The opening page for the 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Houston next March offers insight into what Houston, Texas has to offer to USITT members. Learn more about Conference activities throughout this issue. Click here to go to the Conference portion of the USITT web site.

Image/Helga Watkins
News & Notices

October 2007

News & Notices
- Young Designer Awards
- USITT Giving Update
- Announcements
- In Memoriam: Jack Suesse
- ESTA Turns 20
- Member Benefits
- Travel Awards
- Staff Profile: Ashley A. Austin
- The Last Word

News From:
- Around The Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections

Commissions
- Costume Posters
- Health & Safety Info
- Costume Sessions

Conference & Stage Expo
- Bayou Bend a Delight
- Stage Expo Booming

For the Record
- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2007 issue pdf

2008 Young Designer Award Process to Open

Those wishing to be considered for USITT's Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts may apply beginning in early October.

In 2006, USITT debuted an online application process which allowed the transfer of information, portfolios and materials electronically. Because of the success of that process, the 2007 application procedure has been further streamlined and remains electronic. The expectation is that nominators and applications will find the process to be even easier.

USITT's Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts provide a monetary prize and recognition to ten young talented professionals each year. This level of commitment is made possible by the financial support of the program's sponsors including KM Fabrics, Inc., Robert E. Cohen, Barbizon Lighting Company, Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics, Fabrications, and Supplies; Zelma H. Weisfeld, Bernhard R. Works, Kryolan, Clear-Com Intercom Systems, Stage Technology, and Stage Decoration and Supplies, Inc.

Beginning October 5, award nominees can submit applications through the USITT website. Each submission will require an entry fee and specific materials which may include photographs, paperwork, drawings, and renderings. All nominees and nominators must be current USITT members. Interested applicants are encouraged to visit www.usitt.org/activities/awards/ydt for more information.

The program is highlighted in brochures mailed to all current USITT organizational and student members to encourage interest in this great opportunity for students to receive recognition and financial support.

Students are encouraged to join USITT now in order to ensure eligibility for submission. All registrations must be received by 12 p.m. on November 12, 2007. The deadline for submissions is November 19.

Awards will be presented at USITT's 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Houston, Texas.
Gifts That Keep Giving

Lawrence J. Hill
USITT Fellow

USITT has completed its second year of active gifting in celebration of USITT@50, Securing Our Future. USITT helped to advance the careers of members in 2006-2007 with over $57,000 in support recognizing excellence. The Institute was able to do this in large part because of the contributions from hundreds of individuals and organizations over dozens of years.

What are the results of gifts chosen annually through membership renewals or Conference registration? These contributions build the principal that provides dividends to fund needed student activities, international study and travel, and research grants or fellowships. Additionally, there are nearly 100 members actively supporting the Five-Year Gifting campaign, plus long-term and annual, significant corporate and individual support for the Young Designers & Technicians Awards, The Rising Star Award, and the unique Student Study Awards for the 2007 Prague Quadrennial.

This commitment to recognize and reward excellence in the profession is one of USITT's highlights each year. Most importantly for 2006-2007, a total of $57,000 made a difference for more than 25 individuals in the USITT community. These include:

- the Rising Star Award for $1,000;
- ten Young Designers & Technicians Awards totaling $10,500;
- Edward F. Kook Research Fellowship for $15,000;
- six PQ Study Tour Awards totaling $16,350;
- two Scripps International Activities Fund Student International Travel Awards for $2,000;
- two Student Chapter awards for $300; and
- three Awards from the Commissioner’s funds totaling $12,527.

Annual gifts from membership forms and conference registration this past year totaled $17,816, $2,447 in support of Kook, $500 in support of Scripps, $12,546 in support of New Century Fund, and $2,323 in support of USITT Fund. The USITT @50 Five-Year Campaign resulted in an additional $19,950 toward building the principal of these various funds.

USITT began to build the principal for a single award over 25 years ago. It is now realizing the benefit of that wisdom. In the spirit of the 50th year celebration, members are encouraged to consider an annual contribution on one of the forms they complete each year.

These gifts have greater meaning each year as USITT continues to build the principal that funds these awards. Join us in gifting to USITT each year and continue celebrating the excellence of our membership! Members who benefit, now and in the future, join in sending their thanks for these acts of generosity.
Announcements

October 2007

News & Notices

- Young Designer Awards
- USITT Giving Update
- Announcements
- In Memoriam: Jack Suesse
- ESTA Turns 20
- Member Benefits
- Travel Awards
- Staff Profile: Ashley A. Austin
- The Last Word

News From:

- Around The Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections

Commissions

- Costume Posters
- Health & Safety Info
- Costume Sessions

Conference & Stage Expo

- Bayou Bend a Delight
- Stage Expo Booming

For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2007 issue pdf

Alliance to Honor Willa Kim

Costume designer Willa Kim, who was honored in 2005 with a USITT Distinguished Achievement Award in Costume Design, will receive a career achievement award from the Asian American Arts Alliance on October 16 in New York City.

She will be honored at AAAA’s 25th Anniversary Gala along with film and television actor Kal Penn and Eric Wong, CMO of Bad Boy Entertainment and senior vice president of marketing of Atlantic Records. Journalist and frequent New York Times writer Gwin Chin will present the award to Ms. Kim.

The gala is being held at TriBeCa Rooftop and includes dinner, silent auction, and live entertainment. The items in the silent auction include an autographed copy of *The Designs of Willa Kim*, USITT’s first monograph. It will be presented to the winner during a lunch-to-be-arranged with Ms. Kim and author Bobbi Owen in New York City later this fall.

More information is available at the [AAAA web site](http://www.aaaa.org).

Long Riders Complete Another Journey

Bill Sapsis, Greg Williams, and the riders and staff of the Long Reach Long Riders announced the completion of the Fourth Annual Charity Motorcycle ride. The total amount raised for the 2007 ride is over $65,000.

The ride began on July 29 and ended on August 6. It covered over 2,500 miles with stops in Syracuse, Ottawa, Vermont, Maine and Connecticut. There were 22 riders and two chase car drivers. Members of the ride hailed from as far away as Boone, North Carolina and Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The bike manufacturers represented included Harley Davidson, Buell, Honda, BMW, Yamaha, and Kawasaki.

To view the trip diary from this and previous years' rides, to [www.LRLR.org](http://www.LRLR.org).

Planning has begun on the fifth annual ride which will start and end in Las Vegas, Nevada with stops in Zion Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Moab, Silverton, Monument Valley, and the north rim of the Grand Canyon. Ride dates are May 12 through 18.

Comments Sought on European Standard

A European Committee for Standardization (CEN) workshop, with help from members of OISTAT Technology Commission and Architecture Commission, recently completed a consensus paper to address theatre technology standards for lifting and load-bearing equipment in the entertainment industry. The Workshop Agreement (CWA) is intended to become a formal European standard.

CEN is seeking comments on standards for lifting and load-bearing equipment for stages and other production areas within the entertainment industry. The draft CWA is available for public comments until October 19. The draft can be reviewed at the [European Committee for Standardization web site](http://www.cen.eu).

Stages are the only work places where people work under hanging and moving loads without adequate protection. Some countries have standards, but even these are limited. The result is a somewhat confused pattern of regulations not really suited to the specific equipment. Often equipment used by traveling shows is moved across borders. CEN was approached by a group of manufacturers and users who wish to draft a CEN Workshop Agreement in order to increase safety.

Comments can be sent to the WS Secretariat, Jutta Behrendt at jutta.behrendt@din.de and Gerd-Rainer Sagert, at gerd-rainer.sagert@din.de.

To Offer Marketing Boot Camp at LDI

This month:

- Willa Kim Honored
- Long Reach Report
- European Standard
- Marketing Boot Camp
- ETPC News
- Chain Hoist Group
- Designs on Display

To Top ↑

The ESTA BizEd Committee will present Marketing Boot Camp on Thursday, November 15 at LDI 2007 in Orlando, Florida.

The session will be split into two parts focusing on various aspects of marketing. The morning session, In the Trenches: Small Business Strategies, is an all-inclusive workshop addressing branding, ROI, and marketing techniques. The session runs 8 a.m. to noon and features speaker Eric M. Morgenstern of Morningstar Communications.

The afternoon session is entitled Take Aim: Internet Marketing Basics and will focus on how the web could be the most cost effective solution to recruiting new customers and promoting to existing ones. Julie Clark of Insight Media Group will educate participants on this hot topic from 1 to 5 p.m. Participants can attend one or both training sessions. A registration form is available here.

To Top ↑

ETCP Tests at LDI, Two Join Council

The Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP) Council announced certification exams to be held at LDI in Orlando, Florida in November as well as the addition of a representative from Cirque du Soleil-MGM/Mirage to the council.

All three ETCP examinations will be given at the November 2007 LDI show:

- Entertainment Electrical Exam: 2 p.m. Friday, November 16
- Arena Rigging: 9 a.m. Saturday, November 17
- Theatre Rigging: 2 p.m. Saturday, November 17

Interested applicants must submit their application, along with supporting materials and fee, postmarked by October 1. There is a discount on multiple exams. Information is available at the ETCP web site or from Meredith Moseley-Bennett, ETCP Certification Coordinator, at 212-244-1505.

Cirque du Soleil and its Las Vegas partner MGM / Mirage have accepted a seat on the Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP) Council. The Council is the governing body which manages the development and implementation of ETCP, the industry-wide certification program for entertainment technicians.

Martin Crawford, technical manager, technical and show support -- Cirque du Soleil Resident Show Division, and Tony Galuppi, head of rigging for KA, will sit on the Council. The MGM/Mirage currently employs over 1,500 technicians to support Cirque du Soleil operations.

To Top ↑

Electric Chain Hoist Control Group Formed

The BSR E1.6 project to develop an American National Standard for powered theatrical rigging systems has a new project and part to the standard: E1.6-4, Control of Serially Manufactured Electric Chain Hoists Used in the Entertainment Industry. The E1.6 document has been broken into parts to facilitate development and better match the expertise of the people writing it. This newest part is an offshoot of the BSR E1.6-3 project, Selection and Use of Serially Manufactured Electric Chain Hoists in the Entertainment Industry.

Chain hoist control system safety is a complex topic, so the Rigging Working Group, at its meeting on July 13, voted to give control systems an E1.6 part and development project. A task group was formed to develop a first draft of BSR E1.6-4 and included Peter Herrmann and Vincent Cannavalle of Motion Laboratories, Noga Eilon-Bahar of Eilon Engineering Industrial Weighing Systems, Jon Lenard of Applied Electronics, Dana Bartholomew of Fisher Technical Services, and Eddie Kramer of IATSE Local 1.

The project is being announced so people affected can comment or become involved. Anyone who would be affected by the revision of this standard is invited to join the Rigging Working Group to work on developing the standard. Information about joining working groups and a link to the working group membership application form are available at www.esta.org/tsp/working_groups/index.html. All members of the affected public may comment on the standard when it is made available for public review. For more information, contact: Karl G. Ruling, Technical Standards Manager, ESTA, 875 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1005, New York, NY 10001; 1-212-244-1505; fax 1-212-244-1502; or standards@esta.org.

To Top ↑

Gallery Displays Theatre Designs

An array of about 150 theatrical set and costume design models and sketches will be on display in *StageStruck: The Magic of Theatre Design* at Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation Gallery November 13 to December 22 in New York City.

The gallery is located at 26 Wooster St., between Grand and Canal streets, in SoHo. *StageStruck* celebrates the creative genius of dozens of set and costume designers, both male and female -- all of whom happen to be gay -- working with authors, composers, and choreographers who are also gay. Original sketches, models, and props have been gathered from a variety of sources including numerous private collections, the New York Public Library’s extensive theatre collection, and many designers themselves. There will be a public reception for the opening of the exhibit from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, November 13. There will be an invitation only celebrity preview Monday, November 12.

The guest curators, Peter Harvey and David Noh, have assembled items spanning 60 years in the world of theatre, opera, and ballet from the 1940s through the 2007 Broadway season, including designs for *Grey Gardens*, *The Fantasticks*, and *Curtains*. Historic productions include *Fancy Free*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Boys in the Band*, *Lips Together Teeth Apart*, and *A Delicate Balance*. 
In Memoriam: Jack Suesse

John "Jack" Suesse
USITT Fellow

Tom Young
Vice-President, J.R. Clancy, Inc.

John Charles "Jack" Suesse died on August 17, 2007, in South Carolina after a short illness. Mr. Suesse spent all of his adult life working in theatre production and technology. A Carnegie Tech graduate, he started his career as assistant technical director at the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, Minnesota, then studio supervisor with WCNY Television and teaching at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, New York. From there, he became president of Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting, general manager of J. R. Clancy, Inc., and later president of J. R. Clancy.

Most recently Mr. Suesse operated J Suesse & Associates in South Carolina, where he was able spend more time with his family and hobbies, like boating and building his second home from scratch.

Mr. Suesse was always eager to share his knowledge with others and was involved in many volunteer activities including USITT where he was elected a Fellow in 1993 for his long time service. He continued to field questions in USITT’s popular Stump the Rigger sessions, including the 2007 version in Phoenix, Arizona. He was a member of ESTA where he served as an ETCP subject matter expert, and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Suesse was a long time member of IATSE Local 9.

He is survived by his wife Gwen, and his children, Ned and Jennifer.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to Habitat for Humanity, either to the national organization, or to the local organization, Thermal Belt Habitat, 132 North Trade Avenue, Landrum, SC 29356; 864-457-2666.
In November 1987, a group of 25 theatrical dealers walked into a meeting room in Las Vegas and emerged eight hours later with a fledgling association in place called the Theatrical Dealers Association. The name of the organization has changed, but the exceptional volunteerism and idealism have only grown with the years. Two decades later, the Entertainment Services and Technology Association (ESTA) now represents all facets of the entertainment technology industry.

Originally founded to assist dealer members with some of the daily problems of running a business, ESTA soon began to address the issues and concerns of the industry as a whole. This led the association to open its membership to the wider industry and to become the catalyst for an unprecedented level of communication between industry businesses. ESTA has played a unique role in the entertainment technology industry offering the umbrella under which colleagues and competitors come together to create programs and develop ideas that make the industry safer, stronger, more productive, and more professional.

Concerns about the lack of technical standards in the industry and the potential for governmental regulations led ESTA to establish the Technical Standards Program. Accredited by the American National Standards Institute, the TSP enjoys worldwide recognition and participation. Safety and stewardship have been addressed over the years through initiatives like the Fog Testing and Product Stewardship programs.

ESTA invited an unprecedented group of industry organizations to join in creating ETCP, the Entertainment Technician Certification Program. ETCP develops rigorous assessments allowing employers to identify technicians with proven knowledge, skills and abilities thereby increasing safety in the workplace.

Business education remains an ESTA priority with many resources available to members to help them administer and promote their businesses, educate their staffs, and save money on business services. Industry research programs supply members with information on market size, operating ratios, employment practices, and customer buying habits.

Recognizing the need for increased education, particularly of young people entering the profession, as well as the need to assist their colleagues in times of crises, ESTA members created The ESTA Foundation which is developing the Behind the Scenes and ESET programs.

ESTA continues to build the business of show business, and during this 20th anniversary it celebrates the remarkable contributions and achievements of its members and looks toward serving the entertainment technology industry over the next 20 years and beyond.
Great Discounts on Equipment & Supplies

Michelle L. Smith  
Membership & Ad Sales Manager

Limelight Productions, Inc.

USITT members can receive discounts on a variety of items related to lighting, scenery, and/or make-up. Specials change each month. To view a selection, click here. Or contact Limelight directly at 800-243-4950 or cbrouker@limelightproductions.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
Applications Available for International Travel Awards

Sandy Bonds  
USITT Vice-President for International Activities

October is the perfect time for USITT individual members to consider applying for support for international travel.

The International Committee sponsors two awards for international travel with support from the Samuel H. Scripps International Fund. In odd numbered years, the award is designated for student members. In even numbered years, as for 2008, Individual/Professional members are invited to apply for projects. Deadline is December 3, 2007.

USITT supports and encourages enhancing members’ global interactions through participation in OISTAT programs and the Prague Quadrennial as well as inviting international presenters to share their perspectives in conference programming. This award is designed to further facilitate international connections and understanding through theatre-related research or activities that members pursue overseas.

This honor was first bestowed in 2006, enabling award winner Frank Mohler to travel to the Czech Republic’s famous theatre in Cesky Krumlov to complete his examination of the mechanical systems of extant European Baroque era theatres.

One goal of the student award is to build on an existing area of specialty by enhancing it through contacts in the wider world. A range of projects that would fulfill the specifications of this award include travel to exhibitions, productions, and collections for the purpose of research or design. As with other USITT awards, the winner will be asked to share the project with the membership through a conference session or article.

The next Individual/Professional International Travel Award for $2,500 will be granted soon. Applications are due by December 3, 2007 and the selection will be announced January 10, 2008. Travel needs to be completed within one year. For additional details and application form, click here or go to www.usitt.org and click on the Major Activities page to find a section on Awards. For questions, contact Sandy Bonds at abonds@uoregon.edu.
USITT Staff Profile: Ashley A. Austin

Barbara E.R. Lucas
Sightlines Editor

It's an obvious conclusion that USITT has a new triple A staff member, with the addition of Ashley A. Austin as the administrative assistant in the National Office in Syracuse, New York.

Ms. Austin, a May 2007 graduate of LeMoyne College in Syracuse, managed to complete her degree in international relations in three years. Even more amazing was she accomplished that feat while working three jobs. One of those jobs had her traveling throughout the northeast assisting with marketing a wide variety of products including yachts. That travel helped her decide she wanted to stay in Syracuse after graduation.

Not everything in Ms. Austin's life runs in threes, however. She only has one sibling, and she only minored in two subjects, anthropology and Italian. That knowledge was extremely helpful when she took a month-long break after graduation and visited family and friends in Italy.

A native of Syracuse, she grew up in Virginia and then moved back to Central New York to attend high school and then college.

For USITT, Ms. Austin will be the primary person responsible for answering questions and directing people to the correct staff member or officers for a response. She is also working with Carol B. Carrigan on the upcoming transition to electronic voting for the 2008 election, and on assisting with the awards process for the Rising Star Award, Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts, and Distinguished Achievement and other USITT awards.

Away from the office Ms. Austin enjoys the outdoors, for which Central New York is ideally suited. In addition to skiing and boating, she spends time scuba diving in area rivers such as the St. Lawrence, and in other nearby bodies of water including Green Lakes, a glacial plunge pool where fauna includes freshwater sponges. She loves to read, especially political science and history, and is the proud owner of Princess Lola the cat, and Lucy, her recently-adopted canine companion.

Ms. Austin looks forward to working with USITT members and volunteers. She will be introduced to many in the Institute's hierarchy when the Board of Directors, Executive, Finance, and Publications committees meet in Syracuse in mid-October.
Nominate Now for Rising Star Award

The deadline is fast approaching for nominations of outstanding young professionals for the USITT Rising Star Award. The process has been streamlined, with an online application available by following the link here.

The award, sponsored by LDI2007/Live Design, recognizes young professionals in the first four years of their careers for artistic excellence in the areas of lighting, sound, scenic, and projection design or a convergence of design disciplines.

Deadline for nominations is October 18.

Architecture Awards Deadline November 2

Know an interesting performing arts space? Could it be eligible for a USITT Architecture Award? New construction, renovation, or creative adaptation of existing spaces for performance are all eligible for consideration.

Submission deadline is November 2, 2007 for 2008 awards. USITT’s Architecture Commission administers the adjudication process and is seeking increased participation in the program.

To be eligible, a building project must have been completed in the past 10 years. Projects can be submitted by architects, theatre consultants, acousticians, or building owners. For more information, visit here. Entry forms are also available by contacting Ashley Austin, USITT Administrative Assistant, at 800-938-7488 or ashley@office.usitt.org.

Students Needed for Conference Assistance

Student members who are willing to volunteer 15 hours of work at the 2008 Conference & Stage Expo in Houston, Texas, may apply for the Student Volunteer Program, but they should act quickly.

After October 4, the Student Volunteer Program will be open to anyone wishing to become a USITT member. Forms will be available on-line at www.usitt.org/houston.

USITT Office Move

News about the USITT office move is included throughout this issue as the staff in Syracuse, New York, prepares to relocate to new, purpose-designed space. There may be a slight disruption in office operations around October 1, but that small amount of inconvenience will result in a more streamlined operation once everything is in place. Phone, fax, and e-mail addresses are not changing, but everyone is asked to update any shipping or mailing information to: 315 S. Crouse Ave., Suite 200, Syracuse, NY 13210.
ETC to Expand Middleton Factory

Just three years after building and moving into its distinctive 250,000-square-foot headquarters facility in Middleton, Wisconsin, ETC (Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.) is expanding again. The international entertainment- and architectural-lighting manufacturer is adding an estimated $9 million, 78,000 square feet to the factory portion of the building. The groundbreaking is scheduled to take place in mid October.

According to Kobi Danke, building-project manager, the new footage will give ETC more manufacturing and warehousing space. The new-construction plans include an expansion of the north parking lot; a larger receiving area with two more docks, plus a second UPS drive-up to handle and expedite increasing order traffic; as well as additional restrooms, storage areas, and a semi-enclosed patio for employee rest and outdoor gatherings.

ETC Chief Executive Officer Fred Foster said the company is planning to ramp up the environment-sustaining technologies in use, ensuring that any new design is "greener" than ever before.

The expansion will be managed by the design-build firm Erdman Development Group, headed by Jerry Sholts and Frank Miller. The architects are David Braucht and Dan Zarnsdorf, of HDR Architecture, Inc. Completion of the full project is anticipated in late fall of 2008.

Creative Appoints Broderick

Creative Stage Lighting recently announced the appointment of Bob Broderick as North Central Dealer Sales Manager.

Mr. Broderick has a BFA in theatre design and technology and has worked as a freelance lighting designer and in sales at Barbizon Lighting Company. He also has experience as a stage electrician and technical director.

Broderick will be responsible for managing CSL’s newly created North Central Dealer Sales Division which includes Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.
In just four days, PRG helped producer Branduin Creative transform the 40-acre Oaks/Blenheim Riding Park in San Juan Capistrano, California, into a fantasy playground -- ready to entertain guests with supersized video games, carnival rides, laser tag, and a concert starring the rock group, KISS. The event, capping the Networkers at Cisco Live conference in nearby Anaheim, was Cisco's thank you to 7,000 of its best customers.

As the longtime lighting source for KISS' concert tours, PRG already was familiar with the requirements of the legendary rockers.

ETC Scholars Named

ETC (Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.) announced the winners of its eighth annual LDI Student Sponsorship 2007. The program provides an all-expense-paid trip to the LDI tradeshow, where six university students have the opportunity to experience the behind-the-scenes goings-on in the ETC booth, learn about the latest technologies, and network with some of the industry's key figures.

Gustav Barnard, from South Africa, is in his final year at the University of Derby in the United Kingdom. Lois Catanzaro is in her second year of graduate studies in stage design at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Jen Goldstein is a graduate student in lighting design at the University of California, Irvine. Marihan Mehelba, from Egypt, is a Fulbright Arts Grant recipient, studying lighting design for one academic year at Indiana University in Bloomington. Charles Perry is a graduate student at the University of Florida, pursuing a master of fine arts degree in lighting design. Jason Read is pursuing a master of fine arts degree in lighting design from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
Sapsis Goes Kabuki in Lincoln Center

Sapsis Rigging, Inc. provided design, installation supervision, and equipment for the recent New York City Lincoln Center Festival engagement of the Heisei Nakamura-za Kabuki troupe in Avery Fisher Hall.

Sapsis provided a super-truss rig, 40 chain hoists, traditional and not-so traditional counterweight rigging, kabuki drop rigging, travellers, and a host of miscellaneous rigs for the weeklong production.

"It was, to say the least, an interesting project," noted Michael Sapsis, project manager for Sapsis. "The compressed load-in schedule coupled with language differences made for a few surprises but the Avery Fisher Hall crew, along with the Lincoln Center Festival design team and my supervisors, rose to the occasion."

TPC Names Ruta Business Manager

As part of its ongoing effort to strengthen business operations, Theatre Projects Consultants United States has announced the appointment of Karen Ruta as business manager.

Ms. Ruta brings with her extensive experience in business and financial management. She has held the positions of business manager and CFO for several businesses in Connecticut including a sports marketing company, a professional photography studio, and a media buying company. Her addition to the company provides Theatre Projects with the business expertise to help manage the continued growth of the company.

Ms. Ruta will assume the administrative responsibilities of the general manager taking over from Gene Leitermann, who will remain director of business development. Mr. Leitermann also is a senior project manager and will be able to devote more of his time to project work.

Schuler Shook Projects Recognized

IESNA recently bestowed International Illumination Design Awards for 2007, and Schuler Shook's designers were honored to see three projects recognized at the international and regional levels.

At the international level, Schuler Shook's lighting design for Cue at the Guthrie was awarded the International Illumination Design Award of Excellence for interior lighting design. Lighting designers Michael DiBlasi and Rachel Miller, from the firm's Minneapolis office, provided the lighting design. The restaurant, connected to the Guthrie Theatre, provides a dramatic entrance to the theatre complex.

At the regional level, Schuler Shook's lighting of the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Avenue Pumping Station exterior lighting received Regional Illumination Design Awards. The Chicago Board of Trade Project also received a special citation from the International Association of Lighting Designers earlier in 2007.

The Chicago Board of Trade is both a national and Chicago historic landmark building. Prominent on Chicago's Michigan Avenue, the Pumping Station is a historical landmark that survived the Great Fire of 1871.

New Address, Project for Stage Technologies
**Stage Technologies**' American office, which just moved closer to the heart of Las Vegas, recently oversaw the rigging installation of the recently completed renovation of the Church of Latter-day Saints' Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The company has experienced rapid expansion in recent years and believes that the new 8,000-square-foot premises will provide its engineers with better facilities and allow it to respond and deliver a high quality service to its clients. The new address and contact information is: Stage Technologies Inc., 6651 Schuster Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89118; USA; telephone 702-990-0864; and fax 702-990-0878.

The renovation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' 140 year old Tabernacle building in Temple Square, Salt Lake City, Utah now contains some of the most technically advanced lighting, sound, and automation systems ever installed in a historic building of its kind. Stage Technologies installed a 24-axis automated rigging and a 2-axis stage lift control system to enable the same high level of flexibility and safety as a modern performing arts venue.

The unique elliptical shape of the Tabernacle's roof structure made working space and access for equipment and cabling very limited. The Tabernacle was closed for two years during the renovation and officially reopened March 31.

**TMB at PLASA**

TMB was at PLASA 2007 with partners A&O Technologies and Global Design Solutions to introduce some new products. A&O introduced a brand new, revolutionary Falcon xenon fixture and displayed the complete range of Falcon fixtures by Alpha One of Germany. Global Design Solutions (GDS) introduced the E System, a complete emergency lighting system developed from the strengths of GDS's Blues System, and the E-System Dimmable Exit Signs, recently installed in the Royal Shakespeare Theatre Stratford and the Royal Court Theatre London. Also on display was the GDS Blues System, exclusively distributed by TMB worldwide.

Highlighted was the Green Hippo Hippotizer V3 media server with on-board time-line control, and media file import and management, as well as HippoNet. TMB distributes Hippotizer media servers in North America, Asia, and the Middle East. TMB introduced two new product families, developed with GDS: ProCue cue-light system and ProMotion solid state push-button chain-motor control system. Find out more about TMB at www.tmb.com.

**TOMCAT UK Hosts Hoist School at PLASA**

TOMCAT UK hosted the first TOMCAT Hoist and Truss Workshop at the PLASA Show September 10 and 11. Participants had the opportunity to receive training from industry experts.

A representative of Columbus McKinnon led a class through a full day of motor instruction, and Patrick Lockwood led a half-day session on truss.

**Schuler Shook Dallas Celebrates Sixth**

Schuler Shook's Dallas office just celebrated its sixth birthday with a 'Sizzlin' Summer Bash' in their loft offices in downtown Dallas' historic West End.

A mix of major players in the lighting and theatre industries mingled with architects, artists, and representatives from several Southwest civic institutions.

**Walter Retires from Stagecraft Industries**

Jeffrey L. Walter, vice president of sales and marketing for Stagecraft Industries, Inc. is retiring after 26 years of service to the company.

In that time, he was instrumental in building the sales and estimating department at Stagecraft into one of the most respected in the industry.

Mr. Walter's prior responsibilities at Stagecraft will be split between Kevin Shetterly, sales manager for rigging and drapery products, and Ted Ross, sales manager for lighting products.

Mr. Walter joined the company in 1981 after a brief career in the commercial insurance industry. His father, Bill Walter, was one of the original founders of Stagecraft Industries. The company grew from a small school supply business to become one of the major manufacturers and installers of theater and studio equipment in the entertainment industry.
"Growing Pains" Lead to New Location, New Friends

The USITT National Office has moved! After more than a decade at 6443 Ridings Road, Syracuse, New York, our staff increased and our holdings and need for storage space grew. We needed more office space; thus our lengthy search for a new office location began.

In May, after many months and an exhaustive and exhausting search by Office Relocation Committee members Carol Carrigan, John Uthoff, Larry Hill, Helen Willard, and Sylvia Hillyard Pannell, we selected and leased a larger and more convenient space in the South Crouse Commons Building. Please make note of our new address:

USITT
315 South Crouse Avenue, Suite 200
Syracuse, NY 13210

South Crouse Commons is located at the foot of the hill, some 10 blocks from heart of the beautiful Syracuse University campus. It is two blocks from Syracuse Stage, the premiere professional theatre of Central New York, and very near the beautifully-restored Genesee Grande Hotel.

An outstanding feature of the new office location is its site within the boundaries of the Connective Corridor, a Syracuse initiative (learn more at connectivecorridor.syr.edu). The USITT National Office will be situated among three major universities and more than 20 cultural venues, all within one mile. Therefore, USITT is "connected" to Syracuse arts associations and like-minded organizations providing the opportunity to strengthen relationships and share ideas and efforts. This will invigorate our organization in new and exciting ways.

"The Connective Corridor is a community-wide effort to link the vast array of arts and cultural happenings, businesses, and neighborhoods in the City of Syracuse. Both an urban design project and collaborative initiative, the Connective Corridor will promote the diverse cultural and economic assets that Syracuse has to offer."

"Partners in the project include Syracuse University; Congressman Jim Walsh; Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Rodham Clinton; the City of Syracuse; National Grid, our lead corporate partner; and Time Warner Cable. During the academic year, Syracuse University offers the Connective Corridor shuttle bus, a free service to all riders commuting between destinations along the Corridor." -- from the Connective Corridor website.

The South Crouse Commons building dates from the 1930s. However USITT’s second story office space is newly designed and constructed. It features an attractive reception area, nine roomy offices, a fully equipped mailroom/workroom, a break room, and an inviting and comfortable conference room. The staff is very pleased with the new offices, and is glad that, on the first floor of the building, storage space is provided for such needs as publications and conference materials.
Further, the building features a loading dock that will simplify the packing and moving demands of conference, and other shipping needs.

To celebrate the move, the Fall Board of Directors meeting will be held in Syracuse October 11 to 14 with meetings at both the new office and at the Genesee Grande Hotel where the board will be housed. This marks the first time that the Board of Directors has met in Syracuse.

USITT and its staff look forward to settling in and becoming better acquainted with our new neighbors and neighborhood. They would love to show you around. Please plan a trip to USITT’s new national office should you be traveling in Central New York -- and don't forget to note that change of address!

To help introduce USITT to the Connective Corridor, a Cocktail Reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, October 12 at the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science & Technology.

We would be pleased to have any members and their guests join us to help celebrate our new connections. Please contact Ashley A. Austin at 800-938-7488 or ashley@office.usitt.org if you are able to attend, or for complete directions.
New Web Presence for Chesapeake

The Chesapeake Regional Section of USITT is in the process of creating a new website. The new site will present and promote USITT as a premier member organization for theatre technician aficionados and professionals in the mid-Atlantic region. It will serve as a resource center for members and non-members alike to contact member organizations for production assistance.

One goal will be to provide a convenient way to join or renew membership online as well as register for workshops, seminars, and the annual Exposition. The new endeavor will provide a forum for member organizations and other interested parties to advertise on the website and generate revenue for the USITT-Chesapeake section.

Member organizations, local theatres, educational theatre departments, etc. are encouraged to secure advertisements. Depending on the level of sponsorship, logos with links to websites will be available. Be one of the first to get in on the ground floor of this exciting new adventure.

For more information on advertisement options and pricing, contact Chesapeake Chair Kacey Fisher at kacey@fishertheatrical.com.
Costume Design & Technology Call for Posters

Now that fall productions are well underway, many have discovered new and innovative solutions to various costume problems. Why not share those solutions with others who may encounter them? How? By submitting a proposal to display your genius at the annual Costume Poster Session!

What exactly is the Costume Poster Session? This is a time when costume designers and technicians are able to share information that is probably not well-known, or perhaps of their own invention with colleagues. This includes, but is not limited to, a new solution to an old problem, a new problem and its solution, a classroom or management technique, the results of research, or other ideas, discoveries, or developments in the field of costuming. Costume Commission members are encouraged to send in any idea. What may be “old hat” to one may be a new treasure to others. An average of 200 to 250 people attend this session. It is an exciting event for the Costume Commission each year.

As an added benefit, poster presentations are widely accepted as meeting requirements for scholarly publication. Many educational institutions fund some or all personal expenses to the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Phoenix for those Commission members chosen to present a poster session. Poster presenters may also have the opportunity to publish their ideas in \textit{TD&T}.

All submissions are juried by the Costume Poster Selection Committee. Ideas need to be presented in the form of an abstract (a brief, concise summary of the information to be presented in the poster) no more than 200 words typewritten. Mail, e-mail, or fax an abstract by February 1 to Donna Meester.

If all this has sparked an idea and interest in doing a poster or for more information, contact: Donna Meester, The University of Alabama, Dept. of Theatre & Dance, Box 870239, 235 Rowand-Johnson Hall, Tuscaloosa, AL 25487-0239; 205-348-9032; fax 205-348-9048; or dmeester@bama.ua.edu.
Health & Safety --
No Longer "Secret"

Nate Otto
Health & Safety Commissioner

Why is it so many people still think that Health & Safety is a little secret that only a few people know? Do you find yourself asking questions like: "Where do I find new information about Health & Safety?" or "Who do I turn to when I need to talk to someone about a specific problem?" Do you wish you could have a general resource for most or even all of these questions? So do we! It is time to create something to help organize this information in a useful manner and point people to the correct answers about Health & Safety.

The Health & Safety Commission would like to change the "secret" into a knowledge tree of Health & Safety by creating a working, comprehensive web resource for everyone in the theatre and entertainment industry. To establish such a resource, the Health & Safety Commission needs members of USITT to provide this information. Those who work in theatre and deal with health and safety problems all the time may have resource lists. The Commission would like to combine the lists into a complete, all-inclusive record.

The Health & Safety Commission has created an easy, PDF form to help structure these resources for easy access. Fill out this form and send it to Nate Otto, Commissioner of Health & Safety at nate.r.otto@vanderbilt.edu. Commission members will compile and collate all this information and make it public as part of the Commission's web site. Examples of resources include web links, Books, DVDs, or videos.
Costume Sessions Span the Spectrum at Houston

Kevin McClusky
Costume Design & Technology Commission

To say there is a strong slate of costume and technology programming for the 2008 USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Houston is a Texas-sized understatement. There are so many great sessions to look forward to.

Costume and fashion history assumes an importance this year with sessions covering period silhouette, clothing inventions, and non-western dress. Kristina Tollefson leads a session dedicated to the architecture of women's silhouettes from the Renaissance to today, using live models and recreations derived from period research to illustrate the evolution. After a long hiatus from the Costume History podium, LaLonnie Lehman returns to present a lecture dedicated to ways in which clothing has changed because of inventions (think the zipper) and other social influences.

Deepsikha Chatterjee, from SUNY at Albany, will present a session titled Jewels of India -- Costumes of the Classical Dances exploring the predominate dance forms of the Indian continent and how costumes for those dances are shaped by social and religious values.

Teri Tavares presents a session in shoe modification, including both do-it-yourself alterations as well as those modifications best left to a cobbler. C. David Russell, from Ohio University, will lead a session in the use of Thermoplastics and their applications to "tricky, movement-based" costume pieces. Emily Parke-Koll of Dye Pro Services offers a demonstration of precision dying techniques with union dyes, which are also applicable to acid, and direct dyes. Finally, "glitra" takes stage when Doug Kreinik demonstrates all the goodies Iron On Embellishments has to offer costume designers and technologists.

And there is more. Rafael Jean leads a session on developing the ideal portfolio, Gwen West leads a session on long-distance costume design collaboration via the computer, and Period Corsets offers a session on starting a costume business. Sandy Bonds leads a discussion of costume education opportunities in London. IATSE offers a session dedicated to what to expect the first day on a Broadway wardrobe crew, and USA offers a session dedicated to professional costume design. Both sessions proved of great interest in Phoenix.

There will be a plethora of guests, each of whom shares a unique perspective on theatre at different sessions: wig and makeup artists from the Alley Theatre in Houston, the Gold Medal Award winner for Costume Design at the Prague Quadrennial Eloise Kazan, and artists from the Houston Ballet Theatre and the Houston Grand Opera Rebecca Cunningham is this year's Distinguished Achievement Award winner.
Look for an article in November previewing the Professional Development Workshops and a January article covering costume/technology relate programming from other Commissions!
Bayou Bend, the experiment in fine living created by the Hogg family in Houston, Texas is now home to a renowned collection of decorative arts.

Photos/Janet Harrel
by Janet Harrel
Houston Conference Promotions Coordinator

This gate is an example of the art which decorates the gardens of Bayou Bend in Houston, Texas.

Hogg Home Offers Many Delights for Designers

For years, everyone heard the joke about an unfortunate girl in the South (sometimes it was Georgia, sometimes Alabama) whose last name was Hogg. Her parents named her Ima. Gotta be a joke, right? Who in their right mind would actually do that to their child?

Those who attend the USITT 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo will find the answer to that question, close to downtown Houston, Texas.

Ima Hogg, renowned Houston philanthropist and one of the founders of the Houston Symphony, was born in a very small town in Texas in 1882. After having three boys, her parents were so thrilled to have a girl, they named the baby in honor of the heroine of a Civil War poem written by her uncle (Ima being a "pet" name for Imogene.).

The story goes that when the baby's name was told to her grandfather, he ran all the way to the parents' home to talk them out of the unfortunate choice but to no avail. Fortunately, "Miss Ima" was apparently never openly plagued by her name. She grew up in a privileged atmosphere as the daughter of a Texas governor to attend the University of Texas; and, after graduating from college in 1901, Ima traveled to New York and Vienna to study music before returning to the newly oil wealthy Houston.

Ima began collecting decorative arts in 1920 with a colonial, American-made Queen Anne armchair after admiring one she had seen in an artist's studio in New York. This piece was the start of an "unaccountable compulsion" for Miss Ima. She continued to acquire American pieces circa 1640 to 1870 over the next half century resulting in one of the foremost assemblages in the nation.

Ima, along with brothers Will and Mike, built Bayou Bend in 1927-28 as part of a grand experiment in fine living. The home was designed by John F. Staub and reflects a combination of influences from the symmetry of Georgian architecture to the lush, romantic qualities of the Spanish Creole of New Orleans to the functional but exquisite characteristics of typical southern plantations. In fact, the wrought iron balcony prominent on the southern exposure of the house was salvaged from a Big Easy structure. Miss Hogg labeled the home's style as "Latin Colonial."

Miss Hogg knew from the beginning that Bayou Bend would provide the setting for her ever-growing and increasingly important collection of American decorative arts. So Mr. Staub, as part of his approach for Bayou Bend, created simple but stately rooms where the pieces could
be shown to their best advantage. In 1957, Miss Ima donated her collection, along with the
house and grounds, to the Museum of Fine Arts Houston with the understanding that her
home would be converted into a house museum. "While I shall always love Bayou Bend and
everything there, in one sense I have always considered I was only holding my collection in
trust." Miss Hogg said.

And that collection is one worth making time to see!

The 27-room house is arranged so that each room represents a specific time period with all of
the accoutrements of that time. Not only are there exceptionally fine examples of American
upholstered and fine wood furniture, but needlework topped gaming tables with early 19th
century playing cards, tea tables with scallops to accommodate the numerous handle-less
cups in the Chinese tradition, fine silver pieces from as early as the 17th century, wool moiré
hangings representative of what would be typical on an 18th century bed, blue and white
Dutch ceramics, countless magnificent portraits, and amazingly beautiful clocks.

Although the scale here is much smaller (so close you can almost touch the pieces), the
quality rivals that of the Period rooms at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

For those who fancy gardens, Bayou Bend is surrounded by 14 acres of cultivated landscapes
with appropriate statuary, fountains, grass terraces, and hedge walls. It is an almost natural
feeling woodland given that the entire property sits only three miles from the shiny, bronzed
glass and stolid gray steel of downtown Houston. If the azaleas are in bloom, which happens
beginning in March, Bayou Bend will literally take your breath away.

Although the countryside to the east, south, and west of Houston is pancake flat, the bayous
have created a lovely viridian and rolling quality to the River Oaks area where Bayou Bend
was built.

Those who like to visit such places on their own or who have a fairly good foundation in
decorative arts, can take advantage of the audio tour. However, make the reservation for the
90 minute guided tour which is well worth the effort. The docents train for at least a year
prior to their first solo guide experience. A word of caution; this is not the place for children.
In fact, if they are under 10, they may have free reign of the grounds but won't be permitted
inside the house.

Admission is a reasonable $10 for adults and Bayou Bend is open Tuesday through Sunday
with an additional $3 if you want to wander through all of the grounds. The house is located
at 1 Wescott just off Memorial Drive to the west of downtown. There is no direct bus route,
but a group in a taxi from one of USITT's Conference hotels will find the trip worthwhile.

"Bayou Bend may serve as a bridge to bring us closer to the heart of an American heritage
which unites us," Miss Hogg stated as her dream for her collection.

Those who have a moment of free time next March can take the opportunity to judge the
bridge she created.
Stage Expo 2008 is shaping up to be another success, following in the footsteps of the 2007 event in Phoenix, Arizona, shown at right.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

Stage Expo Looking Like Another Record Breaker

Helen Willard
Stage Expo Sales Manager

With six months until the show, 90 percent of the available booth space has been reserved for Stage Expo 2008. Nearly 100 commercial exhibitors have already booked booth space for USITT's 48th Annual Conference & Stage Expo which will be held March 20 to 22 in Houston, Texas. Plan now to attend this annual showcase of businesses, products, services, and educational opportunities for the performing arts and entertainment industry.

Stage Expo has grown steadily, each year setting a new record for square footage of exhibit space sales. Next year's Stage Expo will follow the trend, as the early numbers predict a sold-out show in March. Less than 20 booth spaces remain to be sold, so those who would like to exhibit but have not yet reserved a booth space should contact Helen Willard immediately.

Stage Expo 2008 will include five Cyber Cafes so attendees can check e-mail and surf the web, as well as the USITT Booth & Boutique, where conference goers can learn more about the Institute, purchase logo items, or attend book signings. There will be a variety of special exhibits at Stage Expo 2008 including the biennial Design Expo, plus a display of the United States' entries for the 2007 Prague Quadrennial including the National, Student and Architecture exhibits.

For more information about Stage Expo 2008 exhibitors, visit the Stage Expo web pages 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 to learn more about their products and services prior to the show.

A limited number of Commercial tables for small companies meeting criteria are available, as are Non-Commercial tables for colleges, universities, and other non-profit organizations. Anyone who knows of companies or organizations they would like to see at Stage Expo 2008 in Houston, but who are not listed as exhibitors can send an e-mail message with contact information to hpwillard@aol.com.
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- Sylvia Hillyard Pannell, President
- Patricia Dennis, Secretary
- Travis DeCastro, Interim Treasurer
- Kim Williamson, Vice-President for Commissions
- Bobbi Owen, Vice-President for Communications
- Joe Aldridge, Vice-President for Conferences
- Alexandra Bonds, Vice-President for International Activities
- Carl Lefko, Vice-President for Programming; President-Elect
- Vacant, Vice-President for Promotions & Development
- Holly Monsos, Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters
- Daniel Denhart, Vice-President for Special Operations
- John Uthoff, Immediate Past President

To Top ↑

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

2006-2009

- Leon Brauner
- Richard Dunham
- Debra Krajec
- Mike Murphy
- Donna Ruzika
- Bill Teague

2007-2010

- Lea Asbell-Swanger
- Nadine Charlsen
- Michael Mehler
- Mark Shanda
- Sherry Wagner-Henry
- Craig Wolf

To Top ↑
For The Record: Membership Categories

October 2007

News & Notices
- Young Designer Awards
- USITT Giving Update
- Announcements
- In Memoriam: Jack Suesse
- ESTA Turns 20
- Member Benefits
- Travel Awards
- Staff Profile: Ashley A. Austin
- The Last Word

News From:
- Around The Institute
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- USITT's President
- Regional Sections

Commissions
- Costume Posters
- Health & Safety Info
- Costume Sessions

Conference & Stage Expo
- Bayou Bend a Delight
- Stage Expo Booming

For the Record
- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2007 issue pdf

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- Entertainment Services & Technology Association (ESTA)
- Entertainment Technology
- Future Light
- GAMPRODUCTS, INC.
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- heatshrink.com
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- Live Design Magazine/ldi Show
- Martin Professional, Inc.
- Mattel-World Wide Trade Show Services
- MDG Fog Generators
- Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.
- Norcostco, Inc
- PRG
- Production Advantage, Inc.
- Rosco Laboratories, Inc.
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- SeaChanger by Ocean Optics
- SECOA
- Stage Research, Inc.
- StageRight Corporation
- Steeldeck Inc.
- Strand Lighting
- Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- Texas Scenic Company
- Vari*Lite
For The Record: Membership Categories

- Vincent Lighting Systems
- Vortek, a division of Daktronics
- Walt Disney Entertainment
- Wenger Corporation
- ZFX, Inc.

To Top

Sustaining Members

- A.C. Lighting Inc.
- AC Power Distribution, Inc.
- A.C.T Lighting, Inc.
- ALPS/Advanced Lighting & Production Services, Inc.
- Altman Lighting, Inc.
- Auerbach-Pollock-Friedlander
- A V Pro, Inc.
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- Big Apple Lights
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- Haussmann Theaterbedarf GmbH
- The Hilliard Corporation
- Hollywood Lighting Services, Inc.
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- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
- Irwin Seating Company
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- KUPO Industrial Corp
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- LVH Entertainment Systems
- Lycian Stage Lighting
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The Last Word -- In Moving

The shelves are becoming bare, but the containers are full as the USITT Office in Syracuse, New York prepares for the movers. Years of packing up materials for the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo has provided good experience for USITT staff members, from left, Michelle Smith, Jennie Owens, and Monica Merritt. After October 1, USITT's offices will be at 315 South Crouse Avenue, Suite 200, Syracuse, New York 13210

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas