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Distinguished Indeed



Rosemary Ingham, Frazier Marsh, Carolyn and Don Davis (top from left), Ming Cho Lee, James L. Moody, and Marjorie Bradley Kellogg (bottom from left) will all be honored with USITT Distinguished Achievement awards during the 2006 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Louisville, Kentucky.



Read [more](#) about these, and other outstanding achievers who will be part of the Conference throughout the March issue of *Sightlines*.



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USITT Honors Distinguished Achievement Award Winners

Barbara E.R. Lucas
Sightlines Editor

As part of the 46th Annual Conference & Stage Expo, USITT will celebrate outstanding achievement of several individuals who have lifelong records of outstanding contributions in a specialized area. As part of the 46th Annual Conference & Stage Expo, USITT will celebrate outstanding achievement of several individuals who have lifelong records of outstanding contributions in a specialized area.

Rosemary Ingham will receive the Distinguished Achievement Award for Costume Design, while also being honored for her outstanding contributions as an author. Ms. Ingham's designs have been seen at the Long Wharf Theatre, the Alley Theatre, the Dallas and Illinois Shakespeare Festivals, the Utah Shakespearean Festival, Arena Stage, Woolly Mammoth Theatre, American Players Theatre, and others. She has served on the theatre faculties of Southern Methodist University and Mary Washington College. She is the author of *From Page to Stage: How Theatre Designers Make Connections Between Texts and Images* and, with Liz Covey, *The Costumer's Handbook*, *The Costume Technician's Handbook*, and *The Costume Designer's Handbook*. Ms. Ingham and Ms. Covey were honored with a USITT Golden Pen Award in 2004.

Frazier Marsh will be honored with the Distinguished Achievement Award in Theatre Management. Mr. Marsh, much of whose work was in Kentucky, will be recognized for his work with Actors Theatre of Louisville where he is production manager. He has been with ATL since 1977 and now supervises the technical operations for Actors' busy schedule of plays which in 2005-2006 includes eight regular-season shows plus the Humana Festival. Mr. Marsh's expertise also includes his work as a director, a role he has served for over 25 productions.

Don and Carolyn Davis will be recognized together with the Distinguished Achievement Award in Sound Design & Technology. Their work has spanned more than five decades, starting in the audio industry in 1951 with the Golden Ear high fidelity store in Lafayette, Indiana. They co-authored *Sound System Engineering*, originally published in and since updated,



Rosemary Ingham



Frazier Marsh



Don and Carolyn Davis

and founded Syn-Aud-Con. Both are Fellows of the Audio Engineering Society and have been the joint recipients of many awards. They are well-known and respected for teaching the essential ideas of audio and acoustics.

Marjorie Bradley Kellogg's achievements in scene design will also be honored. Ms. Kellogg's Broadway credits include *Any Given Day* and George C. Scott's revival of *On Borrowed Time*, and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. She received a Pew Charitable Trust Residency at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, Georgia, from 1992-94 and, since 1995 has been an associate professor of design at Colgate University since 1995.

Ming Cho Lee will be honored for his work in education, complementing previous USITT awards for his work. Mr. Lee is the subject of the second book in the USITT Monograph Series which will be available for the first time at the 2006 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Mr. Lee, a faculty member of the Yale School of Drama, has also taught at New York University, and as a master teacher throughout the United States. Mr. Lee is now reaching a second generation of American stage design students and educators.

James. L. Moody will receive the Distinguished Achievement Award in Lighting Design recognizing a body of work which extends over many years and was seen by millions. He also will be the center of the Lighting Commission's Distinguished Achievement session, more fully described [here](#).

All the Distinguished Achievement awards will be presented as part of the Conference and then acknowledged again at the Annual Awards Banquet which concludes the Conference.

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Marjorie Bradley
Kellogg



Ming Cho Lee



James L. Moody



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USITT to Present Second Rising Star Award

Barbara E.R. Lucas
Sightlines Editor

Justin Townsend has been chosen to receive the second annual USITT Rising Star Award, sponsored by LDI2006 and *Live Design* magazine. Mr. Townsend, 31, is a scenic, lighting, and sound designer whose work has been seen from New York to California.

The Rising Star Award recognizes excellence and artistic achievement in the areas of scenic, lighting, sound, and projection design, or the convergence of two or more of those disciplines and is given at the beginning of a young designer's career. Mr. Townsend, 31, will receive his award, which includes a cash prize, at the USITT Awards Banquet which concludes the 2006 USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Louisville, Kentucky on Saturday, April 1, 2006.

Mr. Townsend received his bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, and his master's degree from the California Institute of the Arts. He is leading a group of artists toward the creation of a new theatre.

USITT President John S. Uthoff said that the Rising Star Award sponsored by LDI2006 and *Live Design* has produced exactly the result envisioned when it was created several years ago: "Justin Townsend not only exemplifies the type of professional achievements which can be attained early in a career, he is expanding the horizons on what is possible within the profession."

David Johnson, associate publisher and editorial director of *Live Design*, notes, "We are extremely pleased that Justin Townsend is this year's winner of the USITT Rising Star Award. We knew he was someone to keep an eye on when named one of our Young Designers To Watch in *Entertainment Design* two years ago. This award confirms our interest in his work."


Mr. Townsend's lighting designs have been seen at New York at LaMAMA etc, the Ohio Theatre, and the Samuel Beckett Theatre. His lighting and/or scenic designs have been seen in regional theatres such as PlayMakers Repertory in Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Hartford Stage in Connecticut; and University of Rochester.



Justin Townsend

Chris Barreca, head of design at CalArts, wrote that "Justin is a brilliant designer and collaborator." Christopher Akerlind noted "he combines the curiosity, talents, and abilities required of a young designer ready to build a career as an interesting and innovative theatre artist." Mary J. Heilman, USITT's Scene Design Commissioner, nominated Mr. Townsend for the award.

In addition to his design work, Mr. Townsend held guest lecturer positions at Northeastern University in Boston, the University of Rochester, and Siena College in Albany, New York, among others. He was a nominee for a 2005 Ovation award.

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Great Discounts on Books and Videos

Michelle L. Smith

Membership & Ad Sales Manager

Focal Press

15% off all titles including *Character Costume Figure Drawing*, *Scenic Art for the Theatre 2nd ed.*, and *The Automated Lighting Programmer's Handbook*. To order, visit www.focalpress.com and enter "79623" in offer code box or call 800-366-2665 (US/Canada only) and mention offer code "79623."

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Music Books Plus

10% off any purchase. Titles available include: *Production Management*, *Sound for Stage*, and *An Introduction to Rigging in the Entertainment Industry*. To order, visit www.musicbooksplus.com and enter your USITT member number in the comments field, or call 800-265-8481 and quote your member number when ordering.

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Theatre Arts Video Library

20% off TAVL produced instructional videos. Titles available include: *Firearm Safety Onstage*, *Fundamentals of Scenic Painting*, and *Costume Pattern Development*. To order, visit www.theatreartsvideo.com and print an order form to fax or mail; call 800-456-8285 (US/Canada only); or e-mail admin@theatreartsvideo.com and identify yourself as a USITT member.



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.

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Step Up, Sign Up in Louisville

Lawrence J. Hill

USIYT Treasurer

USITT@50, the fundraising effort to secure the Institute's future, is in full swing but still needs follow through. There will be several opportunities to get involved at the 46th Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Louisville, Kentucky in March.

The current campaign is seeking five-year commitments from members of the Institute in support of research, international activities, student activities, and the long-term future projects of the Institute. So far, USITT has total commitments of \$81,875 from 60 members. The Board of Directors has authorized a 50 percent match for funds committed before June 30, 2006.

Step Up: Join in making a positive step to build the financial principal to insure we continue the awards, grants, and programs that recognize and support the efforts of our members. Take the opportunity during the Conference in Louisville to sign a five-year letter of intention.

Sign Up: Sign a letter of intention at the triennial Art Auction in support of the Edward F. Kook Fund. The opportunity to learn more about the campaign, and the forms to participate, will be available as you peruse the exhibit and silent auction as part of Stage Expo

Come to a Meeting: On Wednesday, March 29 at 2 p.m. in Room 103 of the Kentucky International Convention Center there will be an opportunity to meet with Larry Hill, USITT Treasurer, for a session on *USITT Gifting*. There will be a short presentation and discussion period with the opportunity to arrange individual meetings where specific questions on USITT gifting opportunities can be discussed.

Become a brick in the foundation of the Institute's future.

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Networking Project Seeks Participants

The second organizational meeting of the People of Color Networking Project will be held during the Louisville 2006 Conference & Stage Expo.

The first meeting, held in Toronto, introduced about 20 USITT members to the idea of developing a communications network for all those interested in linking members of various communities, ethnicities, and cultures to one another.

The international flavor of the Toronto conference reinforced the notion that diverse approaches to the performing arts are integral to the creative and collaborative process, and USITT clearly continues to support that concept through many of its activities and programs. The networking project hopes to connect people who may share the same geographic boundaries and citizenship of country, but who may differ in background, training, or philosophy.

The session will be held 7:20 to 8:50 p.m. on Wednesday, March 29 in KICC 108 and will be chaired by Gregory Horton. The group will look at establishing a mission statement and expanding the participant list. Those interested, but unable to attend, can contact Mr. Horton (gjhorton@ncat.edu) or Lea Asbell-Swanger (ela1@psu.edu).

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UM Celebrates 75th and 20th

In 2006 the Department of Theatre Arts & Dance at the University of Minnesota launches its 75:20 Celebration marking the 75th anniversary of University Theatre and the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Department of Theatre Arts & Dance. In commemoration of these events, the department invites alumni and guests to visit its new history web site, www.7520.umn.edu and return to campus for the 75:20 Reunion April 28 to 30.

The University Theatre and Dance history web site recaptures the '70s, '80s, '90s, and beyond allowing alumni and visitors to renew relationships with the department or learn more about recent performances and instruction. Alumni can upload memories and thoughts about the anniversaries. The 75:20 Reunion will reunite alumni with faculty and friends on campus for a weekend of fun.

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 Costume Show & Tell
 Aid Now Available
 Fire Curtains
 USITT Travel Award
 Rigging Exams
 Student Work at PQ

Don't Miss Show and Tell in Kentucky!

The Show and Tell feature of the Costume Design & Technology Commission's annual commission meeting will be held once again at this year's USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo. This presentation offers a chance to see what other costume designers and technologists across the country are doing through a visual exhibition of their work.

As in past show and tell displays, this event does not require a major display, lengthy concept statement, or attendance at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Louisville. It is designed to be informal and fun.

With a few digital images and a simple e-mail, you can have your work presented at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Show and Tell is open to all designers and technologists.

This opportunity is open to all educational levels. Annaliese Baker, costume designer and professor at California State University, Fresno, is coordinating the event this year. Each applicant should send four to seven pictures of recent work in digital format either via e-mail or on disk. Include a brief biography and a short description of each image. The deadline for submission is March 1. Participants may e-mail anbaker@csufresno.edu or mail Annaliese Baker California State University, Fresno 5241 N. Maple Avenue, M/S SA46 Fresno, CA 93740-8027; phone 559-278-5110.

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Foundation Accepting Aid Applications

Behind the Scenes, an initiative of the ESTA Foundation to provide industry members with financial support when they are seriously ill or injured, is now accepting applications for assistance. Behind the Scenes will provide qualified, eligible individuals with grants that may be used for medical care, funeral expenses, or living expenses such as rent, mortgage, utilities, food, clothing, transportation, and child care.

To qualify for assistance, individuals must currently reside in the United States or Canada and have been at any time employed for a minimum of five years full time service in the entertainment technology industry. Immediate family members including spouses, domestic partners, and dependent children also may qualify for assistance.

For more information and copies of the Summary of Need and Application for Financial Assistance forms visit www.estafoundation.org/bts/grants.htm. Behind the Scenes is made possible by contributions from industry members. Consider making a donation today at www.estafoundation.org/bts/contribution.htm.

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Fire Curtain Standard Up for Review

BSR E1.22, Entertainment Technology - Fire Safety Curtain Systems, is available for public review on the ESTA web site through March 28.

The draft standard describes the materials, fabrication, installation, operation, testing, and maintenance of fire safety curtains and fire safety curtain systems used for theatre proscenium opening protection. It is a serious attempt to specify how a fire curtain shall perform. It doesn't tell what kind of fabric to use for a fire safety curtain, for example, but instead describes how strong a fabric must be and what abrasion and fire tests it must pass. The document may be accessed by visiting www.esta.org/tsp/documents/public_review_docs.php or by requesting it from ESTA's technical standards manager.

For more information, contact Karl G. Ruling, Technical at 212-244-1505 or e-mail standards@esta.org.

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USITT Travel Award Announced

The USITT Member International Travel Award was recently created to assist members with research or creative projects in other countries. In recognition of the scarcity of support for these activities, the USITT International Committee recommended this award alternate years with the Student International Travel Award.

The first award recipient is Frank Mohler, who will travel to Cesky Krumlov in the Czech Republic to document the theatrical machinery in the Baroque theatre in the castle. Mr. Mohler has previously researched similar historical theatres in the Czech Republic, and has shared his findings with the USITT membership through a web page at <http://www1.appstate.edu/orgs/spectacle> which includes computer animations of the machinery in action, and articles in *TD&T*: "Survival of the Mechanized Flat Wing Scene Change: Court Theatres of Gripsholm, Cesky Krumlov and Drottningholm" (Winter 1999) which was selected for a 2000 Herbert D. Greggs Merit Award, "The Court Theatre at Mnichovo Hradiste: The Groove System Survives on the Continent" (Winter 2003) which won the 2004 Hebert D. Greggs Award, and, with Jiri Blaha, "The Chateau Theatre in Litomysl and the Scenery of Josef Platzer" (Fall 2004). His forthcoming research will allow him to complete his series of articles on surviving Czech theatres.

Funding for this award is supported in part by donations to the International Activities Fund. As a part of the USITT@50 campaign, contributions to the fund help secure the continuation of this and similar worthy projects. The international research of individual members benefits all members of the Institute, by bringing the world to us through their discoveries.

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ETCP Offers Rigging Exams

The Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP) Council announces the ETCP Rigging Examinations will be available at computer centers around the United States and in Canada beginning March 15, 2006. All interested riggers are invited to apply.

Many employers are now looking for ETCP Certified riggers and have stated they may require certification in the future. In a recent survey of industry employers, 81 percent said they would encourage employees or personnel working in their venues to seek certification in rigging.

Rigging examination applications are now being accepted. The sooner an application is submitted, the sooner the test can be taken. Candidate information, including eligibility requirements and application forms are available on-line. To have examination information and application forms mailed or e-mailed to you, contact Katie Geraghty, ETCP certification director, at 212-244-1505 or kgeraghty@esta.org.

The current ETCP Certified Riggers are listed at etcp.esta.org. These riggers can be identified on the jobsite by their ETCP photo ID card that includes their picture, date of certification and, most importantly, area(s) of specialty. Also, those certified are allowed the exclusive use of the ETCP Certified Rigger logo on their business card or web site, and possess the special lapel pin, embroidered patch, and workbox sticker.

The ETCP Council members are key leaders drawn from entertainment business, labor, facilities, associations, and academia representing the diversity of the entertainment industry. Membership includes AMPTP, CITT, CCE, ESTA, IAAM, IATSE, InfoComm, The League, PRG, TEA, and USITT.

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Student Work Sought for PQ2007

Plans for the USA Schools of Scenography exhibit as part of the Prague Quadrennial are underway, offering exciting opportunities. The design of the exhibit includes both a gallery space and a performance space. For the gallery, schools are invited to submit representative samples of student design projects to the webpage <http://pqusitt.okstate.edu/> between April 15 and June 15 2006. Materials for the gallery may include renderings, models, costumes, small props, sound, etc. Selected schools will then be allocated a space in the exhibit that they may design and arrange as they wish, using the materials submitted online.

The galleries form the walls of the exhibit and frame a performance area in the center of the space. To generate innovative ideas about alternative forms of design expression and to encourage more participation in the PQ, we are also seeking performance pieces as a part of the student exhibit. The performance is an example of pure design to express an idea

without the use of language, given the international setting for the exposition.

Schools interested in getting involved must submit a video/DVD of their performance, created in a space similar to the one defined by the exhibit. The deadline for this part of the exhibit is November 15 2006 and entries must be mailed to Jon Savage, 2 Ridge Street, Winchester, MA 01890. A number of schools will be invited to present their performance pieces daily in Prague and the other entries will be shown through a media show at other times.

Schools may submit to one or both aspects of the exhibit. Travel awards sponsored by the Tobin Fund for Theatre Arts will be given to a number of students entered in either part of the exhibit. The dates of the PQ are June 14-24, 2007.

For additional details about these opportunities, please go to the webpage. In addition, and attend the *PQ Spotlight on Students* session in at the 2006 Annual Conference & Stage Expo on Wednesday, March 29 at 6 in the Marriott Paddock meeting room.

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Louisville Conference at the Gate

Perhaps all of the horse racing analogies have already been used, but the 2006 Conference Committee, presenters, award winners, volunteer leadership, and staff are all preparing for a record-setting good time in Louisville, Kentucky at the end of March.

There is still time to register, either online or by telephone at 800-938-7488. Registrations will be accepted onsite starting at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 29, 2006.

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Sightlines to Launch from Conference

To adhere to our publishing deadlines, the electronic version of the April issue of *Sightlines* will become available while many of us will be in Louisville at the Conference. Members will still receive electronic notification that the issue is ready, but to prevent a massive number of returned messages from people who are "away from the office" the message will not be sent until the first week in April.

There will only be minimal coverage of the Conference in the April issue, but look for photos and stories in the May issue.

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Jerry Gorrell Retiring

We offer warmest congratulations to Jerry Gorrell, esteemed chair of USITT's Standards Committee, Vice-Commissioner of the Engineering Commission and well-known advocate of the Institute who is retiring after almost 30 years with the City of Phoenix. We won't all be able to attend the party on March 8 in the lobby of the newly-remodeled Symphony Hall, but we send all best wishes for the event.

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At the Gate

April *Sightlines*

Jerry Gorrell



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Apollo Upgrades Membership

We appreciate **Apollo Design Technology Inc.**'s recent decision to increase its support of USITT to that of a Contributing member. Apollo produces both custom and standard stainless steel and glass gobos in sizes to fit all lights. It is known for its SuperResolution and ColourScenic patterns, plus outstanding customer service. The company also features Apollo Gel, dichroic filters, rotators, and scrollers. For more information, including the company's 2006 catalog, visit www.internetapollo.com.

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Meyer Sound Upgrades

We also appreciate **Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.** which also upgraded its membership to the Contributing member level. Meyer Sound has won world-wide acclaim as an award-winning designer and manufacturer of professional loudspeaker systems, reference monitors, and electroacoustic measurement systems.

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PRG at the Super Bowl

PRG provided a full lighting package, controlled by its Virtuoso console and powered by the PRG Series 400 system for the Spring Super Bowl XL Halftime Show at Ford Field in Detroit, Michigan. The Rolling Stones, currently on tour with lighting supplied by PRG, headlined the halftime extravaganza. Lighting was designed by Bob Dickinson and Patrick Woodroffe, and the show was produced by Don Mischer Productions.

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ETC Offers LDI Scholarships

Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc. (ETC) will again offer scholarships to six college students for LDI in 2006. Applications will be available from the ETC booth at USITT Stage Expo from March 30 to April 1. Applications may also be downloaded at www.etcconnect.com. Deadline is April 28, 2006.

The scholarships include roundtrip airfare to Las Vegas, hotel, meals, a full conference pass and "great ETC swag." Application deadline is April 28, 2006.

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Rose Brand Launches Screen Goo

This month:

Apollo Design
Technology, Inc.

Meyer Sound
Laboratories, Inc.


PRG

ETC

Rose Brand

Entertainment
Technology

A new product from **Rose Brand** can transform any smooth surface into a high-performance projection screen. Screen Goo is a specially-formulated highly reflective acrylic paint system. It is specifically designed for the video projection industry and its performance rivals or exceeds the traditional material used in screens. Screen Goo allows users to create projection surfaces of almost any size or shape, including curves, at significantly lower costs. Different products are available for front or rear projection.

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Entertainment Technology Displays Marquee

A new exhibit at the Museum of the City of New York, *Transformed by the Light: The New York City Night* is showing off not only the exhibit, but the Marquee Lighting Control Consol from **Entertainment Technology** as well. Steven Rosen of Available Light serves as lighting coordinator and supervisor of the exhibit, which runs through May 7, 2006. Eleven design firms are participating in the exhibit which is made possible by the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America and its sponsors.

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Welcome to Grosh Scenic Rentals

We extend a warm welcome to **Grosh Scenic Rentals**, a new Sustaining member of USITT. Jane Copeland is the contact person for Grosh, which since 1932 has been supplying top quality backdrops and drapery. The company's more than 5,000-item inventory can be viewed at www.grosh.com where the selections are grouped in 75 categories to assist visitors.

Grosh Scenic Rentals, based in Hollywood, California, will be exhibiting at Stage Expo and can be found in booth 525.

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Wybron Adds to Nexera 19-26 Degree Profile

Wybron has added to its Nexera family of luminaires with the release of the Nexera 19-26 Degree Profile. The Nexera has a built-in CMY diachroic color mixing system. The integral Wybron color mixing module produces an almost limitless color palate with CMY subtractive mixing which features an exceptional range of control along with seamless transitions between colors. The new Nexera provides hard-edge illumination in an adjustable field from 19 to 26 degrees, with a dual lens system.

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TOMCAT Brightens Holidays

TOMCAT USA helped brighten the holidays for needy San Francisco-area children because of a donation of truss to Caltrain, a California public transportation company. TOMCAT donated 13 sections of light duty plated truss and a canopy system which was used to decorate a special Caltrain stage car that made nine stops in and around San Francisco collecting gifts for Toys for Tots.

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Wybron

TOMCAT



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Holly Monsos, left, selects the winners of the H & H Student Conference awards assisted by Brian Petranchuk, Accounting/ Special Projects Clerk, during a recent visit to the USITT Office in Syracuse, New York. Ms. Monsos' title was recently changed to VP-Membership, Sections & Chapters.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

Potpourri!

John S. Uthoff
USITT President

Goal: USITT will continue to strengthen the organizational operations of the Institute and the National Office.

To accomplish this goal we will:

- *Project and monitor long-range financial goals and objectives for USITT.*
- *Research and evaluate improved or new data management software to integrate all information systems such as membership, conference, etc.*
- *Maintain and continue to develop the USITT Web site.*
- *Develop and implement a short and long-term plan for giving.*

If you look at the USITT Mission & Goals page on the website, you find that one of the things we try to do is to constantly monitor and improve USITT's operations. This benefits all members of the Institute, since it allows us to supply better service and may reduce cost. We have made significant progress on this goal during the last year.

We have worked to improve our database management software.

Our previous system was really a group of databases. Conference information was one place and membership another making it very difficult to track everyone we normally work with in our USITT world. In November, we moved our membership information and registration information to a new, person-based database. This allows us to keep track of everyone who interacts with USITT. We continue to add other parts of our operations to the database, but it has already demonstrated that it allows the office to function more efficiently.

Carol B. Carrigan, USITT Office Coordinator, has hired two new staff members for the USITT Office. We recently welcomed Carrie Boyce as a full time Clerical Assistant, and just this month we added Fabian Campbell as a part-time Content Technician to help us deal with the increased load of electronic communication and publication. If you call the office, welcome these new staff members to the USITT family.

When volunteer positions become vacant, the Personnel Committee always takes the opportunity to evaluate whether the VP structure of the Institute should be modified. A recent review led us to the conclusion that it made more sense to tie membership to VP-Sections & Chapters and keep all membership issues under one person. Another change is that the evaluation of our applicants for the YD&T awards should lie with VP-Commissions so that the awards can be evaluated by the appropriate Commission. A third is that we need to have a VP responsible for both development and promotion of the Institute.

The Board of Directors approved a resolution to create a Vice-President for Promotion & Development and a Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters. We are in the process of appointing an Interim VP for Promotion & Development, and the position will be going through the Nominations Committee at the 2006 Conference. Holly Monsos is already hard at work incorporating the Membership activities into her position.

With the staffing changes in the office, the additional material from publications, material stored for the Conference, and the office's expanding functions, we have outgrown our facilities at 6443 Ridings Road. Our current lease expires on June 30, 2006. The Executive Committee has asked our Office Coordinator to explore other options in Syracuse. We hope to sign a contract for a newly remodeled and larger space in a nicer neighborhood. Watch *Sightlines* for future announcements and developments as this move is considered.

As you can tell, we will soon make or already have made several changes in the daily operations of USITT. There also have been extensive changes on the financial side of the Institute. Thanks to the tireless efforts of USITT Treasurer Larry Hill, the Finance Committee, and everyone who has donated, the USITT@50 gifting campaign, announced last year in Toronto, is going well! Several of the YD&T Awards, as well as the Rising Star Award, have been fully endowed. We have raised more money in the last

year to support the projects and operations of the Institute than at any other time in our history. This ensures that members will continue to be supported by grants and awards, and the Institute can sponsor such unique events as World Stage Design, the PQ 2007 Exhibit, and the OISTAT World Congress. It helps us continue to maintain USITT's restrained operating expenses.

These gifts, along with the hard work of the office staff, the many volunteers, and the support of all the members of the Institute, have permitted USITT to expand operations, and meet the vision and operational goals of the Institute. Not only have we met those goals, but along the way we have set records in conference attendance, Stage Expo space sold, and memberships. With this support USITT has been able to expand programs and increase the principal of our supporting programmatic funds at the same time.

USITT is about allowing the members of USITT to share ideas with each other, help develop standards, interact with other organizations, maintain a record of Institute activities, encourage research, and recognize those who do theatrical work well. If you have an idea for other activities that USITT should be undertaking, please suggest it to any of the volunteer leadership of the Institute and then roll up your sleeves and dive in and help make your project and all the others a reality.

I'll see you all in Louisville! Soon!

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Mt. Vernon Hosts Lighting Seminar

The Mt. Vernon Senior High School Chapter of USITT hosted an automated lighting seminar January 21 and 22, 2006 at The Centre in Evansville, Indiana.

Forty-three participants -- including high school and college students, educators and industry professionals -- received programming training on consoles of their choice including the ETC Congo, Express and Obsession II, GrandMA, Flying Pig WholeHog IPC and Strand 300, and 520i consoles.

The seminar was led by Richard Cadena, editor of *Projection Lights and Staging News*. It featured training by Robin Cross of Cross Lighting; Sarah Clausen and Spencer Lyons of ETC; Abby Downing, Rob Holland, and Jim Tutorow of On Location Lighting; and Matt Klasmeier and Chuck McCafferty of Vincent Lighting Systems.

Matt Klasmeier and Chuck McCafferty lead an introduction to Strand consoles.



Rob Holland, below, demonstrates the GrandMA console.

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Mt. Vernon High School



Photos/Dana Taylor

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Intermountain Desert Regional Section Formed

There's a new Section in USITT!

The Intermountain Desert Regional Section (Utah and Nevada) was approved at the Board of Directors meeting in November. Jessica Sizemore, Chair of the Section, and the other officers are starting to make plans for their first membership meeting and symposium this summer.

Utah and Nevada have been without a Regional Section for many years and, while there has been some interest in starting a section there before, potential members were not 't able to gather enough numbers in a reasonable geographic area to work. This time, it was Scott Sizemore of Barbizon who looked at the USITT web site and noticed there was no regional section in the Utah area. He had hoped to get more involved with local theatre companies and figured that a regional section would be the best way to do it.

After brainstorming with his wife Jessica (aka "Boof"), Joe Payne, and Amanda French (Ms. Sizemore's colleagues at Pioneer Theatre), the group reached out to other theatre professionals in the area, pulling in interested USITT members in Las Vegas, at Brigham Young University, and at the Utah Shakespearian Festival. The group grew to the required number of founding members. With some help and advice from other regional section members, like Chesapeake Section Chair and Barbizon colleague Bill Price, they created by-laws and submitted their request to the board for a charter.

Intermountain Desert is "looking forward to creating a fellowship of technical theatre professionals in our area," says Mr. Sizemore. Anyone in the area who would like to get involved is encouraged to contact either of the Sizemores and or visit the section's web page, linked through www.usitt.org at www.intermountain.usitt.org. Those who wish to become active with the new Regional Section are urged to contact Ms. Sizemore at boofie@bigfoot.com or prittyprittyprincess@gmail.com.

Holly Monsos

VP-Members, Sections & Chapters

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New Section Formed

Ohio Valley

Desert State

Upstate New York

Chesapeake

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Ohio Valley Hosts Lecat, Supports Awards

The Ohio Valley Regional Section and the University of Toledo hosted Jean-Guy Lecat on February 17 and 18 in Toledo, Ohio. The event was free to USITT-Ohio Valley members.

Technical director and space designer for Peter Brook over the course of 25 years, Mr. Lecat was in charge of the Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord (Peter Brook's theatre) as well as Peter Brook's tours. He was charged particularly with research and the transformation or creation of more than 200 spaces throughout the world.

Ohio Valley supports Region III, ACTFKC Awards

The board of Ohio Valley Regional Section agreed to join with the Midwest Section to award design winners an increased stipend at the ACATFKC Region III festival held in Normal, Illinois in early January. Ohio Valley added \$50 to the original \$100 prize for each design winner. The Region III Design Winners were:

- Barbizon Set Design, Janine L. Woods, University of Michigan, *Romeo & Juliet*
- Barbizon Costume Design, Noppadol Inchan, Illinois State University, *Marat/Sade*
- Barbizon Lighting Design, Anthony Galaska, Purdue University, *Marisol*
- Alcone National Festival Fellow, Mehron Make-up Design Nominee, Kristina Makowski, University of Evansville, *A Little Night Music*
- KCACTF Sound Design Award, Jason Knox, Purdue University, *Marisol*

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Desert State Holds Tucson Conference



The Desert State Regional Section held its Annual Meeting and Conference on January 14 at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Approximately 50 individuals attended the event.

The day started with the section's annual membership meeting followed by the keynote address by Joe Aldridge, USITT Vice-President for Conferences. Mr. Aldridge, left, spoke about the procedure of producing the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo. He also spoke about how Desert State section members could become involved since Phoenix will be the site of the conference in 2007.

After the keynote, there was a full day of 13 workshops held during three sessions. Workshop areas of interest included costumes, scenery, lighting, management, audio, health and safety, and careers. A sampling of the workshops included *Discharge Dyeing*, by Gail Wolfenden-Steib; *Arc, Flash and Blast*, by Jerry Gorrell; *Motion Control*, by Nate Cross; *Lighting Storyboards*, by Michael McNamara; and *Wireless Microphones*, by Dave Temby.

At the end of the day, University of Arizona's John Dahlstrand led an informative tour of the Stevie Eller Dance Theatre, where he is the senior technical director.

The Desert State Section would like to thank Mr. Aldridge, the presenters, Strand (sponsor of the continental breakfast), and the University of Arizona for hosting the conference.

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Upstate Hosts Job Fair, Technical Workshops

SUNY-Oswego hosted the Upstate New York Regional Section's job fair and technical workshops on February 4.

In what may become an annual winter event for the region, SUNY-Oswego, in cooperation with Upstate New York theatres and vendors, hosted a second job fair and day of technical workshops. Oswego Technical Director Johan Godwaldt and Glimmerglass Opera Technical Director Abby Rodd began plans for this day-long event last March. BMI Supply, JR Clancy, Rosco, and Oswego faculty offered workshops in lighting, rigging, costuming, and painting as well as resume writing. In addition to providing an employment forum for students, Holly Monsos, USITT VP-Membership, Sections & Chapters explained the process of forming and maintaining a student chapter of USITT.

Workshops were a big draw February 4 at Upstate New York's daylong event, which also included a job fair.



Photo/P. Gibson Ralph

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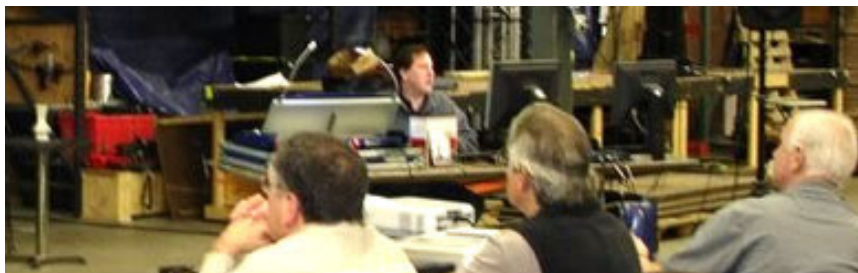
Chesapeake Holds Mini-EXPO

The Chesapeake Regional Section sponsored its Winter 2006 Mini-EXPO January 28 at Fisher Theatrical in Hanover, Maryland.

The day-long workshop introduced participants to the new integration of VectorWorks Spotlight and ESP Vision. Kevin Linzey, Spotlight project manager for Vectorworks, and Greg Jesse, from ESP Vision, conducted the demonstrations. Equipment and material support for the workshop was donated by Event Tech, Afterglow Lighting, Barbizon Lighting, BSL Productions, Fisher Theatrical, and Digital Media Designs.

The Section is making plans for another Mini-EXPO this spring in advance of its annual EXPO, which will be hosted by Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey in September. For more information, see Section members us at the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Louisville, or check the [Section's web site](#).

Kevin Linzey (at PC) demonstrates VectorWorks' Spotlight 12.



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Commissioners and vice-commissioners got together in August in Louisville, Kentucky to plan many of the year's upcoming activities.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

Commissions Uber-Active in Louisville!

Kim Williamson
VP-Commissions

In just a few weeks there will be opportunity aplenty to join hundreds of theatre technicians, designers, and production personnel in the once-a-year collective gathering of the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo!

At the heart of the conference is the commission programming which focuses on the specific interests and disciplines of the constituent members of USITT. Whether your interests are specific to a single commission or more expansive to cut across these lines of distinction, the door is open for your attendance and participation. Your conference program is your guide in all things programming related. You also may get a preview of programming from the USITT web site where you will find the session title, day, and time.

The Commission Meetings are specific to each of the 10 Commissions and are open to any and all attendees. The business and planning meeting of the Commissions, they also include the all-important social and networking aspects of the membership. When I am asked about how one becomes a member of a commission, I answer that there is no required activity or secret handshake -- just the desire to walk in the room, engage in

conversation, and offer your ideas to the group. It's really quite easy and allows all levels of participation and involvement.

To round out the many offerings, consider dropping by one of many Commission receptions; browsing around the several Commission-sponsored exhibits on the Expo floor, encouraging a student to sign-up for a portfolio review session, or registering for a Professional Development Workshop. Each Commission is the sum of dozens of individuals who each take a bit of time from their busy days to schedule, plan, and implement the best that USITT has to offer. Support a commission and you support the future of USITT.

See you in Louisville!

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Architecture Commission Seeks Ideas

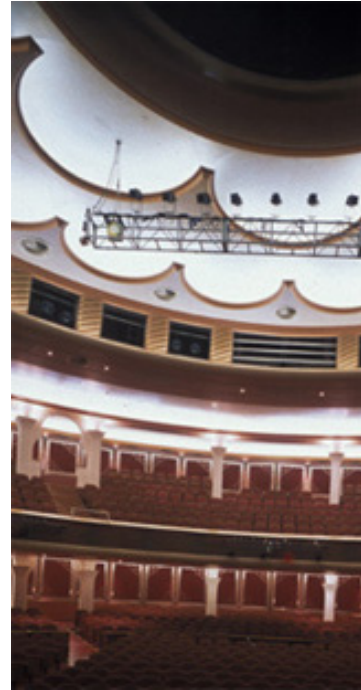
Many may be unfamiliar with the Architecture Commission, the interest area of USITT whose mission is to "enhance the understanding of the role of an architect in the design of theatres and to provide an architectural resource for our members and the professional community."

Besides sponsoring the annual Architecture Awards program, the Commission leads sessions on performing arts center design and sponsors tours of facilities in the host city at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo. At last year's conference, the Commission made it a goal to increase its activity year-round.

To achieve this goal, it is seeking help. Do you know of an interesting project or experience with renovations or new construction that should be shared with the Institute? Is there something you'd always wondered about the process of building a theatre? Do you have an idea for an architecture-related article you always hoped someone would write?

Pass those ideas along to the Commission, attention of Raymond Kent, rkent@wrl.design.com, or Kimberly Corbett, kcorbett@schulershook.com, who are looking for your assistance.

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The Architecture Commission honors outstanding new construction or renovation through its Architecture Awards. A detail of the Brighton Dome & Corn Exchange, a 2004 Honor Award winner, is shown above.



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Last Call for Phoenix Proposals, PDW Participation in Louisville

Joel Ebarb
Programming Chair,
Costume Design & Technology Commission

The final countdown has begun to submit proposals for Costume Design & Technology Commission programming for the Phoenix 2007 Conference & Stage Expo. March 15 is the deadline to submit proposal materials for consideration for the Phoenix docket. Whether you have a completely formed idea or just the beginnings of an inspiration for a proposal, the Costume Commission desperately wants to hear from you. The success of conference programming depends on active involvement by all Commission members, so consider proposing a session for Phoenix 2007 today.

Remember, programming for Phoenix will be decided in Louisville. For more information on proposing programming, contact Joel Ebarb, Programming Chair, via e-mail at jebarb@cla.purdue.edu.

Also, it is not too late to sign up for one of two exciting Professional Development Workshops being offered at this year's USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Louisville. Space is still

There are still a few spots available in the *Costume Rendering and Drawing* PDW which will be part of the 2006 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Like the tutu workshop held in 2005, it promises to greatly assist participants.

Photo/Casey Kearns

available for both workshops, and each is an amazing bargain considering the fantastic skills and techniques that will be offered to participants and observers.

Costume Drawing and Rendering Techniques: Basics and Beyond will be held 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, March 27 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday March 28.

It features figure and costume drawing, mixed media, and computer rendering for both the beginner and advanced costume designer. The first day will be spent working from a live model. The afternoon will focus on watercolor and mixed media rendering techniques with designs developed in the morning. The second day will include further rendering, then computer modification of the renderings. Participants must furnish their own laptops with rendering software. The workshop will be led by Ron Gloekler and Herb Camburn.

Cost is \$200 for members, \$250 for participants, \$100 for member observer, and \$120 for observer.

Hat's Entertainment: Simple-to-Sew Millinery will be held 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. is sold out. *Tuesday, March 28*. It is a hands-on, practical exploration of skills and techniques required to create two simple but impressive hats: the coil hat and Valois bonnet. These versatile hats can be created from scratch in minimal time using a domestic sewing machine for the bulk of the construction. The projects are suitable for a milliner of moderate skill level or above. Taught with humor and insight by Joel Ebarb, this workshop is designed to enlighten costumers of all backgrounds.

Cost is \$125 for members, \$150 for participants \$75 for member observers and \$90 for observers.

For more information on PDW content and registration, visit www.usitt.org/louisville/PDWs.html.

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Lighting Commission Outlines Louisville Activities

Anthony R. Phelps

VC Programming, Lighting Commission

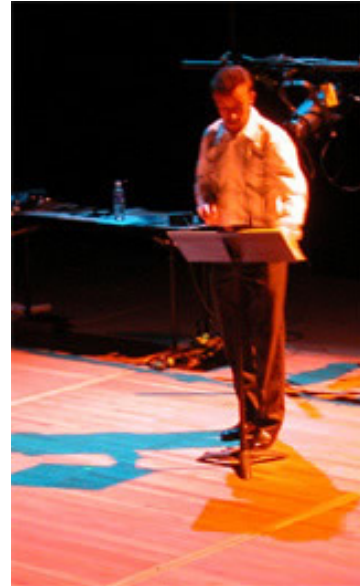
Hopefully readers already have hotel rooms booked and travel plans made, because the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo is right around the corner. This year the Lighting Commission has one professional development workshop (PDW) and 15 sessions to choose from. The programming this year has a lot to offer whether you are a professional, an educator, or a student.

This year the Lighting Commission again has the Light Lab set up. Two spaces at the Kentucky Center in downtown Louisville will be used. The PDW on *Indoor Pyrotechnics* will be presented in the Bomhard Theatre. This intensive workshop on the safe operation of pyrotechnics will be presented by professionals from Le Maitre. There are five sessions set up in the Light Lab in the Whitney Theatre at the Kentucky Center. Tom Schraeder will present a session on the realities and limitations of lighting visualization software verses realized lighting with several top visualization programmers.

Leading manufacturers James Thomas Engineering, Sellador, and Color Kinetics will discuss design solutions in the Lab using LED technology. They will demonstrate what is in store for the future of lighting design. Vickie Scott will discuss and demonstrate the art of cueing and timing in another session in the Light Lab. This session will use dance choreography and lighting to demonstrate some of the different approaches to cueing a piece.

The professionals from Le Maitre come back for a discussion about using indoor pyrotechnics in the theatre. Finally, world-renowned dance lighting designer Mark Stanley conducts a master class on color and gobos.

There are many other sessions outside of the Light Lab. For those considering graduate school, there is a session on choosing a grad school and choosing a mentor. For those teaching lighting design, there is a great roundtable discussion planned about lighting design projects for the classroom. Steve Shelley will present a session on lighting design economics for the freelance designer. Those interested in the meaning of color and how to make good color choices can stop by the *Storytelling with Color* session. This session is not just for lighting designers but for every designer.



The Lighting Commissions's Light Lab sessions, such as the one above in Long Beach in 2004, always draw rave reviews.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

These are just a few of the sessions planned.

This year's Distinguished Achievement in Lighting recipient is James Moody. Mr. Moody has been active in theatre, film, video, and concert lighting for many years. Over the years, he has worked with such music acts as The Eagles, John Denver, Rod Stewart, Dolly Parton, and David Bowie. His television work includes: *Wheel of Fortune*, *Hard Copy*, and *Jeopardy!*. He has stayed active in theatre lighting throughout the years, lighting over 150 productions. Mr. Moody has written two books; *The Business of Theatrical Design* and *Concert Lighting; Techniques, Art, and Business*.

Attend the Lighting Commission meetings where the direction of the Lighting Commission is shaped and programming for future conferences discussed. If you have an idea for a session for the conference in Phoenix, bring it to the meeting and get involved.

The Lighting, Scene Design, Management, and Health & Safety commissions will host a reception on Friday night, March 31. This is an excellent opportunity to meet people who are leaders of these commissions and are session panelists.

The revised *Recommended Practice for Theatrical Lighting Graphics*, is available for public review until 5 p.m. Eastern time on March 20 on the USITT website. This document is intended to establish a standardized language among lighting designers and anyone else who needs to understand or execute a lighting design. To receive information via e-mail, you can be added to the Lighting Commission mailing list, just send an e-mail to USITT-Lighting@nattybar.drama.uga.edu.

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Jack Wallen, Michelle Damato, Immanuel Guest, Clara Harris, Rick Long appear in *Miss Nelson is Missing* at Stage One. Scenic designer is Kelly Wiegant Mangan with costumes designed by Donna Lawrence and lighting design by Kevin Taylor.

Photo/Kelly Weigant Mangan

"Call to Post" for Louisville Conference

David Rodger

Louisville Promotions Coordinator

USITT's 46th Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Louisville, Kentucky, is saddled up and making its way to the starting gate. Consisting of four event-filled days -- Wednesday, March 29 through Saturday, April 1; plus Professional Development Workshops and special events Sunday, March 26 through Tuesday, March 28; as well as three days of Stage Expo -- this conference promises to be another exciting and enriching experience for design and technology enthusiasts from North America and around the world.

PDW Update

Professional Development Workshops (PDWs) are great ways to get in-depth training in a variety of subjects. This year, they include stage rigging, costume rendering, indoor pyrotechnics, management leadership, flying performers, millinery, rendering basics, drawing techniques, using LD Assistant, and advanced sound system design, installation, and operation. Enrollment is limited to ensure every participant gets the full attention of the instructors. For up-to-date registration information, visit the [USITT Conference & Stage Expo web pages](#).

Humana Festival of New American Plays

A bonus for conference-goers this year is the proximity of the Humana Festival of New American Plays. Actors Theatre of Louisville and USITT have put together a package of three new

plays on Tuesday and Wednesday for those who want to see some outstanding theatre and still participate fully in the conference. A block of seats has been set aside for USITT at a special Tuesday matinee performance of *Six Years* by Sharr White (2:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 28), followed by *Hotel Cassiopeia* by Charles L. Mee (7 p.m. Tuesday, March 28), and *Natural Selection* by Eric Coble (7 p.m. Wednesday, March 29). More information about the plays is available at the [Actors Theatre web site](#).

Actors Theatre also is offering USITT members discount coupons good for any Humana Festival performance. Discount coupons will be available at the Conference Registration area in the Convention Center's Dockside Lobby. But be forewarned; shows regularly sell out, especially the weekend performances, so planning ahead is prudent. The Actors Theatre box office is just two or three blocks from either of the conference hotels and only one block from the convention center.

The Humana Festival Ticket Package is \$110 and can be purchased when registering for the Conference or by calling the USITT office at 800 938-7488.

Stage One

The oldest theatre company in Louisville, [Stage One](#), was founded in 1946 as the Louisville Children's Theatre. Led by the legendary Moses Goldberg from 1978 to 2003, it earned a reputation for developing new scripts and producing plays for specific age groups in a process called "developmental theatre."

Now in its 57th season, Stage One is recognized as one of the nation's leading professional theatres for young audiences. Artistic director J. Daniel Herrin guides Stage One through its ambitious seasons which, in 2005 to 2006, included *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, based on the novels by Louis Sachar, adaptation by John Olive (grades K-4); *Spirit Shall Fly: A Kentucky Tale* by Mary Hall Surface (a world premiere, grades 5-12); *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson (grades 4-10); *Hans Christian Andersen's Nightingale* adapted by John Urguhart and Rita Grossberg (grades PreK-3); *Alexander, Who's Not Not Not Not Not Going to Move* based on the book by Judith Viorst, music by Shelly Markham (grades K-4); *And Then They Came For Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank* by James Still (grades 5-12); and *The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck* a musical based on the story by Beatrix Potter, book and lyrics by Katherine Paterson and Stephanie Tolan, music and lyrics by Steve Liebman (grades PreK-3).

In 1987, Stage One became the first theatre for young audiences to have a regular forum for the development and promotion of new plays, a program they call Critics' Circle. Three years later, the Critics' Circle expanded to include "Tomorrow's Playwrights," which includes staged readings of the top three plays of an annual playwriting contest for teens. New plays are regularly developed through Critic's Circle readings and given world premieres by

Stage One. The 1995 season included *Young Black Beauty* by Aurand Harris, *John Lennon and Me* by Cherie Bennett, and *The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks* by Katherine Paterson, Stephanie Tolan, and Steve Liebman all of which were developed from its 1994 Critics' Circle.

Attending the USITT Conference & Stage Expo is always a rewarding experience. For people who love theatre, especially new plays, or who like the convenience of a centrally located city within driving distance for most USITT members, or who appreciate reasonable hotel rates, the conference in Louisville is an opportunity you'll be glad you didn't miss.

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Going, Going, Gone! Art Auction to Benefit Kook Fund

Tim Kelly
Event Chair

Every three years at the USITT Conference & Stage Expo, the Edward F. Kook Fund puts on an art auction to raise money for the Institute.

Louisville will be the sixth time this event will be held, and again a great number of scene and costume design renderings have been donated. High on everyone's list of desirable items will be six signed lithographs of Tony Walton's costume design renderings for the main characters in the film version of *The Wiz*. An unusual departure for this year's auction is a beautiful, complete set of drafting tools in their original velvet-lined, polished hardwood, case. What makes this set even more desirable is that its original owner was one of the well-known pioneers in the field of modern stage lighting and design, Theodore Fuchs.

Here's one for the treasure seekers: when Joel Rubin was working with David Mitchell as he designed *Barnum* in the winter of 1979, they tried out projection effects at Kliegl. Mr. Ruben had a Linnebach projector set up, and Mr. Mitchell did a quick sketch of a roaring lion on a sheet of plastic color media they used for their test. Mr. Mitchell signed the sketch before he left, and Mr. Ruben had it framed as a wonderful piece of theatre art. Mr. Ruben kindly has donated this piece for the auction.

Charlie Berliner, Bobbi Owen, Tim Saternow, Sandy Bonds, Zee Weisfeld, and a number of other artists have generously contributed artwork.

The last auction took place in Minneapolis when the Flea Market Tables were introduced. Randy Earle has been scouring the country for theatre collectibles to be available for purchase. Last time around, there were old gel books, antique lighting instruments, catalogues, and old stage hardware. Who knows what he'll dredge up for this year's event? But you can bet it will be awe-inspiring. Be sure to stop by early to get in on the best stuff before some other treasure seeker beats you to it.

The auction will take place at Stage Expo and will be open to all conference attendees from 9:30 a.m. March 30, when the show opens, until 2 p.m. Saturday, April 7 when the final silent auction



Scene design renderings such as this one by Miodrag Taba•ki, will be up for auction at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Louisville March 30 through April 1. Mr. Taba•ki, a free-lance designer since 1973, has created work for all the theatres in Serbia/Montenegro, as well as in Belgium, Italy, Slovenia, Slovakia, Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

bids will be taken. In the auction area, conference attendees can purchase an auction catalogue and bid number for a \$5 donation to the Kook Fund.

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Members of the Conference Committee, including Joe Aldridge, David Wheeler, David Rodger, and Rick Cunningham, with Jill Maurer just visible behind them, review sites where Conference activities will be held.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

Louisville Set and Ready For Stage Expo

Helen Willard

Stage Expo Sales Manager

January brought the final pre-conference trip to Louisville for the Conference Committee meeting. Tours were conducted of the Kentucky Center for the Arts, the Kentucky International Convention Center, and the Marriott meeting room space for those who had not seen the various venues on earlier trips. A full day was spent reviewing the day-by-day conference schedule, then the group relaxed during an evening reception sponsored by the Marriott.

VP-Conferences Joe Aldridge, VP-Special Operations Bill Teague, and I traveled to Louisville a day early to meet with Kevin Belanger, our representative from Shepard Exposition Services, the general services contractor or "decorator" for the Conference & Stage Expo. Since it is Shepard's first time serving as the decorator for the show, it was important for us to go over the contract and the conference schedule in detail. Our meeting helped iron out many of the details involved with setting up the show and clarified how we want it to look.


We tried a relatively new restaurant in town, Melillo's, which is not far from the KICC on E. Market Street. Located in the Piazza di Felice, which boasts a covered courtyard, vineyard, and bocce ball court, Melillo's menu includes plenty of authentic family

recipes.

Karen Wallace, from the Louisville Convention & Visitors Bureau, treated us to lunch at Lynn's Paradise Café, a Louisville legend known for inventive home cooking in an eclectic atmosphere. Breakfast is served all day, and you can check out the winning entries in the annual ugliest lamp contest sponsored by Lynn's. Located in the Inner Highlands, you'll need a car to get to Lynn's, but taxi drivers are sure to know the way.

Ms. Wallace drove us through several Louisville neighborhoods including the Highlands, the Cherokee section of Indian Hills, and Old Louisville. This was a treat, since none of us had seen much of Louisville beyond the downtown area. Next trip we'll have to cross the Ohio River and visit Indiana.

That next trip is just weeks away. Stage Expo booth space was completely sold out in January, so we have added additional exhibit space to accommodate the demand. For more information about Stage Expo 2006 exhibitors, visit the [Stage Expo web page](#) to see the Stage Expo layout and a current list of exhibitors. Click on a highlighted booth to find contact information and a brief description for each exhibitor. Links are provided to exhibitors' web sites so you can learn more about their products and services prior to the show.

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Sponsors Enhance Conference Experience

Michelle L. Smith

Membership & Ad Sales Manager

Individuals attending the upcoming 2006 Annual Conference & Stage Expo can enjoy more activity and convenient services thanks in large part to the support of sponsors.

Don't miss **Opening Night**, the fun, informal networking reception held the first night. Attendees will enjoy tasty hors d'oeuvres compliments of:

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- Texas Scenic Company

Use a **Cyber Café** to check your e-mail and surf the web at Stage Expo. This valuable service is made possible by:

- Altman Lighting, Inc.
- California Institute of the Arts
- *Live Design* Magazine
- Stage Research, Inc.

Join us in thanking these sponsors for the many ways they enhance the Conference. When you see the professionals representing these organizations in their booths or at events, tell them you appreciate their support.

USITT's sponsorship program at the Conference is coordinated by Michelle L. Smith, Membership & Ad Sales Manager. To learn more about how you can participate, contact her at the USITT office at 800-938-7488 or michelle@office.usitt.org.

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CalArts will again be a sponsor of a Cyber Cafe at Stage Expo, a great way to check e-mail during the 2006 Conference.

Photo/USITT Archive



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A 3-D assembled piece and its fully lit and shadowed painted mate create a visual puzzle for viewers. Learn more about the techniques used to create the effect at a Professional Development Workshop in Louisville, Kentucky.

Photos/Courtesy Karen Maness

Light and Shadow in Louisville Workshop

Karen Maness
VC-Scene Painting

Finally! A Professional Development Workshop (PDW) that addresses the much desired understanding of correct placement of lights and shadows to render dimension and fool audience members' eyes. Think of all those times when the design called for flat, painted dimension. If only you had felt comfortable enough to know where to put those lights and shadows!

Now that is possible at *Light and Shadow: reaching an understanding of ornamental detail through drawing*, offered on Tuesday, March 28 in Louisville.

In a step-by-step, hands-on session, Lance Brockman and Rachel Keebler will guide you through a series of fundamental exercises that quickly transform into advanced placement of lights and shadows on complex ornament. Using both classic and unique lesson techniques, the session will utilize dimensional forms and large scale ornamental sculptures under light. Many beautiful examples of drawn and painted ornament will help inspire participants.

The exercises and the drawing of a capitol or cartouche that will be complete by participants will both amaze and help guide others.

C. Lance Brockman, below on the right, demonstrates techniques for creating light and shadow, the subject of a 2006 Professional Development Workshop.



Mr. Brockman is a professor at the University of Minnesota. His research interests center on the historic method of scene painting. He has conducted workshops and master classes in the historic method at various universities and schools across the country.

Ms. Keebler, owner and primary instructor at Cobalt Studios, has developed the teaching sequence of lights and darks on ornament as one of her specialties.

There are still a few spaces available for this unique workshop, so sign up today! All participant supplies will be provided. This PDW is presented by the Scene Design Commission.

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Personal Tools: Reflections on Stress

"Stress is the struggle with what is." Huh? Again the guy on the TV screen repeated himself. "Stress is the struggle with what *is*." And so began a year of my life trying to understand just what he meant.

He made it seem so simple. He said, "Stress boils down to two things: either something we have that we don't want, or something that we don't have that we do want."

Wow. He made it seem so simple and yet so Zen-like all at the same time. And then I thought about how it might apply it to my own life. "Okay," I thought. "Things I have that I don't want, or something I don't have but do want."

So I started with something simple like being stuck in traffic -- a potentially stressful situation. Hmmm, let's see. Well, I have traffic, and don't want it. Or I don't have an empty freeway, and I do want it. Works well so far.

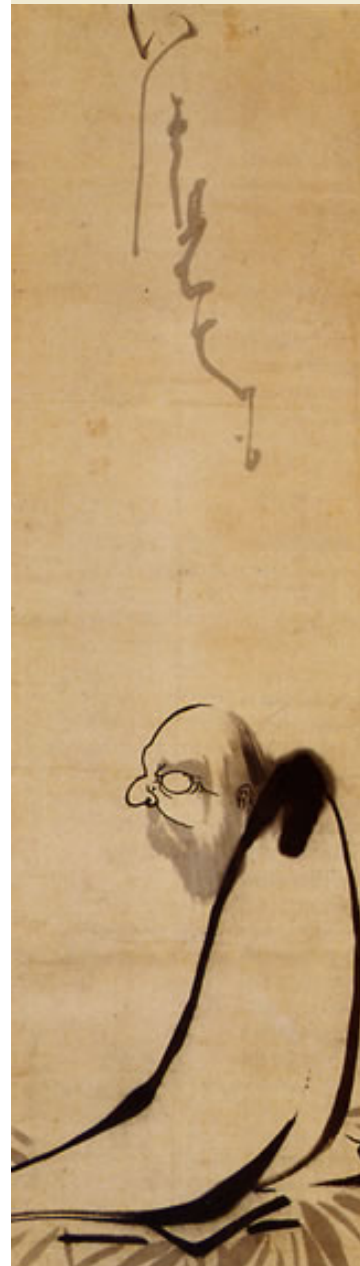
Next, relationship issues. I have a disagreement with my mate, and I don't want to argue. Or I want peace in the kingdom, and I don't have it while arguing. Okay, this seems to be working correctly.

I now think about how to apply it to my work. As the head of the stage management program at San Diego State University, I always have concern for my student stage managers and the ensuing stress involved with doing a show, holding down a job, and getting good grades. Could I apply this type of thinking in a way that might help them?

I think about rehearsal stress. They have actors coming in late, and they don't want that. They don't have a director that enforces the rules of actors being late, and they do want that. Okay, it's cool so far. Next, designers are not ready for paper tech. The stage managers want that, but they don't have it. They don't want to put cues in their book during tech, so they do want some organization on the part of the designer. Yes, this philosophy can pretty much be applied to just about anything!

"Stress is the struggle with what is." And what *is* is: traffic, relationship issues, late actors, unorganized designers, not enough money, not enough time for homework -- all of them are real things. They are "what is." So what happens next?

Jay Sheehan is the production manager and heads the stage management program for the San Diego State University School of Theatre, Television, and Film. Mr. Sheehan is also a Vice-Commissioner of the Management Commission.



We need to learn that, while we at times cannot control what is, we can control how we react to what is. We can try to manage our mental health as well as we manage our physical health. So often we get colds, fatigue, flu, and stomach problems. We go to the doctor, dentists, and specialists and get help. We often overlook the simple fact that stress is the major cause of many of these ailments. It can also cause anxiety, depression, moodiness, and difficulty with concentration.

In my stage management class, we often bring up stress management and how to deal with it. I try to explain the differences in stress levels. Some stress may go completely unnoticed, while other stresses can be positive and challenge us to deal with things in a creative and resourceful manner. I explain to them that it's these higher levels of constant stress that are harmful to us and that weaken our immune system which in turn leads to disease and sickness. Knowing the differences between these levels of stress and learning how to cope when they occur is the key to successfully battling our stress.

So what do I tell them? First, I try to teach them that while everybody involved with producing the show may think their needs are vital, they must learn that not everything is of equal importance. They must learn how to prioritize and deal with the issues *they* feel are most important. Do not try and take on the entire woes of the production and feel like you can fix everything. Life doesn't work that way. Make a list, prioritize it, and deal with each individual issue in a calm and resourceful manner.

Next, I teach them how to breathe. Learning how to slow the mind and concentrate on our breath is the key to fighting stress. All meditation is based on this philosophy of following the breath slowly in and out while trying to quiet the mind. It really does work. We also discuss progressive muscle relaxation, which reduces tension by relaxing individual muscle groups. We discuss increasing their physical activity and putting their health needs at the top of the list of priorities. We cannot continue to make excuses for not taking care of ourselves due to "not enough time."

I encourage my students to talk to others about their life issues. Most campuses have a health service program that has free counseling available for students. You don't have to be in a life crisis to seek out counseling. Find out if your campus has mental health services and use it if you need it. Last, we talk about finding activities that we enjoy and using them as a way to get away from stress even for a few minutes. Draw, write, read, breath, meditate...it all helps.

"Stress is the struggle with what is." A simple sentence that changed my life in many ways. Think about it. Think about what is happening in your life. Learn to control your reactions to these situations, and step back and take a *deep breath*. Your body and mind will thank you each time.



Side View Daruma
Hakuin Ekaku, 1685-1768
Ink on Paper

Courtesy/Gitter Yelen
Collection

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