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This month's featured image shows members of Marshall University's Pickled Pepper Players with part of the audience from a recent performance at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Bogalusa, Louisiana. Read more about the adventures of Marshall's students during their special tour to the storm-devastated area by clicking [here](#).

Photo/Mike Murphy

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Following nearly 18 months of planning, discussion, and negotiation, a formal agreement was signed between OISTAT and the Taiwan government.

The agreement provides OISTAT with financial support to operate its secretariat (world headquarters) in Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C. for no fewer than 10 years. During the transitional period, the Taiwan Association of Theatre Technology (TATT) offered support at every step of the process. The successful outcome of the negotiation is in no small part due to their unbridled efforts on behalf of OISTAT.

During the OISTAT World Congress (Toronto 2005) a transitional or preparatory team was appointed. The committee members included: Wei-Wen Chang, OISTAT Vice President; Michael Ramsaur, OISTAT President; and Executive Committee members Leon I. Brauner, Peter McKinnon, and Martin Godfrey. Likewise, TATT formed a preparatory committee. The committee members included: Ms. Chang, scene designer and educator; Duncan Chang, former President of TATT; Austin Wang, President of TATT; Keh-Hua Lin, prominent lighting designer and government liaison; Samuel Wang, advisor; and Jane Liu, executive secretary. The overall effort also was supported by OISTAT Administrative Director Jennifer Walker.

During the months leading up to the November 18, 2005 signing of the final agreement, the preparatory committee was hard at work. Ms. Chang took the leading role in the work with the Taiwan government. The quality of her work and her ability to get the job done have led to Ms. Chang being appointed as the new Executive Director of the OISTAT Secretariat.

OISTAT is also hard at work defining and planning a European office of development. In order to find ongoing financial support for OISTAT Commission projects, as well as the regular high-profile projects like Scenofest and the Architectural Competition 2007, OISTAT needs a strong and organized presence in Europe.

OISTAT has had three homes since its founding. It was first housed at the Theatre Institute in Prague, then moved to Amsterdam. This new move expands the active presence of OISTAT in the world.

## OISTAT to Complete Move to Taiwan

**Leon I. Brauner** *Head of U.S. OISTAT Centre - USITT*

Signing the OISTAT agreement with the Taiwan government on November 18 are, from left above, Leon I. Brauner, Peter McKinnon, Dr. Chi-Nan Chen (Minister of Council for Cultural Affairs), Michael Ramsaur (President of OISTAT), Austin Wang, Samuel Wang, Duncan Chang, and Wei-Wen Chang.

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## Lighting Graphics Under Review

USITT's Lighting Commission and Standards Committee have announced the posting of the canvass of RP-2 Lighting Graphics Recommended Practice (Version 5) to the USITT website. This canvass is open for public review until 5 p.m. on March 20, 2006.

The canvass documents, informational sheets, and ballot can all be accessed at [www.usitt.org/standards/UsittRP-2v5.html](http://www.usitt.org/standards/UsittRP-2v5.html) or through the USITT web site.

All interested parties are encouraged to review the documents, which include the complete canvass, comments on previous versions, and a letter to members, and participation in the ballot process

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## Six Standards up for Comment

The ESTA working groups meeting in Orlando during the week of the LDI trade show approved the initiation of six standards projects. ANSI requires that the initiation of projects be widely announced so people can be aware of the projects, can participate, or can argue against the projects.

People interested in working on a project must join the working group for the project. Information about joining working groups and the need for voting members in under-represented interest categories is available on the [ESTA web site](#). Those wishing to argue against a project can write to [standards@esta.org](mailto:standards@esta.org).

The Control Protocols Working Group voted to start the job of reaffirming the existing ANSI standard for analog control. *ANSI E1.3-2001, Entertainment Technology--Lighting Control Systems--0 to 10V Analog Control Specification* is approaching its fifth anniversary and action must be taken to keep the document active and in the ANSI catalog. The standard has been useful as a lowest common denominator control method for connecting a variety of controllers and controlled products.

*E1.30-200X, Application Level Equipment Interoperability for Control of Commonly Encountered Entertainment Technology Devices Using E1.17* is nearly complete, but there is a need to continue developing equipment interoperability profiles to be used in conjunction with it. This BSR E1.30 specification will consist of a set of Interoperability Profiles defining standard DMP device types using device description templates written in DDL.

The Control Protocols Working Group's *E1.31-200X, Lightweight Streaming Protocol for Transport of DMX512UIU using CAN*, although almost complete, needs a minimal subset of DMP operating at the ACN root layer for streaming data for very lightweight devices.

*E1.29-200X, Product Safety Standard for Theatrical Fog Generators that Create Aerosols of Aqueous Solutions of Glycol or Glycerin, or Aerosols of Highly Refined Alkane Mineral Oil* will be taken on by the Fog and Smoke Working Group. Currently there is no product safety standard specifically for theatrical fog generators used by Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories. This BSR E1.29 project is intended to develop a product safety standard that addresses the safety of the machine and the fog it produces.

The Fog and Smoke Working Group will reaffirm the existing *ANSI E1.14-2001 Entertainment Technology--Recommendations for Inclusions in Fog Equipment Manuals*. *ANSI E1.14-2001* is available for free on the [ESTA website](#) and at [ANSI's eStandards Store](#).

The Photometrics Working Group will revise *E1.9-2001, Reporting Photometric Performance Data for Luminaires Used in Entertainment Lighting*.

Public review of the documents produced by these projects will be announced in future issues of ESTA's Standards Watch and ANSI Standards Action. The review document for a standard being reaffirmed without modification will be the existing document, which will be made available at the current price.

For more information, contact Karl G. Ruling, ESTA Technical Standards Manager, ESTA, 875 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1005, New York, NY 10001, phone 212-244-1505; fax-212-244-1502; e-mail [standards@esta.org](mailto:standards@esta.org).

## This month:

Lighting Graphics  
Standards Review  
Conference Catering  
Hemsley Internship

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### **Need Catering at Conference?**

Did you know that every year USITT offers a wide variety of food and beverages for all types of events at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo? Catered functions are easy to arrange, just contact Brian Petranchuk at the USITT office at 800-938-7488 or e-mail [brian@office.usitt.org](mailto:brian@office.usitt.org) and he will provide you with the menus and coordinate your catering needs with Conference hotels and the Kentucky International Convention Center.

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### **Apply for Hemsley Internship**

The Gilbert V. Hemsley Jr. Internship in Lighting will accept applications for the 22nd annual Internship Program with the New York City Ballet, New York City Opera, and the Lincoln Center Festival from January 1 to February 15, 2006. Finalists will be interviewed April 8 in conjunction with the Hemsley Lighting Portfolio Review on April 9, 2006.

Mr. Hemsley dedicated his life to the training of young theatre professionals, and the internship has continued this work. It provides a small monthly stipend in addition to travel expenses.

For more information, contact Mark Stanley, Lighting Director, New York City Ballet, 20 Lincoln Center, New York, NY 10023 or e-mail [hemsleylighting@aol.com](mailto:hemsleylighting@aol.com) or [mstanley@nycballet.com](mailto:mstanley@nycballet.com).

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## Golden Pen Winner Named

Barbara E.R. Lucas *Sightlines Editor*

A stunning representation of the work of Miodrag Tabacki has been honored with USITT's 2006 Golden Pen Award.

The book, entitled simply *Miodrag Tabacki* was authored by by Gordana Popovi• Vasi• and Irina Suboti• and published by Clio in Belgrade, making it a challenge to obtain in the United States.

Members of USITT's Golden Pen committee noted that the work surpassed any others nominated in meeting the criteria for the award. Each year, the committee considers nominated books which are significant in the field of performing arts and are outstanding examples of one or more of the following:

- Scholarly research and critical thinking;
- Presentation of the work and methodology of exceptional practitioners for theatrical arts and/or crafts;
- Description of the methods, skills, and technology involved in creating works of theatre and/or crafts.

*Miodrag Tabacki* includes essays in both English and Serbo-Croatian, highlighting the relationships in Mr. Tabacki's work.

The book is currently available through the [USITT Bookstore](#), and USITT hopes to have a supply for sale at the USITT Boutique at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo where it will be honored and Mr. Tabacki will sign copies. A session will be held during the conference about Tabacki's designs.

Mr. Tabacki will accept the 2006 Golden Pen on behalf of the authors as part of the Annual Awards Banquet which concludes the Conference.

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The design monograph of work by Miodrag Tabacki has been named the winner of USITT's 2006 Golden Pen award. The book will be honored as part of the 2006 Annual Conference & Stage Expo.



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## The USITT Fund - Securing Our Future

**Richard Arnold**  
*Past USITT President and  
 Fellow of the Institute*

USITT@50 includes a five-year campaign to celebrate the Institute's 50th year of existence. And celebrate we should!

How many well-intentioned organizations fail to survive to their 50th year? The Institute has survived because it consistently provides service to its members and to the field.

Looking to the future, USITT@50 is meant to celebrate our 50th anniversary by helping to make the future of the Institute even more secure. All members of USITT are urged to invest in the Institute's future by contributing to one or more of four funds. Gifts to the **Edward F. Kook Endowment** support significant research and fellowships; the **International Fund** assists a wide variety of international activities; and the **Student Activities Program of the New Century Fund** makes possible a range of student support and encouragement. The value of these funds is well known to our members.

In addition, seeking to extend the options for giving, the Board of Directors established a new, fourth, fund, **The USITT Fund**. This fund is different from the others, which have very specific objectives. The USITT Fund serves a more general function. It is best described as a fund for our future.

It can be used for a newly-created project, for an activity not already funded in the budget, or for a worthy project or activity that may exceed its original budget. The fund is also important for emergencies, such as a budgetary shortfall, an unanticipated expense, or a sudden equipment repair or replacement.

The fund will, in effect, be an endowment with its principal untouched and generating, in perpetuity, income for assistance to meet special USITT needs.

Members of the Institute who have served as or are current USITT officers, board members, commissioners, and committee members will recognize the importance of a special projects fund. Long-time members and leaders may remember the times in the Institute's earlier years when it was in grave financial straits not knowing where funds could be found to make sure the Institute continued to exist. This history has shown the need for a fund for special projects and emergencies. Because of its flexibility and multiple purposes, the USITT Fund will be a primary and vital tool in securing our future.

In celebration of our 50th anniversary members should consider supporting the USITT Fund, especially since donations can be spread over five years. Fill out and submit a letter of intent for an annual contribution over the next five years. The forms can be downloaded [here](#) or from the [Institute's web site](#). And if the first year's donation arrives before June 30, 2006, the Board of Directors will match each of the five years of support by 50 percent. Please recognize the value of this fund and help secure USITT's future.



This logo represents just one part of the campaign to ensure USITT's future with support which will help vital functions of the organization continue and grow as the years progress.

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## Save on Rigging Training

**Michelle L. Smith** *Membership & Ad Sales Manager*

### Rigging Seminars

Save \$50 off the regular registration rate for these informative and instructional seminars. Learn important rigging principles taught by the best in the business! Next seminar is in Las Vegas, Nevada, February 20 to 23. For information about this and future seminars, visit [www.riggingseminars.com](http://www.riggingseminars.com) or call 888-248-8491. Members must identify themselves when they register

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### Sapsis Rigging Entertainment Services, Inc.

Save \$75 off the regular price for hosting a day-long seminar. You negotiate the contract and provide the facility so seminars can be scheduled at your convenience. For more information or to arrange a seminar call 800-727-7471, e-mail [sales@sapsis-rigging.com](mailto:sales@sapsis-rigging.com), or visit [www.sapsis-rigging.com/seminars.html](http://www.sapsis-rigging.com/seminars.html).

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Click [here](#) for a complete list of member discounts. For instructions on accessing a discount, select the item of interest and enter user name (USITT member number) and password (last name) at the prompt.

If you have questions or suggestions for a new benefit, contact Membership & Ad Sales Manager Michelle L. Smith at 800-938-7488 or [michelle@office.usitt.org](mailto:michelle@office.usitt.org).

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## ESTA Honors Many At Annual Dinner

ESTA (the Entertainment Services and Technology Association) held its annual dinner on November 10 in Orlando, Florida where winners of the 2005 Dealers' and Manufacturers' Choice Awards, Eva Swan Award, and Frank Stewart Volunteer of the Year Award were announced. The awards were also held in conjunction with the LDI 2005 Show and its awards ceremony November 12.

### Dealers and Manufacturers Honored

The Dealers' Choice Customer Service Awards allows ESTA's Dealer members to publicly recognize manufacturers that provide consistently good customer service throughout the year. Dealers cast their votes for manufacturers categories based on number of employees. The winners for 2005 are Doug Fleenor Design, Inc., City Theatrical, Inc., and Apollo Design Technology, Inc.

The Manufacturers' Choice Dealers of the Year Awards offer ESTA's Manufacturer members the opportunity to publicly recognize those Dealers that "just do it right." Manufacturers vote for Dealers in categories based on number of employees. The 2005 winners are Indianapolis Stage Sales & Rentals, Inc., Production Advantage, Inc., and Stage Equipment & Lighting, Inc.

The Dealers' Choice Product Awards recognize outstanding entertainment technology products in three categories: expendable, widget, and equipment. These awards recognize the enormous impact dealers have on the success of a new product, as well as a unique perspective on its merits. In the expendable category, the winner is MATTH-TIE from Matthews Studio Equipment. In the widget category, the winner is LSC-19-WPFC Weatherproof Flip Cover for 19 Pin Receptacle from Lex Products Corp.

SeaChanger Color Engine from Ocean Optics, Inc. won in the equipment category. It is a dynamic new CYMG color changer for ETC Source Four® Ellipsoidal.

### Blount Receives Eva Swan Award

Wally Blount, director of entertainment sales and marketing for Columbus McKinnon Corp., received the Eva Swan for his exceptional service to the ESTA over many years.

The Eva Swan Award is presented to a member who has put forth exceptional efforts in time, expertise, and personal resources on behalf of ESTA; been instrumental in shaping and promoting the strategic direction of the association; made major contributions to the realization of the mission, goals, and objectives; and enhanced the value of membership for all.

Mr. Blount's service to ESTA includes the ESTA Board of Directors, the ETCP Council, the Rigging Working Group, and the committee that wrote the Code of Conduct. Some of his most lasting contributions to ESTA are the many training seminars he led on how to plan for and conduct productive meetings

### First Frank Stewart Volunteer of the Year Awards Bestowed

The Frank Stewart Volunteer of the Year Award was created to honor Mr. Stewart's incomparable service to the association over the last 18 years. This award recognizes extraordinary effort by a volunteer or group of volunteers during the previous year.

ESTA's past and current presidents gathered to honor the only treasurer ESTA has ever had. Glenn Becker, ESTA's first president, told the crowd, "For most of us, life, as we have become accustomed to, is about to end. Our Treasurer for Life is hanging up his Stetson and riding his motorcycle off into the sunset. Frank Stewart will be sorely missed."

Immediate Past President Mike Wood then presented the 2005 Frank Stewart Volunteer of the Year Award to Rocky Paulson, Eddie Raymond and Bill Sapsis for their work in developing the ETCP rigging certifications. The three led by example serving as tri-chairs of the Rigging Skills Working Group, leaders of the Subject Matter Experts, and members of the ETCP Council, to create the landmark program for the entertainment industry.



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## Behind the Scenes Launched

The ESTA Foundation recently launched Behind the Scenes, a major new initiative to provide financial support to entertainment technology professionals when they are seriously ill or injured. The fund is off to a good start after raising almost \$40,000 in a raffle at LDI. Rose Brand and Scharff Weisberg also will make holiday donations on behalf of its customers.

Central to the fundraising effort is the \$125,000 Altman Family Challenge Grant. The Altman Family will match all pledges and funds raised in the first year up to \$125,000.

The foundation's board of directors started things off with \$30,000, the combined contributions of all 11 board members.

The drawing, which included a generous donation from Vivian and George Gill, owners of Stage Equipment & Lighting, resulted in Tina Wright, West Coast regional manager for Rose Brand, winning the first prize of a Harley-Davidson Sportster XL. Second prize, a theatre trip to New York, was won by Debra Picard of DB Sound in Punta Gorda, Florida.

The Long Reach Long Riders (LRLR), a group of industry members who stage an annual cross-country motorcycle ride for charity, will ride July 9 to 18, 2006. Supporters can earmark their contributions for Behind the Scenes. For more information visit [www.lrlr.org](http://www.lrlr.org).

Every year, Rose Brand sends out holiday cards to their customers with a message that a donation has been made in their names to a charitable cause. This year Rose Brand will contribute to Behind the Scenes.

Scharff Weisberg also decided that supporting Behind the Scenes is a great way to pay tribute to their customers this holiday season

Individuals or companies can support Behind the Scenes by making donations online at [www.estafoundation.org](http://www.estafoundation.org) or by calling 212-244-1421. All contributions are tax deductible.

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Including travel days, they were gone from Marshall for 10 days and covered nearly 2,400 miles.

Along the way, the Pickled Pepper Players had a character-building journey of their own. They experienced first hand the devastation and damage that is endemic along the coast.

Company members became aware of both the physical and emotional catastrophes visited upon the residents in the South. The long term effects of the storms will take many years to remedy. Rather than allow a difficult situation to beat residents down, company members witnessed a sense of determination and inner strength in every community.

The human spirit and determined goals of the citizens to rebuild leaves little doubt that, in the trying times to come, there remains well discerned joy and accomplishment that comes from having endured and overcome shared loss.

From the French Quarter, to the back bayous, to the beaches, to the moss covered oaks, there is no doubt that we will again hear, "Laissez le bon temps rouler!"

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**Let it Snow - office still opens**

Even if there are dire reports about weather in the Northeast, calls and e-mails will usually find the USITT office open and functioning, so don't hesitate to contact staff members. Carol Carrigan, Office Coordinator, said that in the past eight years office functions have not been delayed because of rain, sleet, or even snow. Yes, there is a great deal of the white stuff falling in and around Syracuse, but that does not stop staff from their appointed duties.

[To Top](#) **ETS-LDI Update**

Volunteers and staff had a great time talking to all who stopped by the USITT booth and were scanned for a chance to win a Conference registration for 2006. The lucky winner is Jason Stefansen of Orlando, Florida. We hope to see him in Louisville in March.

[To Top](#) **Gulf Coast Support**

It is great when our members tell the world about an interesting or energizing experience, such as Mike Murphy's [The Last Word](#) about the Pickled Pepper Players. However, we always like to give extra credit to the people who are even further behind the scenes, such as Karla Murphy who in addition to driving the minivan as a chase vehicle and serving as a major community fund-raiser, also did special performances of *The Little Old Lady who Swallowed the Fly* for pre-kindergarten audiences during the Gulf Coast tour.

[To Top](#) **Update on Share USITT**

*Share USITT*, the program designed to help members recruit other members, wrapped at the end of November. We are pleased to welcome the new members who were recruited. We also wish to congratulate John Cooke of STAGEWORKS who is the lucky winner of the Grand Prize- an Annual Conference & Stage Expo package which includes registration, housing, and travel. We look forward to seeing John, and all those who have already signed up, in Louisville in March.

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We are happy to report that many people have been taking advantage of the price discounts and convenience of the hotels which USITT will be using in Louisville, Kentucky during the Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Both the Louisville Marriott Downtown, our headquarters hotel, and the Galt House, just a few blocks away, are filling up. We encourage everyone to book online [here](#) or by calling the housing bureau at 800-743-3100 to make sure of getting a specific hotel.

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### **Live Design Launches New Brand**

The publishers of *Entertainment Design* and *Lighting Dimensions* magazines have merged two print properties into a new multimedia information franchise entitled **Live Design**. The move addresses significant market trends and challenges faced by both magazines' core readers.

"The editorial content in *Entertainment Design* and *Lighting Dimensions* has continuously provided readers with innovative and cutting-edge information," says David Johnson, editorial director and associate publisher of *Live Design*. "With the current convergence of lighting, staging and projection within the industry, our name change and content blending seems the logical next step. *Live Design* now provides one convenient resource for entertainment technology professionals to access design, business, and technology information they must have to be successful."

Editorially, *Live Design* will provide a complete perspective on the art of entertainment design, and the impact that convergence has on current and future trends.

"The blended circulation of the new publication provides advertisers with a larger, more diverse reach to industry buyers at a significant savings on advertising investment," Mr. MacDonald noted. "The Live Design brand offers access to buyers in print, as well as through targeted e-newsletters; unparalleled events like LDI; a redesigned and comprehensive website; and more.

"*Live Design's* multimedia franchise also includes *Theatre Quarterly*, a supplement devoted to the theatre market, from Broadway to regional to Las Vegas. We will continue to serve the needs of audio, lighting, projection, set, and costume professionals in that important market niche," MacDonald added. Visit [www.livedesignonline.com](http://www.livedesignonline.com) to learn more.

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### **heatshrink.com Increases Support**

**heatshrink.com** has increased its level of support for USITT to the Contributing member level. Ray Kimber is the well-known President of heatshrink.com which produces heat shrinkable tubing and claims more variety than any other supplier. The company also has special clear tubing for 19 pin connectors along with heavy wall and glue-lined types. The company has also signed up to exhibit at Stage Expo in 2006.

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### **Stage Research's Light/Shop in Pre-Release**

Light/Shop 7.0 from **Stage Research** is now in pre-release. The company says Light/Shop provides a single source for every category of photometric information. It is a web-enabled, web-deployable application which provides answers to lighting questions. To learn more, visit [www.stageresearch.com](http://www.stageresearch.com)

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### Wybron at Nobel Ceremony

The same day that Spectra Stage & Events Technologies AB in Stockholm, Sweden was named exclusive **Wybron** distributor by **PRG** Europe, Spectra used the Nobel Prize banquet to showcase the Wybron Nexera luminarie. Fourteen Nexera wash lights were positioned along the east wall of the Blue Hall at the bottom of each 25-foot recessed doorway, flooding the columns with light. The colorful columns acted as a backdrop for the Allmanna Sangen Choir which performed during the December 10, 2005 banquet.

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### Dale Joins Apollo

Rich Dale has joined **Apollo Design Technology, Inc.** as LD Representative. Mr. Dale will be responsible for cultivating relationships with lighting professionals in entertainment and academia by providing creative, technical, and training assistance for Apollo's products. Mr. Dale had been with Walt Disney World Co. in Orlando, Florida since 1993.

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### TOMCAT Scholarship Announced

Randall Flaws of Windy City Sound and Lighting and Andrew Cissna of North Carolina School of the Arts were chosen to receive scholarships to **TOMCAT** hoist and rigging workshops. TOMCAT's annual school is March 1 to 4, 2006 in Midland, Texas. It includes workshops on hoist, rigging, truss, and fall protection. The advanced workshop, March 3 and 4, is a two-day school on hoist motors and truss design meant for those who have completed the first workshop or who have extensive experience with motors and truss in the field. For more information or to register, contact Lisa Jebesen at 432-694-7070 or [ljebsen@tomcatusa.com](mailto:ljebsen@tomcatusa.com).

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### Altman Receives Product Award

**Altman Lighting's** Smart Track Lighting System received the Lighting/Architecture Product of the Year Award from LDI 2006. The Smart Track Lighting System is described as a revolutionary way to bring digital control signals to addressable architectural luminaires without needing dimmer packs and bulky cable runs. Smart Track's patent pending design includes a three-circuit track with DMX control built in. To learn more, visit [www.altmanlighting.com](http://www.altmanlighting.com).

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Ming Cho Lee discusses a design idea during the 2005 Conference. His work is the subject of the second in USITT's Monograph Series, to be published in 2006.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

by John S. Uthoff *USITT President*

## Happy Holidays, USITT!

As I sit to write this month's column, the holiday season is rapidly approaching. My last production just closed, and I still have one week of classes. Final exams are next week, so the students will soon depart. Other than taking a big breath and hoping to survive this last flurry of activity, there has been time to reflect on all the wonderful events that have happened in USITT this last year.

The credit for all this goes to all the members of USITT for creating and participating in the activities of the Institute. Without this willingness to share talents, ideas, and financial resources, there would be no way this wonderful organization could exist.

Let's look at just a few of the things that have happened over the last year. At the last Board of Directors meeting, USITT welcomed its newest Regional Section - the Intermountain Desert Section - providing programming and activities in Nevada and Utah. This gives us more Regional Sections than at any time in our history. All of the sections busily schedule programming and activities between the National Annual Conferences and allow members in specific parts of North America to share ideas and fellowship during the year. We also have many student chapters that help serve our student members on a much more personal level than we can at the Conference. Both Sections and Chapters are important to the overall USITT experience, and your work makes these activities possible.

Last year at the Toronto Conference, USITT Treasurer, Larry Hill announced a new campaign with a goal "Honoring Our Past/Securing Our Future." This will allow USITT to reliably fund its awards and special projects, offer better grants and fellowships, and improve publications. So far, you, the members of USITT have responded wonderfully, and the Institute has raised more funds than for any similar time in its history. Several of the YD&T Awards have been fully funded, and a new award, the Rising Star sponsored by *Live Design*, is also fully funded. New awards are being created and funded for underserved parts of our industry, and we hope to have several by our 50th anniversary.

During this last year, we also saw several exciting projects come to fruition. The most notable events were World Stage Design and the OISTAT World Congress. However, there also was a USITT tour of Greece, a study tour to Southeast Asia, a Costume Symposium, the appearance of the first in the USITT Monograph Series which featured Willa Kim, book signings by USITT authors, participation in the creation of ETCP and the successful administration of the first rigging skills tests, continued work with industry standards, and the largest Stage Expo in our history.

In addition, several projects are moving closer. These include our Prague Quadrennial Exhibit in 2007, the next Costume Symposium, the USITT Monograph about Ming Cho Lee,

The CN Tower is highlighted behind Cuban guests Maria Luisa Figueredo and Jose Antonio Prades Hung for the OISTAT World Congress hosted by USITT and CITT in Toronto in March 2005.

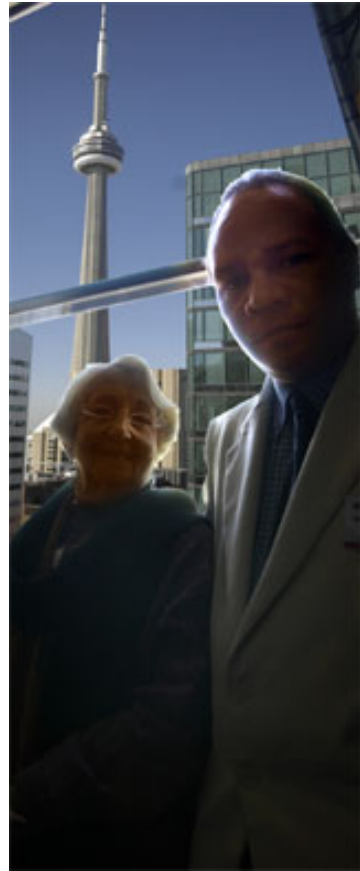
Photo/R. Finkelstein

the 2006 Conference & Stage Expo in Louisville, and a book about 50 years of USITT. All these projects happen because of your support and time.

USITT has been and continues to be blessed by the energy, resources, and ideas of all its members. This all happens because the Contributing, Sustaining, Professional, Organizational, Senior, Individual, and Student members work together. All of you are the major resource of USITT, and I have been thankful and blessed to have had the opportunity to work with you and the leadership of USITT for these last 12 years.

May you all have a safe and wonderful holiday season.

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### Southwest Plans Sessions

The 2006 USITT Southwest Regional Section Winter Symposium will be held January 14 and 15 at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. Highlights 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 demonstration about 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 is \$25 for members, \$45 for non-members, and \$30 for student non-members. For more information, call Don Childs 936-294-1331 or e-mail him at [childs@shsu.edu](mailto:childs@shsu.edu).

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### Aldridge to Speak at Desert State

The Desert State Regional Section will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, January 14, 2006 at the University of Arizona at Tucson, Arizona.

Joe Aldridge, USITT Vice President for Conferences, will be the keynote speaker, and will discuss the 2007 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo planned for Phoenix.

The event will also include a full day of informative workshops. Check [here](#) for details as they become available.

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### Chesapeake Plans Mini-EXPO

The Chesapeake Regional Section is finalizing plans for its Winter and Spring Mini-EXPOs. These one-day workshops are developed around specific topics, and are held in advance of next year's annual EXPO scheduled for September at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey.

The Winter Mini-EXPO will provide participants an opportunity to learn firsthand and to work with the exciting new software combination of VectorWorks Spotlight and ESP Vision. ESP Vision imports plot information from VectorWorks and allows users to render moving lights; it also interfaces with the Whole Hog console. The workshop is set for Saturday, January 28 2006 at Fisher Theatrical, 7476 New Ridge Road, Suite C, Hanover, Maryland 21076. Registration is \$30 for members and \$50 for non-members.

A Spring Mini-EXPO is also being planned for early April. Additional updated information is available at the Chesapeake Section web site [www.usittchesapeake.org](http://www.usittchesapeake.org).

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### New England REPA

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Desert State  
Chesapeake  
New England  
Southeast  
New York Area

The 2006 New England Regional Section I 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. There is new and exciting programming in all areas of design and technology with representatives from ETC (moving lights), Thematics (Lightbox: model lighting), Rosco (Textures: hands-on), and of course Barbizon. For more information, visit the web site at [www.kcactf1.org](http://www.kcactf1.org).

On February 25, 2006, New England's sixth annual Regional Entertainment Production and Administration Job Expo (REPA Expo) will be held at 88 Tremont Street, Boston, Massachusetts from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This event is the only regional Job Expo designed to help employers in the entertainment industry reach candidates to fill job openings in design, technical production, consulting, and administration. Over 40 organizations throughout New England are expected to attend. Employers in entertainment, theatre, film, television, dance, industrial suppliers, and related industries will conduct interviews and meet potential employees to fill job openings in design, technical production, consulting, management, marketing and administration. Job seekers are invited to attend for free and will be provided with a list of attending employers and job openings. Applicants may visit employers. Employers may conduct interviews and review portfolios on the spot or take resumes and business cards to follow up. (Resumes of applicants unable to attend will also be distributed to registered employers). For more information, visit [www.stagesource.org](http://www.stagesource.org) or call 617.720.6066. Sponsored by StageSource, USITT NE, and Boston Dance Alliance.

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### **Southeast Master Class Recap**

The 2005 Southeast Regional Section Master Classes, hosted by the North Carolina School of the Arts, will go down as one to remember by those able to attend. The Winston-Salem site drew the largest attendance on record. This was due in large part to the faculty, staff, and students of NCSA who provided a full schedule of workshops and activities for participants. Particular recognition goes to Doug Brown, who served as the Masters Class host, and the NCSA Student Chapter of USITT for its continuous support and sampling of true southern hospitality.

Look forward to the 2006 Master Classes to be hosted by the University of Alabama-Birmingham next September. Kelly Allison will be host and is in the process of filling workshop slots. For those interested in honing stage management skills, the UAB Master Class is rumored to have a significant management component.

The entire Section wishes to welcome all members to its backyard when USITT comes to Louisville, Kentucky in March.

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### **New York Area Super Saturday**

The USITT New York Regional Section will co-sponsor the Stage Lighting Super Saturday one-day seminar, January 7 at Pace University in New York City. Stage Lighting Super Saturday is being produced by Sonny Sonnenfeld and Scott Parker (Chair of the New York Section). Tuition is \$100. For more information, visit [www.stagelightingseminars.com](http://www.stagelightingseminars.com), e-mail [sonnysonnenfeld1@aol.com](mailto:sonnysonnenfeld1@aol.com), or call 702-263-5136.

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Poster sessions, such as the one shown at left from the 2005 Annual Conference, are an excellent opportunity to present information to fellow professionals.

Photo/Tom Hackman

## Both Costume Design & Technology and Education Seek Poster Presenters

Both the Costume Design & Technology and Education commissions offer the opportunity to present posters at the Annual Conference. Learn more below.

### Costume Poster Slots Dwindling

Great ideas have been coming in for the Costume Commission's Poster Session at the Louisville 2006 Conference & Stage Expo. However, a few slots are still available.

This is a great opportunity to be involved. For some, doing a poster session may enable them to get funding to attend the conference. As many as 20 presenters will stand beside their posters, each illustrating 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.

In order to take part, participants must send Debra Krajec an abstract of the information to exhibit on the poster. This should be a brief, concise summary of the information to be presented in the poster - typewritten, and no more than 200 words. Each submission will be juried. The deadline is January 31. Send the abstract or any questions to Debra Krajec, Department of Performing Arts, Marquette University, PO Box 1881, Milwaukee WI 53201-1881; phone 414-288-1504; fax 414-288-7048; e-mail [debra.krajec@mu.edu](mailto:debra.krajec@mu.edu).

### Poster Session Deadline Nears

January 15 is the deadline to submit entries for the sixth annual Education Poster Session sponsored by the Education Commission.

The session helps disseminate information about new, exciting, or re-thought innovations in teaching methodology and pedagogy. 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 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](mailto:drkrajec@stritch.edu).

The jury 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.

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## Entertainment Management Offers Broad Opportunities

**Jack Feivou** *Vice-Commissioner, Entertainment Management*

Many of you may have noticed that the Management Commission has had a number of commissioner changes and may be asking, "What does the Commissioner of Entertainment do?" I am a producer for Walt Disney Entertainment and my focus is special events ranging in size and scope from media moments and announcements to grand openings for new products or theme parks. I transitioned into the broader world of live entertainment by using skills learned in school and in "legitimate" theatre.

Entertainment encompasses more than a Broadway show or regional theatre concept. Entertainment is any event expected to entertain - themed parties, grand openings, themed restaurants, convention and industrial events, live concerts, or a television special to name a few. A great example would be our involvement in Super Bowl halftime productions over the years.

My focus as the Vice-Commissioner of Entertainment Management is to help grow our talents by sharing best practices. We each bring "key learnings" from our different disciplines and entertainment experiences, and my goal is to create a forum in which to share these with USITT members so that we can learn from each other.

With a theatre degree and a little bit of honed experience, there are many opportunities for a career in entertainment. Working at a theme park is one way in the door, but there are many other avenues to pursue. Offer your services to party planners and local event companies. Sell your management and leadership skills. Identify how your experience in theatre is easily translated to their business (at the very least everybody needs a budget and timeline). Most companies are looking for hardworking, creative individuals who can infuse new ideas and ways of doing things into their business.

Creativity is the key to success. Everyone wants his or her event to be special, and bringing new ideas on what can be done and ways to do it will add to your value. See as much live entertainment as you can. This broadens your horizons and may add to your personal toolbox. Try to never say no! Look at each problem as a new challenge and figure out how to make it work. At the very least, bring another option to the table that could result in a solution. Keeping a positive attitude is very important in this business. Nobody enjoys working with a naysayer.

A career in entertainment management is fast, exciting, and ever-changing. If you enjoy new challenges and working in non-traditional spaces meeting lots of new people, it may be a right-fit for you. The work is never dull, often frustrating, but always fun. We're in the business of affecting people - making them laugh, cry, scream, or just feel good. I must tell you that being part of a team that does that on a daily basis is why I have made my career in entertainment!



**Jack Feivou**

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## Institute, ATL Offer Special Play Package, Discounts

David Rodger *Conference Promotions Coordinator*

The 30th anniversary Human Festival of New American Plays will be in full swing at Actors Theatre of Louisville (ATL) during the 2006 USITT Conference & Stage Expo. Those who have attended past Humana Festivals know the excitement of witnessing the intense work that goes on in Louisville every March - work resulting in first-class productions of exceptional new plays. Everyone attending the 2006 USITT conference should try to set aside a little time to enjoy one or more of the eight shows in the Humana Festival.

USITT and ATL have created a special package of three shows on Tuesday, March 28 and Wednesday, March 29 before the conference gets too hectic. ATL has generously added a special Tuesday matinee just to accommodate USITT's schedule. In addition, a limited number of discount seats for the Sunday evening (March 26) show are reserved for USITT members who want to see an extra play.

The three-show package consists of *Six Years* by Sharr White, *Hotel Cassiopeia* by Charles L. Mee and *Natural Selection* by Eric Coble. (The three-show package is available as a Regional Attraction on USITT's Conference registration page.) The Sunday evening performance is *The Scene* by Theresa Rebeck.

*The Scene* by Theresa Rebeck (discount tickets available for Sunday, March 26, 7 p.m. through ATL) is performed in ATL's arena space, the Bingham Theatre. ATL's synopsis: "Clea's new to the scene. Lewis wants to make a new scene from the old scene. Charlie was part of the scene and Stella's trying not to make a scene. This biting new black comedy takes on New York, the entertainment industry, marriage and even Ohio. Three old friends hitting middle age have their worlds upended by the new, hot, young thing."

Ms. Rebeck has had considerable success writing for television -- *NYPD Blue*, *L.A. Law*, *Brooklyn Bridge*, *Third Watch* -- but she says she never stopped writing for theatre. She has, however, stopped writing for television since her recent successes with *Omnium Gatherum*, co-authored with Alexandra Gersten-Vassilaros, for which they received a 2004 Pulitzer Prize, and *Bad Dates*, which will be performed at ATL in February, 2006.

*Six Years* by Sharr White (USITT's Tuesday, March 28, 2:30 p.m. package) is also performed in the Bingham Theatre. ATL's synopsis: "After six silent years, Phil Granger returns home to his wife, Meredith, shattered by all he witnessed in World War II. We return to Phil and Meredith every six years, from the Post-war boom through the quagmire of Vietnam, in this poignant examination of damaged souls in an era of unparalleled change."

Mr. White is an emerging talent who lives in Brooklyn. His other plays include *Satellites of the Sun* and *The Escape Velocity of Savages*.

*Hotel Cassiopeia* by Charles L. Mee (USITT's Tuesday, March 28, 7 p.m. package) will be performed in ATL's 159-seat Victor Jory Theatre. ATL's synopsis: "The American collage artist Joseph Cornell made wooden boxes filled with pocket watches, coiled springs, maps of the stars, a forest of thimbles, parrots, seashells, broken glass, children's alphabet blocks, brightly colored balls, soap bubbles, whales' teeth, a colored lithograph of the moon in the night sky, star fish. How would it be if those boxes could speak? About art, about America, about compassion and longing and loneliness, and heartbreak." This production is performed by the SITI Company.

Mr. Mee is a member of the SITI Company, the acclaimed group of actors and designers headed by artistic director Anne Bogart. Mr. Mee, who has had several other plays produced at Actors Theatre, says of his work, "I like plays that are not too neat, too finished, too presentable. My plays are broken, jagged, filled with sharp edges, filled with things that take sudden turns, careen into each other, smash up, veer off in sickening turns. That feels good to me. It feels like my life. It feels like the world."

*Natural Selection* by Eric Coble (USITT's Wednesday, March 29, 7 p.m. package) will be performed in ATL's largest space, the modified thrust stage of the Pamela Brown Theatre. ATL's synopsis: "We're in the not-so-distant future where the Culture Fiesta Theme Park needs to restock the natives of the Native American Pavilion, and curator Henry Carson must venture into the wastes of North America to find one. But will his new acquisition make a



Above is the poster created to help promote the 2006 Humana Festival of New American Plays at Actors' Theatre of Louisville. Those attending USITT's Conference & Stage Expo will have special opportunities to participate in the Humana Festival

blip on his wife's blog? And what's up with all this rain?"

Mr. Coble, who was born in Scotland and "bred," he says, on the Navajo and Ute reservations in New Mexico and Colorado, now lives in Cleveland where he is a member of the Cleveland Play House Playwrights Unit. His other plays include *In a Grove: Four Japanese Ghost Stories*, *Nightfall with Edgar Allan Poe*, and *Pinocchio 3.5*.

More information about the special pre-conference package of shows in the 2006 Humana Festival of New American Plays is available on the [USITT website](#). Complete information about the all the performances during the Humana Festival is available on the [Actors Theatre website](#).

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This Wells Fargo wagon from Otterbein College's production of *Music Man* will be part of the special Stage Transportation Expo at Stage Expo.

by Bill Teague VP-Special Operations

## Stage Expo 2006 Packed with Exhibits

USITT is going to cram every nook and cranny of the Stage Expo floor this year with special exhibits! There will be more stuff (both in number and diversity) than we had in Long Beach in 2004, and that show set the all-time record! From motion control to trains to auctions - we will have it all for your perusal and participation.

One of our hosts in Louisville is Actors Theatre of Louisville (ATL). **Paul Owen** has been the resident designer at ATL for 34 years and has designed virtually every production seen on stage during his tenure, a remarkable feat by any standard. An exhibit featuring his drawings, sketches, and models will provide an opportunity to share in this extraordinary body of work.

North Carolina School of the Arts will provide a fully functional **motion control workshop** built in a 40-foot tractor trailer. There will be continuous hands-on demonstrations with guidance from NCSA students and faculty. You will not have any trouble finding this hi tech exhibit on the Expo floor!

After cleaning up from a visit to the motion control trailer, head over to the **Mordecai Gorelik** and **Darwin Reid Payne** exhibits. The Gorelik exhibit will feature 30 printed and framed, digitally-preserved renderings and more than 400 additional renderings digitally presented with recordings of Mr. Gorelik describing some of the images. As a companion piece to the Gorelik exhibit, models and renderings of Darwin Reid Payne also will be displayed. Mr. Payne, a master designer and model builder, was a student of Mr. Gorelik at Southern Illinois University

**Freddy Wittop** was the costume designer of more than 20 Broadway shows. He was nominated for six Tony Awards and, in 1964, won the Tony for *Hello Dolly!* There will be an exhibit of his work featuring 12 renderings and eight of the actual costumes he created for opera diva Marjorie Lawrence.

Another costume exhibit will feature the work of renowned teacher, designer, author, and recipient of the 2006 USITT Distinguished Award in Costuming **Rosemary Ingham**. On display will be renderings and related work by the author of *From Page to Stage: How Theatre Designers Make Connections Between Scripts and Images*, and co-author (with Liz Covey) of *The Costume Technician's Handbook*, *The Costume Designer's Handbook*, and *The Pattern Development Handbook*.

Also featured this year is **The Stage Transportation Expo**, or as it is also known, "the car show." Cars, trucks, motorcycles, trains, western wagons, and other forms of transportation from productions across the country will be on display. From a Model T to a VW, from a full size train to a self powered Wells Fargo wagon, it will all be there. And, if you are lucky, you might be able to take one or two of these out for a spin on the Expo floor. A few spaces are



UNLV's truck has been used in a number of productions and will make another appearance at Stage Expo 2006.

Photo/Joe Aldridge



still available in this exhibit. For details about how to enter any form of "stage" transportation, contact Bill Teague at [wteague@theatre.as.ua.edu](mailto:wteague@theatre.as.ua.edu).

The designs of two international guests will be highlighted in Louisville. **Phillippe Amand**, a World Stage Design gold medal winner, will be exhibiting scenery and lighting designs. His work is often seen at the Mexican National Theatre Company and in many productions of renowned director Luis de Tavira. Turkish designer **Hakan Dundar**, who also participated in WSD, will display renderings and photographs of his scenery and costume designs.

A triennial favorite of Conference and Stage Expo is the **Kook Endowment Art Auction**. The tradition continues this year featuring beautiful set and costume design renderings created by some of the greatest theatre artists. There will also be Flea Market tables where an extraordinary collection of theatre paraphernalia (some true, one-of-a-kind theatre memorabilia) will be found at bargain prices.

**Design Expo** also returns this year! An exhibition of scenery, costume, and lighting designs in the performing arts, this juried event provides an opportunity for USITT members to share their work with fellow artists. To sign up for Design Expo, see [Opportunities](#) at the USITT web site.

**KC/ACTF Regional Design** award winners, all produced by student members of USITT, will display their work in this exhibit sponsored by Barbizon. The designs will move from Louisville to the Kennedy Center for the national American College Theatre Festival. Don't miss this opportunity to view the work of the next generation of designers.

Also returning to the Expo floor are photographs featuring the winners of **USITT's 2006 Architecture Awards**. A perennial favorite at USITT, this exhibit will showcase the very finest in theatre architecture from around the globe.

Start planning your schedule now to assure you have the time to enjoy this wide array of fascinating, fun, and intriguing exhibits at Stage Expo this year.

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# Conference & Stage Expo

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## TCES- It's the Greatest!

Patricia Angotti Director, THEatre SERVICE

Louisville is all abuzz over the opening of the new \$82-million Muhammad Ali Center - an educational and global gathering place.

Celebrities and dignitaries from across the country and around the world attended the gala event including former President Bill Clinton. Few celebrities will be on hand in March when THEatre Conference Employment SERVICE opens in Louisville, but there will be a large pool of eager and highly qualified job seekers and some of the best employers in the nation anxious to hire them.

THEatre Conference Employment SERVICE (TCES) can be a best friend and ally in helping to efficiently network and navigate through the trauma of finding that perfect job or, for employers, that perfect hire. TCES is designed to carefully and efficiently match employer and applicant while easing the stress and tension associated with job hunting and employment service activities.

Key to that network is a fully computerized system listing available job opportunities, posting applicant resumes, and scheduling interviews between job seekers and prospective employers. Great care is taken to schedule interviews conveniently around other conference sessions and workshops that participants may wish to attend. The atmosphere is low key with a friendly TCES staff of theatre professionals available to offer advice and provide personal assistance.

Two different levels of participation are available with TCES; one for those offering or seeking professional employment and another for non-professional summer theatre jobs, internships, or graduate assistantships. Because the service works to match appropriate jobs with qualified people, both employers and those seeking employment are urged to sign up early. (Fees are lower for early registration, too.)

Complete information and TCES registration forms are available on-line at [www.usitt.org](http://www.usitt.org) or by calling 800-93USITT. To contact TCES staff directly by e-mail write to [ts@evansville.edu](mailto:ts@evansville.edu) or call 317-826-7894.

USITT contracts with THEatre SERVICE to provide TCES so that potential employees and employers have a safe and professionally organized environment in which to work should they wish to interview at the conference. Fees are well within reach of the majority of the membership because USITT underwrites TCES as a membership benefit and valuable service for conference attendees

Job postings are *not* allowed on notice boards and will be removed. Those who have a job listing should take advantage of what TCES has to offer for its low, low fees. For the safety of the applicants and to protect the membership, interviews are not permitted in hotel rooms. This policy is for everyone's safety and security.



When is an employment service like a boxing great? Patricia Angotti likes to compare the great service she offers with the champion, whose new Muhammad Ali Center is now open in Louisville, Kentucky.

Photo/Greater Louisville Convention & Visitors Bureau

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## Directors at Large

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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## Honorary Lifetime Members

- 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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- American Harlequin Corporation
- Automatic Devices Company
- Barbizon Lighting Company
- Cirque du Soleil
- City Theatrical Inc.
- J.R. Clancy, Inc.
- 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.
- H & H Specialties Inc.
- heatshrink.com
- Hoffend & Sons, Inc.
- InterAmerica Stage, Inc.
- KM Fabrics, Inc.
- Kryolan Corporation
- Martin Professional, Inc.
- Norcostco, Inc
- Ocean Optics, Inc.
- PRG
- Production Advantage, Inc.
- Rosco Laboratories, Inc.
- Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics, Fabrications & Supplies
- Schuler Shook
- SECOA
- Stage Decoration & Supplies, Inc.
- *Stage Directions Magazine*
- Stage Research, Inc.
- StageRight Corporation
- Steeldeck Inc.
- Strand Lighting
- Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- Texas Scenic Company
- TMB

- Vari\*Lite
- Vincent Lighting Systems
- Walt Disney Entertainment
- Wenger Corporation

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- A.C. Lighting Inc.
- AC Power Distribution, Inc.
- A.C.T Lighting, Inc.
- Altman Lighting, Inc.
- Altman Rentals, Inc.
- Apollo Design Technology, Inc.
- Auerbach + Associates
- A V Pro, Inc.
- B.N. Productions, Inc.
- 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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- Electronics Diversified Inc.
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- Foy Invenrprises, Inc.
- GALA Systems, Inc.
- Gerriets International Inc.
- Grand Stage Company, Inc.
- Haussmann Theaterbedarf GmbH
- 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.
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- 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
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- Make-Up Designory
- MDG Fog Generators
- Mehron, Inc.
- Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.
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- Mutual Hardware
- Niscon Inc.
- North Carolina School of the Arts
- Northwest High School
- Ontario Staging Limited



- Pathway Connectivity
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- STAGEWORKS
- Staging Concepts
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- James Thomas Engineering
- Tiffin Scenic Studios, Inc.
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- Wayne State University Dept. of Theatre
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## Katrina Survivors Enchanted By Student Theatre Troupe

Mike Murphy *Marshall University*

The excitement of being in The Crescent City of New Orleans for the 2002 USITT Conference & Stage Expo has been the source of many fond memories. Festive images of the Superdome, Bourbon Street, and Mardi Gras parades come to mind. Until this past September, there were serious discussions, both formal and informal, about trying to plan a return visit. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have forced the communities along the Gulf Coast to make substantial adjustments to their long-term plans as well as day-to-day activities.

Following the storms that battered the Gulf Coast, aid and support from around the world was made available by foreign governments, multinational corporations, government and private aid agencies, and thousands of individuals. Assistance came in the form of cash donations, relief services, materials, and supplies. An innumerable host of fundraising activities were designed to solicit support. Auctions, raffles, sporting events, and benefit performances were held to raise funds. All of these were, are, and will be needed by the affected communities for many years to come.

When considering ways to assist the people of the Gulf Coast a group of Marshall University students determined that a benefit performance of their children's theatre productions was a good idea. Actually taking the shows to the Gulf Coast as a personal gift to the devastated communities would be much more personal and meaningful.

Pickled Pepper Players, the Marshall University Theatre department's Children's Theatre class consisting of Krista Carter, Jennifer Edens, Samantha Elkins, Shay Hannon, Elissa Horrell, Karah Markins, and Adam Stephens, made a commitment to carry live entertainment to the children of the storm. They willingly gave up their Thanksgiving break and the study week prior to finals for an opportunity to provide a character-building diversion to children in four states.

Two productions, *Professor Pocus* written by Lisa Higgins, and *Molly and Her Marvelous Mind* produced with special arrangement from the University of Alabama- Birmingham, were directed by Bess Park Reynolds. In both shows, the characters take journeys of discovery that help them better define themselves in socially responsible and character-building situations. These shows were already packaged for tour to schools in and around Huntington, West Virginia where Marshall is located.

The goal was to package the tour for an extended run that would not place a burden on any of the affected communities. To that end, they obtained an RV with a generator, camping supplies, lots of food, and water then hit the road. Marshall University Theatre's Gulf Coast Relief Tour covered four states (Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana) in 13 locations for 15 different community groups with 24 performances - all in the span of eight days.

Smiles were the order of the day when the Pickled Pepper Players visited the Aldersgate Afterschool Program in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Photo/Mike Murphy

Including travel days, they were gone from Marshall for 10 days and covered nearly 2,400 miles.

Along the way, the Pickled Pepper Players had a character-building journey of their own. They experienced first hand the devastation and damage that is endemic along the coast.

Company members became aware of both the physical and emotional catastrophes visited upon the residents in the South. The long term effects of the storms will take many years to remedy. Rather than allow a difficult situation to beat residents down, company members witnessed a sense of determination and inner strength in every community.

The human spirit and determined goals of the citizens to rebuild leaves little doubt that, in the trying times to come, there remains well discerned joy and accomplishment that comes from having endured and overcome shared loss.

From the French Quarter, to the back bayous, to the beaches, to the moss covered oaks, there is no doubt that we will again hear, "Laissez le bon temps rouler!"

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