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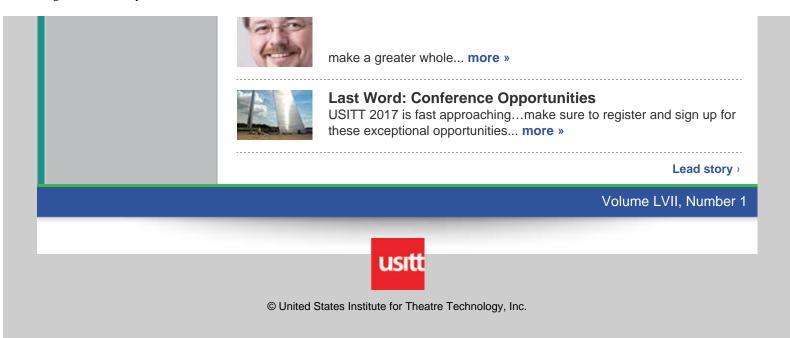


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Member Spotlight: Jeanette Aultz

Q&A with Jeanette Aultz: costume designer, technician, draper, special effects makeup artist, and educator at Montclair State University.

USITT: How did you get involved in costuming?

Jeanette: My mom taught me how to sew. I got her to teach me when I was



14 how to use sewing machines. I went to college for dance and have a BFA in dance. When you're in college, even for dance, you have to do your tech requirements, so I would volunteer to help with costumes because I knew how to sew. By the end of the four years, for my senior project I was doing the costumes for the student choreographed dance concert and by the time I got there I was much more interested in doing the costumes and backstage work than I was in performing anymore.

How do you start your design process?

I'm more of a technician now. I do design a little bit, but I'm primarily a draper. Whether it's a director or a choreographer, I want to hear what their thoughts are first and either see the work that's happening with choreography or reading the play. Hearing the words, the feeling, and to go from there and then go into searching for images and doing that research that encompasses those imagery words that a director or choreographer might provide.

Is there a certain style of design you're drawn to?

I always pick projects that I'm going to have fun with especially if it's design because you're going to be with it constantly. About two years ago I designed a new play called "The Appeal to the Woman of the House" and it was the first time I'd worked with a play that had just been written, working with the playwright and director, and it was a wonderful collaboration all around where everybody trusted each other and all the actors were wonderful and the play was beautiful and meaningful in all the right ways. It really brought all the things that I love about theatre all together. What you hold with you is the experience of the production and that's what I really loved.

Have you ever experienced a challenge in design?

I almost always bite off almost more than I can chew. Like right now I'm at

Montclair State University and we're opening Aida and our student costume designer wanted light-up costumes. I have literally never done this before but I said "Yeah, let's do it!" I had no idea what I was doing but you get to that moment where you go "Oh, I've just said yes to do this and I don't know how," so I just started asking anyone I knew if they could point me in the direction to learn how to do this. It was clearly a bigger job than I knew it was going to be. It was a huge challenge but it looks as if it's going to pay off really well.

How did you get involved with special effects makeup?

I'm the first person that says "Yeah, I'll try that." I can't even watch bloody gory things on TV, I can't even stomach it but I was the only person who wanted to deal with the blood so it became my thing. It was something I had to teach myself. I would ask anyone that I could about what they knew and if they could suggest products. When I was working at Brooklyn College, it seemed like every production they would amp up the effects. I did a poster session a few years back at the conference where it was a silicon slash wound that had to be stitched together.

How does USITT play a role in your life?

It's been really great for seeing people that I know. It's a little reunion every time I go to the conference. I think it has expanded my network because I go to the conference and meet people and I've always found that I get a whole list of people that I can send an email to that keeps expanding. I can say hello and ask for advice or try to find people if we need to hire someone for a job. It's this fantastic, extraordinarily supportive network that the more that I get involved in the wider that net is cast. It's been a fantastic professional support network that I wouldn't give up.



Suggest a USITT Member for the Spotlight!

If you know of USITT members whose work should be in the Spotlight, please feel free to suggest them. Contact Lynne Dundas at lynne@usitt.org.

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DAA Award Winners

USITT is proud to announce its winners for the Distinguished Achievement Award.

Professional rigger Rocky Paulson, lighting designer Fred Foster, costume designer Liz Covey, sound designer Rick Thomas, scenic designer Santo Loquasto, production stage manager Joseph Drummond, and educator John Conklin will be honored with USITT Distinguished Achievement



Awards at USITT's 2017 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in St. Louis March 8-11.

Winners will also participate in USITT's popular Distinguished Achievers in Conversation session at America's Center Convention Complex.

Every year USITT recognizes a select few members whose careers have advanced the performing arts and live entertainment industry.

Full bios available on USITT website.

Rocky Paulson will receive USITT's 2017 Distinguished Achievement Award in Technical Production. Paulson is the founder of Stage Rigging, a production rigging company. It was the first of its kind and still maintains a high profile in the industry 10 years after his retirement. Until 2006, Paulson had the opportunity to be involved with many rock tours, corporate events, films, and major rigging events such as national political conventions, Olympics, and Super Bowls. He spent significant time educating the Stage Rigging riggers and others in the industry by writing articles and teaching.

Fred Foster will receive USITT's 2017 Distinguished Achievement Award in Lighting Design & Technology. Foster is ETC's founder and CEO. Foster has received some of the industry's top honors: the 2015 Knight of Illumination Lifetime Recognition Award, the 2013 Ken Hendricks Memorial "Seize the Day" Award, the 2010 USITT Midwest Regional Section Award, a USITT Special Citation, the 2007 Wally Russell Lifetime Achievement Award, and the international 2010 Gottelier Award. Foster also won the Wisconsin Governor's

Award for the Arts 2010, given to ETC as a vital and progressive force for creativity in the state.

Liz Covey will receive USITT's 2017 Distinguished Achievement Award in Costume Design & Technology. Covey is co-author with Rosemary Ingham of *The Costumer Designer's Handbook* and *The Costume Technician's Handbook*. Covey's costume designs have been seen at over 20 of the major theatres across this country. Covey has taught at Barnard College/Columbia University, Marymount Manhattan, Muhlenberg College, Bennington College, and was an instructor for the Theatre Development Fund Intern Program for several years.

Rick Thomas will receive USITT's 2017 Distinguished Achievement Award in Sound Design & Technology. Thomas has had a long, successful career as a composer, sound designer, author, playmaker, and educator, and has been active in presenting at the USITT Annual Conference for close to 40 years. Thomas was recognized with the Purdue University Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award in Memory of Charles B. Murphy in 2007 and was included in the *Book of Great Teachers* at Purdue in 2008. Thomas is a Fellow of USITT, where he was awarded the Joel E. Rubin Founder's Award. He is a former Sound Commissioner, associate editor for sound for *Theatre Design & Technology*, and a member of the USITT Board of Directors. He is an elected member of the National Theatre Conference and founder of the OISTAT Sound Design Group.

Santo Loquasto will receive USITT's 2017 Distinguished Achievement Award in Scene Design & Technology. Loquasto has some 430 projects to his credit in his 52-year career. He has been either costume designer or production designer for 30 Woody Allen films and was nominated for Oscars for costumes for *Zelig* and production design for *Radio Days* and *Bullets Over Broadway*. His other film designs include *Desperately Seeking Susan* and *Big*. Loquasto has designed for opera at the Metropolitan Opera and the Chicago Lyric Opera and for dance at the New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, and the National Ballet of Canada. Loquasto has had career-long collaborations with choreographers Twyla Tharp and Paul Taylor. Loquasto has been nominated for 18 Tony Awards, 3 of which he has won.

Joseph Drummond will receive USITT's 2017 Distinguished Achievement Award in Management. Drummond recently retired as a production stage manager with The Goodman Theatre in Chicago after 42 seasons. Drummond taught stage management at Roosevelt University for 21 years and is the recipient of the Joseph Jefferson Award for Lifetime Achievement after 25 years of stage management at the Goodman. He is a 45-year member of Actors' Equity Association and currently the Central Region Rep of the Stage Managers' Association.

John Conklin will receive USITT's 2017 Distinguished Achievement Award in Education. Conklin is a scenic and costume designer that has designed for opera, theatre, and ballet in a career spanning 50 years. Conklin has designed for the Metropolitan, San Francisco Opera, Paris Opera, The Royal Opera (Stockholm), Houston Grand Opera, the Opera Theatre of St Louis, Glimmerglass Opera, Seattle Opera, and others. Mr. Conklin is a professor at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University.

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Architecture Award Winners

USITT's 2017 Architecture Awards feature three top honor award winners this year: Maltz Performing Arts Center at Case Western Reserve University, The Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts at Queen's University, and Writers Theatre in Glencoe, Illinois.

The Maltz Performing Arts Center,

designed by MGA Partners Architects is a nationally registered historic synagogue in Cleveland, Ohio at the performing arts center for Case Western Reserve University. The renovations included the addition of an acoustic canopy, theatrical lighting, a stage and piano lift, acoustic wall panels, as well as restored seating and interior finishes. In addition, a chapel in the rear of the building was converted into a recital hall, and



The Maltz Performing Arts Center

support spaces such as a green room and control rooms were added.

The Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts at Queen's University, designed by Snøhetta at a total cost of \$72 M, is a catalyst for the arts at the University. An 80,000 square-foot building unites a diverse range of the University's performance and creative art disciplines under a single roof. With a 566-seat performance hall, classrooms, rehearsal and performance spaces, the Isabel provides a supportive learning environment for young artists and

Writers Theatre designed by Studio Gang Architects increased capacity while maintaining its trademark

performers to grow in their discipline.



The Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts at Queen's University

intimacy and the close audienceperformer connection found in their original smaller spaces. The design team realized this goal by working collaboratively to create new, technologically advanced performance spaces that are still reminiscent of the theater's former venues. While the size of each venue was effectively doubled, they remain as intimate and immersive as Writers' original spaces.



Writers Theatre. Photo credit: Steve Hall

Receiving architectural merit awards will be:

- Ascend Amphitheater in Nashville, Tennessee
- Bicknell Family Center for the Arts at Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas
- Chapman University Musco Center for the Arts in Orange California
- Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia
- Mount Royal University Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts in Calgary,
 Alberta Canada

The Architecture Commission will present the awards at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo Friday March 10, 2017, 5:30pm-8:30pm in St. Louis. The Conference also will offer multiple architecture sessions, several for AIA/CES credit.

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DTHG Weltenbauer Youngsters Award

Following the successful debut of the Weltenbauer Award, a new event will be taking place at Stage|Set|Scenery 2017: The Weltenbauer Youngsters Awards. One hundred and fifty years ago the opera Roméo et Juliette was first performed by Charles Gounod on 27 April 1867. It is with this event in mind that an assignment will be given to the contestants of the Weltenbauer Youngsters Awards 2017.

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Trainees, students (ranging from schools to vocational and higher education) from any country specializing in the theatre, films and event technology are invited to submit their designs and works on the subject of Romeo and Juliet. These may be individual or team works focusing on stage design, the theatre stage, costumes, decoration, set design, make-up, lighting concepts, videos or audio installations. Candidates must submit their entries in digital form at www.wir-sind-weltenbauer.de no later than Feb. 28, 2017.

Stage|Set|Scenery is offering reduced-rate tickets for students of all ages. Teachers and lecturers who register their student groups in advance will be granted free admission.

For more information, click here.

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Rigging Safety Grants Announced

USITT has approved funding for stage rigging inspections and safety training at no cost for 12 additional schools as part of its Rigging Safety Initiative (RSI).

RSI has approved applications from over 100 schools spanning across 25 states since its start in 2011. Schools can apply for the free inspections twice a year, in spring & fall.



The schools that have been awarded free inspections as well as four to six hours of safety training for up to eight staff members and students are:

- Amos P. Godby High School, Tallahassee, FL
- Arroyo Grande High School Clark Center for the Performing Arts, Arroyo, CA
- Cardinal Heights Upper Middle School, Sun Prairie, WI
- Chaska High School, Chaska, MN
- Cypress Ridge High School, Houston, TX
- Cypress Woods High School, Cypress, TX
- East Kentwood High School, Kentwood, MI
- Kenton Ridge High School, Springfield, OH
- Monroe High School, Monroe, WI
- Riverview High School, Riverview, FL
- Scarborough High School, Scarborough, ME
- The King's Academy, Sunnyvale, CA

"In the past five years USITT has been able to aid in improving safety for hundreds of thousands of our nation's secondary school students through the Rigging Safety Initiative," said USITT Executive Director David Grindle. "Our participating providers are not only inspecting schools, but providing training through the RSI, so that we continue to support and grow a culture of safety from an early age."

A panel of USITT rigging experts determines which applications are approved based on their need, safety concerns, and the amount of funding available.

Companies which employ ETCP Certified Riggers can participate as rigging inspectors. Current RSI sponsors include H&H Specialties, ETC, and JR Clancy.

Applications for the next funding cycle are due April 25, 2017.

To apply and to be considered for RSI, click here.

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Jenn Shuron and Matthew Carroll Join USITT National Office Staff

The USITT National Office is pleased to welcome our two newest marketing staff members: Jenn Shuron, Content Specialist; and Matthew Carroll, Social Media Specialist.

Jenn is happy to be a part of the USITT National Office Staff after being involved in community theatre for over 12 years.

Jenn graduated from SUNY Oswego in May of 2016 with a bachelor's degree in journalism and gender and women's studies, and worked as the section head and editor of the opinion section of her college's student run newspaper, The Oswegonian.



Jenn develops content for USITT's three newsletters: Sightlines, College2Career, and Conference News.

Contact Jenn at Jenn@usitt.org.

Matthew Carroll also recently joined USITT's staff at the National Office as Social Media Specialist.

Matthew graduated from RIT in May of 2016 with a bachelor's degree in New Media Marketing. He was a founding member of *It's Time: EXOUT Extremism*, a global social media campaign for combating violent extremism across the globe.

Matthew supports USITT's outreach efforts through social media channels including Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

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Theatre Historical Society of America Moves to Pittsburgh

The Theatre Historical Society of America is excited to announce Pittsburgh, PA as their new home. The move represents a big step forward for THS after spending nearly 25 years above the York theatre in Elmhurst, IL. The organization now sits at the hub of Pittsburgh's cultural district and can take part in strategic partnerships to increase their impact to celebrate, document, and promote the architectural, cultural, and social relevance of America's historic theatres. To learn more about the Theatre Historical Society of America, click here.

UCSD's Department of Theatre and Dance Layoffs

UC San Diego Department of Theatre and Dance has laid off their entire joint staff including 21 university production employees, heads of lighting, scenic, prop, costume and sound departments. Under the new staffing model, 21 new positions will be created for the new Department of Theatre and Dance; and those whose positions were eliminated are eligible to reapply. The new model will follow a 9-month instead of a 12-month calendar, with the option for summertime work.

Opera Leaders Mentorship Program

The implementation of the Opera Leaders Mentorship Program in 2016 broadened its focus to include the development of emerging operatic leaders in stage direction, stage management, design (scenic, lighting, and costume), as well as coaching and conducting. The program serves a dual purpose by providing 1) expert practical, technical, and artistic guidance to the young opera professional in a leadership position; and 2) structured oversight of mentees and their work for the sake of the company and production. For more details, click here.

Cirque du Soleil Employment

Cirque du Soleil, the world's largest producer of live theatrical attractions is hiring!

At the Annual Conference & Stage Expo in St. Louis, Cirque du Soleil will be interviewing candidates for internships and, new this year, full time positions. Cirque du Soleil is expanding around the globe with more opportunities for travel, diverse workplaces, and full on operational positions. Cirque is expanding the limits of the possible and invites you to join them. Build a job profile on Cirque du Soleil's website and stop by the Cirque booth on the expo floor. For more information and to build your profile, click here.

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International

Sevilla '16: Something Old, Something New

Rob Eastman-Mullins VP-Programming International Activities Committee, OISTAT Liaison

Seville, Spain offers a dichotomy of the old and the new. The 13th century Torre del Oro sits just across the Guadalquivir River from the sprawling complex of postmodern structures left behind by Expo '92. Crisscrossing the river, the classic stone and steel Triana Bridge and the sail-like, cantilever Alamillo Bridge have perfect views of one another.



The meetings, held in conjunction with Sevilla '16, OISTAT's conference on theatre architecture in Andalucia, included a new organizational structure.

USITT members attending a special joint meeting of OISTAT's Executive Committee and Governing Board were Kevin Rigdon, VP of International Activities; Carl Walling, Chair of OISTAT's Publication and Communication Commission; William Kenyon, newly elected Chair of OISTAT's Education Commission; Joe Pino (via Skype), head of the Sound Design Group; and Rob Eastman-Mullins, U.S. Delegate to OISTAT's Performance Design Commission and the Space Design Group's representative.

Sevilla '16 was held in the Auditorium Riberas del Guadaira, a new arts venue at the foot of the castle at Alcala de Guadaira. An international cadre of attendees experienced presentations on topics ranging from the cartography of theatre buildings in Andalucia to the virtual reconstruction of the Corral de Monteria in Seville.

The program included an open-air performance inside the ruins of the castle as well as visits to a number of local performance spaces, including the 18th century Plaza de Toros de la Real Maestranza—a bullfighting ring still in use.

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International OISTAT Newsletter

Being a USITT member means you are also a member of OISTAT. Begin immersing yourself in international culture by reading OISTAT's newsletter. To view the newsletter and to subscribe for monthly updates, click here.



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International Travel Grants

International travel grants and funding are available for 2017.

For Individual and professional members: provides USITT members with funding for international travel for advanced research and education in theatre related fields. Applicants must be Individual, Early Career, Professional, or Senior USITT members. The deadline to apply is Feb. 1, 2017. To apply, click here.

For Student members: these grants were established to assist USITT student members to travel internationally for education and research in theatre related fields. They fund projects that seek new knowledge through international travel to exhibitions, productions, and collections. The deadline to apply is Feb. 1, 2017. To apply, click here.

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To stay updated on member news and new products, be sure to check our Conference newsletter for the latest announcements.

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News From Mark Shanda, USITT President Wishing Preparation, Courage for a New Year

Mark Shanda USITT President

Happy New Year! The next 12 months are filled with nothing but possibilities as we turn the page on the calendar and welcome in 2017.

Many suggest they are more than happy to see 2016 in the rear view mirror. There were certainly a variety of tests for all of us over the course of these past 12 months that I would just as soon not repeat.

On Nov. 28, I was teaching a graduate class when our Buckeye Emergency Alarm system was launched at 9:55 a.m. "Buckeye Alert. Active shooter on campus. Run, Hide, Fight. Watts Hall. 19th and College" came across the screen on my phone and iPad. My initial response was that this was a drill. But the next message, about two minutes later, read "Emergency on Columbus Campus: More information soon. Shelter in place/be observant/take action as needed. Public safety is responding." At that point, even though I knew that Watts Hall was about three-quarters of a mile from the classroom in which I was teaching, we shut the door and switched on the news. I encouraged the students to check their phones and feel free to respond to any contact. Class was over. Spouses, parents, friends, and colleagues began to check in with everyone in the classroom.

Given the nearly instant news delivery we experience, it was only 10:07 before I began to receive emails and text messages from USITT friends around the country asking about my wellbeing and wishing the campus community their very best.

We later discovered the attacker had used his car to plow into a bunch of students at 9:52 a.m. and then exited the car with a butcher knife to stab anyone near him. By 9:53 a.m., a campus police officer who was in the area responding to a fire alarm engaged with the assailant and shot him dead. The event was actually over by the time the campus alert had been issued, but uncertainty and an abundance of caution did not allow the all-clear to be offered until 11 a.m.

In our debrief after this event, all of us marveled at how well all of the emergency systems had worked and rejoiced that all 11 of the injured victims were expected to fully recover. I found it ironic that the fall issue of TD&T had contained a special section on event safety. Based on the incident of Nov. 28 and informed

by the resources provided by the Institute, we have reviewed our protocol for such emergencies to make sure that we were not missing anything. I hope that we never have to put any of those plans in to action.

Two phrases, central to my being, continue to resonate after these events. The first is "Be Prepared" and the second is "Be not afraid." I wish you all nothing but the greatest of possibilities for 2017 and will trust that you remain both prepared and unafraid.

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

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



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Spotlight on Giving

"I support costume designers and makers in every way possible, including through USITT where I now designate my gifts to the Barbara Matera Award for Costume Makers (one of the YD&T awards). I also believe, as a Fellow of the Institute, that each and every Fellow should support the Institute which has been so important to every one of us."

- Bobbi Owen, Costume designer and USITT Fellow



December Sightlines Donations: November 16, 2016 thru December 15, 2016

Kook Fund

- Lea Asbell-Swanger: In Memory of Richard "Doc" Arnold
- Bruce Auerbach: In Honor of Bernard Works
- Sandy Bonds
- Janet Chambers: In Honor of Bernhard Works
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New Century Fund - Rigging Safety

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News From **David Grindle**, USITT Executive Director **Another Side of Collaboration**

David Grindle Executive Director

If you see something, say something.

In the last 16 years, this statement has become part of our national lexicon for security. But for professionals in our world, this concept isn't new. In fact, it exists in many industries. In the airline industry, it is called Crew Resource Management. If crew see something wrong, they are to raise the issue and make sure that the concern is noted and addressed.



In the arts we use a different word for this. We say collaboration. I'm well aware that some of you have raised eyebrows or complete disagreement with me, but here's why I equate the two.

Collaboration relies on all of our willingness to build upon ideas to make a greater whole. But we also collaborate when we check and double check each other throughout the creative process. As a stage manager, I knew that I couldn't see everything, and that's why we had a team of stage managers. We could raise issues with one another to make sure the safety and accuracy of the show were being covered.

We see this among designers, technicians, and administration in well-functioning organizations. The ability of people to raise questions and make sure everyone is working towards the same goal shows a team that is confident in its makeup. When people question in this manner, it is not (and cannot be) to prove a greater ability or intellect over others. Instead, it is to note if something seems awry with the process and to be open to receiving the same level of questioning. It is about working as a team with the result being the most important thing.

We strive to implement this philosophy in the operations of USITT. If something seems off, it is better to ask and bring it up than to let it play out to potential catastrophe.

The new year is our time for resolutions. I hope each of us will make a resolution to play a proactive role in "crew resource management" in our world. If you are in leadership, can you implement it? If you are not, can you make it part of your personal world?

Collaboration isn't just about creativity based on the ideas of one another.
Collaboration is about working together to use the strengths of each other to make a greater whole.

That mentality has worked to build many great things in our world. I hope we can all work to embrace it ever more strongly in the coming year.

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Conference & Stage Expo

Last Word: Early Bird Deadline & Conference Opportunities

Early bird discounts for USITT 2017 end in just 5 weeks! Save up to \$105 when you register by Feb. 3.

Attendance for this year's show is expected to be the largest ever for USITT, so you'll also want to secure your housing while discounted room rates are still available.

Join your peers for four jam-packed days of inspiration, networking, and training March 8-11.

Register for the conference.

Register for housing.



Below please find information on some of the great opportunities USITT 2017 has to offer.

Student Ambassador

The Student Ambassador Program is an exceptional opportunity for students to interact closely with renowned international designers and technicians attending the conference. For more information, click here.

Scenic Commission

The Scene Design and Technology Commission will be expanding its session proposal submission process for USITT 2018. For more information, click here.

Light Lab

The Lab is an opportunity to set up a theatre-style space and use equipment provided by vendors to create a learning environment away from the show floor. Register here.

USITT Presents USITT Presents is a collaboration between USITT and its organizational members to provide product- and technique-specific training sessions for USITT members and their colleagues. USITT Presents requires an additional registration fee. Register here. Previous story Front page > Volume LVII, Number 1

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