been involved with USITT for more than three decades and was honored with a Lifetime Membership Award for her service. She is Professor Emeritus of Theatre and Adjunct Professor, Textiles & Merchandising Department, University of Rhode Island. She was active with the Costume Society of American, including serving as President. She is also a Fellow of CSA and the New England Theatre Conference. Below, she reflects on her experiences.

Little did I know when I attended my first USITT Conference in 1977 held in Washington, D.C. that I was embarking upon an extraordinary post-graduate program in Costume Design and Technology, which incidentally was the name of the newly organized Commission with Don Stowell Jr. as Commissioner. Over the course of the next 35 plus years, the stimulating ideas and practices generated in the Institute and Commission influenced all my design work and gave me an opportunity to exercise some leadership skills.



I was able to serve as Costume Design & Technology Commissioner for six very active years that saw the development and expansion of numerous commission projects and Costume Symposiums. All were directed by gifted dedicated people from the U.S. and Canada who have become good friends. These projects are now an established part of the fabric of the Institute.

One particular project started as the Flat Pattern Exchange and developed into the Commercial Pattern Archive; it has kept me actively involved since its inception in the mid-1980s. In the early stages, the project was supported by USITT Endowment Fund Grant, USITT Kook Endowment Grant, and the Commissioners Fund. That support opened doors to other funding from organizations including the National Endowment for the Humanities.

I had the opportunity to serve as Vice President for Publications for ten years. It was a privilege to work with the fledgling newsletter and annual journal that evolved into Sightlines and quarterly TD&T. The publications awards were expanded to include the Golden Pen with opportunities to meet the distinguished authors. My education in that role included a crash course in Institute budgeting. Watching the expansion of USITT publications in the last few years has been inspiring and speaks to the vitality of the organization.

Further educational experiences USITT offered included opportunities to visit

many areas of the U.S. and Canada for the Conference & Stage Expos and the Costume Symposiums. Additional travel opportunities came with USITT's participation in the Prague Quadrennials. Visiting the international exhibition energized many design ideas and expanded international friendships.

I have stepped back from my active participation in USITT since my retirement from teaching in 2000 with the exception of the Commercial Pattern Archive. I curate the archive's collections housed at the University of Rhode Island. The archive has three components: garment patterns, and printed matter including sewing manuals, professional journals, fashion periodicals, and pattern trade catalogs as well as personal papers and compiled research materials. Patterns produced for retail by the major companies are catalogued in the database CoPA which contains over 57,000 patterns which are cataloged with digital images of the design and pattern schematic in an extensive collection of fashion periodicals, tailoring journals, and sewing manuals. The archive constitutes a rich history of everyday dress, garment making, design, and construction from the late 18th Century to the present. It is an invaluable resource to theatre designers. It provided the resources for *A History of the Paper Pattern Industry: The Home Dressmaking Fashion Revolution* published by Bloomsbury in 2014.

It occurs to me that I have been stumbling along a not-so crooked path from where I started all those years ago. I am still pursuing an active fascination with costume design and learning. USITT is instrumental in paving that path.

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Amplification on USA-USITT PQ Credits

Rick Thomas, who was listed as the sound designer for a production which will be included in the upcoming USA-USITT National Exhibit, has provided additional information about the production of *Choices*, at thEDMatre, at Purdue University.

Rick notes that he was the creator and director, but only one of a large group of collaborators who created the aural aspects of the show. The impressive list of participants and the range of tasks they accomplished bear this out.

We are delighted to acknowledge:

- **Composers:**
Michael Barnard, Alex Diaz, Ryan Hopper, Michael Leathers, Laura Ramiro Moreno, Trent Marshall, Rick Thomas
- **Lyrics:**
Tyler Adams, Chynna Fry, Ryan Hopper, Andrew Martin, Laura Ramiro Moreno, Abbey Vieck, Michael Leathers, Alex Diaz, Zach Hellman, Rick Thomas
- **Sound Reinforcement Design:**
Travis Roon; Sound Score Design: Alex Diaz; Sound Re-recording and Post Production: Rick Thomas

Article Examines Scenic Artist Training

Karen Maness, a member of USITT's Board of Directors, has published an article in *Perspective*, the magazine of the Art Directors Guild. She and co-author Richard Isackes wrote "A heritage explored and recovered" as part of the scenic artist oral history project and in conjunction with their ongoing research of Hollywood motion picture scenic artists. The article, which focuses on the legacy of motion picture scenic artist training, [can be found here](#) on page 58.

Congratulations to *Opera News* winners

Opera News Editor-in-Chief F. Paul Driscoll announced the recipients of the 10th Annual Opera News Awards. This year's honorees—Piotr Beczala, Ferruccio Furlanetto, Sondra Radvanovsky, Samuel Ramey and Teresa Stratas—will be feted at a black tie gala April 19 at the Plaza Hotel in New York City. Previous Opera News Award winners Martina Arroyo, Gerald Finley and Susan Graham are among the presenters.

Proceeds from the gala will benefit the education programs of the Metropolitan Opera Guild, which has published *Opera News* since 1936. A portion of each ticket purchase is tax-deductible as allowed by law. For event information or to purchase tickets, visit the [Opera News website](#) or call 212-769-7062.

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- **Meyer Sound:** Minnesota College Arena Upgrade Serves Wide Range of Uses
- **ETC:** Celebrates Award-Winning LDI Tradeshow
- **Rose Brand:** Brooklyn High School Wins Custom Main Stage Curtain in Video Contest.
- **Daktronics:** Interactive Features Highlight Integration at LDI Show
- **Stage Technologies:** Helps Automate *Made in Dagenham*
- **PRG:** Entertainment Production Experts Realize Must-See Tour

Meyer Sound: Minnesota College Arena Upgrade Serves Wide Range of Uses

From hockey games to Nobel Conferences, **Meyer Sound** IntelligentDC gives Gustavus Adolphus College Arena in Minnesota a sonic advantage. The venue is fully equipped to provide exceptional audio coverage for every function in its 1,500-capacity Lund Arena.

The remotely powered system featuring IntelligentDC combines the performance advantages of self-powered loudspeakers with the installation efficiency of Class 2 wiring. A single, five-conductor cable carries remote power and balanced audio signal to the loudspeakers from a rack-mount power supply and signal distribution unit. In the U.S. and many other countries, electric conduit is not required.

The Meyer Sound models chosen for the audio upgrade include 19 UPM-1XP loudspeakers spaced over the ice floor, 20 UPJunior-XP VariO loudspeakers covering the spectator stands, and 16 UMS-1XP subwoofers for full-range musical punch, while eight UP-4XP loudspeakers cover an adjacent hallway. Handling system drive, optimization, and zoning is a Galileo loudspeaker management system with two Galileo 616 processors.



ETC: Celebrates Award-Winning LDI Tradeshow

LDI 2014 was a very successful tradeshow for **ETC**. The company's gravity-defying booths were visited by record numbers of visitors, a lot of buzz surrounded its debuting products, and ETC walked away with several awards.

ETC's Nomad dongle earned a PLASA Members Choice Award in the Gadget category. The device plugs into a user's computer allowing it to program and run lighting shows using Cobalt or Eos/Element software. The Source Four LED Series 2 Lustr luminaire picked up an LDI Best Debuting Product Award. The judges called it a game-changer, and commended the luminaire's unique mix of LED emitters and its brightness. ETC also got a special mention during the LDI awards ceremony for the color control in all Eos-family lighting consoles. The judges explained that ETC has focused on the needs of designers with its commitment to the development of solutions for real problems in the industry.

ETC showed a lot of new products at the show including Vortek rigging products, GDS architectural luminaires, the Unison Echo architectural system, the ColorSource PAR LED luminaire, the Nomad dongle and Nomad Puck mini-computer, and Source Four LED Series 2 Daylight HD and Tungsten HD luminaires. The staff was busy from the opening minutes of LDI until the show ended, giving demonstration after demonstration of the equipment.

The company's booths themselves also drew in visitors. Designed by ETC Scenic Artist Kate Foster, ETC CEO Fred Foster, and event architecture firm satis&fy, and built by ETC employees, the booths featured an "upside-down world" with a stage scene hung from the ceiling. A pair of twirling dancers and floating ribbons glided above the heads of ETC employees and guests, and a wall of tiles served as puzzle pieces, moving around to create ETC's logo and unveil its show theme, "Innovating Creativity." Eight different control sequences from ETC Rigging equipment automated the sculptures, with the lighting design programmed to match each sequence. An ETC Foundation rigging controller sent OSC commands to a Nomad Puck mini-computer to trigger the lighting. A video of the automation can be found at youtu.be/Yag4fuoidnE.



To learn more about ETC and its products, visit www.etcconnect.com.



Photo: Christina Hilliard - Sweet Orange Photography

Rose Brand: Brooklyn High School Wins Custom Main Stage Curtain in Video Contest.

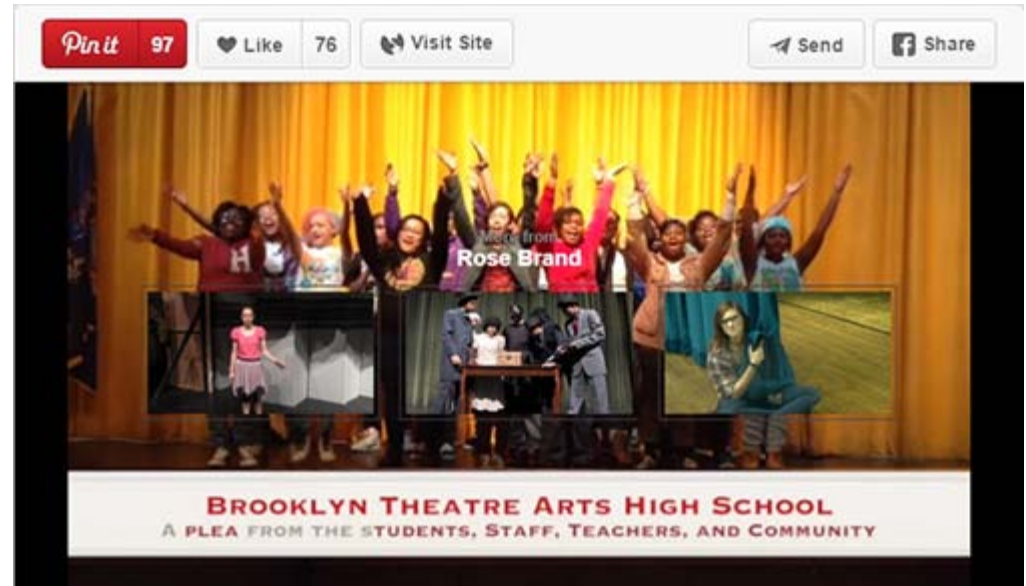
Brooklyn Theatre Arts High School won the new, custom main stage curtain valued at up to \$10,000 in the **Rose Brand** “Rags To Riches” video contest. The contest invited any organization with a stage to send in a creative video expressing the need for a new main stage curtain. Videos were judged by Rose Brand managers on the basis of creativity, entertainment value, demonstration of organizational need, and the number of “likes” received across Rose Brand’s Pinterest and Vimeo sites. [The winning video](#), described the Brooklyn high school’s need in playful visuals and lyrics that were sung to the tune of “My Favorite Things” from the 1965 film *The Sound of Music*.

Rose Brand Executive Vice President Josh Jacobstein said, “We received a

number of videos that were wonderfully entertaining, and many organizations deserve recognition for their terrific efforts. However, the Brooklyn Theatre Arts High School brought a smile to everyone's face. Our employees loved it."

At the outset of the program, [Rose Brand created its own playful video to generate contest entries.](#)

All video entries can be viewed on either [Pinterest](#) or [Vimeo](#).



Daktronics: Interactive Features Highlight Integration at LDI Show

Visitors to the LDI Show in Las Vegas, Nevada experienced a new level of integration with live video, graphics, animations and audio from [Daktronics](#).

Attendees checked out the integration capabilities by pressing a red button and seeing what happens next. Everything in the booth is available from Daktronics including the video displays and freeform video elements, animations and graphics creation, audio equipment, and control systems.

A module showcase featured Daktronics products including 4 millimeter SMD, 6 millimeter SMD, 8 millimeter SMD, 10 millimeter SMD, 15 millimeter SMD, 13HD and 16 millimeter outdoor modules.

Full displays featured in the booth included 4 millimeter SMD display measuring roughly 10 feet high by 17 feet wide; 6 millimeter SMD podium consisting of quarter-modules measuring roughly four feet high by three feet wide; 6 millimeter display with varying LED types for comparison purposes measuring roughly 6 feet tall by 2.5 feet wide; 50 millimeter freeform stick elements; and new 2 module by 2 module and 3 module by 2 module transportable panels.



Stage Technologies: Helps Automate *Made in Dagenham*

Based on a true story as well as the 2010 film of the same name, *Made in Dagenham* is a new musical comedy at London's Adelphi Theatre about the equal pay strike by the women who made car seats at the London suburb's Ford factory in 1968.

The show stars Gemma Arterton as Rita O'Grady - factory machinist, wife, and mother who, with her colleagues, finds out that their pay has been downgraded to unskilled, and who therefore decides to stage a walk out. The action unfolds against a lively soundtrack of 1960s-inspired song and dance numbers and brightly coloured sets. To automate the latter, Production Manager Matt Towell selected **Stage Technologies** to supply a 39-axis overhead, stage level, and sub-stage automation control system; and sister company Delstar Engineering to provide fabricated steelwork, tracks, and engineering.

Stage Technologies' BigTow Classic, BT2-200 and BT2-390 winches as well as motors and hydraulics automate the 39 axes. Seven AU:tour 6 cabinets are stationed in the Adelphi's basement to power the system, and it is controlled by the show's automation team using an Acrobat•G6 desk situated in a perch on downstage right. Four BT2-200 winches in truss provide a performer flying gag.

Much of the show's action takes place on the Ford factory floor. Delstar Engineering fabricated two car seat rails - one sloped and one level - which circulate in the background of this set; these are powered by a Stage Technologies motor and gear box.



Photo/Manuel Harlan

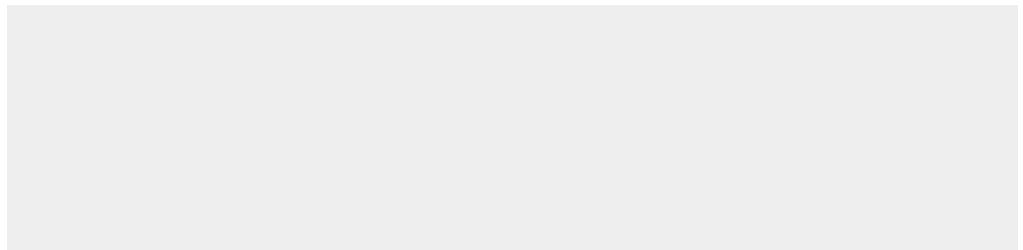
PRG: Entertainment Production Experts Realize Must-See Tour

Hero Ventures, a Los Angeles-based entertainment company, will use that technical elements for *The Marvel Experience*, an epic-scale, immersive adventure experience in which guests step into and interact with the world of Marvel's Super Heroes and Super Villains, from entertainment event technology and service provider, **Production Resource Group (PRG)**.

"*The Marvel Experience* has evolved into an amazing, premier touring experience, complete with unique technical elements such as 3D 360-degree video projection, first-person 'live' interactive gaming and a dynamic 4D motion ride.

The team will handle all the coordination and supervision of the design and construction for the project. While *The Marvel Experience*'s technical requirements pose a unique set of challenges, PRG's global reputation has been built on its ability to bring innovative solutions to a wide range of projects including Broadway's groundbreaking *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark*, Olympic opening and closing ceremonies, key elements of Universal Studios' Harry Potter attraction, Super Bowl halftime shows, and global concert tours.

The Marvel Experience landed in Phoenix, Arizona on December 19 and runs through January 3 before moving on to Dallas, San Diego, and San Francisco with more cities to be announced shortly.





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Spotlight on Giving

So Many Reasons to Support USITT

Dennis Dorn, when asked why he gives to USITT, provided not one, but many, many, reasons why he continues his support.

USITT influenced my career and those of my students, allowing them to be introduced to the industry especially during the Annual Conference & Stage Expo, with a large audience of attendees and the potential for networking with future colleagues and friends, as well as through the large readership of publications like Sightlines and TD&T.



It is important to me to give back to an organization that provided so many chances to offer others similar opportunity. Some ways to do this are:

- Time and service;
- Monthly or regular donations of small amounts;
- Annual gift at time of conference or end of year;
- Estate giving, which can be as simple as making USITT the first beneficiary on a life insurance policy, noting the amount with the balance going to family or other designees – OR disposing of appreciated stock that will save the donor a large tax bill.

I've done or do all of the above. Every little bit helps, especially when everyone gives, even just a little bit.

[For a complete list of Mr. Dorn's reasons for giving, click here »](#)

Contributions from 11/15/2014 to 12/15/2014

Kook Fund

- Alexandra Bonds
- Dennis Dorn

- Sylvia Pannell
- John Stark
- Zelma Weisfeld
- Charles Williams

New Century Fund

- Judy Adamson
- Reid Neslage
- Christine Troscher
- Zelma Weisfeld
- Charles Williams

New Century Fund - Rigging Safety

- Carol Carrigan
- Lori Furcinito
- Janet Gramza
- Jyle Noguee
- William Reynolds
- Joel Rubin, Ph.D.
- Charles Williams

New Century Fund - Tayneshia Jefferson

- Alicia Haley
- Connie Leday

Samuel Scripps International Fund

- Alexandra Bonds
- Kevin Rigdon
- Zelma Weisfeld

USITT Fund

- Richard Arnold
- Eugene & Genevieve Hines
- Jean Montgomery
- Mark Shanda
- Zelma Weisfeld

General Operations

- William Browning
- Dennis Dorn
- Emily Gill
- David Grindle

- Tom Hackman
- Brent Henry
- Steven Jacobs
- Linda Janosko
- Carl Lefko
- Mark Lohman
- Jim Lucas
- Martha Marking
- Jean Montgomery
- Sylvia Pannell
- Anthony Phelps
- Carolyn Satter
- Sherry Wagner-Henry
- Zelma Weisfeld
- Kimb Williamson
- The Expo Group

Fellows Fund

- Joe Aldridge
- Richard Arnold
- Alexandra Bonds

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So Many Reasons to Support USITT

by Dennis Dorn

Dennis Dorn, when asked why he gives to USITT, provided not one, but many, many, reasons why he continues his support.

USITT influenced my career and those of my students, allowing them the opportunity to be introduced to the industry via a large audience of attendees and readers, and the potential for networking with future colleagues and friends.

I received the first Kook grant -- to measure the actual strength of standard theatrical wood and wood/metal staging structures. RESULT: two *TD&T* articles and three MFA theses at both UW-Madison and Yale School of Drama.



Need more reasons? A sampling of the Technical Production Commission sponsored grants – all made possible by support to USITT:

- Technical Director Job Satisfaction surveys: Three separate reports: initial, 10-yr and 20-yr anniversary; 2 funded largely through USITT – RESULT: TD&T articles and nearly half-dozen conference sessions: 2 MFA theses
- Poly-urethane foam applications in theatre scenery and props One MFA thesis
- Grid-core (space panel developed by US Forest Products service) research and analysis – RESULT: Conference session in Nashville involving Forest Product investigators & one MFA thesis
- Wheatboard – Plant material used to create fiber panel substitute for wood boards, plywood, OSB, and particle board. Two conference sessions and one MFA
- Paper tubes used in set and props construction. RESULT – 3 MFA theses – Collaboration with Forest Products Lab and tube manufacturers.

Opportunities to meet and collaborate with many industry and academic colleagues on a variety of projects, and on a huge variety of levels, personal and professional. I continue to follow and interact with past students (and in some cases with my students' students) and their families and friends...

Strong connections (since 1977) as a member of the Midwest Section.

It is important to me to give back to an organization that provided opportunity in so many ways so that others may have similar opportunity. Some ways to do this are:

- Time and service;
- Monthly or regular donations of small amounts;
- Annual gift at time of conference or end of year;
- Estate giving can be as simple as making USITT the first beneficiary on a life-insurance policy, noting the amount with the balance going to family or other designees – OR disposing of appreciated stock that will save the donor a large tax bill.

YEAH!!!! I've done/do all of the above. Every little bit helps, especially when everyone gives, even just a little bit.



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- **JLG Industries:** New Sustaining Member, Exhibitor
- **University of Virginia:** Upgrades Membership
- **Turning Star, Inc.:** Returns as Sustaining Member
- **On Location Lighting Systems, Inc.:** Upgrades Membership, To Exhibit
- **ENTTEC:** Helps Transform Melbourne Airport Facade
- **Theatre Projects:** Bicknell Center Beautiful, Cost Effective
- **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas:** Embraces Challenges for 2015
- **RC4 Wireless:** Provides *Magic* for the National Theatre Production
- **Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.:** Announces Spanish-Language Release
- **GLP:** X4 Plays Major Role in 'Fall Of The Wall' s Anniversary

JLG Industries: New Sustaining Member, Exhibitor

We welcome **JLG Industries** as a new Sustaining member and a new exhibitor at Stage Expo. The company, specializing in lift and access equipment -- especially aerial lifts, can be found at www.jlg.com.

University of Virginia: Upgrades Membership

USITT appreciates the increased level of support from the **University of Virginia** which recently upgraded to Sustaining membership. UVA is also a Stage Expo exhibitor.

Turning Star, Inc.: Returns as Sustaining Member

Turning Star, Inc., based in Brooklyn, New York, has returned to the Institute as a Sustaining member. The company manufactures a complete line of flame retardants for use with fabrics, wood, paper, and paint. Find out more at www.turningstar.com

On Location Lighting Systems, Inc.: Upgrades Membership, To Exhibit

On Location Lighting Systems, Inc., based in Cincinnati, has upgraded its support of USITT to that of a Sustaining member. The company, which provides a broad range of audio, lighting, staging, roofing, and more, will exhibit at Stage Expo. Read more at their website, www.loudandclear.com.

ENTTEC: Helps Transform Melbourne Airport Facade

Melbourne, Australia companies Mint Lighting Design and **ENTTEC** have transformed the forecourt and main terminal façade at Melbourne Airport with a dynamic lighting installation that provides ambience and entertainment and welcomes travelers to the world's most loveable and friendliest city.

The landmark project covers 12 individual sites programmed as one to create an intricate, synchronized light show that boasts more than 40,000 pixels and 57 universes to control and schedule them. In total, 2,140 individual products were designed and installed.

Specialized programming has been designed to celebrate important days in the multicultural calendar, including Australia Day, Diwali, Chinese New Year, and Christmas. The installation can be re-programmed to mark other events and significant milestones as required.

ENTTEC founder and General Manager Nicolas Moreau said it is among the most sophisticated ENTTEC has built in its 15 years of worldwide installations.



Theatre Projects: Bicknell Center Beautiful, Cost Effective

Those attending the December 7 opening of the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts at Pittsburg State University in Kansas may have been surprised to know—after looking over the stunning glass edifice, setting foot in the beautiful wood-trimmed auditorium, and exploring its numerous versatile facilities—that the

entire building only cost \$33 million.

Cost-effective planning and design by **Theatre Projects** went a long way in creating the first performing arts facility on the Pittsburg State University campus since 1978. The long-overdue building is a collaboration between Theatre Projects, ACI/Boland (executive architect), and William Rawn Associates (design architect).

At the heart of the 96,000 square foot center is the Linda & Lee Scott Performance Hall, a 1,100-seat, multi-purpose theatre. Down the hall sits the Bicknell's courtyard theatre, a flexible and intimate 250-seat space, which will serve as the main stage for the university's drama department.

In an effort to keep costs down, the facility was built in large part with pre-cast concrete panels. The Bicknell Center's other facilities includes a scene shop, costume shop, dressing rooms, and technical rooms plus a 3,000 square foot multi-purpose rehearsal room that doubles as a warm-up room for waiting performers. The center also features an art gallery, donor display room, donor lounge for private receptions, and a workshop for artists-in-residence.

Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas: Embraces Challenges for 2015

As a work in progress, **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas** (SILV) always looks for new ways to challenge students and staff. SILV 2015 is all about new challenges.

In addition to a continuing commitment with Vectorworks and ESP Vision teaching computer programming sessions, the thread they build connecting Week 1 through Week 8 will have some dynamic new dimensions.

Beginning with SILV 2015, Weeks 7 and 8 are being expanded to become The Block - Weeks 6 through 8 (July 12 - August 1). As a very broad overview, Week 6 will focus on the multi-million dollar full gear load-in and moving lights programming, Week 7 will be all new Media for Live Entertainment, and Week 8 will ratcheted up to be Rock 'n Roll programming concluding with Tech Showcase and Job Fair, Seal Exam, and strike.

Check out all of the offerings of SILV 2015 at stagecraftsinstitute.com



RC4 Wireless: Provides *Magic* for the National Theatre Production

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time continues to get rave reviews as it settles into its new home at the Gielgud Theatre in London's West End lighted by **RC4 Wireless** products.

Many of the technical lighting achievements are done using *RC4Magic* wireless DMX and would not have been possible without tiny RC4 dimmers.

The National Theatre was an earlier adopter of wireless dmx and dimming, and has used multiple generations of RC4 Wireless products. Nearly every show produced by the Royal National Theatre has incorporated *RC4Magic* devices. Additionally, each theatre space operates its own set of unique digital IDs to prevent interference from other systems. Only the *RC4Magic* ID system provides customer-specific data security while ensuring equipment can be moved from space to space as needed.

Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.: Announces Spanish-Language Release

Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc. released its Spanish-language Vectorworks 2015 software November 24. It is part of a worldwide rollout that included earlier European-language releases and will continue into 2015 with additional localizations in Japanese and Chinese.

The Vectorworks line of award-winning software products includes: Designer, Architect, Landmark, Spotlight, Fundamentals and Renderworks. The new software contains more than 100 updates and new features in the areas of architecture, Building Information Modeling (BIM), urban planning, and entertainment design. In previous versions, the power of 64-bit was only available in the platform's photorealistic rendering engine, Renderworks, but has now been integrated throughout the entire Vectorworks 2015 product line, providing designers with the ability to handle larger projects, as well as better performance and stability. In addition, designers will observe a revolutionary

graphical experience from advances made to the Vectorworks Graphics Module (VGM), which was introduced last year.

Visit www.vectorworks.net/espanol for Spanish-language resources and www.vectorworks.net/international to find a local distributor. Additional information about Vectorworks 2015 is available at www.vectorworks2015.net.

GLP: X4 Plays Major Role in 'Fall Of The Wall' s Anniversary



Pictures © Ralph Larmann

To celebrate 25 years of the Berlin Wall being torn down, a massive day of festivities took place on November 9, culminating in a major ceremony in front of the iconic Brandenburg Gate highlighted by the release of some 8,000 helium balloons being released into the night sky over Germany's capital.

GLP's frontline X4 series *impression* LED automated heads helped light up the night sky with a real *tour de force* for the central event — courtesy of the dynamic lightshow designed by Björn Hermann. PRG supplied all the lighting for the main event.

Conceptually, Mr. Hermann said he wanted to make the Brandenburg Gate itself the star of the production and create a three-dimensional effect using his lighting armoury to build multiple layers. He needed to not only illuminate the Gate from the front, back or sides but by building five low weight 13-meter high freestanding towers, to be able to shoot right through the Gate itself. This feature represented the sunrise behind the Gate in the symbolic opening of the Wall (by moving the LED walls) as tens of thousands of guests populated the square in front of the Gate, the symbol of the division of Germany, to hear some of the political champions of reunification and witness a dynamic stage show.

Mr. Hermann has been a long-time user of GLP's evolving *impression* LED platform, and for this show he sourced more than 150 fixtures divided into the workhorse **X4**, the smaller **X4 S** and newly-launched super-sized **X4 XL**.



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News From **David Grindle**, *USITT Executive Director*

Potato Chip Principles for the New Year



In survey after survey by snack manufacturers, Americans ask for potato chips that are lower in fat and have fewer calories. We want this! We need this!

In taste test after taste test, that product is hated in favor of the chips we know are bad for us.

Humans are fickle. We ask for things and then sometimes do not want what we asked for. Look at the December theatre offerings we just went through; *Nutcracker* and *A Christmas Carol* dominated the boards. Audiences tell us they want new shows, but don't cancel those – they're tradition!

Newton's laws tell us that objects in motion stay in motion and those at rest tend to stay at rest. The challenge is the conversion. Once you get from one to the other, the tendency to stay that way comes naturally.

It's the new year, a time for resolutions. What in your life have you wanted to change but can't let go of? We are a creative people; we should embrace change and seek to have it help us make new discoveries and innovations.

Yes, the new potato chip we say we want tastes awful, but humans can't admit that. It would mean we want something that is bad for us, but tastes good.

To change eating habits is tough, but often it is better for us. There are many habits we have that share the same characteristics. Meeting styles can change. Design processes can change. Construction materials and styles can change. It may all be awkward and take some getting used to, but it isn't wrong, just different.

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

It's 2015. I challenge us all to find the potato chips in our lives and do something about them. Who knows what it could lead to?

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Regional Sections

- **Desert State:** 2015 Desert State Annual Meeting
- **Upstate New York:** Upstate Winter Workshop Day Planned

Desert State: 2015 Desert State Annual Meeting

The Desert State Annual Meeting will be on Monday, January 19 (Martin Luther King Day,) at Arizona State University at the Nelson Fine Arts Center.

Registration and breakfast will begin at 9 a.m. The cost is current membership in Desert State (\$5.00 for students, \$20.00 for individual) and \$15.00 registration. Please renew memberships via PayPal on the Desert State website (desertstate.usitt.org)

The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. During the meeting there will be a celebratory look back at the history of the Section, the 2015 Regional Competition/Student Awards Program (SAP) recipients will be announced, support checks to the Desert State Student Chapter will be presented. The event will include a 50/50 raffle in support of the SAP awardees. Jeff Giek, President and Founder of Rhino Staging, will present this year's keynote.

Workshop for the meeting include: The Business of Theatre Doing Theatre without Killing Yourself, and Hands On Workshops. Topics will include *Grow Where you Go*, *Entrepreneurship*, *Programming with ETC 101 and 102*, *Knitting Chainmail*, *Fall Arrest*, *Event Safety Guide*, and *System Safety and Redundancy*.

The event is also a celebration of 15 years of the Desert State Regional Section.

Upstate New York: Upstate Winter Workshop Day Planned

The Upstate New York Regional Section will hold workshops on digital audio mixing and stage carpentry, among other activities, at its annual Frank Willard Winter Meeting February 7 at SUNY-Binghamton.

The day will begin with check-in and coffee as well as a resume turn-in at 10 a.m. Sessions will include *De-Mystifying Digital Audio Mixing for Theatrical*

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

Sound Design, with Martin S. Dombey of emg Recording Remotes, a Boston-based on-location audio production service; a costume session to be determined; *Pocket-hole Carpentry: Adapting Furniture-Building Techniques to Solve Common Stage Carpentry Problems*, with Paul Schreiner, production manager at SUNY-Brockport; and a design session still to be determined.

Other activities include the Student Design Expo, Sectional Meeting, and theatre company job interviews.

For more information on the Upstate Regional Section, click [here](#). Questions about the event may be directed to Katie Gilliland at keg5@buffalo.edu.

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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

January 2015

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2015 CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO

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Conference & Stage Expo

USITT App Aids Annual Conference Planning – and More

Kathie Brookfield *Cincinnati Promotions*

By now, members should have registration forms in hand or on the USITT website to fill out before February 5 to save up to \$72 off the full conference registration.

[Download the USITT App](#), sponsored by Schuler Shook, to help with planning for the event. The app provides access to all the Conference information including an alphabetical listing of exhibitors, their booth numbers, and a map of the Expo Hall. The exhibitor listing includes contact information and a few details about the company/school or products. The Schedule lists all the meetings and sessions. Click on a session for details about the session, location, and speaker. Add the Session or Expo Only Time to the Planner Itinerary, click on add to device calendar, and take notes on a mobile device. The USITT App provides access to networking through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and LinkedIn. All of this information is found by clicking on the 2015 Conference button.

The USITT App is more than just Conference information. Find jobs, read Sightlines and TD & T, check the Calendar of events and meetings, and support Institute with donations to a number of funds listed under the *give* button. In USITT Presents, access information on training and special events.

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Conference & Stage Expo

Excitement in Cincinnati

Ron Procopio *Stage Expo Manager*



Noticed some growth to USITT over the past two years? Those who last visited the Stage Expo before 2013 have missed out on seeing the show grow from 193 companies to more than 275 expected to attend this year. Think it's just more of the same? Think again!

The USITT board, committees, and members have named the companies they would like to see more of at the Stage Expo and ways to help find the best products and services available.

Events and associations that intersect with entertainment production -- like the American Sewing Expo and the National Safety Council's convention -- have provided new ideas. Sewing products and manufacturing equipment can be used in costuming and scenic design. Last year, Baby Lock had a terrific show meeting members and have stepped up their commitment to the Institute with a larger space, membership support, and training opportunities.

Other areas aim at the needs of technical directors and carpenters. The latest in 3D model printing and CNC machines will be represented at Stage Expo for the first time.

Looking toward growth in digital projection technologies, visits to InfoComm and the National Association of Broadcasters increase the Institute's connection to

media beyond those already represented at Stage Expo.

After meeting with USITT, hearing about the membership and opportunities for growth, most manufacturers are enthusiastic to take part. The entertainment industry is constantly changing. It's USITT's job to make sure members are connected to the best manufacturers, distributors, educators, and job opportunities in the industry.

Those in Cincinnati for the 2015 Conference & Stage Expo should make sure to visit these new and returning companies.

- [Anchor Audio](#)
- [Backdrops Fantastic](#)
- [C.B.I. Cables](#)
- [Carnival Cruise Lines](#)
- [Celebrity Cruises](#)
- [ChamSys USA](#)
- [Chicago Spotlight](#)
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- Vincent Lighting
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Conference & Stage Expo

Collaboration: Myth or Reality?

A conversation with Fellows Crow, Ramsaur, Auerbach, and Earle.



Laura Crow, Michael Ramsaur, Leonard Auerbach, Randy Earle

Debuting at the Cincinnati 2015 Conference & Stage Expo is a totally new approach to programming by the Fellows. This year introduces The Conversation-- first in a series of in depth discussions among USITT Fellows and Friends. Each year the participants will change, but the topics will always be timely, the conversation informed, and the exploration lively,

The Fellows Conversation is part of the Thursday evening programming which will start with finger foods and a cash bar at 6:15, the conversation at 7 p.m., and be followed by a celebration of awards for those starting their careers.

An exploration of the much vaunted concept, collaboration, will kick off the Fellows Conversation series. Entertainment professionals are expected to collaborate. Many in the industry preach it, but do they in fact practice it?

Taking the stage in Cincinnati are three leading professionals and Fellows of the Institute: Laura Crow, Len Auerbach, and Michael Ramsaur. Randy Earle, Chair of the Fellows, will moderate. They will discuss many years of collaboration with clients, architects, fellow designers, directors, producers, and craftspeople. The emphasis is on how collaboration happens and dealing with "un-collaboration."

"Collaboration? In this busy world?" asks Ms. Crow, University of Connecticut professor of costume design, "Designers are very willing to collaborate. It's often the directors who need training in collaboration. Our usual process is to create the world with lights and sets, and then we populate it. That leaves costume design as an afterthought. Surely we need to see the people first, and then we know what their world would look like."

Looking at the topic from another perspective is S. Leonard Auerbach, chairman, Auerbach Pollock Friedlander - Theatre Consultants / Auerbach Glasow French - Architectural Lighting Design.

"Collaboration is not a myth, it is a tool for success. The practice of theatre consulting means different things to different people. I have found that there have been many changes over the years in the consulting practice and what I call 'behavior of process.' Just as in theatre, there is the creative team, the producers and the performers. Without effective leadership pulling together the team of creative collaborators, there would be no show. The leadership in the process shifts from the playwright to the director and the designers to the actors. The process requires collaboration as a tool for success. A merging of new ideas with solid experience is a healthy test of egos."

"Collaboration is both a theatrical myth and the normal working condition," adds Michael Ramsaur, Stanford University professor of lighting design. "Interesting that Mr. Webster's definitions include both 'to work jointly with others' and to 'cooperate with the enemy' - both have an aspect related to our specific theatrical discipline. My years of experience have taught me that working in theater is collaboration. Effective collaboration is both listening and leading. A good collaborator is sensitive to the exchange of ideas and is able to determine when to push forward and lead, and when to listen and follow."

Join the conversation. A question and answer opportunity will be provided. Join the Fellows at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 19 in Duke Grand Ballroom B.

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Conference & Stage Expo

Program Offers Students an International Opportunity

The Student Ambassador Program matches student members with visiting international guests at each conference to encourage networking between early designers and the Institute's global colleagues. The next opportunity for Student Ambassadors will be at the Cincinnati 2015 Conference & Stage Expo March 18 to 21.

The guests for the Cincinnati conference are Japanese Noh mask maker Kitazawa Hideta, one of the last wooden mask carvers in Tokyo; Jean-Guy Lecat, Peter Brook's longtime collaborator and self-described space designer; and Xochitl Gonzalez, a Mexican lighting and scenic designer, and World Stage Design 2013 award winner for Lighting Design.

The Student Ambassador Program is an exceptional chance for students to work closely with an international designer. Three student members will be selected based on their areas of interest, compelling application, and letter of recommendation. Student Ambassadors will receive free conference registration and a luncheon with the three guests.

Teachers, professors, and educators from USITT member schools, universities, and colleges may initiate the application process by recommending a student they believe would make an outstanding candidate. Specific language abilities would be a plus but are not required as all International Guests have some fluency with English. [Click here for application guidelines](#). See the PDF file for complete application/nomination information.

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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

January 2015
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Showcasing
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2015 CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO

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