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This month's featured image is from Mitch Hefter, one of the creators and presenters of the Electrical Safety Workshop, a day-long seminar held in conjunction with ETW-LDI in Orlando, Florida November 7 to 13, 2005. A more complete report on activities held in conjunction with ETW-LDI, including reports on the ESTA Awards and the launch of *Live Design* which encompass *Entertainment Design* and *Lighting Dimensions* magazines (and much more) will appear in the January issue of *Sightlines*.



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New Database Assists with Play Production Info

A new web-based resource has been launched, geared toward costume designers but replete with information for directors and other members of the production team.

The new web site is Production Requirements, a costume plot database, and it can be found at www.costumeplotdatabase.com. Sponsored by a grant from the USITT Commissioner's Fund, the website is a database of information about plays searchable by several different parameters including title, playwright, period, genre, cast size, and number of costumes.

If a designer doesn't have any particular specifications in mind, the user can browse the database and sort the information by date added, frequency of reference, title, playwright, year published, period, and genre. Each play has a page dedicated to it which contains more detailed information such as a basic plot description, a specific character breakdown, quick change notes, and any special costuming considerations dictated by the script.

Best of all, the database has the capacity to expand and grow as visitors submit information about productions they have done or studied. Submissions can be made by fax or e-mail. Electronic submissions will be available soon. Share your comments and questions by e-mailing Kristina@costumeplotdatabase.com.

This graphic from the new web-based data collection site explains much of what is offered on the site.

by **Lindsay Long**
Research Assistant

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Ballot Deadline December 15

All USITT members are urged to return their ballots by the December 15, 2005 deadline.

Ballots were mailed to all current members in November and included a description of the offices which are on the ballot along with names and brief biographies of the candidates. A postage-paid envelope is included to ease the ballot return process.

[To Top](#) **Automated Lighting Seminar**

The Mt. Vernon Senior High School Chapter of USITT will host an Automated Lighting Seminar January 21 to 22, 2006 at The Centre in Evansville, Indiana. The featured presenter will be Richard Cadena, editor of *Projection Lights and Staging News*. Seminar topics will include concepts and functions of automated lighting, design ideas, and training in lighting console programming.

Mr. Cadena will lead training for Wholehog consoles while staff from On Location Lighting Systems and Vincent Lighting Systems will provide programming training for ETC, GrandMA, and Strand consoles.

The registration fee is \$250 and is limited to the first 20 registrants. The registration deadline is December 23, 2005. For registration materials and information, contact Dana Taylor at 812-833-5932 or by e-mail at taylorwd@msdmv.k12.in.us.

The seminar is sponsored by MVHS Chapter of USITT, Evansville Public Education Foundation, I.A.T.S.E. Local 102, On Location Lighting Systems, SMG of Evansville, University of Evansville, University of Southern Indiana, and Vincent Lighting Systems, Inc.

[To Top](#) **Deadline for International Travel Award**

The International Committee recently initiated a new award to support international travel for USITT individual and professional members.

In recognition of increasing awareness of theatre in a global context, the award is designed to enhance international travel opportunities related to research or design projects. An example of an idea for a project might include traveling to England to study 18th century paintings and architecture in preparation for a production of *School for Scandal*, or to enhance a history of period style course. Or a recipient might increase his knowledge of masks by apprenticing to a master wood carver in Bali. A goal for this award is to build on an existing area of specialty by enhancing it through contacts in the wider world. As with other USITT awards, winners will share their projects with the membership through a conference session or article.

The first Individual/Professional International Travel Award of \$2,500 will be granted in the coming year. Applications are due by December 10, 2006, and the selection will be announced January 10. Travel needs to be completed within one year. For additional details and an application form, visit the web page [here](#). For questions, contact Sandy Bonds at abonds@darkwing.uoregon.edu.

[To Top](#) **Grants Deadline January 10**

Deadline for the upcoming round of USITT Grant applications is January 10, 2006. For information on criteria and specifics about the process, visit www.usitt.org/activities/GrantsFellowshipsIntro.html.

[To Top](#) **Three Standards Under Review****This month:**

- Ballot Deadline
- Lighting Seminar
- Travel Award
- Grant Deadline
- Draft Standards
- Sammler Seminar
- Job Service Opens

Three draft standards have been added to those currently available for public review on the ESTA web site at www.esta.org/tsp/documents/public_review_docs.php.

BSR E1.23, Entertainment Technology-Design and Execution of Theatrical Fog Effects, is modeled after the well-respected NFPA standards for indoor pyrotechnics and flame effects and is expected to do the same for fog effects. Review on this document runs through December 27, 2005

BSR E1.25, Recommended Basic Conditions for Measuring the Photometric Output of Stage and Studio Luminaires by Measuring Illumination Levels Produced on a Planar Surface, describes the basic testing conditions for methods of measuring output on a flat wall and the levels of illumination produced. The major changes since the last public review concern lamp calibration and power supply stability. The review runs through January 3, 2006.

BSR E1.27-1, Entertainment Technology-Standard for Portable Control Cables for Use with USITT DMX512/1990 and E1.11 (DMX512-A) Products, is a draft standard that would standardize the wiring of a DMX512 cable and require labeling so single-pair and dual-pair cables can be distinguished from each other. January 3, 2006 is the review deadline.

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CITT Plans Structural Design Seminar

Ben Sammler will present *Structural Design for the Stage Part 2* at Rendez-vous 2006 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

The Canadian Institute for Theatre Technology/Institut canadien des technologies scénographiques (CITT/ICTS) will include the session as part of its Pre-Conference Workshops, Annual Conference and Trade Show August 7 to 13, 2006. Prerequisite is *Structural Design for the Stage Part 1*. Only 16 participants will be accepted so book on-line right away at www.citt.org/conf.htm Click on "Conference Registration" and follow the link. CITT/ICTS promises the online registration program will have you booked in minutes. Accommodation and full conference registration information is also available at www.citt.org/conf.htm or from the CITT/ICTS National Office at 1-877-271-3383.

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THEatre Conference Employment SERVICE

Information about the 2006 version of THEatre Conference Employment SERVICE is now available online. Those with opportunities for professional employment, teaching positions, summer theatre, internships, or graduate assistantships may participate, as may those seeking such positions. Visit [here](#) to download application forms and further information.

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USITT@50 Sets Fundraising Goal of \$750,000 by 2010

Many of you have read of USITT's efforts to increase the principal of the funds which support the mission and goals of USITT and to secure its future.

The initial phases of this initiative are progressing well with responses from all areas of the Institute: Fellows, corporate members, and individual members have all been generous. USITT has received long-range estate intentions, significant one-time donations, and specific responses to the unique five-year giving program that kicks off our overall campaign.

Qualifying donations receive a 50 percent match, authorized by the Board of Directors.

Of course, as in any fundraising effort, we realized we needed to come out of the "quiet phase" with a significant portion of the necessary funds committed. We're delighted so many of you responded, and now we ask the membership at large to step up and support this crucial effort; help us solidify USITT's place in the future. More information and a downloadable intention form is available at www.usitt.org/membership/Development.html.

In support of USITT@50, the Board of Directors also committed to match gifts using Institute funds, so each \$100 becomes \$150. Individual board members have already committed \$32,875 toward the goal.

We want to share with you how the USITT@50 campaign is doing. This includes the lead gifts and results for the first quarter of the one year effort to sign folks up for the match approved by the Board.

- Five-Year Letters of Intention: \$62,525
- Estate Letters of Intention: \$115,000
- YDT and Rising Star Permanent Funding: \$83,000

Each USITT fund benefits from this five-year matching campaign that supports our 50th year celebration:

- The Edward F. Kook Endowment Fund
- The International Activities Fund
- The Student Activities Fund (in the New Century Fund), and
- The USITT Fund.

Remember that completion of a letter of intention for \$5,000 or more will be recognized by a permanent listing in support of that particular fund.

The 50 percent match approved by the Board is applied each year as funds are received. The

Members of USITT's Board of Directors have come forward with gifts of more than \$42,000 in support of the USITT@50 campaign to secure the organization's future. All segments of the organization are involved in the effort, and more than 35 percent of the total goal has already been pledged.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

by **Dick Durst**
Honorary Chair and
Larry Hill
USITT Treasurer

Board has capped the 50 percent match at \$200,000, and first payments must be received by June 30, 2006.

Our goal is to stand at the podium at the 2010 conference and announce successfully raising \$750,000 to honor the legacy and work of our first 50 years and to provide a solid financial base to secure USITT's future. There are seven months left to raise \$137,475 of the initial \$200,000 match. We need your letter of intention to bring our goal to reality.

Beyond this special five-year matching campaign, there are other giving opportunities that benefit the mission of USITT. Several Young Designers & Technicians Awards still need permanent funding.

Many individuals have made significant one-time gifts to support a USITT activity. Several have made an estate intention as part of a personal financial plan to contribute to this overall campaign of raising \$750,000.

For further information, contact Larry Hill at Larry_Hill@usitt.org.

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ETCP Names Electrical Experts, Starts Survey

The Entertainment Technician Certification Program Council (ETCP) recently appointed electrical subject matter experts (SMEs) who will help develop the industry's first electrical certification. Selected for their breadth and depth of knowledge, the SMEs will work closely with the Council's selected psychometric services provider, Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP), to develop the examinations.

The SMEs are: Rick Baxter, Eric Bouchard, Jeanette Farmer, Ian Foulds, David Hatch, John Huntington, Tony Giovannetti, Dave Loftin, Jim Maloney, Alan Rowe, Nancy Shaw, and Ken Vannice.

The SMEs' first task is to develop a job task analysis survey which will be sent to hundreds of entertainment electricians in the U.S. and Canada. The results of this survey will be used to determine the content areas of the examination. The next step in the test development process will be to write the examination questions, which will take place over a series of meetings to be held through the first half of 2006.

As part of the vital job analysis process, entertainment electricians are asked to participate in the survey.

Call for Entertainment Electricians

Job analysis is the foundation upon which to build a viable and rigorous certification examination. The job analysis will focus on analyzing electrical tasks based on importance, time spent, and consequence of error.

ETCP needs help to ensure that the examination reflects the job requirements. The judgments of those taking the survey will assist the SMEs in developing the examination specifications. All experienced entertainment electricians who are interested in participating should e-mail Katie Geraghty, ETCP Certification Director, at kgeraghty@esta.org including a name and e-mail address (or mailing address). Information can be sent by conventional mail to her at ESTA, 875 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1005, New York, NY 10001.

The first electrical examination will be held at the 2006 ETS-LDI tradeshow in Las Vegas, Nevada. Candidate handbooks and applications for the electrical examination will be available in March 2006.

Under the auspices of the Entertainment Services and Technology Association (ESTA), ETCP is being developed with the following organizations: AMPTP, CITT, CCE, IATSE, IAAM, InfoComm/ICIA, The League of American Theatres and Producers, PRG, TEA, and USITT.



Entertainment Technician Certification Program



Entertainment Technician Certification Program



Entertainment Technician Certification Program



Entertainment Technician Certification Program

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Many Deadlines

Many deadlines for USITT programs occur in December. Take advantage of reduced Conference registration rates by registering for the 2006 Annual Conference & Stage Expo by December 15, 2005. That is also the deadline for Student Volunteer applications, and to have ballots returned to be counted for the 2006 election process.

Thinking a bit farther in the future, January 10, 2006 is the deadline for applications for the USITT Grants & Fellowship program.

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Fun at LDI

We thank Nate Otto and all our officers and members who stopped by the USITT booth at LDI to help spread the word about our upcoming Conference & Stage Expo in Louisville, Kentucky. Winner of the drawing for a free Conference registration will be announced in the January issue of *Sightlines*.

Below, Monica Merritt, Nate Otto, and Michelle Smith greet visitors to the USITT Booth. Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas



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Southeast Asia Trip Departs

On December 26 we bid "bon voyage" to those enjoying the USITT Theatre, Dance, and Costume Tour of Southeast Asia. We expect them all to return with astonishing memories and outstanding images of their time in Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

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Author Adds to Surfaces Series

Judy Juracek, winner of the USITT Golden Pen Award in 2003 for her book, *Natural Surfaces*, and author of *Soft Surfaces* and *Surfaces* has released a new book, *Architectural Surfaces*. Publisher is again WW Norton and Co. The work includes more than 1,400 images and, as with previous books in the series, a CD is included in the package.

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Correction on Lighting Seminar Date

This month:
Institute Deadlines
LDI
Tour Departs
New <i>Surfaces</i>
Correction on Date
Name Change
Launch Sound MFA
Good Wishes

We listed an incorrect date for the Stage Lighting Seminar being planned by Sonny Sonnenfeld and Scott Parker in conjunction with the New York Area Section. The seminar will be held Saturday, January 7, 2006 at Pace University. The full-day event will also include a manufacturer's showcase. For information, contact Mr. Sonnenfeld at sonnysonnenfeld1@aol.com or scottparker@stagelightingseminars.com.

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Insul-8 Becomes Conductix

We have received word that Insul-8 Corporation will change its name to Conductix beginning January 1, 2006. The new name reflects the company's broad "mobile electrification" product offering and engineering expertise.

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UCSD Launches Sound MFA

University of California-San Diego will launch a new Master of Fine Arts degree program in sound design in the Fall of 2006. The program, from the UCSD department of theatre and dance aims to "redefine the place of sound in theatre," according to Charlie Oates, department chair.

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Good Wishes for Holidays

Holiday good wishes are extended to all our members, readers, vendors, and friends from all of us in the Syracuse office -- Barbara E.R. Lucas, Brian Petranchuk, Carol B. Carrigan, Michelle L. Smith, and Monica L. Merritt.

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ET Upgrades Marquee Consoles

Entertainment Technology has announced software version 3.0 for the Marquee and Marquee ILC lighting control consoles. Alan Keen, ET product manager, said "with this upgrade the Marquee and the Marquee ILC are continuing to set themselves apart from the other consoles on the market." Designed by Horizon Control, the software introduces the Effects Editor feature allowing users to build their own effect on any lighting attribute as well as including pre-defined effects.

[To Top](#) **TMB Installs Pharos in Norway**

TMB's Pharos Lighting Playback Controller is now in full production and is celebrating its first permanent installation by Norway-based Vestad Lighting at the Galleriet Shopping Centre in Bergen, Norway. Lighting by designer Tor Bjarne Vestad now washes the complex's columns and glass ceiling in ever-changing colors.

[To Top](#) **GAMProducts Celebrates its 30th**

ShadowPlay XIII, a new Great American Markets Pattern Catalog, is helping **GAMProducts, Inc.** celebrate 30 years in business. The catalog folds to a standard 8 1/2 by 11 inches, but it opens and is indexed to allow people to find the pattern they are looking for in a variety of ways. To learn more, visit www.gamonline.com.

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TMB

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TOMCAT Equipment on Tour and at Home

TOMCAT helped Sir Paul McCartney's "US" tour with custom equipment and is keeping the lighting for Children's Theatre Company flexible, too.

For Sir Paul, TOMCAT worked with Upstaging, Inc. to build 25 custom light frames to hold a variety of instruments. Many custom hardware components were also fabricated for rigging equipment on the tour.

For Children's Theatre's new Cargill Stage in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the company provided equipment including 65 pieces of medium duty truss with asexual spigots so the truss sections can be configured in a variety of ways. An additional bit of flexibility is provided by the corner blocks designed with custom-made, spigoted truss attachment brackets. (TABS). The order also included 36 **Columbus McKinnon** 1-ton Model L chain hoists and 2 CM 500-pound Prostars.

[To Top](#) **Cast Software Bundled with Consoles**

Cast Software, Inc. announced two new partnerships, adding to the list of manufacturers who are bundling their consoles with WYSIWYG Perform Console Edition.

Leprecon Pro Lighting will offer LP-X users the option of pairing a copy of WYSIWYG CE with every LP-X48 and LP-X24 console. The Leprecon LP-X series lighting consoles will control up to 1024 DMX channels of moving lights and static instruments.

Lehigh Electric Products Co. will bundle WYSIWYG CE with their Millennium Series of consoles, providing seamless integration of all available features, including visualization, AutoPatch, fixture selection, and AutoFocus.

Gilray Densham, President of Cast Software, said "These new partnership are adding to the industry buzz, confirming that manufacturers want to join forces so they can offer their customers a complete solution—top line consoles coupled with WYSIWYG, the best visualization software available in the marketplace."

[To Top](#) **Sapsis Installs Tapestries**

Sapsis Rigging, Inc. provided the equipment and expertise to install three 17th century tapestries in Washington, D.C. The tapestries belong to the Society of the Cincinnati and hang in the society's museum at the Anderson House. The Textile Conservation Laboratory had removed the approximately 30-foot-square tapestries, each depicting a woodland scene, for cleaning and restoration.

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Cast Software
Sapsis Rigging



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New England Plans Theatre Fest, Job Expo

The October barbecue, normally held by the New England Regional Section at the end of August, was attended by a small but enthusiastic group preparing for upcoming activities. In the coming months, New England will participate in two major regional events.

First, the 2006 Region I Festival of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival will be held at Fitchburg State College, Fitchburg, Massachusetts and at the Four Points Sheraton in Leominster, Massachusetts from January 31 to February 5. Those interested in helping should contact Crystal Tiala at tiala@bc.edu. There is still time to get college students involved in Regional competitions or just encourage them to attend the many activities and workshops. See www.kcactfl.org for more information.

The sixth annual Regional Entertainment, Production and Administration Job Expo is scheduled for February 25, 2006, at 88 Tremont Street in downtown Boston. Mark your calendars now.

[To Top](#) **Southwest Plans Conference**

The 2006 Southwest Winter Symposium will be held at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas January 14 and 15. Exciting workshops include a hands-on workshop by Fiber Artist Tamara Chasteen and portfolio reviews by Luc Lafortune, Lighting Designer for Cirque du Soleil. Jim Kemerling will be a featured artist at the Symposium.

Mr. Lafortune will give the keynote, discussing his experiences designing such shows as *Mystère*, *"O"*, *Zumanity*, and *Kà*. Joe Tawil of GAM Products will present a lecture demonstration on color. A hands-on workshop on Vectorworks will be limited to 20 attendees as will a workshop on computer animation. A product demonstration by scenic artist and Rosco representative Jen Knott will highlight new paint products. ETC representative Heidi Stewart will be on hand to demonstrate new control systems.

Student designers may have their work judged and critiqued by Mr. Lafortune, Mr. Kemerling, and others. The Best Presentation award, sponsored by Schuler Shook, includes a full Conference Registration fee for the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Louisville, Kentucky with \$200 toward airfare. Other awards include WYSIWYG Design Software, Vectorworks Software, LDassistant Software, and prizes from Sapsis Rigging, GAMProducts, Rosco, Norcostco, Secoa, and others.

Symposium registration prior to December 30 is \$25 for members, \$45 for non-members, and \$30 for student non-members. Non-members receive a complementary membership in the section for one year. For more information call Don Childs 936-294-1331 or e-mail him at childs@shsu.edu.

[To Top](#) **Heart of America Hosts Conference**

The Heart of America Regional Section will host its third annual Conference & Stage Expo in the Carlson Center at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas on Saturday, December 10. The conference will feature a full-day stage rigging workshop by Bill Sapsis and sessions on AutoCAD drafting, Digital Audio, and new and unusual costume, prop, and scenic materials.

The conference is open to all and advance registration is encouraged. For more information, go to the [web site](#) or contact Brad Reissig, conference chair, at brad.reissig@wichita.edu or Dan Stratman at dstratman1@unl.edu.

[To Top](#) **Ohio Valley Scholarship Deadline****This month:**

New England
Southwest
Heart of America
Ohio Valley
Northern Boundary

The Ohio Valley Regional Section reminds students that the scholarship deadline for the 2006 Conference & Stage Expo in Louisville is December 10, 2005. Information and applications can be downloaded from the USITT Ohio Valley [home page](#); just scroll down below the list of Ezekiel award winners.

All entries must be sent via e-mail. The committee will review the applications electronically. A resolution of 72 pixels per inch is adequate for on-screen viewing.

For more information, contact Karen A. Glass, MFA; Seton Hill University; 1 Seton Hill Dr.; Division of Visual and Performing Arts, Theatre Program; Greensburg, PA 15601.

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Northern Boundary Workshop Successful

Miodrag Tabacki was the keynote speaker and guest of honor at the Northern Boundary Fall Workshop at North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota. Mr. Tabacki teaches the art of scenography at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade and has designed sets and costumes for more than 250 productions. He is in the United States as a visiting Fulbright Scholar at the University of Minnesota this fall and at Ohio University in the spring. The engaging and inspiring keynote speech featured slides of a variety of Mr. Tabacki's work. Many of the images that he shared can be found [here](#).

The two-day fall workshop offered a wide array of sessions. Bill Wallace of Hamline University led an all-day, hands-on workshop in life-casting. Niles Sayre of Stage Technology led a workshop on planning a reliable DMX distribution system. Dan Culhane from SECOA led a walk-along rigging inspection at Concordia College's Comstock Theater in neighboring Moorhead, Minnesota.

Sharon Sobel of the University of Nebraska at Omaha attended as a representative of KC/ACTF Region V and gave a very informative presentation on how to prepare for the KC/ACTF design and technical competitions. Student members had a "working lunch" led by the chairs of the two student chapters in the section; Silka Phyllis Werness of the University of Minnesota at Duluth and Hillary Winkworth of Minnesota State University at Mankato. The social highlights of the weekend included grilling, bowling, and a Cover the Walls-style exhibition.

Rooth Varland and Miodrag Tabacki participate in a portfolio review as part of the Northern Boundary Conference.

Photo/C. Lance Brockman



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Members of USITT's Board of Directors spent time in casual conversation and brainstorming as part of the Winter Board meetings in Orlando, Florida.

Photos/Barbara E.R. Lucas

by John S. Uthoff *USITT President*

Planning a 50th Celebration!

Every winter the USITT Board of Directors meets in conjunction with LDI. This year, there were meetings of the 50th Anniversary, Executive, Publications, and Finance committees, and both a Board of Directors Retreat and a formal Board Meeting. Despite all the distractions, such as Disney World and Universal Studios (not to mention LDI) everyone involved in the meetings spent their time indoors working on the business of the Institute.

The most exciting activity at the meetings was the Board of Directors Retreat. In the year 2010, we will hold our 50th annual conference. Since 50 years is an anniversary that not many organizations get the chance to celebrate, we feel that it is important to include as many individuals as possible in planning this event.

When you take 30 to 40 creative people, supply some refreshments, and focus their thoughts on a big party, exciting things begin to happen. The board divided into five groups to brainstorm how USITT could celebrate 50 years. These lists were then presented to all with wild applause for the best ideas. These included such things as Conference parties every night, making the 50th a family event, international video birthday cards, and nationwide celebrations.

As members of USITT, I urge you to join in planning the celebration. Please continue to follow the planning at www.usitt.org/activities/USITTat50.html and feel free to join in the process.

Below, the Board of Directors retreat featured laughter and free-flowing ideas for ways to celebrate USITT's 50th birthday in 2010.



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Become a Costume Poster Presenter!

Deb Krajec *Costume Poster Session Chair*

As many as 20 presenters will stand beside their posters at the 2006 USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Louisville to illustrate an innovative or imaginative design or construction technique, a solution to a problem, a classroom or management technique, the results of research, or other ideas, discoveries, or developments in the field of costuming.

You can be part of this session. Just send an idea, and let the Costume Poster Selection Committee decide. Each submission will be juried by committee members Debra Krajec, chair and past Costume Design & Technology Commissioner; Gwen Nagle, past committee chair; Betty Blyholder, first chair and originator of the Poster session; Donna Meester; and Joel Ebarb.

Ideas should be submitted in the form of an abstract, typewritten, and no more than 200 words. Mail, e-mail, or fax abstracts by January 31 to Ms. Krajec. For answers to questions or an official rules document, contact Ms. Krajec.

Posters should be no smaller than 2-by-3 feet and no larger than 4-by-6 feet. They should be designed to be mounted on the wall or to stand on a table. Some table space in front of each poster for displaying realized projects and handouts may be available. Posters may be in several sections for easy transport. Posters should be easily readable from at least six feet away. Each presenter should prepare a summary handout to distribute. This session usually receives an average of 200 to 250 people attending.

Poster presentations are widely accepted as meeting the requirements for scholarly publication. An educational institution may fund some or all expenses to the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Louisville. Poster presenters may also have the opportunity to publish their ideas in *TD&T*.

Contact Debra Krajec, Dept. of Performing Arts, Marquette University, PO Box 1881, Milwaukee WI 53201-1881; phone 414-288-1504; fax 414-288-7048; or e-mail debra.krajec@mu.edu.



Costume posters create interest and help both presenters and visitors. There is still time to participate in the 2006 Costume Poster Session in Louisville.

Photo/Tom Hackman

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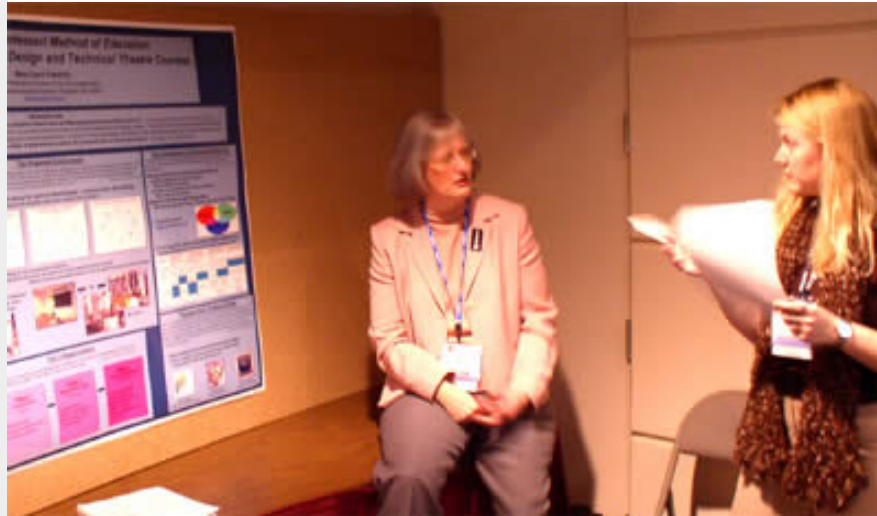
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The Education Poster Session, shown here in 2005, has grown in popularity as a way to share information and innovations in teaching methodology and pedagogy.

Photo/Tom Hackman

Call for Poster Session Abstracts

David Krajec *Education Poster Session Chair*

There's still time to submit ideas for the Education Commission's sixth annual Education Poster Session.

The deadline to submit abstracts to the commission is January 15. The purpose of the poster session, held at the Annual USITT Conference & Stage Expo, is to spread information about new, exciting, or re-thought innovations in teaching methodology and pedagogy.

The information contained in the poster can cover any area of interest to the theatre educator including new techniques, new solutions to old problems, old solutions to new problems, and results from research. Posters will be juried by a committee. These poster sessions are recognized by many educational institutions as equivalent to paper presentations and qualify as scholarly work.

Typed abstracts should be no longer than 200 words and should provide a brief but concise summary of the information presented in the poster. Preferably, abstracts should be submitted electronically (e-mail), but can also be sent by surface mail to: David R. Krajec, Cardinal Stritch University, 6801 N. Yates Rd., Box 101, Milwaukee, WI 53217 phone 414-410-4170; fax 414-410-4111 e-mail drkrajec@stritch.edu.

The jury committee will review all abstracts and may contact authors for clarification or modification. The committee reserves the right to refuse a paper due to space limitations.

The popularity of the Costume Commission poster session demonstrates this to be an enjoyable format for sharing new ideas and techniques.

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Design Session to Focus on *Hamlet*

The success of *Developing the Costume Design Idea* at the 2005 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Toronto has led to encore in Louisville in 2006, *Developing the Costume Design Idea, Take 2!*

Join Gweneth West of the University of Virginia in welcoming returning working professional costume designers and master teachers Laura Crow of the University of Connecticut, Marianne Custer of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and Susan Tsu of Carnegie Mellon University. A new addition to the team is Linda Roethke of Northwestern University. These women will share their unique creative process from initial inspiration to sketch in preparation for an exploration of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

Yes, it's *Hamlet!*

Think of this session as an initial design meeting. You are both designer and director. Re-read Shakespeare's text, even if you think that you remember it. Or read it for the first time. Jot down thoughts about the world of the play, its characters, and their relationships to each other. Begin to translate those thoughts to visual images. Look for images that are more emotional than literal, that create a sense of the milieu.

These may be tear sheets from contemporary magazines, photocopies of photographs or paintings. Spend a bit of time gathering some images of who these people are and how they might connect to a contemporary audience. At the beginning of the session, these will be posted to share.

Bring a love of the play and its characters, initial inspirations to share, and sketching materials. Once participants have a chance to get to know the team of designers, they will break into working groups to explore the play through the sharing of images and discovery of character and character relationships. The session will wrap up with an opportunity to share work with the group.

This time, the event will be a double session so participants will have plenty of time to work together. The first session begins on Saturday morning April 1 at 10 a.m. At 11:30 a.m. there will be a short break, and the session will continue at noon wrapping up at 1:30 p.m.

A special double session from the Costume Design & Technology Commission will help participants look at a classic play in a new way. Plan now to be part of *Developing the Costume Design Idea, Take 2*.

Illustration/Patricia Martin

Come, express ideas, and explore new possibilities. Questions? Contact Gweneth West at glw2r@virginia.edu or 434-924-8965.

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Getting Around Downtown Louisville

David Rodger *Louisville Conference Promotion Coordinator*

For those attending the 2006 USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Louisville, Kentucky, getting from hotels to meetings, out to restaurants, and back again will be a piece of cake.

The Louisville Marriott Downtown is right across the street from the Kentucky International Convention Center, which is only three blocks from the Galt House Hotel and Suites (see map [here](#), but it may take a few moments to load). And, if it happens to be raining, all three are connected by an indoor pedway.

The headquarters hotel for the 2006 USITT Conference & Stage Expo is the brand new Louisville Marriott Downtown; its grand opening was in July of 2005. The 591 guest rooms and 25 suites feature all the amenities one expects in a first-class hotel: oversized work desks, two-line phones with modem lines, voice mail, irons and ironing boards, coffeemakers, and down-filled duvets. For those bringing cars or vans, valet parking is \$20 per day.

Several conference events will be in the Louisville Marriott Downtown which has 50,000 square feet of meeting space. The [Fellows Address and Reception](#), as well as presentation of the Young Designers & Technicians Awards, will be in the Marriott Ballroom on Thursday at 6:15 p.m., followed at 8 p.m. by the popular [New Products Showcase](#).

The Sound Commission will have a large room all to itself where equipment can be set up for designers to share their aural masterpieces. The Theatre Conference Employment Service will also be in the Marriott, as will ESTA's working groups and sessions.

The other conference hotel is the Galt House Hotel and Suites. This landmark hotel, which has had three locations since it was first built in 1835, has enjoyed its Ohio River overlook since 1972. The Galt House is Kentucky's largest hotel with over 1,300 rooms, including 600 suites of which 12 are impressive two-bedroom suites.

Reservations at a discounted rate in the USITT block can be made easily, either [online](#) or by downloading a [housing form](#).

Two other downtown locations which everyone will want to visit, the Kentucky Center for the Arts and Actors Theatre of Louisville, are also within easy walking distance. On Wednesday morning, the [Keynote, Kickoff Event, and Annual General Meeting](#) will be held in the Kentucky Center's newly redecorated Whitney Hall.

Also the very popular [Opening Night party](#) will be in the [Kentucky Center's](#) spacious lobby and lounge areas.

Actors Theatre of Louisville will be in the midst of its world-famous Humana Festival of New Plays while the USITT conference is in town. A special discount package of tickets to three plays is available to conference attendees, as are discount vouchers to any of the plays in the festival. More information about Humana Festival tickets is available on the [USITT web site](#), or directly from the [ATL web site](#).



The new Louisville Marriott Downtown is directly across the street from the Kentucky International Convention Center and is the headquarters hotel for the 46th Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

Photo/Courtesy Greater Louisville Convention & Visitors Bureau

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The Stage Management Mentoring Project has been an integral part of the Annual Conference & Stage Expo for 15 years, as this photo from the 1990s attests.

Photo/USITT Archive

Pittleman Named New SMMP Mentor

As the Stage Management Mentoring Project (SMMP) enters its 16th year, the Management Commission announces the addition of Nancy Pittelman, as its newest mentor.

Ms. Pittelman joins the mentoring program in Louisville. She is in her fifth year as a resident stage manager at Actors Theatre of Louisville. She just returned from New York where she stage managed the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. Previously, she has stage managed at the Coconut Grove Playhouse, City Theatre at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, The Madison Rep, and Wildwood Opera and Music Festival. She has spent several summers at Music Theatre in Green Bay, Wisconsin, where she has worked as production manager and stage manager.

Ms. Pittelman graduated from the University of Miami where she earned a BFA in stage management. She is a member of AEA and AGVA. In 1999, she participated in the SMMP as a mentee.

"We are thrilled to have Nancy join this prestigious and exclusive program, bringing her professional expertise and enthusiasm. And what a compliment to the program to see that the circle comes back around!" commented Carolyn Satter, Commissioner, Management Commission.

Apply now for this special conference program designed for stage management students and young professionals. Under the guidance of professional stage management mentors, SMMP participants will stage manage major conference events such as the Tech Olympics, the New Products Showcase, the All-Conference Reception and Fellows Address, and the Awards Banquet. In addition to the programs presented by the Management Commission, the SMMP participants will have private roundtables led by the professional mentors and enjoy plenty of one-on-one time with each mentor.

There will be approximately 10 SMMP student positions. The time commitment is from 3 p. m. Tuesday, March 28 through 10 p.m. Saturday, April 1, 2006. All applicants must be registered for the conference at the time the application is submitted and must purchase a ticket to the Banquet. The conference registration fee will be refunded to those students selected for the SMMP.

The application deadline is December 31, 2005.

Apply on-line through the [USITT website](#) or contact SMMP Coordinator Rick Cunningham at the University of Delaware Professional Theatre Training Program, 302-831-6470, or rickc@udel.edu.

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USITT member authors, including Linda Essig, right, were on hand in 2005 to be part of the book signing party sponsored by the Publications Committee. The signing sessions have become an annual event at Stage Expo.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

Opportunity for USITT Member Authors

David Rodger *TD&T Editor*

The many fine books written by USITT members will again be acknowledged and promoted at the USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Louisville. All members who published a book about some aspect of theatre design or technology in 2005 may participate. To qualify, books must be available for sale in the United States now or by December 31, 2005.

In Toronto, at the 2005 Annual Conference & Stage Expo, eight authors met with colleagues and fans and autographed copies of their new books. Robert Bell had copies of his book about pioneers in the digital lighting industry, *Let There Be Light*. Peter Beudert and Susan Crabtree showed off the second edition of their popular book about scenic painting, *Scenic Art for the Theatre*. Jody Blake, curator of the Tobin Collection at the McNay Museum in San Antonio, hand-carried copies of the latest exhibit catalog, *High Drama: Eugene Berman and the Legacy of the Melancholic Sublime*. Richard Brett had *Theatre Engineering and Architecture*, a three-volume set of books about engineering he compiled from the proceedings of the Modern Staging Technology and Performing Arts Buildings conference. Linda Essig had the second edition of *Lighting and the Design Idea*. Miodrag Tabacki signed copies of beautifully illustrated monograph written about his work, *Miodrag Tabacki*. Paul Thompson, education director of the Make-up Designory, had copies of his latest textbook, *Character Make-up*.

The first step to participate in the Louisville book party is to contact David Rodger as soon as possible at David_Rodger@usitt.org or 502-426-1211. USITT will make arrangements to buy copies of books to have on hand. The deadline for participating is December 15, 2005. The party is tentatively scheduled for Thursday afternoon, March 30, 2006. Scheduling details will be announced later.

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Stage Expo Keeps Growing and Growing

When the Board of Directors meets each spring and fall, the Board Report includes a Stage Expo exhibit space sales report. Looking back at the past 20 years of Stage Expo, the steady growth of the show is evident.

From Oakland in 1986 to Toronto in 2005, the number of exhibitors grew 73 percent and the square feet of exhibit space sold increased by 53 percent. One of the reasons for the extraordinary growth in the number of exhibitors is the advent of the commercial and non-commercial tables.

The handful of tables which started out lining a hallway at the conference have become an integral part of Stage Expo, with more than 50 colleges and universities represented each year. Some colleges take two tables to promote their programs, while others step up to a booth to maximize their display space.

A recent trend is for some booth exhibitors to select an exhibit space location in close proximity to the tables, since they recognize the importance of the educational market for their products.

Total Number Of Exhibitors And Square Footage Sold 1986-2006

Year	Location	Exhibitors	Square feet
1986	Oakland	106	17,000
1987	Minneapolis	106	17,000
1988	Anaheim	113	22,500
1989	Calgary	101	20,000
1990	Milwaukee	112	20,500
1991	Boston	103	18,200
1992	Seattle	103	16,100
1993	Wichita	103	15,550
1994	Nashville	107	15,650
1995	Las Vegas	121	18,900
1996	Fort Worth	112	16,150
1997	Pittsburgh	126	18,250
1998	Long Beach	128	20,700
1999	Toronto	148	24,400
2000	Denver	145	22,650
2001	Long Beach	154	24,800
2002	New Orleans	151	22,400
2003	Minneapolis	159	24,100
2004	Long Beach	168	24,700
2005	Toronto	183	26,000

Some familiar, and similar faces, were part of Stage Expo 1990 held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Stage Expo has grown significantly since that event.

Photo/USITT Archive

by **Helen Willard** Stage Expo Sales Manager

2006 Louisville 113 19,800*

* Louisville 2006 numbers are preliminary, all others are final.

The preliminary Louisville numbers indicate that Stage Expo 2006 is on track to meet or exceed the record number of exhibitors and square feet of exhibit space set in Toronto.

Thanks to the generous size of Exhibit Halls 2CD in Louisville, more exhibit space can be added if necessary. If there are exhibitors you would like to see at Stage Expo 2006 in Louisville, but who are not listed on our web site, call Helen Willard at 800-398-EXPO (3976) or send an e-mail message to hwillard@aol.com.

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- Patricia Dennis, *Secretary*
- Lawrence J. Hill, *Treasurer*
- Kim Williamson, *Vice-President for Commissions*
- Bobbi Owen, *Vice-President for Communications*
- Joe Aldridge, *Vice-President for Conferences*
- Alexandra Bonds, *Vice-President for International Activities*
- Carl Lefko, *Vice-President for Programming*
- Holly Monsos, *Vice-President for Sections & Chapters*
- Bill Teague, *Vice-President for Special Operations*
- Bruce Brockman, *Immediate Past President*
- Sylvia Hillyard Pannell, *President-Elect*

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2003-2006

- Lea Asbell-Swanger
- Mitch Hefter
- Debra Krajec
- Jean A. Montgomery
- Richard Pilbrow
- Donna Ruzika

2004-2007

- C. Lance Brockman
- Normand Bouchard
- Gregory Horton
- Cindy Poulson
- Dave Will
- Stephanie Young

2005-2008

- Ann Archbold
- Bill Browning
- Dan Culhane
- David Krajec
- Martha Marking
- Brian Reed

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- Richard L. Arnold
- Willard F. Bellman
- Joy Spanabel Emery
- Ted W. Jones
- Christine L. Kaiser
- Joel E. Rubin
- Samuel H. Scripps
- Tom Watson

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- Clear-Com Communication Systems
- Creative Handbook
- Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC)
- *Entertainment Design/Lighting Dimensions*
- Entertainment Services & Technology Association (ESTA)
- Entertainment Technology
- Future Light
- GAMPRODUCTS, INC.
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- Hoffend & Sons, Inc.
- InterAmerica Stage, Inc.
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- Rosco Laboratories, Inc.
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- Baer Fabrics
- Bandit Lites, Inc.
- Ben Nye Makeup
- Big Apple Lights
- Brawner & Associates LLC
- California Institute of the Arts
- Cast Software
- Center Theatre Group
- Checkers Industrial Products Inc.
- Chicago Spotlight, Inc.
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- Columbus McKinnon Corp.
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- d&b audiotechnik
- Dazian Fabrics, LLC
- Designlab Chicago
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- Haussmann Theaterbedarf GmbH
- heatshrink.com
- High End Systems, Inc.
- Hollywood Lighting Services, Inc.
- I. Weiss
- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE)
- Irwin Seating Company
- Johnson Systems Inc.
- Kansas City Costume Co.
- Kenmark, Inc.
- Kirkegaard Associates
- Korean National University of Arts
- KUPO Industrial Corp.
- Le Maitre Special Effects Inc.
- LEE Filters
- Lehigh Electric Products Co.
- Leprecon
- Leviton/NSI/Colortran
- Lighting & Electronics, Inc.
- Limelight Productions, Inc.
- Lite-Trol Service Company, Inc.
- LVH Entertainment Systems
- Lycian Stage Lighting
- The MAGNUM Companies, Ltd.
- Make-Up Designory
- MDG Fog Generators
- Mehron, Inc.
- Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.
- Musson Theatrical, Inc.
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- Northwest High School
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- James Thomas Engineering
- Tiffin Scenic Studios, Inc.
- Tobins Lake Sales
- TOMCAT USA, Inc.
- Union Connector Co, Inc.
- VectorWorks SPOTLIGHT by NNA
- Wayne State University Dept. of Theatre
- Wybron, Inc.
- ZFX, Inc.

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