

# usitt Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

March 2018

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### USITT 2018 Keynote Speaker

USITT welcomes Wendall K. Harrington, the “godmother of modern projection design,” as the 2018 Keynote speaker... [more »](#)



### Member Spotlight: Susan May Hawley

Q&A with Susan May Hawley, lecturer in stage management at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland... [more »](#)



### USITT 2018 Bookstore

Stock up on books, tees, hoodies, and other goodies at the USITT 2018 bookstore... [more »](#)



### USITT Art Auction & Garage Sale

The triennial Art Auction & Garage Sale in Fort Lauderdale will include scripts, theatrical history, “out-of-print” books, and other unique finds... [more »](#)



### USITT Receives NEA Grant

“The NEA grant is being used as an opportunity to train skilled labor in New York and to share American design abroad as it tours to venues across the nation...” [more »](#)



### Jay O. Glerum Rigging Masterclasses

The June 2018 Jay O. Glerum Masterclasses for intermediate and entry level are now open for registration, with advanced level classes set for August... [more »](#)



### Elite Training Offerings

New Elite training opportunities are available for 2018 featuring Elite Pro, Elite Intensive Training, and the Princess Cruises Elite Experience... [more »](#)



### Commissions Call for 2019 Proposals

Have an idea for a session? USITT wants to hear from you. Commissions are accepting session proposals for USITT 2019... [more »](#)



### Student Ambassadors Selected

Meet the 2018 Student Ambassadors who will be paired with three international guests in Fort Lauderdale... [more »](#)



### USITT President

“Our annual gathering starts in just a few short days in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where a wide-variety of different groups within the organization will reconnect, learn, and have a great time...” [more »](#)

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### Spotlight on Giving: Bill Browning

Bill Browning on why he continues to give to USITT... [more »](#)



### USITT Executive Director

"This conference has been four years in the making. Four years of planning, ideas, changes, and new opportunities..." [more »](#)



### Last Chance: Pre-Sale Ends Tomorrow! *The Designs of William Ivey Long*

Pre-Order *The Designs of William Ivey Long* online by midnight March 7 for pick-up at the USITT bookstore in Fort Lauderdale... [more »](#)

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# USITT 2018 Keynote Speaker Wendall K. Harrington

We are pleased to announce that Wendall K. Harrington, known as the “godmother of modern projection design” and head of the MFA program in Projection Design at the Yale School of Drama, will be delivering the keynote speech at the USITT 2018 Conference & Stage Expo.



Wendall’s career has embraced diverse disciplines including theatre, publishing and multi-image/video design, and production. She is well known for her work in projection design and has been the recipient of numerous theatrical awards, including the Drama Desk Award, the Outer Critics Circle Award, the American Theatre Wing Award, the TCI Award for Technical Achievement, the Obie Award for Sustained Excellence of Projections, and was a USITT Distinguished Achievement Award winner in 2015.

Wendall is stepping in for Joseph Haj, artistic director of the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, who was previously scheduled to deliver the keynote address at the 2018 USITT Conference. As the Guthrie continues to focus attention internally on issues specific to workplace culture, Joseph remains deeply committed to and engaged in internal dialogue and actions, and his schedule has changed in support of that ongoing priority.

The USITT 58th Annual Conference & Stage Expo keynote address will take place Wednesday, March 14 at 9:30 a.m. at the Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

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## News & Notices

# Member Spotlight: Susan May Hawley

**Q&A session with lecturer in stage management at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Susan May Hawley.**

## Tell me about the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

We have a school of music and a school of drama. Within those schools there are many and varied degree programs across the whole spectrum of performance and performance-related crafts.

The emphasis on conservatoire in this country is a practical-based course. When you come here, it is more practical-based than it is theory-based. If you go to a university you can expect to be heavy on the theory and perhaps not so much on the practical.

## How did you get your start at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and what is your position?

My position at the Royal Conservatoire is lecturer in stage management. I was a stage manager for 22 years professionally before I came here. I toured internationally and nationally. I worked in repertory theatre, education, large-scale production, and ballet. I was the head stage manager of the Scottish Ballet for many years before coming to the Royal Conservatoire. It was about finding a way to diversify that still allowed me to do shows but perhaps took me out of touring. I always in the back of my head had teaching as something I would enjoy.

This job happened to come up while I was still the head of stage management at Scottish Ballet so I applied for the job, interviewed, and did a class for a group of students as well and they had to give feedback on me to the interview panel. I was successful and got the job which I'm delighted about. I've now been here





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almost six years.

### [Is this the first time you will be exhibiting at USITT?](#)

No. I have been to USITT for the last five years. It is my third time doing a workshop. We are the only British Conservatoire that comes to USITT to do a workshop. The Royal Conservatoire spearheaded that, but I designed the workshop for us.

### [Can you tell me a bit about the workshop you'll be doing in Fort Lauderdale?](#)

It's about the differences between British Theatre and American theatre in stage management. The two systems are quite different.

This year I'm also going to discuss working with the degree program at the Royal Conservatoire in BA Performance in British Sign Language and English. I've been doing quite a bit of research on my own as a lecturer alongside my stage management students and we're all learning together. This is the first of its type in Europe and a fantastic learning opportunity for both degree courses, it's a massive melting pot of creative thoughts and ideas and a fantastic opportunity. I thought it was interesting to bring these discoveries to USITT and share our work in progress in the workshop.

### [What is your goal when you come to USITT?](#)

When I first came to Fort Worth it was my goal to network as much as possible with different universities and to get as many students to our table as possible. The second year I put forward the idea of doing a workshop because I thought, "There's no British Conservatoire or drama school doing this type of workshop. We could be the first to do this and it will bring the Conservatoire to a much wider audience."

The Stage Expo table is fantastic, but to have a workshop for people to be able to come and talk to me and interact and ask questions is great. What I found was that a lot of the students were coming to the table after the workshop to talk to me and we would take time and go into the café area and chat with them. Since then, a lot of the students have emailed me different questions that they've had.

We are getting a much wider audience and we are finding that our recruitment is going up as well. We've got current students coming from the back of USITT on our course. It takes time to build that up and we are starting to see the fruits of our labors.

### [What would you like attendees to take away from their experience with the Royal Conservatoire at USITT 2018?](#)

Come to the table, talk about the development of the courses we're doing, and take away leaflets and literature. Sometimes we set up interviews and the students will get interviewed while they're at USITT.

For the workshop, come and get information that you're not getting anywhere else. USITT is geared towards what's happening in America. You've got a vast

country with a vast amount of people from a vast amount of different states, but they don't have anybody speaking from a technical perspective from Britain. They're very different so I think attendees find the two very interesting. For instance, we "prop" in stage management in Britain and in America that doesn't happen. Little things like how we lay out a prompt copy and who calls the show is very different in Britain so the students find that interesting. It's about engaging. A lot of the students now I recognize and can say hello to and it's lovely to build up that relationship.

### **Are those relationships what you look forward to most at USITT?**

Yes, I think so. I enjoy going to see some of the other workshops and breakout sessions if I can get to them but I do really enjoy talking to the students and the staff. Sometimes a lot of the teaching staff comes to the workshop as well, but the students are the main focal point. They're the next generation and are going to take the industry forward. I like to hear what they've got to say and what they're doing.

### **What would you say to someone who is thinking about attending your session?**

If they want to hear about different working practices abroad, it's a very useful session. I can promise if they do come, it will be informative and hopefully a fun session because I like to put a bit of humor into it as well. There are always questions and answers and I'm always willing, if the room is available, to sit and chat. It's an engaging session., I would say.

## **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 Jenn Shuron at [jenn@usitt.org](mailto:jenn@usitt.org).**

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# New Fellow Inductee: Dan Culhane

By: Carl Lefko

It is my pleasure to introduce USITT President-Elect, Dan Culhane. I have known Dan for more than 20 years as Technical Business Development Manager for SECOA, Inc. and more recently in his new position as Technical Business Development at J.R. Clancy.



Concurrent with our professional connection, I had the pleasure of working with Dan while he served numerous terms on USITT's Board of Directors. His board responsibilities included participation in writing not one but two plans. These plans have targeted improved outreach to existing and new constituencies, moving the Board of Directors toward a governance model with an Executive Director and opened new opportunities for USITT in the 21st century. He was instrumental in guiding board action to provide a major update and rewrite of the bylaws, including the collection — and complete review and rewrite — of the many policies and procedures found throughout the Institute's documents.

While serving as USITT's treasurer our investments grew and substantial resources were provided to launch new initiatives such as ESET and the Jay O. Glerum Rigging Master Classes. Our strong financial position under Dan's leadership facilitated \$250,000 in grant funding designated to support new research. He is a member of the Grants and Fellowships Committee. He served as a Director-at-Large from 2005-2012, during which time he was Chairman of both the Executive Director Search and Audit Committees. Additionally, he was a member of the Transition Advisory Team and the Awards Committee.

Dan's professional background with SECOA provided tremendous vision in seeing the need for the steps necessary to position the Institute as a viable not-for-profit organization in the 21st century.

Dan is an ETCP Certified Rigger for Theatre and Subject Matter Expert for that organization. In 2012, ETCP awarded Dan its prestigious Frank Stewart Volunteer of the Year Award.

Dan worked for 15 years as Technical Director at the Guthrie and The Children's Theatre in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Stage West in Springfield, Massachusetts, and Great Lakes Theatre Festival in Cleveland, Ohio. He has an MFA in Theatre



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Technology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and a BA in Theatre from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

He serves on the PLASA Technical Standards Program, Rigging Working Group and is chairman for the task group revising the standard for Fire Safety Curtains. He is co-Chair of the Stage Lift Working Group, developing a standard for stage lifts for the industry. He is a member of the UL Standards Technical Panel for Fire Doors (STP 10) and serves as an alternate committee member to the NFPA Technical Committee on Fire Doors and Windows. He is also a member of IATSE.

Dan is married to Tree O'Halloran, Production Stage Manager for the Guthrie Theater. They have two children and live in Minneapolis.

I am truly thrilled to present my friend and colleague Dan Culhane as a member of the Fellows class of 2018.

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# New Fellow Inductee: Susan Tsu

By: Sandy Bonds

Susan Tsu is an ardent supporter of costume design, education, international connections, and an active member in USITT. Well-known for her designs for *Godspell*, she has a distinguished 45-year career with no signs of slowing down. Her awards include the Irene Sharaff Lifetime Achievement, NY Drama Desk, NY Drama Critics, NY Young Film Critics, LA Distinguished Designer and Carol Brown Established Artist Award. Her designs have been curated into exhibitions such as *Curtain Call: Celebrating A Century of Women Designing for Live Performance* at the Lincoln Center Library, and *From Shakespeare to Sondheim* at the McNay Art Museum. Susan's designs have appeared in major LORT theatres throughout the U.S. as well as in many books. She originated the designs for *The Joy Luck Club*, a benchmark collaboration between the Long Wharf and Shanghai People's Art Theatre, and *The Balcony* at the Bolshoi Theatre for the US-Soviet Cultural Exchange.



Recent design work includes *Collaborators* for Quantum Theatre; *Gem of the Ocean* and *Shakespeare in Love* for South Coast Repertory Theatre; and *The Book of Will*, *Shakespeare in Love*, and *Twelfth Night* for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Susan spearheaded the costume programs at Boston University and the University of Texas at Austin before joining the School of Drama at Carnegie Mellon. She is Bessie F. Anathan Professor of Design, has been given the distinction of University Professor, and is cited in *Who's Who in Fine Arts Higher Education* and *Who's Who of American Women*. Her students have frequently been honored with the Zelma H. Weisfeld Costume Design and Technology Award and graduates of her program are designing, assisting, and teaching across the nation.

While on the Board of Directors for Theatre Communications Group, Susan was on the task force that reconfigured *American Theatre* magazine. Based on her suggestion, the Production Notebook section of the magazine was instituted. Susan has been honored to serve on NEA granting committees, and to represent the U.S. at international conferences in China and Europe.

Susan's international involvement for USITT includes her work as curator, consultant, and Artistic Director for the USITT-USA exhibitions for the *Prague*

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*Quadrennial* between 2003-2015. Without her promotional determination, USITT would not have had the USITT-USA PQ Exhibit *From the Edge* tour nationally and internationally. Susan was a co-curator of the U.S. entries for *Costume at the Turn of the Century: 1990-2015*, enabling our members to be represented in this international exhibition, and is now serving as the Chief Curator for the upcoming 2019 *Innovative Costume of the 21st Century: The Next Generation* produced by the Bakhrushin Museum in Moscow. Acknowledging her international achievements, Pamela Howard selected her to be a keynote speaker at the OISTAT *World Stage Design* in Taipei, Taiwan, in 2017.

For this remarkable account of accomplishments, Susan has been elected for recognition as a Fellow in gratitude for her work on behalf of USITT, her distinguished design career, her leadership as an educator, and her passionate promotion and advocacy of internationalism, inclusion, and diversity in our discipline.

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# New Fellow Inductee: Travis De Castro

By: Elynmarie Kazle

Travis De Castro began his working life as a professional stage manager. From the start of his career in New York, he made his mark stage managing for Radio City Music Hall, Broadway houses such as the Virginia and Marriott Marquis, Lincoln Center, Manhattan Theatre Club, and Madison Square Garden.



In addition, he worked at the Coconut Grove Playhouse, The Whole Theatre in New Jersey, the Opera Ensemble of New York, the Santa Fe Festival Theatre, the Pioneer Theatre, Salt Lake Acting Company, New Sharon Playhouse and Penn Centre Stage. He was on the road team for some of the initial tours of *Annie*, *Cats*, *I Do! I Do!*, and *This is America* among others.

Travis has been a long-time member of USITT beginning with his first national experience in 1993. From his first 'ad' venture into USITT as one of the first mentor-members of the Stage Management Mentoring Project (SMMP) at the Wichita Conference, to his many years of service as a member, commission member, section member, and board member, he has continued to give of his time and talent to USITT. He served as Vice Commissioner for the Management Commission, first National Special Events Coordinator for the annual Conference and the National Conference Committee until 2004. He was elected Treasurer of the Institute, most notably during the U.S. financial meltdown of 2007-2008, serving for six years.

He has presented, participated, or provided Conference programming for Wichita, Las Vegas, Fort Worth, Long Beach, New Orleans, and Minneapolis. In addition, his active participation in the USITT SMMP and continued advice and counsel to the SMMP and to the Management Commission have been important.

Following his rich freelance stage management career, he took a position at Penn State University School of Theatre using his background and connections and his continuing interest and contribution to the growth of the American theatre to benefit his students and colleagues alike sharing his knowledge as a theatre maker and guidance as a mentor. His accomplishments at Penn State include responsibility for bringing live streaming to productions, bringing the first hip-hop theatre productions, serving as Managing Director of Pennsylvania Centre Stage, serving on University Faculty Senate and serving on numerous committees such

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as President's advisory committee and college curriculum committee.

He is a proud union member of the theatrical unions AGMA and AEA as well as USITT and The Stage Managers' Association of the United States and is a wonderful addition to the USITT Fellows. I welcome him to the Fellows of USITT as a stage manager and as a fellow theatrical practitioner as well as a longtime contributor to the Institute.

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# USITT 2018 Bookstore

The USITT bookstore is your hub for apparel, books, and author signings. Stop by to pick up a t-shirt, hoodie, notebook, duffle bag, or a signed copy of your favorite member author book.



## Signing schedule:

### Thursday

- Early Career Honors Speaker Daniel Lerner – *U Thrive* - Thursday, March 15, - 11:30 a.m. - Stage Expo, Interview Lounge
- Karen Maness & Richard Isackes – Golden Pen Winners - *The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop* – Thursday, March 15, - 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. – Bookstore Lobby Area
- Member Author Book Signing Event– Thursday, March 15, - 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. – Bookstore Lobby Area

*Automated Lighting: The Art and Science of Moving and Color-Changing Light* by Richard Cadena

*Digital Costume Design and Collaboration: Applications in Academia, Theatre, and Film* by Rafael Jaen

*Music as a Chariot: The Evolutionary Origins of Theatre in Time, Sound, and Music* by Richard Thomas

*Show Networks and Control Systems, Second Edition* by John Huntington

*Stock Scenery Construction Handbook* by Mike Monsos

*The Fake Food Cookbook: Props You Can't Eat for Theatre, Film and TV* by Tamara Honesty and Karestin Harrison

*Theater Planning: Facilities for Performing Arts and Live Entertainment* by Gene Leitemann

*Unbuttoned: The Art and Artists of Theatrical Costume Design* by Shura

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**Friday**

- Bobbi Owen & William Ivey Long - *The Designs of William Ivey Long* – Friday, March 16, - 11:00 a.m. – Bookstore Lobby Area
- Steven Younkins – Q2Q Comics – Friday, March 16, - 4:00 p.m. – Bookstore Lobby Area

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# USITT Art Auction & Garage Sale

By: Dennis Dorn and Richard Dunham

You will find many unique offerings at the upcoming Art Auction and Garage Sale. They include scripts, theatrical history, and “out-of-print” books for members looking for interesting books to round out their own collection or to find “hidden gems.”



Thinking that more than a few Conference attendees might view of this booth as a depository of technology books, we wanted to make members aware of this year’s unique collection. Imagine finding a copy of *Morning Becomes Electra* (1933), dedicated and signed by playwright Eugene O’Neil. Shoppers will find copies of the entire collection of O’Neil plays published from 1925-1928. All are early editions; some are first editions.

There are numerous other bibliography and historical books including Uda Hagen’s *Sources: A Memoir*, an Oscar Brocket second edition of *The Theatre: An Introduction*, and Allardyce Nicoll’s *The Development of Theatre*. There are also some unexpected gems such as a copy of *Galileo: Stage Manager’s script* of Brecht’s original production; a binder envelope containing *The Complete Writings of Robert Edmund Jones*, collected by Orville K. Larson, which contains a whole host of articles, including those that appear in *The Dramatic Imagination*. Other treats include a first edition/working script of Edna Ferber’s *Showboat* a first edition 1890 copy of *The Autobiography* of Joseph Jefferson. Some other interesting titles include Gordon Rogoff’s *Theatre is Not Safe* and a first edition of *Women in the American Theatre* by Helen Krisch Chinoy and Linda Walsh Jenkins.

This collection has been made possible by the expressed intention and estate of the late Bernie Works who passed away in November 2017. Bernie, a USITT Fellow, was one of USITT’s most generous individual donors, having also fully funded two YT&D Awards. In addition, he was also an avid book collector and a man of varied interests, such as architecture and historical scenery — many German, French, and Italian. The collection also includes research books. Among these is a full collection of the works and biographies of past famous designers, including Leonardo da Vinci, Indigo Jones, Adolphe Appia, E. Gordon Craig, Lee Simenson, Norman Bel Geddes, Robert Edmond Jones, Donald

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Oenslager, Boris Aronson, Tanya *Moiseiwitsch*, and Jo Melziner.

Besides Bernie's collection, there will be many other items of interest to purchase and browse. Don't forget to thank the many dedicated USITT members that make events like this possible.

The Silent Auction bidding opens at 11 AM Thursday along with the Expo opening and will remain open throughout the week. Final bids are taken at 1 PM Saturday ---just prior to the closing of Stage Expo. **[Learn more about the USITT 2018 Art Auction & Garage Sale, here.](#)**

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## USITT Receives NEA Grant

USITT has been awarded a \$25,000 Art Works Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for the 2019 United States Exhibition of the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space.

The federal grant monies USITT will receive from the NEA will be spent in New York State at New York-owned and operated businesses. The money will be invested in an exhibition about America and will be built in partnership with the University at Buffalo. After its debut in Prague, it will return to New York to be displayed in venues across the state as part of its tour of the United States.

“I’m very excited that we are able to reinvest this money in the New York economy and in New York students through our partnership with the University at Buffalo,” said USITT Executive Director David Grindle. “I am incredibly grateful to the NEA for their support, and I’m even more excited that we can return it to the small businesses in New York where we will buy the supplies to build this exhibition that will showcase the best designs from professionals and students across the nation.”

Upstate New York is home to arts organizations and many businesses that employ people in providing everything from lumber to fabric to rigging for the arts.

“The NEA grant is being used as an opportunity to train skilled labor in New York and to share American design abroad as it tours to venues across the nation,” Grindle said.

The United States is one of approximately 90 nations represented at the Prague Quadrennial and is the only Prague Quadrennial Exhibition built by students.

For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](http://arts.gov/news).

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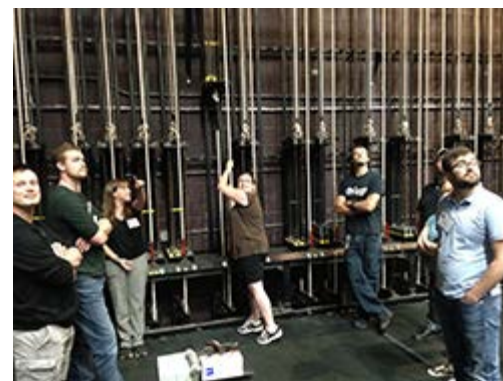
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## USITT's Jay O. Glerum Rigging Masterclasses

The USITT Jay O. Glerum Rigging Masterclasses will return this summer with entry, advanced, and new intermediate level tracks. The masterclasses honor the memory of one of the industry's great advocates for safety and training Jay O. Glerum.

The entry and intermediate level tracks will take place at the Dothan Opera House in Dothan, Alabama, June 4-5. While the entry track is geared towards students and educators, the intermediate track is for those familiar with rigging basics and safe operation of a counterweight system.



**Registration for June masterclasses is now open.**

Both advanced and entry level tracks will take place August 20-21, in Seattle, Washington. The advanced track will be taught for ETCP renewal credit and will include training on the latest innovations in rigging as well as advanced safety such as life rescue and other topics.

**Registration for August masterclasses open May 1.**

**Learn more about Jay O. Glerum Masterclasses and register.**

Jay O. Glerum Masterclass sponsors include **JR Clancy**, **Promote Safe Sets (JR Clancy)**, **ETC**, and **H&H Specialties**.

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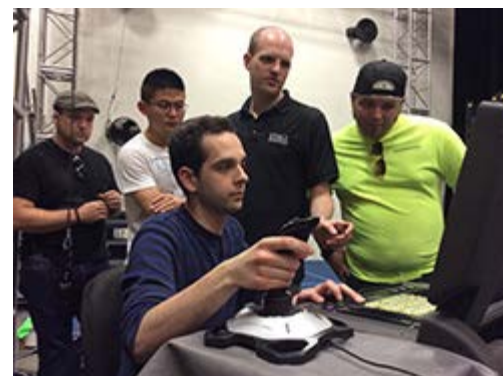
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# Elite Training Offerings

Elite training has introduced new and expanded offerings this year. Cirque du Soleil, Princess Cruises, and Disney Parks and Resorts are set to participate.



## New! — Elite PRO

For USITT Professional, Individual, and Early Career members, Elite PRO will provide two intensive days May 10-12 of hands-on learning in rigging, automation, and projections and will be taught and monitored by Cirque du Soleil staff and invited affiliate companies. While in residence, participants may be observed as potential future employees for Cirque du Soleil or their partners.

Training will be held at the KA Theatre by Cirque du Soleil at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

[Get more information and apply.](#)

## Elite Training

Elite training provides three days of intensive, hands-on training, May 10-12, free for a total of 40 student and Early Career member participants in sound, rigging, automation, projection, and stage management.

Training will be held at the KA Theatre by Cirque du Soleil at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

[Get more information and apply.](#)

## New! Elite Intensive Training

This is a year-long commitment for one emerging Early Career technical theatre professional in automation.

[Get more information and apply.](#)

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# New! Princess Cruises Elite Experience

Princess Cruise Lines extends an invitation for two USITT members to join them to work aboard an Alaska Cruise.

**Get more information and apply.**

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# Commissions Call for 2019 Proposals

If you have an innovative and educational session idea for next year's Conference, you are encouraged to submit your programming ideas to the USITT Commissions.



USITT Commissions are inviting proposals from theatre professionals, practitioners, and educators for USITT 2019 in Louisville. Topics will be accepted in all disciplines taught at USITT by members, non-members, and exhibitors alike. Sessions vary from entry-level to advanced and 60-minute to full-day training.

Proposing a session does not require that you chair the session or serve as a panelist on the session. The proposals may vary in skill level as well as audience interest. You may submit up to two proposals.

**Complete the form to submit a topic and be a part of USITT 2019 in Louisville!**

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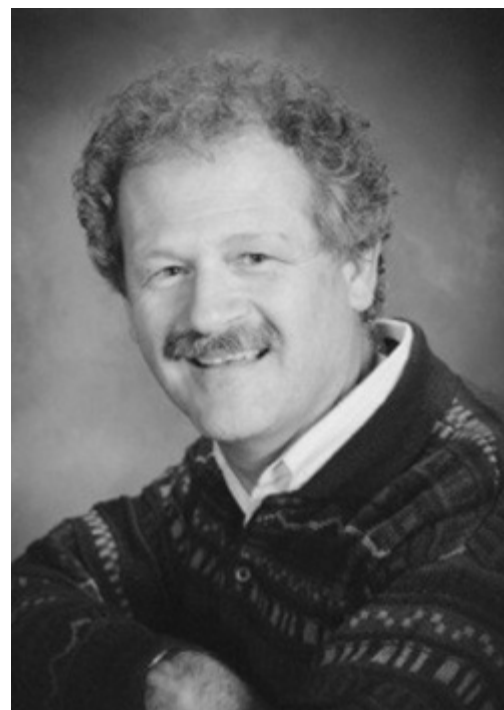
Kenneth E. Vannice, 74, died on Jan. 15, 2018, in Portland, Oregon, of cancer complications.

He was born on Jan. 2, 1944, in Bozeman, Montana, to Daniel Bratschi Vannice and Catherine Asimos Vannice where he grew up. After graduating from Bozeman schools and Montana State University, he moved to Los Angeles, California, to work as an electrical engineer for a stage and studio lighting company. In 1996, he followed his profession to Portland, Oregon.

Kenneth was a member of Gallatin Lodge No. 6 AF&AM of Bozeman, Montana, the Pacific NW Railway Historical Society of Portland, Oregon, and both the Rosetown Ramblers and Heads to the Center square dance clubs of Portland. He was active in codes and standards work through the Entertainment Services and Technology Association and the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, of which he was a Fellow. Kenneth was also active in establishing a certification program for entertainment electricians through the Entertainment Technician Certification Program.

He is preceded in death by his parents, step brothers, step sister, aunts, and uncles. He is survived by many cousins including H. Lee Vannice of Corvallis, Oregon. He is also survived by his friend and adopted family Lila Stephens and her husband, Bryan Ackler.

Services will be held in Bozeman, Montana and a Celebration of Ken's life will be held in Portland in February. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the **Behind the Scenes charity** or the charity of your choice.



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### Lighting Studio 2018

By: Darren E. Levin

The Lighting Design and Technology Commission is pleased to present a new initiative — The Lighting Studio — at the upcoming 2018 Conference and Stage Expo in Fort Lauderdale. The Lighting Studio is a small, intimate, and interactive space allowing the exploration of cutting edge equipment. The studio consists of four small-scaled lighting setups each with a control console and several lighting units providing additional training and educational opportunities.

Attendees may reserve a time in the studio where they can explore and learn about the gear. The Lighting Design and Technology Commission will also provide pre-programmed projects and lighting challenges testing the knowledge and skills of studio participants. Due to the limited space and equipment, sign-ups are required for a time slot to work in the studio, however all Conference attendees are encouraged to look into the studio.

Sign up for time slots for in the studio and additional information about the project is available at <https://www.usittshow.com/lighting-studio>.

## Complimentary Subscription Offers

As a USITT member and industry professional, check out these and other great publications. Subscriptions are complimentary to qualified industry professionals:

- **Lighting & Sound America**
- **Stage Directions**
- **Church Production**
- **InPark Magazine**
- **Haunt Magazine**

See more discounts and member benefits here:  
<http://www.usitt.org/about/member-discounts/>

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## International Student Ambassadors Selected

Three student ambassadors have been chosen for USITT 2018. They will join three international guests at the Conference where they will network, attend events together, and exchange ideas at a special luncheon.

Meet our 2018 student ambassadors:



Renata Orth for Agata Skwarczynska.

Renata is a student of scenic design in the University of Wisconsin La Crosse Department of Theatre Arts and was inspired by Agata's dedication to her own style and vision as evidenced in everything she creates.

Lissette Velez-Cross for Carolina Jimenez Flores. Lissette is a recent graduate in stage management from Emerson College looking forward conversations about ways to unite her passion for theatre with that for her own culture and to find a reconciliation between the two.

Faith James for Chen Wenbao. Faith is completing her Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts of the Performing Art in Theatre Design and Production, specializing in costume and scenic design at the University of Trinidad and Tobago. She designs and creates large wire sculptures that are a combination of scenic and costume design as representative expressions of her culture. She is very enthusiastic about Chinese theatre and is learning Mandarin to further her plans to go to China.

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## Thoughts from Mark Shanda USITT President

At a recent continuing education conference that I had the pleasure of attending, as part of the exercises exploring the nature of the organization that I was representing, I was asked to discuss USITT and particularly to describe our Annual Conference & Stage Expo. My overview cited our commitment to lifelong learning through our various Institute programs, our support of design and technology research, our outstanding publications, the diversity of our membership, the extensive level of their involvement, and the strength of our March gathering that many look forward to attending every year. This year our annual gathering starts in just a few short days in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where a wide-variety of different groups within the organization will reconnect, learn, and have a great time.

As a member of the Institute for over 30 years, I was able to share with excitement the personal impact USITT has had on me and my career, laugh over some specific memorable stories from previous Conferences (St. Louis, Houston, and even Wichita), and spoke about how I and so many of our members value the networking opportunities the Institute provides.

Further conversation continued regarding the Annual Conference & Stage Expo, which was eventually described as a big barnyard, with diverse gaggles of geese flocking together. That made me think of how we might establish appropriate collective nouns for various aspects of our organization... commissions, vendors, students, Fellows, and others. Here is my list. I encourage you to send me some of your own that I may have missed.

- A program of architects
- An impact of volunteers
- A yardage of costume designers
- A diversity of Gateways
- A standard of engineers
- A panel of exhibitors
- A prototype of problem solvers
- A lumen of lighting designers
- A forum of production managers
- A keg of beer drinkers
-

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A dais of award winners

- An assessment of safety & health practitioners
- A pantone of painters
- An engagement of internationals
- A feedback of mixers
- A falsehood of props artisans
- A spark of electricians
- A model of scene designers
- A ramp of roadies
- A draft of authors
- An echo of sound designers
- A circus or park of applicants
- A “Gerber®” of technical directors
- A pixel of projection designers
- A roster of student chapters
- A bobbin of costumers
- A cartogram of regional sections
- A scale of drafters
- A chain of riggers
- A level of carpenters
- An intercom of stage managers
- A heritage of Fellows
- An outcome of educators
- A value of vendors
- An efficiency of staff
- A cork of wine drinkers
- An excitement of first timers
- A convention center of friends

If you can make it to Fort Lauderdale, I hope that you will engage with as many of these groups as you possibly can. If you can't make it, you can celebrate wherever you are that you are a part of this great organization, with our wide variety of points for engagement.

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

Please e-mail Mark at [mark.shanda@uky.edu](mailto:mark.shanda@uky.edu).


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## Spotlight on Giving

“USITT has always been a major force in my career and my passion for theatre. Giving back is just a no-brainer. Thanks, USITT!!”

**-Bill Browning, professor of theatre at University of Delaware, USITT Fellow & member of USITT's Publications Committee.**



**MAKE A GIFT**

## Kook Fund

- Sandy Bonds
- David Borron
- Dennis Dorn
- Randy Earle
- Andi Lyons
- Sylvia Pannell
- Rebecca Perrenod
- Loren Schreiber
- James Thurston
- Paul Vincent
- Charles Williams

## New Century Fund

- Lisa Caro *In Memory of Kevin Loretto*
- Kim Crabbe *In Memory of Kevin Loretto*
- Kim Craigie / Vincent Lighting Systems *In Memory of Kevin Loretto*
- Todd Gerrish *In Memory of Kevin Loretto*
- Robert Harriman *In Memory of Kevin Loretto*
- Tammy Honesty



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- Megan Jackson *In Memory of Kevin Loretto*
- Andi Lyons
- Donna Marino *In Memory of Kevin Loretto*
- Steen Mitchell *In Memory of Jack Watson*
- Nannette & David Oberhelman *In Memory of Kevin Loretto*
- Sharon Olivieri *In Memory of Kevin Loretto*
- Julie Pearl *In Memory of Kevin Loretto*
- Rebecca Perrenod
- Ellen Douglas Schlaefer *In Honor of Randy Lutz & the 2018 Wally Russell Professional Mentoring Award*
- Vanessa Senglaub *In Memory of Kevin Loretto*
- Paul Vincent
- Charles Williams

### New Century Fund - Diversity

- Kasey L. Allee-Foreman
- Christina R. Fontana
- Trish Hausmann *In Memory of Tayneshia Jefferson*
- Chris P. Jaehnig
- Rafael Jaen
- Michael Katz
- Shane Kelly
- Scott Kincaid
- Andrew Luft
- Andi Lyons
- Michael Mehler
- Rebecca Perrenod
- Linda Pisano *In Memory of Tayneshia Jefferson*
- Jesse Portillo
- David Stewart *In Memory of Tayneshia Jefferson*
- James Streeter
- Paul Vincent

### New Century Fund - Rigging Safety

- Randy Earle
- Kevin Gerstner
- Elle Ghini
- Mickey Henry
- Bryan Huneycutt
- Shane Kelly
- Verda Beth Martell

- Martin Simonsen

### **Samuel Scripps International Fund**

- Shan Ayers *In Memory of Tharon Musser*
- Sandy Bonds
- Laura Crow
- Michael Ramsaur
- Kevin Rigdon
- Loren Schreiber

### **USITT Fund**

- Randy Earle
- Rafael Jaen
- Scott Kincaid
- Andi Lyons
- Karen Maness
- Nannette Oberhelman *In Memory of Kevin R. Loretto*
- Mark Shanda

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# Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

March 2018

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Thoughts from David Grindle

## USITT Executive Director

I was incredibly tempted not to write about the Conference this month. I realize that not everyone can come, and when I was in my last position, I was that person some years. But in my current job, I can't not think about the Conference.

This Conference has been four years in the making. Four years of planning, ideas, changes, and new opportunities. Four years of "what if" and some "what now?" Changes in the industry necessitate changes in the content. Changes in schedules necessitate changes in speakers or opportunities for new speakers.



New things are being tried. An outdoor stage gives us the ability to address topics about outdoors whilst being outdoors. We can talk about mobile stages while working with one rather than looking at images on a screen! That's great. We had wonderful ideas of sessions, but the convention center is technically on cruise port property, which means Department of Homeland Security, Coast Guard, Sheriff, and others all have to sign off on certain things. So, we revised those ideas.

The buses running from hotels to the convention center all need to be scheduled and have their times adjusted. Local contractors make that easier, but they also point out that the drawbridge between the beachside hotels and the convention center can add some time. (If you are in one of these properties, you'll get a note about this at check in).

New technology is exciting, but it is new. Digital poster sessions allow posters to be seen in a public space all four days of the Conference on four screens. That means more than six months of planning and working with the commissions as we pilot this project. Thanks to all of them for the adventure, and please stop by and check out the posters outside the Grand Ballroom.

Cruise ship tours are great. We can really only do that in Fort Lauderdale because, as I said, the convention center is at the port. Each day you will see these floating cities right outside our doors. It is one of those moments that I am

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jealous that my own schedule doesn't allow for the opportunity. But I hope you will take the opportunity. You can even see the Harmony of the Seas, one of the largest cruise ships in the world, with two full theatres, an ice rink, and more entertainment facilities than some towns.

All of these things are exciting opportunities along with the Expo, networking, and sessions. The Annual Conference & Stage Expo is the cornerstone event of USITT. If you can't make it, we'll miss you. But on March 21, 2019, we hope to see you in Louisville!

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Last Word

## Pre-Sale Ends Tomorrow! *The Designs of William Ivey Long*

This is your last chance!

Pre-order *The Designs of William Ivey Long* online for pick up at the USITT 2018 bookstore in Fort Lauderdale.

The \$25 pre-sale price ends tomorrow, March 7, at midnight.

*The Designs of William Ivey Long*, authored by Bobbi Owen, is the newest book in USITT's series of books documenting the creativity of America's most outstanding theatrical designers. The monograph chronicles William Ivey Long's career from its earliest days and contains a chronology of his nearly 350 production credits — and his six Tony Awards.



More than 100 illustrations are included, among them renderings of Long's exquisite costume designs and photographs from some of his award-winning productions. The appendices contain his numerous awards and honors and the many exhibitions where his designs and costumes have been displayed.

Bobbi Owen is the Michael R. McVaugh Distinguished Professor of Dramatic Art at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Pre-order online and pick up in Fort Lauderdale.**

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- Mark Shanda, *President*
- Dan Culhane, *President-Elect*
- Paul Brunner, *Secretary*
- Kim Scott, *Treasurer*
- Carolyn Satter, *Vice-President for Commissions*
- Michael Mehler, *Vice-President for Communications*
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- Kevin Rigdon, *Vice-President for International Activities*
- Kasey Allee-Foreman, *Vice-President for Education & Training*
- Andi Lyons, *Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters*
- Eric Rouse, *Vice-President for Exhibitions*

## Directors

### 2015-2018

- Tammy Honesty
- Jenny Kenyon
- Verda Beth Martell
- Linda Pisano
- Loren Schreiber
- Paul Vincent

### 2016-2019

- Carey Hanson
- Mickey Henry
- Bryan Huneycutt
- Tina Shackelford
- David Stewart
- Jim Streeter

### 2017-2020

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- [Shan Ayers](#)
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- [Elynmarie Kazle](#)
- [Shane Kelly](#)
- [Karen Maness](#)
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## Members

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## Contributing Members

- ACMETEC HOLDINGS LIMITED
- Altman Lighting, Inc.
- Apollo Design Technology, Inc.
- Automatic Devices Company/ADC Powdercoating
- Barbizon Lighting Company
- Ben Nye Makeup
- University of California
- Cirque du Soleil
- City Theatrical, Inc.
- J.R. Clancy, Inc.
- Clearwing
- Creative Conners, Inc.
- Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- d&b audiotechnik
- DeSisti-Leaderlight-Coemar
- Disney Parks Live Entertainment
- DLR Group | Westlake Reed Leskosky
- Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC)
- Feld Entertainment
- Foy Invenrprises, Inc.
- Future Light
- Gantom Lighting & Controls
-

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H & H Specialties Inc.

- Harlequin Floors
- InterAmerica Stage, Inc.
- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
- KM Fabrics, Inc.
- Kryolan Corporation
- MDG Fog Generators
- Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.
- Milburn Stone Theatre
- Musson Theatrical, Inc.
- MyLines, LLC
- Norcostco, Inc.
- Philips Group
- Prince George's Community College
- Production Advantage, Inc.
- Rosco Laboratories, Inc.
- Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics, Fabrications & Supplies
- Stagecraft Industries, Inc.
- StageRight Corporation
- StageSpot
- Steeldeck Inc.
- Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- TAIT
- TechMD, Inc.
- Texas Scenic Company
- Vertigo
- Vincent Lighting Systems
- Wenger Corporation
- Yale School of Drama/Repertory Theatre
- ZFX , Inc. – Flying Effects

Sustaining Members

- 4Wall Entertainment
- A.C. Lighting Inc.
- Academy of Make Up Arts
- Adam Hall
- AGM Container Controls
- The University of Alabama

- Alcons Audio USA
- Atlanta Rigging Systems
- ATOMIC Design, Inc.
- Auerbach Pollock Friedlander
- A V Pro, Inc.
- Baby Lock
- Backstage Apps Limited
- Batts Audio, Video and Lighting
- Bernina of America
- BMI Supply
- University of California — Irvine
- California Institute of the Arts
- California Lutheran University
- Celebrity Cruises
- Center Theatre Group
- ChamSys USA
- Chauvet
- Chicago Flyhouse Inc.
- University of Cincinnati
- Clear-Com Communication Systems
- Cobalt Studios
- Columbus McKinnon Corp.
- Dallas Stage Scenery, Inc.
- Dazian Fabrics. LLC
- Denver School of the Arts
- Diablo Sound
- Doug Fleenor Design, Inc.
- EK Lights
- Elation Lighting
- Emerson College
- ENTTEC Americas, LLC
- Florida State University
- Florida Wire & Rigging Supply, Inc
- Froggy's Fog
- Full Compass Systems, Ltd.
- GALA Systems, Inc.
- GLP German Lighting Products, Inc.



- Gerriets International Inc.
- Grand Stage Company, Inc.
- InCord Ltd.
- InLight Gobos
- Irwin Seating Company
- iWeiss Theatrical Solutions
- Johnson Systems Inc.
- Kenmark, Inc.
- Kirkegaard Associates
- L-ACOUSTICS
- Lectronsonics, Inc.
- LEE Filters
- Lehigh Electric Products Co.
- Leviton/NSI/Colortran
- Lex Products Corp.
- Limelight Productions, Inc.
- Lite-Trol Service Company, Inc.
- Little Giant Ladder Systems
- Live! Technologies
- Lycian Stage Lighting
- The MAGNUM Companies Ltd.
- Maine State Music Theatre
- Mainstage Theatrical Supply
- Mehron
- Mesa Arts Center
- Michigan Technological University
- University of Minnesota – Twin Cities
- University of Missouri-Kansas City
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- Morpheus Lights
- Nextstage Design LLC
- Niscon Inc.
- University of North Carolina School of the Arts
- Northern Sound & Light, Inc.
- Nova Lume
- OSRAM SYLVANIA
- Pathway Connectivity
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- Peavey Electronics
- Penn State University
- Pointwright Entertainment Rigging Specialists
- Princess Cruises
- Productions Unlimited Inc
- Rational Acoustics, LLC
- RC4 Wireless/Soundsculpture Inc.
- Riedel Communications
- Robe Lighting, Inc.
- Rock Exotica
- Routledge
- Saginaw Valley State University
- Sapsis Rigging Entertainment Services, Inc.
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- Stagecraft Industries, Inc.
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- Staging Concepts
- Strong Lighting
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- SUNY Oswego Theatre Department
- Techni-Lux, Inc.
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- Theatre Consultants Collaborative, LLC
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- United Scenic Artists Local 829
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