



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

February 2015
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News & Notices

Eyring Named 2015 Distinguished Achiever in Management

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*

Teresa Eyring, the visionary executive director of Theatre Communications Group, will receive USITT's 2015 Distinguished Achievement Award in Management at the Cincinnati 2015 Conference & Stage Expo.

Ms. Eyring has led TCG, the national service organization for non-profit theatres, since 2007 and continues to expand its network of resident theatres, its publishing efforts, and its promotion of theatre as a force for social change.



Before TCG, Ms. Eyring spent 20 years in leadership positions at the Guthrie Theater and the Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the Wilma Theater in Philadelphia overseeing successful building campaigns at all three. She has always worked to make theatre and the arts more central in community life. When Ms. Eyring left Philadelphia, then-Mayor Ed Rendell gave her a Liberty Bell statue to honor her accomplishments. On her last day at the Children's Theatre Company, Mayor R.T. Rybak named March 5, 2007 "Teresa Eyring Day" in Minneapolis.

David Stewart, Management Commissioner who nominated her for the award, worked with Ms. Eyring at CTC 15 years ago and participated in TCG's 2014 Conference, *Crossing Borders*.

"Her views on diversity and inclusion are vast and wide, and she doesn't back down from the challenges that come with these topics," he wrote.

Ms. Eyring grew up in Baltimore with arts-loving parents and saw her first Broadway shows – *Promises, Promises* and *Butterflies Are Free* – at age 10.

In high school she tried drama club, but wasn't drawn to stage or shop. Then, in college at Stanford University, an advisor suggested she try theatre classes. She majored in international relations, but ended up minoring in theatre, including studying Scandinavian drama in Denmark.

"I became passionate about the role art plays in history," she said. "It's so powerful how what happens in theatre either reflects or directs our times."

After graduation, she lucked into a job as development director at the cutting-

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edge Woolly Mammoth Theatre in Washington, D.C. “That’s where I discovered there was such a thing as arts administration and that was what I wanted to do!” she said.

She earned an MFA in arts administration at Yale School of Drama while helping run Yale Repertory Theatre from 1986-89. Then Guthrie Theater Executive Director Ed Martenson hired her as his assistant and put her in charge of a \$5 million building renovation. “I learned to deal with people with a range of expertise, people who knew much more than I did about most things, and that I could express my leadership by celebrating the expertise around me and really tapping into it,” she said.

Her success led to a job as managing director of the Wilma, where she helped revive a stalled \$8 million capital campaign and built a new theatre. Five years later, she became managing director of CTC with the mission of – guess what? – running a \$30 million capital campaign and building a new theatre facility.

Since joining TCG, she has seen its member theatres top 500 despite a recession, and its publishing efforts grow well beyond its award-winning magazine, *American Theatre*. TCG has become a key advocate for the arts on many issues, including the whitespaces issue --proposed FCC policy changes regarding the broadband spectrum affecting wireless mics-- and maintaining a strong National Endowment for the Arts.

Her most passionate views fuel TCG’s renewed emphasis on theatre’s role in social change. TCG’s new strategic plan embraces equity, diversity, and inclusion with programs including a demographic survey, *REPRESENT*, to chronicle and raise awareness of how theatre-makers and staff self-identify; the Legacy Leaders of Color Video Project, a series of mini-documentaries on theatre founders of color; and a Diversity & Inclusion Institute with 21 theatres joining forces to work for change.

Said Ms. Eyring, “We believe it’s important for theatre not to replicate the weaknesses that exist in modern society, but to model a new way forward. Our motto is ‘a better world for theatre, a better world *because of* theatre.’”

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News & Notices

Announce 2015 Young Designers & Technicians Awards



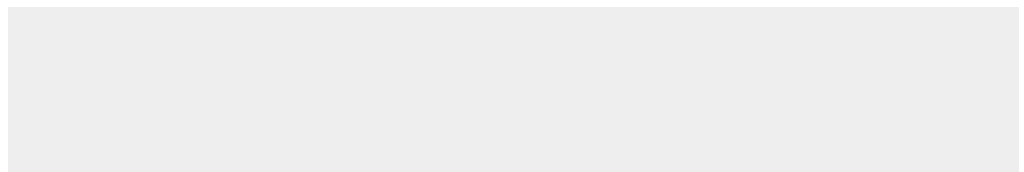
Kenneth Foster's Lighting Design for *The Whipping Man*.

Ten young artists will receive 2015 USITT Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts – the annual YD&T awards – at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio March 18 to 21.

This is the 20th anniversary of the awards, which give young theatrical designers and technicians a leg up in their careers and come with free registration to the annual event and up to \$1,000 cash.

YD&T winners also gain recognition and access to leaders in their fields. Last year's winners were featured in a display in the front window of The Drama Book Shop in New York City last month, and samples of their work are being displayed at the U.S. Embassy in Prague, Czech Republic, this month.

The honorees are nominated by professors or mentors who are also USITT members. The awards are sponsored by companies or individuals who present them at the Conference and provide prizes.



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Tyler Jacobson's blocking for *Beauty and the Beast*.



Josafath Reynoso's model for *Henry V* set.

The 2015 winners are:

- **Lighting** -- Kenneth Foster of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville will receive the USITT Lighting Design Award sponsored by Barbizon Lighting Company. He will complete his MFA in lighting design this year.
- **Technical Production** -- John Van Arsdale of the University of Wisconsin-Madison will receive the KM Fabrics, Inc. Technical Production Award. He will receive his MFA in drama and theatre technology this year.
- **Scenery** -- James Rogers of Penn State University will receive the Bernhard R. Works, Frederick A. Buerki Scenic Technology Award, known as "The Golden Hammer Award." He will earn his MFA in theatre technology this summer.

Josafath Reynoso of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville will receive the USITT Scene Design Award sponsored by Rose Brand. He is about to complete his MFA in scenic design.



Emily Morrisey's 1800s war drum for *Serjeant Musgrave's Dance*

Greg Pinsoneault of The Theatre School at DePaul University will receive the USITT W. Oren Parker Undergraduate Scene Design Award sponsored by Stage Decoration & Supplies. He will receive his BFA in scene design from this year.

- **Props** -- Emily Morrisey will receive The Master Craftsmanship Award sponsored by Bernhard R. Works, which recognizes excellence in Stage

Properties for 2015. She will receive her BFA in design and production from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts this year.



Colleen Dobson costume for *Into the Woods*

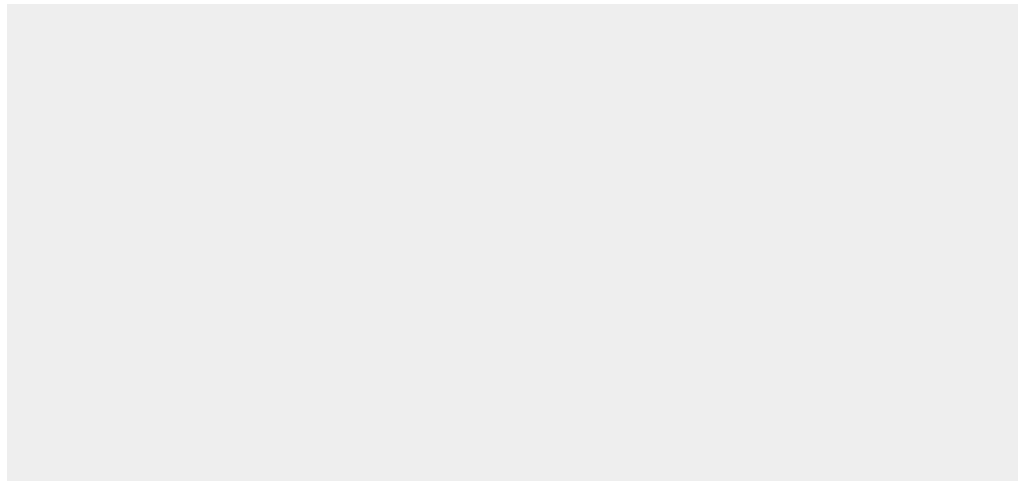
Chia Chia Feng's foam latex mask for *Just A Body*

- **Make-up** -- Chia Chia Feng will receive the USITT Make-up Design Award sponsored by Kryolan Professional Make-Up. She will earn her MFA in make-up design from UNCSCA this year.
- **Costumes** -- The Barbara Matera Award in Costume Making, sponsored by Judy Adamson, will go to Colleen Dobson, who will receive her MFA in costume technology from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill this year.

The Zelma H. Weisfeld Costume Design & Technology Award sponsored by Zelma Weisfeld will be announced soon.

- **Management** -- The USITT Stage Management Award sponsored by Clear-Com Communications Systems will go to Tyler Jacobson. He will receive his MFA in production and stage management from Carnegie Mellon University this year.

For more information on the YD&T awards, visit www.usitt.org.ydt





FULL STAR 3D VIEW- HOME



STAR 3D VIEW - EXTENDED

- NOTES:
- SPRAL SHLF SHOULD BE FACED LIKE THE OTHER BOOKSHELVES.
 - ONLY FACE WHAT IS NEEDED TO REDUCE WEIGHT.
 - REFERENCES SHOW STORAGE AND DEPLOYED VIEWS WITHOUT INSIDE FACING.
 - SUPPORT LEG MAY NEED TO BE ADDED TO THE UPPER STARS FOR STABILITY.

James Rogers' spiral stair book shelf for *Into the Woods*



John Van Arsdale technical production on *Kiss Me, Kate*



Greg Pinsoneault's Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired set for *Hansel and Gretel*

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News & Notices

Fort Lauderdale Picked for USITT in 2018



USITT will stage its major event for 2018 in sunny Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo will fill all three floors of the Greater Fort Lauderdale-Broward County Convention Center from March 14 to 17.

Jack Feivou, USITT Vice President for Conferences, said every inch of space in the Convention Center will be committed to Institute activities, and a nearby cruise ship port offers prospects for tours and programming which are already being explored.

USITT has locked in hotel rates for the Hilton Fort Lauderdale Marina, across the street from the convention center; the Hyatt Regency Pier 66, across the bridge from the center, and the Renaissance Fort Lauderdale, just two blocks away.

"It's time to get back to a warm conference," Jack said. "When you're in South Florida, there is always an opportunity to step outside," either to go to a restaurant, or a tour, or one of the numerous evening activities in the area.

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts with its wide array of presentations, the Museum of Art, the Swimming Hall of Fame, and outstanding



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beaches offer choices outside the Conference day.

Access to the 2018 event will be easy, with the Fort Lauderdale airport only minutes from the waterside location. In addition, both the Miami and West Palm Beach airports are within an hour's drive, providing numerous options.

With the 2016 event in the west (Salt Lake City), and 2017 planned for centrally located St. Louis (March 8 to 11 at America's Center), Jack said 2018 is a perfect time to return to the East Coast.

"Since the Stage Expo and session programming are both growing, finding the perfect fit at the perfect time in March makes Fort Lauderdale a solid choice for the organization," he noted. Planners are already excited at the new opportunities opening up for 2018.

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News & Notices

Schmidt Named Distinguished Scene Designer, Subject of New Book

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*

Acclaimed Set Designer Douglas W. Schmidt has three reasons to look forward to USITT 2015:

1. He's getting the Distinguished Achievement Award in Scene Design.
2. He's the subject of USITT's latest book, *The Designs of Douglas W. Schmidt*, to be launched at the Conference.
3. The event takes place in his hometown of Cincinnati.



"It's particularly great because Cincinnati is where I started my career," he said. "My first professional design job was at the Playhouse in the Park. I had nothing on my agenda for the summer, so I walked in and introduced myself to Brooks Jones. He said, 'What are you doing?' I said, 'I'm just here.' He said, 'Want to design a show?'"

Fifty years later, Mr. Schmidt has designed 57 Broadway shows and dozens of regional productions for the Guthrie, The Old Globe, The Alley Theatre, and Seattle Rep, among others. He has three Drama Desk Awards, two Tony nominations, an Obie, and many other awards.

Lighting Designer/Production Manager Barry Cleveland, who wrote the new monograph with his wife, costume designer Annie Cleveland, nominated Mr. Schmidt for "his indefatigable contributions enhancing the world of stage design."

The Clevelands also wrote the 2011 *Designs of* book about Mr. Schmidt's good friend, Costume Designer Carrie Robbins. He said the authors were "dogged" in chronicling his work, from his early years as Ming Cho Lee's assistant in 1964, to his Broadway triumphs in the late '60s and '70s -- with such shows as *Grease* (1972), *Over Here* (1974), and *They're Playing Our Song* (1979) -- to recent work in regional theatre, opera, and dance.

Mr. Schmidt grew up with a love for theatre and did magic shows at birthday parties as a kid. He went to Boston University with acting in mind, until he saw that actors greatly outnumbered designers. "I figured the most attention and

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work I would get would be as a designer,” he said. “It turned out to be a fortuitous -- I’d like to say prescient -- move, but it was more like self-preservation.”

His work with Brooks Jones and Ming Cho Lee led him to two New York repertory companies, Lincoln Center Rep and John Houseman’s The Acting Company, and two decades of Broadway work. In 1980-81, he designed what he calls “the notorious *Frankenstein*,” which closed after one night. Heartbroken and “burned out,” he accepted a job in San Francisco and fell in love – with the city and his partner, Stephen Martin.

He has juggled multiple projects since, and several – such as *Damn Yankees* (1994) and the revival of *Into the Woods* (2002) -- went to Broadway or toured widely.

Although known for a willingness to collaborate and take risks, he said there is no Douglas W. Schmidt “style.”

“I go with the flow, and, whatever the production demands, I try to fulfill,” he said. “I’ve never been successful at having a vision that works for everything. And I *never* get a concept when I am reading the script. What happens is, I immediately draw a blank and say, ‘I can’t do this. I have no idea.’ But you just work on it until you get there.”

His current challenge is a touring production of *The Sound of Music* to open in Los Angeles next fall. “The show is so indelibly stamped with past productions that it’s hard to do something unique,” he said. “Oliver Smith was a genius, he hit that one out of the park. So right now I am struggling. But I’ve got a year.”

Mr. Schmidt will receive the Distinguished Achievement Award in Scene Design at a special session on his work March 20, and will participate in a panel discussion with other award winners that morning. He’ll also do a book-signing for *The Designs of Douglas W. Schmidt*, which will be available at the Conference.

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Christin Essin Stage Designers Book Wins 2015 Golden Pen

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*

Christin Essin, with her 2012 book *Stage Designers in Early Twentieth-Century America: Artists, Activists, Cultural Critics*, has won USITT's 2015 Golden Pen Award.

Ms. Essin, assistant professor of theatre history at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, chronicled the impact of stage designers on the nation's visual culture as they emerged from backstage obscurity to become leading artists of the early 20th century.

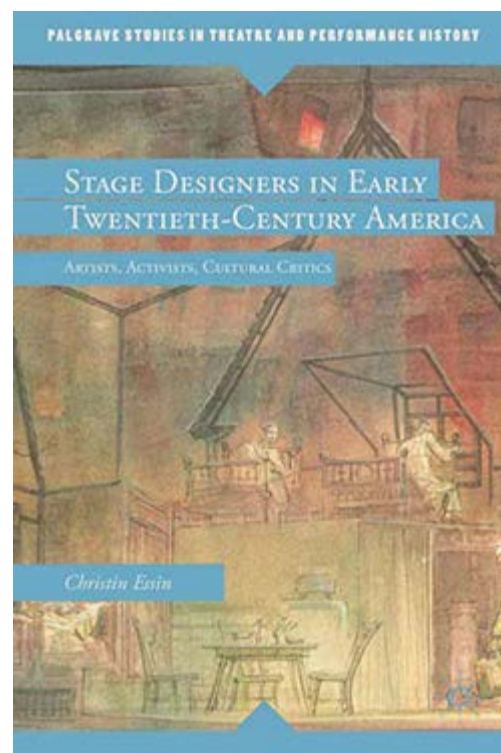
"I wanted to write a history that appealed not only to scholars and theatre historians, but to design practitioners and educators whose legacy has such a direct and lasting impact on how we see and interpret American culture," she said.

Ms. Essin is a new member of the Publications Committee but was invited to join after her book had already been nominated. She was not privy to any award discussions and didn't know she won until the Board of Directors approved the Awards & Resolutions Committee's selection.

"I'm so excited!" she said of the award. "Being recognized by USITT is such an honor, and I'm thrilled to be able to share my work with this community."

[Ms. Essin will receive the award at a special session](#) at the Cincinnati 2015 Conference & Stage Expo. The book also will be available for purchase, and a book signing will be held at the Conference. A paperback edition will be available in April.

Ms. Essin started her research on early 20th century stage designers as part of her doctoral dissertation at the



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University of Texas - Austin where she was a student of 2010 Golden Pen winner Oscar Brockett (author of *Making the Scene: A History of Stage Design and Technology in Europe and the United States* with Margaret Mitchell and Linda Hardberger).

In her dissertation, she examined the work of designers Robert Edmund Jones (1887-1954), Norman Bel Geddes (1893-1958), and Joseph Mielziner (1901-1976). She showed how they “helped American audiences see everyday landscapes and exotic destinations from a modern perspective.”

For the book, she expanded her research to include several other designers whose work influenced American modern culture through not only their stage design work, but as authors, critics, activists, entrepreneurs, and cartographers.

Mike Monsos, Chair of the Golden Pen subcommittee, called the book “a remarkable new foray into the study of New Stagecraft ...The book focuses on many designers, some lesser known, who forged connections between theatre, the visual arts, and the cultural landscape in a brave new way.”

Ms. Essin said she is “humbled to win the same award (Mr. Brockett) won with his collaborators a few years ago. His support and the mentorship of Charlotte Canning, my advisor, were significant in the success of this book.”

The [Golden Pen Award](#) recognizes outstanding books on performing arts design and production. Previous winners include Richard Pilbrow’s *A Theatre Project* (2013) and Deborah Nadoolman Landis’s *Dressed: A Century of Hollywood Costume Design* (2009). [Click here to nominate a book for next year’s award.](#)

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New OSHA Workshop Added in Cincinnati

USITT, the IATSE Craft Advancement Program committee, and the IATSE Entertainment and Exhibition Industries Training Trust Fund will present an OSHA 10/General Entertainment Safety training before the 2015 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio. The training, held Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17, covers OSHA policies, procedures, and standards as well as general industry safety and health principles. Topics include scope and application of the OSHA general industry standards. Special emphasis is placed on those areas that are the most hazardous using OSHA standards as a guide. [The OSHA 10/General Entertainment Safety](#) course was customized for the IATSE Entertainment and Exhibition Industries Training Trust Fund and uses examples from the entertainment industry.



This course will be led by the same nationally and internationally recognized trainers that developed the customized training and conduct it for the Training Trust Fund. Joe Aldridge, Alan Rowe, Kent Jorgensen, and Eddie Raymond of the IATSE Craft Advancement program will bring their cumulative experience and knowledge to present this entertaining and informative training.

This course is offered at a greatly reduced rate. Members of USITT and members of IATSE can register for only \$50. For non-members, the cost is \$75. Space is limited. USITT members and non-members can register online. IATSE

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members should contact USITT at 800-938-7488 to register at the reduced rate.

Student Competition Wrapped in Mystery

Rose Brand is accepting applications through February 23 for the 2015 Action Design Competition to be held at the USITT 2015 Conference & Stage Expo. [Apply online now.](#)



What started out as an idea from a Rose Brand employee has turned into one of the best USITT memories for students who attend.

Four student-teams of designers and technicians will compete to design a scenic environment under this year's mystery theme. Participants have no prior knowledge of the theme, what supplies will be available, or who they're working with. Team members need to make the best of their mystery supplies, and will have less than four hours to design the ultimate display in the Stage Expo.

Winners take home unique prizes, gift bags, and bragging rights for the year to come. Prizes are awarded to the winning team and best individual contributors.

Show off skills by submitting an application. Application information is available on the [Rose Brand Website](#). Also, like Rose Brand on [Facebook](#) to view the latest news on the competition!

Lights! Camera! Action! at Hollywood Costume Exhibit

The words "costume exhibition" don't promise a lot of drama and bring to mind costumes imprisoned in Plexiglas cubes under bland, eco-friendly display lighting accompanied by boring vital statistics in hushed museum halls.

A visit to the recently opened [Hollywood Costume](#) exhibition at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), which runs through March 2, turns the usual museum visit on its ear. Housed in the in the historic Wilshire May Company Building, the future location of the [Academy Museum of Motion Pictures](#), the exhibit is curated by Deborah Nadoolman Landis, Academy Award-nominated costume designer and founding director of UCLA's [David C. Copley Center for the Study of Costume Design](#), She won the USITT Golden Pen Award in 2009 for *Dress: A Century of Hollywood Costume Design*.

Costume designers rarely get the recognition they deserve. The public assumes that costumes can be found at the local mall. This exhibition is a narrative that defines the pivotal role of the costumer in the creative process. Divided into four sections, the first exhibit examines the '70s costumes in *Argo* and the costumes in the *Bourne* series. Exhibit room two explores in depth the relationship between director and costume designer. High-definition interactive video tells the story of each costume from napkin sketches to final construction. Every step of the process is meticulously displayed on acrylic projection

The creativity of lighting and presentation combines with the story of the costumes to provide a new museum experience.



Berlin Focus for International Trade Fair

Exhibitors and trade visitors from around the world will take part in Stage|Set|Scenery, the trade fair for theatre, film, media and event technology June 9 to 11 in Berlin, Germany.

Stage|Set|Scenery targets the industry's forward-looking international markets. Its partnership with international associations and close cooperation with Messe Berlin's international representatives helps attract a growing number of international exhibitors. Recent partnerships include the International Organization of Scenographers and the International Organization of Scenographers, Theatre Architects and Technicians (OISTAT). OISTAT presents the Theatre Architecture Competition (TAC) awards. Other industry associations include the OETHG from Austria, SVTB-ASTT from Switzerland, USITT, STEPP from Belgium, STFF from Sweden, and ABTT from the United Kingdom. CETA, the industry association from China, and VPT from the Netherlands have added their names to the list.

Exhibitors from 17 countries – Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, Serbia, Spain, the UK, and the USA -- have registered.

Stage|Set|Scenery is held in collaboration with Deutsche Theatertechnische Gesellschaft e.V. (DThG), which organizes the International Stage Technology Conference, an integral part of the event in the display halls.

Phoenix Museum Adds Fashion Collection to Holdings

Phoenix Art Museum recently acquired the "Emphatics" archive, a rare collection

of avant-garde contemporary fashions collected by James and Karin Legato.

The Legatos spent decades building and curating “Emphatics,” (one of the country’s premiere designer retailers located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania). After 50 years of operating the exclusive boutique, they decided to close the store and offer the collection to Phoenix Art Museum for purchase. A group of dedicated patrons came together to support this landmark acquisition.

The “Emphatics” archives include more than 400 iconic fashions and accessories by world renowned designers such as Alexander McQueen, Issey Miyake, Thierry Mugler, John Galliano, Romeo Gigli, Christian Lacroix, Alaia, and Jean Paul Gaultier. The archive also includes rare photography and videos of the designers’ fashion shows, original runway show invitations, and other ephemera.

“The Emphatics archive represents the most forward thinking designers working in the ’80s and ’90s, a very fertile period in fashion,” explained Dennita Sewell, the museum’s curator of fashion design.

Pilbrow to Kick Off PLASA Educational Seminars

Richard Pilbrow -- USITT Fellow, lighting designer, theatre design consultant, and author – will kick off the educational seminar program of PLASA Focus: Orlando 9 a.m. Tuesday, February 17 with “Light and Theatre – 50 Years of Change.” Free registration to both the show floor and educational seminars can be obtained at www.plasafocus.com/orlando.

Mr. Pilbrow founded Theatre Projects in 1957 and has produced theatre, film, and television. He was a stage lighting pioneer in Britain and was retained by Sir Laurence Olivier to be first lighting designer and then theatre consultant to the National Theatre of Great Britain. He was a founder of the ABTT, the ALD, and the STC. His books *Stage Lighting* (1970) and *Stage Lighting Design - the Art, the Craft, the Life* (1997) have become international texts. His 2011 book, *A Theatre Project*, was 2013 winner of the prestigious USITT Golden Pen Award. Under his leadership, Theatre Projects has become the pre-eminent theatre consulting organization in the world with more than 1,200 projects in over 70 countries to its credit.

Additional seminars will be given by such experts in the industry as Josh Allen (Theatre Consultants Collaborative), William R. Benner, Jr. (Pangolin Laser Systems), Frank Brault (Vectorworks), Scott Chmielewski, George Dodworth (Lightwave International), Dan Goldsmith (X-Laser), Tony Hanson, Tom Harman (Laser Production Network), Jim Hutchinson (CHAUVET Professional), Christine Jenkin (ILDA), Mark Kiracofe (IATSE), Brian Lawlor (IATSE), Tom Littrell (ETC), Greg Makhov (Lighting Systems Design Inc), Tobin Neis (Barbizon) and Geoff Platt (TMB).

Montreal Site of New CITT Trade Show

ExpoScene, to be held March 26 and 27 in Montreal, Canada, is a new trade show produced by CITT that covers all areas of the pro audio, lighting,

production and video markets. Housed at the Palais de Congres, sound and lighting companies, systems contractors, theatres, night clubs, concert venues, acoustic consultants, AV companies, pro audio dealers, concert promoters, festivals, educators, government buyers, lighting contractors and consultants, recording studios, record producers, and video producers and broadcasters will attend.

ExpoScene will be marketed aggressively to the Canadian marketplace by CITT's Media Partner, [Norris-Whitney Communications](#), publishers of *Professional Sound* and *Professional Lighting & Production*.

There are only a few spaces left for companies eager to expand their market share of the Canadian production market.

PLASA Public Reviews

2015 is shaping up to be a busy year for PLASA's Technical Standards Program, with [eight standards being offered for public review](#). Available drafts include three from the Rigging Working Group, two from the Photometrics Working Group, and three from the Control Protocols Working Group.

Five standards are available for review through March 2:

- **BSR E1.4-1-201x, Entertainment Technology - Manual Counterweight Rigging Systems** applies to permanently installed, manually operated systems of stage rigging hardware for the raising, lowering, and suspension of scenery, lighting, and similar loads.
- **BSR E1.17-201x, Entertainment Technology Architecture for Control Networks** is a suite of documents that specifies an architecture, protocol, and language that may be combined with other protocols to form flexible, networked audio, lighting, or other control systems. Changes to the existing standard only affect EPI 19, ACN Discovery on IP Networks, which was revised to work more efficiently.
- **BSR E1.37-5-201x, General Purpose Messages for ANSI E1.20, RDM** provides additional Get/Set parameter messages (PIDs) for use with the ANSI E1.20 Remote Device Management protocol.
- **BSR E1.43-201x, Entertainment Technology - Performer Flying Systems** establishes a minimum level of performance parameters for the design, manufacture, use, and maintenance of performer flying systems used in the production of entertainment events. The purpose is to achieve the adequate strength, reliability, and safety of these systems to ensure safety of the performer under all circumstances.
- **BSR E1.50-201x, Entertainment Technology - Safety Requirements for LED, Video & Display Systems** covers LED and other self-illuminated video display structures used as part of the scenery in concerts, theatre shows, and special events and will include advice on planning and site preparedness, assembly and erection, suspension and safety of components, special access requirements, and the use and dismantling of

these systems.

Available through March 9 are:

- **BSR E1.54-20xx, PLASA Standard for Color Communication in Entertainment Lighting** which specifies a standardized color space and defines the locations of the RGB primaries and the White Point to facilitate communication between lighting controllers and color-changing luminaires. It offers a standardized way of specifying color that is generic and is neither manufacturer-specific nor color technology-specific.
- **BSR E1.55-20xx, Standard for Theatrical Makeup Mirror Lighting** applies to lighting systems for mirrors and stations used by performers and make-up artists for applying make-up to performers in theatres and other performance venues. It describes the topology of the make-up mirror lighting system, the quantity of light, the distribution of light from those sources, apparent source size, brightness, color rendering, and correlated color temperature.
- **ANSI E1.30-4 - 2010, EPI 26. Device Description Language (DDL) Extensions for DMX512 and E1.31 Devices** is being considered for reaffirmation through March 16. It is a part of BSR E1.30-201x, Application level equipment interoperability for control of commonly encountered entertainment technology devices using ANSI E1.17. This part defines protocol-specific extensions to ANSI E1.17's Device Description Language for describing DMX512-type devices

For more information, contact Karl G. Ruling, PLASA Technical Standards Manager, 630 Ninth Avenue, Suite 609, New York, NY 10036; standards.na@plasa.org; 1-212-244-1505

Still a Chance to 'Cover the Walls'

The deadline to apply to take part in Cover the Walls has been extended to February 21.

The non-juried event showcases the work of current USITT members from all aspects of design, technology, the crafts and artwork in general during Stage Expo. It provides an opportunity for members to share their design work with fellow theatre artists and provides a forum to exchange ideas and approaches to design.

[Apply here](#). For more information, contact Douglas Gilpin, Cover the Walls Committee Chair, at 870-230-5338 or gilpin@hsu.edu.

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News & Notices

In Memoriam: W. Joseph Stell

W. Joseph "Joe" Stell, professor emeritus in the University of Georgia's Department of Drama, passed away on December 19, 2014. He was 78.

Mr. Stell was a USITT member for many years and helped found the Southeast Regional Section. He and Sylvia Hillyard Pannell served as the Co-Programming Coordinators for the Conference Committee for the 1994 Conference & Stage Expo in Nashville, Tennessee. For the Southeast Section, he held the office of Vice-Chair and served two terms as President. Several years ago, the Section named its design expo in his honor, said fellow Section founder Carl Lefko.

Born in Charlotte, North Carolina, Mr. Stell graduated from East Carolina College and earned his MA from New York University and his Ph.D. in theater from Bowling Green State University, Ohio. He designed for regional and Off-Broadway productions and for the Manitoba Theatre Center in Winnipeg, Canada, before taking a design instructor job at Richmond Professional Institute, Richmond, Virginia, where he met his wife.

He began his tenure with the University of Georgia in 1966, taught theatrical design, and was head of the design program in the Department of Drama for over 20 years. He designed scenery and lighting for more than 100 departmental productions and supervised student design projects. During his last two years at UGA, he was acting head of the Department of Drama. He received the UGA Research Medallion and the Christ-Janer Award for lifetime creativity in the arts. He retired from UGA in 1997.

Mr. Stell served as theatrical consultant for construction or renovation of several theatres in Georgia, including the Morton Theatre in Athens, for which he also designed and painted the permanent front olio curtain. He also provided designs for local dance companies and was awarded the Clarke County Community Cultural Award.

He is survived by his wife, Agnes, of Athens, Georgia; daughter, Heather; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Memorial services were held December 22 at the UGA Catholic Center. The



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family requests memorial donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital,
P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38148-0142.

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The Last Word:

Elections, Always in Process

Jimmie Byrd *Secretary and Nominations Committee Chair*



USITT's elections process evokes, for me, stories about painting the Golden Gate Bridge. The painters begin at one end of the span and, over several years, they reach the other end at which time they need to apply another coat. They go back to where they started and begin the process anew.

The paint is applied to protect the structure of the bridge and keep it in good working order. The same rationale applies to electing the leaders of the Institute.

The structure of the Institute is that election for various positions occurs each year. The Nominations Committee's ongoing task is to find members who can fulfill the requirements of the offices. With the counting of the ballots for the most recent election barely completed, the Committee has already begun work recruiting next year's candidates.

In the coming election cycle, six Director positions will be open; therefore, the committee will be able to put 12 names on the ballot. [See the nominations process and form here.](#)

In this most recent election, some members took advantage of the petition

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process to add their names to the ballot. This option is available once the Committee completes its work. Additional nomination petitions are due in the early fall. It is the Committee's practice to not differentiate between nominees put forward by the Committee and those added by petition.

The success of USITT requires involved members and committed leaders. Identifying those members ready and capable of leading the Institute into its next 50 years is the critically important task of the Nominations Committee.

The link for the next election cycle is usitt.org-elections. The "nominator" fills out and submits the form. Then the nominee is notified by e-mail to complete their portion of the form. For those who want to expedite the process, self-nomination is available. The Committee will receive the forms for the coming cycle of nominations two-weeks before the Conference, so members can review them and prepare discussions at the Conference. Look for those wearing a button identifying them as Nominations Committee members and chat with them if you are interested in becoming a future nominee.

This cycle's committee members, representing the Institute's diverse constituencies are:

Jimmie Byrd, Secretary/Committee Chair: Clairemarie Verheyen, Chip Haas, Kate Ellis, Linda Pisano, Paul Vincent, Karen Maness, Shane Kelly, Sarah Brewer, Vickie Scott, Jason Foreman, Gareth Conner, and Emily Gill.

I, and all the Committee members, look forward to Cincinnati and seeing you all again.

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Early Registration for 2015 Conference Ends February 5

Record numbers of people are already planning to attend the 2015 Annual Conference & Stage Expo, and the last chance to save money on registration is fast approaching. Make sure to [register](#) by February 5 and be part of the excitement in Cincinnati.

Images Needed for Cincinnati Special Events

The team putting together special events for the 2015 Conference & Stage Expo wants to showcase the best in recent work – and is seeking images from amazing technology, designs, and builds done in the past year. The selected images will be shared as part of the Special Events.

Send sketches, photos, video clips (up to 15 seconds), PDFs of drawing or renderings – anything someone would put in a portfolio. The selected work and creator's name will be on the big screen before, during, or after an All Conference Special Event. The images can be from a class project or a fully realized production.

Submit photos, digital scans, or short video clips via e-mail. For each image, include the creator's name, the name of project or production, the school/company it was for, and who took the photo. Send e-mails, under 25MB, to USITT.Special.Events@gmail.com. All submissions must be received by March 1.

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Look for more chances to submit photos during the Conference!

Art Auction in Cincy

Rich Dunham is busy collecting amazing pieces for USITT's triennial Art Action and "garage" sale which will offer art and memorabilia to benefit the Edward Kook Fund. Come prepared to be amazed and spend money!

Help a Student Attend

A group of San Francisco State University student is using a crowd funding campaign to help send students to USITT in Cincinnati this year. You can see how their gofundme campaign is progressing at bit.ly/1x5Npbq.

Riders to Cruise the Ozarks

The Long Reach Long Riders announce the route for the 12th annual charity motorcycle ride "Cruzin' the Ozarks, The Dozenth Year" May 31 through June 7.

Riders will gather in Nashville, Tennessee, ride down the bucolic Natchez Trace toward the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas and Missouri and then circle back and pass through the Land Between the Lakes on their return to Nashville. The route will feature day rides venturing deep into the Ozarks, departing from picturesque Petit Jean State Park. Experienced riders know these roads as some of the best riding in the country, including the Pig Trail Parkway, Ozark Dragon, and Arkansas Grand Canyon.

The ride begins with the traditional meet and greet on Saturday, May 30. Ride Marshalls will be Mark "Hobnail" Heiser and Alison "Earth Girl" Heiser.

The Long Reach Long Riders have raised more than \$450,000 for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and the PLASA Foundation's Behind the Scenes program since 2004.

For more information on joining the ride or making a donation, visit lrlr.org.

Ward Joins Moyers Group

Long time USITT member Brad Ward has joined Moyers Group as a system design consultant in its Atlanta office. He will focus on system design and client relations in the areas of theater/performance, education, and houses of worship.

Before joining Moyers, Mr. Ward was assistant professor of audio engineering technology at Belmont University in Nashville, sound project manager for Blitz Communications in London, designer for Acoustic Dimensions in New York City, and lead audio tech for Cirque du Soleil's *The Beatles LOVE* in Las Vegas. He holds an MFA in sound design from the Yale School of Drama and recently received his CTS certification.



[Moyers Group](#) specializes in the design and installation of audio, video and lighting systems for schools, theaters, houses of worship, and many other venues throughout the United States. Mr. Ward can be reached at brad@moyersgroup.com.

ComStar Wireless Expands Capability

The ComStar Full Duplex Wireless system by Eartec now has double the capacity, going from eight to up to 16 users.

Now larger teams can enjoy simultaneous, hands free communication within an 800 yard range. The all-in-one headsets are completely wireless, and there is no delay when transmitting.

This is achieved by interlinking ComCenters, fully portable dual channel, operating by rechargeable battery or AC power within an 800 yard range. The X 79423 806 698 combine their signals.

For more information visit eartec.com

USITT Names 2015 Herb Greggs Award Winners

The 2015 Herbert D. Greggs Award will go to Eric Appleton for his article *Mechanics and Meaning: Script Analysis Lessons from Design History*, in the Spring 2014 issue of TD&T.

Greggs Merit awards will go to James P. Taylor for his article *The Shadow Puppets of Elsinore: Edward Gorgon Craig and the Cranach Press Hamlet*, published in Summer 2014 TD&T; and Daniel Robinson for *Foundations of American Costume Design: The Innovations and Legacy of Frank Poole Bevan*, published in the Fall 2013.

The winners will be honored in a special session at the Cincinnati 2015 Conference & Stage Expo Wednesday, March 18, along with Golden Pen winner Christin Essin.

The Herbert D. Greggs Awards promote innovative, in-depth writing about theatre design and technology in *TD&T* magazine

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Studio Gear: Upgrades Membership

We appreciate the increased level of support that **Studio Gear** is providing to the Institute by upgrading its membership to the Contributing level. Studio Gear, based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, provides audio, video, and lighting equipment rentals, sales and installation

To learn more, visit them at www.studiogear.net.

Vincent Lighting Systems: Launches New Web Store

Vincent Lighting Systems (VLS) recently launched a new web store at shop.vls.com. Completely redesigned from the ground up, the new shopping platform offers expanded descriptions, more powerful search results, and lower prices on its most popular items.

"With the convenience of shopping for lighting and scenic supplies at any time of the day or week, we're confident that our customers will find our new site easy to navigate, with many items still being added. Online customers can have their order shipped or pick it up from our Cleveland, Cincinnati or Pittsburgh locations," commented John Conley, product manager. "An added bonus of this store is that existing VLS customers with approved terms can buy using purchase order numbers instead of credit cards. We can set them up easily, so that they can log in and use our site to place orders."

Marketing Director Kim Craigie added, "We look forward to our web store providing easy access to our products; of course, our customers are always welcome to contact us in whatever method they wish: online, email, phone, fax

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or even by regular mail. We appreciate their business, and we hope our new store offers yet another method for us to provide them with complete lighting solutions."

Meyer Sound: Constellation System Transforms Newport PAC

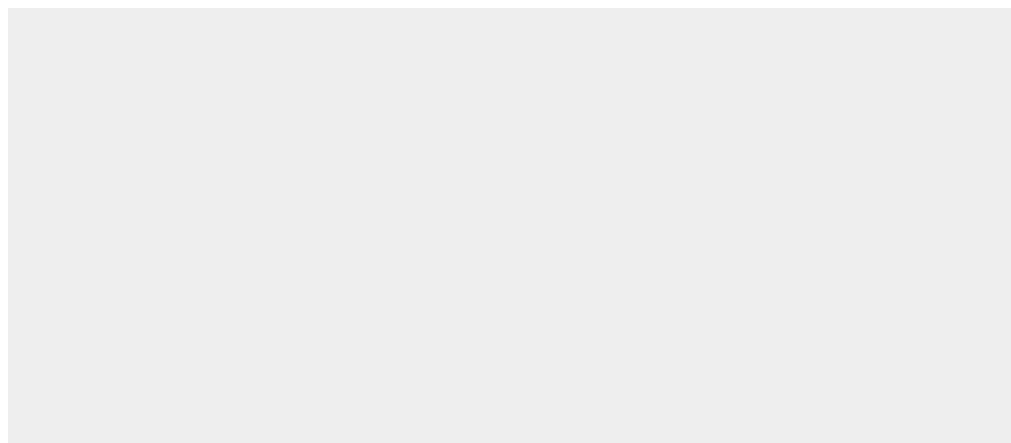
The Newport Performing Arts Center (PAC) in Oregon recently installed a **Meyer Sound** Constellation acoustic system in its 398-seat Alice Silverman Theatre.

With the upgrade, the venue joins the likes of Moscow's Svetlanov Hall, The Appel Room at Jazz at Lincoln Center, and more than 50 other prestigious venues that rely on the variable acoustics of Constellation to deliver an extraordinary live experience.

"The result of Constellation is subtly but fundamentally transformative for both audience and performer," said David Ogden Stiers, resident conductor for the Newport Symphony Orchestra (NSO), who has more than 20 years of experience at the PAC. "We have gone from an okay performance space to an actual, audible concert hall. Frankly, I was skeptical about the system at first but am now totally won over."

At the core of Newport's Constellation system is a D-Mitri digital audio platform that hosts all system I/O, signal processing, and control logic. The room's acoustic is picked up by 18 miniature condenser microphones and processed by patented VRAS algorithms to deliver early reflections and reverberation to the room. This tailored acoustical enhancement is delivered using 40 Stella-4 installation loudspeakers, 26 MM-4XP self-powered loudspeakers, two CQ-1 loudspeakers, 10 HMS-10 surround loudspeakers, with low end from four MM-10XP subwoofers and two 500-HP subwoofers. When needed, a Meyer Sound reinforcement system uses the CQ-1 and HMS-10 loudspeakers and 500-HP subwoofers in addition to one UPA-1P and two UPJunior VariO loudspeakers. The integrated systems provide tremendous flexibility to support acoustic, reinforced, and cinema events. An Apple iPad provides an easy-to-use interface for the system operator to change settings.

The audio systems were designed and installed by Eugene, Oregon-based George Relles Sound.





Production Resource Group: Acquires Chaos Visual Productions

Production Resource Group LLC, (PRG) acquired Chaos Visual Productions, headquartered in Burbank, California, with an office in Bedfordshire, United Kingdom.

Chaos provides full service video production for live events. Both PRG and Chaos have built a solid reputation in the industry for combining innovative technology with an international team of highly experienced industry professionals.

“Chaos Visual Productions will be joining forces with PRG Nocturne,” said Mickey Curbishley, CEO, PRG Concert Touring. “It is very exciting to consider the creative and technical solutions that will result from this acquisition which brings together the world’s two most innovative touring video companies. It also creates a single team of the most respected, experienced, and talented minds working in video production today.”



Through this acquisition, PRG increases its industry-leading expert production talent pool with industry veterans John Wiseman, Nick Jackson, Marty Wickman, and Valdis Dauksts, who will work alongside Bob Brigham and Ron Proesel of PRG Nocturne.

For more information, go to www.prg.com.

Creative Stage Lighting: New Services, New Products

“Give us your tired, your broken, your decommissioned assets yearning to shine

brightly again.” That’s what **Creative Stage Lighting** is saying to lighting and production companies with its launch of CSL Service and Repairs.

With the trained technicians at Creative Stage Lighting, production companies can give new life to their production and rental inventories. With regular maintenance and repair, CSL will help keep expensive equipment investments in tip-top shape. CSL technicians are factory trained in High End Systems, VMB Pro Lifts, JB-lighting, Avolites, Vari-Lite, Martin, and Columbus McKinnon, and offer repair and maintenance services on a wide selection of stage instruments. For more information, call 518-251-3302 or visit creativestagelighting.com/service.

The company also added to its Dura-Flex line which now includes 12/3 SEOOW and 12/3 SJEOOW portable power cords using a Seoprene jacket.



The new cable varieties are more flexible and weigh less than conventional Neoprene entertainment industry cable, making them even easier to handle and less expensive to ship. The UL listed cables meet RoHS requirements, feature a wider temperature range of -50°C to 105°C , and can take on the harshest environmental conditions.

Dura-Flex cable is available through Creative Stage Lighting’s Dealer Network. For more information, visit creativestagelighting.com or dura-flex.com, or call 518-251-3302.

ZFX Flying Effects: Schumacher Returns to the Fold

ZFX Flying Effects

(www.zxflying.com), the most Zealous flying company in the galaxy, announced that Jason Schumacher has returned to the company to take on the general manager position. He will oversee management at ZFX in an effort to continue the company’s goal of worldwide domination of the performer flying industry, with galactic domination to follow.



Mr. Schumacher brings extensive experience in performer flying and the entertainment industry to ZFX. In addition to incorporating flying into over 300 productions as a flying director, he has worked as a film producer and stunt coordinator. He has brought three films to market with Warehouse District Productions, where he honed skills in managing both creative and technical processes in dynamically changing environments. After time spent in New York City and Nashville, Tennessee, he said he is excited to return to Louisville and ZFX.

Founded in 1994, ZFX, Inc. is the complete service provider for flying effects. They don't just handle the rigging or flying harnesses. They're not just skilled at automation, choreography, and flying design. ZFX covers every aspect of flying possibilities.

ETC: 2015 CUE Slated June 26 through 28

ETC is gearing up for its biennial CUE professional development conference June 26 to 28 in Madison, Wisconsin. Early bird registration is open until February 28. ETC also offers several sponsorships to help offset the cost of the conference, transportation and/or lodging.

The CUE conference is a great way for lighting professionals of all skill levels to gain knowledge and gives students the opportunity to get hands-on experience with the technology they'll use when they enter the workforce. At CUE 2015, ETC will offer two special tracks: a Technical Theater Continuing Education track geared toward students and educators, and a Console-Training and Certification track for programmers – from beginners to the most advanced – to improve their knowledge of Eos- and Cobalt-family lighting systems.

The CUE conference will feature interactive classes on a variety of topics led by ETC employees and industry luminaries, including several surprise guests. Attendees will have a lot of time to experiment with existing gear and get an inside look at upcoming products. CUE will also allow attendees to network with industry peers and the ETC professionals behind the company's award-winning products. ETC will host several events and tours of its legendary factory.

More information about the CUE professional development conference can be found at www.etconnect.com/CUE.

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Spotlight on Giving So Many Reasons to Support USITT



I give because USITT solidified that this is my profession. It provided opportunities and inspiration, and connected me to networks and training not available elsewhere. I'm committed because I want that, and more, for the next generation. I support USITT's diversity and inclusion efforts because I want every budding artist out there to have a chance to become part of our exciting industry. Our industry is richer, deeper and more creative because of our varied identities and experiences.

Kasey Allee-Foreman

(second from left, with colleagues at the 2014 Annual Conference)

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- Andi Lyons
- Sylvia Pannell
- Charles Williams
- Stephanie Young

New Century Fund

- David Borron
- Theodore Chien *In honor of Andrew H. Chien*
- Jeffrey Lieder
- Andi Lyons
- Steen Mitchell
- Charles Williams

New Century Fund - Rigging Safety

- Tom Garey
- Janet Gramza *In memory of Florence Gramza*
- Matthew Grenier *In memory of Martin W. Kappel*
- Lawrence Hill
- Barbara Lucas *In memory of Jay Glerum*
- Steen Mitchell
- Jennifer Raynak
- Lori Rubinstein
- Clyde Tyndale
- Shepard Exposition Services

New Century Fund - Diversity

- Lea Asbell-Swanger
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- Michael Mehler
- Steen Mitchell
- Carolyn Satter *In memory of Tayneshia Jefferson*

Samuel Scripps International Fund

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- William Byrnes
- Kurt Pragman
- Kevin Rigdon

USITT Fund

- Andi Lyons
- Brian Reed

- Mark Shanda

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- **Truss Aluminum Factory:** Czech Republic-based Firm Joins Institute
- **Nova Lume:** Upgrade to Sustaining Level
- **L-Acoustics:** Systems Put Fire into Group's Tour
- **GLP:** Announce Free Technical Training Dates
- **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas:** Adds Exciting Offerings to 2015 Session
- **Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.:** Named to *The Baltimore Sun* Top Workplaces List

Fanshawe College: Welcomed as Sustaining Member

We welcome new Sustaining member Fanshawe College, which has its main campus in London, Ontario, Canada.

It has a two-year theatre arts technical production program that focuses on training technicians for the live entertainment industry in the areas of electrics, audio, video and properties. In addition to class work, students are given multiple production assignments on shows ranging from Shakespearian plays through to fashion shows, concerts, and more.

To learn more, visit www.fanshawec.ca.

Truss Aluminum Factory: Czech Republic-based Firm Joins Institute

We also welcome **Truss Aluminum Factory** as a new Sustaining member. The company, based in Prague in the Czech Republic, has a branch in Florida.

Those who attend Stage Expo will have the opportunity to talk with TAF-USA in booth 1027. Or visit them on the web at www.taf.cz

Nova Lume: Upgrade to Sustaining Level

Nova Lume, distributor and sales representative for some of the most

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innovative products in the entertainment and architectural lighting fields, recently upgraded its USITT membership. The company is U.S. distributor for companies like Green GO Communications (digital communication over Ethernet) and Nicolaudie USA (DMX and ArtNet controls. Nova Lume searches for high quality, high value products for clients and dealers.

Visit them at www.nova-lume.com or at Booth 1711 at Stage Expo.

L-Acoustics: Systems Put Fire into Group's Tour

Arcade Fire, the Grammy Award-winning indie band from Montreal, tapped into **L-Acoustics'** K1 and K2 systems to handle its sonically adventurous arrangements on its tour to support *Reflektor*, the group's most recent album.

It was Solotech's first official outing with the manufacturer's new K2 enclosures, which were typically flown 14 per side as outfill arrays, but also occasionally tapped for main PA in sheds and smaller outdoor venues. The firm also deployed left and right main arrays of 14 K1 enclosures, each with six KARA for downfill. Eight K1-SB low-frequency extension cabinets were flown on the outside of each main array, with a total of 16 SB28 subs groundstacked below for low-end punch. Additional loudspeakers deployed included six KARA front-fills positioned across the deck; 16 ARCS flown as a full 360-degree "donut" over the B stage for pre- and post-show DJ performances; 12 KUDO delays (first leg only); 52 LA8 amplified controllers; and three self-powered 108P plus one SB15P at FOH for nearfield monitoring and shout.

GLP: Announce Free Technical Training Dates

GLP US Inc. announced the next set of technical training dates for courses at its Los Angeles, California facility through the first part of 2015.

The courses are offered free with lunch provided on each day. Courses can be tailored to two or three days depending on the participants' needs. All courses are taught by GLP Technical Director and industry veteran Carl Wake, so participants are sure of an in depth and fascinating experience. All attendees will be awarded with a certificate of achievement and be fully capable of performing technical diagnostic and repair services on GLP's range of fixtures.

These courses are recommended for those wanting to get a thorough understanding of the workings of the GLP product range of fixtures. Dates, along with course information and an application form, can be found on GLP's website at www.germanlightproducts.com/training.

Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas: Adds Exciting Offerings to 2015 Session

As it prepares for another session in 2015, **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas (SILV)** announced the latest additions to its offerings.

Media Week has been wedged in between Movers and Consoles to produce a three-week experience known as The Block. SILV has expanded its rigging

training to include mobile state rigging. Teams will be selected for shadow internships with 4Wall, and some teams will participate in a full production, live event in Vegas.

The full program is at stagecraftinstitute.com with contact information and application forms.

SILV has a limited number of tuition-waiver scholarships available. Recommendation inquiries can be sent to info@stagecraftinstitute.com. SILV is also scheduling interviews at USITT's Stage Expo in Cincinnati!

Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.: Named to *The Baltimore Sun* Top Workplaces List

Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc., a provider of intuitive, powerful and practical CAD and Building Information Modeling (BIM) software solutions, was selected as one of *The Baltimore Sun's* Top Workplaces for 2014.

The company is committed to social responsibility, supporting the practice of "reduce, re-use, and recycle" and participating in community programs such as the Adopt-A-Highway program, annual food drives, PLANET's Renewal and Remembrance Service, DC General's Homeless Children's Playtime Project, and American Red Cross Blood Drives.

"We're very excited to be named a Top Workplace by *The Baltimore Sun* for the second year in a row," said Stewart Rom, chief marketing officer. "

In addition, Nemetschek Vectorworks supports its employees by offering full medical and 401K benefits packages and providing opportunities for professional growth through a Tuition Reimbursement Plan. Employees are offered discount programs for things like the Columbia Association, AT&T Wireless, and movie tickets. It also frequently hosts events and activities year-round, such as an employee and family event at an Orioles baseball game at Camden Yards, annual holiday and product launch parties, ice cream socials, cookouts, potlucks, and Halloween costume contests.

The distinction of being a Top Workplace is based solely on employee feedback. The employee survey is conducted by WorkplaceDynamics, LLP. To learn more about the open positions currently available at Nemetschek Vectorworks, visit www.vectorworks.net/jobs.

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News From **Lea Asbell-Swanger**, *USITT President*

Discovering Cutting Edge Technology through USITT



Technology can be a wondrous thing. It can also be scary, or difficult, but usually it advances in response to a problem. Successful technology is rarely the first solution but a compilation of attempted solutions that build on other questions asked.

Last month, several colleagues from my day job and I had the opportunity to travel to New York City for a demonstration of some relatively new technology that we're considering as a potential upgrade in our venue. Thanks to USITT, I had experienced the magic of this particular system in person at our Conference and had actually come back home and voiced the opinion that it would be an excellent opportunity for improvement to our facility.

Let's just say that even with my passionate vote of confidence in the technology, the investment required was not deemed a priority at that time. The good news was that the need for some solution was recognized which led to studies by a variety of consultants and other experts which better defined the conditions that needed to be improved.

Time went by, and, happily, other facilities did invest in this technology which led to it being witnessed firsthand by my boss, who returned after that experience with almost as much excitement over its potential for our situation as I had a couple of years earlier. I have to admit, I was just a little peeved that my

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enthusiasm (as well as that of other colleagues here who also had the same opportunity) for this technology had not generated the same interest or response that his personal experience with it had, but I understand now.

The way I described my experience made some, including my boss, uncomfortable. I was excited about the new technology because it removed a lot of the traditional conditions of a particular genre of performing art. That which appealed to me was disconcerting to others. They couldn't embrace the positives because what would be taken away seemed negative to them.

When my boss had the chance to experience a total performance environment including this technology, it was no longer about anything being taken away. Instead it was about the added value and heightened enjoyment. Ultimately, we both learned important lessons about how to engage the other parties at our university needed to fully integrate this new system.

Which brings us back to our trip to New York. Included in our travel party were about a dozen people from several disciplines within our college as well as administrators and representatives with research interest beyond the performing arts. It seemed an oddly eclectic group at first, but once the technology was shared and all were allowed to "play" with it, the discussion shifted instantly to the plethora of ways it could enhance the experience of all that were exposed to it.

We don't have the new system yet, but I'm reminded that, for me at least, this whole experience started at a previous USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo. We are only a little over a month away from the 2015 Conference, so I urge you all to discover a technology that is new to you. Experience it for yourself, but don't forget to engage with others who are experiencing it as well. That's how we can help the technology and our relationship with it expand, improve, and continue to provide solutions.



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

Please e-mail Lea at Lea.Asbell-Swanger@usitt.org.

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

Minding Our Ps and Qs

The Prague Quadrennial (PQ) – anyone who has been part of USITT long enough has heard the phrase. This world expo of design has been going on since the depths of the Cold War. USITT has produced the U.S. exhibit since the 1970s.

PQ is an honored event to some of our members while others find the expense a hard pill to swallow. So why do we do it? What value does it bring?

USITT is a documentary organization as defined by its mission. For many, this mission is achieved through the *Designs of...* series of books or TD&T. But PQ is part of that documentary mission as well. At Prague Quadrennial, the best of American theatre for the previous four years can be showcased.

Let me say, I believe showcasing the best of American theatre in 28 square meters of space is an impossible task to achieve with any sense of completion. We are a nation that takes six hours to fly across and a population of 300 million. Finding all of the theatre and anointing the true "best" is a whale no person can eat, even one bite at a time. However, we try because we should show that American theatre design is innovative and progressive.

On a world stage, our nation should be represented. If USITT doesn't do it, there isn't a line of people waiting to take on that mantle.

The cost of PQ is another issue. Many people see the cost (currently budgeted at \$160,000) and can't fathom what that money goes to. I was one of those people when I came to this job. The answer is shipping. Shipping is the single largest expense in the PQ budget. The costs of the exhibit, travel, and other things are there, but nothing compares to the cost of shipping things there and back.

Another challenge is currency fluctuations. The Czech Republic is not a part of



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the Euro zone, but they peg their prices to the Euro. In 2011 the exchange rate was \$1.60 for 1 Euro. At the time I'm writing this, its \$1.18 for 1 Euro. That makes our budget go further, and our leadership is working to stretch those dollars and bring us in under budget.

Finally, there is a feeling that the PQ is an exclusive group. People may argue perception all they wish. This I can tell you: the 2015 Prague Quadrennial exhibit has been open and advertised. Designers across the nation are encouraged to participate.

Members have the chance to see this exhibition in Salt Lake City in 2016 if they can't make it to Europe this summer. We are working to make it available to people for quite some time after that.

PQ is a part of USITT that helps us meet our mission, and I hope my words help people understand why it has been such an important part of the Institute for many years.

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- **New England:** [StageSource Job Fair February 21 in Boston](#)

New England: StageSource Job Fair February 21 in Boston

The StageSource Job Fair – presented by StageSource, the New England Regional Section, and Back Bay Events – will be held 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, February 21 at Back Bay Events Center, 180 Berkeley St., Boston, Massachusetts.

The job fair caters to design, production, and administrative professionals looking for work in the performing arts. Employment opportunities range from salaried positions, stipends, seasonal employment, and internship opportunities. More than 40 production companies from the Metro Boston area are expected to participate with additional representatives from greater New England.

The event is free to job seekers and does not require prior registration. Candidates should come with a portfolio, business cards, and/or 50 copies of their resume.

Organizations interested in renting a table should contact StageSource for registration materials and more information on table rental rates. For more information, call 617-350-7611 or visit StageSource online at www.stagesource.org.

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S&H Commission News and Conference Sessions Excitement

Bill Reynolds

Year-long planning and the enthusiasm of many Safety & Health (S&H) Commission members are coming together at the 2015 USITT Conference. S&H has a very deep bench of sessions at the Conference, along with valuable pre-conference workshops. To pique your interest, let's look at just a few of the S&H offerings.

- "The scene is safe; I'm wearing gloves."
- "Push Hard; Push Fast"

To learn what these training phrases mean, come early to the 2015 Conference for a Professional Development Workshop (PDW) that will earn you training and certification in American Heart Association Heartsaver First Aid, and CPR/AED. This workshop is open to only the first 40 people who register, so [watch the website and sign-up early](#).

During the Conference, the S&H Commission, in partnership with all the other Commissions that make up the functional structure of the Institute, has a schedule of over 20 sessions, workshops and meetings. Use the Advanced Search function on the Conference website to find all the S&H offerings, and then register for the ones that will inform your safety program and elevate your safety culture. Worried about the indoor air quality in your workplaces? Check out the session *Air Quality in the Scene Shop* on Thursday. Follow this up with the *Welding Safety* session on Friday and you'll have completed a package of information that covers the two primary fabrication processes we use in production: wood working and metals.

New at this year's Conference, the S&H Commission will initiate a Safe Design Series starting with *Costume Design Done Safely*. At future Conferences, a similar session with a focus on Prevention through Design (PtD) will be presented related to the major aspects of production: scenery; audio; props; etc. Start your PtD training this year with the initial offering of this safe design series.

On Wednesday of the Conference you can join back-to-back S&H sessions on safety inspections. *Safety Inspections 101-Basic Facility Inspections* and *Risk Assessments* will provide an overview of the assessment of hazards through the use of a variety of inspection tools. *Safety Inspections 201-So I Inspected, Now What?* follows and will provide specific examples and successful strategies to

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help you use your safety inspection data to effectively develop your safety program as well as to incorporate the data into funding requests for the implementation of safety-critical improvements.

There are lots more safety sessions to talk about, but best for you check out the offerings on the [Conference website](#). Go to the Conference website and search for yourself, and put as many S&H sessions as possible on your schedule.

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Seek Costuming Proposals for SLI Presentations

Steven Stines

Students have until February 3 to submit proposals for the Costume Design & Technology Commission's Student Leadership Initiative. The Student Leadership Initiative Session planned for the Cincinnati 2015 Conference & Stage Expo, is a great way for students to become more involved..

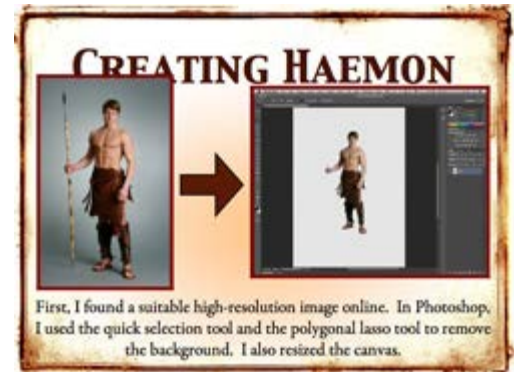
The Student Leadership Initiative allows a new generation of designers and technicians to add their 21st century voices to the dialogue by developing presentations for the Conference. This is a chance for exceptional students to share ideas and achievements with a national audience of professionals, educators, and students while adding to the presenter's résumé. Presenters can network with peers and professionals, and receive feedback.

The SLI session will be held Saturday, March 21 and will feature multiple student presenters. Each will have 15 to 20 minutes to present. Past conferences have featured three to five presentations. Powerpoint slide shows are a recommended format, but the format itself can be innovative. A Mac and projector will be available. There is usually no internet access in the conference rooms.

The presentations will be digitally archived and available to members on the USITT website.

Topics for presentation could include design, costume construction and technology, costume crafts, research and costume history, wardrobe, hair and make-up, rendering, budgeting, portfolio development and presentation, the collaborative process, digital applications for both creative and practical elements of the design process -- any and all costume-related topics.

Proposals should include name, e-mail, cell phone, school, degree, concentration, topic, a 100-word project abstract, and an e-mail letter of support from a faculty member. Slide shows are due March 2 with revisions completed



Matt Caron presented *Photomanipulation in Costume Design* as part of the 2013 SLI

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per feedback by March 13.

For more information, contact Steven Stines at sstines@arts.ufl.edu.

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Compendium Deadline Just Around the Corner

Time is running out to submit projects to *Projects for Teaching Scene Design: A Compendium Volume 2*.

Submit examples of creative, innovative projects that have been effective in design classrooms for the second volume. Projects can explore any of the skills taught in scene design courses including research and conceptualization, analysis, graphic skills, design heritage, and collaboration. New twists on conventional teaching practices or techniques are also welcome.

[Projects can be submitted online](#) and will be selected for inclusion by a panel of editors based on clear outcomes or learning objectives, uniqueness, and creativity. Final submissions will be accepted on March 1. There will also be a section of old favorites from the first volume and a makeover section of how those projects from the first volume have grown and morphed over the years to meet the changing needs of the students.

The final product is intended to be available both as a hard copy in a three-ring binder at the USITT Bookstore at the Conference and as a print on demand/downloadable option throughout the year.

Additional questions can be directed to the panel of editors (Tammy Honesty, Gion DeFrancesco, and Brian Ruggaber) at usittscenicdesigncompendium@gmail.com.

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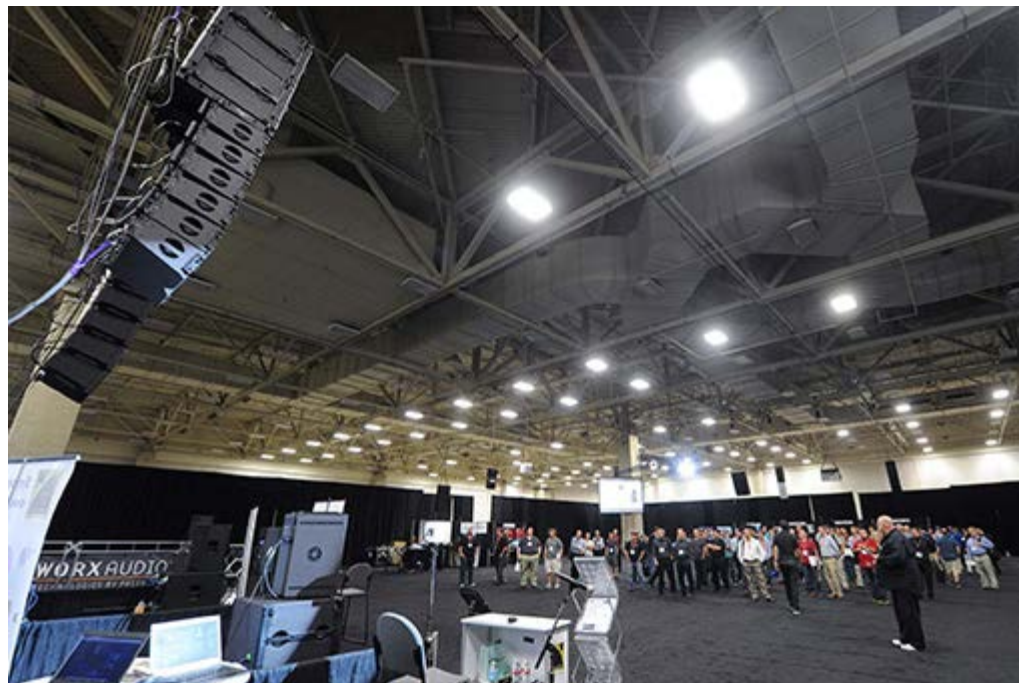
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Conference & Stage Expo

Live Sound to Offer Speaker Demos at Stage Expo

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*



Photos / Live Sound International

A unique opportunity to experience the latest in loudspeakers will be offered at the *Live Sound International Magazine* Loudspeaker Demos, a special exhibit open to all attendees to the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo March 18 to 21 at Cincinnati's Duke Energy Convention Center.

Live Sound International is sponsoring the demos to offer sound production people a chance to directly evaluate a variety of professional loudspeakers in a controlled listening environment.

Three demo sessions, each lasting about an hour, will be held during Stage Expo on Thursday, March 19 and Friday, March 20. Each session



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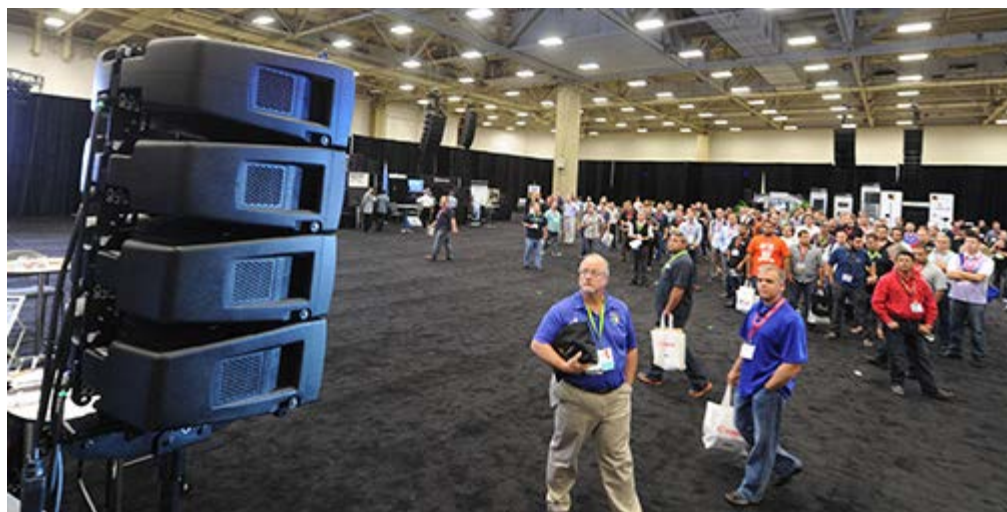
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will have two parts focusing on smaller and larger speakers. In each part, different speakers systems will be used to play identical tracks in a round-robin format.

The demos enable side-by-side listening opportunities for attendees, as well as a chance to question representatives from participating companies on technical details and pricing.

Several leading loudspeaker manufacturers will participate along with an "A-list" of technology sponsors. The event will be held in a 120-foot by 80-foot space at the Duke Center, draped off to define the listening area.

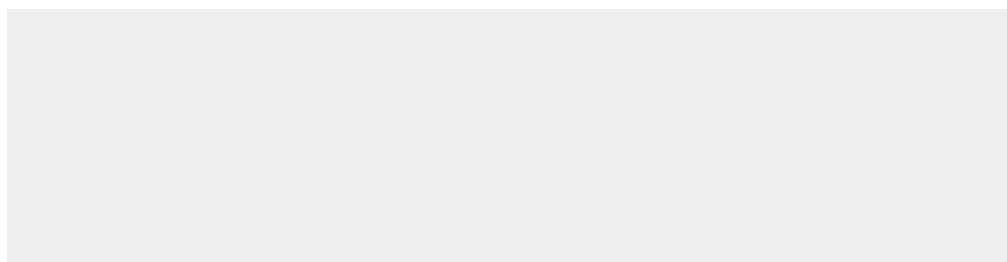


This will be the first time *Live Sound* has offered the demo experience in the Midwest.

"We have presented the loudspeaker demo to more than 3,000 church sound and production personnel from around North America over the past few years at the WFX (Worship Facilities Expo) and are very pleased to bring it to the attendees of USITT," said Kevin McPherson, executive publisher. "It provides the rare opportunity to gain valuable insight on what's available in the world of loudspeakers in a single, comprehensive event."

Stage Expo Manager Ron Procopio said USITT appreciates *Live Sound* putting together this special experience for the Cincinnati show. Such demonstrations are "a rare commodity," he said.

"Theatres, concert venues, event spaces, and houses of worship can all benefit from experiencing the different systems available to them in one location," he said. "If your venue is interested in upgrading or enhancing its audio system, USITT in Cincinnati this March is the place you should visit."





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Conference & Stage Expo

Sign Up Now for Portfolio Reviews

Erin Joy Swank



Participants at the Cincinnati 2015 Conference & Stage Expo will have the opportunity for professionals to assess their portfolios. The deadline to apply is February 21. Slots fill up quickly, so sign up as soon as possible.

The reviews are available for people at every level from student to seasoned professional. All applicants must be either individual USITT members or registered for the Conference (Stage Expo only passes will not be accepted).

Topics of interest are costume design, education, lighting design, management, scene design, properties design, scenic art, scenography, sound design, and technical production.

For scene design, Ann Cadaret has provided helpful and specific [guidelines for portfolios](#). Costumers' information is [available online](#), and the Education Commission is offering special sessions for those [seeking tenure](#).

E-mail the following information to the contact person for the specific area: name; address; phone number(s); fax; e-mail; university, college, or company; area of interest; and undergraduate student, graduate student, professional, or other status.

- **Costume Design & Technology** -- Esther Van Eek, evaneek@uwindsor.ca, [click here for further recommendations](#)*

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Education -- Jonathan Allender-Zivic, jallenderzivic@gmail.com, [click here for further information on this new opportunity for 2015*](#)

- **Lighting Design & Technology** -- Carolyn R. Conn, conncs@sfasu.edu
- **Management** -- Erin Joy Swank, erinjoyswank@gmail.com
- **Scene Design, Properties Design, Scenic Art, Scenography** -- Ann Cadaret, ann_cadaret@pba.edu, [click here for specific advice on portfolios*](#)
- **Sound Design & Technology** -- Vincent Olivieri, olivieri@uci.edu
- **Technical Production** -- Michael Rolleri, mrolleri@email.unc.edu

All registrants will be notified that their application has been received and of their review time, date, and location before the start of the Conference. Any applicant who wishes to have a digital portfolio reviewed should bring a laptop with the portfolio and appropriate software loaded. Internet access is not guaranteed for the review, though it is a possibility.

For more information, call 800-938-7488 or 315-463-6463 or e-mail the [USITT Office](#).

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Conference & Stage Expo

Magnificent! To Honor Greenwood

Dean Mogle *Costume Design & Technology Commission*

The Costume Design & Technology Commission, in collaboration with the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, will honor Jane Greenwood, Distinguished Achievement Award recipient, with a costume exhibition, *Magnificent!*, during the 2015 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio in March.

Featuring magnificent costumes from her Broadway production of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, the exhibit will highlight examples of Ms. Greenwood's exceptional attention to period design and detail. From the lavish "Cupid" costumes and headpieces, to the elegant ball clothes, to the animal-inspired "Creation of Man" ensembles, to beautifully hand-painted examples of lower class citizenry, the full range of Ms. Greenwood's creative imagination, character work, and mastery of craft is demonstrated.



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Ms. Greenwood, legendary costume designer of more than 125 Broadway shows (including last season's *Act One*) and productions for regional theatres, opera and ballet companies, television, and film, was honored with the 2014 Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in Theatre.

She began her professional career with training at Liverpool Art Academy and London's Central School of Arts and Crafts. She learned from such influential historians, designers, and crafts artisans as Norah Waugh, Janet Arnold, Tanya Moiseiwitsch, and Desmond Heeley.

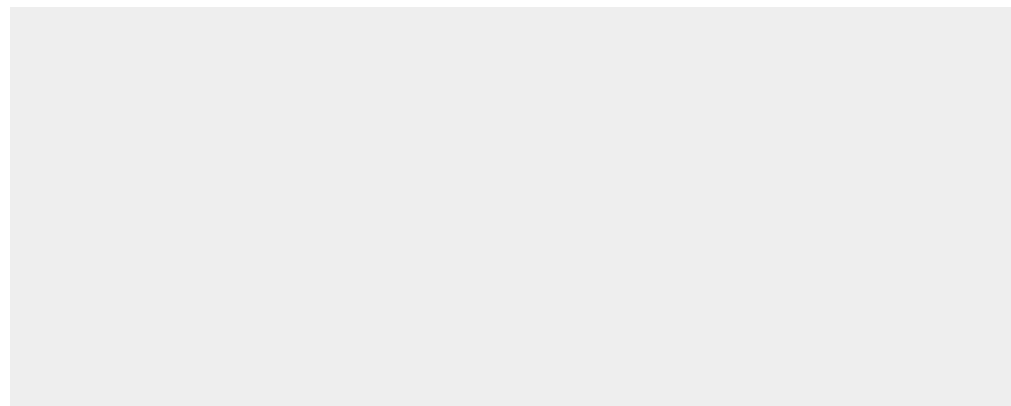
Her true understanding of period silhouettes, fabrics, trims, and construction techniques reflects this early training. Yet beyond these technical considerations, she is respected for her impeccably detailed character work from principles to supernumeraries. All characters, no matter what their role or whether they speak or sing a word, have a story to tell. Ms. Greenwood's designs always tell their story.



Dean Mogle, professor and head of costume design and technology at UC-CCM, is organizing and curating the exhibit from the university's archives. CCM had the opportunity to purchase this extraordinary collection several years ago when the national tour came to an end. Mr. Mogle was particularly interested in the acquisition because of the costumes' exceptional period accuracy as well as the wide range of fabrics and costume crafts represented, from hats to shoes to hand-painted textiles. Not only did they add to CCM's extensive costume stock, they are used as premier examples of professional skill for the training of his students.

The exhibit also will call attention to the expertise of the makers and crafts artisans from the studios of Eric Winterling, Parsons-Meares, John David Ridge, and Lynne Mackey, who were among those responsible for bringing Ms. Greenwood's designs to reality.

Costumes from *Scarlet Pimpernel* which will be included in *Magnificent!*, an exhibition celebrating Jane Greenwood.





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Conference & Stage Expo

Don't Wait to Register for Cincinnati

Kathie Brookfield *Cincinnati Promotions*

There's still time to preregister for the 2015 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Reduced, early sign-up rates continue through February 4. After that, the price goes up.

New sessions and new presenters are still being added. The newest, the OSHA 10/General Entertainment Safety course, is being taught by March 16 and 17 before the Conference starts. This is a collaboration between USITT, the IATSE Craft Advancement Program committee, and the IATSE Entertainment and Exhibition Industries Training Trust Fund.

This new Professional Development Workshop is being offered at a low price of \$50 for USITT and IATSE members, especially since it is being taught by the people who developed the customized training and conduct it for the Training Trust Fund.

Don't hesitate because this course will fill up fast.

Also filling fast are the selected Conference hotels. [Book now at the USITT housing site.](#)

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Make sure to download the USITT app for up-to-the-minute information including sessions, meetings and special events dates and times. Also make sure to take advantage of the Stage Expo list of vendors and products. This is already the largest Expo in USITT history.

On the Stage Expo floor, along with over 250 companies, there will be 10 special exhibits along with the popular Art Auction. Proceeds from the Art Auction go into the Edward F. Kook Fund.

[Don't wait; register now!](#)

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