



# Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

December 2015

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## Member Spotlight: Eric Hart is a Master of Props

**Eric B. Hart, prop maker, Prop Master at Triad Stage in North Carolina, author of *The Prop Building Guidebook*, and editor of the Prop Agenda blog.**



### USITT: How did you get involved in props?

**Eric:** I was born in Brooklyn, but my parents moved us to a farm in Pennsylvania when I was five. They are both potters, and turned the barns into various studios and workshops. So I grew up around art and around making things with your hands.

I started doing theatre in high school, and hung out with the theatre kids as an undergrad. I originally went to college as an engineer, but switched to a theatre degree about halfway through, with an emphasis in scene design. After a few years working as a stagehand/technician, I went back to graduate school as a scene designer, and had to do my work study in the props shop, run by Tom Fiocchi (of Ohio University). I then got a job in the props shop at the Santa Fe Opera with Randy Lutz. Between Tom and Randy, I found I really loved props, so I left grad school and have been basically doing it ever since.

### What's behind your Prop Agenda blog?

My first post on the [Prop Agenda blog](#) was in January of 2009. I was trying to find websites and blogs about props and prop making, but there really weren't any at the time. Now there are lots more places to read about props and theatre, but mine seems to be read by a lot of people in the industry. I've gotten to meet a lot of people through it, and people I work with tell me that my blog usually pops up near the top of Google when they search for something weird, like "Giant champagne bottles," or "How to make an exploding cuckoo clock." And now with the book, they sort of go hand in hand; people who read my blog were some of the first people who bought my book, and people who get my book find out about my blog and become regular readers. The content is a mix of things I find around the Internet, my own projects, other



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people's projects, and general rants that I have every now and then.

### How does your blog fit into your day job?

I post twice a week. I usually wake up a few hours earlier than I need to go in to work so I have time to work on my next book, feed my cats, and play with my baby. I share my blog posts on my [Twitter](#) account as well as on the [Facebook](#) page for my book.



### What keeps you involved in USITT?

I love the fact that I can see so many people I know at the USITT conferences. It's a great way to maintain personal contact with people I usually only talk to through email, or with people I haven't seen in a few years. There's always so much sharing of information and news at the conferences; whenever I come home from one, I have all these new ideas and products I want to try. [TD&T](#) is wonderful too, especially since it is one of the only publications devoted to technical theatre. I feel like all the things USITT does helps create a sense of shared history and direction for the technical theatre industry. Rather than all of us working alone in our little theatres throughout the country, it makes it seem more like one larger community.

### So what's a fave prop you made recently? Your favorite 'found' prop item?

I just made a mace for *Deathtrap* that I was pretty happy with. It was actually a really quick project; I made it during tech rehearsals for the show. For a found prop item, I needed a bar, again for *Deathtrap*. I found this dresser that was in pretty beat up shape, but it had great legs and hardware. I lopped the top set of drawers off and took some of the other drawers out, turning the space into open shelving. I was also able to take the hardware off the unused drawers and use them on the desk which was also in the scene. With a bit of refinishing, it looked like this amazing mid-century bar, even though it started out as an old dresser from a flea market.

### What are your fave new technologies for prop-making?

I wish I had easier access to more digital fabrication tools. I've done a few things on a CNC router and have had some stuff laser cut for me in the past, but I usually don't have time or money to do it on a regular basis. But you can do some pretty exciting stuff with those tools. I also like all the electronics you can get nowadays which have shrunk in size and become so easy to use. You can pop a little wireless speaker or a wireless dimmer and some LEDs into the smallest of spaces now. It's amazing.



### Thanks for sharing! We look forward to seeing more of your work!

Video: Eric solves the 'window shade gag' from *The 39 Steps*.





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## News &amp; Notices

## LD Stephen Moss to Receive 2016 Rising Star Award

Lighting designer and technician Stephen Moss of Nashville, Tenn., is the winner of USITT's 2016 Rising Star Award sponsored by LDI/Live Design.



Moss, whose lighting design has been called "exceedingly evocative and artful," is the resident lighting designer for Studio Tenn Theatre Company in Nashville. He also works as a freelance lighting designer and concert lighting technician.

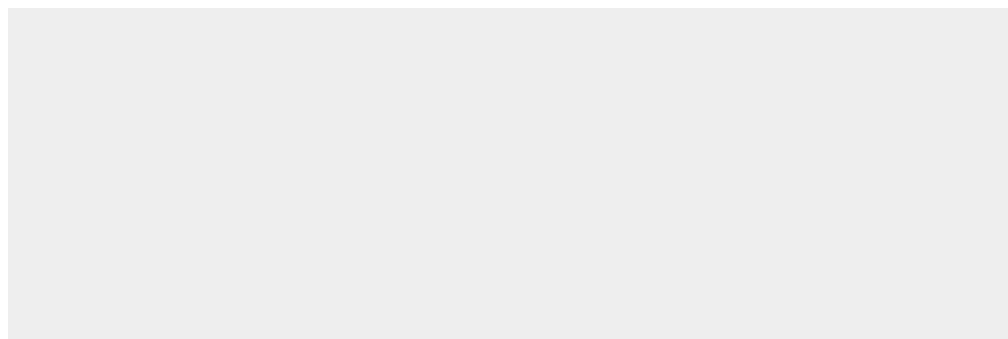
Moss graduated from Lipscomb University in Nashville with his BA in technical theatre in 2011. That year, he was nominated for Broadway World Nashville's Best Lighting Design Award.

Studio Tenn Managing Director Jake Speck recommended Moss for the award. "He has been incredibly successful in creating and implementing some truly breathtaking designs, which have greatly enhanced our productions," Speck wrote of Moss. "His immense skill as a designer is matched by his quality of character and work ethic."

In a review of the Studio Tenn production of *The Glass Menagerie*, Broadway World Nashville theatre critic Jeffrey Ellis described "the particularly beautiful golden glow of Stephen Moss' expressive and evocative lighting."

Moss titled his portfolio "Painting with Light." He will receive his award at USITT 2016 in Salt Lake City in March.

These design photos are among those submitted with his nomination:



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*Big River*



*Smokey Joe's*



*The Sound of Music*

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## 2016 Distinguished Achiever in Lighting: Sonny Sonnenfeld

USITT Fellow and legendary lighting consultant Sonny Sonnenfeld will receive USITT's 2016 Distinguished Achievement Award in Lighting Design & Technology. Sonnenfeld joins the ranks of four other backstage stars who are to be honored at USITT 2016 in Salt Lake City.



Sonnenfeld's career in lighting spans more than 60 years, since he joined the 92nd Street Y as technical director in 1940. After serving in the Army during World War II, he became New York City sales manager for Century Lighting – now Strand – for 16 years.

He went on to become a consultant for architectural and theatre lighting, working for ETC and City Theatrical, and founded the Broadway Lighting Master Classes, a four-day lighting seminar, with his friend Jules Fisher.

He taught architectural lighting at the Pratt Institute and founded the New York Area Regional Section of USITT. He is a past president of the Illuminating Engineering Society's New York Chapter and has authored many articles on lighting design.

He has been involved in USITT since “the beginning” in 1960, and called the Institute “my continuing education program.” He was inducted as a Fellow in 1997.

*[Read a story about Sonnenfeld from Architectural Lighting magazine's Hall of Fame series here »](#)*

Four other 2016 USITT Distinguished Achievers were announced earlier this year: Sound Designer John Leonard, Scene Designer Anna Louizos, Costume Designer Joy Spanabel Emery, and Safety & Health Educator Monona Rossol.

All will be honored with special sessions on their work in Salt Lake City, and will participate in the popular panel, “USITT Distinguished Achievers in Conversation” on Friday morning, March 18.

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## Seek Nominations for Board Class of 2017-2020

**Jimmie Byrd** *USITT Secretary*

USITT's success depends on involved members and committed leaders. The Nominations Committee is looking for members who are ready and capable to lead the Institute for the next election cycle.

[Members can submit nominations here.](#)

In the next election cycle -- for the class of 2017 to 2020 -- the committee must select nominees for President-Elect, a five-year commitment lasting July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2022: one year as President-Elect, three years as President and one year as Immediate Past President.

Other offices coming up for election this cycle involve a three-year commitment (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2020):

- Secretary
- VP Commissions
- VP Conferences
- VP International Activities
- Six Director positions

The Nominations Committee must select up to two nominees from the candidates for each open office. USITT members will choose who they feel is best to lead the Institute.

The nomination process was recently updated. [Nominations are now open](#) for the next election cycle.

Review the eligibility requirements and expectations for Board members prior to nominating an individual. Check with the individual being nominated to be certain they can fulfill the requirements and expectations.

(Candidates may self-nominate. Self-nominations are given equal consideration.) Nominators will receive the following notification *"Your nomination is in process but not yet submitted. You may continue working on this nomination at a later date by copying and pasting the link below into your browser. This link has also been emailed to the nominee and nominator's email accounts."*



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The nominee then must fill out their portion of the form and add submittals: bio, CV, Institute contributions and such. Nominations must be completed by March 10, so the Committee members can familiarize themselves with the candidates prior to their two meetings at USITT 2016 in Salt Lake City.

Nominations Committee members will wear buttons at the Conference. Candidates for nomination are encouraged to introduce themselves. This allows the Committee to put a face with a name and have a chat. Members are also encouraged to strike up a conversation with Committee members about becoming a candidate in the future or ask any questions about the process.

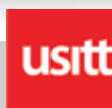
Nominations Committee members are Jimmie Byrd, Secretary/Committee Chair; Chip Haas; Kate Ellis; P. Gibson Ralph; Paul Vincent; Karen Maness; Shane Kelly; Beth Martell; Vickie Scott; David Glowacki; Tina Shackelford; Kimb Williamson; Ryan Kirk; and Emily Gill.

Members may also take advantage of the petition process to add their names to the ballot; this petition option is available after the slate is announced on July 1. Petitions are due by September 1. It is the Institute's policy to not differentiate on the ballot between nominees put forward by the Committee and nominees by petition.

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## eSET Readies for Testing in January

With the **Essential Skills for the Entertainment Technician (eSET)** program about to offer its first exams in January, USITT Executive Director David Grindle has been spreading the news about this new basic skills program.



Next month, USITT will offer the first online exams in rigging, electrics, and costuming. The first practical exams in these areas will be held at USITT 2016 March 16 to 19 in Salt Lake City. More will follow around the country.

Grindle wrote a column for PLASA's Protocol journal and had a piece on eSET published in **Technologies for Worship** Magazine.

The eSET Council – Bill Price, Kim Scott, Bob Scales, and Carolyn Satter – as well as USITT Education and Training Coordinator Christine Troscher and the eSET working groups, have been working this year to launch a program that will have a long-term effect on the industry.

eSET is a new, younger sibling of a well-established and successful certification program: ETCP. While the Entertainment Technician Certification Program provides professional certification for entertainment riggers and technicians, eSET will define essential, fundamental skills across several other technical fields on an entry or basic level.

The goal of eSET is to give employers and supervisors confidence that someone who has an eSET certificate is familiar with basic skills and knowledge in an identified subject, like basic electronics or basic rigging.

USITT began by forming eSET working groups composed of people from the entertainment industry who hire entry level workers as well as people teaching these programs in academic institutions.

Already in place is an eSET glossary and **mobile app** with over 2,000 terms used in entertainment technology.

Those who pass both online and practical eSET exams will receive a certificate recognizing their grasp of the fundamental skills required to enter jobs needing those skill sets. This recognition will help measure students' preparation to enter

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specific jobs and fields, give academic partners a benchmark for measuring student success, and make stages, churches, and civic auditoriums safer.

Through eSET, the Institute will carry on its mission to provide continuing education and help those in the entertainment industry keep up with the latest technology and safety. Stay tuned for updates at [www.usitt.org/eset](http://www.usitt.org/eset).

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## That's a Wrap! Design Books Packaged for Giving



For the rising theatre designer, seasoned professional, or new theatre grad, these image-filled books will be a welcome addition to their library.

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- *The Lighting & Sound Designs Of...* 3-book set profiles the innovative and technologically inventive work of Tharon Musser, Abe Jacob, and Jules Fisher. \$44.95 plus FREE shipping & handling.
- *The Scenic Designs Of...* 3-book set chronicles the storied careers of award-winning designers Ming Cho Lee, Tony Walton, and Douglas W. Schmidt. \$54.95 plus FREE shipping & handling.

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## USITT, OSF Join Forces to Increase Diversity

USITT has formed a partnership with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival to increase diversity behind the scenes in theatre. USITT has committed \$5,000 to the partnership, to benefit OSF's FAIR program to mentor emerging arts leaders of color.



Both USITT and OSF have established development programs for theatre artists from underrepresented groups. USITT's Gateway Program offers mentorships for students in theatrical design, technology, and management at its Annual Conference & Stage Expo. OSF's FAIR program provides fellowships, assistantships, internships, and residencies in all areas of theatre with an emphasis on recruiting young professionals of color.

"This partnership sends a strong message that these two large institutions, OSF and USITT, are working together to provide access to people of color in theatre, particularly in the area of production," said Sharifa Johka, OSF's FAIR experience manager.

"We are committed to exploring how we can share resources and opportunities to provide access points, and USITT's contribution to our fund for this mission is one proof of that," she said.

USITT Diversity Initiative leaders Kasey Allee-Foreman and David Stewart, along with Johka, proposed the two organizations collaborate after participating in OSF's first FAIR Conference in August.

"In talking to David and Kasey of USITT, we became interested in whether the Gateway Program could be a feeder program for the FAIR program or vice



Gateway mentor Ruth Anne Watkins and mentee Sarah Haber at USITT 2015.

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versa,” Johka said.

“For example, USITT has a very developed Stage Management Mentor Program that someone who has participated in FAIR might benefit from, whereas OSF has a sophisticated Lighting Design Fellowship that might benefit someone from Gateway,” she said.

Allee-Foreman also encouraged the USITT board to donate \$5,000 toward OSF’s Tim Bond Production Fund, which provides grants to FAIR alumni to produce a play in their selected U.S. city.

Allee-Foreman and Stewart served this summer on an OSF panel tasked with allocating grants of \$2,500 each to two groups of FAIR alumni who gave the best pitch for the Tim Bond challenge.

Six groups of FAIR alumni were to compete for two grants, but “the alumni secretly plotted not to compete against each other and instead made a joint presentation, asking that all six projects get funding,” Johka said. “Kasey and David were moved by the display of leadership and unity,” and urged USITT’s Board to make a contribution toward producing all six plays.

USITT and OSF plan to continue working together to increase diversity in theatre production through efforts like Gateway and FAIR.

“OSF’s FAIR program has affected untold numbers of people, and as USITT works to grow our impact with efforts like Gateway, there is no better partner than OSF,” said USITT Executive Director David Grindle.

“Gateway helps increase people’s networks. FAIR helps build people’s resumes,” Grindle said. “The two together will make an impact on our industry for many years to come.”

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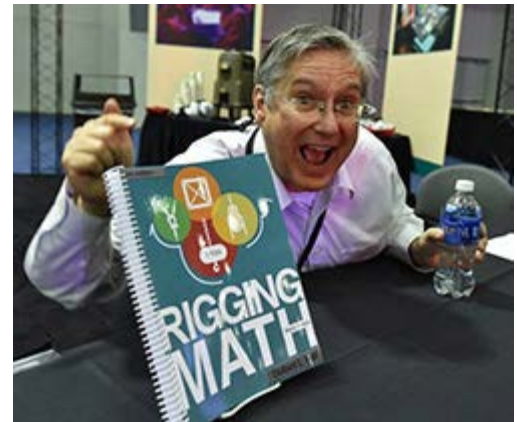
- **Promote Your Book at USITT 2016!**
- **Vote for Your Board! Balloting Closes Dec. 10**
- **Jan. 15 Deadline to Apply for USITT Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship**
- **ANSI Approves Two PLASA Standards, Withdraws Third**
- **Stage Lighting Super Saturday & Stage Sound Super Sunday Jan. 9-10 in NYC**

### Promote Your Book at USITT 2016!

If you've written a recent book, don't miss out on a great opportunity to promote it at USITT 2016!

USITT member authors get to be part of an exciting book-signing event at the Salt Palace Convention Center, just a few steps from Stage Expo and the USITT Bookstore!

Books must be available by Dec. 31 to be included. Please email [Carol@usitt.org](mailto:Carol@usitt.org) to sign up!



Author Delbert Hall at USITT 2015

### Vote for Your Board! Balloting Closes Dec. 10

All USITT members in good standing should have received an email with instructions on how to vote for six new members of the Board of Directors. There are 12 candidates willing to put in the time and effort to ensure the success of the Institute, so choose the next round of Board members by Dec. 10. They will serve from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019.

Emails with candidate bios and voting instructions were sent out Oct. 30. Paper ballots may also be requested. Contact Shannan Hoerger at [shannan@usitt.org](mailto:shannan@usitt.org) with any questions.



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## Jan. 15 Deadline to Apply for USITT Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship

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USITT's Sound Design & Technology Commission is accepting applications through Jan. 15 for a new scholarship for early career sound professionals who are underrepresented in the field. The Sound Inclusion Initiative Scholarship will help defray the cost of attending USITT 2016 in Salt Lake City for a young designer/technician.

The selected participant will attend workshops, network with industry professionals, showcase skills, receive mentoring from veteran sound designers and educators, and join in Sound Commission planning sessions.

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

The scholarship includes free registration to the Conference as well as money to help cover transportation and housing. Send application materials to Sarah Pickett at [pickett@cmu.edu](mailto:pickett@cmu.edu).

## ANSI Approves Two PLASA Standards, Withdraws Third

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ANSI's Board of Standards Review recently approved the reaffirmation of the 2010 edition of ANSI E1.30-4, EPI 26, Device Description Language (DDL) Extensions for DMX512 and E1.31 Devices, and the revised version of ANSI E1.37-2, Entertainment Technology - Additional Message Sets for ANSI E1.20 (RDM) - Part 2, IPv4 & DNS Configuration Messages.

Both standards are now published. **They may be downloaded at no charge here;** the free download is sponsored by ProSight Specialty Insurance. The standards also may be purchased from **ANSI** and **IHS**.

The ANSI Board of Standards Review approved PLASA North America's withdrawal of ANSI E1.45 - 2013, Unidirectional Transport of IEEE 802 data frames over ANSI E1.11 (DMX512-A) because it does not comply with PLASA's patent policy regarding protected intellectual property. There are patents issued in Korea and in the United States that cover key parts of the standard.

For more information, contact Karl Ruling, PLASA technical standards manager, at [karl.ruling@plasa.org](mailto:karl.ruling@plasa.org).

## Stage Lighting Super Saturday & Stage Sound Super Sunday Jan. 9-10 in NYC

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USITT all-stars including Fellow Richard Pilbrow and USITT Award winner Jennifer Tipton will present at Stage Lighting Super Saturday in New York City on Jan. 9.

The event is produced by USITT Lighting Design and Technology Commission member Scott Parker and USITT Fellow Sonny Sonnenfeld, who will receive the 2016 Distinguished Achievement in Lighting Design award at USITT 2016 in March.



The 11th annual all-day Super Saturday lighting workshop will be followed by the first-ever all-day sound workshop on Sunday, Jan. 10. Both workshops will be held at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts in Greenwich Village.

Pilbrow will speak about his lighting design work on the *My Fair Lady* 60th anniversary re-creation of the original production directed by Julie Andrews at the Sydney Opera House in August 2016. Tony-winning LD Tipton will deliver the Saturday keynote.

On Sunday, Broadway sound pro Jim van Bergen and industry experts will cover Sound Design 101, Analog & Digital Sound Boards, Microphones, Amps and more. Sponsors include USITT industry members ETC, ACT Lighting, Lectrosonics, and Lycian Stage Lighting.

The cost of each workshop is \$125; sign up for both by Dec. 20 and receive half off the second workshop. [Click here for more info or to register](#). USITT members, contact Scott Parker at [super2016@stageseminars.com](mailto:super2016@stageseminars.com) for discount codes.

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## USITT & SETC Partner on LiNK 2015 Weekend

USITT and SETC held the second LiNK theatre grad school recruiting weekend in Atlanta Nov. 13-15, attracting 51 schools with advanced degree programs and 73 aspiring students.

The event allowed candidates up-close access to many theatre programs seeking grad students at an affordable registration cost and conveniently located at the Atlanta Airport Hilton.

Students pursuing disciplines from acting and directing to management to costume design, scene design and props displayed their portfolios and examples of their work, and participated in face-to-face interviews with prospective programs.

One aspiring grad student called the event “a wonderful weekend” that went beyond his expectations.

“I was amazed by how much information I received in such a short period and I know for certain that LiNK will be instrumental in guiding me to the next step in my career,” he wrote.

Focal Press once again sponsored the LiNK Soiree Friday evening mixer and a bookstore at the event.



SETC's Betsey Horth and USITT's David Grindle welcome participants to LiNK 2015.

Aspiring students in acting and directing auditioned in front of college representatives on Friday of LiNK.

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LiNK theatrical design and tech students were able to meet with college reps and show displays of their work.

Focal Press once again sponsored a Friday networking event, the LiNK Soiree, and a book table run by Stacey Walker.



The LiNK Soiree on Friday, Nov. 13, 2015.

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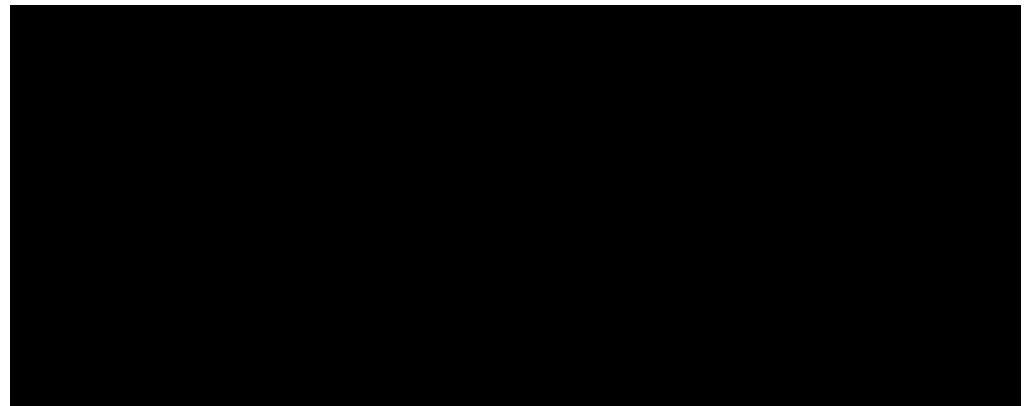
### USITT Names in the News...

**Tracy Nunnally**, president of Hall Associates Flying Effects, a USITT Contributing Member, was recently profiled in Live Design online magazine. Nunnally talked about his love of theatre and how he views rigging as a mechanism to tell the story. "To Tracy Nunnally, rigging is like dancing." [Read the rest here.](#)

**Costume Designer Wendi Zea** and **Scene Designer William Bloodgood** recently won top awards at the Syracuse Area Live Theatre Awards in Central New York. Zea won Costumer of the Year, Play, for her costume design for *1776* at the Cortland (N.Y.) Repertory Theatre. Bloodgood won Set Designer of the Year, Play, for *Other Desert Cities* at Syracuse Stage. [Read the story here.](#)

**Eric Hart**, the subject of this month's "Member Spotlight," was recently featured in a story about the props he came up with for the Triad Stage production of "Deathtrap." [Read it here.](#)

And for New Year's, try making his wooden ratchet noisemaker featured in the October issue of ScrollSaw Woodworking.



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## USITT at LDI

USITT participated in LDI 2015 Oct. 23 to 25 with a beautiful corner Booth 2415, marked by the big red USITT square balloon floating overhead.

Representing USITT at the show were President Mark Shanda, Executive Director David Grindle, VP-Commissions Carolyn Satter, Stage Expo Manager Ron Propcopio, Marketing and Public Relations Director Lynne Dundas, Member Services Director Monica Merritt, Marketing Strategist Gabrielle Chiddy, and Education/Training Coordinator Christine Troscher.



Many friends stopped by the booth including USITT Fellows Joe Aldridge, Mitch Hefter, Jerry Gorrell, and Ken Vannice. Many attendees asked about USITT 2016 and the programs promoted at the booth: the Gateway mentoring program for students underrepresented in technical theatre, Elite Training for early career professionals, and the upcoming Essential Skills for Entertainment Technicians (eSET) program. Dana Taylor and Darren Levin, members of the eSET Lighting and Electrics Working Group, also visited and answered questions about the program, which will hold the first basic skills exams at USITT 2016. ([More on eSET here.](#))

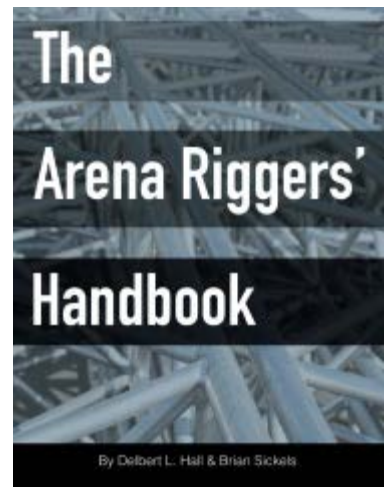
[Click here to view our Facebook album from LDI 2015 »](#)

## USITT Member Hall Co-Authors Handbook

**Delbert L. Hall**, rigging guru and USITT member, will sign copies of *The Arena Riggers' Handbook* at the USITT 2016 Bookstore in Salt Lake City in March.

Hall co-authored the book with Brian Sickels. It is the latest in a series of books on rigging and rigging mathematics the theatre and dance professor from East Tennessee State University has written. He's even created the rigging apps RigCalc and PocketRigger. He is an ETCP certified theatre rigger and ETCP recognized trainer.

The book will be available at the USITT 2016 bookstore, and Hall will participate in a member author book signing. Any author who is a USITT



member and has produced a publication on theatre design or technology in the past year may participate. To sign up, contact [Carol@usitt.org](mailto:Carol@usitt.org).

## USITT Diversity, Student Meetings Focus of Boston Trip

USITT's diversity efforts were presented by **David Grindle, Executive Director**, at the League of Resident Theatres' (LORT) Fall Conference in Boston recently.

The meeting brought together managing directors, artistic directors, and heads of production from dozens of LORT theatres across the country. "[The conference] gave us an opportunity to make people more aware of what USITT is doing to promote diversity, that we're developing networks and giving people opportunities to diversify the hiring pool" for technical theatre, Grindle explained.

Two members of USITT's Board of Directors, Rafael Jaen and Mike Katz, took advantage of Grindle's trip to have him to speak to their students at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. Jaen teaches theatre arts and Katz is technical director at UMass-Boston. They invited students to The McCormack Theatre at UMass to meet Grindle and ask him questions about USITT, the business of theatre, and making a career in technical theatre.



Katz, Jaen, & Grindle on Twitter.

**Members: Have news to share?**

Articles, videos, blog posts or speaking events to announce?

Tell us at [janet@usitt.org](mailto:janet@usitt.org).



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## News Releases from Our Industry Members

### GLP: Wins at LDI 2015

**Sustaining member** GLP Inc won an award at the recent **LDI 2015** in Las Vegas. GLP won the LDI award for Best Product Presentation and an honorable mention in the Best Debuting Product: Lighting category for new additions to the X4 family of fixtures.

### Meyer Sound: Publishes LEOPARD White Paper

John Meyer, president and CEO of **Contributing member** Meyer Sound, recently published a white paper offering an in-depth view into technological ideas behind the development of LEOPARD.

In "The LEOPARD Project," Meyer details his lifelong quest for the perfect loudspeaker—addressing the science of sound measurement and the history of loudspeaker development.

### PRG: Introduces Products at LDI

One of the innovations making its debut at LDI was **Contributing member** PRG's GroundControl Remote Followspot System.

The PRG GroundControl System allows a technician to remotely operate a high output PRG Bad Boy Spot automated luminaire as a followspot from up to 2,000 feet away.

### Vectorworks: Acquires ESP Vision/Vision Pro

**Sustaining member** Vectorworks, Inc. has acquired the ESP Vision product line, including Vision Pro lighting pre-visualization software, which is available for both PC and Mac operating systems. Vectorworks said it will continue to support ESP Vision's existing customers and noted that Vision's technical team will join Vectorworks' development and support group. Staff from both Vectorworks and ESP Vision were at LDI.

### Nova Lume: Integrates Products into NFL System



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The National Football League is implementing Green GO Digital Intercom across its instant replay and inInjury review systems this season. **Sustaining member** Nova Lume has modified Green GO products to more closely align with the NFL's specific requirements.



## ETC: Surpasses 1,000 Employee Milestone

Undergoing a planned phase of strategic growth, **Contributing member** ETC passed a significant milestone this summer, employing more than 1,000 people worldwide.



ETC's summer employee count shows 1,036 people working throughout its global offices, 900 of whom are based in Middleton, Wisc. and Mazomanie, Wisc.

Since August 2014, ETC has created 98 permanent jobs in the U.S. and welcomed over 250 new hires to the company.

## LynTec: Panels Earn UL 924 Emergency Lighting Certification

**Supporting member** LynTec recently announced its remote power controller (RPC) family of panels has received UL 924 certification, ensuring that LynTec offers panels that conform to UL's standard for emergency lighting and power equipment.



The UL 924-listed panels, used in conjunction with an upstream transfer switch, help ensure that users comply easily with federal, state, and local egress or emergency lighting codes as required for any new or upgraded lighting installation.

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## Transitions



Dinna Myers

Todd Fouyer

R. Christopher Stokes

**Contributing member** Musson Theatrical's long-time director of sales and marketing, Dinna Myers, relocated to New Zealand where she will continue to serve the company. She will continue as marketing director while working on business development.

Sales Associate Todd Fouyer will serve Myers's regular clients.

R. Christopher Stokes was hired as field project coordinator at **Contributing member** ETC's Hollywood-based.

Stokes earned an MFA in lighting design from the California Institute of the Arts in Northridge and a BA in theatre with minors in philosophy and computer science from Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Penn. He was a lighting intern at the Los Angeles Opera as part of the Wally Russell Lighting Internship program.

For the past several years, Stokes has done freelance lighting design.

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

## Spread the Spirit of the Season with a Thank-you

**Mark Shanda** *USITT President*

The most wonderful time of the year?

Holiday decorations have been in the stores since early October. For some, that *A Christmas Carol* set has been re-assembled for the 15th or 20th time, sugar plum fairies are literally dancing (and not just in “sweet little heads”), and there is likely either some time off or double/triple time income as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Eve all get celebrated.



Some of our members may have taken on the outdoor light display challenge and are the banes of their neighborhoods and darlings of the power company. After all, 45,000 LED light still have some appreciable power draw.

However you are celebrating or working the holidays, I would like to challenge each of you to take just a few moments and express your thanks to someone who has made a difference in your life this past year or who assisted you in becoming the person you are. Be it a colleague at work, a teacher from your past, or even a family member who said the right word at the right time, take the time to drop them a note, email them, or even just post on Facebook your thanks for the impact that they have had on your life.

Oftentimes it is suggested that we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us, and I believe that is true throughout the entertainment industry. All of us owe a large debt of gratitude to the pioneers of our field who conducted research, documented production solutions, wrote textbooks, or spoke inspiring words we took to heart. We may have said “thank you” to them at the time, but in the spirit of giving that surrounds this time of year, be intentional about reinforcing that thanks with a brief moment of outreach.

I would be remiss if I didn’t take this challenge upon myself and express my profound thanks: to the National Office Staff in Syracuse for all that they do for

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the day-to-day operations of the Institute; to the officers and Board of Directors who devote so much time and energy to advance USITT and the entertainment industry; and to all of you for the work that you do in your daily lives that reflects well on this calling that we know as theatre design and technology.

Be intentional about thanking someone this month whom you haven't been in touch with for a while. Reach back out to that special teacher who helped to lay the foundation for your life's work. Spend just a few extra moments with your family who supports you in so many unnamed ways. And look forward to an exciting new year, filled with new possibilities and challenges not even imagined at this point.

This can indeed be the "most wonderful time of the year" as we celebrate our blessings and acknowledge those who have had an impact on us. Peace to each of you this special season!

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

Please e-mail Mark at [Shanda.1@osu.edu](mailto:Shanda.1@osu.edu).



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## Spotlight on Giving Good Done Everywhere

**Rafael Jaen**

*For the past 20 years, USITT has been my platform of inspiration and improvement. As a theatre educator, author and regional theatre artist, the Institute has offered me support to grow both professionally and personally. The various Commissions are vital for academics and practitioners sharing research, and the Conference's networking opportunities nurture long-term relationships and resources.*



*As a Board Member, I can attest to the far-reaching influence that our organization has in the fields of design, technology, and management. USITT's commitment to programming for students, educators, established professionals, and allied organizations is unparalleled. The field work advancing industry standards, best practices, and state-of-the-art research is outstanding. The educational poster sessions and symposia; national exhibits and international installations; and various grants and fellowships programs are exemplary.*

*I give financially and otherwise because of USITT's investment in our future, support of early career individuals, and across-the-board diversity. With growing student Chapters and Regional Sections, USITT has become an indispensable national leader moving us further into the 21st century and beyond.*

*To quote Maya Angelou, "I'm convinced of this: Good done anywhere is good done everywhere."*

Rafael Jaen, costume designer, author, and assistant professor of theatre arts at the University of Massachusetts, is a member of the Board of Directors and active in the Costume Design & Technology Commission.

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- Dennis Dorn
- Paul Epton
- Andi Lyons
- Sylvia Pannell
- Loren Schreiber
- Charles Williams

### **New Century Fund**

- Paul Epton
- Andi Lyons
- Charles Williams

### **New Century Fund - Diversity**

- Kasey Allee-Foreman
- Jack Feivou
- Janet Gramza
- Rafael Jaen
- Michael Katz
- Andi Lyons
- Michael Mehler *In Memory of Tayneshia Jefferson*
- Rebecca Stoll

### **New Century Fund - Rigging Safety**

- Lea Asbell-Swanger
- Carol Carrigan
- Eric Rouse

### **Samuel H. Scripps International Fund**

- Alexandra Bonds
- Kevin Rigdon
- Loren Schreiber

### **USITT Fund**

- Richard Arnold, Sr.
- Andi Lyons
- Mark Shanda

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- Andi Lyons
- Martha Marking
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- Monica Merritt
- Sylvia Pannell
- Carolyn Satter
- Loren Schreiber
- Mary Jean Sedlock
- Maximillian Short
- John Stark
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- Kimb Williamson

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

## USITT's Supporting Cast: You

**David Grindle** *Executive Director*



Humbug!

It's that time of year -- If you aren't producing Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, you know someone who is. Night after night theatres across America are filled with families that love the ghosts, the period clothing (I'm making an assumption, but it's likely a safe one), or the conversion of miserly Scrooge to the joyful giver.

If it isn't *A Christmas Carol*, it might be Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*. Candy canes dancing, mice and soldiers fighting, trees growing, and dance companies having enough cash to operate for a while longer. That's what the holidays bring.

As entertainment professionals, we live on these holiday shows. USITT has lots of photos and stories of these shows, but we don't *produce* one income-boosting show. Instead we have end-of-year Giving.

USITT is a 501(c)3 organization in the U.S. Tax Code. It means, just like theatre companies, monies given to USITT as gifts are fully tax deductible. That makes it a gift to USITT and a gift to the giver come April.



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The Institute is lucky to be a strong, non-profit organization. Our leadership has placed us on firm footing, but we are also a “moving company” that’s always doing something. Gifts to USITT allow us to do programming like *USITT Presents* around the country at costs that are affordable. Without our donors, we would never be able to offer \$30 training events.

Individual membership dues remained unchanged for five years and only went up a few dollars this past year. Giving made that possible. We don’t rely solely on membership dues to fund our programs. Our donors are supporting those programs and making the world better for everyone.

We have all sat through our share of curtain speeches asking patrons for donations. I suppose you are thinking I’m doing just that at this very moment. And I suppose I am. This time of year, we ask you to look at the difference USITT is making and to contribute towards that if you can. While big gifts are great, so are gifts of any amount. In fact, small gifts given monthly make a huge impact over time.

As we go through the end of the year, we have #Giving Tuesday on December 1, and we have online giving at any time. You can mail a check or call the office. Those who can make a gift make a better world for everyone.

Some people make their season budgets through popular seasonal productions. The USITT Annual Appeal holds that place. We are grateful to our members for their investment in membership. Your year-end gift is an investment that helps us bring affordable services closer to home for everyone.

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## News From Regional Sections

- **Southwest:** January Symposium to be Largest Yet
- **Midwest:** Meet Features LEDs, Projection, Media Servers

### Southwest: January Symposium to be Largest Yet

The USITT Southwest Regional Section is gearing up for its largest Symposium Jan. 15 to 17 with 40 sessions in the works, the annual Student Design/Tech/Management Competition, six seasoned responders, two keynote speakers, and, hopefully, a record breaking attendance in Arlington, Texas.

The **tentative schedule**, hotel info, and registration are available at [southwest.usitt.org](http://southwest.usitt.org). Early registration ends Dec. 26.

The Symposium will be held at the University of Texas at Arlington. Student Design/Technology/Management Competition guidelines are **available here!**

The Section is accepting workshop proposals. Please email Michelle Harvey at [harveymd@uta.edu](mailto:harveymd@uta.edu).

Nominations for Directors-At-Large for Positions 1 and 3, Student Positions 5 and 6, VP for Development, and Treasurer-Elect will be accepted during the Symposium.

Need to renew your membership? Visit the **membership** page.

### Midwest: Meet Features LEDs, Projection, Media Servers

Midwest Regional Section member MainStage Theatrical Supply and Project Manager David Krajec hosted three sessions in the Milwaukee office Nov. 7.

Tom Littrell, who works in outreach and training for ETC, presented "Layers of Light," discussing how to use LED-powered lighting fixtures as tools for stage, studio, and architectural lighting. He discussed

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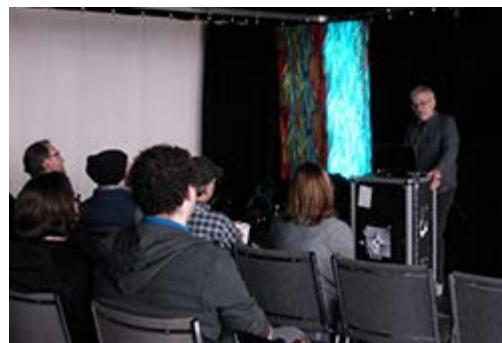
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the newest LED emitters and their contribution to LED use in stage lighting, as well as dimming and other control aspects of LEDs.



Tom Littrell of ETC

"Projections and Projectors" presented an overview of the current projection equipment available and how it can best be put to use. This session was presented by Nate Castillo of Professional Audio Designs.

There was great interest in a future session on video manipulation software.

The third session of the day featured LED Video Walls and things to consider such as pitch, pixel density, and nits (brightness). The presenter was Rich Anders, national sales manager for MegaSystems.



Nate Castillo of Professional Audio Designs.

John Boesche, chair of digital media for live performance at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, said, "This was a terrific session. Lots of great information and insight from our three presenters, but the best part of the event was the networking with students plus young and more established peers. Presenters and peers were all very willing to share contacts."

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News From OISTAT

## Serbian Centre Explores Theoretical Boundaries, Spain Slated to Host Sevilla 16

**Carl Walling** *OISTAT Commission Representative*

September's *Radical Space in Between Disciplines* conference in Novi Sad, Serbia was sponsored by the Serbian OISTAT center and the Department of Department of Architecture and Urbanism and the faculty of technical sciences at the University of Novi Sad. It had over 50 presentations in which scholars from Australia, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, the Netherlands, Portugal, Serbia, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. Over the three-day conference, scholars covered topics in scene design, architecture, architectural theory, spatial theory, and theatre design theory in practice.



University of Novi Sad – September 21, 2015 (Photo: Carl Walling)

Presentation abstracts are available through the [conference's website](#).

The OISTAT Executive Committee selected Association OISTAT Spain to host Sevilla 16 October 19 to 23. It will include the OISTAT Executive Committee – Governing Board, Commission of Architecture, and possibly the Space Design Group

Meetings will coincide with a Conference on Theatre Architecture in Andalucia. An optional trip to Teatro Romano de Mérida and Museo de Arte Romano do Mérida will be offered on October 24.



Conference on Theatre Architecture in Andalucia  
Alcalá de Guadaíra (Sevilla) October 21-23, 2016  
[info@oistat.es](mailto:info@oistat.es) [www.oistat.es](http://www.oistat.es)

Keynote Presentation Lecture Hall –  
September 21, 2015 (Photo: Carl Walling)

Each day of the main conference will include presentations on theatres in Andalucia, restoration projects, and afternoon visits to a variety of theatres.

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Simultaneous translation into English will be provided at all presentations, and transportation will be provided.

In the coming months, Association OISTAT Spain will announce details regarding registration dates and fees, hotel options, and specifics regarding tours. USITT will communicate this information as it becomes available.

José Luis Ferrera and Juan Ruesga are the primary organizers of this event that offers the opportunity to meet with the international architecture community and visit theatres not usually available for in-depth tours.

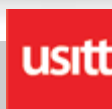
Those interested in joining the mailing list can contact Randy Earle, OISTAT Commission on Architecture, at [randyearle@earthlink.net](mailto:randyearle@earthlink.net), and he will forward names and email addresses to the organizers.

All USITT members are welcome to participate in OISTAT events and meetings. USITT is the OISTAT centre for the United States, and all USITT members are simultaneously members of OISTAT. For more information about upcoming OISTAT events, go to [www.oistat.org](http://www.oistat.org).

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## Lighting Commission Seeks Info for Polokov Retrospective

Members of the Lighting Design & Technology Commission are looking for input to honor legendary lighting designer and educator Lester Polokov in a retrospective for publication and a session at USITT 2017.

Commission Member Jim Streeter is spearheading a group who attended or had some relationship with the Studio and Forum of Stage Design created by Polokov.

The Studio and Forum of Stage Design, sometimes shortened by its students to “Polokov’s,” was a leader in bringing a full curriculum for conceptual designers into a single school. Valérie C. Kaelin, in her article “Roots: Lester Polokov,” described Polokov’s legacy as “transmission of mind.” This references his powerful influence on his students and colleagues alike. Kaelin describes his work as revolutionary and said it has had a lasting effect that must be documented and shared.

Streeter, production manager at Princeton University’s Film and Performance Theatre is a self proclaimed, proud alumnus of the Polokov School.

“I would like to bring former students and instructors together to get their remembrances, photos and any other items from the original school,” says Mr. Streeter. His intention is to develop an article and USITT session by 2017 and possibly create a retrospective book by 2018 to correspond with the former school’s 60th anniversary.

Anyone connected with the Polokov School who has ideas, remembrances, or stories is asked to attend the Lighting Commission meeting 8 a.m. Friday, March 19 at USITT 2016 in Salt Lake City. Snacks will be provided.

For more information on Polokov, read his book, *We Live to (Fly) Paint Again* (Logbooks Press, 1993).

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## Listserv Brings Costumers Together

**Kristina Tollefson** *Moderator*

The **Costumer's Info list** brings together hundreds of costuming professionals worldwide to exchange sources, ideas, techniques, and products used in any area of theatrical costuming.

All USITT members who are involved in costuming are encouraged to participate.

Subscribers post questions ranging from machinery recommendations to dye techniques, textbooks and web sources, internships and job openings. Topics and discussions on the list sometimes develop into panel sessions at the USITT Annual Conferences & Stage Expos. With a membership of over 600, there is someone out there who has faced the same challenges and who is excited to share their experiences.

The list has a searchable archive, so those who join now can benefit from the discussions of the past. Searching the archives before posting a request may be all that is needed to answer a question. Entering "dye vats" into the Costumer's Info archive, for example, will bring up all posts that contained any discussion of dye vats.

The list is moderated, which ensures the integrity of postings, allows the moderator to edit or combine duplicate messages, and ensures that members are posting to the correct list for their inquiry.

The main features can be accessed through email alone, but both lists have web pages providing access to additional resources. Participants can choose to receive either the individual message format (which may result in as many as 10 emails a day) or the digest format (which compiles all of the day's messages into one email) for either list. Guidelines for use can be found in the "files" section on the Costumer's Info website and will be emailed immediately upon subscribing.

Questions about these services that cannot be answered by visiting the web, can be directed to the list moderator, Kristina Tollefson, at [kristina@tollefsongdesigns.com](mailto:kristina@tollefsongdesigns.com).

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## Yes! Think About 2017 Costume PDWs, Sessions

**M.C. Friedrich** *CD&T Vice-Commissioner for Programming*

Getting psyched for USITT 2016 in Salt Lake City? Who's thinking about USITT 2017 in St. Louis, Missouri? The Costume Design & Technology Commission, that's who!

The Commission is already seeking Professional Development Workshops (PDWs) and Sessions to be presented at the 2017 Conference. We will be moving to an on-line submission process that will be available soon. It's not too early to start drafting proposals since they'll be voted on at USITT 2016 in March. To help those interested assemble necessary information, examples of the previous PDW and session submission forms can be found here.

So, what's the difference between a PDW and a Session? The PDWs are in-depth, hands-on experiences that should take one or two days to complete, with intensive explorations of techniques or methods and a little philosophy thrown in. Sessions are shorter, typically an hour and 15 minutes long, and provide an overview or introduction to a topic through presentation, demonstration, discussion, or brief hands-on experiences.

Now, what to propose? Anything and everything costume and make-up related can be proposed: design, history, techniques, education, use of new materials, or anything else artists can think of. Maybe a past session sparked a new angle or idea for a session. Perhaps a group has discussed different solutions to production challenges. What about a PDW or session topic people have wanted but haven't yet seen at the Conference? Those who have an idea but don't want to present it can also submit it so someone else can run with it.

The CD&T Commission votes to select programming, but it is Commission members and their ideas that determine the quality of the Conference.

Proposals submitted last year can also be resubmitted; just contact M.C. Friedrich, VC-Programming at [mcfriedr@mtu.edu](mailto:mcfriedr@mtu.edu).

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## Commission Offers Two Engineering PDWs

Join the authors of two theatrical engineering design texts for Professional Design Workshops at the USITT 2016 in Salt Lake City offered by the Engineering Commission.

Alan Hendrickson and Daniel Lisowski will lead a workshop exploring deck winch design, including applicable principles of physics such as force, torque, speed, and power. Based on Hendrickson's book, *Mechanical Design for the Stage*, this PDW will be offered 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 19. Attendees will learn how to apply these principles to their own designs. Registration is \$175 for USITT members and \$210 for non-members. Lunch and an afternoon snack are included.

For those who teach technical design, the "Train the Trainer: Steel Structural Design for the Stage" workshop is not to be missed! This two-day workshop with Ben Sammler and Steven Schmidt will focus on updates to steel design covered in the second edition of *Structural Design for the Stage*. Attendees will learn what has changed and how to apply the new material. This PDW is offered starting 8:30 a.m. Monday and Tuesday, March 14 and 15. Registration is \$300 for USITT members and \$360 for non-members.

[Find these and other PDWs here.](#)

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Conference & Stage Expo

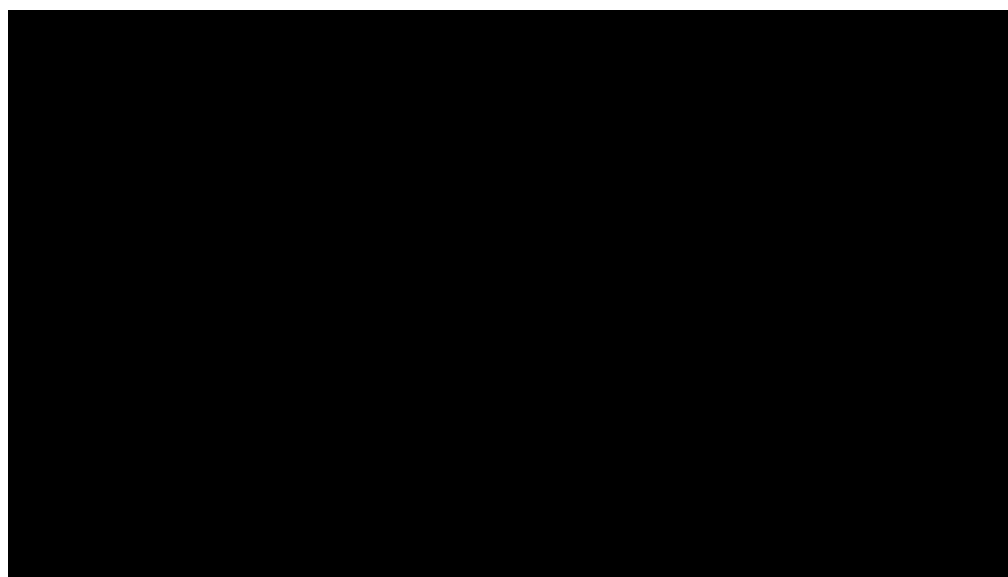
## A Suggestion for Thursday Night Off at USITT 2016

For the first time in, well, maybe ever, USITT has included an evening of no programming in the USITT 2016 schedule for Salt Lake City. Thursday, March 17, of the March 16-19 show will be a night off to allow attendees to enjoy exploring our 2016 destination.

One suggestion: Thursday evenings also happen to be the night that the world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir rehearses in the 150-year-old Tabernacle, itself an architectural wonder in Salt Lake's historic Temple Square.

The choir's 7:30 p.m. Thursday rehearsals are free and open to the public. Temple Square is just a couple blocks from the Salt Palace Convention Center and conference hotels.

On that note, here's a video from the Mormon Tabernacle Choir's 2011 Christmas concert, complete with dancing angels and costumed bell ringers.


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# Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

December 2015

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- Morpheus Lights
- Niscon Inc.
- University of North Carolina School of the Arts
- Northern Sound & Light, Inc.
- Nova Lume
- Ontario Staging Limited
- OSRAM SYLVANIA
- Pathway Connectivity
- Penn State University
- Period Corsets
- Peter Albrecht Company
- Pointwright Entertainment Rigging Specialists
- Prepared, LLC
-



- Rational Acoustics, LLC
- RC4 Wireless/Soundsculpture Inc.
- Rockford University
- Saginaw Valley State University
- Sapsis Rigging Entertainment Services, Inc.
- Sculptural Arts Coating, Inc.
- Serapid, Inc.
- Show Sage
- Siong Ann Engineering Pte Ltd
- Smooth-On, Inc.
- Stage Decoration & Supplies, Inc.
- Stage Equipment and Lighting, Inc.
- Stage Rigging Services, Inc.
- Stagecraft Industries, Inc.
- Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas
- StageLight, Inc.
- Stagemaker
- Staging Concepts, Inc.
- SUNY Oswego Theatre Department
- Techni-Lux, Inc.
- Theatre Consultants Collaborative, LLC
- Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.
- Theatre Technology Apprenticeship Program
- Thern Stage Equipment
- Tiffin Scenic Studios, Inc.
- Truss Aluminum Factory
- Turning Star Inc.
- Ultratec Special Effects Inc.
- Union Connector Co., Inc.
- United Scenic Artists Local 829
- USHIO America, Inc.
- Vectorworks
- University of Virginia
- Wayne State University Dept of Theatre
- XS Lighting, LLC

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