



Sightlines

August 2006

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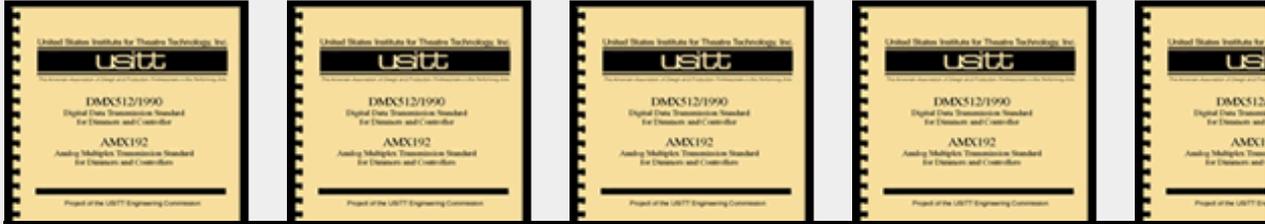
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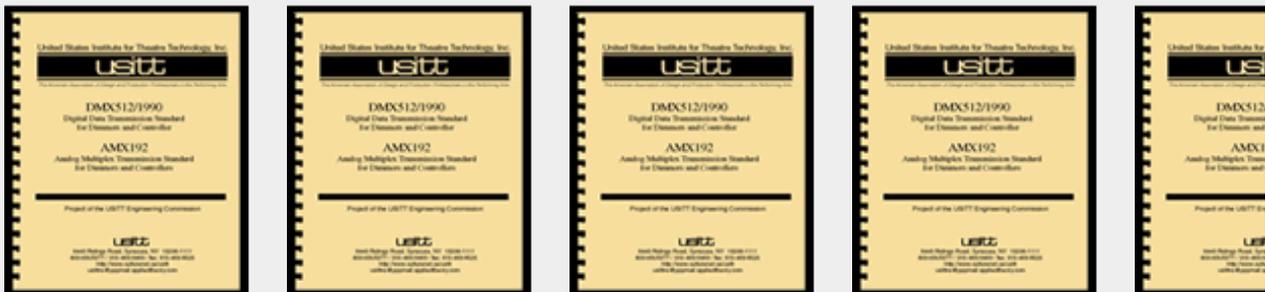
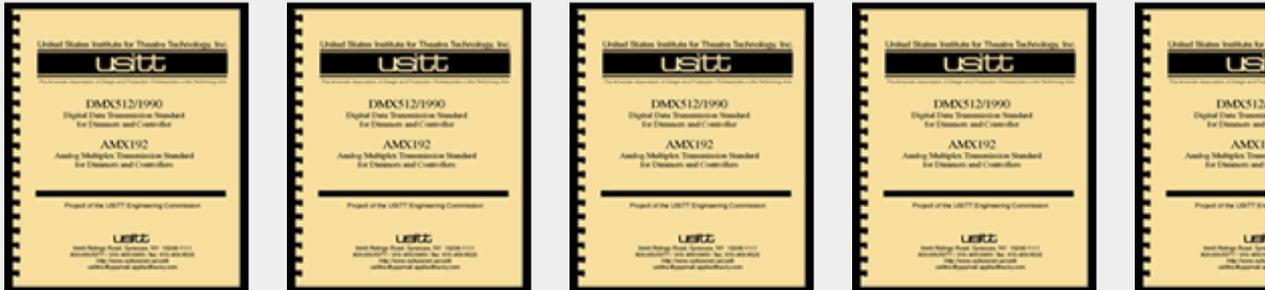
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Digital Data Transmission Standard for Dimmers & Controllers

DMX512 was first approved 20 years ago by the USITT Board of Directors on July 2, 1986. Updated several times and still in general use, DMX512 is documented on the USITT web site, click [here](#) to learn more.

Happy Birthday -- DMX512





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New Lighting Award Joins Young Designer & Technician Lineup

Barbara E.R. Lucas
Sightlines Editor

With strong support from Stage Technology, USITT will be able to offer an undergraduate award in Lighting Design in 2007.

In creating the award Niles Sayre, President of Stage Technology, said "Other USITT awards focus on graduate students. There is so much talent on both the undergraduate and graduate levels, Stage Technology wishes to reward talent coming from an undergraduate program. An award limited to undergraduate students may recognize a student from one of the active smaller college theatre programs."

Undergraduate students must be nominated for the award by a USITT member. Applications, which will be available soon on the USITT website, must include letters of recommendation, the candidate's working philosophy, and examples of work including those showing compositional skill and a light plot, among other requirements.

The award includes a cash prize, complimentary registration for the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo, and an opportunity to meet with Stage Technology representatives.

Lisa Westkaemper, USITT's new Acting Vice-President for Promotion & Development, praised Mr. Sayre and Stage Technology for seeing and moving to fill a gap in the Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts. "By creating this award, Stage Technology recognizes the innovative and creative work being done in undergraduate programs across the nation. Our panel of adjudicators look forward to reviewing the submissions for this award," she said.

Stage Technology, based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, provides lighting, sound, drapery, track, and scenic materials plus a whole range of supplies and expendables through its catalog and web site. The company is a strong supporter of the industry, Ms. Westkaemper noted.

The new Stage Technology award joins an impressive lineup of awards for those starting their careers offered through USITT, including nine current Awards for Young Designers & Technicians and the USITT Rising Star Award established by LDI Show/Live Design.

Applications, including specific criteria, for the new USITT Stage Technology Undergraduate Award in Lighting Design and all the YD&T awards will be available for download shortly on the USITT website.

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In Memoriam

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Cynthia E. Poulson, right, presents the 2005 Distinguished Achievement Award for Stage Management to Winston Morgan, left.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

Cynthia E. Poulson

Carolyn Satter

Commissioner, Management Commission

Cindy Poulson passed away June 27, 2006 and a vibrant presence in the USITT Management Commission and the entire organization was lost. She was a staunch supporter of USITT's Stage Management Mentoring Program, bringing with her a vitality, years of professional experience, and a love of the theatre. Elynmarie Kazle commented that, " One of the reasons for the success of this (mentoring) project within the Institute is due to strong leaders like Cindy who are not necessarily at the forefront but who provide strength, counsel, and guidance from within."

"One of the things that made a huge impression on me was her commitment to giving back to her community through volunteerism. She believed that her stage management skills -- particularly organizational and developing work teams out of otherwise unrelated individuals -- could be huge assets to community projects. She headed a small session on this topic at a conference years ago, and that's a big part of the reason that I've become so active in fund-raising efforts in my community," said Lea Asbell-Swanger, of Pennsylvania State University.

A sadness filled me when I read the words that Travis DeCastro, of Penn State, wrote, " Each person we meet comes away from our lives with a little piece of us leaving behind a hole to fill with memories and emotions." It aptly describes Cindy. Her love of our art encouraged us to do what we do -- just better. She shared with colleagues and students her wealth of stage management

knowledge and experience. Her love for the art of stage management was an inspiration for the many students who came into her presence. And who will ever think of Cindy without remembering the huge bear hugs she gave?

" What a loss for all stage management students and USITT members! She gave me a whole new approach to teaching in this field. The teaching tools that Cindy taught me are now a part of my regular lectures in stage management, " said Jay Sheehan, instructor at San Diego State University.

" I was fortunate to meet Cindy at three USITT Conferences. Each time I was struck by her concern for, dedication to, and admiration of stage managers. She knew the intrinsic value of passing on one's knowledge to those rising up through the ranks. She had a lot to pass along. She was a consummate mentor. I will miss her commitment to the arts, her understanding of how to nurture, and her hearty laugh," noted Winston Morgan of Canada, the USITT Distinguished Achievement Award in Stage Management winner from the Management Commission in 2005.

Ms. Poulson was on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee for 15 years. She was active in areas of the Theatre Department from play selection, to international travel, to student exchanges. Ms. Poulson was a respected member of USITT's Board of Directors, serving her first term as a Director at Large.

We have lost a dear friend. She is that bright star you see in the heavens. We have lost a friend, a mentor, and so much more.

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Lester Polakov received the USITT Distinguished Achievement Award in Scene Design during the 1999 Conference held in Toronto, Ontario Canada. Presenting the award is Nadine Charlsen of the Scene Design Commission.

Photo/USITT Archive

Lester Polakov

Barbara E.R. Lucas
Sightlines Editor

Lester Polakov, a set, costume, and lighting designer for hundreds of productions, died May 22, 2006. His work included film, industrial shows, summer stock, and educational theatre in addition to his work on and off Broadway.

Among the numerous honors Mr. Polakov received were the USITT Distinguished Achievement Award in Scene Design in 1999, and, most recently, the Theatre Development Fund/Irene Sharaff Lifetime Achievement Award in April 2006. He was an active All Classification member of USA-829 for more than six decades, joining the Local in 1938, and retired as a Life Member in 1994.

During the 1999 Conference, Mr. Polakov fascinated those who attended a special session, *Lester Polakov: Stories Beyond the Textbook*. His recollections of his work also covered the founding and development of the notable Lester Polakov Studio of Stage

Design which later became the Studio and Forum of Scene Design. The studio employed well-known set, light, and costume designers to teach his students. His autobiography *We Live to Fly Paint Again*, is a moving account of his varied interests and influences.

His credits include: *Call Me Mister* (1946, scenic design), *Crime and Punishment* (1947, costume design), *The Member of the Wedding* (1950, scenic, costume, and lighting design), *The Skin of Our Teeth* (1955, scenic design), *Great Day in the Morning* (1962, scenic and lighting design), and *Charlotte* (1980, scenic design).

Mr. Polakov is survived by his wife, Mary, and three daughters, Lucy, Liza, and Jenny.

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Alan Symonds

Created from notes from friends in the New England Regional Section

Alan Symonds, technical director for Harvard College's Theatre Programs and Office for the Arts, passed away from a heart attack on Tuesday, June 20 while at work at his beloved Agassiz Theatre. He was 59.

Mr. Symonds was a member of the USITT for many years. He was a fixture in the organization, one of those people who was always there, always ready to lend a hand and always prepared to tell a great story or recount an experience. His knowledge of technical theatre was extensive, and he seemed to be able to engineer anything. Mr. Symonds was always teaching his professional colleagues about technical theatre and safety -- clearly his passions.

He will be remembered as a kind, gentle, genuine, and loving soul. He cared so much for theatre and loved to teach, to share his knowledge. His smile was infectious and he was never without it.

It is hard to imagine one more meeting without him being there, sitting quietly, smiling, contributing when it was crucial for him to speak up. His depth of knowledge never ceased to amaze us. He was a great colleague, a great friend, and a truly caring person to everyone he knew.

Mr. Symonds' lighting work was seen everywhere from the Boston Ballet to Beacon Hill's Old West Church, which he lit in 2003. In the 1980s, the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America honored him for his lighting design of the Smart Machines robot theatre at the Computer Museum in Boston, Massachusetts. He worked with hundreds of student designers on productions in Harvard's formal and informal spaces in addition to his own design works.

His survivors include a brother, Robin, of Dijon, France. A memorial service at Harvard is planned for the fall; the date and location will be announced on a [website](#) and elsewhere later in the summer as plans take shape.



Photo/Jessica Flores

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Great Discounts on Publications

Michelle L. Smith

Membership & Ad Sales Manager

Members can obtain topical and interesting industry publications at reduced prices from USITT. Check out some of the newest additions, including the 2006 Golden Pen Winner.

Miodrag Taba•ki by Gordana Popovi• Vasi• and Irina Suboti•

The design monograph about Serbian artist Miodrag Taba•ki includes many of his most evocative and creative works as a scenographer and costume designer. His designs have been widely produced and exhibited in many Central European countries and have won many awards, including a prestigious Prague Quadrennial honor in June 2003. Mr. Taba•ki is a professor at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade and the Vice-President of OISTAT's Scenography Commission.

Member Price: \$200.00

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The Designs of Ming Cho Lee by Delbert Unruh

The Designs of Ming Cho Lee, the second book in the USITT monograph series, contains lovely illustrations of set models, renderings, and production photographs. The text discusses the major designs of this widely regarded and well known theatrical designer, mentor, and teacher. The story of his career is accompanied by a list of his production credits, awards and nominations, and memberships.

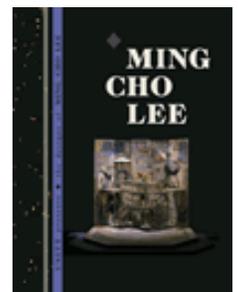
Member Price: \$30.00

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[Click here](#) to visit the online store and purchase these and other terrific publications now! To purchase by phone, call the USITT office at 800-938-7488.

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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Four Awards Available for Students on PQ Tour

USITT is pleased to announce awards that will provide up to four of its student members with significant financial support to enable them to participate in the exciting tour planned in conjunction with the Prague Quadrennial 2007. The four **USITT Student Members** selected will receive USITT Study Tour awards of \$2,725 that reduce the cost to approximately \$1,300* for the three-week tour. The students selected must also pay their own airfare to Eastern Europe and return.

Previous participants in USITT Study Tours have contributed funds to make this incredible opportunity for students possible.

The USITT Study Tour to Central Europe leaves the United States on May 30, 2007 and returns on June 19. The European tour begins in Zagreb and winds through Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, arriving in Prague for six days to coincide with the opening of the Prague Quadrennial 2007.

Because of the strong focus of the PQ on theatrical design, preference in the selection process will be given to upperclass (junior or senior) theatrical students or graduate students with demonstrated excellence or outstanding potential in any field related to the mission of USITT.

The special appeal of a USITT study tour is seeing both contemporary and historical theatres, meeting with designers and staffs of theatres in the cities we tour and seeing performances from other cultures. Couple this with the historical, cultural, and scenic views of each city and country and all participants will find the experience a tremendously enriching way to absorb one portion of the world's theatrical offerings.

The tour concludes in the city of Prague with the Prague Quadrennial, the world's most important and expansive exhibition of scenery, costume, lighting, and sound designs including work from more than 55 countries. Student participants can meet other students, take part in the PQ student activities, and socialize with fellow student theatre practitioners from around the world, plus make connections with other USITT participants on the tour.

How does a student apply for one of the four study tour awards? Applicants must send an essay of no more than two pages expressing why they want to participate in this study tour and what they hope to gain from the experience. In addition, a resume



including any previous international travel, and two letters from faculty must support each application. All applications will be evaluated by USITT members who are either on the International Committee or past participants of USITT study tours.

Complete application information, including a materials checklist, are available [here](#). Application deadline is October 16, 2006.

More detailed information concerning the trip is available on the USITT website, and on links from the application. For additional information, contact the USITT office at info@office.usitt.org.

The website includes due dates for the application, notification dates, and other information about the study tour.

*The exact cost to students depends on the airfare option chosen, plus an additional \$1,300 to cover tour expenses. All breakfasts, nine lunches, and eight dinners are included in the tour package. Students will need to pay their own airfare to Europe and back.

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Institute to Launch JobsUSITT on Web

Michelle L. Smith

Membership & Ad Sales Manager

USITT's classified advertising service is evolving! What was once just a section in the monthly electronic newsletter, *Sightlines*, will soon be a separate and distinct comprehensive employment listings service -- JobsUSITT -- starting in October.

JobsUSITT will be updated weekly on the USITT web site offering advertisers more timely publication of their open positions. New job ads will be posted every Thursday.

The service will premiere in September, occurring in parallel with *Sightlines*-based Classifieds. In October, JobsUSITT will begin to operate on its own merits, with new ads appearing on Thursday, October 5 with new jobs added each subsequent Thursday.

Placing an ad with JobsUSITT will be fast and efficient. Advertisers will complete a brief, on-line form, review their order, and submit for placement.

Advertisers submit ads on-line weekly between Wednesday at 12:01 a.m. through the next Tuesday at 12 p.m. to be published each Thursday. For example, advertisers who wish to have their jobs posted to JobsUSITT on Thursday, October 19 must submit them by midnight the preceding Tuesday, October 17.

During the transition to JobsUSITT ads placed as part of October *Sightlines* will run in parallel with JobsUSITT. After October 10, all ads will be submitted online and paid by credit card. Purchase orders will no longer be accepted.

Every issue of *Sightlines* will include a link to JobsUSITT, as will the USITT website home page, prompting readers to peruse the latest openings. A search feature will allow job hunters to locate jobs in certain settings, facilitating the pursuit of professional opportunities.

Additional information on advertising in JobsUSITT will be available in the September issue of *Sightlines*.

For more information about advertising professional positions in the new JobsUSITT, contact Michelle Smith, Membership & Ads Sales Manager at michelle@office.usitt.org.

JobsUSITT

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ETCP Exam Deadline Extended To August 1

Due to overwhelming interest and an increase in space availability, the ETCP Council has extended the application deadline to August 1 for the first ETCP electrical examinations as well as for the arena rigging and theatre rigging examinations. Space is limited, so submit applications today! Those who pass these rigorous tests will become ETCP certified and will be recognized as the industry's best.

Riggers and electricians, get ready to show the industry what you know. Examinations will be held in October in Las Vegas, Nevada in conjunction with the LDI tradeshow. The electrical certifications are designed for highly experienced electricians (including leads, supervisors, and managers of entertainment electrical work). The rigging certifications are designed for highly experienced riggers (rigging supervisors, high steel riggers, fly-persons, etc).

Candidate information, including eligibility requirements and applications, is available on the [ETCP website](#), or by contacting Katie Geraghty, ETCP certification director, at 212-244-1505 or kgeraghty@esta.org.

Interested applicants must submit an application, along with supporting materials and fee, postmarked no later than August 1, 2006.

Individuals must meet eligibility requirements to take the exam. These requirements focus on work experience; training and education can be factors as well.

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Emerald Anniversary for USITT DMX512

Mitch Hefter
USITT Engineering Commission

It may be hard to believe that DMX512 turns 20 years old this August. DMX512 is one of the most significant technology changes for the entertainment industry in the recent past, along with computer control and automated lighting.

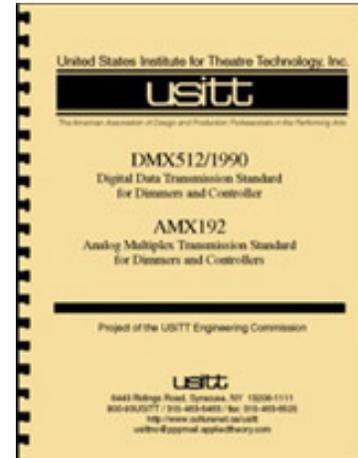
DMX512 was conceived at the 1986 USITT Annual Conference in Oakland, California. Before DMX512, most manufacturers had their own dimmer control protocol that were proprietary and incompatible with other manufacturers' equipment. From that session, a project started that resulted in USITT DMX512 - Digital Data Transmission Standard for Dimmers and Controllers.

Minor revisions were made in 1990. The expectation was that manufacturers would continue to use their own proprietary protocols but when a user needed to mix manufacturers, the user would switch over to DMX512. DMX512 was intended to be a lowest common denominator protocol. Little did we know it would become the primary protocol and help transform the industry.

As DMX512 approached voting age, it was determined that DMX512 needed some updates, and the USITT DMX512-A project was established under the auspices of ESTA's Technical Standards program, where it would also become formally recognized as an American National Standard. On November 8, 2004, the ANSI Board of Standards Review approved ANSI E1.11 - Entertainment Technology - USITT DMX512-A - Asynchronous Serial Digital Data Transmission.

For more information on DMX512, please see <http://www.usitt.org/standards/DMX512.html>

Mitch Hefter is Task Group Chair of ESTA/USITT DMX512 Revision (ANSI E1.11) and USITT Engineering Vice-Commissioner, DMX512 Subcommittee Chair.



The original DMX 512/1990 standard is still available, including AMX 192.

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BTN Marks 20th Anniversary

We offer our congratulations to Black Theatre Network which is marking its 20th Anniversary with a conference in Louisville, Kentucky hosted by the African American Theatre Program at the University of Louisville. Especially warm congratulations go to **Gregory Horton** who is BTN's President and also a member of USITT's Board of Directors.

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ATHE at 20 Years

Another organization celebrating a milestone, The Association for Theatre in Higher Education, is holding its 20th Anniversary conference in Chicago, Illinois August 3 to 5. **Sylvia Hillyard Pannell**, USITT President, will be on hand for the start of the event, before leaving for Phoenix, Arizona and the August USITT Executive and Conference committee meetings.

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VP and Treasurer Visit

The USITT office was pleased to host the organization's Acting Vice-President for Promotion & Development **Lisa Westkaemper** and Treasurer **Larry Hill** for several days in late June. Ms. Westkaemper stepped into the position created by the realignment of several vice-presidential duties in May. She and Mr. Hill spent time talking to staff members about how best to serve the organization and make others more aware of all USITT has to offer.

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Dick Devin in the News

An extensive report on **Dick Devin's** career at Colorado Shakespeare Festival appeared in the July 1 issue of the Rocky Mountain News. Theatre Critic Lisa Bornstein noted the extensive improvements during Mr. Devin's 26 years at the festival, and commented on his unflappable nature. "Devin is so calm, sometimes you want to poke him just to see what he'd do."

Mr. Devin, who was USITT President from 1988 to 1990, is leaving his artistic director post to finally take a summer off. He's been working in summer theatre since receiving his master's degree from Yale in 1969, the article notes.

For the complete online article, click [here](#).

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 Correct Info Needed

William Henshaw Spotted

Discerning readers of central New York newspapers could have spotted **William Henshaw** in photographic coverage of Glimmerglass Opera's new general and artistic director, Michael MacLeod. Mr. Henshaw may be best known as the costume designer at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, but he spent part of his summer at Glimmerglass outside Cooperstown, New York, working on *Barber of Seville*.

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Interesting Name Change

Organizational member Luminart Technology Ltd. has changed its name to Po Sing Engineering Ltd. The company, based in Kwai Chung, China, has been a member since 2004.

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Correct Info Needed

As we prepare to print the 2007 version of the USITT Membership Directory & Resource Guide, members are asked to make sure their membership information is correct. We currently do not have valid addresses for **Jac Jones, Peter D. Leonard, David Paul Stock, Nathaniel G. Wells, or Benjamin Zimmer**. Letters and e-mails were sent out in July asking for updates, but not all have been successfully delivered. To make certain USITT has accurate information, please click [here](#) and tell the office of any changes, or call 800-938-7488.

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Hansen Named PRG's CFO

Production Resources Group, LLC named Scott Hansen its Chief Financial Officer, working from the company's New Windsor, New York office. Mr. Hansen joined PRG in 1997 and has been PRG's assistant corporate controller, controller of the lighting division, corporate controller, vice president of finance, and general manager of PRG Audio. His most recent post was as GM of PRG Video in Mt. Vernon, New York. He has extensive knowledge of the company's operations and is familiar with its offices in both the United States and Europe.

PRG Video also recently completed a major expansion of its rental inventory, increasing its services to special events, corporate shows, and Broadway productions.

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Jackson Joins Creative Stage Lighting

Richard Jackson has joined the rental and production team of **Creative Stage Lighting** of North Creek, New York as a touring technician. He has extensive experience as a lighting technician, support technician, trainer, and has taught live production at Full Sail in Florida. He is serving as lighting crew chief for the current road tour of the jam band *moe* this summer, where Creative Stage Lighting is supplying a GrandMA lighting console, three Reel EFX DF-50s, 18 Martin Mac 2K Profile IIEs, and an Entertainment Power System power distribution rack.

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City Theatrical Adds Staff

City Theatrical, Inc. has created and filled two new staff positions. Ken Bruns has joined the Bronx-based manufacturer of lighting accessories as a salesperson concentrating on outside sales and working with designers, consultants, distributors, production electricians, theatres, and end users. Ben Merrick has been named New Product Development Manager. A graduate of Yale School of Drama, Mr. Merrick will help ensure a stream of new products for City Theatrical customers.

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Vari-Lite Highlights Rascal Flats

This month:

PRG
Creative Stage Lighting
City Theatrical, Inc.
Vari-Lite
Entertainment
Technology

Lighting Designer Andy Knighton chose **Vari-Lite's** VL3000 Spot Luminaires to help realize his lighting designs for the Me and My Gang national tour by country music group Rascal Flats. Everything about this tour is unique and it completely breaks away from the standard concepts," said Mr. Knighton. "When I first saw the set, I thought, where do you put the lighting rig? But they gave me carte blanche in the design and four full days of programming." He is using 32 VL3000 spots throughout the design. The complete lighting package was supplied by **Bandit Lites**.

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Entertainment Technology Steps Outside

When Toronto's Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts opened with a night of outdoor opera broadcast live in Nathan Phillips Square, **Entertainment Technology's** Marquee ILC lighting console was there to assist. Lighting Designer/Director Jason Jennings was given a one-on-one demonstration of the Marquee ILC by Robert Bell, who designed its software. Robert Ford of William F. White International, the company which arranged the demo, said "When Jason and Rob got together, they instantly began to feed off one another's energy and expertise. It was fun to watch. During the demo, Mr. Jennings showed Mr. Bell how there might be some effects engine updates that could be useful to the film industry." With the two collaborating in Toronto, the Marquee software team began building the effects engines and the updates were completed and uploaded in only three days.

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Welcome Robert Juliat

We welcome **Robert Juliat** as a new Sustaining member of the Institute. The company is a long-time member of USITT, and has now increased that involvement to the Sustaining member level. Robert Juliat is a three-generation family-run company dedicated to manufacturing quality stage lighting equipment. The company is best known for producing high performance tungsten and HMI followspots and profiles, but the company also manufactures PC and fresnel spotlights and other specialty lighting products such as ESPION DMX Analyzer. To learn more, visit www.robortjuliatamerica.com

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New Leadership at Theatre Projects

Richard Pilbrow, founder of **Theatre Projects Consultants**, has announced that ownership of the firm has been transferred to a new generation of leaders. The transition allows key members of staff to take on both leadership and ownership of Theatre Projects Consultants and provides for ownership to extend to other members of the firm in the future.

The United States team will be led by John Coyne, Benton Delinger, Gene Leitermann, and Michael Nishball. The new structure is designed to increase collaboration with the company's United Kingdom office. The leadership team in the UK includes David Staples, Alan Russell, Jerry Godden, Mark Stroomer, Marion Daehms, and Andrew De Rosa.

"For the past few years, we have been planning this ownership transition of the US and UK companies to the younger members of our team, and we feel that now is the right time for that change," said Mr. Pilbrow, who will continue his involvement as Founder and Chairman Emeritus. Brian Hall will continue to support the company in his role as Principal Theatre Designer. In the UK, several senior colleagues are retiring from the company, including Iain Mackintosh, Lou Fleming, and Anthony Field.

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Terry takes Leviton Post

This month:

Robert Juliat

Theatre Projects
Consultants

Leviton

Lex Products

TOMCAT

Auerbach Pollack
Friedlander

Matthew Terry has been named Western Regional Sales Manager for **Leviton** Integrated Networks and Controls. He will direct sales in the region which includes Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington and field sales operations including management of sales specialists and lighting control specialists.

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Lex Products Acquires Electrol

Lex Products Corp., manufacturer of both portable and fixed power distribution systems, acquired the Electrol Engineering Corporation, enhancing its robust product lines and extending its presence in the entertainment industry. Bill Fehrmann, Electrol founder, will run it as a division of Lex Products from its current Forest Hill, Maryland location.

"This is a perfect fit for us," said Bob Luther, Lex Products CEO. "It takes us into areas where we belong, such as rack-mount power distribution and dimming capability. And the products are totally compatible with ours, offering durability, long life, and state-of-the-art features."

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TOMCAT Sets 2007 Workshops

The dates have been set for **TOMCAT's** Hoist & Rigging Workshop 2007! The annual school includes workshops on hoists, rigging, truss, and fall protection taught by industry experts. Workshops will be February 21 to 24, in Midland, Texas. The Advanced Workshop on hoist motors and truss design, meant for those who have already completed TOMCAT's four day workshop and/or those with extensive experience working with motors and truss in the field, will run February 23 and 24, also in Midland.

For additional information or to register contact Lisa Jebsen at (432) 694-7070 or ljebsen@tomcatusa.com.

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New Address, New Staff for Auerbach

Auerbach Pollack Friedlander, Performing Arts/Media Facilities Planning and Design has moved its New York office and added staff to its San Francisco office.

The new address in New York is 266 West 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY with a telephone number of 212-764-5630 and a fax of 212-764-5632.

Joining the San Francisco office are Kenneth Fause and Robert Hill. Mr. Fause is a principal and brings more than 35 years of professional experience to the firm include the design of theatre production systems, audio/visual systems, broadcast facilities, and acoustics. Mr. Hill is a project manager, senior consultant, and designer. His 15 years of technical theatre experience includes lighting direction and supervision for more than 100 operas in the United States and Japan.



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LaLonnie Lehman, top right, and theatre critic for the *Guardian* newspaper, Michael Billington, top center in white shirt, met with Texas Christian University students as part of a month-long London adventure studying modern trends in theatre.

A USITT Summer

Sylvia Hillyard Pannell
President

Greetings from your new president amidst a busy summer!

Travels have been a highlight this summer. In early May, I had the opportunity to spend a busy, informative, and exciting week in Syracuse, New York at the USITT National Office. While there I visited with our staff members, all of whom gave generously of their time to acquaint me with their particular jobs and contributions to the dynamics of USITT.

Carol B. Carrigan is USITT's Office Coordinator & Finance Manager. Barbara E.R. Lucas is our Public Relations & Marketing Manager. Michelle L. Smith serves as Membership & Advertising Sales Manager. Monica L. Merritt is our Membership & Conference Registration Coordinator. Carol, Barbara Ellen, Michelle, and Monica have provided indefatigable service and indispensable continuity to USITT for more than seven years.

They are pleased to be joined by Brian T. Petranichuk, Accounting/Special Projects Clerk, who joined us in May 2005 and Carrie Boyce, Clerical Assistant, who joined us in December 2005. An impressive team, they shoulder the enormous responsibilities of USITT's day-to-day operation.

Midway through my visit to the Office, then President John Uthoff arrived. After a very busy and highly successful two years as USITT's president, Mr. Uthoff will now serve the Institute and its Executive Committee for an additional two years as Immediate Past President. He was most helpful in freely sharing his vast knowledge of the Institute and its complexities.

Not only is the office staff friendly, knowledgeable, and helpful,

but Syracuse is a vital and interesting city. Here is a little information for those few of you who, as I, were only acquainted with Manhattan and the boroughs. Situated in the center of New York State, the greater Syracuse area is a region of rolling hills, flat plains, lakes, and streams. Syracuse is located on a rise at the southern end of Onondaga Lake. The gently rolling terrain stretches north of the city for 30 miles where it meets Lake Ontario and the Finger Lakes begin 20 miles to the southwest.

All members should consider a visit to this lovely part of the country where on July 4 the temperature was 81degrees as opposed to the 95 degree temperature here in Athens, Georgia. If you visit Central New York, please plan a visit to our National Office, get better acquainted with the remarkable men and women who comprise our staff, and learn more about the core operational management of our organization.

My travels permitted me to see lots of theatre, and it was thrilling when, in each location, USITT was in the spotlight. At the Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, South Carolina in May and June, Carol Bailey, internationally known set and costume designer, created the Festival's production of Charles-François Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*. In her bio in the Festival program, she notes that her designs were exhibited in our World Stage Design 2005 Competition. During a weekend of theatre in June in New York City, I saw *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, directed by Jack O'Brien (Tony Nomination, Best Director 2005). Mr. O'Brien's *Playbill* entry boasts of his 2004 USITT Thomas DeGaetani Award.

Another USITT success story surfaced at the Theatre Communications Group national conference in Atlanta, Georgia in early June. Cricket Myers, USITT's 2003 Clear Com Sound Design award winner, part of USITT's Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts, was featured as a finalist for the TCG Career Development Program for Directors and Designers. Her very impressive biographical sketch was presented in a handsome brochure, "Spotlight on Directors/Designers," available to all TCG conference attendees. We are proud of Ms. Myers's accomplishments since 2003. Her very active design career makes it clear that she was, indeed, an excellent YD&T choice.

In late June in London, while strolling through the lobby of the National Theatre, I ran into longtime USITT member and good friend LaLonnie Lehman who was there with a group of students touring the National Theatre as a part of their summer studies abroad curriculum. Thanks, LaLonnie, for instructing and inspiring our next generation of prospective World Stage Designers, Broadway directors, and USITT members.

May you all have exciting summer adventures with the added thrill of *seeing* and/or *being* USITT members in the spotlight!

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Summer BBQ in New England

It is USITT New England Regional Section summer BBQ time! Mark calendars for 1 p.m. Saturday, August 26 at the chair's house, Crystal Tiala, just like past years. There will be lots of food and snacks.

Not a member? Come anyway and check it out. Regular membership for the New England Section is \$15 and registration can be done at the BBQ. Students are welcome to the BBQ for free. Member activities will be reviewed, upcoming activities will be discussed, and plans for new activities will be made. Bring a favorite memory of Alan Symonds so toasts in his honor can be made.

RSVP to Crystal Tiala at tiala@bc.edu. Directions to the BBQ will be sent to those responding by mid-August.

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Chesapeake EXPO Events

The Chesapeake Regional Section members are gearing up for the Section EXPO Saturday, September 16 on the campus of Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey.

In addition to a day full of workshops and vendor demonstrations, the Section will hold its inaugural Design Exhibition featuring some of the best work of its members. More information on both the EXPO and the Design Exhibition will be available soon on the Section web site, www.usittchesapeake.org. Planners look forward to seeing Section members there, and welcome anyone in the mid-Atlantic region to attend.

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Southeast Section Offers Master Classes

This month:

New England

Chesapeake

Southeast

The University of Alabama at Birmingham is preparing to host the Southeast Regional Section Masters Class. Kelly Allison, head of design and production at UAB and the Masters Class host, has worked hard to provide a full slate of offerings. Scheduled for September 8 and 9, the preliminary program promises a wide range of workshops.

Scheduled are: The Difficult Fitting, focusing on difficult body types (Kim Schnormeier and Elizabeth Pollard); Plotting with VectorWorks Spotlight (Kelly Allison); From Classroom to Main Stage, examining how undergraduate programs train students to design; Weapons Care and Feeding (Ron Hubbard); Upholstery for the Stage (Phillip Anderson); Stage Management for Dance (Heather Jackson); and Research, Interpretation, and Application - The Design Process.

Extensive sessions are planned in Photoshop Rendering Techniques (Cliff Simon); Tutu Construction - a hands-on workshop, which may require a materials fee (Betty Smith, costumer for the Alabama Ballet); Programming Intelligent Lighting; Painting Translucent Drop; and, Stage Management (tentatively with Carey Lawless, production manager for Arena Stage in Washington, DC).

Additional sessions are being confirmed, and tours are being arranged for the Alys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center, the Historic Alabama Theatre, and the Historic Lyric Theatre.

For more information, visit the Section web site, www.southeast.usitt.org.

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Student Chapters Awarded Project Grants

Six project grants have been awarded to USITT Student Chapters to help them with special projects or services in the coming year. The grants were announced by Holly Monsos, USITT VP for Members, Sections, & Chapters. Each of the chapters submitting proposals for special funding were awarded support.

In most cases the amounts provided are only a small portion of the total anticipated project costs. However, the grants should help bring each to fruition. Watch for more information in *Sightlines* as these projects go forward.

Projects receiving support are:

- Minnesota State University, Mankato.
Student contact: Corey Krolikowski
Sponsor: Tom Bliese
Project -- to hold "Saturday Sessions" to educate chapter members and invited guests such as community theatre participants and high school students to new products and techniques within the industry.
- Appalachian State
Student contact: Matt Backe
Sponsor: Alice Neff
Project -- to buy fabric to make into capes and fairy costumes for sale at their annual Halloween Costume fundraising sale (this is in addition to the discarded costumes donated by the department).
- Texas Christian University
Student Contact: Rudy Garcia III
Sponsor: Michael Skinner
Project -- to help with the initial costs to purchase crew t-shirts for re-sale to crew members of the season's production. Shirts are sold at slightly above cost as a fundraising project.
- Pennsylvania State University
Student contact: John Jacobsen
Sponsor: William Kenyon
Project -- Outreach education to Pennsylvania high school

This month:

Minnesota State University, Mankato
Appalachian State
Texas Christian University
Pennsylvania State University
University of North Carolina at Asheville
Bradley University

theatre programs. Chapter members would travel to schools to lead workshops.

- University of North Carolina at Asheville
Student contact: Jessica Kammerud
Sponsor: Rob Bowen
Project -- Inspired by the viral internet video, the chapter plans a lighting display at Christmas that coordinates with Christmas music in their theatre space. Funding is for Christmas lights and adapters.
- Bradley University
Student contact: Tracy Domeracki
Sponsor: William Langley
Project -- Support for setup of the chapter's Haunted Theatre fundraiser project.

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Rachel Keebler, right, of Cobalt Studios showed off *Handmade Scenic Painting Tools* during the 2005 Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. The session was one of several sponsored by exhibitors.

Photo/Casey Kearns

Exhibitor Programming Highlights

Helen Willard

Stage Expo Sales Manager

A variety of exhibitor-sponsored programs have been scheduled for the 2007 Conference & Stage Expo. Here are brief descriptions of some of the sessions which will be presented by exhibitors in Phoenix.

Choosing & Maintaining Sewing Machines for Your Shop

Sponsored by Period Corsets

Learn how to choose the best machines for your costume shop and how to keep the machine in working order.

Creating Graceful Skirts: Draping over Skirt Supports

Sponsored by Period Corsets

A demonstration of draping period skirts over bustles, hoops, and panniers including how to deal with fullness, grainline, style, and proportion.

Wireless Remote Control for Theatrical Applications

Sponsored by RC4 Wireless

With appropriate gear, knowledge, and maintenance, digital radio remote-control is living up to its promise facilitating outstanding lighting, motion, and visual effects. Done right, wireless dimming and motion perform on par with wired technology. This seminar introduces spread-spectrum digital radio, rechargeable batteries, high efficiency lighting (including LEDs), and safe practices when

working with high-current low-voltage systems often carrying 100 amps or more.

Creating Visual Rain, Fire & Reflections with Light

Sponsored by Rosco

Every lighting designer has to do it three or four times every season! The mandate is to create a visual simulation of rain or fire or reflected water. But rain varies from drizzles to thunderstorms and fire varies from raging to smoldering. Working with ordinary spotlights and some modest accessories, Josh Alemany demonstrates how to get exactly the effect required most efficiently.

Scene Paint Binder - How to Make It Work For You

Sponsored by Rosco

The paint used for scenery, costumes, or props contains a binder that is either casein, vinyl acrylic, or latex, and the differences in results can be enormous. In this workshop, Jen Knott shows how each type of paint might be used for best results.

Lifecasting with Silicone - Make a Face Mold

Sponsored by Smooth-On

Learn how to make a face mold using silicone rubber. This session will include a hands-on demonstration of how to process the material and apply it to an artificial face, simulating making a face mold of a human subject. Each participant will make a face mold using materials provided by Smooth-On. Class size is limited to 40. A sign up sheet will be posted in the registration area.

There are still a few slots available for exhibitor sponsored programs. Contact Helen Willard at hpwillard@aol.com for more information.

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Tron North Courses is considered to be one of Phoenix's top-ranked courses. In 2002, *Golf Magazine* ranked it No. 21 in the country.

Photo/Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Tron North

Phoenix, A Golfing Oasis

Jeff Brown
Phoenix Promotions Coordinator

Golf lovers are in for a treat when they attend the 2007 USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Phoenix. The National Golf Foundation calls the Phoenix area the "Golf Capital of the World." Phoenix offers a wide range of courses to fit everyone's skill level and budget, from basic city-managed courses to some of the best resort-managed courses in the nation.

The courses below have been broken down into three categories. There are courses within seven miles of the Phoenix Hyatt Hotel, conference headquarters hotel; courses further away but considered by www.arizonagolfer.net as the eight best in the Phoenix area; and some of the area's finest "Putt-Putt" courses for those who prefer golf at the miniature level.

For a more exhaustive list, the [Arizona Office of Tourism web site](#) provides information and links to 300 courses in Arizona.

All prices include the use of a golf cart unless noted. Tee time reservations vary from two months to five days in advance, depending on the course. Most courses are open from dawn to dusk.

Courses within seven miles of the Hyatt



Legacy Golf Resort is located within seven miles of the Hyatt. It was designed by Gary Panks, a well-known golf course architect.

Photo/Aidan Bradley
(Legacy Golf Resort)

Raven Golf Club; 3636 E. Baseline Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85040; 602-243-3636;

www.ravenatsouthmountain.com/

Estimated March 2007 rates: Weekdays \$170; Weekends \$180

The Raven, designed by David Graham and Gary Panks, features plush rolling fairways framed by thousands of mature pine trees, as well as vistas of rugged Desert Mountains and the Phoenix skyline. The golf course's playable and strategic design offers a fun golf experience for all players. The Raven earns a 4.5-star rating in *Golf Digest's* "Places to Play" and is rated the "Number 1 Service in North America" and "Top 10 Best Service Worldwide" by *Golf Digest*.

Arizona Biltmore Adobe and Links Course; 602-955-9655;

www.azbiltmore.com

Estimated March 2007 rates: \$175; after 2 p.m. \$92.50

The Adobe, designed by William P. Bell is considered stately and grand, a forefather of modern design; the ideal course when you long for a relaxing yet challenging round.

The Legacy Golf Resort; 6808 S. 32nd St., Phoenix, AZ 85042; 602-305-5550;

www.legacygolfresort.com

Estimated March 2007 rates: Monday through Thursday before 1 p.m. \$139, after 1 p.m. \$89; Friday through Sunday before 1 p.m. \$149, after 1 p.m. \$99

The Legacy course was designed by renowned golf course architect Gary Panks and features lush green fairways, forgiving rough, well-placed hazards, and manicured greens that offer a challenge for golfers of all skill levels.

Papago Golf Course; 5595 E. Moreland, Phoenix, AZ 85008; 602-275-8428;

phoenix.gov/SPORTS.papago.html

Estimated March 2007 rates: before 11 a.m. walking \$16, with cart \$27; after 11 a.m. walking \$12, with cart \$23

Papago has long been considered one of the finest municipal golf courses in the United States. An early morning arrival is recommended for the highly popular course.

Encanto Golf Course; 2775 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85007; 602-253-3963;

phoenix.gov/SPORTS/encant18.html

Estimated March 2007 rates: before 11 a.m. walking \$16, with cart \$27; after 11 a.m. walking \$12, with cart \$23

Encanto holds the distinction of being the third oldest golf course in Arizona. Encanto is ideally suited for the average golfer. Its level fairways are wide, and it has a limited number of hazards. It sports a relaxed atmosphere enhanced by the course's abundance of mature palm and salt cedar trees with great views of downtown Phoenix.

Top-ranked courses

Raven Golf Club: *see above*

Sun Ridge Canyon Golf Club; 13100 N. Sunridge Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268; 1-800-562-5178;

www.sunridgegolf.com

Estimated March 2007 rates: Monday through Thursday \$170; Friday through Sunday \$195

Sun Ridge, designed by Keith Foster, is a scenic desert links-style course that features numerous elevation changes in a canyon setting. Accuracy is foremost on this course's rolling fairways surrounded by desert with breathtaking views of the Four Peaks mountain. In 1996 Sun Ridge was ranked No. 42 in the country by *Golf Magazine* for "Top 100 You Can Play." It also ranked as one of "America's 100 Best Golf Shops" each year from 1997 through 2000 by *Golf Operations* magazine.

Eagle Mountain Golf Club; 14915 E. Eagle Mountain Pkwy., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268; 480-816-1234;

www.eaglemtn.com

Eagle Mountain was designed by Scott Miller and winds through natural box canyons, rolling hills, and lush desert valleys. A fair challenge can be found at Eagle Mountain, with contoured fairways and immaculately maintained greens. The course earns a four-star rating in *Golf Digest's* "Places to Play." It was also winner of *Golf Operations'* Top 100 Golf Shops in 1998, 1999, 2001.

We-Ko-Pa Golf Club; 18200 E. TohVee Circle, Fountain Hills, AZ; 480-836-9001;

www.wekopa.com

Estimated March 2007 rates: \$195

We-Ko-Pa was designed by Scott Miller and is a desert-style course inspired by the culture of the Yavapai Indian Nation. We-Ko-Pa is the Yavapai pronunciation for "Four Peaks Mountain." We-Ko-Pa was ranked No. 38 in the country by *Golf Magazine* for "Top 100 You Can Play" for 2004-2005. It also ranked as one of "The 100 Best Golf Shops in America" from 2004 through 2006.

Las Sendas Golf Club; 7555 E. Eagle Crest Dr., Mesa, AZ 85207; 480-396-4000;

www.lassendas.com

Estimated March 2007 rates: \$120

Las Sendas, designed by Robert Trent Jones, is a high desert course with immaculate fairways. The greens are fast, large, undulating, and elevated to challenge the most experienced golfer. Las Sendas ranked as 12th most challenging and one of the top 50 courses in the nation according to two ZAGAT surveys.

Troon Golf Club, Monument Course; 10320 E. Dynamite Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85255; 480-585- 5300;

www.troonorth.net

Estimated March 2007 rates: Monday through Wednesday \$245;
Thursday through Sunday \$295

Troon Monument, designed by Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish, presents an enjoyable experience for the average golfer, with wide fairways that wind through lush desert vegetation, natural washes, and towering saguaros. Troon Monument was ranked No. 21 in the country by *Golf Magazine* for "Top 100 You Can Play" for 2002.

Gold Canyon, Dinosaur Mountain; 6100 S. Kings Ranch Rd.,
Gold Canyon, AZ 85219; 480-982-9449;

www.gcgr.com

Estimated March 2007 rates: Monday through Thursday \$120;
Friday through Sunday \$140

Dinosaur Mountain, designed by Ken Kavanaugh, Greg Nash, and Stuart Penge, is difficult for the beginning and intermediate player. It is a target-style design with small, fast greens and narrow fairways. Dinosaur Mountain earns a 4.5-star rating in *Golf Digest's* "Places to Play."

Talking Stick, North Course; 9998 E. Indian Bend Rd.,
Scottsdale, AZ 85256; 480-860-2221;

www.troongolf.com

Golf Rates: before 2 p.m. \$170, after 2 p.m. \$125

Talking Stick, designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw, is a links-style course with a minimalist design that features wide fairways void of any trees, strategic bunkering, native grasses, and unobstructed views. Talking Stick was ranked in the Top 100 Golf Shops in the nation by *Golf World Business*.

Miniature Courses

Castles N' Coasters; 9445 Metro Parkway East, Phoenix, AZ
85051; 602-997-7575;

www.castlesncoasters.com

Castles and Coasters boasts four world-class miniature golf courses where you play your way through lush landscapes, fountains, and world-famous landmarks.

Golfland Sunsplash; 155 W. Hampton Ave., Mesa, AZ 85210;
480-834-8319;

mesa.golfland.com

Estimated March 2007 rates: \$7.25; age 55 and older \$6.25

Golfland has three 18-hole miniature golf courses. Search for the chalice on King Arthur's Quest. Look for knights or damsels on the Princess Path. Hunt for lost gold on the Lost Dutchman course.

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Projects like the Floating, Pivoting Dog-Knife Assembly, at the left, were part of the 10th Biennial Tech Expo exhibit in Toronto 2005.

What's the Big Idea?

Loren Schreiber
Tech Expo Chair

Tech Expo wants to know that big idea! The 11th Biennial Tech Expo will be a featured part of the USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Phoenix next year, and organizers are again looking for good ideas.

Developed a unique device, process, tool, or technique? Found a creative use for a new (or old) material that others might find useful? Ideas from all facets of the entertainment industry are welcome: scenery, scenic art, costumes, properties, lighting, sound, stage management, etc. -- if it's a good idea, Tech Expo wants to show it to the world. Past exhibits have included a computerized clock, armor made from egg cartons, and self-propelled platforms.

Tech Expo is a juried exhibition and several of the accepted entries will receive special recognition and a modest cash prize. The application process is simple: put together an article of 500 to 1,000 words describing the entry and send it in along with two or three drawings or photographs and the application form.

Download the instructions [here](#) and the application [here](#). They will

also be available from the Conference web pages when they launch later this Fall on the USITT website. Winning entrants will be asked to prepare an exhibit to be displayed at the Stage Expo. The accompanying article will be published in the 2007 Tech Expo Catalog. For more information, contact Loren Schreiber, Tech Expo Committee chair, at 619-595-7711 or lschreib@mail.sdsu.edu.

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My Friend Cindy

Paulette Callen

No one loved life more or used it so well

She was interested in everything, knew something about almost everything, and she cared about the important things.

Wherever she worked, in whatever neighborhood she lived, she knew the names of everybody's kids and all their animals.

In a mid-town New York restaurant she engaged in conversation as easily and with as much delight with the waiter as with the celebrity at the next table.

She was warm and funny; she could be sharp and funny but never mean spirited, never cruel.

The glow of sweetness in her face was surprising in one so strong; it is most evident in her photos, shining there, a light from her face.

She cherished her friends and had more than any one of us probably imagined. If a measure of one's life is the friends one leaves behind, then she set a gold standard.

She honored her father and mother in life and in memory.

She loved her animals, her students, her art, her books, places she'd been; a good dinner, a fine wine.

Kurt and Cherie were the lights of her heart.

Not a day will pass for the rest of my life that I won't miss her.

This poem was included in the program at the memorial for Cindy Poulson held at Milwaukee Repertory Theatre on Monday July 10, 2006, and on the blog established in her memory. It is included here at the request of several of her USITT friends.

Ms. Callen has been a friend of Ms. Poulson since their undergraduate days at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota.



Cynthia Poulson
March 18, 1948-
June 27, 2006

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