



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

November 2015

[Print this page ›](#)



NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF ›](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR ›](#)

[Lead story ›](#)



USITT Member Spotlight: Joe Kucharski & Tyranny of Style

What started as Joe Kucharski's personal writing project is now a top costume and fashion blog... [more ›](#)



USITT's 2015 Board Election is Open Oct. 30 – Dec. 10.

USITT members asked to vote for six new board members to start their service in 2016... [more ›](#)



Salt Lake's Keven Myhre to Receive 2016 DeGaetani Award

A devoted contributor to Salt Lake City theatre, Myhre has played every role on and off-stage... [more ›](#)



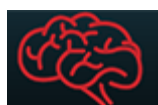
USITT Celebrates #GivingTuesday on Dec. 1

Consider a gift to your fave non-profit tech theatre org the day after Cyber Monday... [more ›](#)



Former TD&T Editors Rodger & Hazlett to be Honored in 2016

David Rodger & Deborah Hazlett will receive a Special Citation for 17 years of service to USITT... [more ›](#)



USITT's President: How to Learn ... by Doing

Mark Shanda's – and Truman Capote's and Steve Martin's – answer to a FAQ... [more ›](#)



Spotlight On Giving

Tammy Honesty on why she believes in USITT... [more ›](#)



Executive Director: Building USITT Partnerships

David Grindle on USITT's mission to build alliances and partnerships... [more ›](#)



OISTAT Activities Open to USITT Members

OISTAT, the International Organization of Theatre Scenographers, Architects, & Technicians, reports on activities open to all USITT members... [more ›](#)



Apply for 2016 USITT Early Career Mentoring

USITT's Fellows are continuing a program of career mentoring designed to target Early Career Members who plan to attend the USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Salt Lake City in March 2016.... [more ›](#)

Search the Archives

GO

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »



Introducing 'The Lighting Studio'

USITT's Lighting Design & Technology Commission is planning a new, hands-on lighting activity for USITT 2016... [more »](#)



Got Costume Session Ideas? Submit for 2017!

USITT's Costume Design & Technology Commission is already seeking PDW and session ideas for USITT 2017 in St. Louis... [more »](#)



Tenure & Promotion Portfolio Reviews Return for 2016

USITT's Education Commission will once again offer reviews of tenure and promotion portfolios in Salt Lake City... [more »](#)



Safety & Health Mentors, Mentees Sought

USITT's Safety & Health Commission seeks participants in its Mentoring Project for the upcoming Conference in Salt Lake... [more »](#)



Recognizing Engineering Excellence

USITT's Engineering Commission Invites Students to Submit Theses for Recognition... [more »](#)



Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

Join the next generation of sound designers and technicians at USITT this year!... [more »](#)



Expect New & Returning Companies at 2016 Stage Expo

A behind-the-curtain view of why Stage Expo is drawing new companies each year... [more »](#)



Visit Salt Lake – USITT Gets its own Microsite

Learn about our 2016 destination via the Salt Lake convention bureau's USITT 2016 microsite... [more »](#)



The Last Word: USITT Midwest Workshops at Valparaiso U, UW-Eau Claire

USITT's Midwest Section recently held some ambitious workshops on silk painting, digital design, wigs... [more »](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Member Authors Sought for USITT 2016
- ETC's Fred Foster Receives Lifetime Recognition at PLASA London
- TCG: Expands Program for Military Families, Announces New Board Members
- ETCP SMEs Receive Volunteers of the Year Award
- Gateway, Poster Sessions, Mentor Award Nominations Deadlines Near
- It's Not Too Late for LiNK, Nov. 13-15 in Atlanta

NEWS FROM: AROUND THE INSTITUTE

- USITT Names in the News...
- Stage Managers Day 2015
- USITT Goes to London

NEWS RELEASES FROM: OUR INDUSTRY MEMBERS

- **Meyer Sound:** Vincent, Huson, Eagleson Join Company; Archibald Expands Role

- **CHAUVET Professional:** Basement Lightshow Goes 'Rogue'
- **Wenger Corporation:** Realignment Spotlights Performing Arts Market
- **GLP:** Opens Nordic Office Based in Sweden
- **Vectorworks, Inc.:** Opens Atlanta Office
- **Columbus McKinnon:** Tweets on Safety
- **Rose Brand, Inc.:** Brooklyn High School Wins Free Stage Curtain.
- **Lex Products:** CineBox Sales to Benefit Behind the Scenes
- **Meyer Sound:** Equipment Dazzles Primus, Shania Twain Fans

NEWS FROM: REGIONAL SECTIONS

- **Desert State Section:** Student Awards Opportunity, Nov. workshops

[Lead story ›](#)

Volume LV, Number 11



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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

November 2015

[Print this page ›](#)



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Next story ›](#)

News & Notices

Member Spotlight: Kucharski Expands the World of Costume Design

Joe Kucharski, costume designer, professor at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, USITT Costume Design & Technology Commission, and Editor of Tyranny of Style blog.



USITT: How did you get started in costume design?

Joe: I grew up in Tucson, Arizona, and was thrown into a drama class in middle school. I was the shyest kid, and the idea of having to be on stage was *terrifying*. I begged the teacher to find anything else for me to do. We already had a set and lights, but I was told I could make the program and pull the costumes. We borrowed costumes from our local high school, which had a big theatre department. I had a blast and was hooked.

I followed theatre into high school, and costume design just stuck for me. It was the crossroads of so many things I loved: storytelling, history, psychology, and clothing.

My undergraduate career was all over the place. I transferred to six different schools stopping often to work. All together it took me nine years to complete my degree.

I was supporting myself and finding really exciting work in retail visuals, and eventually at Disneyland. I worked as a costumer and **costume designer for a year at Disneyland**, which proved one of the best educations for me. At that point, I looked at the successful costume designers around me and knew I needed to finish school if I wanted a similar career. I finished my last two years of undergrad at Shenandoah University, graduating with a BFA in costume design.

I wanted more design experience, and eventually to teach, so I went on to get my



Kucharski costumes for *Re-Animator The Musical*

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

Search the Archives

GO

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

MFA in costume design from University of California-Irvine. While there I was able to work professionally in the world of themed entertainment. I served as project manager at Custom Characters, one of the largest and most prestigious builders of elaborate theme park parade, show, and meet-and-greet costumes in the world.

After grad school, I went into full-time teaching at the college level and currently balance that with research, writing, presentations, and freelance design.

And how did *Tyranny of Style* come to be?

Tyranny Of Style was created in sort of an odd way. I had taken my first teaching position out of grad school at a small private university in Ohio, and I felt really isolated. I wasn't connected to the local theatre community and experienced a frustrating lull in freelance design.

I began communicating with other costume designers, as well as sharing opinions and resources on Twitter, but felt the format was limiting. I started the blog as a way to write longer form, but really didn't know what would come of it.

Lyn Paolo (Emmy-award winning costume designer) had been tweeting about designing costumes for a video game, but it was all shrouded in mystery until its release date. I reached out to her to interview her, and she was absolutely lovely and generous with her time and about her process.

That was my first inkling that this blog could be something bigger. It just kind of snowballed after that, with more and more designers being gracious and opening a window to their process for me to share with readers.



Kucharski costumes for *The Journey*.

I am really passionate about the big, wide world of costume design, so I've stayed purposefully broad with the site. That's why you'll find articles on the costume design for animated films like *Frozen* and *Big Hero 6* alongside articles on Gregg Barnes' beautiful Broadway costume creations for *Aladdin* and *Something Rotten!*, and the high-tech world of superhero design for *Man of Steel* and *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*

Last year I started a new job at Baylor University, and my responsibilities doubled while my free time went to almost nothing. Because of that, I am a bit more selective of what I cover on the blog. I publish fewer articles per month, but I'm always looking for qualified contributors if anyone is interested!

Even when I'm not publishing a new piece, I am always using Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook to share the latest in costume design, costume history, fashion, and clothing technology. As part of my own design work, I am constantly running across inspiring images or stories, and I enjoy sharing those with followers on social media.

While *TyrannyOfStyle.com* started as a side-project, it has opened an incredible number of doors. Because of the site, I have been invited to organize and

moderate panels at MAGIC fashion tradeshow in Las Vegas, Nevada, and Comic-Con International in San Diego, California, among others. It has sparked amazing friendships with industry leaders and allowed me to call on those experts to fly out to Baylor University to speak and network with students. It has truly blossomed in an exciting way that I never would have imagined.

How did you get involved in USITT and what drives your involvement?

I first started attending the Conferences back in grad school as a way of networking with other designers and joined for access to the job listings as I was preparing to graduate. Now that I work in higher education, USITT is an invaluable resource for connection with other educators, opportunities for students, and news on technology.

I serve as a way to help students and educators better understand the latest advancements in the field, and to stay connected to emerging patterns and techniques that will equip them to become better artists, innovators, and storytellers.

Tell us some of your favorite designers and costumes. What gets you excited about the future of costume design?

Some of my favorite designers? This is tricky, because unless I've got 12 pages, I'm going to have to leave someone out. But here goes, just a few of the highlights.

For film I cannot get enough of the smart, sleek, and graphic work that Michael Wilkinson and Michael Kaplan regularly churn out. There is a reason these talented gentlemen are currently at the helm of The Justice League and Star Wars franchises.

For television, I just love what Ann Foley is doing on *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* and Lyn Paolo is doing on *Scandal*. I'm also a huge fan of the subtlety of Jenny Gering on *The Americans*.

For theatre, there is just no one better than Gregg Barnes! I am regularly blown away by the brilliance of how he combines a dozen fabrics in a single garment.

And in the unsung world of theme park costume design, there is no one doing more exciting work than Mirena Rada. From 3D printing, to advanced lighting integration in costumes, Rada is one of the smartest and most creative designers in the business.

For me, my favorite costume I've designed tends to be the one I am working on right now. I have a really exciting project I am working on for a major theme park, but I've signed every non-disclosure statement, so just trust me that it's a blast! In general, I would say my work in themed entertainment costumes while at Disney and Custom Characters were probably my most fulfilling. The level of creativity allowed, coupled with the need for complex problem solving, is my favorite balance.



Kucharski costumes for *Arcadia*.

I love where we are with technology in costume design and only see that going further. Digital technology for fabric sublimation, dimensional fabric effects, and 3D printing are only going to get more sophisticated and accessible for costume designers at every level. It's an exciting time to be a costume designer.

Thank you! We'll see you In Salt Lake!

[◀ Front page](#)

[Next story ▶](#)

Volume LV, Number 11



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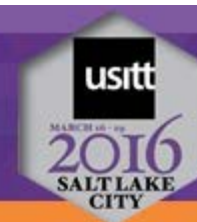


Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

November 2015

[Print this page ›](#)



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Next story ›](#)

News & Notices

Vote for 2016 Board Members

Jimmie Byrd *Secretary*

Once again, members are asked to provide direction for the Institute by voting for USITT Board of Directors candidates. Voting opens October 30 and closes at midnight December 10.



This year's election cycle involves six open Director positions. The Nominations Committee was asked to find two candidates for each open office and set a goal to embrace USITT's Diversity Initiative, reflected in the slate of nominees.

The candidates are:

- Paul Brunner
- Kate Ellis
- Jerry Gorrell
- Tom Hackman
- Carey Hansen
- Tony Hardin
- Jesse Portillo
- Patrick Rizzotti
- Kim Scott
- Tina Shackelford
- James Streeter
- David S. Stewart

All have made contributions that have strengthened the Institute. Look for an Oct. 30 email with instructions on how to vote online. Current members as of Oct. 26, 2015 will be eligible to vote. Paper ballots will be provided to those who request them. To request a paper ballot, email Shannan@usitt.org.

Nominations for board members to take office in 2017 are now open through March 10. Interested members are encouraged to become candidates for the Nominations Committee to consider. [Nominate here](#). More information can be found at usitt.org.

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

Search the Archives

GO

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

More information is available from USITT Secretary Jimmie Byrd at jimmiebyrd@gmail.com.

[« Previous story](#)

[Next story »](#)

Volume LV, Number 11



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Next story ›](#)

News & Notices

Salt Lake's Myhre to Receive 2016 DeGaetani Award

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*

Keven Myhre, a Salt Lake City, Utah, theatrical designer and director, will receive USITT's 2016 Thomas DeGaetani Award at USITT 2016 March.



The Institute annually honors a key contributor to the performing arts in the region of its Annual Conference & Stage Expo with the **Thomas DeGaetani Award**.

Myhre has spent over 30 years in Salt Lake theatre, most of the past 20 with the Salt Lake Acting Company, the city's regional theatre company. He has been producer, director, actor, set designer, costume designer, lighting designer, and sound designer. He is currently Production Manager at Kingsbury Hall at the University of Utah.

He received the Mayor's Artists Award in the Performing Arts in 2009. In 2008 he was awarded the City Weekly Award for directing *The Clean House* and *Moonlight and Magnolias* at SLAC. His more recent directing credits include *Bloody*, *Bloody Andrew Jackson* and *Red*.

Myhre designed all of SLAC's sets and many of its costumes over the last 18 years. He has also designed 16 sets for Salt Lake City's Grand Theatre and sets for *According to Coyote*, *West Side Story*, *Crow and Weasel*, and *South Pacific* at Sundance Theatre. His designs have been seen at Pioneer Memorial Theatre, Utah Musical Theatre, Utah Arts Festival, Egyptian Theatre, Kingsbury Hall, and the Babcock Theatre.

He earned his BFA from the University of Utah and his MFA in theatre from the University of Michigan.

Named for USITT's first president, the Thomas DeGaetani Award recognizes an outstanding lifetime contribution to the performing arts by an individual or organization. Past recipients include Cleveland's *Playhouse Square* (2015), Fort Worth Opera General Director Darren K. Woods, and the Children's Theatre of Charlotte.

Here is a brief interview with Myhre:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

Search the Archives

GO

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

USITT: What is your reaction to being chosen for this award?

Keven: I am very amazed and honored to receive USITT's Thomas DeGaetani Award! Time whizzes by. For over 30 years, I have been thankful to have a career in the theatre. The people I have had the good fortune to work with have enriched my life greatly. I am looking forward to the conference in Salt Lake City because the last one I attended was in Milwaukee back in 1990!

You have played roles in Salt Lake City theatre over the years. What was your favorite?

Over the years, I have been employed in just about every aspect of theatre from executive producer to janitor. Whatever the job, my focus was always integrating with the team to get the show up and ready for the audience. I've thoroughly enjoyed my varied work experiences and career in the theatre. However, the experiences I most appreciate came during the 12 years I spent helping Washington Elementary, a Title 1 School. I provided teachers technical and design support for their annual Shakespeare production, acted by sixth graders. This was simply a wonderful time promoting arts awareness for the next generation of theatre artists/goers. It was sad when the school had to cut the program due to funding. I'd love nothing more than to see programs like this resurrected, so underprivileged students have a chance to act in and experience the magic of live theatre.

How did you get involved in theatre?

My love for theatre started in nursery school. My family was living in England at the time, and I got to go to a production of *Cinderella*. I remember sitting in the balcony completely mesmerized by the pumpkin transforming into Cinderella's carriage. That was it. I was hooked. After reading Nathan West's *Day of the Locust*, a story about a set designer going to decadent Hollywood in 1930s, I enrolled in the high school tech class. I ran follow spot, did some set construction, and stage managed; but it was the class project of designing and building a model for The Miracle Worker that really interested me. I started my college career at the University of Utah with a major of "undeclared." For extra credit in my Liberal Education Theatre class, I went to a guest lecture by New York opera designer Robert O. Hearn. His word inspired me to choose set design as my major. The rest, as they say, is history.

How did you get such diverse experience in so many disciplines of theatre?

It may be cliché, but I've heard it said that the only reward for a job well done is simply more work. Some may view this as burdensome. Not me. I was happy to keep saying, "Yes!" to the next new experience. Fast-forward a couple of decades, and the memories, experiences, and adventures really start to accumulate.

Being from Salt Lake, can you tell us anything to get us psyched for our 2016 destination?

Downtown Salt Lake City is an ideal destination for a conference! Whatever your interests, you're sure to find something to your liking. The downtown area is full of world class shopping and fine dining. We even have wine bars, microbreweries, and The Tavernacle (a unique karaoke bar with a dueling piano act). The downtown area is very walkable, but if you prefer, there are bicycles for rent and the light rail system we call Trax. For the more adventurous, grab your

friends and take a quick city tour on a family fun bike.

The theatre scene offers large Broadway-style touring productions to comedy clubs. We also have a ballet and symphony along with several small professional theatre companies that promote local playwrights and new works. The Utah Museum of Contemporary Art is near the convention center hosting USITT 2016. Next door to the convention center, at Abravanel Hall, you can appreciate a 30-foot tall glass sculpture by Dale Chihuly. If you like architecture, check out the Exchange Place Historic District or O.C. Tanner Building, formerly the Hansen Planetarium. The spa services at the Grand America Hotel are unparalleled. And, of course, no description of downtown Salt Lake would be complete without mention of the historic and world-famous Temple Square.

[Previous story](#)

[Next story](#)

Volume LV, Number 11



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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

November 2015

[Print this page ›](#)



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

[Next story ›](#)

News & Notices

Dec. 1 Is #GivingTuesday, Give to USITT!

Janet Gramza *Communications Associate*



GivingTuesday – the Tuesday after Black Friday and Cyber Monday – is a day to give back. And #GivingTuesday -- the December 1 social media campaign -- is a way to give back to a favorite non-profit organization. Why not make it USITT?

USITT is launching its first #GivingTuesday this year by asking the backstage community to Tweet, post, and give to support its efforts on their behalf.

[Make a gift to USITT here.](#)

#GivingTuesday was created four years ago by 92nd Street Y, a New York City cultural center that brings people together to serve their communities. The day has grown into a movement that “harnesses the potential of social media and the generosity of people around the world to bring about real change,” according to #GivingTuesday.

Make a difference with a gift to a USITT program on #GivingTuesday. Every gift matters. The Institute has many causes that benefit members:

Rigging Safety -- USITT offers free rigging inspections for high school stages and safety training for staff and students on their school's rigging system. No other organization provides this service.

Diversity -- USITT provides educational opportunities and mentoring for students from under-represented populations through its Gateway Program, and works to increase equity and inclusion in theatre technology.

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

Search the Archives

GO

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

Grants & Fellowships -- USITT offers grants and fellowships to support advanced study and research for problem-solving and innovation in performing arts and live entertainment technology. These are funded by the [Edward F. Kook Fund](#).

General Operations -- USITT's General Operations Fund is unrestricted giving and may be used for any and all projects and activities. Gift allow the Institute to continue to grow as a year-round educational resource, an active network of people who support each other's careers, and a repository of the knowledge and artistry of those who have gone before us.

A gift to USITT is 100 percent tax deductible and, if made by December 31, counts as a deduction for the 2015 tax year.

USITT is top-rated by [#GreatNonprofits](#) and has a [#GuideStarGold](#) rating for financial transparency. Any gift, no matter how small, helps USITT grow programs that improve the theatre technology field.

Please donate at www.usitt.org/giving

For more info on #GivingTuesday, visit www.givingtuesday.org.

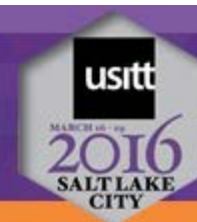
[« Previous story](#)

[Next story »](#)

Volume LV, Number 11



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

[Next story ›](#)

News & Notices

2016 Special Citation: David Rodger & Deborah Hazlett



Deborah Hazlett & David Rodger at USITT 2014 in Fort Worth.

Photo/Richard Finkelstein

Composer Stephen Schwartz wrote a remarkable song located in the middle of his Broadway classic *Wicked*, entitled "For Good." There is a central theme throughout the number that is captured in this phase: *Who can say if I've been changed for the better? But because I knew you, I have been changed for good.* Because the Institute has been "changed for the good" by our relationship with two very special individuals, the Board of Directors of the Institute will issue the following Special Citation at USITT 2016 in Salt Lake City.

To **David Rodger** and **Deborah Hazlett** of Broadway Press, in recognition of twenty years of outstanding editorial and artistic direction of the Institute's journal, *Theatre Design and Technology* magazine, and for meritorious leadership of the *"Designs of"* book series.

As was previously announced with this past spring issue of TD&T, David relinquished his role as editor and Deborah her role as art director, but this remarkable team's impact on the Institute will be felt for years to come.

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

Search the Archives

[GO](#)

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

In 1995, they were chosen by USITT to take over the helm of TD&T. In addition to twenty-years of producing the journal, this association has led to several book projects, including the Tech Expo catalogs from 1997 through 2011, the catalog for the 2007 USITT exhibit to the Prague Quadrennial, edited by Bobbi Owen, *Inspired Teaching* by Erik Viker, *Late & Great: American Designers 1960 – 2010*, edited by Bobbi Owen, and nine editions of the *Designs of* series, featuring *Willa Kim* (by Bobbi Owen), *Ming Cho Lee* (by Delbert Unruh), *Tharon Musser* (by Delbert Unruh), *Abe Jacob* (by Richard Thomas), *Jules Fisher* (by Delbert Unruh), *Carrie Robbins* (by Annie O. Cleveland and M. Barrett Cleveland), *Tony Walton* (by Delbert Unruh), *Ann Roth* (by Holly Poe Durbin and Bonnie Kruger), and *Douglas W. Schmidt* (by Annie O. Cleveland and M. Barrett Cleveland).

Fortunately for all of us, David and Deborah will remain members of the Institute and plan to continue to provide editorial support for the *Designs of* series and other future special projects. All of us can shout a resounding “Yes!” to the question of who can say whether we have been changed for the better. Because we knew you, we all have indeed been changed for good. Thank you, David and Deborah!

[Previous story](#)

[Next story](#)

Volume LV, Number 11



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

November 2015

Print this page ›



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Next story ›](#)

News & Notices

Announcements

- [Member Authors Sought for USITT 2016](#)
- [ETC's Fred Foster Receives Lifetime Recognition at PLASA London](#)
- [TCG: Expands Program for Military Families, Announces New Board Members](#)
- [ETCP SMEs Receive Volunteers of the Year Award](#)
- [Gateway, Poster Sessions, Mentor Award Nominations Deadlines Near](#)
- [It's Not Too Late for LiNK, Nov. 13-15 in Atlanta](#)

Member Authors Sought for USITT 2016

USITT members who have recently published a book on theatrical design or technology can be part of the Member Author Book-Signing event at USITT 2016 in Salt Lake City!

Member author books also will be sold at the USITT bookstore at the Salt Palace Convention Center during the 2016 Conference & Stage Expo March 16-19.

Any USITT member who has had new work published in the past year is invited to be part of this special program. Authors will come together for a single book-signing reception – a great opportunity to promote a book and help USITT share and celebrate members' work.

The deadline to be added to the book-signing event is Dec. 15, and books must be printed and available for sale by Dec. 31. Anyone interested should contact Carol Carrigan, carol@usitt.org, or 800-938-7488, ext. 106.



ETC's Fred Foster Receives Lifetime Recognition at PLASA London

Fred Foster, CEO of Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

[Search the Archives](#)

[GO](#)

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

(ETC) received the UK's Knight of Illumination Lifetime Recognition Award at PLASA London on Oct. 5.



"The committee was unanimous in our decision to present this year's Lifetime Recognition Award to Fred Foster for his astounding influence on performance lighting technology and to celebrate the innovations achieved with his colleagues at ETC," said Durham Marengi, who introduced the award. "We also wanted to recognize Fred's support of theatre across the board from training and all the way through to manufacturing".

Fred commented: "It's a great honor to receive this award. I've always been proud to work with ETC and within this great industry. The most important people, however, are you, the lighting designers, who make the industry so good. Thank you to you all, and to the KOI Awards."

Previous winners of this award include lighting designer Richard Pilbrow in 2011, Bryan Leitch in 2012, Ian Dow in 2013 and Brian Croft in 2014. The category is named in recognition of former Clay Paky commercial director Enrico Caironi (1947 - 2011), whose inspiration and enthusiasm created and subsequently shaped the Knight Of Illumination Awards.

ETC is a longtime Contributing Member of USITT and Fred Foster has been a presenter and a fixture at USITT's Annual Conference & Stage Expo. USITT congratulates Fred on this well-deserved award.

TCG: Expands Program for Military Families, Announces New Board Members

Theatre Communications Group (TCG) recently announced the expansion of the **Blue Star Theatres** program and new appointments to TCG's Board of directors.

There are now 136 theatres in 35 states that are now part of the Blue Star Theatres program, a partnership of TCG and Blue Star Families, the largest chapter-based non-profit organization serving military families. To recognize the contributions of military personnel and their families, the program supports a variety of theatre offerings such as unique programming and special discounts.

ETC welcomed five new members to its board of directors: Adrian Budhu, managing director, The Theater Offensive, Boston, Massachusetts; Christopher Acebo, associate artistic director, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, Oregon; Meghan Pressman, managing director, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Washington, D.C.; Nikkole Salter, actress, playwright, educator, and arts advocate, Bloomfield, New Jersey; Harold Wolpert, managing director, Roundabout Theatre Company, New York City.

Board officers remain who remain include Diane Rodriguez, president; Sarah Bellamy, vice president; Kevin Moriarty, vice president; Tim Jennings, treasurer;

and Jonathan Moscone, secretary.

For more on TCG, visit www.tcg.org/index.cfm.

ETCP SMEs Receive Volunteers of the Year Award

PLASA will present the 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award to the ETCP Entertainment Electrician Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for their work with the ETCP Program. The award will be presented at the PLASA AGM at LDI 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. October 22 at the Las Vegas Westgate Casino and Resort.

The recipients will be as follows: **Rick Baxter, Eric Bouchard, Don Earl, Jeanette Farmer, Ian Foulds, Tony Giovannetti, David Hatch, Mitch Hefter, John Huntington, Dave Loftin, Jim Maloney, Mark O'Brien, Martin Eric Rimes, Alan Rowe** (co-chair), **Steve Terry, Abby Tutorow, Steve Vanciel, Ken Vannice**, (co-chair), and **Keith Woods**.

It is vital that ETCP's development process and the examinations themselves are professionally sound and legally defensible. The volunteer SMEs defined the necessary content areas on the exams and wrote the exam questions. They began work in 2005 for the first round of Entertainment Electrician testing at LDI in 2006, and the first practice exams were created in 2009. To keep the electrical exam fresh and current, in 2014 they created a completely new bank of questions to add to the pool. This summer, they laid the groundwork for a set of practice exams that will launch this fall.

The Volunteer of the Year award was created to honor Frank Stewart's unrivalled service to ESTA/PLASA during the 18 years that he served as its treasurer. This award recognizes extraordinary effort by a volunteer or group of volunteers during the previous year.

Gateway, Poster Sessions, Mentor Award Nominations Deadlines Near

Three deadlines for USITT programs are set in November.

Gateway – The deadline is November 15 to nominate a student for the Gateway mentorship program. It will match 12 students from under-represented groups in theatre technology with professional mentors from a similar background and field to participate at USITT 2016. Visit www.usitt.org/gateway to nominate a student.

Poster Sessions – Abstracts for Poster Sessions are due by November 15. The sessions offer a chance to share work in Costume Design & Technology, Education, Lighting Design & Technology, or Scene Design & Technology at USITT 2016. Guidelines and applications are available at www.usitt.org/poster.

Wally Russell Mentor Award – Nominations for the second Wally Russell Mentor Award close on November 30. Nominate a technical theatre professional who served as a mentor and helped others succeed at www.usitt.org/wally. The award will be presented at USITT 2016 Conference & Stage Expo.

It's Not Too Late for LiNK, Nov. 13-15 in Atlanta

The LiNK theatre grad school recruiting weekend presented by USITT and SETC is a unique opportunity for aspiring students and colleges offering advanced degree programs to connect. It's affordable, conveniently located at the Atlanta Airport Hilton, and has a small-group format that practically guarantees that the right students and schools will find each other.

Grad school candidates in all theatre disciplines can still register for \$60 for the weekend, including the Friday night LiNK Soiree, right up to the event and on-site. For more info, visit www.usitt.org/link or contact Christine Troscher, Christine@usitt.org.

[Previous story](#)

[Next story](#)

Volume LV, Number 11



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FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Front page ›](#)

The Last Word:

Exploring Wigs to Digital Design in the Midwest

Steve Jacobs *Midwest Regional Section VC-Programming*

The Midwest Regional Section kicked off its fall events with several diverse offerings for its members.

Valparaiso University

The university welcomed the Section for two all-day events on August 29. In the morning session, theatre professor Ann Kessler taught participants how to work with inexpensive synthetic wigs, hairpieces, and extensions to learn about sizing wigs, using wig caps, creating pin curls, setting and steaming curls, and proper care and storage. In the afternoon, participants worked on make-up techniques and methods of the late 17th century which included personalized make-up worksheets, blocking out eyebrows, and proper make-up care and storage.

Simultaneously, Alan Ernstein, assistant professor of design/technical theatre, taught the basics of scene painting including the different types of paints, techniques, and color theory.



Students practice on wigs.



Presenter Ann Kessler, right, demonstrates wig work.

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

[Search the Archives](#)

[GO](#)

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)



University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

The university hosted the Section on September 25 and 26 for four sessions. On Friday, participants were led through the steps involved in silk resist dyeing techniques by costume designer Amanda Profasier.

"Amanda was a wonderful instructor who guided us through the process of painting silk scarves using Gutta Resist," Kathleen Donnelly, a participant, said. "Once the scarves were painted, she showed us how to set our scarves with a canning pot and an aluminum conduit and cap, all from the local hardware store. She showed us many of the garments, including kimonos, that she had created for a variety of productions using this silk painting technique."



Participants in the Digital Design session.

For those interested in lighting, ETC Training Specialist Ellen White taught programming on the ETC Gio console on Friday followed by the ETC Ion console on Saturday.

Participant Tom Nizinski said the very long drive from Chicago to Eau Claire was "well worth it to get my hands on the Gio and Ion consoles and learn some new tricks at an incredibly low price."

The fourth session was with Costume Designer Annie O. Cleveland, author of *Digital Costume Design and Rendering*, who taught a digital design workshop.

"Students were great, and I did a follow-up with one of them to give her some contacts in the world of puppetry," Cleveland said. "Anytime I can help a student, I feel like my time has been well spent."

Section leadership thanked all the presenters and everyone who set up the spaces for these sessions, especially James Zwicky, assistant professor and technical director at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.



Presenter Amanda Profasier holds up a kimono demonstrating the technique of silk painting.



Participants Jennifer and Michael work on painting silk scarves.



Participants in the silk painting workshop.

[Previous story](#)

[Front page](#)





Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

November 2015

[Print this page ›](#)



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Next story ›](#)

News From Around the Institute

- [USITT Names in the News...](#)
- [Stage Managers Day 2015](#)
- [USITT Goes to London](#)

USITT Names in the News...

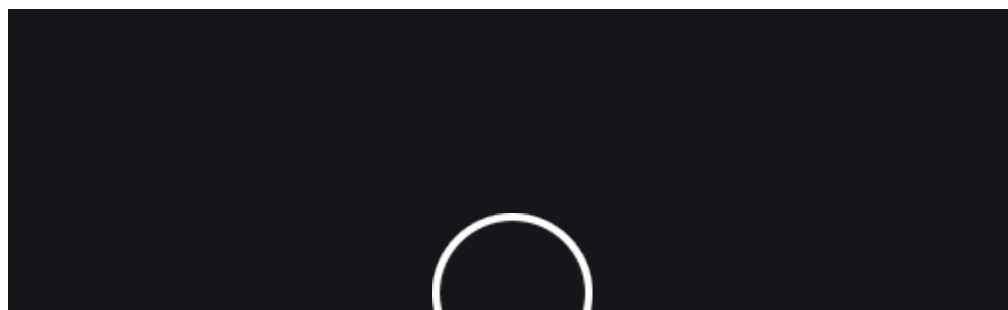
President Mark Shanda took office this summer and was interviewed in *Live Design Online* magazine in September. Shanda talked about his involvement in USITT and offered some great advice for young people seeking careers in the performing arts and in live entertainment design and technology. [See the interview here.](#)



Management Commissioner David S. Stewart wrote an article on USITT's diversity efforts, "The Keys Are in the Room," published in *Stage Directions* magazine in September. He chronicles his and USITT's involvement in an issue that has become a mission for Stewart and the Institute. [Read the story here.](#)

Two past Young Designers & Technicians Award winners, **Janie Bullard** and **Patrick Rizzotti**, were praised in a *New York Times* review of the world premiere of *The People Before the Park* at Kean University. Sound designer Bullard was the 2015 Rising Star; scenic designer Rizzotti won the 2014 USITT Scene Design Award sponsored by Rose Brand. [See the review here.](#)

Eric Rouse, VP Special Operations stars in a backstage rigging tour of *Lookingglass Alice* for the first installment of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts' "No Small Parts" video series.



- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

[Search the Archives](#)

[GO](#)

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)



No Small Parts: "Lookingglass Al ...

Posted by **Denver Center for the P...**
7,010 Views



Lighting designer Ken Billington, who won the first Wally Russell Mentor Award at USITT 2015, was inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame, located in the lobby of Broadway's Gershwin Theatre. Congratulations, Ken! [Read more about him here.](#)



USITT 2015 Rising Star Winner

Chris Wood got "the last word" in an *Opera News* review of this summer's Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre's production of *Le Bohème*. A lighting and sound designer, Wood also teaches at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. [See the review here.](#)

Stage Managers Day 2015

On Oct. 10, USITT participated in celebrating the third annual International Stage Manager's Day – or, as it's called in the UK, Stage Management Day.

Led by the Stage Managers Association -- chaired by USITT Fellow Elynmarie Kazle – and Britain's Stage Management Association, the day honored SMs everywhere by posting and sharing messages, memes, photos, and thank-yous with the hashtag #StageMgrs15.

The hashtag was trending on Twitter for several hours on Oct. 10, and USITT contributed posts about our [Stage Management Mentor Project](#), what some of our past [USITT/Clear-Com Stage Management Award](#) winners are doing now, and the [Management Sessions](#) being offered at USITT 2016. We also shared some of our fave SM memes and cartoons, including Q2Q Comics' famous Anatomy of a Stage Manager.



Thanks to everyone who followed USITT on Stage Manager's Day and helped make Oct. 10 a great day to be a stage manager!



USITT Goes to London

USITT and Britain's Technical Theatre Awards shared Stand D70/D71 at PLASA London October 4-6. The booth was built with ModTruss, an award-winning green building system, by Britain's Triple E Ltd. USITT President Mark Shanda, Executive Director David Grindle, and USITT 2015 KM Fabrics Technical Production Award winner John Van Arsdale traveled to London for the show. The stand got lots of traffic and looked great. Visit ModTruss at USITT 2016 in Salt Lake City, Booths 1138/38!



Members: Have news to share?

Articles, videos, blog posts or speaking events to announce?
Tell us at janet@usitt.org.

[« Previous story](#)

[Next story »](#)

Volume LV, Number 11



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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

November 2015

[Print this page ›](#)



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Next story ›](#)

News Releases from

Our Industry Members

Meyer Sound: Vincent, Huson, Eagleson Join Company; Archibald Expands Role

Contributing Member **Meyer Sound** recently announced three additions to its technical, marketing, and public relations departments. [Read More »](#)

CHAUVET Professional: Basement Lightshow Goes 'Rogue'

When Basement, the melodic rock/emo band from Ipswich, Suffolk, United Kingdom, added a 21-date United States leg to its tour... [Read More »](#)

Wenger Corporation: Realignment Spotlights Performing Arts Market

Contributing Member **Wenger Corporation** recently announced organizational changes to support its growth strategy... [Read More »](#)

GLP: Opens Nordic Office Based in Sweden

GLP, a Sustaining Member, has established a new office to serve the Nordic countries. Headed by Daniel Rüdén... [Read More »](#)

Vectorworks, Inc.: Opens Atlanta Office

To reach emerging software engineers and a thriving metro population of over 5.5 million people, global design software developer... [Read More »](#)

Columbus McKinnon : Tweets on Safety

Sustaining Member **Columbus McKinnon Entertainment** held a Twitter chat on safety at #RigSafe on October 9 after its Safety Webinar. CM published results of the chat on its blog, at blog.cmworks.com.

Rose Brand, Inc.: Brooklyn High School Wins Free

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

Search the Archives

GO

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

Stage Curtain.

Brooklyn Theatre Arts High School students and staff were overjoyed to in Contributing Member **Rose Brand's** "Rags to Riches" contest. [Read More »](#)

Lex Products: CineBox Sales to Benefit Behind the Scenes

Lex Products, a Sustaining Member specializing in portable power systems including distribution boxes, cable assemblies, and connectors... [Read More »](#)

Meyer Sound: Equipment Dazzles Primus, Shania Twain Fans

The San Fransico Bay Area-based band, Primus, recently toured North America with Contributing Member **Meyer Sound's** LYON linear sound... [Read More »](#)

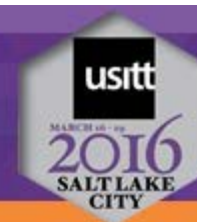
[« Previous story](#)

[Next story »](#)

Volume LV, Number 11



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

[Next story ›](#)

News From **Mark Shanda**, *USITT President*

How to? Just Do!

Mark Shanda *USITT President*

With the power of the Internet, anyone can find a “How-to...” video providing instruction on ways to do almost anything. Whether it's rewiring a household lamp or getting rid of woodchucks, answers can be found.

The same can be said for those seeking career advice. Thousands of websites offer critical information about how to succeed in an interview, how to write the perfect cover letter, and even how to negotiate the very best salary.

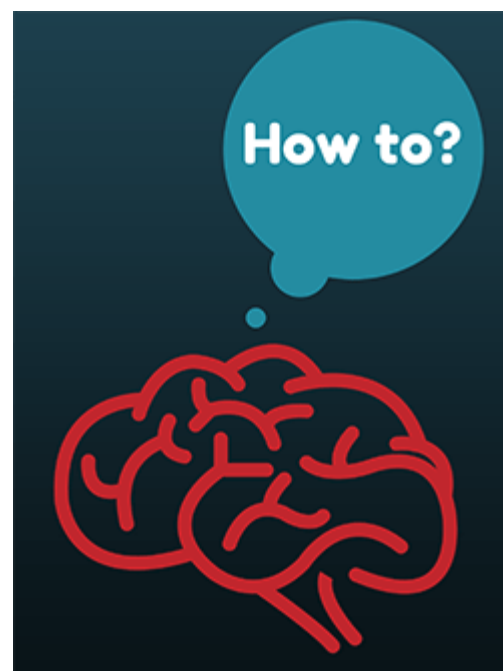
In my years of working with students, I have been known to default to the wisdom of others when asked two common “how to” questions about careers. My replies come from two great but very different men, the Pulitzer Prize winning author Truman Capote, and the remarkable Steve Martin.

The story goes that a student journalist was given the chance to meet with Capote while Capote was attending a campus writing conference. The student, having volunteered to assist with conference logistics, had been invited over to the president's house as a thank you following Capote's keynote address. As the crowd was gathering in the living room of the home, the student spotted the acclaimed author standing alone in the den.

Seizing this unusual moment of private time, she cornered Capote with a question: “Mr. Capote, how do you become a writer?”

Without missing a beat or uttering a wasted word, Capote simply responded, “You write.”

Many a student who has come by my office asking how to become an actor, stage manager, technical director, or designer has been given an answer inspired by this exchange with the great author. That is, “You act, or you stage



- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

Search the Archives

[GO](#)

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

manage, or you TD, or you design.”

Early in a career, seek every opportunity to explore the work involved with the role. In fact, I believe the only way anyone can become good at any of these tasks is to do the work, make mistakes, and learn along the way.

I do encourage students to learn something about their chosen field by research and reading, but for all practical purposes, learning by doing is an outstanding educational method used extensively in teaching theatre design and technology.

Often, after a few years of experience -- including more than a handful of failures -- students will return to my office and ask, “How can I be successful in the industry?” At this point I immediately refer the student to Steve Martin’s answer to this question: “Be so good they can’t ignore you.”

When we reflect back on that handful of designers and technicians we would intentionally choose to work with given the chance, we would no doubt select only those we know are good at what they do.

So I challenge every member of USITT to “Keep doing your job and be so good you can’t be ignored.” With the help of the Institute and our shared resources, I know that everyone is up to the challenge.

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

Please e-mail Mark at Shanda.1@osu.edu.



[« Previous story](#)

[Next story »](#)

Volume LV, Number 11



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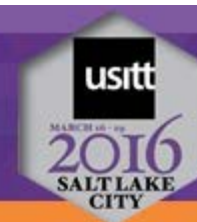


Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

November 2015

[Print this page ›](#)



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Next story ›](#)

Spotlight on Giving I Believe in USITT Tammy Honesty

Through my work on the Conference Committee and now on the Board, I have discovered what an amazing organization USITT is. It is forward-thinking and leading the industry in safety, rigging, innovation, training, and diversity. I believe in USITT. I believe in the mission. I believe in the quality of programming and training opportunities. I believe in the positive effect it has had in my students' lives and careers.



I am proud to support an organization that promotes a lifetime of learning at all levels whether it be the New Century Fund or Diversity Initiative that invest in the future professionals of the industry or the Edward F. Kook Fund that invests in research, or the Rigging Safety Initiative that provides training and inspections in schools across the country.

Tammy Honesty, scene designer and assistant professor at Western Illinois University Theatre and Dance.

Donors from August 15 to September 14, 2015:

Kook Fund

- Alexandra Bonds
- Paul Brunner
- Dennis Dorn
- Randy Earle
- Sylvia Pannell
- Loren Schreiber

New Century Fund

- June Gaeke
- Jennifer Kenyon *In Memory of Bill Kenyon & Fred Raker*
- Ira Lichtman

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

Search the Archives

[GO](#)

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

New Century Fund - Diversity

- Kasey Allee-Foreman
- Rafael Jaen
- Shane Kelly *In Memory of Tayneshia Jefferson*
- Michael Mehler
- Jesse Portillo

New Century Fund - Rigging Safety

- Lori Furcinito
- Caitlin Hurban

Samuel H. Scripps International Fund

- Alexandra Bonds
- Loren Schreiber

USITT Fund

- Jean Montgomery
- Mark Shanda
- Tymberley Whitesel

General Operations

- Carolyn Satter
- Sherry Wagner-Henry
- Emily Gill
- Debra Sherrer
- Mickey Henry
- Bill Browning
- Sylvia Pannell
- MJ Sedlock
- Steven Machlin
- Dennis Dorn
- Loren Schreiber
- Jean Montgomery
- Dan Culhane
- Carl Lefko

Fellows Fund

- Alexandra Bonds
- James Moody
- Randy Earle
- Patricia MacKay



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

November 2015

[Print this page ›](#)



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Next story ›](#)

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

Here's to Us, Partner!

David Grindle *Executive Director*

Partnering with other organizations is key to USITT's success. One event this month wouldn't exist without an effective partnership between organizations.



LiNK, the college interview and audition weekend November 13 to 15 in Atlanta, Georgia, came about because members asked for that type of event. Our smaller academic institutions would not have been able to afford the high participation costs driven by paying for interview space, marketing, and managing such an event. Since those schools in particular were the ones asking, we needed to find a solution.

The Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) was interested in a similar event. SETC includes not only design and technology programs but acting and directing. With our complementary membership bases and complementary missions, SETC was the perfect organization with which to develop LiNK. USITT and SETC share the expenses of the event and any funds left over. This allows us to offer a significant event at a reasonable cost to participants.

By partnering with other associations, USITT can pool resources and be more effective. Partnerships allow us to share information with members that may be of benefit to each of our constituencies. Members need to know that their associations are seeking to provide the best services at an affordable price. At the same time, we should not create redundant resources or events when we serve many of the same people.

USITT has developed partnerships with organizations in the United States and abroad. We are able to promote the work of USITT and its membership through these partnerships and bring more information to our members as well. Theatre design and technology is part of so many areas and venues that USITT has many opportunities to partner.

Members interested in historic theatres can connect, through their USITT membership, with the League of Historic American Theatres. Anyone traveling abroad and who wants to connect with people in the industry can contact USITT for connections with partner associations around the world. Looking for information on arenas or performing arts centers? Let us connect you with the

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

Search the Archives

GO

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

International Association of Venue Managers. These are but a few of partnerships that help USITT help its members.

Thank you for being part of USITT. Our diverse membership of designers, technicians, managers, architects, engineers, and more are connecting and connected through the Institute and its many partnerships.

[« Previous story](#)

[Next story »](#)

Volume LV, Number 11



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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

November 2015

[Print this page ›](#)



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Next story ›](#)

News From Regional Sections

- **Desert State Section: Student Awards Opportunity, Nov. workshops**

Desert State Section: Student Awards Opportunity, Nov. workshops

Meanwhile Desert State is launching an awards program for students in design, technical production, and stage management, with the winners receiving a full Conference pass to USITT 2016 in Salt Lake City March 16-19, and a one-year student membership in USITT.

Interested students should submit materials including a professional resume, two letters of recommendation, portfolio or, for SMs, production materials, and a letter stating the applicants professional goals and how the award would further their career goals. See details at www.desertstate.usitt.org. Submissions are to be sent to ben.alexander@nau.edu.

Those who enter should be prepared to pay for their own transportation to and housing at the Conference, although Desert State will attempt to raise funds to defray these costs. The awards are open to Desert State Section members in good standing.

USITT's Desert State Regional Section also is holding two workshops, Welding Basics and Scenic Painting, on Sat., Nov. 14 at Arizona State University. Info will be posted soon on the [Desert State website](#).

[‹ Previous story](#)

[Next story ›](#)

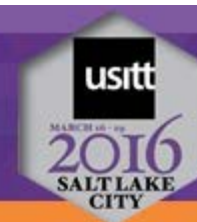


Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

November 2015

[Print this page ›](#)



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Next story ›](#)

News From OISTAT

Events Around the World Open to USITT Members

Michael Ramsaur *USITT OISTAT Center*

Novi Sad, Serbia, was the setting for the September OISTAT Executive Committee and Governing Board meeting hosted by SCEN the Serbian OISTAT Center and the University of Novi Sad. The meeting was held in conjunction with the international conference Radical Space in Between Disciplines.



Among the activities the group discussed was a Lighting Forum and Master Workshop held in Taipei, Taiwan, in early October with Dutch lighting designer Henk van der Geest and Taiwanese lighting designers Da- Wei- Lim and Chi-Yang. The workshop immediately followed the International Lighting Symposium in Hong Kong, China, with keynote speeches from Jennifer Tipton, Beijing Olympic lighting designer Xiaolan Sha, and Taiwanese lighting designer Lee Zee Chien.

Taiwan also recently hosted two symposia: an International Cultural Landmark & Its Communities Symposium at the Wei-We-Ying Center of the Arts in Kaohsiung and a Train the Trainers program dealing with performing arts management hosted by OISTAT in cooperation with TPAC Taiwan Performing Arts Connection sponsored by Taiwan National Culture and Arts Foundation.

Costume at the Turn of the Century, 1990-2015 and a meeting of the OISTAT Costume Working Group was held at the Bakhrushin Museum in Moscow, Russia..

These events are a few of the international activities organized by OISTAT available to USITT members. Members of the Institute can find other events posted on the OISTAT Web Site www.oistat.org

OISTAT has several meetings and activities coming up:

- The Beijing International Biannual, ISDSWE International students of Design Works Exchange, an exhibit of student design work from around the world, and a student "design as performance" workshop will take place in the fall of 2016.
- The OISTAT Architecture Commission will meet in Seville Spain in the fall of

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

Search the Archives

GO

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

2016.

- The Performance Design Commission will meet as part of USITT 2016 in Salt Lake City, Utah, March 16 to 19.
- The Costume Design Working Group will meet in November during the World Costume Festival in the Philippines.
- The Technology Commission is planning a meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia, in May.

Much effort is going into organizing World Stage Design (WSD 2017) Exhibit and Scenofest in Taipei, Taiwan, July 1 to 9, 2017. The deadline to submit designs will be December of 2016. OISTAT will again organize a Theatre Architecture Competition 2017. The results will be exhibited at WSD 2017. Information will be available www.wsd2017.com.

Any USITT member interested in more information about any of these activities may contact Michael Ramsaur, head of the USITT OISTAT Center, at mram@stanford.edu.

OISTAT continues to develop its Core Strategy Project and seeks students from USITT to participate. The project is an international student collaboration to evaluate the management, branding, marketing, and development of OISTAT to improve its understanding worldwide. Anyone interested should contact Carl Walling, chair of a working group to combine Taiwanese, Serbian, and American students, at carl.h.walling@gmail.com. OISTAT looks to USITT to suggest students to provide direction and specific activities to improve OISTAT's profile and position within theatre.

All USITT members are part of OISTAT and can participate in its many international activities created and organized for the general benefit of the theatrical discipline worldwide.

These activities include the International Theater Architectural Competition; the quadrennial World Stage Design Exhibit; the Technical Invocation Prize; the Beijing International Biennale; International Stage Design Students Works Exchange; the USITT International Workshop Tour; Theater Words, Digital Theater Words online, and the DTW App of translations and multilingual lexicons; the *World Scenography* volumes documenting design from around the world; and Scenofest at PQ and at WSD.

[« Previous story](#)

[Next story »](#)

Volume LV, Number 11



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Next story ›](#)

News From USITT Fellows

Apply for 2016 USITT Early Career Mentoring

Tim Kelly *USITT Fellow*

USITT's Fellows are continuing a program of career mentoring designed to target Early Career Members who plan to attend the USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Salt Lake City in March 2016. An application process has been established to identify and select two ECMs to participate in this program.

Two mentees will be chosen based on their background, work history, demonstrated competence in their field of interest and ability to articulate their future goals. Successful candidates will be provided with Full Conference Registration and \$1,000 to assist offsetting their conference expenses.



The Mentor and the ECM Mentee will have an initial one hour "get acquainted" meeting at the start of the conference. From that point they would mutually agree upon how often, and when, they will meet during the Conference and what their objectives will be. Together they may wish to attend specific sessions, tour the Expo Floor, meet some of the Mentor's colleagues and frequently consult on areas of special interest. It would be the ultimate goal of the program to establish a long-term relationship between the Mentor and Early Career Member.

A panel will be appointed by the Chair of the Fellows to receive applications and select two Early Career Member applicants for the 2016 program.

The deadline for applications is December 15, 2015. Applications received after that will not be considered.

Eligibility:

- Must be a USITT Early Career Member
- Must have been a Member of USITT (any category) for a minimum of two years
- Must agree to attend the Salt Lake City Conference for the full conference period

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

Search the Archives

GO

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

- Must agree to provide a written report of their Mentoring experience by May 30, 2016

Application Materials to be submitted electronically must include:

- Application Cover Page
- Outline of short and long-term goals, including areas of interest and type of entertainment career applicant wishes to pursue (*no more than one page*)
- Résumé (*no more than a one page*)
- Supporting documents (*no more than six images*)
- Written narrative explaining what establishing a Mentee / Mentor relationship will mean to applicant's career (*no more than one page*)
- Letters of support (*no more than two*)
- Submitted via email to Richard Devin devinr@colorado.edu

[Previous story](#)

[Next story](#)

Volume LV, Number 11



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Next story ›](#)

Commissions

Lighting Studio: Salt Lake 2016

Todd Proffitt *Lighting Design & Technology*



The Lighting Design & Technology Commission presents an exciting new venture for USITT 2016 in Salt Lake.

The Lighting Studio will bring together professionals from the working industry as well as faculty and students from across the country to... learn, play, demonstrate, challenge, engage, and compete.

The Studio will be all about individual time to handle the gear, learn how to use it, experiment with color mixing, programming, pre-visualization, and more! The latest technologies and the latest industry developments will be literally at your fingertips.

2016, the first year of the Studio, will be focus on color mixing, LED vs. traditional fixtures with gel. Several manufacturers will be supplying gear; lights as well as programming consoles for participants to experiment with. We'll have designated "challenges" where you can compare your skills against others, or you can just "free play" to follow your own creative dreams.

We hope you'll join us on this inaugural year of the Lighting Studio and help us provide you with the training and experiences you need to be more successful in your production work!

[‹ Previous story](#)

[Next story ›](#)



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Next story ›](#)

Commissions

Submit Costume Poster Session ideas by Nov. 15!!

Jeffrey Lieder *CD&T Poster Session Chair*

Now is the time to submit ideas for the Costume Design and Technology Commission's Poster Session for the 2016 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Salt Lake City. The deadline to submit abstracts is November 15, 2015.

Poster Sessions give an opportunity for designers, technicians, educators, and students share information that is not well known or of their own invention. Have you discovered a new solution to an old problem, a new problem and it's solution, a classroom or management technique, or the results of research? Consider presenting your ideas at the national Conference in Salt Lake City. Tips and techniques about costumes, crafts, hair, and make-up from designers, technicians, teachers and students are welcome. [More information is available here.](#)

Submissions are blind juried by the CD&T Commission Poster Selection Committee. Ideas must be presented in the form of an abstract, no more than 200 words by November 15, 2015. Selected posters are due for review on February 9, 2016. Following presentation at the annual Conference, posters will be published in the USITT Digital Archive. [Instructions for submitting a proposal can be found here.](#)

Poster presentations are widely accepted as meeting the requirements for scholarly publication. Once accepted, participants are considered Conference presenters and may gain access to funding from their institutions.

The deadline to submit an abstract for the Costume Design & Technology Poster Session is November 15, 2015.

All submissions will be blind juried by the Costume Poster Selection Committee for presentation at the 2015 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Questions can be directed to Jeffrey Lieder, lieder@bard.org.





FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Next story ›](#)

Education Commission

Seeks Reviewers, Participants for Tenure, Promotion Reviews

The first Tenure and Promotion Portfolio Reviews were so successful at USITT 2015, the Education Commission offer the program again at USITT 2016 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The reviews will be extended to include feedback on course creation and syllabi in addition to reviews of tenure and promotion portfolios. Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a reviewer or being reviewed should contact Jonathan Allender-Zivic (jallenderzivic@gmail.com).



It is a good idea for anyone facing tenure to have a tenure and promotion review within three years of their institution's tenure review. Reviewers are needed for all disciplines (costumes, scenery, production management, technical direction, lighting, sound etc).

[‹ Previous story](#)

[Next story ›](#)



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Next story ›](#)

Safety & Health Commission

Seeks Safety & Health Mentors, Mentees for USITT 2016

Greg Petruska *Safety & Health Commission*

The Safety & Health Mentoring Project is looking for participants – mentors and mentees – for USITT 2016 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Our world of live entertainment has changed dramatically over the last several decades. Our venues have changed, our casts and crews have changed, and our show-going public has indeed changed. The world is more 24/7; the hustle and bustle never seems to take an intermission, which means we can't either.

Safety has become more than a buzzword. The entertainment industry and USITT's Safety & Health Commission responded by officially launching the Mentoring Project at USITT 2015 in Cincinnati.

Mentors responsible for safety and health issues in their organizations shared the good, the bad, the ugly, and, yes, the fabulous with those looking for more guidance in a safe space with no question off limits.

At USITT 2015, we heard the questions; and most of us have probably asked them at one point in our career or another. Questions like:

- Have OSHA reporting guidelines changed? And what is OSHA anyway?
- What do you mean we can't block a Fire Extinguisher and there's an annual inspection?
- You can't stand on the top two rungs of a ladder? Since when?
-



- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

Search the Archives

[GO](#)

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

- What do we do in the event of an evacuation?
- What the heck is an IIPP? How about a PPE?

It is estimated that over 70% of Fortune 500 companies now offer some form of mentoring to their employees. That's a lot of knowledge sharing! At 2014 USITT in Fort Worth, Safety & Health experimented with a pilot version of our new mentoring program. We followed up last year in Cincy with the successful launch of the Safety & Health Mentoring Project. The biggest highlight was a walking/working inspection of the Duke Energy Center with its management team, where participants got to see behind-the-scenes and learn all about the operations.

Our mentees were entry level professionals, students, and even mid-level professionals just looking for guidance. They were from college backgrounds, public theatres and private production organizations. This diverse group had one important thing in common: recognition that they needed more Safety and Health knowledge.

Here's a former mentee, Josh Sherr (Dallas) on his experience:

“As an experienced production manager, safety and health has always been part of my portfolio. As we produce at a more complex level, more focus on the wellbeing of our colleagues is required. Better solutions are needed. I have always made an effort to share my knowledge selflessly, for the next set of theater practitioners. To now have seasoned safety and health professionals sharing information with me in the same way has proved to be invaluable.”

As we gear up for USITT 2016 in Salt Lake, the Safety & Health Commission seeks people interested in volunteering their time and expertise as Mentors. If you're someone who wants more Safety and Health knowledge, ask to be a Mentee. For either opportunity, contact greg.petruska@nbcuni.com.

And in the spirit of sharing knowledge:

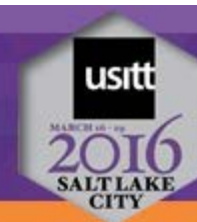
OSHA is the Occupational Health and Safety Administration and you can [find more information here](#).

An IIPP is an Injury and Illness Prevention Program (or I2P2 as OSHA refers to it). It is already a requirement in some states and several national companies have already adapted the program to suit their needs. [The OSHA Fact Sheet can be found here](#).

As of Jan. 1 2015, OSHA changed the parameters for what must be reported to the agency and the timeframe. [More info on that is available here](#).

[« Previous story](#)

[Next story »](#)



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Next story ›](#)

Engineering Commission

Seeks Submissions to Excellence in Thesis Research

Kimberly Corbett Oates *Engineering Commissioner*

Daniel Lisowski *Vice-Commissioner, Programming*

USITT's Engineering Commission is piloting a program to recognize excellence in thesis research. The goal for this program is to acknowledge students who have pursued innovative and challenging topics that further live entertainment production and to share these studies with the larger Institute.

Recent graduates who have exhibited rigor, innovation, and creativity in their research are eligible to submit their papers for consideration. Papers will be juried by a committee of industry professionals, not academics. "Excellent" theses will be focused on new technology, innovative applications, or deeper understanding and application of engineering principles to theatre that may challenge and advance our industry.

Selected graduates will present their findings in an Engineering Commission session, titled *Excellence in Engineering Technology Research: Graduate Paper Presentation*, at the 2016 USITT Conference and Stage Expo in Salt Lake City. These presenters will receive complimentary full conference registration to the USITT conference in Salt Lake City plus some supplementary support to attend the conference. After the conference, these graduates will be asked to author a four to eight page article for publication in TD&T about their research topic.

Qualifications for Consideration

Thesis research must be focused on advancing understanding in an area of Entertainment Technology.

Thesis work must have cumulated in graduation with an MFA or equiv. in the last two years (May 2013 to September 2015). Work resulting in a MS or MA in an engineering or engineering technology field will also be considered, but the application of the work must be specific to Live Entertainment Technology.



- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

Search the Archives

[GO](#)

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

Nomination Process

Application can only be initiated by nomination.

Candidates must be nominated by a faculty member from the degree granting institution.

Nominations for this award should be submitted by to Kimberly Corbett Oates (Commissioner of Engineering Commission) no later than **Nov. 20, 2015**.

Faculty nominations should include the following:

- The student being nominated, their current contact information, and their academic qualifications.
- The title of the thesis and a brief summary or outline of the project. (Less than one page, please)

Email materials to kcorbettoates at gmail.com with the subject line "USITT Engineering Thesis."

Submission and review process

Nominees will be contacted with further application instructions.

Application materials will be limited to a current resume, one to two page abstract, and the final, complete thesis manuscript in PDF.

Application materials must be submitted by **Nov. 30, 2015** to receive consideration.

A panel of industry experts will review the submitted manuscripts and will select the papers that demonstrate excellence for presentation at the 2016 Conference.

Up to three papers will be selected. Selected authors will be notified prior to 1 February 2016.

[« Previous story](#)

[Next story »](#)

Volume LV, Number 11



© United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc.



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Next story ›](#)

Sound Commission

Offers Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

Sarah Pickett *Director of Diversity Outreach*

Join the next generation of sound designers and technicians at USITT this year!

The Sound Commission is looking for early career professionals who are generally underrepresented in the field of sound design and technology. This scholarship is designed to help defray the cost of the conference in order that unique voices and perspectives might become more involved in the community.

Participants will be able to attend workshops, network with industry professionals, showcase their skills and receive mentoring from veteran sound designers and educators.

We ask you to join in planning sessions and be a part of the commission that shapes the course of sound design & technology at USITT!

Interested candidates should provide a current resume, examples of their work through an online portfolio and two references who can attest to your work and interest in the field of sound.

The scholarship provides funding to help cover the cost of transportation, housing and conference fees.

The deadline to apply is Jan. 15, 2016. Please send application materials to Sarah Pickett, pickett@cmu.edu.

[‹ Previous story](#)

[Next story ›](#)





FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

[Next story ›](#)

Conference & Stage Expo

New & Returning Exhibitors

Ron Procopio *Stage Expo Manager*



Philips Group is returning to Stage Expo for USITT 2016.

Photo/Glenn Ellman

Here's an interesting statistic: Stage Expo has averaged 60 new (or returning after a number of years away) companies each year.

Why is that happening? What is it about USITT that 20 percent of the entire expo consists of these new companies?

A number of them are regionally based companies. A local distributor for lighting and sound equipment will exhibit one year, and a different company the following year. That's part of the advantage of USITT's model of bringing its Annual Conference & Stage Expo to different cities each year. If the site was Orlando and Las Vegas all the time, the Institute wouldn't be able to reach and serve local members in places like Salt Lake City, St. Louis and Fort Lauderdale (USITT's next three locations).

There also has been growth because of outreach into new industries. USITT's

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

Search the Archives

GO

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

Commissions have helped identify potential companies they would like to see exhibit at the event. These companies are then contacted by via phone, email, and in person events promoting USITT's members. In 2015, USITT representatives visited the Sewing Dealers Tradeshow, InfoComm, IAVM's VenueConnect, and the National Safety Convention. Institute representatives also visited the headquarters of more than 25 companies. The goal is to show the manufacturers who USITT is and how working together grows the entertainment production industry.

This philosophy over what the Stage Expo is has made an impact; 37 percent of attendees at the Stage Expo are students and early career members. That comes out to about 1,500 people. Many of the exhibitors are looking to reach them whether for graduate school programs, job placement, or making an impression with equipment for future sales. Students are tomorrow's buyers.

That leaves 63 percent of the audience as professionals in the entertainment production industry. Some of them are professors and those who teach in academia. Others are consultants and designers who come to the Stage Expo to meet vendors and shop for future projects. This is the commercial side. (Yes, even a non-profit has a commercial side.)

Attendees should know that exhibitors need to see a return on their investment into the show to return each year. It is very expensive for those exhibitors to set up their space, travel and ship their materials to each city. Their investment supports USITT not only in producing the event, but in the services the Institute offers year round: scholarships, grants, training programs, jobs board, publications, etc.

Continue to support **USITT exhibitors** throughout the year. Their trust in USITT is paramount to the industry's continued growth. USITT serves as the network connecting all members -- students and professionals, manufacturers and distributors, production companies and educational institutions alike.

This is the current list of new and returning companies to USITT Stage Expo. This list will grow by March. It's thrilling to see them again.

- **Cornish College of the Arts**
- **Desisti - Coemar**
- **Doug Fleenor Design, Inc.**
- **Eilon Engineering**
- **Farthingales**
- **Gear Source**
- **Northern Sound & Light, Inc**
- **Philips Group**
- **PSAV**
- **Right on Cue Services**
- **Timax Audio Imaging**
- **Tüchler Stage & Textile Technology**
- **Usedlighting.com**

- [Utah Festival Opera & Music Theatre](#)
- [Wireless Mic Belts](#)

[« Previous story](#)

[Next story »](#)

Volume LV, Number 11



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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

November 2015

[Print this page ›](#)



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Next story ›](#)

Conference & Stage Expo

USITT Has a Salt Lake City Microsite!



Even if it isn't on your bucket list, Salt Lake City is an awesome destination for USITT 2016. The venue and city are a perfect fit for our event. The downtown is robust with restaurants, bars, and nightlife. The hotels are great, and conveniently located across the street from the Salt Palace Convention Center. We're visiting at the end of ski season for those who wish to add a vacation to their visit.

Interested in learning more? Visit the USITT 2016 microsite that Visit Salt Lake, Salt Lake City's convention and visitor's bureau, has added to their website.

www.visitsaltlake.com/usitt2016.

[‹ Previous story](#)

[Next story ›](#)



Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

November 2015

[Print this page ›](#)



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
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- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
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- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

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- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

For the Record:

Leadership

USITT Leadership

- Mark Shanda, *President*
- Jimmie Byrd, *Secretary*
- Daniel Culhane, *Treasurer*
- Carolyn Satter, *Vice-President for Commissions*
- Michael Mehler, *Vice-President for Communications*
- Jack Feivou, *Vice-President for Conferences*
- Marketa Fantova, *Vice-President for International Activities*
- Kasey Allee-Foreman, *Vice-President for Programming*
- Andi Lyons, *Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters*
- Eric Rouse, *Vice-President for Special Operations*
- Lea Asbell-Swanger, *Immediate Past President*

Directors

2013-2016

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

2014-2017

- Mickey Henry
- Rafael Jaen
- Shane Kelly
- Karen Maness
- Michael McNamara
- Vickie Scott

2015-2018

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

Search the Archives

GO

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

- Tammy Honesty
- Jenny Kenyon
- Verda Beth Martell
- Linda Pisano
- Kevin Rigdon
- Loren Schreiber

Board Mentees 2014-2016

- Mary Jean Sedlock
- Debra Sherrer

Sightlines Editorial Staff & National Office Staff

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

Volume LV, Number 11



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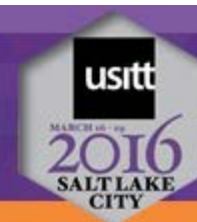


Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

November 2015

[Print this page ›](#)



FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

For the Record:

Members

USITT gratefully recognizes the individuals and businesses in these special categories of membership:

- [Contributing Members »](#)
- [Sustaining Members »](#)

Contributing Members

- Altman Lighting, Inc.
- Apollo Design Technology, Inc.
- Automatic Devices Company
- Barbizon Lighting Company
- University of California
- Cirque du Soleil
- City Theatrical, Inc.
- J.R. Clancy, Inc.
- Creative Conners, Inc.
- Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- d&b audiotechnik
- Disney Parks Creative Entertainment
- Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC)
- Feld Entertainment
- Foy Invenrprises, Inc.
- Friends Beauty Supply
- Future Light
- Gantom Lighting & Controls
- H & H Specialties Inc.
- Hall Associates Flying Effects
- Harlequin Floors
- InterAmerica Stage, Inc.
-

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

Search the Archives

[GO](#)

SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »

- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
- KM Fabrics, Inc.
- Kryolan Corporation
- The Light Source
- MDG Fog Generators
- Mega Systems
- Musson Theatrical, Inc.
- Norcostco, Inc.
- Philips Group
- PRG
- Production Advantage, Inc.
- Rosco Laboratories, Inc.
- Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics, Fabrications & Supplies
- SECOA
- StageSpot
- Steeldeck Inc.
- Studio Gear
- Sustainable Technologies Group
- Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- 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
- Atlanta Rigging Systems
- Auerbach Pollock Friedlander
- A V Pro, Inc.
- Baby Lock
- Backdrops Beautiful

- Batts Audio, Video and Lighting
- BellaTEX, Inc.
- Ben Nye Makeup
- Bernina of America
- BMI Supply
- University of California — Irvine
- California Institute of the Arts
- Celebrity Cruises
- Center Theatre Group
- University of Central Arkansas
- 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
- Doug Fleenor Design, Inc.
- Elation Lighting
- Emerson College
- Entertainment Lighting Services
- ENTTEC Americas, LLC
- Fanshawe College
- Florida State University
- Focal Press
- Full Compass Systems, Ltd.
- GALA Systems, Inc.
- GLP German Lighting Products, Inc.
- Gerriets International Inc.
- Grand Stage Company, Inc.
- Herbert L. Camburn Associates
- IALD-International Association of Lighting Designers

- 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
- Lycian Stage Lighting
- The MAGNUM Companies Ltd.
- Mainstage Theatrical Supply
- Mehron, Inc.
- Michigan Technological University
- University of Minnesota – Twin Cities
- University of Missouri-Kansas City
- Mongol Global Tour Company, Inc.
- Morpheus Lights
- University of North Carolina School of the Arts
- Northern Sound & Light, Inc.
- Nova Lume
- On Location Lighting Systems, Inc.
- Ontario Staging Limited
- OSRAM SYLVANIA
- Pathway Connectivity
- Penn State University
- Period Corsets
- Peter Albrecht Company
- Pointwright Entertainment Rigging Specialists
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- Prepared, LLC
- Rational Acoustics, LLC
- RC4 Wireless/Soundsculpture Inc.
- Rockford 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.
- Vectorworks
- University of Virginia
- Wayne State University Dept of Theatre
- XS Lighting, LLC

As of 10/10/2015

Commercial Endorsement Policy: USITT is pleased to announce the release of

new products, and report on the activities and successes of commercial members. However, USITT does not recommend or endorse specific companies or products.

Volume LV, Number 11



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FRONT PAGE »

NEWS & NOTICES:

- Member Spotlight (New!)
- Vote & Nominate for BOD
- 2016 DeGaetani Award
- #GivingTuesday
- 2016 Special Citation
- Announcements
- Last Word: USITT Midwest

NEWS FROM:

- Around the Institute
- Industry Members
- USITT's President
- Spotlight on Giving
- USITT's Executive Director
- Regional Sections
- OISTAT
- Early Career Mentoring

COMMISSIONS:

- New for 2016: Lighting Studio
- Poster Sessions
- Education Portfolios
- Safety & Health Mentoring
- Recognizing Engineering Excellence
- Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO:

- New & Returning Exhibitors
- Salt Lake: Microsite

FOR THE RECORD:

- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

FOR THE RECORD:

▪

[Next story ›](#)

News Releases from Our Industry Members

- **Meyer Sound:** Vincent, Huson, Eagleson Join Company; Archibald Expands Role
- **CHAUVET Professional:** Basement Lightshow Goes 'Rogue'
- **Wenger Corporation:** Realignment Spotlights Performing Arts Market
- **GLP:** Opens Nordic Office Based in Sweden
- **Vectorworks, Inc.:** Opens Atlanta Office
- **Columbus McKinnon:** Tweets on Safety
- **Rose Brand, Inc.:** Brooklyn High School Wins Free Stage Curtain.
- **Lex Products:** CineBox Sales to Benefit Behind the Scenes
- **Meyer Sound:** Equipment Dazzles Primus, Shania Twain Fans

Meyer Sound: Vincent, Huson, Eagleson Join Company; Archibald Expands Role

Contributing Member **Meyer Sound** recently announced three additions to its technical, marketing, and public relations departments.

David Vincent (dvincent@meyersound.com) will provide technical support for the growing customer base in Canada and the Northeast United States. Amy Huson (ahuson@meyersound.com) was named director of marketing, business and programs. Jane Eagleson (jeagleson@meyersound.com) is public relations manager at Meyer Sound's Berkeley, California office. Rachel Archibald expands her role to become director of marketing, corporate and brand.

Vincent comes to Meyer Sound with extensive experience designing and calibrating large-scale sound systems having served as audio project manager and PA technician at Solotech for 10 years.

Huson is a senior marketing professional with decades of



David Vincent



- Leadership
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members

[VIEW ISSUE AS A PDF »](#)

[CONTACT THE EDITOR »](#)

[Search the Archives](#)

[GO](#)

[SIGHTLINES ARCHIVE »](#)

experience in marketing and communications, including leadership positions at Harman, Plantronics, and Autodesk. She also was co-founder and vice-president for marketing at an audio software start-up later acquired by Plantronics.

Amy Huson



Jane Eagleson

Eagleson will be the primary contact for pro audio trade media, support mainstream media outreach, and drive content development. Eagleson comes to Meyer Sound with more than 20 years of experience in communications, primarily in the professional sailing world. She has led communications, event management, and press relations for sailing's premiere global events including the Volvo Ocean Race and the Sydney Olympics in addition to supporting global brands such as BMW, Oracle, and Louis Vuitton.

Archibald will assume responsibility for leadership in the areas of product marketing, advertising, development of brand collateral, and corporate brand experience. Working under the leadership of Karen Ames, vice president of marketing and communications, this team of seasoned professionals adds depth to the company's global marketing initiatives.

CHAUVET Professional: Basement Lightshow Goes 'Rogue'

When Basement, the melodic rock/emo band from Ipswich, Suffolk, United Kingdom, added a 21-date United States leg to its tour, the band ended up moving its lighting rig up to a new level with Sustaining Member **CHAUVET Professional's** Rogue R2 Wash moving LED fixture.

Basement captivated audiences from San Francisco, California, to Austin, Texas, to New Orleans, Louisiana, with their raw, honest grunge-tinged songs, but got by with just house lights. As they headed east for the last five nights of the tour, Basement increased the level of visual excitement with help from the Rogue R2 Wash moving LED fixture.



Wenger Corporation: Realignment Spotlights Performing Arts Market

Contributing Member **Wenger Corporation** recently announced organizational changes to support its growth strategy for the global performing arts market. Mike Murphy, as general manager, will lead the company's efforts in this market segment in addition to his current role as president of J.R. Clancy. Reporting to Murphy will be Mark Ingalls in the new position of performing arts segment manager.

John Hastie, new to Wenger, was named business development director –

Europe and Middle East.

Other personnel involved in this realignment include Dave Kaiser, manager of applications engineering, and Dustin Collins who has been promoted to lighting and controls integration manager.

GLP: Opens Nordic Office Based in Sweden

GLP, a Sustaining Member, has established a new office to serve the Nordic countries. Headed by Daniel Rüdén, who also takes on the role of sales manager, the office is based in Västerås, about 100 Kilometres from Stockholm, Sweden.



Daniel Rüdén

This office will allow GLP to offer better service to its customers across the Nordic region and let the company have a much closer dialogue about new and ongoing projects.

Vectorworks, Inc.: Opens Atlanta Office

To reach emerging software engineers and a thriving metro population of over 5.5 million people, global design software developer and USITT Sustaining Member **Vectorworks, Inc.** recently opened the doors of its Atlanta, Georgia, office.

The office will employ software engineers who will further develop the Vectorworks product line, serving the AEC, landscape and entertainment design industries.

Columbus McKinnon : Tweets on Safety

Sustaining Member **Columbus McKinnon Entertainment** held a Twitter chat on safety at #RigSafe on October 9 after its Safety Webinar. CM published results of the chat on its blog, at blog.cmworks.com.



Rose Brand, Inc.: Brooklyn High School Wins Free Stage Curtain.

Brooklyn Theatre Arts High School students and staff were thrilled to win Contributing Member **Rose Brand's** "Rags to Riches" contest. Winning the

video contest entitled the school to a new, custom main stage curtain valued at up to \$10,000.

The **winning video** described the Brooklyn high school's need in playful visuals and lyrics that were sung to the tune of "My Favorite Things" from the 1965 film *The Sound of Music*.

Rose Brand expects to run the contest again to continue helping theatre programs that serve students and can't afford to purchase a new curtain.



Lex Products: CineBox Sales to Benefit Behind the Scenes

Lex Products, a Sustaining Member specializing in portable power systems including distribution boxes, cable assemblies, and connectors, has become a Behind the Scenes Pledge-a-Product Partner. Lex Products has pledged a percentage of the profits from sales of the **CineBox** to support the charity.



CineBox is a cULus listed, heavy-duty, rubber, lunch box feed through. Available in 100 Amp and 60 Amp, the compact distribution unit provides 5-20 duplex receptacles for smaller lights and related equipment.

The Behind the Scenes charity provides entertainment technology professionals who are seriously ill or injured with grants that may be used for basic living and medical expenses. For more information, to donate, or to apply for a grant, visit www.behindthescenescharity.org. For more information about the Pledge-a-Product Program, contact info@behindthescenescharity.org.

Meyer Sound: Equipment Dazzles Primus, Shania Twain Fans

The San Francisco Bay Area-based band, Primus, recently toured North America with Contributing Member **Meyer Sound's** LYON linear sound reinforcement system to deliver its quirky, bass-driven brand of alternative rock. Described by FOH engineer Jason Mills as a "really fast" system with plenty of punch, the LYON configuration was provided by Pro Media/UltraSound of Martinez, California.

