



# Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

May 2015  
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2015 CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO

CINCINNATI ■ MARCH 18-21

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### Praque Quadrennial Spreads its Wings

The USITT/USA exhibit will be one part of PQ which is holding events throughout the city of Prague during June... [more »](#)



### Rose Brand Action Design Competitors Stand Out

Four teams of strangers, four themes, and a whole lot of creativity were on display in Cincinnati, and a time lapse of the competition adds to the fun... [more »](#)



### Stage / Set / Scenery in Germany

An international trade fair and conference, with more than 250 exhibitors and thousands of visitors will open June 9 in Berlin... [more »](#)



### ASTC at USITT

Election of officers and announcement of a new member highlighted the American Society of Theatre Consultants meeting in March... [more »](#)



### Diversity in Action

Showcasing the results of 20 years of USITT's commitment to human issues and diversity, and the synergy to make more progress... [more »](#)



### USITT Fellows "Found"

Two diligent students were able to identify six selected Fellows of the Institute and were chosen to receive Conference registration for two years... [more »](#)



### Characters added to Q2Q

After a huge signing session for his webcomic, Steve Younkens is adding even more crew members to his stable of characters... [more »](#)



### In Memoriam: Kevin Seligman

Costume designer, author, and former Costume Design & Technology Commissioner Kevin Seligman died in London... [more »](#)



### Spotlight on Giving: John Gruber

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### USITT's President: Thanking Volunteer Officers

The 2015 Annual Conference included a last in-person meeting for several members of the Board of Directors who are completing their terms... [more »](#)



## Executive Director: Throwing a Great Party

While the Tony's will not be recognizing sound designers and their contribution this year, people are finding ways to celebrate collaboration... [more »](#)



## Words of Wisdom from 2015

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## Generosity at USITT Helps Behinds the Scenes Charity

Raffles, auctions, and donations helped BTS continue to grow and increase its ability to support backstage professionals in need... [more »](#)



## SILV Selects Winner

Michael Brandt will benefit from a collaboration between SILV and the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival... [more »](#)



## Student Scenic Painting Challenge

Young scenic artists took to the floor of Stage Expo to show off their skills and then have their work reviewed... [more »](#)



## The Last Word – Everybody out of the Building

A fire alarm creates a time to consider how and what should be done before, during, and after a potential emergency... [more »](#)

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# No Place Like Prague for USA Exhibit

**Margaret Mitchell** *USITT International Committee*

USITT Prague Quadrennial 2015 USA, entitled *The Vortex of Our Dreams*, will be housed in the former nave of St. Anne's Church near the foot of Karlov Most (the St. Charles Bridge) in the heart of the Old Town of Prague June 18 to 28.

Designed by award-winning Broadway designer Klara Zieglerova, the exhibit is a "cloud" in an inverted tornado shape with a central spiral staircase. Drawings (actual and digital), production photos, models, videos, objects, iPads, sound devices, and soundscapes will be nested within the cloud. The structure, built by students at Indiana University under the supervision of technical director Paul Brunner, will be 14 feet square and 18 feet high.



Over a period of three months, curators Tony Walton, Carrie Robbins, Kevin Rigdon, and Veronica Vorel had the difficult job of culling 18 finalists from 87 entries representing a variety of theatre companies and universities across the country. This year, organizers opted for an online catalogue instead of a printed version; all 87 entries will be included in the web catalogue to be linked on the USITT website.

PQ '15 visitors from the U.S. will have the opportunity to view exhibitions in eight public spaces including Bethlehem Chapel, The National Theatre, and Kafka's house. The theatre architecture exhibits were eliminated by PQ organizers. Instead, many new features will be available.

The gothic St. Anne's Church was built in 1361 and is included in the UNESCO World Heritage site of the City Center. It housed the PQ '11 architecture exhibition and symposia. The USITT/USA national exhibition will share St. Anne's with exhibitions from Belarus, Romania, Sweden, Peru, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Japan, Lebanon, and Bulgaria.

A new collaboration between the USA PQ organizers and the American

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Embassy has resulted in the use of the embassy gardens and grounds for talks and receptions related to USA PQ activities. USITT will also sponsor a live blog with news and information that will update U.S. visitors on a daily basis.

To register for PQ, visit [www.pq.cz/en/practical-information/accreditation](http://www.pq.cz/en/practical-information/accreditation). The advanced registration deadline is May 31.

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News & Notices

## Rose Brand Action Design Winners Announced



Based on a beautifully designed, developed, and lit scenic environment, Team Autumn was voted this year's winner of the Rose Brand/USITT Action Design Competition at the Cincinnati 2015 Conference & Expo. Votes were tabulated through the Rose Brand Instagram and Facebook pages.

On Team Autumn were Sarah Schwartz, Southern Oregon University, costume designer; Mitch Weisbrod, Southern Oregon University, lighting designer; Batul Rizvi, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, scenic designer; and Gatlin Douglas, University of Texas at Arlington, technical director.

Best designers in each category were selected by industry experts Tony Award-winning costume designer Jane Greenwood, scene designer Douglas E. Schmidt, Karamu House Artistic Director Terrence Spivey, and lighting and theatre designer Norman Russell.

Winners in each individual category were Anne Suchyta, Wayne State University, costume designer; Brian Sechrist, University of Alaska, Anchorage, lighting designer; Batul Rizvi, University of North Carolina School of the Arts,

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scenic designer; and Pamela Meadows, University of Missouri-Kansas City, technical director.

Action Design is an annual student design competition sponsored by Rose Brand and USITT and takes place at the Conference & Stage Expo. Student designers from around the country apply for a chance at one of the 16 coveted team spots. Once teams are selected, students work together to create the best scenic environment possible given limited supplies, limited time to design, and limited time to get to know their teammates.

To view photos of the completed booth designs visit [bit.ly/actiondesignrecap2015](http://bit.ly/actiondesignrecap2015). For a time lapse capturing the event, visit [ow.ly/LBASR](http://ow.ly/LBASR)

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# Berlin's Stage|Set|Scenery Opens June 9

Stage|Set|Scenery will open its doors June 9 in Berlin, Germany.

The international trade fair and conference for event technology gathers exhibitors and visitors who represent theatre planning; architecture; film; event services; stage, lighting, sound, video, and media technology; make-up, costume, and stage-set design; acoustics; and studio, exhibition, and museum technology. A total of 250 exhibitors and 7,500 trade members are expected to visit the Berlin Exhibition Grounds.



With Stage|Set|Scenery, Messe Berlin and DThG (the German Technical Theatre Society), event organizers, aim to address the industry's forward-looking international markets. Leading international manufacturers and service providers from various parts of the industry will showcase projects, products, and parts. Countries participating include: Belgium, China, Germany, Finland, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Canada, Latvia, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Serbia, Spain, Taiwan, the Czech Republic and the USA.

Associations cooperating with DTHG include USITT, OISTAT, China's CETA, the Netherlands' VPT, Austria's OETHG, Switzerland's SVTB-ASTT, the UK's ABTT and PLASA, and Sweden's STTF.

For more information on the Stage Technology Conference, the trade show, excursions, registration, and housing options, [visit the Stage|Set|Scenery website.](#)

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# ASTC Meets, Accepts Member at USITT

The annual meeting for 2015 of the American Society of Theatre Consultants (ASTC) was held March 21 at the Duke Energy Center in Cincinnati, Ohio in conjunction with the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

A new ASTC board of directors and officers were elected as well as a new full member accepted.

Peter Rosenbaum will now serve as president with Chip Ulich serving as vice president. Returning as secretary/CFO is R. Duane Wilson. These officers also serve as board members with the addition of directors Scott Crossfield, Ed Kaye, Mike McMackin, and Peter Scheu.

ASTC also announced that D. Andrew Gibbs has been admitted into [membership](#) after having demonstrated a broad range of capabilities and experience necessary to fulfill the ASTC requirements.

Mr. Gibbs is the principal theatre consultant at D. A. Gibbs Associates and serves as professor emeritus, Department of Theatre, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Through his over 30 year career, he has served as a theatre consultant for such projects as Fayetteville High School for Performing Arts Center, Arkansas State University - Mountain Home Center for Community Development, and the First United Methodist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana.



D. Andrew  
Gibbs

A theatre consultant is a professional advisor who provides guidance, advice and support to owners and design teams for the planning, design and equipping of theatres, concert halls and other types of facilities used for public assembly and presentation of the performing arts. ASTC was founded with the mission to establish and maintain best practices within the theatre building design industry. As professionals, ASTC members have individual and collective interests in providing unbiased, functionally sound and practical consulting and design services to owners, users, architects and engineers on performance and assembly facilities.

More information can be found at [www.theatreconsultants.org](http://www.theatreconsultants.org)

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## Still Time to Attend Costume Symposium in NYC

An updated, more detailed schedule and list of presenters is now available for the 2015 USITT Costume Symposium - **The Changing Scape of the Costume Business – Behind the Scenes in New York City** July 30 to August 1, 2015. See complete information at <http://www.usitt.org/costume15>. **Jeanette Aultz** and **Amanda Whitfield** will host the event for the Costume Design & Technology Commission.

Although the early deadline is May 1, registration will continue through May. Special hotel room rates have been negotiated at the historic New Yorker Hotel for Symposium participants. [Reservations can be made here.](#)

## Pilbrow to Present for Keynote at PLASA Focus: Kansas City

PLASA Focus: Kansas City's Professional Development Program will kick-off 9 a.m. May 20 with a keynote by Richard Pilbrow, renowned lighting designer and founder of Theatre Projects.



The presentation entitled "*Light and Theatre – Epidaurus, the National Theatre to Kansas City*," is sponsored by Group One's Elektralite. Mr. Pilbrow, a USITT Fellow, will take the audience around the world from the National Theatre in London, currently celebrating its 50th anniversary, to the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, which opened in 2011.

"This talk is a personal viewpoint of life in the theatre over 50 years," explained Mr. Pilbrow. "It discusses the remarkable changes in stage lighting, theatre technology, and theatre architecture. I've been incredibly lucky and have combined the life of lighting designer, entrepreneur—founding Theatre Projects

in 1957—West End theatre, film and TV producer, theatre design consultant, and author.”

PLASA Focus: Kansas City’s Professional Development Program is free to attend (space permitting) and includes an engaging and must see line-up. [Register](#) today to secure a spot and receive the latest scheduling and show updates.

More than 50 leading manufacturers, distributors, and dealers will be on hand to demo the latest entertainment technology for theatre, concerts and touring, themed entertainment, houses of worship and more.

## O’Quinn to Retire as *American Theatre* Editor

Jim O’Quinn, founding editor-in-chief of *American Theatre*, will leave the post in August. A national search for his replacement has begun.



“I’m clearly retiring from this job of a lifetime, but by no means am I retiring from the theatre field,” said O’Quinn. “I expect to be [writing regularly](#), probably more regularly than I’ve been able to in the past, for *American Theatre*, and to continue working with writers and artists across the country and around the world.”

Hired by Theatre Communications Group in 1982 to edit what was then its newsletter, *Theatre Communications*, Mr. O’Quinn launched the monthly magazine *American Theatre* in April 1984.

Teresa Eyring, TCG’s executive director, said, “It is a testament to Jim’s talent and tenacity that our field has a 30-year-old, nationally and globally distributed magazine, illuminating the work of our theatres and artists. With the new online version of AT joining the print version, he leaves the magazine well-positioned for ever increasing value and success.”

Mr. O’Quinn was instrumental in developing the Jerome Foundation Writers Fellowships, which nurtured dozens of early-career arts writers. His work at *American Theatre* was recognized with two National Magazine Awards for Editorial Excellence (2001, 2002) and an Excellence in Editing Award for Sustained Achievement from the Association of Theatre in Higher Education (2010).

In theatre, O’Quinn is the author and composer of a children’s opera, *The Littlest Emperor*, which was produced at the Contemporary Arts Center of New Orleans in 1978, and was music arranger for a series of acclaimed children’s theatre productions at Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carré.

## TSP Volunteers Honored in Cincinnati

PLASA’s Technical Standards Council announced the recipients of the second annual Above & Beyond

Awards designed to recognize outstanding Technical Standards Program volunteers.

The awards for service in 2014 were presented to Eric Johson, Jason Potterf, Richard Nix, and Larry Schoeneman at the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Mr. Johnson (Control Protocols Working Group) was nominated as “a rare treasure who can present the most complex subject in a manner that allows the novice to understand...” His involvement in the CPWG’s “Plugfests” has allowed him to offer valuable assistance to attendees.

Mr. Potterf (Control Protocols Working Group) was cited for being instrumental in developing the *E1.33, Transport of ANSI E1.20 messages in an E1.31 Environment* as well as assisting in the organization of web conferences for the Control Protocols Working Group and its task groups.



Richard Nix of Entertainment Structures Group (Rigging Working Group) was nominated for his work for the Rigging Working Group, the E1.4-1 Manual Counterweight Rigging Task Group, and the Stage Lifts Working Group.

Mr. Schoeneman of Designlab Chicago (Technical Standards Council) was recognized for his efforts to bring in financial support for the Technical Standards Program, which is dependent on funding from the industry to carry out its work.

The awards celebrate volunteers who have made a significant contribution or effort that advances the Technical Standards Program, with nominations made by peers within the Technical Standards Program.

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## Conference Activities Evidence USITT Embraces Diversity Mission

**Janet Gramza** *Communications Associate*



At the opening of the Cincinnati 2015 Conference & Stage Expo, President Lea Asbell-Swanger noted this year marks “20 years of USITT’s commitment to human issues and diversity.”

She then presented the 2015 Joel E. Rubin Founders Award to Andi Lyons, a leader in the Institute’s inclusion efforts, who said, “In the 25 or 30 years I’ve been involved in USITT, I’ve seen a remarkable change in diversity and openness.”

The Conference that unfolded proved they weren’t just talking the talk. The event had a definite vibe of unity, celebrating uniqueness, and welcoming all.

“The diversity synergy was unbelievable,” Management Commissioner David “D-Stew” Stewart wrote.

Keynote speaker Terrence Spivey, artistic director of the nation’s oldest black theatre, Karamu House, gave an emotional address calling for arts organizations to be activists in removing roadblocks and offering opportunities to students of color. But he didn’t go home to Cleveland after his speech. He stayed for the rest of the Conference participating in diversity sessions and spending time with students.

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Among the many students were 12 Gateway Program participants from underrepresented populations who participated in the 2015 Conference & Stage Expo through a program launched the year before to honor the late Tayneshia Jefferson, a beloved mentor in USITT's Stage Management Mentoring Project.

"We all lost a friend. No, scratch that, a sister," Mr. Stewart said. "Her passing sent shock waves through the industry and, in particular, USITT. Kasey Allee-Foreman and I were tasked with creating a sustainable program with the funds that came in in Tay's memory. Out of that, the Gateway Program was created."

Last year, Gateway brought three students to the Conference and paired them with three professional mentors of similar backgrounds and interests. This year, it grew to 12, with two receiving Tayneshia Jefferson Mentorships; four additional students receiving full Mentorships that included travel, housing, membership and Conference registration; and six students in partnered Mentorships, which split the costs between the Gateway Program and each student's organization.

At the same time that Gateway was created, the Institute's Diversity Initiative and Diversity Committee were approved and funded by the board. The Committee supports the Gateway Program, liaises with partner organizations in their diversity and inclusion efforts, and supports the existing diversity forums that USITT has maintained for 20 years: Women in Theatre, People of Color Networking Project, Queer Nation, and the Human Issues Caucus.



On Opening Day, the People of Color Networking Project held a meeting in a room that suddenly became far too small. Kasey Allee-Foreman found a bigger space, and 80 people happily relocated.

The next day, the same thing happened with the Queer Nation Roundtable; it drew too many to fit around a table and moved to bigger quarters. "When we started this group about 15 years ago, there were eight of us," Andi Lyons said. "Since then, USITT has changed for the better. We're bigger, and we're friendlier."

The next day, the Women in Theatre Roundtable "blew the doors out with 250 in attendance," as Mr. Stewart put it. Women in Theatre Networking Project celebrated its 20th anniversary this year.

In other evidence that unity is spreading: The USITT bookstore ran out of "Celebrate Diversity" ribbons. Disney pledged \$5,000 to the USITT Diversity Initiative. Several Commissions have named a Vice Commissioner for Diversity to promote diversity and inclusion efforts within their constituency. They are Nicole Queenan, Management; Sarah Pickett, Sound; and Jim Streeter, Lighting.

All in all, it became clear in Cincinnati that USITT is becoming the inclusive

organization it aspires to be. Even with all his leadership efforts, Mr. Stewart said he was as pleasantly surprised as anybody.

“I never intended to be part of a diversity movement,” he said. “But I am here now, in the movement, in the wave that is tangible, and I can only bask in the sheer amount of energy that came out of this week.”

Members of the USITT Diversity Committee include Kasey Allee-Foreman, Chair and Co-Chair of Women in Theatre; Lea Asbell-Swanger; Madilynn Garcia; David Grindle; Andi Lyons, Chair of the Human Issues Caucus and Queer Nation; Michael Mehler; Christopher Morris; Jesse Portillo; Carolyn Satter; Tina Shackelford, Co-chair of Women in Theatre; and David Stewart, Chair of People of Color Networking.

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## Announce Find-A-Fellow Winners

Tim Kelly

The Cincinnati 2015 Conference & Stage Expo is now in the rear view mirror, but it will be remembered as one of the more successful events the Institute has produced.

The Fellows took an active part in many aspects of the Conference including the Network Nexus, Early Career Member Mentoring, and the fourth edition of the Find A Fellow Contest. The FAF Contest was designed to bring together the newest members with the Fellows. Once again that was accomplished.

Henry Tharp took on the role as "headmaster" for the event and announced the two winners: Cailin Lindsay from James Mason University and Ciara Zang from University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV). Each Student Member will be awarded a complimentary Conference Registration and Student Membership for 2016 and 2017.

In an e-mail, Ms Linday wrote, "Thank you so much for the wonderful opportunity. I got to meet some wonderful Fellows and felt much more at home at the Conference by the time I was done. I can't wait to see what Salt Lake City has in store."

"Thank you for having the contest," Ms. Zang wrote. "I'm definitely going (to the Conference) for the next two years."

Student Members Chelsea Janke, Rebecca McDowell, Vanessa Quigly, Dabney Rauh and Rachael Williams also turned in fully completed FAF contest forms.



Lea Asbell-Swanger and Cailin Lindsay.



Ciara Zang with Mark Shanda.

Photos/Janet Gramza



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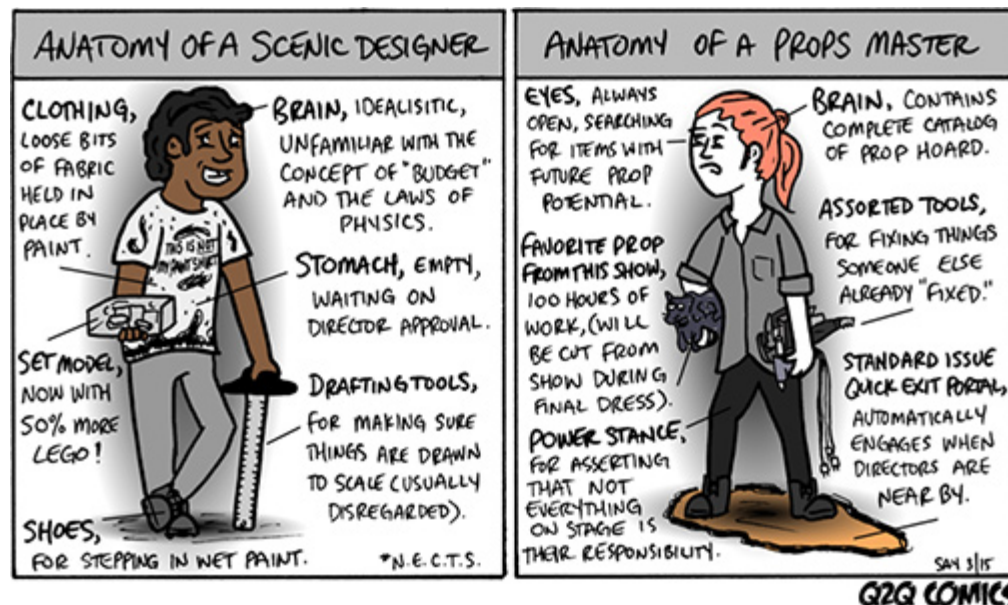
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## Q2Q Comics Author Gets Hero's Welcome

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*



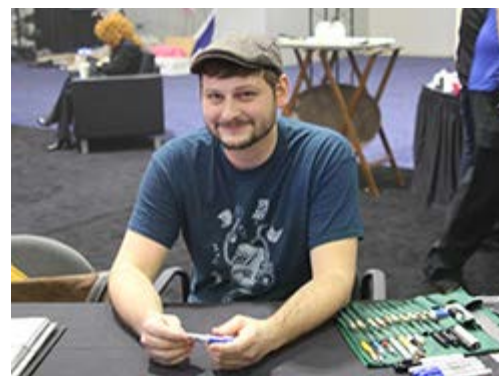
USITT's newest member author, cartoonist Steve Younkens, was a big draw in Cincinnati.

His "book-signing" of panels of his theatre tech webcomic, *Q2Q Comics*, on Friday, March 20, attracted over 350 fans and went a half hour over its one-hour time slot.

The Conference bookstore sold dozens of Q2Q T-shirts and over 400 prints of Mr. Younkens' popular "Anatomy of" drawings of a sound designer, lighting designer, costume designer, tech director, and stage manager – with many people thanking him for capturing them so perfectly.

"His comic is pure entertainment, geared toward a group of people that doesn't often get praise, and it helps us deal with things like tricky actors," said student member Connor Lumpkin of the University of Kansas.

"It allows crew members to connect in a way that's humorous to things that



aren't that funny when they are happening," added fellow U of K student Kelly Simons.

Mr. Younkins, a sound designer, started Q2Q a year ago to rave reviews from the theatre tech community. At his print-signing, the cartoonist graciously autographed as many as five items for some fans, and gave out stickers that said, "Tech Week is Coming" and "Thank You, Five."

He promised to unveil two new "Anatomy of" panels, a scene designer and a props master; on April 1, he did. The scenic designer's anatomy includes "Stomach, empty, waiting on director approval," and the props master holds "assorted tools, for fixing things someone else already 'fixed.'"

Mr. Younkins humbly called the long line "ridiculous," and promised to be at the 2016 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah – hopefully with an actual book!

His admirers urged him to keep the thrice-weekly webcomics coming. "You've helped me though some really stressful times," said Mike Vanni, a student at the University of Alaska.

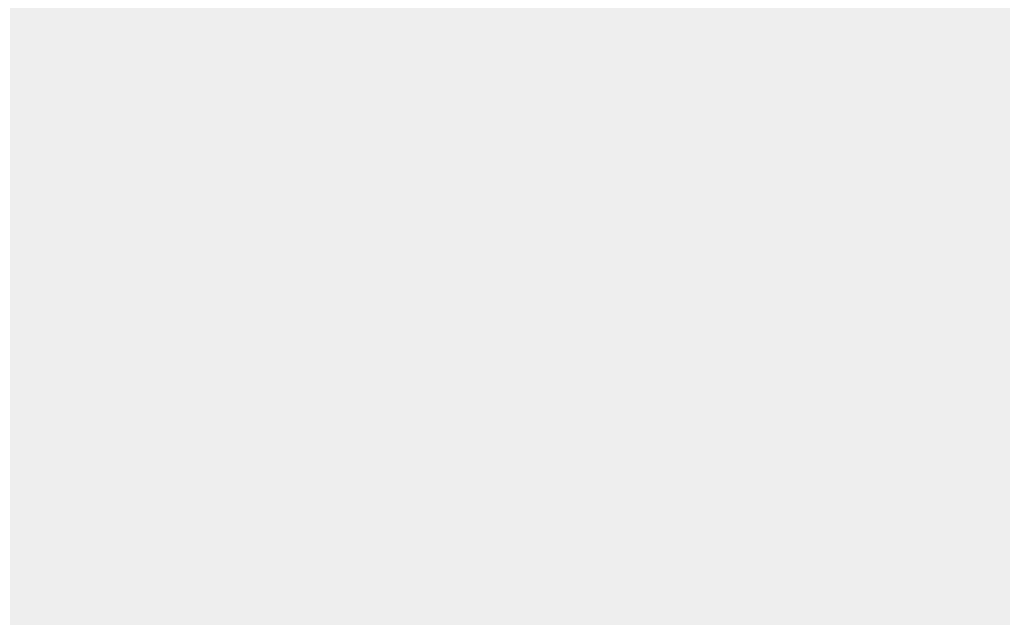
Thanks to his huge popularity with students, many teachers appreciate him for taking the edge off Tech Week and making their jobs a little easier.

"We have his comics on every bulletin board in our theatre because there seems to be one for every situation you encounter," said Laura Love, a costume designer at the Metropolitan State University of Denver.

Alessia Carpoca, head of theatrical design and tech at the University of Montana, said she uses *Q2Q Comics* in her Intro to Theatre Tech classes.

"What he's doing is making theatre tech cool," she said. "It's always been that the actors are so cool and the tech people are geeks, but now – not so much!"

She made a point of buying a "Tech Week is Coming!" T-shirt. "I like the ominous feeling it conveys," she said.





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News & Notices

## In Memoriam: Kevin L. Seligman

Kevin L. Seligman, costume designer, author, and retired USITT volunteer, died unexpectedly at his home in London, United Kingdom in February.

Mr. Seligman designed costumes for over 100 productions at Northern Illinois University, where he taught as a full professor until his retirement in 1998, as well as other venues including San Diego's Old Globe Theater.

He was the author of *Cutting for All!* (1996), the definitive guide to pattern-making history, and was instrumental in establishing the Commercial Pattern Archive, which originated as a project of the Costume Design & Technology Commission in the mid-1980s.

Mr. Seligman organized USITT's first Costume Symposium in DeKalb, Illinois, in 1977, and went on to serve as a Vice-Commissioner and then Commissioner of the Costume Design & Technology Commission from 1988 to 1991. In the mid-'90s he organized an international costume symposium in London.

He served as an editor of the *Cutter's Research Journal* and was an authority on early- to mid-20th century costume jewelry.

His extensive research collection forms the Kevin L. Seligman Library and Archive, housed at the Doris Stein Research Center for Costume and Textiles at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

"Kevin had a gift for friendship for which so many of us are grateful," said his friend Ron Gloekler, who corresponded with him daily across several decades. "Many of his former students remained in contact and often visited him."

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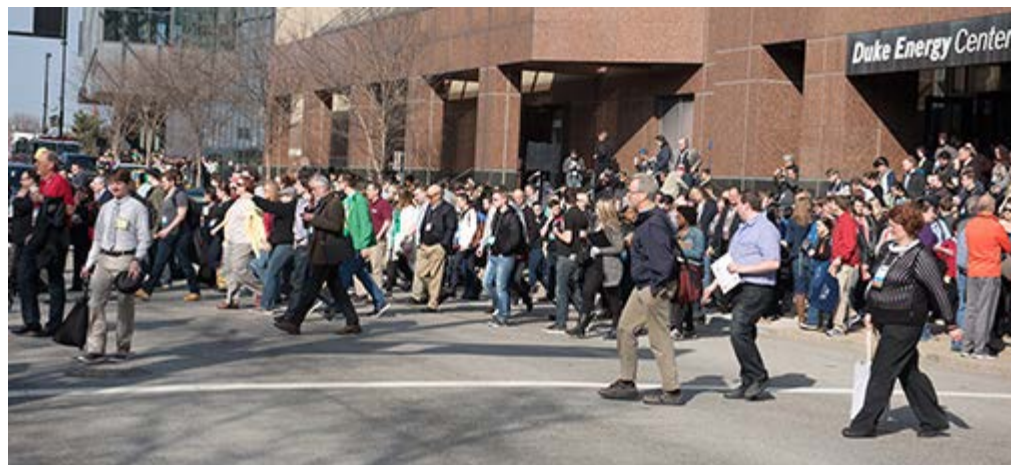
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The Last Word:

## Everybody Out of the Building!

**Jay Sheehan** *Vice Commissioner of Entertainment, Management Commission*



This year's Annual Conference & Stage Expo -- another amazing event -- was full of great sessions, seminars, and Stage Expo showcases, as well as reconnecting with friends, mentors, and peers.

What I wasn't ready for was the unplanned and unexpected fire alarm that went off Friday morning that turned into a USITT "session" on management I didn't expect to attend.

The strobes flashed, public address (PA) system gave directions, and everyone had puzzled looks that seemed to say, "What's going on here?" or "Clearly this is a false alarm, so let's not leave."

I was on the Stage Expo floor, manning the San Diego State University booth at the time of the incident. With the strobes flashing, I asked a visitor to "hold on so we can listen to the announcement" (if there was going to be one). What we did get was a very faint, barely audible, prerecorded speech over the in-house system. I still have no idea what was being said, but I did hear "determined an emergency." That was enough for me! We needed to get out.

I told everyone within shouting distance, "We should exit immediately." People, especially exhibitors, didn't seem to want to listen and stayed put, possibly out of fear of leaving their expensive swag unattended.

The next step was to leave the building at the nearest exit. At this point, I still saw no one from the facility trying to help or give any direction as to exactly

where to go once we left the building. We all congregated on the sidewalk, trying hard not to be pushed into the oncoming traffic as thousands of people behind me started to quickly exit.

It was what happened next that made me feel like all would be ok.

I saw Executive Director David Grindle, walkie-talkie in hand, on the steps of the convention center taking control of the situation, something that should have been done by the facilities management and staff.

True leadership emerged from USITT staff in a matter of moments. We were told to cross the street and head to the open lot that had been deemed an evacuation location for just this purpose. We went and waited for the all clear. I didn't see any police officers or convention staff helping. The focus was on David and Scott Kincaid, one of last year's SMMP students. (Many others from the Institute were on radios and being helpful!)

Knowing David as I do, I knew he was already crafting a plan to get everyone back in the building once the all clear was given. I saw Scott, and asked if I could help on the re-entry since having had some experience with crowd control running a 20,000- seat concert venue in San Diego for years.

We posted ourselves at certain doors and tried our best to separate exhibitors and attendees, allowing exhibitors to get back on the Expo floor and secure their goods before the thousands of attendees descended upon them. Still there did not seem to be any convention center staff around to help.

David did what he does best; with game face on he closed all the doors to the Expo floor, opening only one set for exhibitors. Grabbing the closest microphone, he gave directions in a clear, concise, and loud manner. Again I looked on with great admiration knowing David was in charge. I wasn't disappointed.

We were back in the convention center within about 30 minutes and back to business as usual. Whew!

What did I end up learning? What could I have done better to prepare myself to evacuate a building or venue in an age of potential emergencies?

Here is my list for starters:

1. I will familiarize myself with the surrounding areas around the building I am going into and identify a good spot to head in case of evacuation.
2. I will take a quick look around the venue to determine the location of fire extinguishers and fire alarm pulls.
3. If I am with a group, I will identify a place outside, away from the building, where we can rendezvous in case we get separated. I will let my group know the location and have contact numbers in my phone for all members of my group.
4. If evacuating, I will cross away from the building. I won't stand on the sidewalk near glass windows and doors.

5. If evacuating, I will make a better concerted effort to look for anyone disabled or elderly and attempt to help them exit safely.
6. While in the venue, I will look more closely at emergency exits and escape routes such as stairwells and backstage exits.
7. I will, under no circumstances, use an elevator during an evacuation. While this seems obvious, it was a good reminder for me.
8. When someone or something (strobe, PA system, person yelling, etc.) tells me to exit, I will GO! I won't wait and wonder if it's a false alarm.
9. If I am working backstage or in a stage manager situation, I will make sure I know how to get people off stage and out of the building safely and efficiently. I will also find out where the nearest fire extinguisher is located backstage.

I have a responsibility as a faculty production manager to teach safety to my students. The next generation must be taught about safety protocols and procedures. This is a top priority as I plan to immediately go back to San Diego State and reexamine my current practices and procedures manual for my theatre. I hope others will do the same.

Interestingly enough this year, I actually listened to the safety speech on the airplane a little more closely on the way home.

The nearest exits were behind me, my seatbelt always stayed on, and, yes, I will put my own mask on first before helping others.

*Mr. Sheehan is on the faculty at San Diego State University where he leads the management program.*



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### City Theatrical: Lighting Up USITT

At Stage Expo recently, **City Theatrical** decided to dress up its booth with a bit of [QolorFLEX LED Tape](#) and [QolorPoint](#) battery powered LED uplighters.

Designers are adding nooks and setbacks into their designs specifically to hold LED tape, which can provide depth and accent to designs.

City Theatrical's glowing lanyards use a D4 Neo Dimmer and are wireless, cued with the rest of the show. In fact, all the scenic elements in the show changed color on cue since they were assigned the same DMX addresses and were cued the same.

The Ben Nye Makeup team a was given a [QolorPoint](#) battery powered LED uplighter to light their banner, which changed color along with City Theatrical's booth.

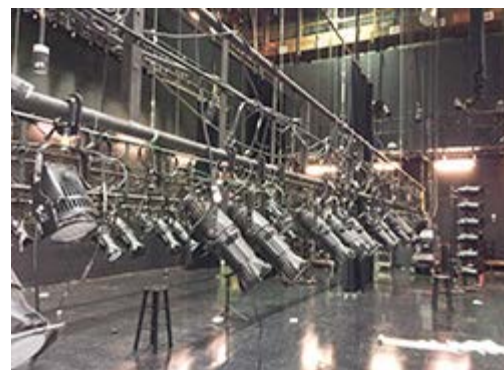
There were five separate booths operating with [SHoW DMX SHoW Baby](#) wireless DMX around Stage Expo, all running perfectly on different SHoW IDS.

For more information visit City Theatrical's "[How to Light a Trade Show Booth.](#)"

### ETC: A Six-Year Romance with *Glee*

On Stage 16 at Paramount Studios in Hollywood, it feels like the last day of school. After six seasons, *Glee* is ending and the seniors of McKinley High School are cleaning out their lockers and moving on. Throughout the run, **ETC** products have helped light the stage and the sets.

From the beginning, ETC Source Four



fixtures were used on the main performance stage and as key light in the high school settings. Four ETC Sensor3 48-way rolling racks were used for the high school sets on adjacent Stage 15.

The main auditorium stage had six electrics on chain hoists with 126 Source Four fixtures, 80 par cans and 32 ETC Selador Classic Vivid-R luminaires. The LED fixtures on the upstage electric were the perfect instrument for lighting backdrops and Mylar slash curtains in the big production numbers. The other five stages also used Source Four fixtures controlled through an ETCNomad lighting controller, supplemented with Ion and Eos lighting desks for the times when performances happen off the main stage.

To learn more about ETC and its products, visit [www.etcconnect.com](http://www.etcconnect.com).

## Meyer Sound: LYON Expands Touring Business, Asian Team

DBS Audio Systems, Inc. of Coatesville, Penn. has invested in a **Meyer Sound** LYON linear sound reinforcement system before a busy summer concert season.

“LYON has won accolades from major artists and respected engineers and will give us an excellent position in the touring market,” said Dave Brotman, DBS president. “The time is right for the upgrade, and we’re excited to be the first rental company in the tri-state area to offer the most advanced loudspeaker technology available.”

The system comprises 16 LYON-M main and eight LYON-W wide-coverage line array loudspeakers, in addition to six 1100-LFC low-frequency control elements. A Galileo Callisto loudspeaker management system with Galileo Callisto 616 array processors provides system drive and alignment. The system is already slated to serve the 14,000-capacity Mann Center for the Performing Arts, summer home of the Philadelphia Orchestra and the host of a full schedule of pop, jazz, and rock concerts. When not in residence, the system will support a range of summer festivals and corporate events.

To accelerate the expansion of its Asia-Pacific presence, Meyer Sound has hired John Zhang as sales manager for China and Korea, and Tim Boot as business development manager, Asia-Pacific.

Working closely with the regional sales and support network, they will drive Meyer Sound’s Asian growth, representing the full range of Meyer Sound solutions from the groundbreaking Constellation acoustic system to the latest sound reinforcement systems like LEO and LYON. They will work to expand a user base that has included the Chimelong Ocean Kingdom in Zhuhai, the Beijing Auto Show, and Alpensia Hall in South Korea.

As the newest member of the Meyer Sound sales team, Mr. Zhang will help nurture the distribution network and strengthen customer support capabilities through the company’s Beijing office. Bilingual in English and Mandarin, he brings 15 years of sales experience in the global AV industry, including prior

high-level positions with Shanghai Media Group, Micronas (USA), Inc., and Philips Electronics.

A 25-year veteran in audio, video, and acoustical design, Mr. Boot will be responsible for connecting Meyer Sound technology with architects, AV consultants, sound designers, systems integrators, and acousticians throughout the region.

Mr. Zhang can be reached at [jzhang@meyersound.com](mailto:jzhang@meyersound.com) and Mr. Boot at [tboot@meyersound.com](mailto:tboot@meyersound.com).

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# Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

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2015 CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO

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Spotlight on Giving

## USITT Invested in Me

**John Gruber** *General Stage Manager, Michael Jackson ONE*

As a young student, USITT provided me with the network, training and support that allowed me to grow into the theatre professional I am today. In 2004, I received the Young Designers & Technicians Award in Stage Management.

I donate because USITT invested in me; as such, my time and money is the least I can contribute to repay that debt.



Donors from March 15 to April 15, 2015:

### Edward F. Kook Fund

- Alexandra Bonds
- Dennis Dorn
- Michael Katz
- Sylvia Pannell
- Charles Williams

### New Century Fund

- Sarah Gates
- John Gruber
- Michael Katz
- Charles Williams

### New Century Fund - Rigging Safety

- Mark Black

### New Century Fund - Diversity

- Disney Parks Creative Entertainment
- Michael Katz
- Michael Mehler
- Vickie Scott

**Samuel H. Scripps International Fund**

- Alexandra Bonds
- Michael Katz
- Kevin Rigdon

**USITT Fund**

- Mark Shanda

**General Operations**

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- Carolyn Satter
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- **IATSE:** Board Certifies Quebec Local
- **Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.:** New Functionalities Added to Software
- **Mega Systems:** Introduce new Outshine Products

## Alcons Audio: Shifting Into the Next Gear at Prolight+Sound

Dutch audio innovator **Alcons Audio** showed its latest pro-ribbon sound systems and demonstrated new evolutionary audio solutions at Prolight+Sound 2015 April 15 to 18 at Frankfurt, Germany.

The highlight of the show for the company was the presentation of no less than two, new pro-ribbon line-array systems. The LR28 larger-format line-array is the result of five years of development, with the last two years dedicated to beta-testing for the "proof of concept." This flagship system marks an important advance for the company within the concert touring and large-scale installation market.

The long awaited remote control for the Sentinel amplified loudspeaker controllers was another novelty in Frankfurt. ALControl is the Alcons-proprietary ALC control software protocol, to control and monitor multiple Sentinels. It can be run from both Mac and PC platforms.

For a glimpse of the future of professional sound reinforcement, visit [www.alconsaudio.com](http://www.alconsaudio.com).



## Chauvet Professional: Nexus Glows at Music and Arts Festival

Everything about the Aura Music and Arts Festival in Live Oak, Florida is fun, free spirited and ready to engage the senses in a myriad of ways. Held at the aptly named, 800-acre Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park, the weekend-long gathering is a feast for the eyes, with its art exhibits and stunning natural setting, as well as for the spirit, with more than 20 yoga and healing classes.

Tying this multi-dimensional festival together is a series of musical performances by groups like Disco Biscuits, moe, Papadosio and Main Squeeze, all of whom jammed beneath a pixel-mapped linear display of Nexus Aw 7x7 panels from **Chauvet Professional**. The warm, white LED panels were mounted on a beam that ran across the entire width of the stage.

Twelve Nexus Aw 7X7 panels were used. Powered by 49 warm white LEDs with an output of 9,400 lux at 5 meters, the Nexus Aw 7x7 also served as an audience blinder during the festival, helping to connect the crowd to the bands on stage. A collection of 12 COLORado 1-Tri Tour par style LED fixtures, also from Chauvet Professional, were part of the display. The designers used these RGB fixtures as front lights to add extra color to the downstage area.



## Theatre Projects: Helps Expand Corning Museum of Glass

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**Theatre Projects** collaborated on the design of the new Amphitheater Hot Shop at the Corning Museum of Glass, which celebrated the grand opening of the 100,000-square-foot Contemporary Art and Design Wing recently.

From a simple beginning in 1951 as a two-room showcase with two employees and 2,000 pieces of artwork, the Corning Museum of Glass has expanded its physical footprint and cultural appeal into what is now a wide-reaching tourist attraction with buildings dotted across a sprawling 10-acre campus and a collection of more than 50,000 works of art.

Perhaps the most popular attraction is the Hot Glass Show, where artisans guide audiences through the process of glassblowing, transforming molten sand into beautiful works of art at 2,300 degrees Fahrenheit. The museum needed a new venue that would accommodate larger audiences; provide a more dynamic, personal, and intimate show; and allow the room to be transformed for live music, banquets, dinners, fundraisers, and other forms of entertainment.

Working with Thomas Phifer and Partners, Theatre Projects designed a space that met exactly those varied needs. The new Amphitheater Hot Shop—built in a renovated, historic ventilator building—features a custom-made retractable seating system and a full mezzanine that wraps 360 degrees around the room. The 500-seat theatre—now one of the world’s largest facilities for glassblowing demonstrations—was designed to be robust enough to handle a near-constant stream of patrons, while having the comfort and sightlines to satisfy either a glassblowing demonstration or two-hour concert. Theatre Projects also provided consulting services for the Amphitheatre Hot Shop’s seating and performance lighting systems.

## IATSE: Board Certifies Quebec Local

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The Quebec Labour Relations Board recently certified **IATSE** Local 56 as the bargaining agent for all theatre technicians employed by the Salle Pauline Julien.

Located in the heart of Collège Gérald-Godin in Sainte-Geneviève, the Salle Pauline-Julien is the window to French culture on Montreal's West Island. The new IATSE Local 56 members are looking forward to negotiating their first collective agreement.

The IATSE is an international union representing members employed in the stagecraft, motion picture and television production, and tradeshow industries throughout the United States, its territories, and Canada.

## Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.: New Functionalities Added to Software

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**Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.**, recently announced new functionalities for its [Vectorworks 2015](#) line of design software including the BIM Collaboration Format (BCF) Importer and the Simplified Geometry Model View Definition (MVD). These two features are part of Service Pack 3, which also includes other improvements.

The new [BCF Importer](#) allows users to read BCF files from collaborators to view project model issues directly within the context of the Vectorworks model. Now users can review and resolve issues that may require changes to the architectural model without having to switch between Vectorworks and another application.

The Industry Foundation Classes (IFC) schema is evolving to accommodate many different user configurations and levels of detail. To meet the expanding needs of users, Vectorworks software offers an additional IFC export option for defining the model view. The Simplified Geometry MVD allows Vectorworks users to export IFC files optimized for other software programs that can only import a limited set of simple geometry types.

A new option called "Export Walls/Slabs by components" has been added to the Export IFC Project dialog box. It optimizes the export of IFC files for use by estimating software such as BIM2COST. These improvements increase interoperability between BIM software applications, as well as enhance communication among design disciplines.

For more information, visit [www.vectorworks.net](http://www.vectorworks.net).

## Mega Systems: Introduce new Outshine Products

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Two new Mega-Lite LED fixtures were recently released by **Mega Systems**—the Outshine WW100 and the Outshine T100.

The Outshine WW100, a custom U.S. made, outdoor rated warm white LED fixture, is equipped with a 100-watt warm white single-source point LED, creating a smooth and powerful wash.

The Outshine T100, an outdoor rated, color-changing LED fixture, is equipped with a 100-watt RGB single-source point LED, creating a smooth and powerful wash.

Visit [mega-lite.com](http://mega-lite.com) to learn more about these products.

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

## Fond Memories, Appreciation for Departing Leaders

I cannot believe that it is already May! It seems just yesterday that many of us were together in Cincinnati for the Annual Conference & Stage Expo, but clearly that's an illusion. Here's hoping that we've all caught up as necessary with those duties and responsibilities that awaited us upon our return home.

One of the bittersweet moments each year is the departure from office of some of the USITT leadership. As you probably know, each leadership term coincides with our fiscal year, so the actual transition occurs on July 1, but since we are not together at that time, the Conference is when exiting officers and board members are acknowledged. Obviously, all the members are not at the Conference, so I believe that it is important to recognize the gift of service that these individuals have provided here in *Sightlines*.

Completing terms of service on the board of directors are Kasey Allee-Foreman, Bill Browning, Alessia Carpoca, Carey Hanson, Linda Pisano, and Kevin Rigdon. Each has contributed to the success of USITT through their roles as directors, but additionally in a variety of ways. It is commendable, but not surprising, that they will continue to serve the membership in some of these other endeavors and probably in ways they haven't thought of yet.

The same is true of the three people who are completing their terms as directors and officers. Part of our tradition for each retiring officer is the creation of a resolution by the board intended to capture by short bullet points a sense of the person and his/her service. These short statements of recognition, known fondly as "Whereas" statements, are read at the end of the board meeting at the Conference, but I wanted to share those created this year for the three officers leaving their current positions. They are: Dan Denhart, Vice-President for Special Operations; Tom Hackman, Vice-President for Programming; and Martha Marking, Vice-President for Members, Sections, and Chapters.

## Dan Denhart

- **Whereas**, Dan Denhart has faithfully served USITT as VP Special Operations aka Whatever needs done that isn't in anyone else's job description,

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- **Whereas**, his work with the Conference and Stage Expo committees has spanned close to 20 years,
- **Whereas**, Dan has still found time to be "Dad" to his six kids, perhaps revealing where his ability to work with extraordinary challenges comes from,
- **Whereas**, part of that process involved proudly wearing a "DO IT!" button, and
- **Whereas**, Dan handles USITT's special operations with a father's patience and affection making the Institute all the better for his efforts.

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the Board of Directors of USITT, thanks you and salutes you.

## Tom Hackman

- **Whereas**, Tom Hackman is willing to tackle tough jobs with little chance of seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, no, not his work with Conference Programming, but his volunteer work assisting with cave rescues,
- **Whereas**, Tom has "planned" his family around his USITT activities with his first daughter born after he served as Conference photographer in 2005. And while serving as programming co-coordinator he was waiting for the birth of his son. Who knew USITT service was good for population control?
- **Whereas**, Tom's urge to design and build stuff is not limited to the stage as evidenced by his children's Zebra swing.

**Therefore, be it resolved** that Tom has earned the respect and esteem of the officers, directors and membership of the Institute.



Photos/ R. Finkelstein



Tom Hackman with Jimmie Byrd, USITT Secretary

## Martha Marking

- **Whereas**, Martha Marking began her lifelong association with needle and thread at the tender age of eight,
- **Whereas**, the need for Martha to put in shop hours for an Intro to Theatre course in college led her to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater costume shop, which provided the opportunity for a little bit of undergraduate design work, if 12 shows can be considered a “little bit of design work”
- **Whereas**, at a USITT conference Regional Section Officer’s meeting on the topic of the Section-National relationship, Martha, as the Southeast Chair, pointed out that if the proposed changes were not amenable to the Southeast Section’s liking, “We seceded once, we can do it again.”
- **Whereas**, Martha has led the Regional Section and Chapter constituencies for the past two terms, to borrow one of her favorite phrases, “I’d invite you” to join in applauding her accomplishments.



Martha Marking

**Therefore, be it resolved** that Martha has earned the respect and thanks of the Institute and its members.

This will always be a very special group to me, as they all served tirelessly in conjunction with my term as President. Any positive change that occurred during that period is a direct result of their efforts, which speaks to the commitment they made to the membership when they accepted a leadership role. Now, even without an official designation, they will continue to serve, so please thank them. Once you hear how much fun USITT service is, you might consider taking the plunge yourself!



**We'd like to hear your comments on this story.**  
Please e-mail Lea at [Lea.Asbell-Swanger@usitt.org](mailto:Lea.Asbell-Swanger@usitt.org).

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

## A New Reason to Hold a Party

Here we are in May; next month we get the 2015 Tony Awards... minus one.

It's reasonably okay that most design awards in our industry are presented "at another time." But here we are with the Antoinette Perry Awards openly shunning one element of our collaborative effort. In the fury of the announcement last year, it was noted that the sound design was too difficult to judge and that it was really a more technical mastery and not a design art. I'm still not sure what this means but it seems to say, "We don't understand it, so we are dropping it."

Over 32,000 people from around the world signed a petition asking the Tony Committee to reconsider. The Committee's response was, in my opinion, underwhelming. Sound designers labor to make an integrated environment in theatres across the world. In the shows I've seen on Broadway this year, I couldn't imagine having no cohesive sound design to complete the environment. While I don't understand the art, I can appreciate it -- which seems more than the Tony Committee can admit.

I'm still angry at this slight. However, I believe I have to follow the lead of others. A group of sound designers and composers in New York City are hosting the Collaborator Party on Tony Night. They are celebrating the very thing that seems to be ignored by the Tony Committee -- that it takes everyone to make a production. I think this is a great idea. How many people work in our art doing incredible things and never get recognized except by their peers? This party brings everyone together and celebrates the community that works together to make magic.

If you can't be in New York to participate, why not have a Collaborator Party in your town? If you were already having a gathering for the Tony's, then focus on the teamwork involved in your community. Rather than let this ignorance of one dimension of our art put us in a negative mood, let's be positive and show that we value one another. Celebrate collaboration on June 7.

USITT is helping sponsor the event's live feed which will bring the party to anywhere collaboration in production is happening.

I hope that each Tony winner this year will recognize their sound designer since the Broadway League won't. If no one else will recognize our fellow artists, we

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should at least recognize ourselves and appreciate the true collaboration that brings the vitality to what we do. [www.collaboratorparty.com](http://www.collaboratorparty.com)

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## Regional Sections

- **Midwest Section:** Experience Apollo Technologies, Historic Embassy Theatre

## Midwest Section: Experience Apollo Technologies, Historic Embassy Theatre

Join the Midwest Regional Section this summer for a special event day Saturday, June 27 in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Apollo Design Technology will welcome participants to its production facility. Apollo will demonstrate how a gobo is designed and manufactured using designs attendees provide. Employees will also explain the design and production process of their new line of AVERE LED fixtures and give a tour of sister companies, Blue Pony and Avid Labs. Lunch is provided courtesy of Apollo Design.

In the afternoon, participants will tour the historic Embassy Theatre. Built in 1928 and opened as a movie palace and vaudeville house, the Embassy has gone through many stages of production and renovation, hosting numerous celebrities of the day. It now hosts numerous productions throughout the year. Experience the history, architecture, and production facilities of this theatre listed in the National Register of Historic Places and see one of very few brenograph projectors still in use today.

Visit [midwest.usitt.org](http://midwest.usitt.org) for event registration page. Address questions to Steve Jacobs, Vice-Chair Programming at [stevejacobs.mrsusitt@gmail.com](mailto:stevejacobs.mrsusitt@gmail.com)

### Upcoming events include:

- Scene painting or Working with Wigs/Practical Make-up at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso Indiana August 29; and
- Digital Costume Design with Annie Cleveland or ETC's Ion/Gio console training at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, September 26.

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Conference & Stage Expo

## USITT 2015 Distinguished Achievers Inspire in Conversation

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*



USITT's annual *Distinguished Achievement Award Winners in Conversation* panel is becoming one of its most popular Conference sessions. Where else can you hear six renowned theatre professionals discuss their work frankly, intimately, and often hilariously, with a few hundred friends and admirers?

In 2015, five Distinguished Achievement winners were celebrated, and co-moderators Kevin Rigdon and Michael Mehler introduced a sixth, lighting designer Ken Billington, and presented him with the first USITT Wally Russell Mentor Award.

Then the moderators guided a spirited and inspiring discussion of firsts, failures, and advice.

Here are some quotes that may have escaped the Twitterverse. Recordings of this and many other sessions will be available soon – check the website!

"I'm a theatre foundling. I saw my first Broadway show in tech, and that's an odd sort of introduction to theatre. I have so much less education than my students. And I'm still playing a game of catch-up with Chekhov."

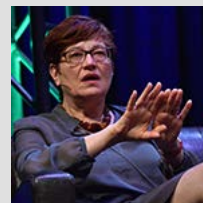
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**- Projection Designer & Yale Prof. Wendall Harrington, 2015 Distinguished Achievement Award in Education.**



"I just wanted to play on a team, and I had never realized that that's what I was looking for. I want to be that invisible thing that makes that 10 seconds more exciting."

**- Wendall Harrington.**



"I did my first lighting design in fourth grade. They thought I was great. They applauded when I did a blackout."

**- Lighting designer Ken Billington, 2015 Wally Russell Mentor Award.**

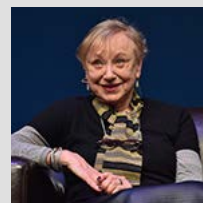


"I learned a long time ago that the worst thing that happens when you screw up is they fire you. They don't take you out back and shoot you. So you just go and you do something else."

**- Ken Billington**

"In the days after World War II, I had an aunt who took me to the theatre, and I was so excited by everything I saw, I thought, 'Wouldn't it be wonderful to be an actress?' So that was the first idea. It was a terrible idea."

**- Jane Greenwood, 2015 Distinguished Achievement Award in Costume Design.**



"So Ming Cho Lee's studio offered me a job, they said, 'We'll pay you \$90 a week and you start next week.' Well, I was still in school ... So I asked my teachers what to do and they said, 'You've got nothing more to learn, and you don't learn it in school anyway.'"

**- Douglas W. Schmidt, 2015 Distinguished Achievement Award in Scene Design**



"It's important to feed the machine of your craft, and the way to do that is to work on things that excite you."

- **Wendall Harrington**

"That morning we walked in the building and smelled smoke. There was a fire going on and the fire department couldn't find it ... If you have to think of a worst-case scenario, a fire in a theatre is one of them."

- **Teresa Eyring, 2015 Distinguished Achievement Award, Management.**



"Having respect for people you're working with no matter where they sit in an organization is key, and I've had to learn that from failing at it."

- **Teresa Eyring.**

"My disasters are usually related to my trying to be helpful, and fortunately nobody got hurt."

- **Loren Schreiber, 2015 Distinguished Achievement Award in Technical Production.**



"Students, don't label yourself ... You might be a technical director, because we specialize in generality. Don't narrow your focus on what you think you want to do now, because you're probably not old enough to know."

- **Loren Schreiber.**

"My advice is, when you do something, concentrate on it really hard. This idea of doing four things at once is overrated."

- **Jane Greenwood.**

"Many times after doing a rough layout, I will force myself to say, 'I know this works, but I challenge myself to do something different.'"

- **Ken Billington**

“Costumes, clothes. It’s all just really clothes.”

- Jane Greenwood.

“I say if you get 14 seconds of awe, that’s a good show.”

- Wendall Harrington.

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Conference & Stage Expo

## LRLR Raise \$14,000 for BTS in Cincinnati



Bill Sapsis and Lea Asbell-Swanger choose the winner of a Salt Lake City 2016 Annual Conference & Stage Expo registration.

[Photos/Behind the Scenes](#)

The Long Reach Long Riders (LRLR) celebrated their 12th ride with a raffle and live auction to benefit Behind the Scenes during the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati in March. Sales of raffle tickets, some key donations, and BTS and LRLR-branded swag raised just over \$14,000 for the charity.

The LRLR ride starts in Nashville, Tennessee on Sunday, May 31. Sponsor a rider today at [www.behindthescenescharity.org/lrlr](http://www.behindthescenescharity.org/lrlr).

Festivities in Cincinnati started off with the popular kazoo parade led by Bill Sapsis and many of the LRLR along with previous BTS grant recipient Michael Maag. The PLASA Foundation Board honored Intelligent

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Lighting Creations for its commitment to BTS and for its creative fundraising.

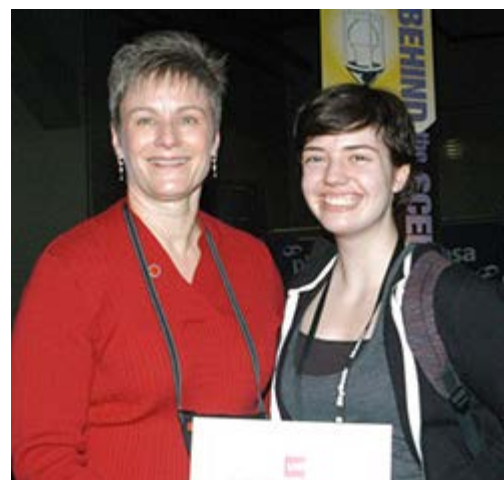
Pennsylvania State University USITT Chapter members presented proceeds from their ongoing fundraising activities, and Pledge-a-Product partners Rosco and ETC presented checks from the sales of Roscolux 359 and the iRFR and aRFR apps respectively. A.C.T Lighting became the newest Pledge-a-Product participant announcing it will donate a portion of the profits from the new dot2 series of Lighting Control Solutions from MA Lighting.

Rosco Laboratories presented its seventh annual royalty check, this year for \$3,390, from the sales of Roscolux 359 Medium Violet to BTS. This brings the total donated to date to \$18,348.

Bids were lively during the auction, particularly for *Entertainment Rigging for the 21st Century* donated by Mr. Sapsis and autographed by all the authors (one of only two such copies in existence). After a frenzied bidding war, USITT President Lea Asbell-Swanger walked off with the book. Additional auction items were donated by Brad Schiller, IATSE Local One, and Shan and Trish Ayers.

Five minutes before the raffle started Mr. Sapsis announced he would donate up to \$1,000 to match the amount raised in last minute ticket sales. There was a flurry of activity and he had to pay out the full amount. The winners and their prizes are:

- Andy Gutshall - Grand Prize, Vectorworks Spotlight with Renderworks
- Krystal Kennel – BTS Ghostlight from Altman Rentals
- Adam Marshall – GaffGun and CoreLok Tape from BMI Supply and Production Advantage
- Chris Patton – GoPro from InterAmerica Stage
- Ken Tilson – iPad mini from iWeiss Theatrical Solutions
- Bradley Chelberg – ETC Source 4 mini portable from Musson Theatrical
- Larry Schoeneman – PN 700-7501 Cognito PC/Uno Bundle from Pathway



Lea Asbell-Swanger, USITT President, congratulates Katie Hughes, winner of the 2016 Annual Conference & Stage Expo registration auctioned by the Long Reach Long Riders.

## Connectivity Solutions

- Robert Edmonson – ProPlus Rope Access Harness from Sapsis Rigging
- Katie Hughes – USITT 2016 Full Conference Registration from USITT
- Dan Vilter – \$250 Gift Certificate from Vincent Lighting Systems

For more information about Behind the Scenes, to donate, or to apply for a grant, visit [www.behindthescenescharity.org](http://www.behindthescenescharity.org). For more information about the Long Reach Long Riders visit [www.lrlr.org](http://www.lrlr.org).



Rosco check presentation.

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Conference & Stage Expo

## Brandt Receives SILV Award in Cincinnati

After presenting fantastical puppets created for the University of Idaho's production of *A Christmas Carol*, Michael Brandt was selected to receive the 2015 Don Childs Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas (SILV) Award at the 55th Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr. Brandt will attend the full, eight-week SILV program this summer. His tuition, housing, and some meals will be provided. The award includes one show with a backstage tour or talk-back each week, and local SILV-related transportation.

A 2010 a collaboration between SILV and KCACTF prompted an effort to offer an additional experience to students with potential. The initial program brought one student to SILV for one week of class of his or her choice. In 2011, SILV founder Don Childs proposed an additional provision in conjunction with KCACTF's move to bring all eight regional awardees of the Allied Crafts and Technology concentration to the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo. The SILV Annual Award, to include a full eight-week scholarship and housing at SILV valued at over \$10,000, was established. It has since been renamed in honor of Mr. Childs.

The award recipient is selected at the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo by a panel of practicing professionals representing a wide range of fields in the live entertainment industry and its allied crafts and technology. While at the conference, panel members visit with the students and become familiar with their projects prior to their presentations. Then, in the same manner as KCACTF regional festivals, the students present their projects expanding on their process and results.

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Conference & Stage Expo

## Student Scenic Painting Challenge

Becca Smith *University of Pittsburgh 2016*



Images/ Becca Smith, Jon West, and University of Pittsburgh.

Walking into my first USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio, I had no idea the magnitude of possibilities available through such a unique organization of students and professionals within the industry. I wanted to take advantage of every opportunity available, and decided to sign-up for the Student Scenic Painting Challenge.

At the University of Pittsburgh, I am a junior and primarily a stage manager. Due to the nature of the BA program, I have been able to explore other departments and apply my skills across the board. A year ago, I began scenic painting under the guidance of my advisor, Gianni Downs, and was even awarded a Chancellor's Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Fellowship to assist him with the Scenic Painting Course.

In Cincinnati, I was excited and nervous to paint alongside other students, especially given the strict

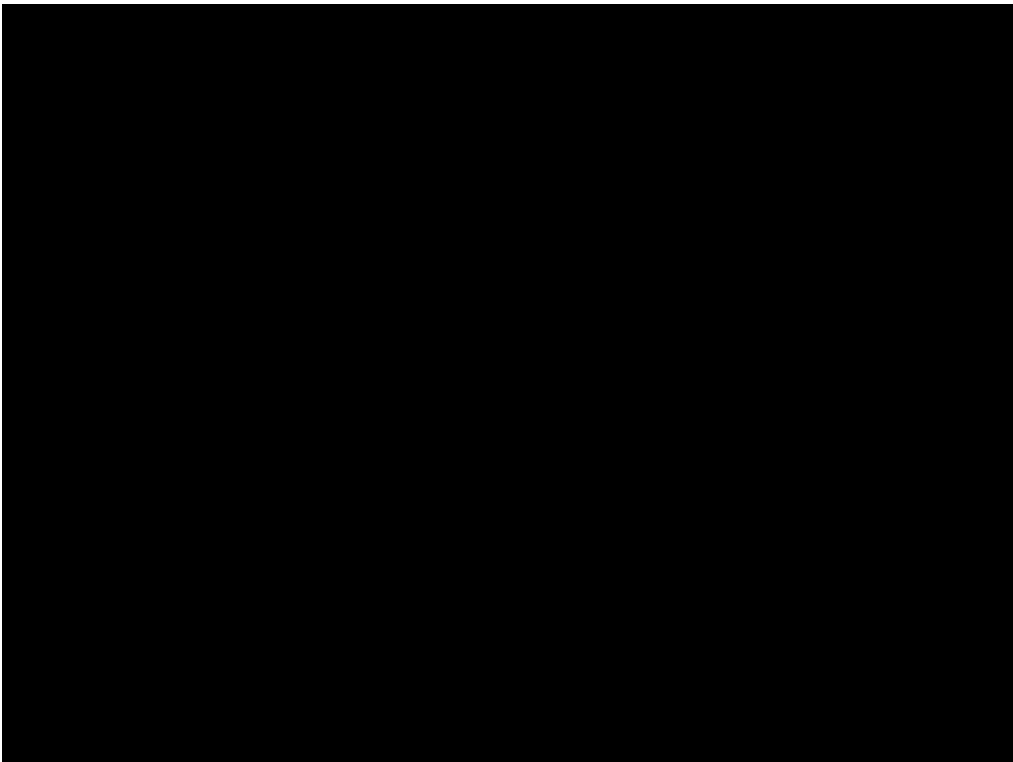


time constraints and excitement of being on the Stage Expo floor. The day of the event was quite a whirlwind; we were given a rendering, all the materials we might need, and sent off with four hours to complete our flats. Throughout the process, the students were encouraged and guided by extremely informative professionals.

I met some incredibly talented students from a myriad of universities and just generally had a lot of fun! The day of critiques following the painting was my favorite part of the event. As a group, we talked through our pieces and discussed things we did well, and areas for improvement that we can take with us and employ in our future work.

In just the few hours painting and critiquing, I learned numerous valuable lessons and made great connections that will last beyond the conference!

Here is a time lapse of the challenge:



Photos & Video / Becca Smith, Jon West, University of Pittsburgh

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- Martha Marking, *Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters*
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- Alessia Carpoca
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- Kevin Rigdon

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- Michael Katz
- Elynmarie Kazle
- Robert Scales
- Kim Scott
- Paul Vincent

### 2014-2017

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- Shane Kelly
- Karen Maness
- Michael McNamara
- Vickie Scott

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- Debra Sherrer

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- PRG
- Production Advantage, Inc.
- Rosco Laboratories, Inc.
- Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics, Fabrications & Supplies
- SECOA
- StageRight Corporation
- StageSpot
- Steeldeck Inc.
- Studio Gear
- Sustainable Technologies Group
- Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- TAIT
- Texas Scenic Company
- TheatreWorld Backdrops
- Vincent Lighting Systems
- Wenger Corporation
- Yale School of Drama/Repertory Theatre
- ZFX , Inc. – Flying Effects

## Sustaining Members

- 20th Century Fox
- A.C. Lighting Inc.
- A.C.T. Lighting
- Acme Corp. Production Resource
- The University of Alabama
- Alcons Audio USA
- Altman Lighting, Inc.
- Atlanta Rigging Systems
- Auerbach Pollock Friedlander

- A V Pro, Inc.
- Baby Lock
- Backdrops Beautiful
- Backdrops Fantastic
- Batts Audio, Video and Lighting
- BellaTEX, Inc.
- Ben Nye Makeup
- Berea College Theatre
- Bernina of America
- BMI Supply
- University of California — Irvine
- California Institute of the Arts
- Celebrity Cruises
- Center Theatre Group
- Chauvet
- Chicago Flyhouse Inc.
- Chicago Spotlight, Inc.
- University of Cincinnati
- Clear-Com Communication Systems
- Clearwing Productions
- Cobalt Studios
- Columbus McKinnon Corp.
- Dallas Stage Scenery, Inc.
- Dazian Fabrics, LLC
- Designlab Chicago
- Diablo Sound
- Dragon & Phoenix Software, Inc.
- Eaton's Cooper Controls
- Elation Lighting
- Emerson College
- Entertainment Lighting Services
- ENTTEC Americas, LLC
- Fanshawe College
- Feld Entertainment
- Florida State University
- Focal Press
- Full Compass Systems, Ltd.

- GALA Systems, Inc.
- Gemini Light Sound & Video
- GLP German Lighting Products, Inc.
- Gerriets International Inc.
- Grand Stage Company, Inc.
- Hall Associates Flying Effects
- Harkness Screens (USA) Ltd.
- Herbert L. Camburn Associates
- IALD-International Association of Lighting Designers
- InCord Ltd.
- InLight Gobos
- Irwin Seating Company
- iWeiss Theatrical Solutions
- JLG Industries, Inc.
- Johnson Systems Inc.
- Kenmark, Inc.
- Kirkegaard Associates
- L-ACOUSTICS
- Lectronsonics, Inc.
- LEE Filters
- Lehigh Electric Products Co.
- Leprecon
- Leviton/NSI/Colortran
- Lex Products Corp.
- Limelight Productions, Inc.
- Lite-Trol Service Company, Inc.
- Live! Technologies
- LVH Entertainment Systems
- Lycian Stage Lighting
- The MAGNUM Companies, Ltd.
- Mainstage Theatrical Supply
- Mega Systems
- Mehron, Inc.
- Mongol Global Tour Company, Inc.
- Morpheus Lights
- University of Minnesota – Twin Cities
- University of Missouri-Kansas City

- Mongol Global Tour Company, Inc.
- Nemetschek Vectorworks
- Niscon Inc.
- University of North Carolina School of the Arts
- Northern Sound & Light, Inc.
- Nova Lume
- On Location Lighting Systems, Inc.
- Ontario Staging Limited
- OSRAM SYLVANIA
- Pace University
- Pathway Connectivity
- Penn State University
- Period Corsets
- Peter Albrecht Company
- PNTA, Pacific Northwest Theatre Associates
- Pointwright Entertainment Rigging Specialists
- Prolyte Group
- Prepared, LLC
- Rational Acoustics, LLC
- RC4 Wireless/Soundsculpture Inc.
- Rockford University
- Saginaw Valley State University
- Sapsis Rigging Entertainment Services, Inc.
- Sculptural Arts Coating, Inc.
- Serapid, Inc.
- Show Sage
- Siong Ann Engineering Pte Ltd
- Smooth-On, Inc.
- Stage Decoration & Supplies, Inc.
- Stage Equipment and Lighting, Inc.
- Stage Rigging Services, Inc.
- Stagecraft Industries, Inc.
- Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas
- StageLight, Inc.
- Stagemaker
- Staging Concepts, Inc.
- SUNY Oswego Theatre Department

- Techni-Lux, Inc.
- Theatre Consultants Collaborative, LLC
- Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.
- Theatre Technology Apprenticeship Program
- Thern Stage Equipment
- Tiffin Scenic Studios, Inc.
- Truss Aluminum Factory
- Turning Star Inc.
- Ultratec Special Effects Inc.
- Union Connector Co., Inc.
- United Scenic Artists Local 829
- USHIO America, Inc.
- University of Virginia
- XS Lighting, LLC

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